

**An archaeological watching brief
at 11 Maldon Road,
Colchester, Essex
May-October 2007**

**report prepared by
Howard Brooks and Kate Orr**

**on behalf of
Harding Homes Ltd**

CAT project ref.: 07/5f
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: 2007.79
NGR: TL 99135 24875



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 481

June 2008

Contents

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Summary | 1 |
| 2 | Introduction | 1 |
| 3 | Archaeological background | 1 |
| 4 | Aim | 1 |
| 5 | Results | 2 |
| 6 | Finds | 2 |
| 7 | Discussion | 2 |
| 8 | Archive deposition | 3 |
| 9 | Acknowledgements | 3 |
| 10 | References | 3 |
| 11 | Glossary | 3 |

Figures after p 4

EHER summary sheet

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location, showing position of 2006 evaluation trench.
- Fig 2 Watching brief monitoring areas.

1 Summary

This site lies close to Roman cemeteries. This results of this watching brief are in agreement with the results of the 2006 evaluation, in that the site had already been disturbed by the digging of pits in the post-medieval period.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on archaeological watching brief at 11 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, carried out on behalf of Harding Homes Ltd by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from May to October 2007.
- 2.2 The site, which is approximately 40m x 12m, is located at NGR TL 99135 24875.
- 2.3 Planning consent for a the construction of a new block of flats (F/COL/06/0031) had an attached condition for an archaeological watching brief, due to the site's archaeological potential.
- 2.4 A brief for the conduct of the archaeological watching brief was written by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO). In response to this, CAT prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was agreed with the CBCAO. All work was carried out in accordance with these documents.
- 2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 2001a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001b). Other sources used are *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 The site lies to the south-west of the Roman and medieval town. There are two principal areas of archaeological interest here. First, the extensive areas of Roman cemeteries which are known to spread along the southern fringe of the Roman town have been excavated at several points close to this site. Immediately to the north of 11 Maldon Road, in Lexden oad, prior to the construction of the Southern Relief Road (now Southway), eighteen Roman burials and a Roman building were excavated in 1971 (UAD no 3018; *CAR 9*, 237-44; Fig 1). There were more extensive excavations on the site now occupied by the Police HQ on Butt Road, where more than 700 Roman burials were excavated, and the remains of a church associated with the Roman cemetery are now on display (*CAR 9*, 6-192).
- 3.2 Apart from the Roman remains, the site may also be within the area of influence of the hospital and Crouched Friars. This important but little-understood medieval friary still survives in place names such as Crouch Street and 'Crouched Friars', but the friary buildings have all disappeared. Excavations at 42 Crouch Street in 1988 (*CAR 9*, 245-57) and again in 2007 (CAT Report 434) identified medieval burials and part of a building which was probably part of the friary. It is possible that the friary precinct extended as far south as the present site.
- 3.3 An archaeological evaluation carried out for Harding Homes Ltd in 2006 (in the garden rear of the property) revealed 0.8m-1.0m of post-medieval topsoils sealing three post-medieval pits, the largest of which may have been a quarry-pit. Roman pottery and tile were found in a residual context in later features, but there was no evidence of Roman burials, presumably because of destruction caused by the post-medieval quarrying (CAT Report 359).

4 Aim

The aim of the watching brief was to record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits affected by groundworks.

5 Results (Fig 2)

29/05/07

Initial visit by Howard Brooks (HB). Machining out of old cellar which stood on the Maldon Road. Lots of brick rubble lying around, but nothing to see. Contractor had begun to clear in preparation to excavate platform for piling rig but had only cut down 300mm into the site, ie not deep enough to expose anything.

31/05/07

Visit by HB. Site stripped to piling-mat level.

01/06/07

Visit by HB. Part of the north edge of the site under the greensward had been stripped down to clean natural sand. Nothing of archaeological significance was seen.

04/07/07

Visit by Kate Orr (KO). The western half of the block had been piled and the ground around the piles had been stripped down to natural sand. A greater depth had been taken off at the extreme western side because the ground-level was higher here, due to the new building being split-level. As well as the east-facing slope, there was also a south-facing slope. Three post-medieval pits were seen in the sections of the footprint (the location of these is shown on Fig 2). One piece of 'Tudor'-type brick was recovered, probably from the fill of one of these pits. The contractors found one piece of animal bone (not kept), and two clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments.

05/07/07

Visit by KO. Ground-beams were being put in around the piles on the upper (western) level.

19/07/07

Visit by KO. The rest (eastern half) of the site had been piled and the land around reduced by approximately 1m for ground-beams. Steelwork was being put into the ground-beam trenches. The sides of trenches obscured by spoil except close to the Maldon Road entrance. Lots of modern rubble from the previous building. Nothing of archaeological significance was seen.

19/10/07

Visit by KO. No further groundworks had been carried out.

6 Finds

D = discarded.

Finds number 1

Collected by contractors on west side of site.

Two clay tobacco-pipe bowls and partial stems, 38g. These are 18th-century bowl types. D

Finds number 2

This is almost certainly from the fill of one of the large post-medieval pits identified during the evaluation.

1 'Tudor'-type brick fragment, 495g, thickness 45mm. D.

7 Discussion

The location of this site close to Roman cemeteries on Butt Road and almost immediately north of this site on Crouch Street meant that there was a strong possibility that Roman burials would be found at 11 Maldon Road.

The 2006 evaluation showed that the site had been truncated by post-medieval pits, one of which may have been a large sand quarry-pit. The piece of post-medieval ('Tudor'-type) brick found during this watching brief was probably from the fill of one of those pits. In summary, the results of this watching brief are in agreement with the results of the 2006 evaluation in that the site had already been disturbed by the digging of pits in the post-medieval period.

8 Archive deposition

No finds were retained. The paper archive is currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2007.79.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Harding Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work and supplying site plans. Site work by H Brooks and K Orr. The project was monitored by Mr Martin Winter for Colchester Borough Council.

10 References

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan |
| CAT Report 359 | | An archaeological evaluation at 11 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, March 2006, unpublished CAT archive report, by Howard Brooks, 2006 |
| CAT Report 434 | | Crouched Friars: the medieval church structure and its associated cemetery. 38-40 Crouch Street, Colchester: January-April 2007, unpublished CAT archive report, by Stephen Benfield and Howard Brooks, 2007 |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney |
| IFA | 2001a | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> |
| IFA | 2001b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| MAP 2 | 1991 | <i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , second edition (English Heritage) |

11 Glossary

| | |
|---------------|---|
| bgl | below ground-level |
| CBCAO | Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer |
| EHHER | Essex Historic Environment Record |
| feature | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500 |
| modern | period from c AD 1800 to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| post-medieval | after c AD 1500 to c AD 1800 |
| UAD | Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester and Ipswich Museums |

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2008

Distribution list:

Harding Homes Ltd

Mr Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,

Colchester,

Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy

date: 20.06.08

Adams x c:/reports08/maldon road/report481.doc



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number: 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location, showing position of 2006 evaluation trench.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| Site address: 11 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex | |
| Parish: Colchester | District: Colchester |
| NGR: TL 99135 24875 | Site code: CAT project code 07/5f Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code 2007.79 |
| Type of work: Watching brief | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: May-October 2007 | Size of area investigated: 80m x 12m (max) |
| Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums | Funding source: Contractor |
| Further seasons anticipated? No | Related UAD no: 3018 |
| Final report: CAT Report 481 | |
| Periods represented: post-medieval | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: <i>This site lies close to Roman cemeteries. The results of this watching brief are in agreement with the results of the 2006 evaluation, in that the site had already been disturbed by the digging of pits in the post-medieval period.</i> | |
| Previous summaries/reports: None | |
| Keywords: - | Significance: neg |
| Author of summary: Howard Brooks | Date of summary: June 2008 |