

# Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG

November 2017



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fieldwork by Ben Holloway

on behalf of **Silverswan Homes**

NGR: TQ 6924 9890 (centred)

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**CAT Report 1201**

November 2017

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. Stock was an important centre for pottery manufacture in the 16th to 19th centuries with evidence for kilns close to the development site. However, monitoring revealed substantial modern disturbance associated with a large ditch/culvert which crossed the site and other more recent groundworks. There were no significant archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This archive report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, which was undertaken on 29th November 2017. The work was commissioned by Silverswan Homes, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett advised that to establish the scope of the archaeological impact of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report implements standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CifA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the development sites lies within an area of archaeological potential. Immediately to the south, the northern side of an earthwork enclosure (EHER 5382, 9135), possibly of prehistoric origin, extends southwards towards the church. In the later period, pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. This has been evidenced by the finding of post-medieval pottery kilns to the northeast of the development site around Stock Common (dug for clay for pottery manufacture), to the north at Stock Bowling Club (EHER 5507), to the east at 10 The Paddock where large quantities of post-medieval pottery indicate a nearby kiln (EHER 48334), and near the junction of Common Road and Mill Road where evidence of kilns was found. For further details of the history of Stock see Phillips (2003).

A study of the historic OS maps of Stock has revealed that a large modern earthwork, probably a ditch or culvert, ran east-west through the development site. It was not visible on the six-inch OS map of 1873/4 (published 1881) but was plotted on the six-inch OS maps of 1919 (published 1923) (Map 1) and 1938 (published c 1946). It was presumably backfilled when the current residential estate was built. Most of the proposed groundworks took place within the backfill of this ditch/culvert and as per the wsi, were not monitored.



**Map 1** Six-inch OS map of 1919 (ESSEX nLXX.NW) showing ditch/culvert (blue arrow)

#### **4 Aims**

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

#### **5 Results** (Figs 2-3)

As per the wsi, only those groundworks located within the northwest corner of the new dwelling (outside of the backfilled ditch/culvert) were monitored. These groundworks were carried out by the contractor under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Approximately 22m of foundation trenching was monitored, measuring 0.9m wide by 0.9m deep. It was excavated through a modern piling mat of crushed concrete (L1, c 0.5m thick) onto natural clay and gravel (L2). All groundworks associated with the construction of the piling mat took place before CAT was requested to attend the site.

An auger sample was also carried out within one of the eastern foundation trenches to establish the depth of the backfilled ditch/culvert. The auger started at a depth of 0.9m below current ground level (bcgl), above this c 0.5m of piling mat sealed a dark grey/black silty-clay (L3). The auger sample showed that this silty-clay layer continued for another 1.1-1.2m (totalling 1.5-1.6m thick). Within this layer an organic peaty element was noted at 0.6m, a fragment of London Brick Company brick at 0.7m, plant matter (leaves and sticks) at 0.8m, and ground water at 0.85-0.9m depth. A coarse gravel layer at the base of the 1.1-1.2m auger sample may possibly be natural, identified at a total depth of 2-2.1m bcgl.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trenches excavated through the piling mat onto natural. Previous ground level is shown around the edge of the site boundary.

## 6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel revealed modern disturbance within the NW corner of the development site, associated with groundworks for the current development. Further to the east, the disturbance caused by the ditch/culvert was recorded for a depth of 2-2.1m below current ground level. There were no significant archaeological remains.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Bill Wright and Silverswan Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 9 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock</i> by Alison Bennett (not re-issued once it was decided by ECCPS that the requirement would change to monitoring and recording).
Historic England	2016	<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).
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)
Philips, C	2003	<i>The Story of Stock and Buttsbury</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1201)

ECCPS brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2017.096.

**Distribution list**

Bill Wright, Silverswan Homes  
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services  
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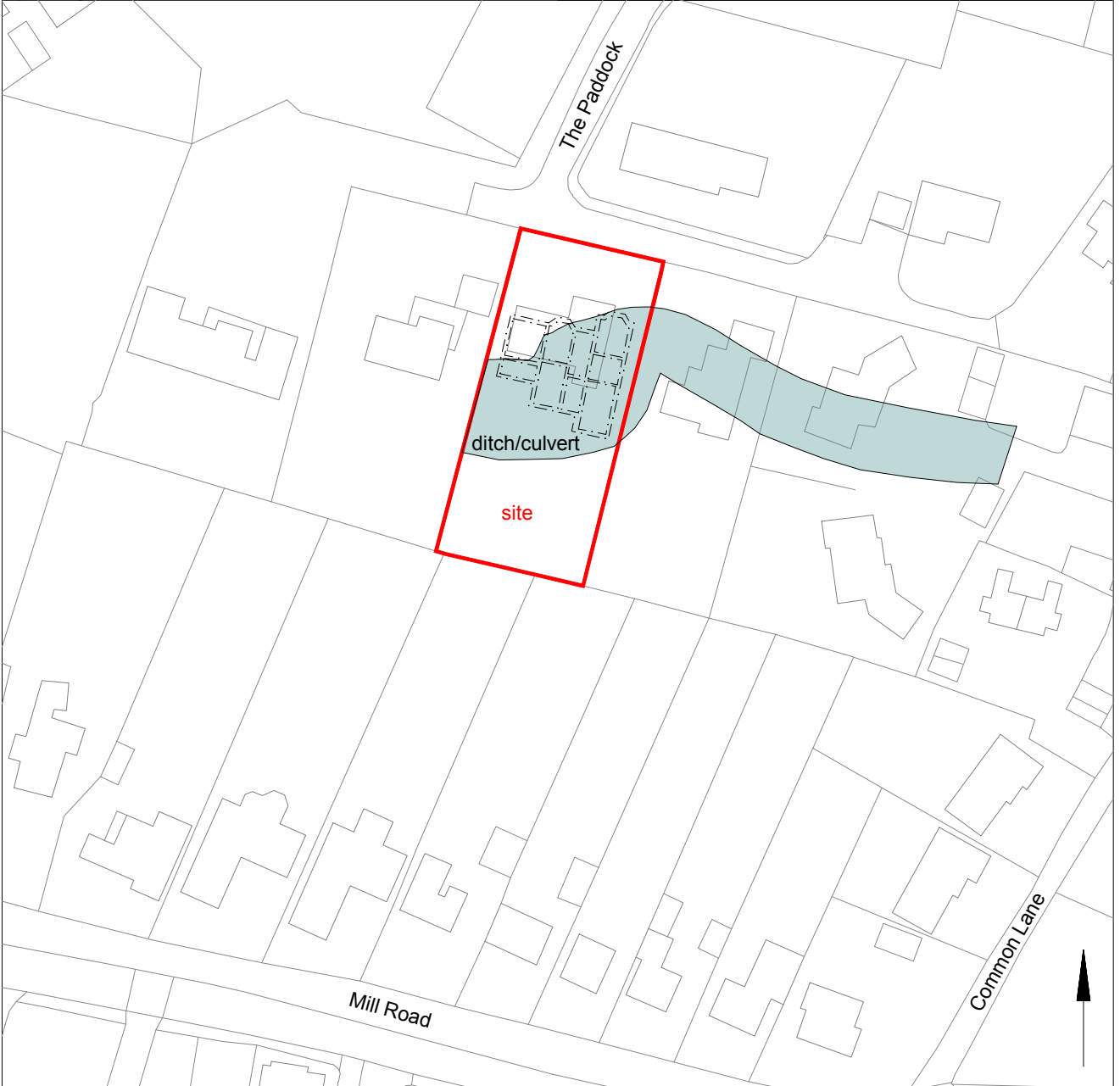
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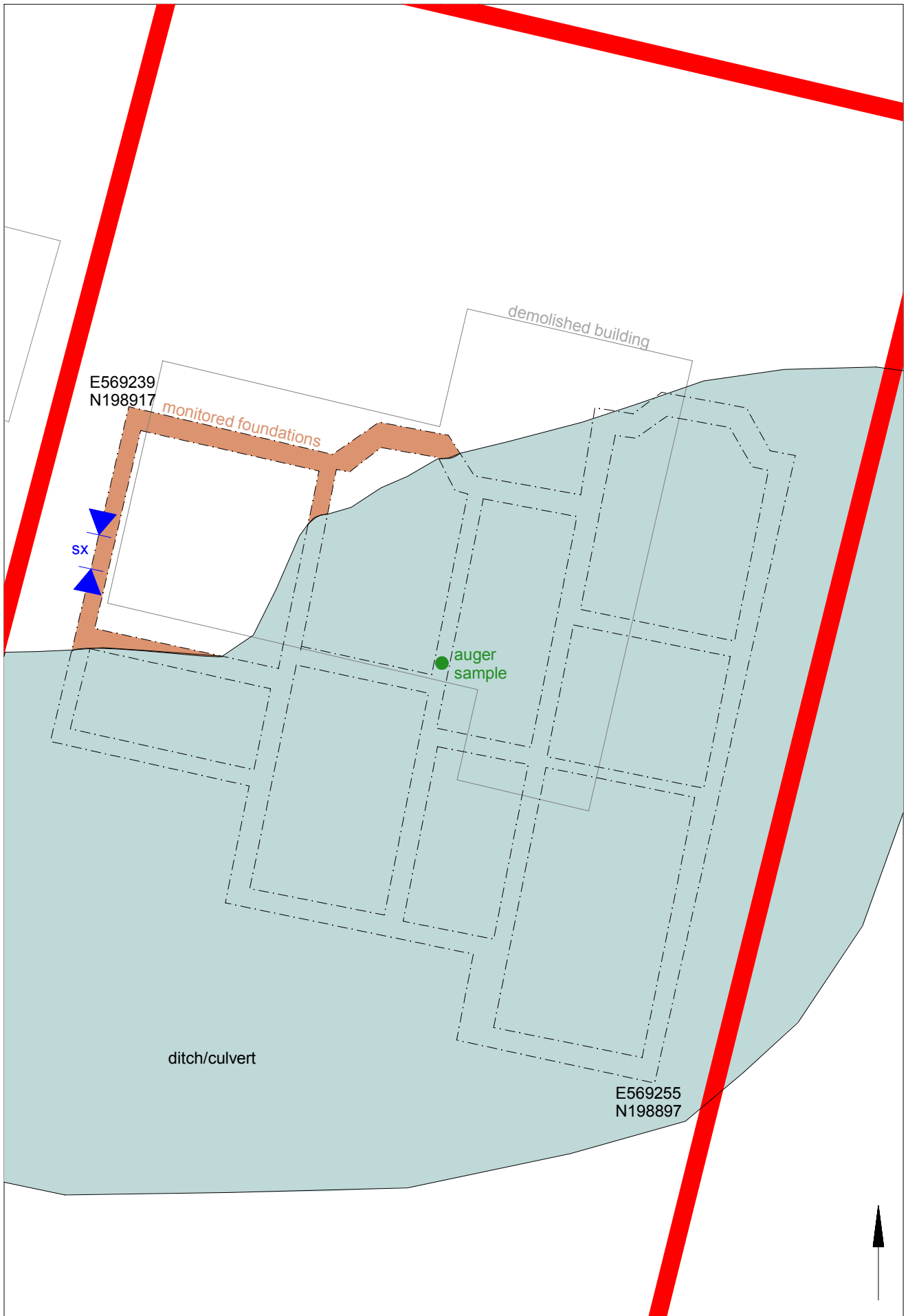


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Fig 1 Site location







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Fig 2 Results



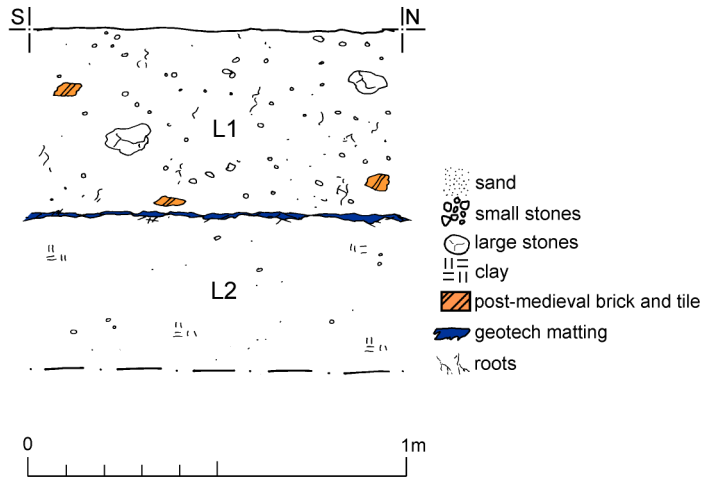


Fig 3 Representative section.

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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. Stock was an important centre for pottery manufacture in the 16th to 19th centuries with evidence for kilns close to the development site. However, monitoring revealed substantial modern disturbance associated with a large ditch/culvert which crossed the site and other more recent groundworks. There were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 29-11-2017 End: 29-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/07i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL 17/00827/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SKCL17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMRE: 2017.096 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH/CULVERT Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK Caer Luel, The Paddock
Postcode	CM4 9BG
Study area	0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 6924 9890 51.662850979934 0.447309148447 51 39 46 N 000 26 50 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMRE: 2017.096
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMRE: 2017.96
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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