



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1814

**Archaeological monitoring at
45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 9ET: June 2022**

Planning reference: 220170

CHER Event no.: ECC4727

OASIS ref.: colchest3-506723

Grid Reference: TL 96324 23983 (centre)

Number of site visits: 1

Dates of visit: 6th June 2022

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a rear extension.

Reason for condition: The site lies adjacent to the projected line of the Laver Ditch (MCC 10054) and is close to the entrance through Grymes Dyke (MCC 7464-5).

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results:

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

The foundation trench for the extension totalled 17m long, 0.45m wide and 1.0-1.1m deep. Three horizons were observed, modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.4m thick) which overlay natural geological deposits (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.6m below current ground level). There were no archaeological remains.

The extension was originally meant to be longer, but was shortened when a water pipe was found in the far south-east corner (see Fig 2).

Context information:

L1, topsoil, soft, moist/wet, medium-dark grey/brown silty loam.

L2, subsoil, soft/friable, moist, light-medium yellow/brown sandy silt with 5% gravel inclusions.

L3, natural sand and gravel.



Photograph 1 Representative section, looking north



Photograph 2 Trench shot, looking north-east



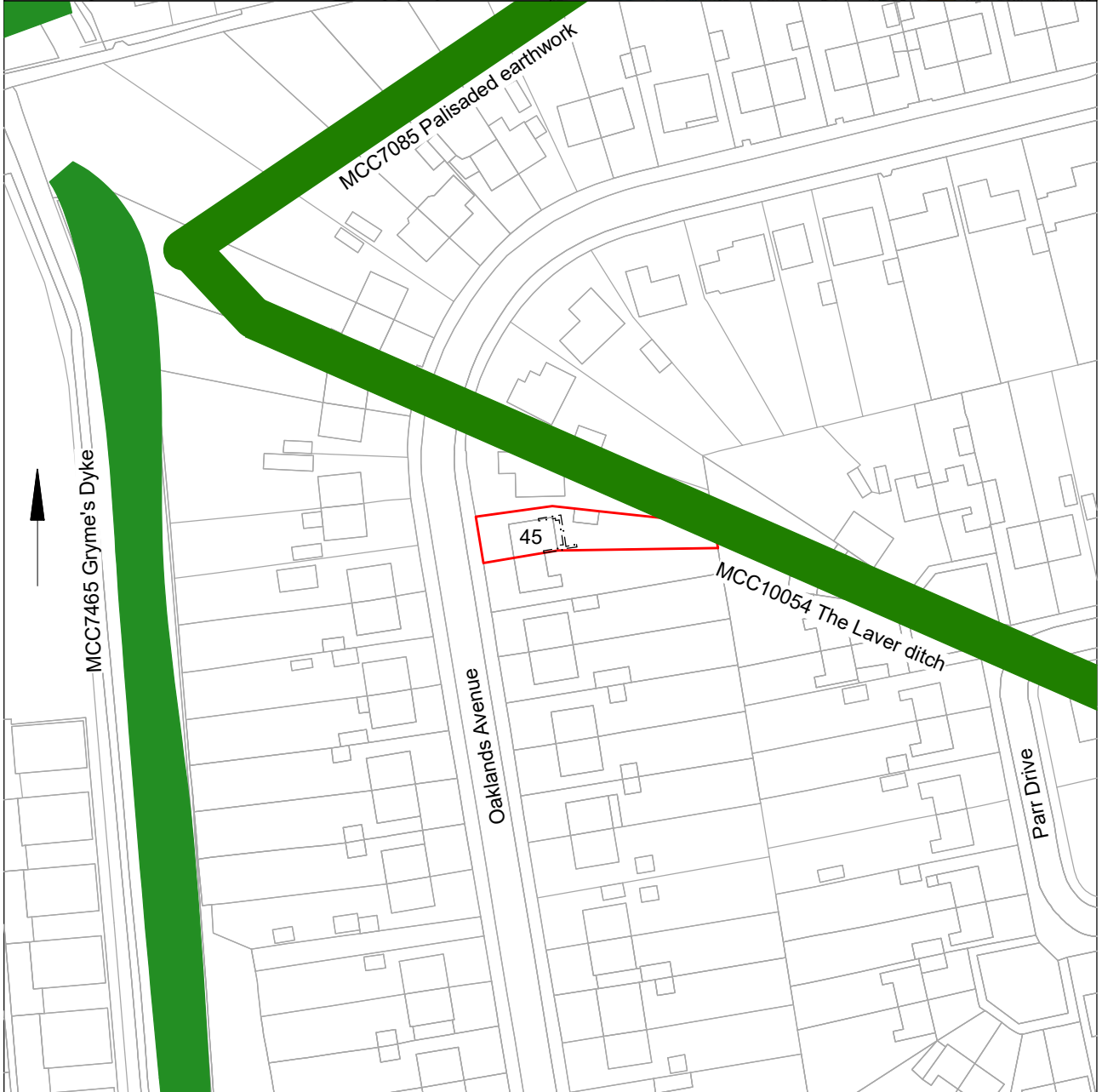
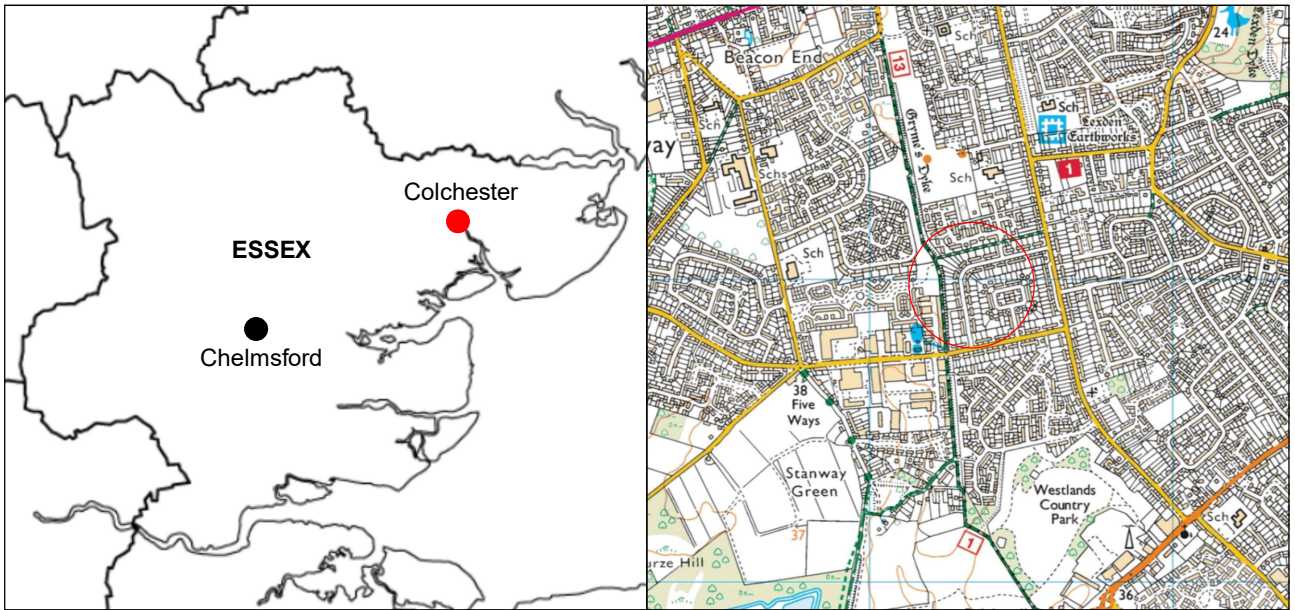
Photograph 3 Trench shot showing water pipe discovered in the south-eastern corner

Recorded by: Bronagh Quinn (bq@catuk.org)

Date: 1/8/2022

Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

Date: 2/8/2022



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Fig 1 Site location.



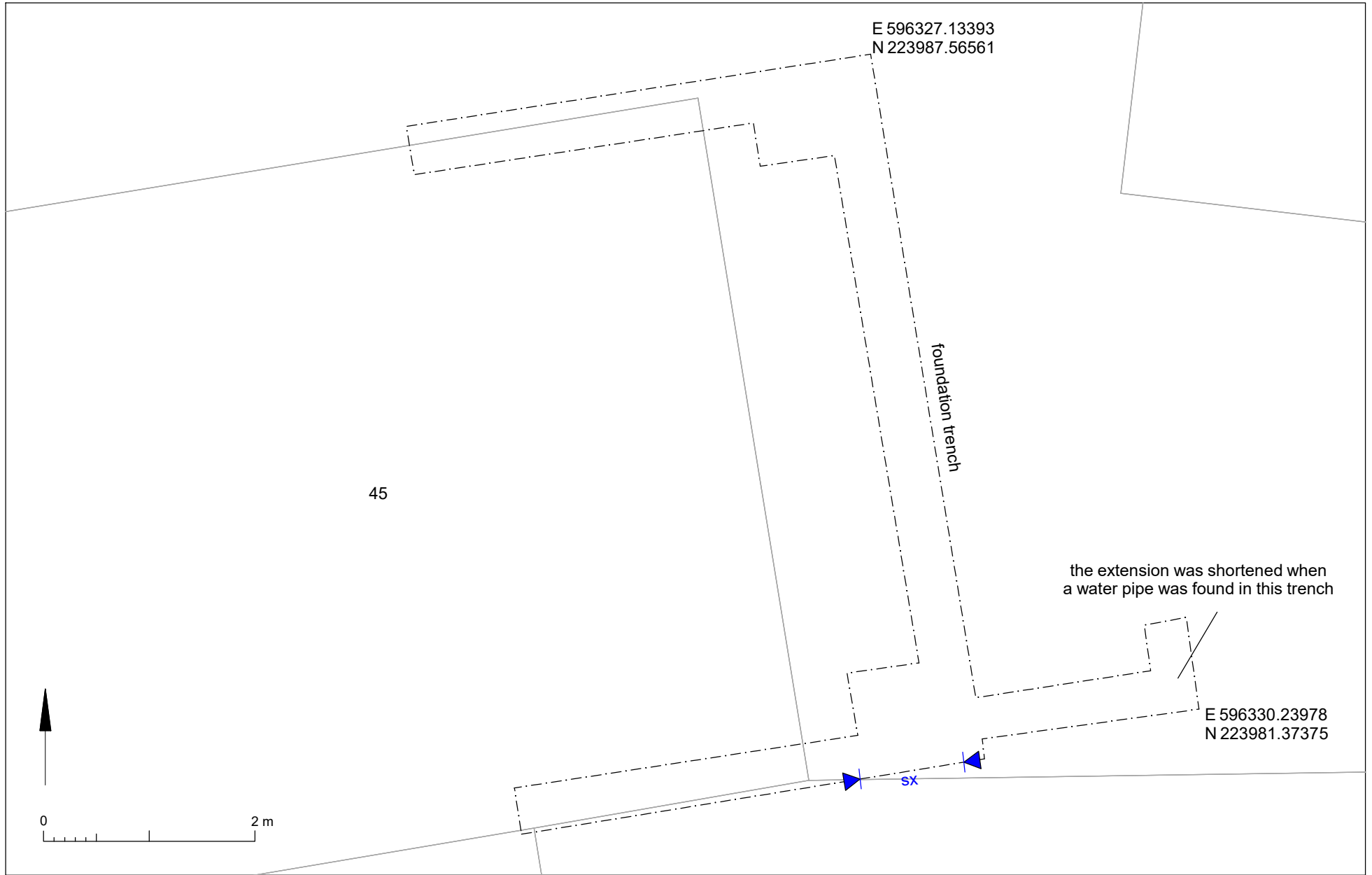


Fig 2 Results

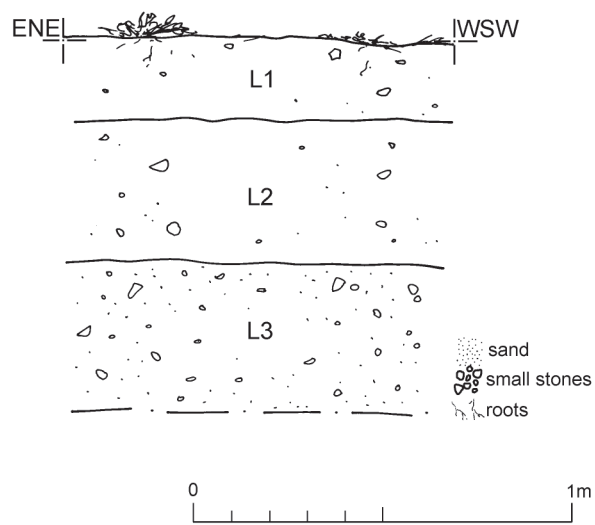


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 96324 23983 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/05g CHER ref: ECC4727 OASIS ref: colchest3-506723
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 6th June 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.03ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum/ADS Archaeology	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 1814	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET, during groundworks for a two-storey extension. Despite being located close to both the projected line of The Laver Ditch (MCC10054) and the entrance through Grymes Dyke (MCC7464-5), no archaeological deposits were uncovered..	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: June 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET

NGR: TL96324 23983 (centre)
District: Colchester
Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 220170

Client: Homeowner

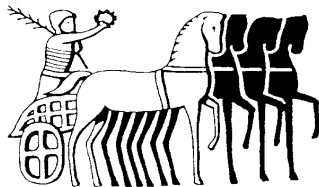
Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology
CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/05g
OASIS project number: colchest3-506723

Contracts manager: Chris Lister
Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman
Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 13/05/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 3.49km southwest from the main historic core of Colchester at 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 96324 23983.

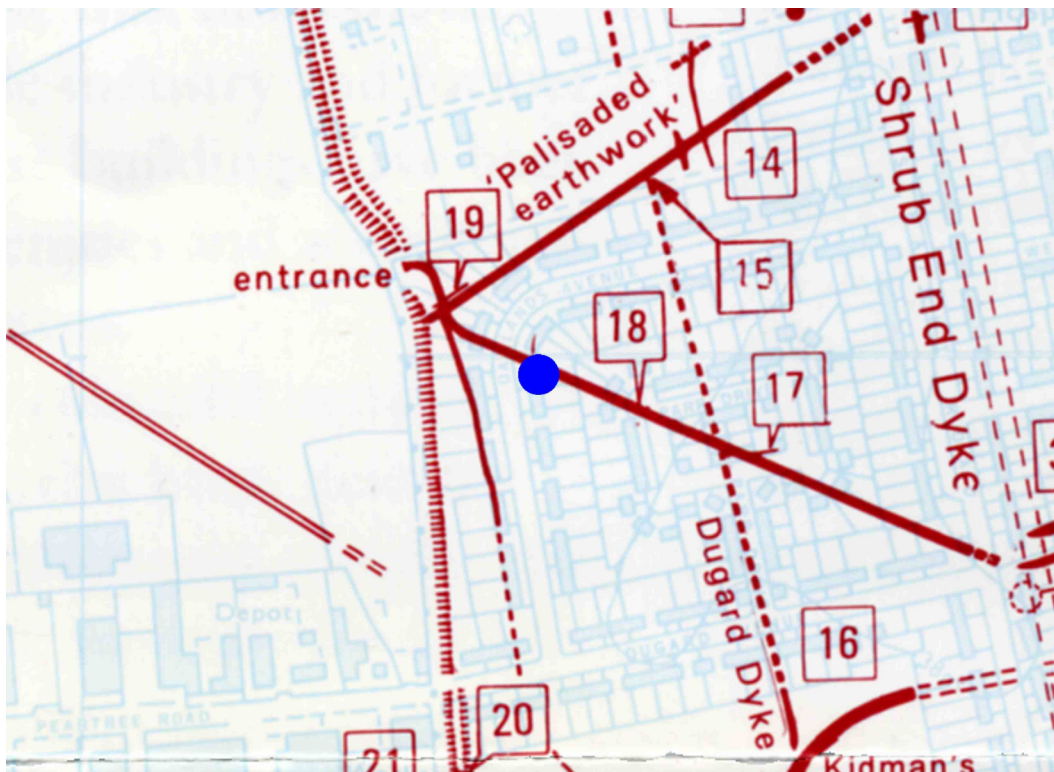
Proposed work

The development comprises of the demolition of an existing single storey extension and garage to be replaced with a new single and two storey extension to the rear of the property..

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies adjacent to the projected line of The Laver ditch (MCC 10054). The Colchester dykes and earthworks 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).



Map 1: Extract of the general map of Colchester showing the locations of earthworks and excavations discussed in CAR11 (Fig 6.1), current site is labelled blue.

The site is partially cut by projected line of the Laver ditch (MCC 10054) which runs from southeast to northwest where it meets the palisaded earthwork (MCC7085) to the east of an entrance through Gyrmes dyke (MCC7464-5). Gyrmes dyke is the outermost, longest and latest of all the dykes on the western side of the town. The current site is located adjacent to an area named in CAR 11 as Gyrmes Dyke Middle. Excavation work between 1946-1958

(labelled 19 on map 1 above) revealed there was an entrance through Grymes Dyke and looked at the relationship between Grymes Dyke, the palisaded earthwork and the Laver ditch (for full discussion see CAR 11 p27-29, 59-61 and 109). An 18m section was dug through the Laver ditch by A.F. Hall in 1936. The ditch was cut obliquely and was 1.2m deep and about 3m wide (MCC 8191, see Map 1 number 17).

The palisaded earthwork was expected to cross footings monitored at 52 Oaklands Avenue in 2019. However, as it was not there it was thought that perhaps the cropmark has been plotted slightly too far north. A photograph taken by the RAF in the 1940's (within CAT's collection) shows this cropmark in a slightly different location. This would mean the line of the Laver ditch may fall slightly to the north of the current site. However, this photograph was not taken from directly above and has not been rectified.



Photograph 2 RAF 1940's photograph showing the 'V' shaped cropmark of the palisade earthwork and the Laver ditch in relation to the site (in red)

Other features noted in the area include Late Iron Age to Roman ditches recorded along the road (MCC8080 and 8087). Human bone was found during the erection of a radio aerial in 1963 (MCC7634) and CAT inspected a sudden hole which appeared in the rear of 64 Oaklands Avenue in 1988 and recorded a 4.6m deep vertical shaft, thought to be a well of unknown date (97/10c, CAT report 1000).

Planning background

A planning application (220170) was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2022 for the *demolition of existing single story extension and garage. Single and two story extension to the rear of property.*

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 an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically:

The monitoring 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.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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 investigate 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical 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.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

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. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following Historic England guidance (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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
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 scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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* (Historic England 2015b).

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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

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	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	2nd ed 1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in <i>the CAT Report Series from 1997</i>), by H Brooks
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester</i> . By S Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> .

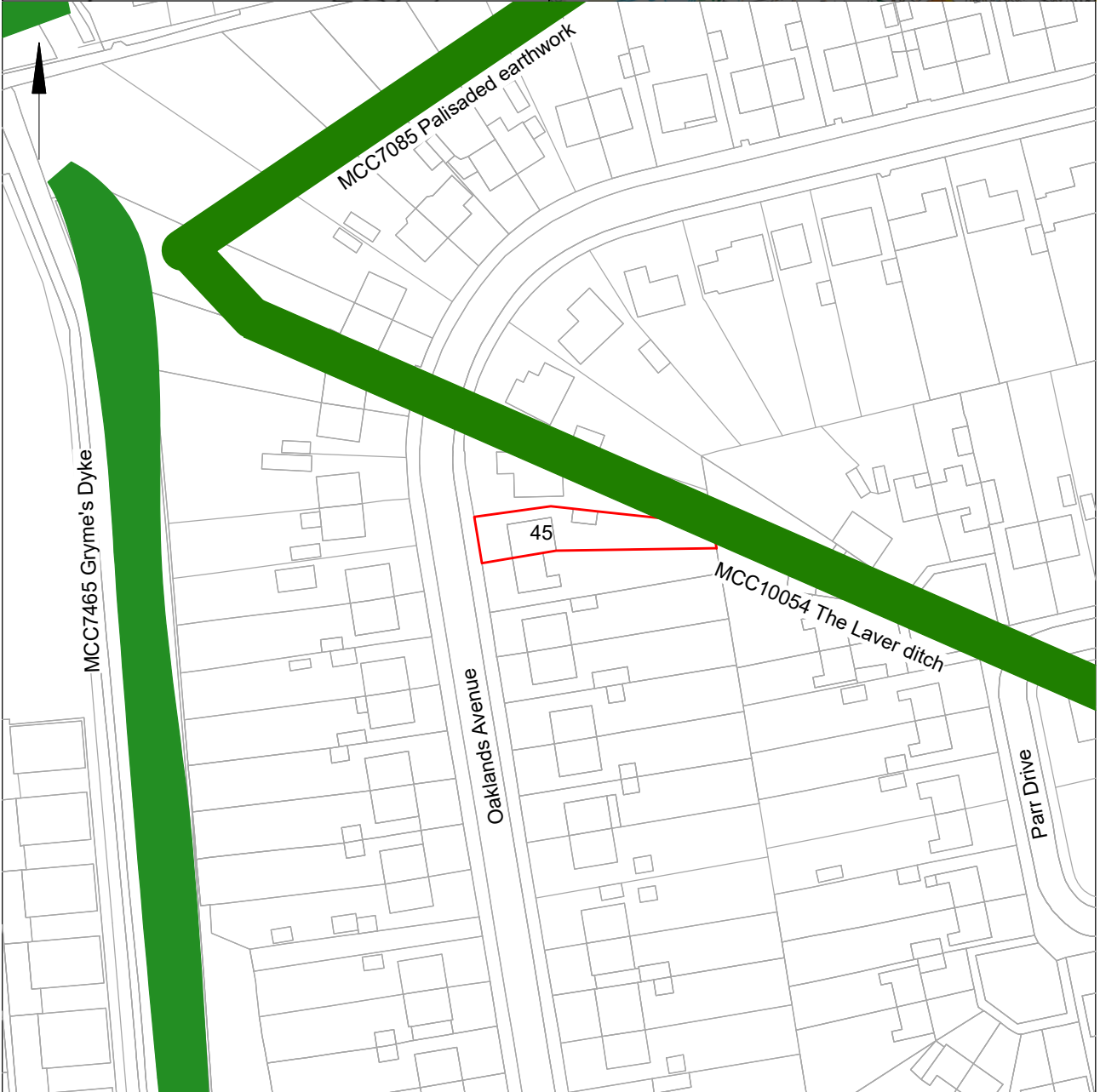
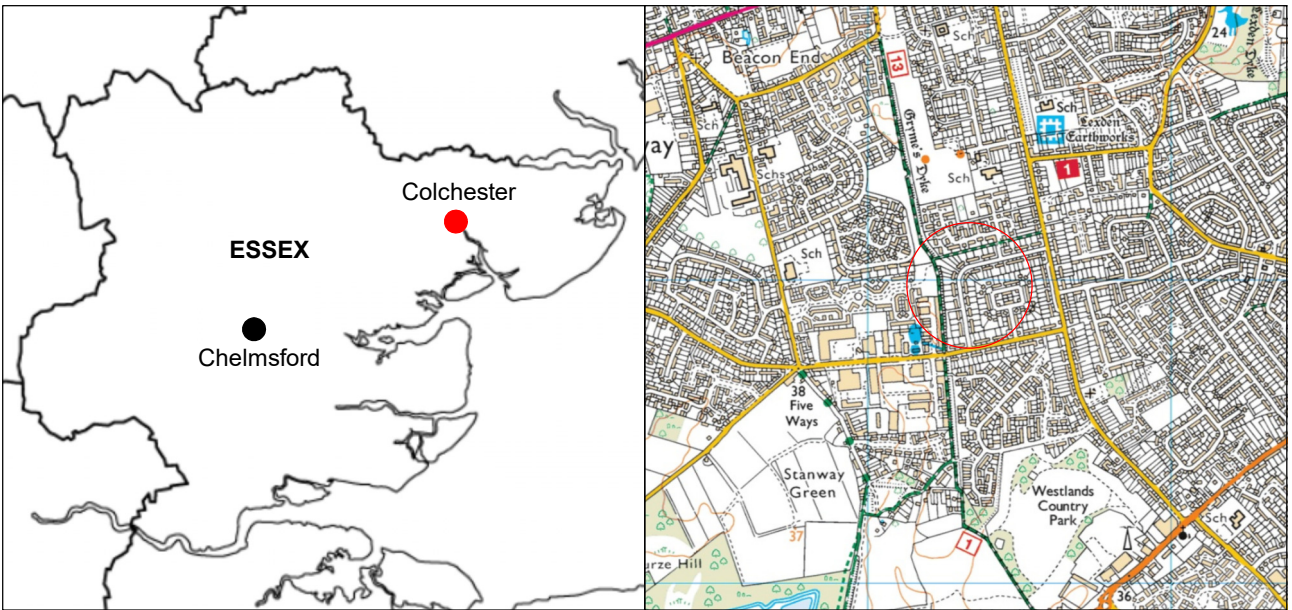
		Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2021
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, CFC & Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	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	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location.



Summary for colchest3-506723

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-506723
Project Name	Watching Brief at 45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET
Sitename	45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/05g
Planning Id	220170
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	06-Jun-2022 - 06-Jun-2022
Location	45 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ET NGR : TL 96324 23983 LL : 51.8798396268113, 0.850917786143002 12 Fig : 596324,223983
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. The foundation trench for the extension totalled 17m long, 0.45m wide and 1.0-1.1m deep.
Project Results	Three horizons were observed, modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.4m thick) which overlay natural geological deposits (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.6m below current ground level). There were no archaeological remains. The extension was originally meant to be longer, but was shortened when a water pipe was found in the far south-east corner (see Fig 2). Context information: L1, topsoil, soft, moist/wet, medium-dark grey/brown silty loam. L2, subsoil, soft/friable, moist, light-medium yellow/brown sandy silt with 5% gravel inclusions. L3, natural sand and gravel.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4727
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;