

Colchester
Archaeological
Trust

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

CAT Report 1467	Parish: Colchester
21 Van Dyck Road Colchester Essex	Planning reference: 190003
	CHER Event no.: ECC4326
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-347932
Address: 21 Van Dyck Road Colchester Essex CO3 4QD	Grid Reference: TL 9755 2418
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visits: 29th August 2019

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for an extension.

Reason for condition: The site lies within the projected course of the Late Iron Age Heath Farm Dyke.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results: The excavation of foundation trenching for an extension was archaeologically monitored in response to a Brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of approximately 9.7m of foundation trenching to the rear of the property.

The trenching was excavated through modern concrete (L1, c 0.08-0.12m thick), topsoil (L2, c 0.34-0.39m thick, firm, moist dark brown silty-clay) and subsoil (L3, c 0.23-0.27m thick, soft/friable, moist medium orange/brown silty-clay) into natural (L4, friable/firm, moist medium orange/red/brown silty-sand with 40% gravel, encountered at a depth of 0.7-0.72m below current ground level).



Photograph 1 Site shot

No significant archaeological remains or material was encountered.

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks

Date: 30th August 2019



Colchester Archaeological Trust

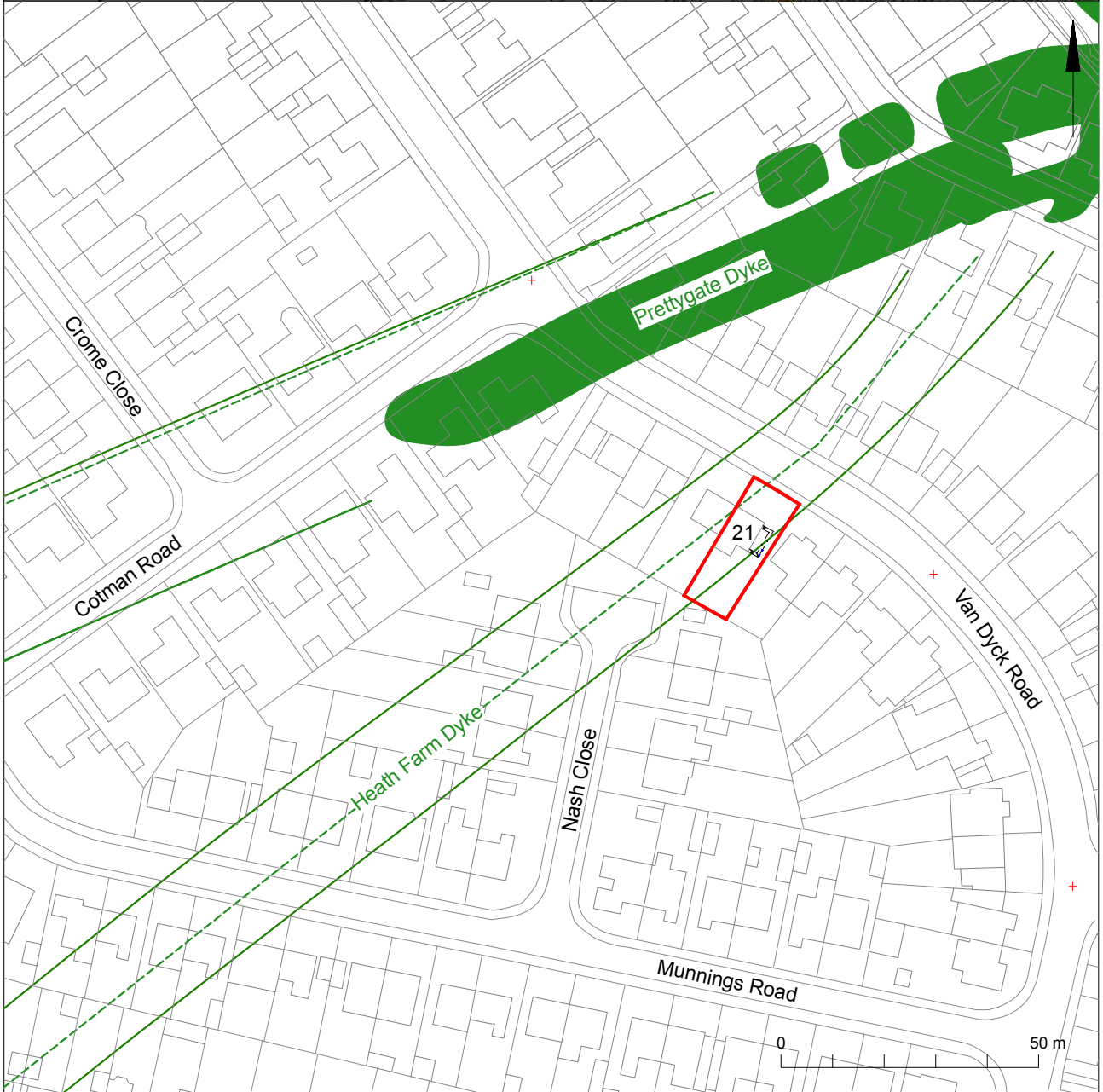
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

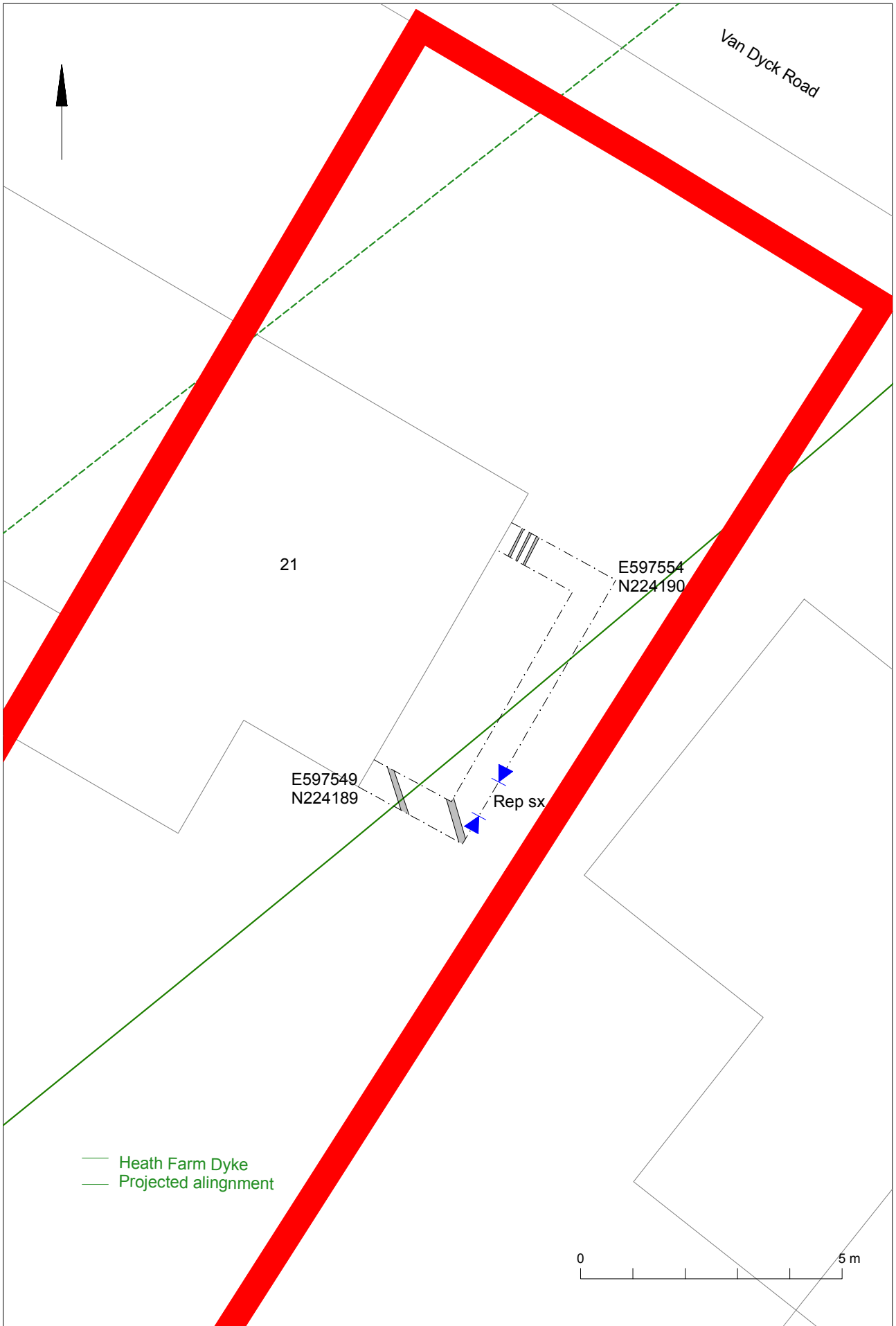
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 06.09.2019



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Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Monitoring results

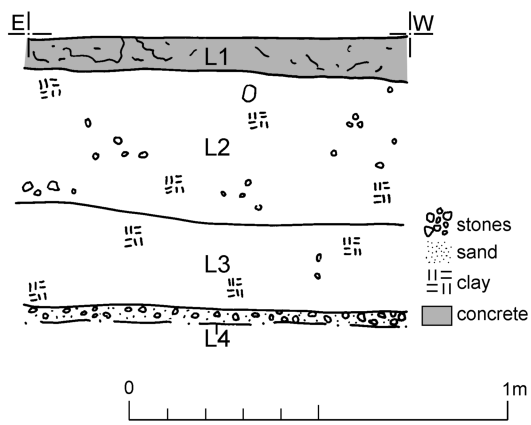


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for continuous archaeological recording at
21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4QD.**

NGR: TL 9755 2418 (centre)

Planning references: 190003

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Richard May

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4326

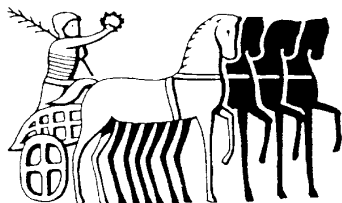
CAT project code: 2019/04a

OASIS project number: colchest3-347932

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 03/04/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.2km southwest of the centre of the historic core within Colchester Town Centre at 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4QD (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9755 2418.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a two-storey extension to the southeastern side of the existing dwelling, including new services, soakaway and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies below the projected line of the earthwork known as Heath Farm Dyke, Scheduled Monument number 1019962 (MCC2095). 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. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). 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). The development site is also c 57m southeast of Prettygate Dyke (MCC1742) and c 130m southwest of the Prettygate junction where the Moat Farm (Lexden Dykes, MCC2099), Prettygate Dyke (MCC1742), Heath Farm Dyke Middle (MCC2095) and Heath Farm Dyke North (MCC2101) converge, and several excavations have taken place here (CAR 11, 46-52).

Also located approximately 100m to the northeast of the site is a WWII anti-tank ditch and defence line (MCC8706).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2018 (application No.190003) proposing a *two storey side extension*.

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* (MHCLG 2019).

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 2019).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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.

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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA. 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Matthew Loughton (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): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

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: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for absolute dating of appropriate finds/deposits.

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* (HE 2015).

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) 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: 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	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
Crummy, P	1995	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, CO3 4QD</i> . By J Tipper
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>
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
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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)

MHCLG

2019

National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government.

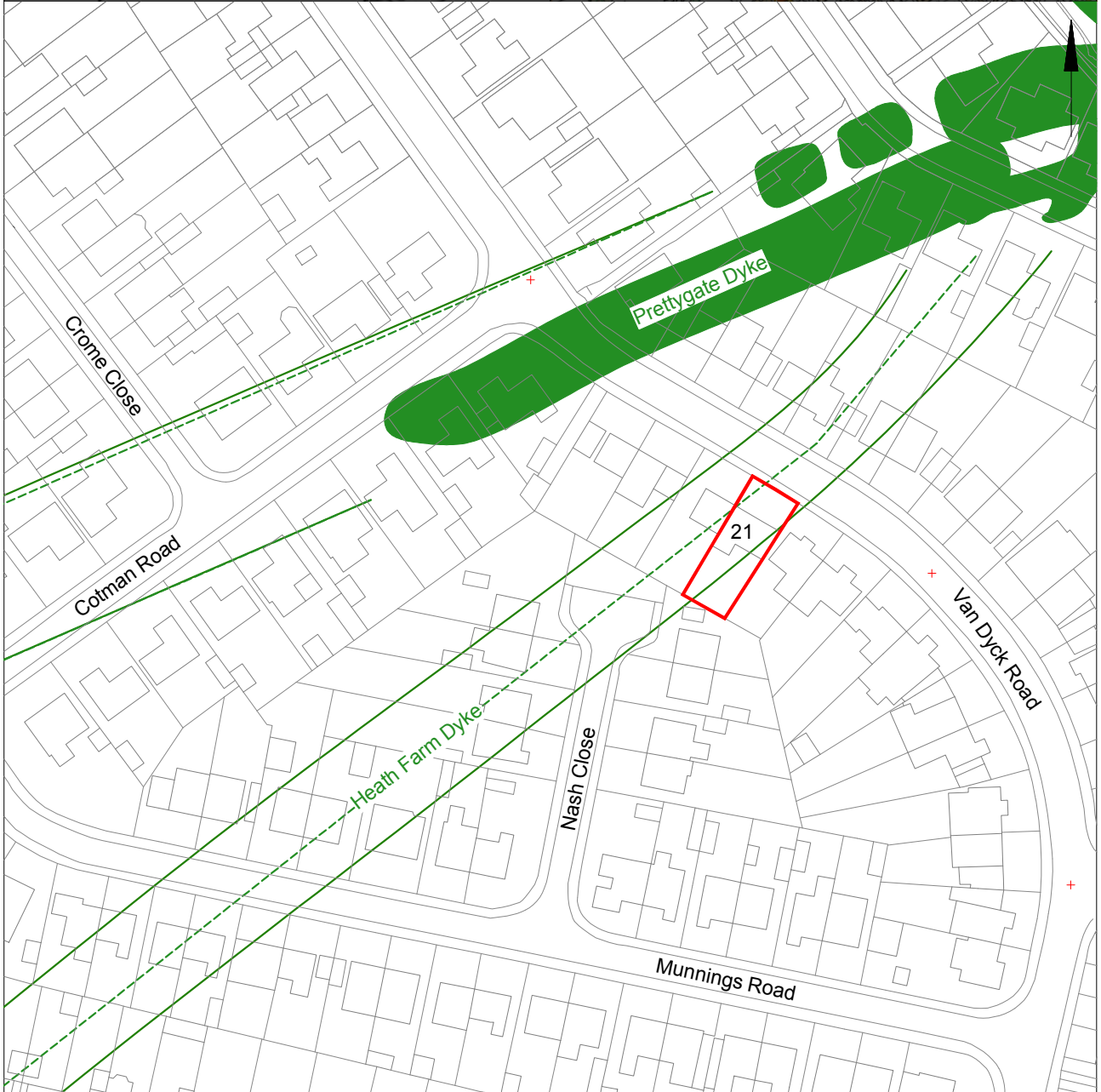
E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location

0 50 m

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-347932

Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological recording at 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4QD.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for an extension. The site lies within the projected course of the Late Iron Age Heath Farm Dyke. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2019 End: 29-08-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	190003 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/04a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4326 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 4QD
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9755 2418 51.880610708186 0.870556543737 51 52 50 N 000 52 14 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr R May

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4326
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4326
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography

1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 21 Van Dyck Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4QD: August 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1467
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	9 September 2019

OASIS:

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