Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD

October 2015

by Laura Pooley
illustrations by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Badesha

Planning reference: 151269
CAT project ref.: 15/09f
NGR: TL 9760 2535
Colchester Museum accession code: 2015.110
UAD ref: ECC3058
OASIS reference: colchest3-225876

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

tel.: 07436 273 304
e-mail: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 874
October 2015
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Fig 1 Site location
Fig 2 Evaluation trench
Fig 3 T1: Representative trench section
1 **Summary**  
An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken in advance of the erection of a new dwelling at 11 Glen Avenue revealed no archaeological features or finds.

2 **Introduction** (Fig 1)  
This report presents the results of an archaeological trenched evaluation at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 19th October 2015. The work was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Badesha in advance of the erection of a new dwelling (following demolition of an existing building), and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications 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 for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage’s Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and with Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (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 Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council and accessed via the Heritage Gateway website.

Glen Avenue is in an area of known archaeological importance, namely within the Lexden cemetery (EHER 11713, 11714), an area of Iron Age and Roman cemeteries on both sides of Lexden Road. This is part of the Iron Age territorial oppidum and Romano-British town of Camulodunum. The proposed development site is to the north of the nationally important Lexden Tumulus, a Late Iron Age burial mound at St Clare Road (Scheduled Monument 1019967). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of the metalwork of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound is thought to be that of Addedomarus, and it is part of an extensive cemetery which coincides with much of present-day St Clare Road.

To the west of the development site is Moat Farm Dyke, a continuation of the Lexden Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1019966), part of the defensive system of dykes and ditches that surrounded the Iron Age oppidum.

Evidence for Bronze Age activity was discovered about 20m to the south of the development site, in 1937, when a bronze palstave and an amber bead were found.
during the removal of hedgerows (EHER 11805). These are considered to derive from a Bronze Age funerary feature.

The existing dwelling at 11 Glen Avenue is believed to have been built in the early 1800s as a farmhouse, Glen Farm, from which the twentieth-century road, Glen Avenue, takes its name. In 1837 the farmhouse was the only building on the eastern side of the old Lexden parish, in an area used solely for agriculture at that time.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)
A single trial trench was excavated across the footprint of the new building measuring 10m long by 1.80m wide. Two modern services were recorded running across the trench, resulting in half of the trench being offset by a bucket's width to avoid them. No archaeological features were present. Two layers were identified: modern topsoil, 450mm thick (L1), which sealed natural mottled silty-sand (L2).

5 Finds
Brick, china, peg tile and coal fragments were recorded in L1. None of these were retained.

6 Discussion
Despite the site being in an area of archaeological importance, there were no archaeological discoveries here.

7 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Mr & Mrs Badesha for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway and fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and E Sanford. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

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

CAT 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD
CBCPS 2015 Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3SD
CIfA 2014a Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation
CIfA 2014b Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG 2012 National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government
9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT  Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS  Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM  brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA  Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context  specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)  an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain ‘contexts’
layer (L)  distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern  period from \( c \) AD 1800 to the present
natural  geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval  from Henry VIII to \( c \) AD1800
UAD  Urban Archaeological Database
WSI  Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 874)
CBCPS Evaluation 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

11 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: 2015.110.

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Mr & Mrs Badesha
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex  CO2 7GZ
tel.:  07436 273 304
e-mail:  archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by:  Howard Brooks
Date:       22.10.2015
Fig 1 Site location showing the position of the evaluation trench in relation to the proposed development (blue).
Fig 2  Evaluation trench.
Fig 3 T1: Representative trench section.
An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken in advance of the erection of a new dwelling at 11 Glen Avenue revealed no archaeological features or finds.
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD

NGR: TL 9760 2535 (centre)

Planning reference: 151269

Client: Mr & Mrs Badesha

Agent: Stour Valley Design

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc
UAD Event number: tbc
CAT Project code: 15/09f
OASIS Project id: colchest3-225876

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 07.10.2015

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
e-mail: archaeologists@catuk.org
Site Location and Description
The proposed development site lies on the west side of Glen Avenue, Colchester, approximately 1.7km from the Roman walled town. The site is currently a house and garden set back from the road.
The site is centred on NGR TL 9760 2535.

Proposed work
The development comprises the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a new two-storey house with a basement.

Archaeological Background
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Glen Avenue is in an area of known archaeological importance, namely within the Lexden cemetery (EHER 11713, 11714), an area of Iron Age and Roman cemeteries on both sides of Lexden Road. This is part of the Iron Age territorial oppidum and Romano-British town of Camulodunum. The proposed development site is to the north of the nationally important Lexden Tumulus, a Late Iron Age burial mound at St Clare Road (Scheduled Monument 1019967). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of the metalwork of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound is thought to be that of Addedomarus, and it is part of an extensive cemetery which coincides with much of present-day St Clare Road.

To the west of the development site is Moat Farm Dyke, a continuation of the Lexden Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1019966), part of the defensive system of dykes and ditches that surrounded the Iron Age oppidum.

Evidence for Bronze Age activity was discovered about 20m to the south of the development site, in 1937, when a bronze palstave and an amber bead were found during the removal of hedgerows (EHER 11805). These are considered to derive from a Bronze Age funerary feature.

The existing dwelling at 11 Glen Avenue is believed to have been built in the early 1800s as a farmhouse, Glen Farm, from which the twentieth-century road, Glen Avenue, takes its name. In 1837 the farmhouse was the only building on the eastern side of the old Lexden parish, in an area used solely for agriculture at that time.

Planning Background
A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in June 2015 for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 151269). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a full archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording."
b. The programme for post investigation assessment.
c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.
d. Provision to be made for the publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works.

The site investigation shall thereafter be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied or brought into use until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been complete in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured. Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance with Policy SD1 and ENV1 of Colchester Borough Council’s Core Strategy (2008)."

Requirement for Work
The required archaeological work involves undertaking an evaluation of linear trial-trenching of the development area. A single linear trench 10m long and 1.8m wide is to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed building (see Fig 1). The mechanical stripping of the trench will involve using a flat-edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3SD - CBC 2015).

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the complete excavation and recovery of any burials on the site and standard sample excavation of all other features. If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be notified immediately, potentially resulting in amendments to the brief.

Specific research aims are to:

▪ Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
▪ Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
▪ Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
▪ Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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)
▪ Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
▪ required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
▪ relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
▪ the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the Brief from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing the area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

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 CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist and a site assistant.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Evaluation methodology

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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 the site, 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.
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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged ‘organic’ features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking monolith samples.

Human remains
Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

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.

Post-excision assessment
If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.
Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

**Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

- **animal bones** (small groups): Adam Wightman
- **flints**: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

- **small finds, metalwork, coins, etc**: Nina Crummy.
- **animal bones (large groups) and human remains**: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)
- **environmental processing and reporting**: Val Fryer (Loddon)
- **conservation of finds**: staff at Colchester Museum

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

- **Roman brick/tile**: Ernest Black
- **Roman glass**: Hilary Cool
- **Prehistoric pottery**: Paul Sealey
- **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.

**End of Fieldwork, and Report**

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with 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.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.
An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF 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**
A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, CIfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

**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**

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</td>
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<td>CM</td>
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<td>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</td>
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Fig 1 Site location showing the position of the evaluation trench in relation to the proposed development (blue).
OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-225876

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Project location
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<td>Postcode</td>
<td>CO3 3SD</td>
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<td>Study area</td>
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**Project creators**

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<tr>
<td>Project brief originator</td>
<td>CBC Archaeological Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project design originator</td>
<td>Chris Lister</td>
</tr>
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<td>Project director/manager</td>
<td>Chris Lister</td>
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<td>Project supervisor</td>
<td>Ben Holloway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of sponsor/funding body</td>
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**Project archives**

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**Project bibliography 1**

| Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
|--------------------------|----|
| Title | Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at 11 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD: October 2015 |