

**An archaeological  
watching brief at  
22 Tumulus Way,  
Gosbecks,  
Colchester, Essex**

**February 2002**

**on behalf of  
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project ref.: 02/1g  
Colchester Museum accession code: 2002.28  
NGR: TL 9685 2280



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**CAT Report 172**  
February 2002

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## 1 Summary

Observations were made during groundworks for a conservatory to the west side of 22 Tumulus Close, Gosbecks, Colchester, Essex. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 6th February 2002 at 22 Tumulus Way, on behalf of Colchester Borough Council. The work was necessitated by the construction of a conservatory to the west side of the property. Planning permission was given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.
- 2.2 This property is located on the modern housing estate at Gosbecks, to the south-west of Colchester town centre. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9685 2280.
- 2.3 This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

## 3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site is at Gosbecks, situated within an area of national archaeological importance. This was the centre of the pre-Roman tribal capital of Camulodunum and residence of the leader Cunobelin. It later became an important Roman site, and a Romano-Celtic temple and Roman theatre were built here.
- 3.2 The actual development area lies to the north of the main settlement and religious focus of Camulodunum (now Gosbecks Archaeological Park). Excavations were carried out by CAT in this area in 1995 and 1996 in advance of the housing development (Benfield 2001, report awaiting publication). Cropmarks were excavated to reveal late Iron Age and Roman field boundaries, droveways, enclosure ditches and pits indicating occupation. Of particular interest was a long length of Roman water-main running to the south-west of the new houses. Nearer to the development site was a group of 1st- to 2nd-century cremations, a number of inhumations dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries, and a cremation in a small ditched enclosure (*the Colchester archaeologist* magazine 1999, pp 18-19.)

## 4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, finds or deposits revealed by the groundworks.

## 5 Methods

- 5.1 The trenches were machine-dug by the building contractors.
- 5.2 The fieldwork was carried out by Stephen Benfield, a professional archaeologist from CAT, who made one visit to the site after the foundations had been dug on the 6th February 2002. The size of the area excavated was 3.5m by 4.5m. Foundations were excavated to a width of 400mm and a depth of 400mm.
- 5.3 A record of the position of the site excavations was made. Soil types were noted and a section drawing was made of the layers (Fig 1).

## 6 Results

The foundations were dug through 250mm of loamy garden topsoil overlying a dirty gravel which had been disturbed by construction work in the past and which contained brick, plastic and lumps of topsoil.

## 7 Discussion

The watching brief produced negative results. Within the excavated area there was no evidence of any archaeological finds, features or activity. However, this may be due to the shallow depth of the foundations.

## 8 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2002.28.

## 9 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation:

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

## 10 References

Benfield, Stephen, 2001      Excavations of late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex, 1995-96 (report awaiting publication)

Colchester Archaeological Trust, 1999      *The Colchester archaeologist* magazine, 12

Kate Orr, February 2002

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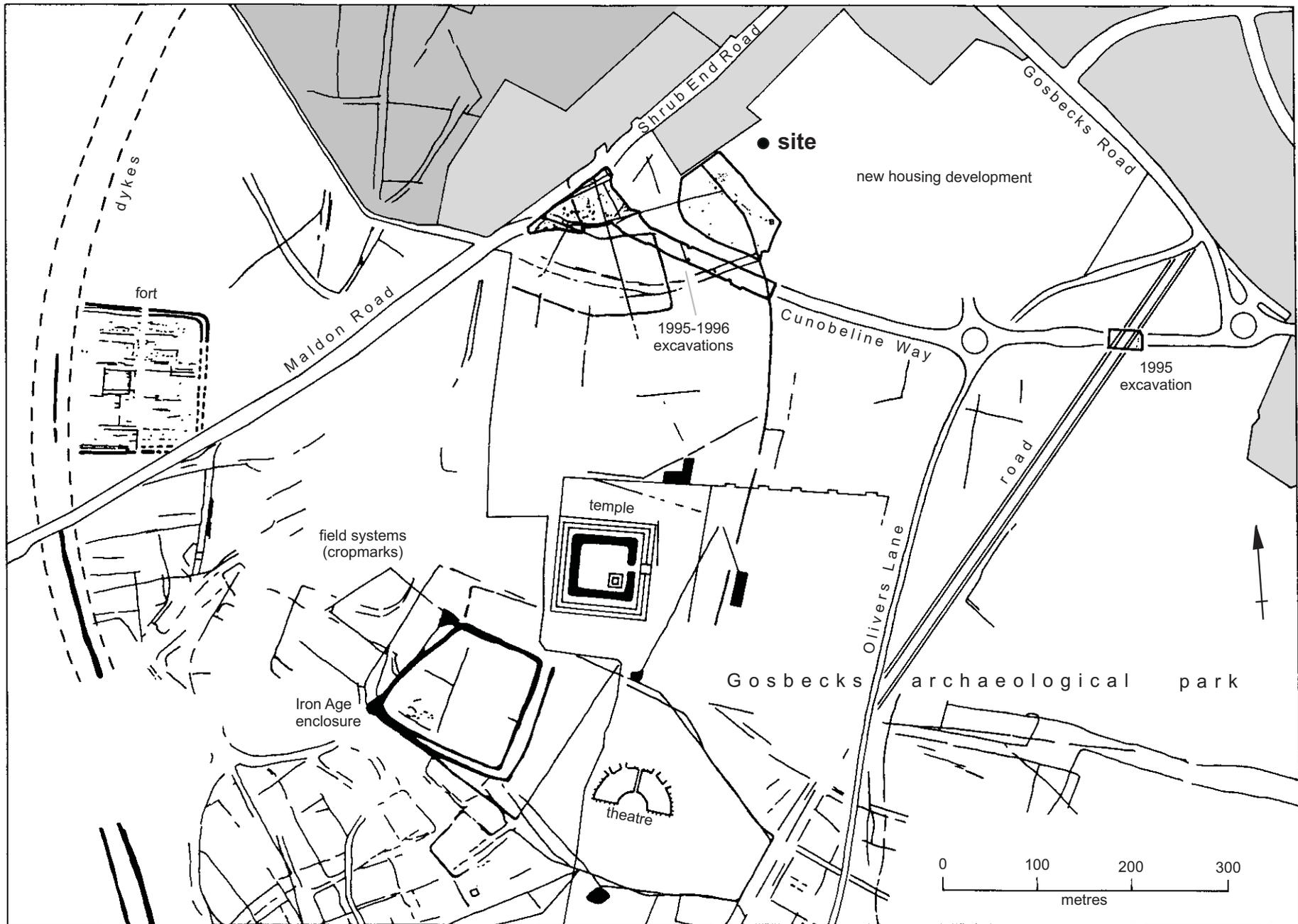


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**Fig 1 Site location in relation to surrounding archaeological remains (grey tone: built-up areas; dark tone: quarried areas).**

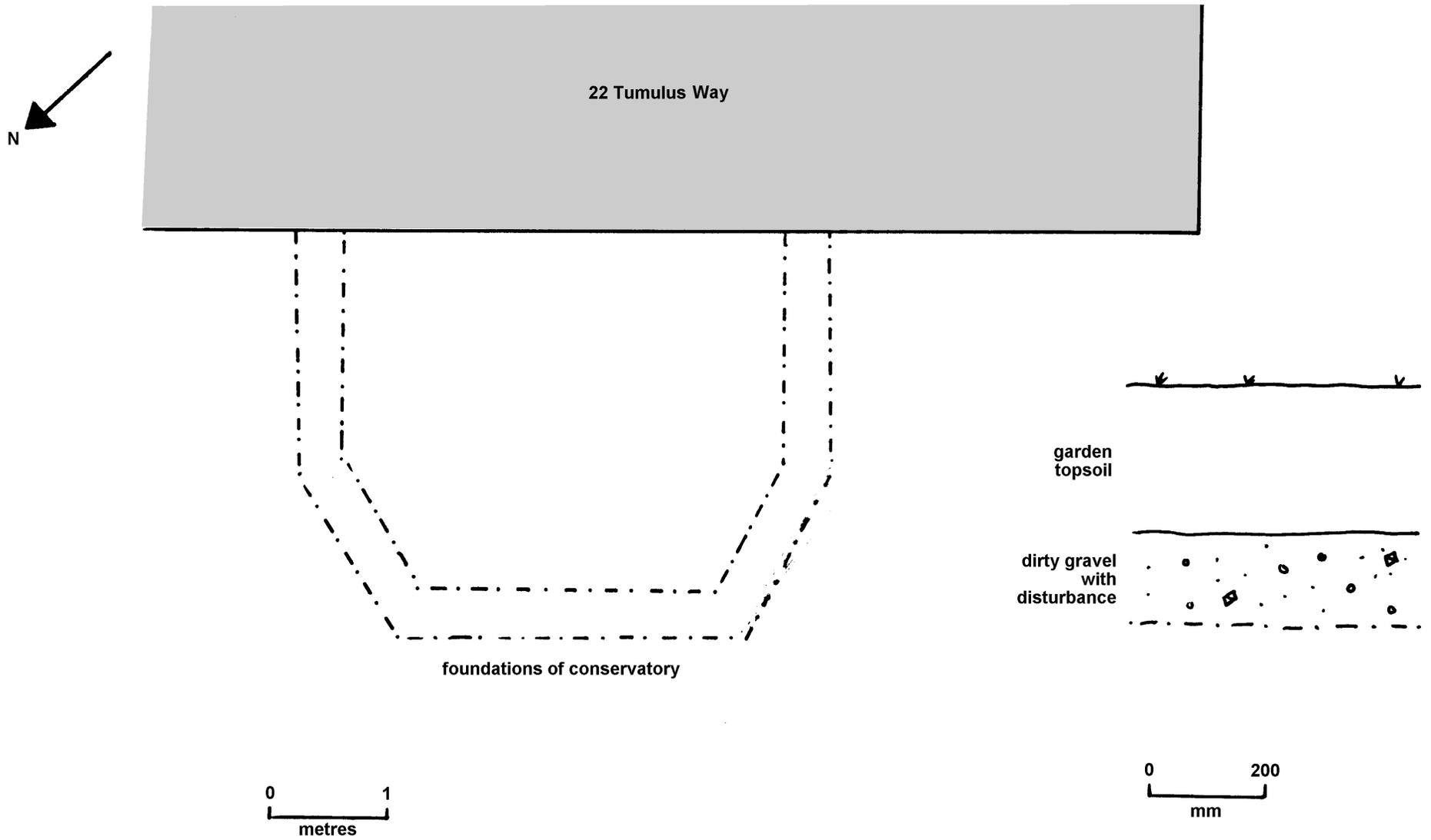


Fig 2 Plan of foundations and section drawing of foundations.

# Essex Heritage Conservation Record

## Summary sheet

<b>Site name/address:</b> 22 Tumulus Way, Gosbecks, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9685 2280	<b>Site code:</b> 2002.28
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> February 2002	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 3.5m x 4.5m
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 172 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Observations were made during groundworks for an extension to the west side of 22 Tumulus Way, Gosbecks, Colchester, Essex. Nothing of archaeological significance was found. This may be due to the shallow depth of the foundations.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> N/A	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Kate Orr	<b>Date of summary:</b> February 2002