Continuous archaeological monitoring at Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR

September 2016

by Dr Pip Parmenter

on behalf of Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

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1   Summary

Continuous archaeological recording was undertaken during the excavation of a posthole for to the installation of an interpretation panel at Lexden Mount. No archaeological evidence was encountered.

2   Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of continuous archaeologcial recording at Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR, carried out in September 2016. The work was commissioned by Philip Wise on behalf of Colchester Borough Council in advance of the installation of an interpretation panel at Lexden Mount, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Dr 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (previously Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Lexden Mount (scheduled monument 1019963) is a Roman barrow that was crudely excavated in 1910. The mount appeared to have been largely disturbed. No burial was found in the centre of the mound and the only finds from the excavation as a whole consisted of Roman tiles and oyster shell (*CAR* **11**). Despite this, Lexden Mount remains substantially intact. Further burials may remain undisturbed both beneath the barrow and within the sides of the mound. The mound itself will contain valuable evidence for the date and manner of its construction, and the old ground surface, sealed at the time of the barrow's construction, may retain evidence of funerary rituals or earlier activity within this part of the *oppidum*. The Mount is one of the more prominent funerary monuments of Camulodunum and, together with the other high status burial sites in the area (like Lexden Tumulus), provides significant insights into elite burial practices.

4   Results

The site was continually monitored while the posthole required for the installation of the interpretation panel was excavated. The posthole was 500mm by 400mm and was excavated to a depth of 600mm. It was dug into a made ground layer comprising brick and tarmac. No archaeological remains were present.

Plate 1: Partially excavated posthole for interpretation panel.

5   Discussion

No archeological finds or features were observed during the monitoring of the excavation of a posthole at the site. The posthole for the interpretation panel was dug through a layer of made ground comprising brick and tarmac.

6   Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Philip Wise and Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed and carried out by C Lister. Site plans and sections were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

7   References

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

CAR **11**	1995	*Hawkes, C and Crummy, P Camulodunum 2. Colchester Archaeological Report **11**.*
CAT	2016	*Written Scheme of Investigation for continuous archaeological monitoring at Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR*
CBCPS	2016	*Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring at Lexden Mount, 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR*
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.
EAA **14**	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, **14**. Ed. D Gurney
EAA **24**	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **24**, by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage)

8   Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to *c* AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

9   Contents of archive

Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1011)
CBCPS Evaluation Brief
CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Site digital photographic log
Attendance register
Original Plans
Risk assessment

10   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: 2016.91

Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council
Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

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Checked by: Philip Crummy
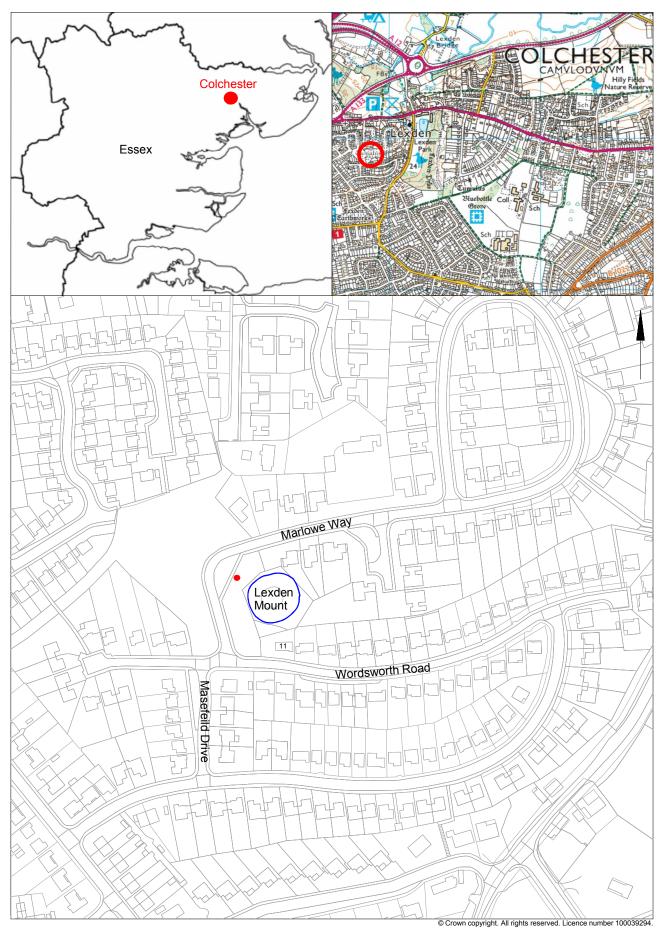*Date: September 2016*

Fig 1 Site location.

0   50 m

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 9683 2488	***Site code:*** CAT project code 16/08k CHER code ECC3875 OASIS ref: colchest3-261192
Type of work: Continuous archaeological monitoring	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: September 2016	***Size of area investigated:*** Posthole
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : COLEM 2016.91	***Funding source:*** Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related SM/EHER/UAD numbers:*** SM 1019963
Final report: CAT Report 1011	
Periods represented: n/a	
Summary of fieldwork results: Continuous archaeological recording was undertaken during the excavation of a posthole for to the installation of an interpretation panel at Lexden Mount. No archaeological evidence was encountered.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAR 11	
Keywords: Wordsworth Road	***Significance:*** -
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	***Date of summary:*** 07/09/2016

OASIS ID: colchest3-261192

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR
Short description of the project	Continuous archaeological monitoring of installation of interpretation panel.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2016 End: 01-09-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/08k - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	161249 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	BARROW Roman
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'"Watching Brief"'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road
Postcode	CO3 4HR
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9683 2488 51.887152945118 0.860507794894 51 53 13 N 000 51 37 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Robin Mathieson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"

Paper Media available	"Diary","Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Entered by	Pip Parmenter (pp@catuk.org)
Entered on	7 September 2016