

Continuous archaeological monitoring at Gryme's Dyke, near 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EL

September 2016



by Dr Pip Parmenter

on behalf of Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

CAT project ref: 16/081
CHER code: ECC3874
NGR: TL 9625 2376
Colchester Museum accession code: 2016.90
Planning ref: 161256
OASIS ref: colchest3-261165



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CAT Report 1012
September 2016

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Cover: General site shot

Fig 1 Site location

1 Summary

Continuous archaeological recording was undertaken during the excavation of a posthole for to the installation of an interpretation panel at Gryme's Dyke. No archaeological evidence was encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of continuous archaeological recording at Gryme's Dyke Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EL, carried out in September 2016. The work was commissioned by Philip Wise on behalf of Colchester Borough Council in advance of the installation of an interpretation panel at Gryme's Dyke, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Dr Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (previously Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Gryme's Dyke, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 29452, HA 1019960), is the most westerly and longest of a number of large linear earthwork dykes at Colchester. Most of the dykes were built in the late Iron Age to define and protect the important settlement centre of Camulodunum (Colchester), though some can be dated to the early Roman period which is probably when Gryme's Dyke was constructed (CAR 11, 111). The dyke survives for much of its length as an upstanding earthwork and was originally fronted by a ditch on its west side, now mostly infilled. Its course can be traced for several kilometres, from New Bridge, north of the River Colne, to Stanway Green (Gryme's Dyke North and Middle) where the earthwork passes through a short dog-leg to the west before running on to the Roman River (Gryme's Dyke South).

There have been three excavations on the dyke near to the south of the present site. Two trenches were dug by C F C Hawkes in 1956-7, but revealed no archaeological activity (CAR 11, catalogue of excavations and observations, nos 21 and 33). In 1977 an excavation close to the area of Hawkes' 1956 trench revealed the structure of the bank and demonstrated the presence of the former land surface sealed beneath it. The level of this surface corresponded approximately with that of the present surrounding ground level (*ibid*, catalogue of excavations and observations, no 20). The finds from this excavation, which include a small quantity of pottery and a coin (a Claudian as dated AD 55-75), form an important group in discussions relating to the dating of the

dyke and in suggesting an early Roman date for its construction. Further observations were made to the south of the present site in 2000 (CAT Report 63) and 2011 (CAT Report 612).

4 Results

The site was continually monitored while the posthole required for the installation of the interpretation panel was excavated. The posthole was 600mm by 600mm and was excavated to a depth of 600mm. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

5 Discussion

No archaeological remains were observed during the monitoring of the excavation of a posthole at the site.

6 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Philip Wise and Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed and carried out by C Lister. Site plans and sections were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Dr Jess Tipper.

7 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAR 11	1995	<i>Hawkes, C and Crummy, P Camulodunum 2. Colchester Archaeological Report 11.</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for continuous archaeological monitoring at Gryme's Dyke, near 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3EL</i>
CAT Report 63	2000	<i>Gryme's Dyke, Stanway Green: A short assessment of the archaeological impact of contractor's groundworks at the southern end of the Gryme's Dyke Middle earthwork: February 2000</i>
CAT Report 612	2011	<i>Archaeological monitoring along Gryme's Dyke, Colchester, during works for gas-mains: July 2011</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring at Installation of an interpretation panel at Gryme's Dyke, 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9EL</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government.</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney</i>

EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

8 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

9 Contents of archive

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1012)
CBCPS Evaluation Brief
CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Site digital photographic log
Attendance register
Original Plans
Risk assessment

10 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: 2016.90

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Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council
Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services



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Checked by: *Philip Crummy*
Date: *September 2016*

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Gryme's Dyke, near 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EL	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9625 2376	Site code: CAT project code 16/08l CHER code ECC3874 OASIS ref: colchest3-261165
Type of work: Continuous archaeological monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: September 2016	Size of area investigated: Posthole
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : COLEM 2016.90	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related SM/EHER/UAD numbers: SM 29452 HA 1019960
Final report: CAT Report 1012	
Periods represented: n/a	
Summary of fieldwork results: Continuous archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a posthole prior to the installation of an interpretation panel produced no archaeological finds or features.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAR 11 CAT Report 62 CAT Report 612	
Keywords: Dugard Ave	Significance: -
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: 07/09/2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at Gryme's Dyke, near 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EL

NGR: TL 9625 2376 (centre)

Planning reference: 161256

Client: Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2016.90

CHER code: ECC3874

CAT Project code: 16/08I

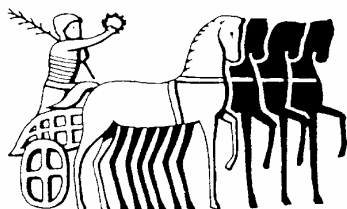
OASIS ref.: colchest3-261165

Historic England scheduled monument consent ref.: S00137491

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 25.08.2016



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Site location and description

The development site is located on the scheduled monument of Gryme's Dyke near 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). Site centre is National Grid Reference TL 9625 2376.

Proposed work

Installation of an interpretation panel on Gryme's Dyke.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (previously Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Gryme's Dyke, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 29452, HA 1019960), is the most westerly and longest of a number of large linear earthwork dykes at Colchester. Most of the dykes were built in the late Iron Age to define and protect the important settlement centre of Camulodunum (Colchester), though some can be dated to the early Roman period which is probably when Gryme's Dyke was constructed (*CAR 11*, 111). The dyke survives for much of its length as an upstanding earthwork and was originally fronted by a ditch on its west side, now mostly infilled. Its course can be traced for several kilometres, from New Bridge, north of the River Colne, to Stanway Green (Gryme's Dyke North and Middle) where the earthwork passes through a short dog-leg to the west before running on to the Roman River (Gryme's Dyke South).

There have been three excavations on the dyke near to the south of the present site. Two trenches were dug by C F C Hawkes in 1956-7; however, little or nothing is known about the results of his work (*CAR 11*, catalogue of excavations and observations, nos 21 and 33). In 1977 an excavation close to the area of Hawkes' 1956 trench revealed the structure of the bank and demonstrated the presence of the former land surface sealed beneath it. The level of this surface corresponded approximately with that of the present surrounding ground level (*ibid*, catalogue of excavations and observations, no 20). The finds from this excavation, which include a small quantity of pottery and a coin (a Claudian as dated AD 55-75), form an important group in discussions relating to the dating of the dyke and in suggesting an early Roman date for its construction. Further observations were made to the south of the present site in 2000 (CAT Report 63) and 2011 (CAT Report 612).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2016 (application no. 161256) proposing the installation of a new interpretation panel.

As the site lies within a scheduled monument and is an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by C F C Hawkes and Philip Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 63	2000	<i>Gryme's Dyke, Stanway Green: A short assessment of the archaeological impact of contractor's groundworks at the southern end of the Gryme's Dyke Middle earthwork, February 2000</i>
CAT Report 612	2011	<i>Archaeological monitoring along Gryme's Dyke, Colchester, during works for gas-mains: July 2011</i>
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at Installation of interpretation panel at Gryme's Dyke, 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9EL</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

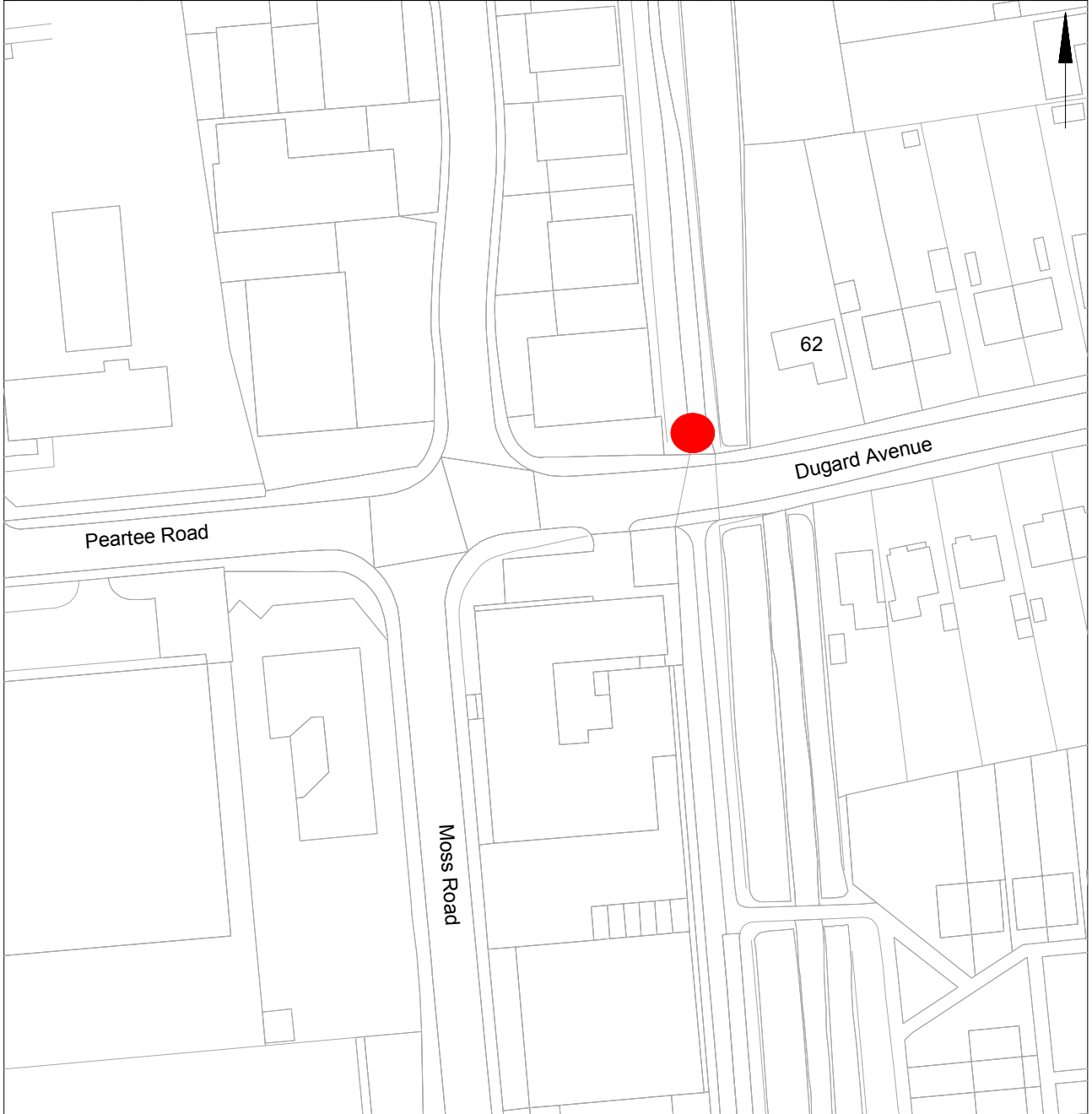
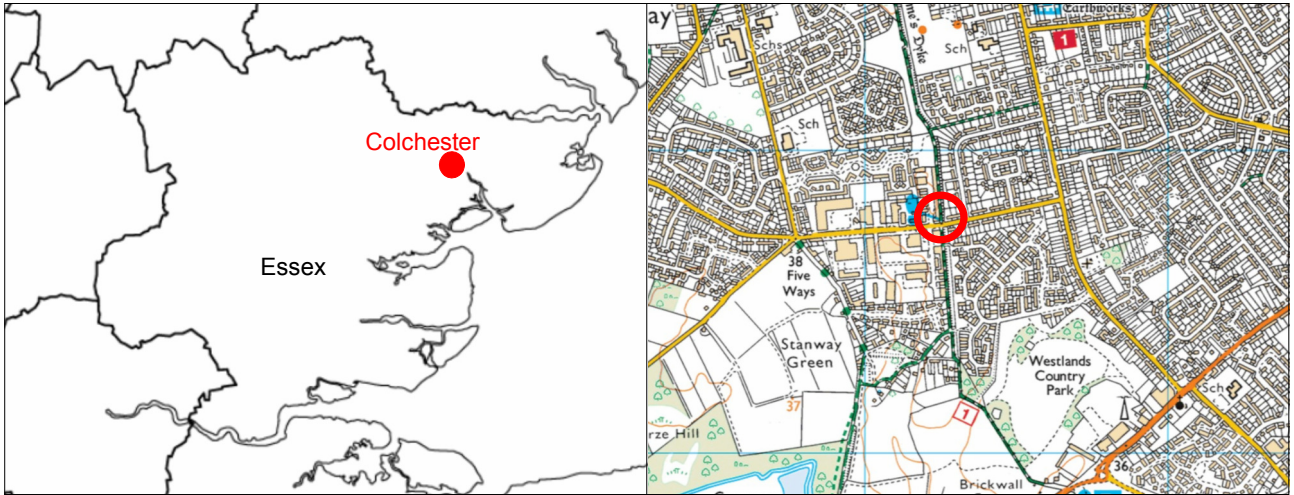
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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-261165

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Gryme's Dyke, 62 Dugard Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EL
Short description of the project	Continuous archaeological monitoring of installation of interpretation panel
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2016 End: 01-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/08I - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	161256 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	DYKE Roman
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Gryme's Dyke, 62 Dugard Avenue
Postcode	CO3 9EL
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9625 2376 51.87729998726 0.851453020574 51 52 38 N 000 51 05 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Robin Mathieson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"
Entered by	Pip Parmenter (pp@catuk.org)
Entered on	7 September 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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