

# An archaeological watching brief at 23 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex December 2012



report prepared by  
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CAT project ref.: 12/12a  
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2012.58  
NGR: TL 98215 25162(c)



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**CAT Report 679**  
December 2012

## An archaeological watching brief at 23 Endsleigh Court.

This is the summary report on an archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during the construction of an extension to the west of no 23 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 98215 25162 (c); Fig 1). The work was necessitated by the construction of a new extension and associated services. Planning permission and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent were given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.

The site lies just within the scheduled ancient monument area of Sheepen, a late Iron Age settlement and industrial centre established by the Trinovantes tribe and maintained in the years after the Roman conquest (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 46). Extensive excavations in the 1930s, plus smaller-scale work in 1970 and later, have produced evidence of workshops engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leatherworking in the areas to the west of the site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). Roman burials have also been found in this area. Nine complete Roman pots were recovered from an extension to the rear of 25 Endsleigh Court (Stephen Benfield pers. comm.; Fig 1) and a burial in a lead coffin was found at another house on Endsleigh Court (EHER 12530).

The fieldwork was carried out by a professional archaeologist from CAT. The foundation trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator equipped with either a 400mm or 600mm wide toothless bucket (Fig 1). As well as the foundation trenches, the excavation of a 1.2m deep pit for a soakaway was also monitored. The outer foundation trenches were dug to a depth of between 900mm and 1.1m below modern ground level. The internal beams were dug to a depth of c 700mm below modern ground level. There were no clear soil layers. However, the general soil profile was as follows:

- Layer 1 or L1 - 0-350mm – mid brown sandy-silt (topsoil).
- L2 - 350-600mm - lighter brown sandy-silt layer with frequent stones.
- L3 - 600-800mm - mottled sandy-silt.
- L4 - 800mm to the bottom of the trench – orange sand/gravel natural.

The soil was undisturbed apart from a concrete slab which abutted the western wall of the house and was present to a depth of c 300mm below modern ground level. One undated pit was identified in the base of the foundation trench (F1; Fig 1). Sherds of unstratified Late Iron Age-Roman pottery were recovered from the spoil heap and have been retained by the landowner.

The site has not been heavily disturbed by modern building. However, no archaeological features such as Roman kilns or burials were identified during the groundworks.

## References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

- |                            |      |   |
|----------------------------|------|---|
| Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R | 1947 | <i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL, <b>14</b> |
| Niblett, R                 | 1985 | <i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Res Rep, <b>57</b>        |

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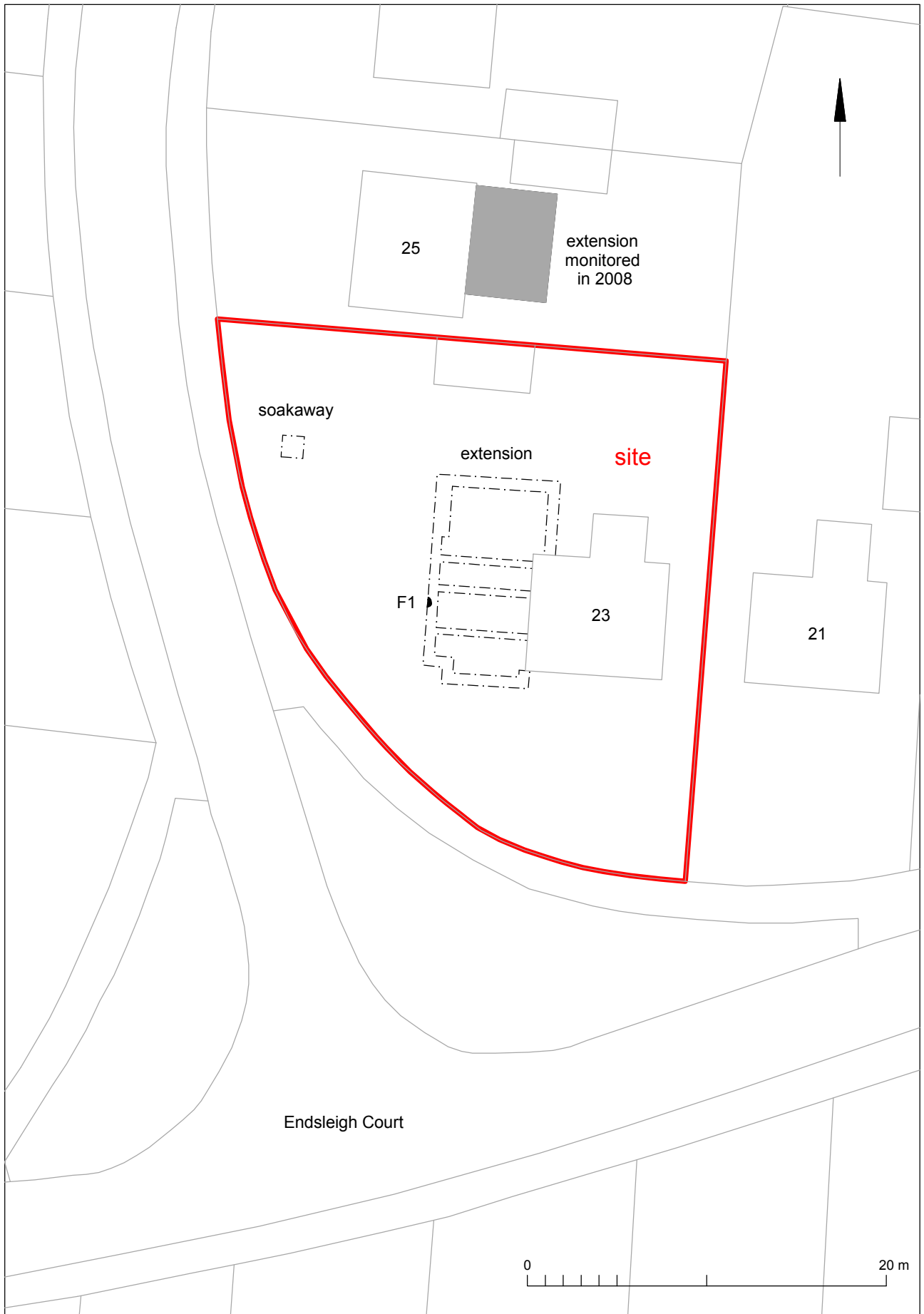


Fig 1 Site plan

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<i>Address:</i> 23 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex	
<b><i>Parish:</i></b> Lexden	<b><i>District:</i></b> Colchester
<b><i>NGR:</i></b> TL 98215 25162(c)	<b><i>Site codes:</i></b> CAT project code - 12/12a
<b><i>Type of work:</i></b> Watching brief	<b><i>Site director/group:</i></b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b><i>Date of work:</i></b> 12th December 2012	<b><i>Size of area investigated:</i></b> c 75m <sup>2</sup>
<b><i>Location of curating museum:</i></b> Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code COLEM 2012.58	<b><i>Funding source:</i></b> Developer
<b><i>Further seasons anticipated?</i></b> No	<b><i>Related EHER numbers:</i></b> 12530 & 11693
<b><i>Final report:</i></b> CAT Report 679	
<b><i>Periods represented:</i></b>	
<b><i>Summary:</i></b> <i>Observations were made during groundworks for the construction of an extension and the installation of a soakaway to the west of no. 23 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex. There was no indication of any archaeological activity.</i>	
<b><i>Previous summaries/reports:</i></b>	
<b><i>Keywords:</i></b>	<b><i>Significance:</i></b> neg
<b><i>Author of summary:</i></b> Adam Wightman	<b><i>Date of summary:</i></b> December 2012