

**Archaeological monitoring and recording
at Lower Castle Park
(Second World War interpretation panel),
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ**

October 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks
figures by Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner

on behalf of Aleksandar Bogdanov, Essex County Council

NGR: TL 99718 25608 (centre)
Planning reference: n/a
CAT project ref.: 17/10o
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.145
CHER ref: ECC4096
OASIS reference: colchest3-299714



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CAT Report 1190
November 2017

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Appendix 1 OASIS Summary

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Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1 Post hole, looking W 2

Fig 1 Site location

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Lower Castle Park to the north-north-west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Lower Castle Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 31st October 2017. The work was commissioned by Aleksandar Bogdanov, of Essex County Council, in advance of the installation of a new interpretation panel to accompany the Second World War-era anti-tank blocks in the park, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor 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 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 watching brief* (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).

The monitoring site is located in Lower Castle Park to the north of Colchester Castle and in an area of outstanding archaeological importance. It is located just to the north of the Roman town walls/precinct of the Temple of Claudius, and within the grounds of the Norman Castle.¹ The archaeological background of the site has been well published (see, for example, Hull 1958, Crummy 1997).

The anti-tank blocks themselves form part of the broader Second World War defence system constructed in likely invasion areas across the south of England following the fall of France in 1940. They were designed to impede the advance of enemy tanks or to funnel them into tank-killing zones (Brown *et al*, 1996, 85-6).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

¹ The site is a Scheduled Monument (EX 1, HA 1002217).

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All excavations were carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision. An area measuring 0.4m by 0.4m was excavated to a depth of 0.8m through modern topsoil (L1, dark grey/brown sandy-clayey-loam with oyster, chalk and brick fleck inclusions).

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.



Photograph 1 Posthole – looking west

6 Finds

No finds were recovered.

7 Discussion

No significant archaeological horizons were identified during monitoring as groundworks only occurred through 0.8m of modern layers.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Aleksandar Bogdanov, Essex County Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister. Fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner. Figures were prepared by B Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

Brown, I <i>et al</i>	1996	<i>20th Century Defences in Britain: An introductory guide</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M.R.	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> RRCSAL 20
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)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1190)

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, plans)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register

12 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: COLEM: 2017.145

Distribution list

Aleksandar Bogdanov, Essex County Council
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

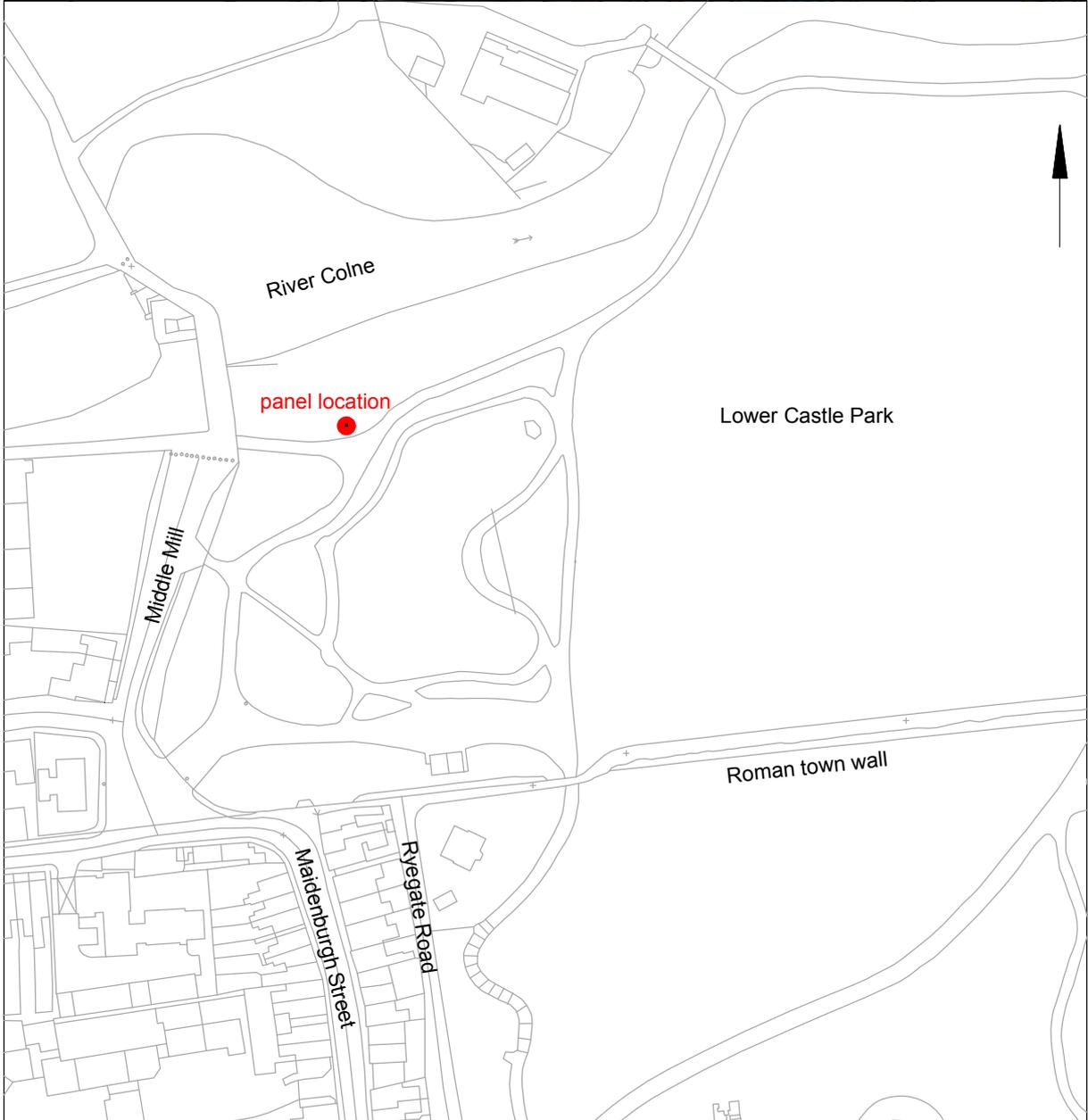
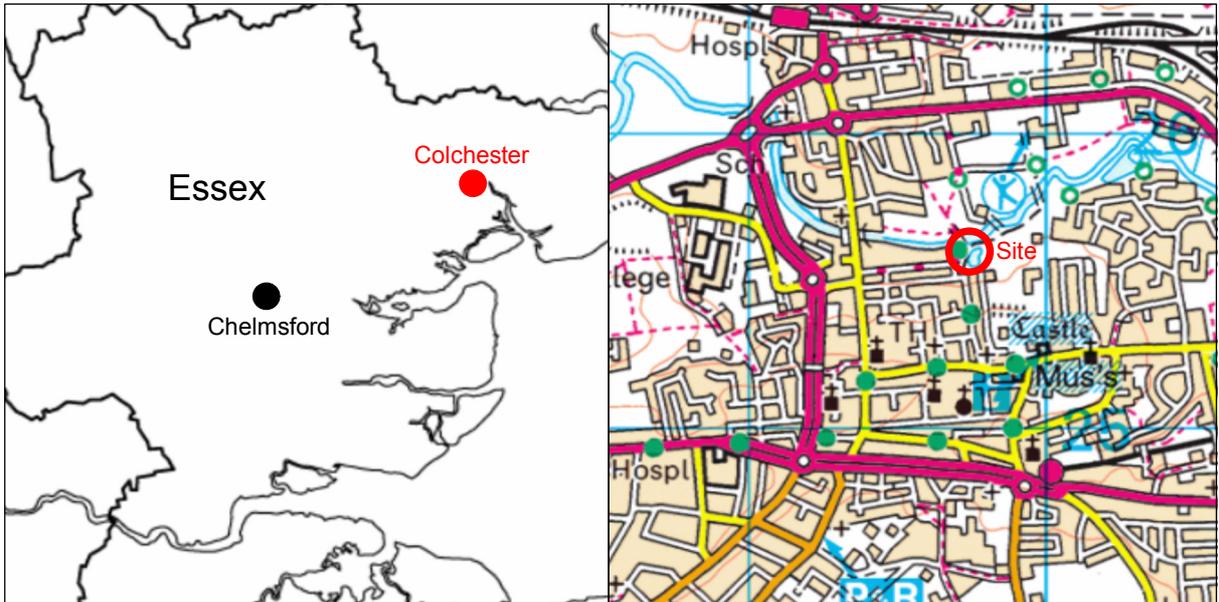
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.11.2017



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Figure 1 Site location.



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Lower Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 99718 25608 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/10o CHER ref: ECC4096 OASIS ref: colchest3-299714
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 31st October 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.16m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.145	Funding source: Essex County Council
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR numbers: -
Final report: CAT Report 1190	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Lower Castle Park to the north-north-west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: November 2017

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-299714

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and Recording Lower Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XL
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Lower Castle Park to the north-north-west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.
Project dates	Start: 31-10-2017 End: 31-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	17/10o - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2017.145 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4096 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Lower Castle Park, Colchester
Postcode	CO1 1XL
Study area	0.16 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 99718 25608 51.892658644162 0.902842617548 51 53 33 N 000 54 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBCAO
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2017.145
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2017.145
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Lower Castle Park (Second World War interpretation panel), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ: October 2017
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