

Archaeological evaluation at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU

July 2018



by Laura Pooley & Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield and Emma Holloway
figures by Sarah Carter and Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Sarah Carter, Adam Tuffey and Alec Wade

commissioned by Mr J Stephenson

NGR: TL 9725 2591 (centre)

Planning ref.: 172873

CHER project: ECC4242

CAT project ref.: 18/07a

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2018.64

OASIS ref.: colchest3-321434



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CAT Report 1300
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eight trenches) was undertaken at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the erection of six holiday lets, with associated access, car parking and groundworks. Evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features. However, a single sherd of 1st-century AD pottery and four prehistoric worked flints (from soil layers) show activity in the vicinity of the development site during these periods.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, which was carried out on 16th July 2018. The work was commissioned by Mr J Stephenson, in advance of the erection of six holiday lets, with associated access, car parking and groundworks, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background by Emma Holloway

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

A desk-based assessment of the proposed development site carried out by CAT in 2016 shows that the area is situated within an area of high archaeological significance (CAT Report 965). Although no cropmarks are recorded within the proposed development area, the site lies in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes. Most significantly, to the immediate northeast of the site lies an Early to Middle Iron Age square enclosure (CHER MCC2602). This cropmark has been the focus of several archaeological investigations. In 1952 Lieutenant-Colonel RJ Appleby cut an exploratory trench across the cropmark in the field immediately east of West House Farm (MCC8200). This located the enclosure ditch, which was recorded as 4.9m wide and 1.2m deep, and which contained pottery 'thought to be Bronze Age'. CAT Director Philip Crummy dates the pottery (now lost) to between the 8th century and c 50 BC, with the earthwork itself dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age (CAR 11, 137). Between 1999 and 2002, CAT carried out investigations that confirmed the enclosure as being late prehistoric in date with archaeological deposits determined to be approximately 0.3m below modern ground level (CAT Reports 47, 59, 167, and 182). Development at Playgolf in 2012 included an evaluation trench across the enclosure ditch with Mid to Late Iron Age pottery recorded (CAT Report 647). During the following watching brief

parts of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features were uncovered (CAT Report 709). Found during groundworks for an extension to the clubhouse, the features lay within a large funerary enclosure initially known from cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which were recovered an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. From the other came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery, and a small amount of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy *et al* 2007). Prior to the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking at Playgolf, CAT excavated nine trial-trenches which revealed seven post-medieval or modern features, two undated pits and three structural features associated with a large quantity of fired clay probably from a wattle and daub structure (CAT Report 930).

CAT Report 47 shows that passing 250m southeast of the farm is Moat Farm Dyke, a defensive earthwork which forms part of the extensive dyke system (scheduled monument, NHLE no. 19964). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of Camulodunum. Camulodunum was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: Camulodunum, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11), by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). Moat Farm Dyke is the northern continuation of the Lexden Dyke, which can still be seen in Lexden Park. Though called 'Moat Farm Dyke' in the archaeological literature, the farm which it passes is actually called Lexden Lodge Farm, and has been labelled as such since the Chapman and André map of 1777. The moat itself was incorrectly labelled Roman Fort by Henry Jenkins in 1842, and this mistake was repeated in Ordnance Survey records until the 1920s. Moat Farm Dyke was probably constructed between 25 and 10 BC (CAR 11), as the outer line of a double defensive system – the inner line being the Sheepen Dyke which protected the settlement at Sheepen (near Colchester Institute). As originally built, it would have been an impressive v-shaped ditch with a large earthen rampart on its inner (eastern) side. The earthwork as seen today is much slighted, and the ditch has been filled in. It still stands as a bank for its southernmost 400m. The ditch on its western side (filled in at the southern end of its course) becomes visible close to West House Farm, and is visible for some 530m up to the railway line. North of the railway, it is still traceable up to Bakers Lane, making a total visible length of 1250m.

Other cropmarks to the northeast beyond Playgolf include possible enclosures, trackways, ring-ditches (MCC7637) and field boundaries (MCC2603-4). To the east lies Moat Farm, a medieval moated lodge (MCC2217, MCC7779) with cropmarks showing ring-ditches or barrows (MCC2606 and MCC7757) and an enclosure (MCC2605). To the southeast, at Lexden Lodge Farm, cropmarks show field boundaries, trackways, linear features and ring-ditches (MCC7709 and MCC7719). Linear features are also visible on land to the southwest of the River Colne and the site (MCC7759).

The River Colne, adjacent to our site, has historically been used as a boundary. On its southwestern edge a defensive line of fortification was built by the Parliamentarians in 1648 during the siege of Colchester (MCC5569). During the Second World War, the Eastern Command line of defence ran along the line of the River Colne from Colchester before turning northwards running along the line of the Colne Valley Railway. This defensive line is evident near our site by a collection of (mostly now destroyed) pillboxes (including MCC4768, MCC5107, and MCC5605).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, and to assess its archaeological potential, so that the CBCAA can determine if further archaeological investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Eight trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Located within the footprints of the proposed holiday lets and access road, they all measured 10m long by 1.8m wide.

Trenches T1, T2 and T3: Excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.38m thick), post-medieval accumulation (L2, c 0.22-0.47m thick) and a layer of possible hillwash/colluvium (L4, c 0.23-0.37m) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.84-1.1m below current ground level [bcgl]). A single sherd of 1st century AD pottery was recovered from L4 in T1 along with two pieces of worked flint from L4 in T2.

Trench T4: Excavated through L1 (c 0.24-0.25m thick) and a layer of subsoil or possible hillwash/alluvial deposit (L5, c 0.12-0.28m thick) onto natural (L6, encountered at a depth of 0.49-0.52m bgcl).

Trench T5: Excavated through L1 (c 0.27-0.38m thick) onto natural (L3).

Trenches T6, T7 and T8: Excavated through L1 (c 0.2-0.42m thick) and L2 (c 0.06-0.21m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.36-0.6m bcgl). A modern stone-filled drain was recorded in Trench T8.

There were no significant archaeological remains.



Photograph 1 Trench T3, looking southeast



Photograph 2 Trench T4, looking southeast



Photograph 3 Trench T5, looking north



Photograph 4 Trench T7, looking north

6 Finds

by Laura Pooley, pottery identified by Stephen Benfield, flint identified by Adam Wightman

A single sherd of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or early Roman (1st century AD) was recovered from L4 (finds no. 1), along with four pieces of worked flint from L2, L4 and U/S (finds nos. 2-4) which are not closely-dated but appear to span much of the prehistoric period.

Context	Finds number	Description	Date
T1, L4	1	Body sherd from a large storage jar, Fabric HZ (CAR 10), Late Iron Age or early Roman (1st century AD), abraded, 76g.	1st century AD
T1, L2	2	A flaked flake (Janus flake) (11g) with edge damage/useware	Early prehistoric
T1, spoil heap	3	Large prehistoric flint flake (41g), broken and heavily patinated on all surfaces, later (? modern) edge damage	Early prehistoric
T2, L4	4	Two worked flints (16g): Later prehistoric flint flake, broken at the distal end, Neolithic to Bronze Age; flint blade, detached with a soft hammer, platform preparation, Mesolithic to early Neolithic.	Mesolithic to Bronze Age

Table 1 All finds by context

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at West House Farm revealed no significant archaeological features. However, a single sherd of 1st century AD pottery and four prehistoric flints

from soil layers show activity in the vicinity of the development site during these periods.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr J Stephenson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with S Carter, A Tuffey, and A Wade. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council 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, 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 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 47 | 1999 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Westhouse Farm, Lexden, Colchester</i> |
| CAT Report 59 | 2000 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: January 2000</i> |
| CAT Report 167 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: December 2001</i> |
| CAT Report 182 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological watching brief on an extension to the driving range at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i> |
| CAT Report 647 | 2012 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'Playgolf', Bakers Lane, Westhouse Farm, Colchester, Essex: May 2012</i> |
| CAT Report 709 | 2014 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i> |
| CAT Report 930 | 2016 | <i>CAT Report 930: Archaeological evaluation at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex – March 2016</i> |
| CAT Report 965 | 2016 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around land at Bakers Lane, Essex</i> |
| CBCPS | 2018 | <i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, CO3 4AU</i> , by J Tipper |
| Crummy, P, Benfield, S, Crummy, N, Rigby, V & Shimmin, D | 2007 | <i>Stanway: an élite burial site at Camulodunum</i> , Britannia Monograph 24 |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i> |
| Hawkes, C F C & Hull, M R | | <i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14 |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i> |

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
early Prehistoric	period from c 500,000 to 4,000 BC (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic)
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
late Prehistoric	period from c 4,000 BC to AD 43 (Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age)
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: small bag containing all finds

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1300)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

13 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: 2018.64.

Distribution list:

Mr J Stephenson
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

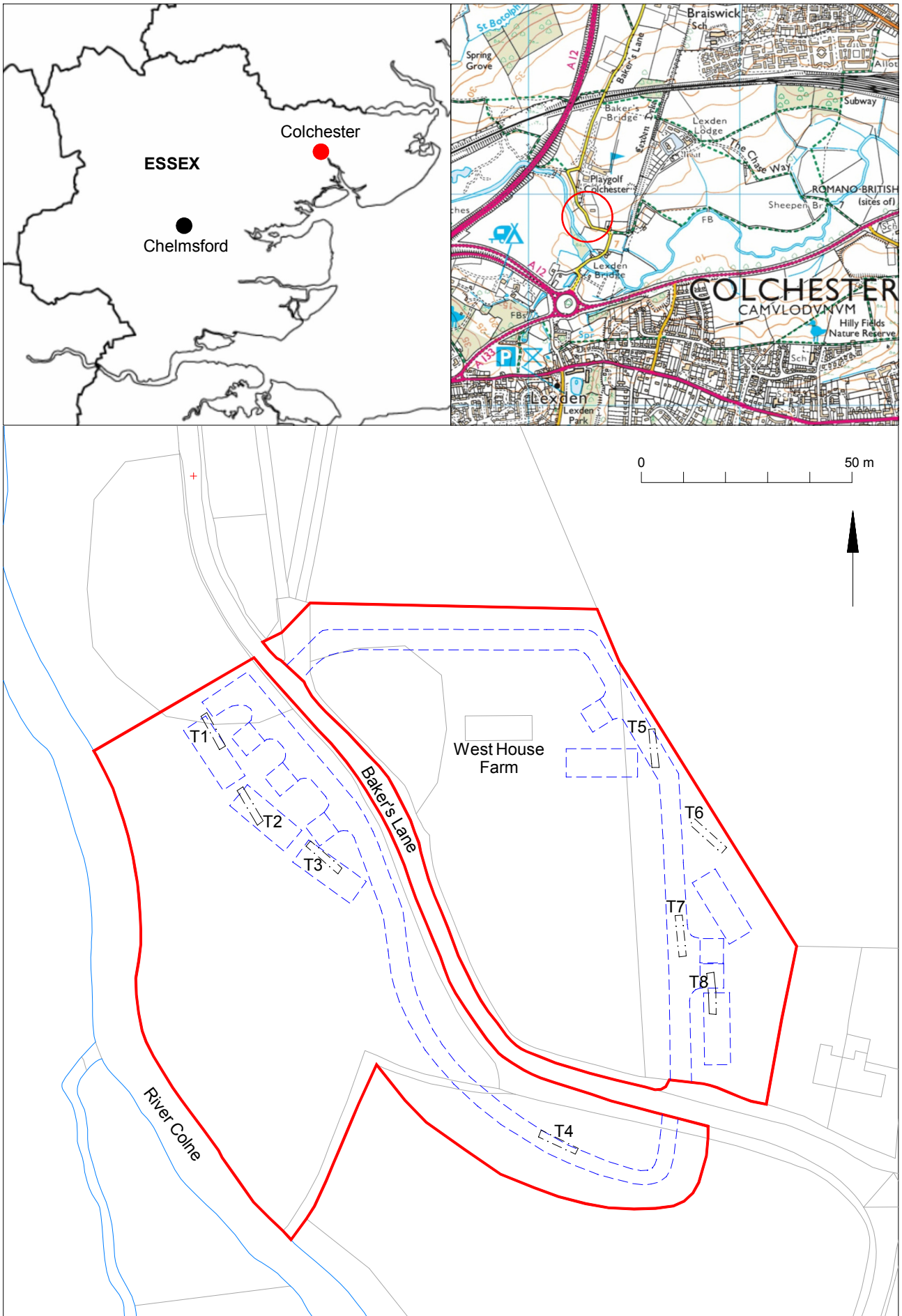
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 30.7.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, dry, medium to dark grey/brown silty-loam with rare charcoal flecks and 2% stone	Modern
L2	2	Accumulation	Firm, dry, light to medium grey/brown silt with rare charcoal and brick/tile flecks, 1-2% stone. Small fragments of peg-tile not retained for post-excavation analysis.	Post-medieval
L3	-	Natural	Natural sandy-silt with some clay	Post-glacial
L4	1, 4	Hillwash / colluvium	Firm, dry, light to medium yellow/grey/ brown very fine sandy-silt with some clay, <1% stone.	?1st century AD or later
L5	-	?Subsoil ?Hillwash / alluvial deposit	Firm, dry, light to medium yellow/grey/ brown, silt with some clay, very rare daub flecks, <1% stone, common manganese	-
L6	-	Natural	Natural silt with some clay	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue).

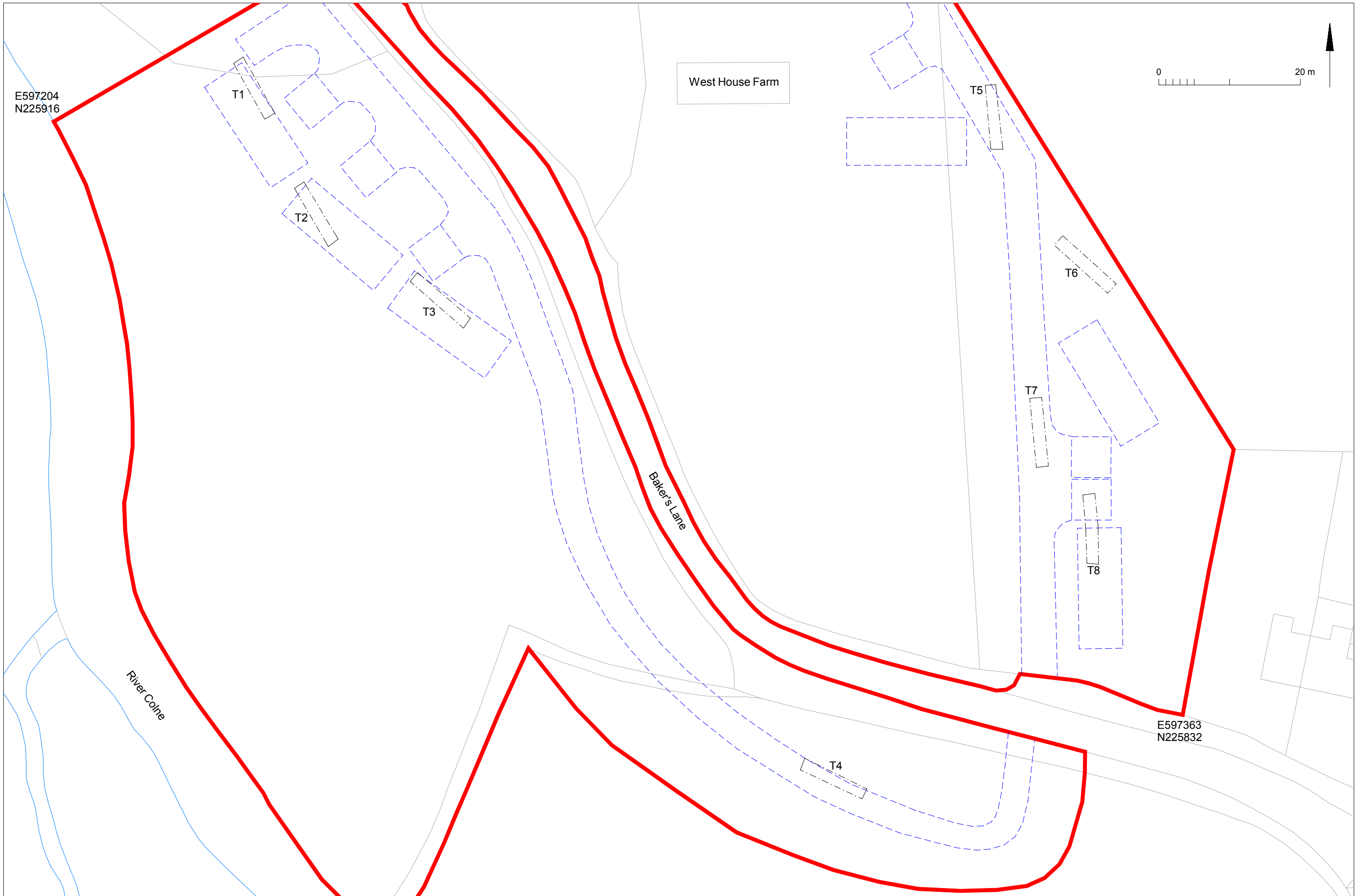


Fig 2 Results

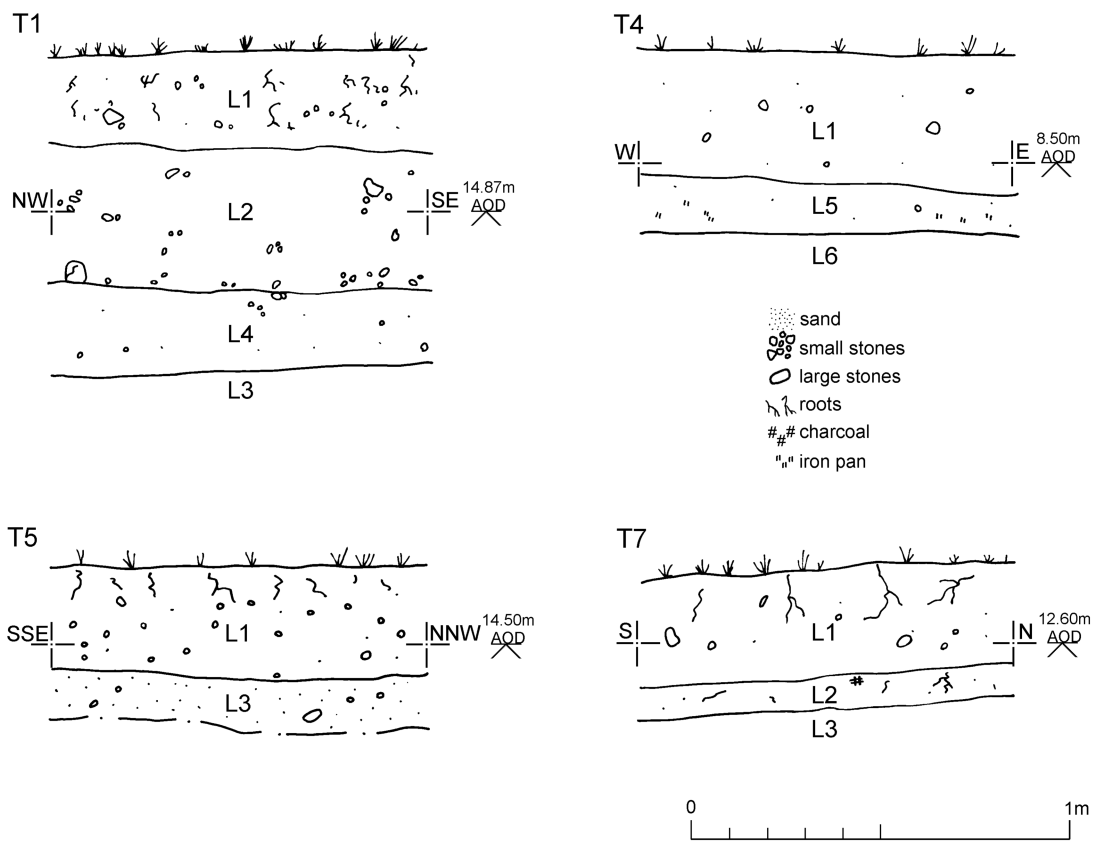


Fig 3 Representative sections

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9725 2591 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/07a CHER ref: ECC4242 OASIS ref: colchest3-321434
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 16th July 2018	Size of area investigated: 1.68ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.64	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: Scheduled monument, NHLE no. 19964, CHER MCC2217, MCC2602-6, MCC4768, MCC5107, MCC5569, MCC5605, MCC7637, MCC7709, MCC7719, MCC7757, MCC7759, MCC7779, MCC8200
Final report: CAT Report 1300	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eight trenches) was undertaken at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the erection of six holiday lets, with associated access, car parking and groundworks. Evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features. However, a single sherd of 1st-century AD pottery and four prehistoric worked flints (from soil layers) show activity in the vicinity of the development site during these periods.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: July 2018

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation by trial-
trenching at West House Farm, Bakers Lane,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU.**

NGR: TL 9725 2591

Planning references: 172873

Commisioned by: Mr J Stephenson

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc

CHER number: ECC4242

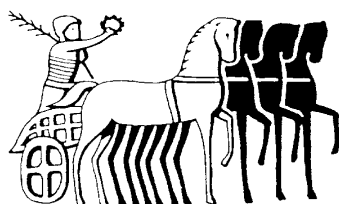
CAT project code: 2018/07a

OASIS project number: colchest3-321434

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 03.07.2018 (revised)



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 2.3km northwest of the main centre of Colchester at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU (Fig 1). The site lies along the edge of the northeastern bank of River Colne and is centred on NGR TL 9725 2591.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of six holiday lets, with associated access, car parking any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway.

A desk based assessment undertaken by CAT in 2016 for the proposed development area shows that the site is situated within an area of high archaeological significance (CAT Report 965). Although no cropmarks are recorded within the boundary of the proposed development area, the site lies within a landscape of complex cropmarks. Of most significance to the immediate northeast of the site the CHER shows an early to Middle-Iron Age square enclosure (CHER MCC2602). This cropmark has been the focus of several archaeological investigations. In 1952 Lieutenant-Colonel RJ Appleby cut an exploratory trench across the cropmark in the field immediately east of Westhouse Farm (CHER MCC8200). This located the enclosure ditch, which was recorded as 16 feet (4.9m) wide and 4 feet (1.2m) deep, containing pottery 'thought to be Bronze Age'. CAT Director Philip Crummy dates the pottery (now lost) to between the 8th century and c 50 BC, with the earthwork itself dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age (CAR 11, 137). Between 1999 and 2002, CAT carried out investigations that confirmed the enclosure as late prehistoric in date with archaeological deposits determined to be approximately 300mm below modern ground level (CAT Reports 47, 59, 167, 182). Development work at Playgolf in 2012 and 2013 involved an archaeological evaluation and watching brief. The evaluation included a trench across the enclosure ditch (F1) and pottery dating between middle to late Iron Age was recorded (CAT Report 647). During the following watching brief parts of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features were recorded (CAT Report 709). They were found during groundwork in advance of the construction of an extension to the clubhouse. The features lay within a large funerary enclosure, initially known from cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which were recovered an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Nearby, another feature was partially uncovered. From this came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy et al. 2007). In advance of the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking at Playgolf CAT excavated nine trial-trenches which revealed seven post-medieval/modern features, two undated pits and three structural features associated with a large quantity of fired clay probably from a wattle and daub structure (CAT Report 930).

CAT Report 47 shows that passing 250 metres southeast of the farm is Moat Farm Dyke, a defensive earthwork or "dyke" which forms part of the extensive and complex dyke system, which is recognised as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument no. 19964). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in

the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11* (CAR 11), by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). Moat Farm Dyke is the northern continuation of the Lexden Dyke, which can still be seen in Lexden Park. Though called "Moat Farm Dyke" in the archaeological literature, the farm which it passes is actually called Lexden Lodge Farm, and has been labelled as such since the Chapman and André map of 1777. The moat itself was incorrectly labelled *Roman Fort* by Henry Jenkins in 1842, and this mistake was repeated in Ordnance Survey records until the 1920s. Moat Farm Dyke was probably constructed between 25 and 10 BC (CAR 11), as the outer line of a double defensive system - the inner line being the Sheepen Dyke which protected the settlement at Sheepen (near Colchester Institute). As originally built, it would have been an impressive v-shaped ditch with a large earthen rampart on its inner (eastern) side. As originally built, it would have been an impressive v-shaped ditch with a large earthen rampart on its inner (eastern) side. The earthwork as seen today is much slighted, and the ditch has been filled in. It still stands as a bank for its southernmost 400 metres. The ditch on its western side (filled in at the southern end of its course) becomes visible close to West House farm, and is visible for some 530 metres up to the railway line. North of the railway, it is much slighted but still traceable up to Bakers Lane, making a total visible length of 1250 metres.

Other cropmarks to the northeast beyond Playgolf include possible enclosures, trackways, ring-ditches (CHER MCC7637) and field boundaries (CHER MCC2603-4). To the east lies Moat Farm a medieval moated lodge (CHER MCC2217, MCC7779) with cropmarks showing ring-ditches or barrows (CHER MCC2606 and MCC7757) and an enclosure (CHER MCC2605). To the southeast at Lexden Lodge Farm cropmarks show field boundaries, trackways, linear features and ring-ditches (CHER MCC7709 and MCC7719). And linear features visible on land to the southwest of the River Colne and the site (CHER MCC7759).

The River Colne, adjacent to our site, has been used as a boundary throughout history. On its southwestern edge a defensive line of fortification was built by the Parliamentarians in 1648 during the siege of Colchester (CHER MCC5569). In the Second World War the Eastern Command line of defence ran along the line of the River Colne from Colchester before turning northwards running along the line of the Colne Valley Railway. This is mostly evident near our site by a collection of (mostly now destroyed) pillboxes (including CHER MCC4768, MCC5107, and MCC5605).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2017 (application No.172873) proposing the change of use of land from agriculture and the erection of 6 holiday lets.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the 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 archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Trial trenches excavated will cover 5% sample of the development area. Specifically, this will involve the excavation of eight trenches 10m long by 1.8m wide. The trenches have been placed to try and avoid areas with tree protection orders so as to not damage their roots and avoiding existing areas that are to be reused. Trenches may need to be widened in localised areas to enable safe excavation of deep features. The purpose of the trenches is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any

groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- **Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.**

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 Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2017).

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 supervisor plus one archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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.

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

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be

followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman / Alec Wade

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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

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

- | | | |
|----------|------|--|
| 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 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |

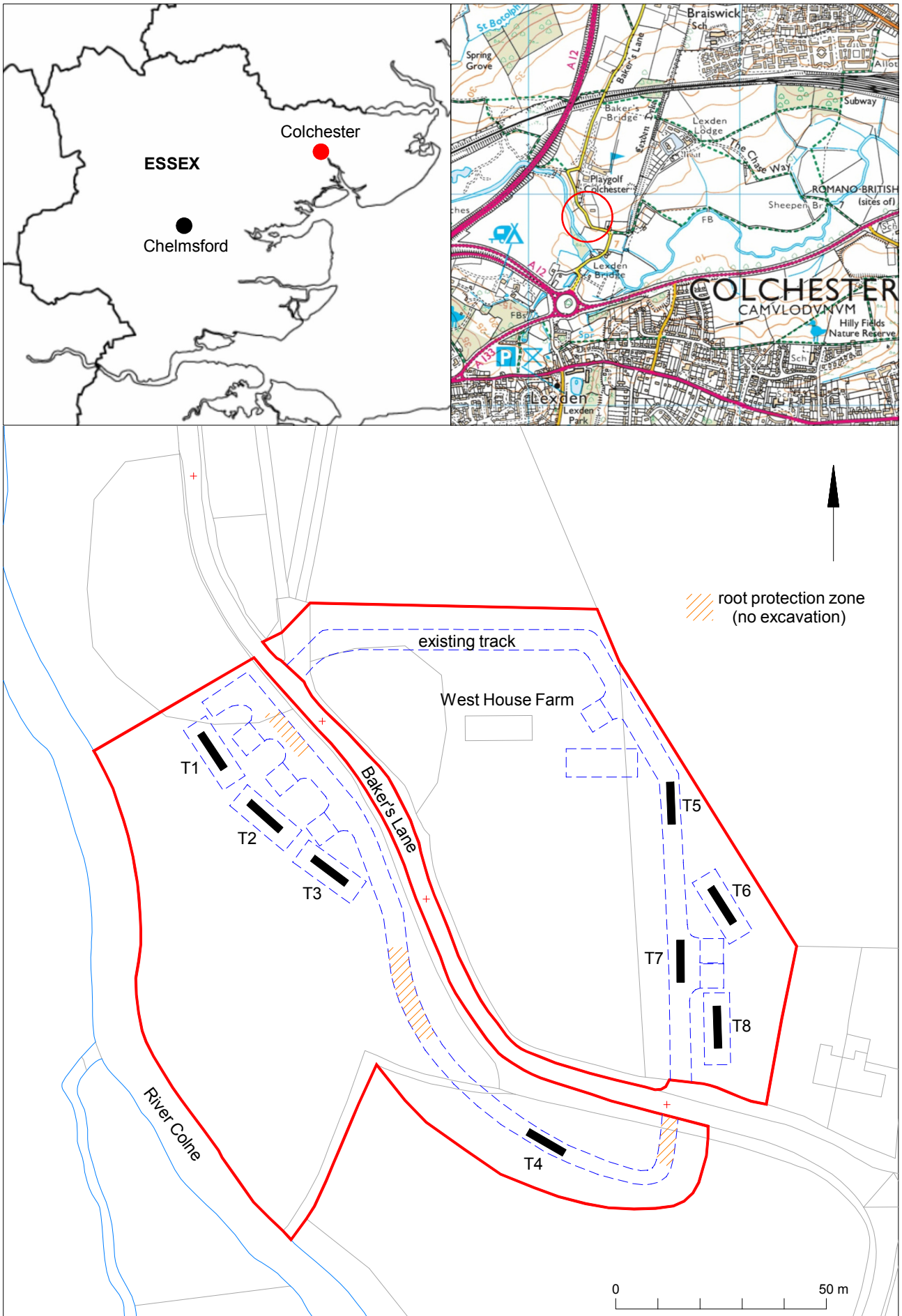
CAT Report 47	1999	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Westhouse Farm, Lexden, Colchester.</i> H Brooks
CAT Report 59	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: January 2000.</i> H Brooks and C Austin
CAT Report 167	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: December 2001.</i> K Orr
CAT Report 182	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on an extension to the driving range at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Colchester, Essex: March 2002.</i> K Orr
CAT Report 647	2012	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'Playgolf', Bakers Lane, Westhouse Farm, Colchester, Essex: May 2012.</i> C Lister
CAT Report 709	2014	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013.</i> D Shimmin
CAT Report 930	2016	<i>CAT Report 930: Archaeological evaluation at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex – March 2016.</i> L Pooley
CAT Report 965	2016	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around land at Bakers Lane, Essex.</i> P Parmenter
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, CO3 4AU.</i> J Tipper
Crummy, P, Benfield, S, Crummy, N, Rigby, V & Shimmin, D	2007	<i>Stanway: an élite burial site at Camulodunum,</i> Britannia Monograph, 24
CIfA	2014	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> a
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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).
Hawkes, CFC, and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum,</i> Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 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 and trench proposal in relation to development (dashed blue lines).

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OASIS ID: colchest3-321434

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eight trenches) was undertaken at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the erection of six holiday lets, with associated access, car parking and groundworks. Evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features. However, a single sherd of 1st-century AD pottery and four prehistoric worked flints (from soil layers) show activity in the vicinity of the development site during these periods.
Project dates	Start: 16-07-2018 End: 16-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/07a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	172873 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4242 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.64 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER West House Farm, Bakers Lane
Postcode	CO3 4AU
Study area	1.68 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9725 2591 51.896253789398 0.867192472632 51 53 46 N 000 52 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.03m Max: 14.87m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive	Colchester Museum
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recipient
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.64
Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.64
Digital Contents "other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.64
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type
Title Archaeological evaluation at West House Farm, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU: July 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1300
Date 2018
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 30 July 2018