

Archaeological monitoring and recording: 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD

July 2015



by **Pip Parmenter and Mark Baister**
on behalf of **Mr Cooke and Ms Kelliher**

Planning reference: 146587
CAT project ref.: 15/05b
NGR: TL 9770 2543
Colchester Museum accession code: 2015.45
UAD ref: ECC2963
OASIS reference: colchest3-210984



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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 868
September 2015

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Cover: general site shot

Fig 1 Site location and footings plan

1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks in advance of a rear extension at 24 Glen Avenue revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. The only discovery was a large modern pit containing modern bottles, pottery and animal bone.

2 Introduction (Figs 1 - 2)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on 14th and 21st July 2015. The work was commissioned by Mr Cooke and Ms Kelliher in advance of the construction of rear extension to the existing dwelling, 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording*, 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 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.

The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential, . It is within an area known for significant archaeological activity, between the Iron Age Lexden Dyke (SM1019965) and the western end of the site of the pre-Roman settlement at Hilly Fields and Sheepen (SM1002173). It is also to the north of the Early Romano-British cemetery area on either side of the Lexden Road. In 1937 a bronze palstave axe-head and an amber bead, possibly from a Bronze Age burial, were found during the removal of a hedge bank on the west side of Glen Avenue, c 140m to the south of the proposed development site (UAD EVT 1102).

4 Results

The site was continually monitored while the building contractors were conducting groundworks. The only archaeological feature was modern pit (F1). It contained modern bottles, pottery and animal bone, and is of no archaeological significance. Three layers were identified in the footings trenches: modern topsoil, 410mm thick (L1), which sealed a post-medieval subsoil, c 310-350mm thick, in which could be seen occasional CBM flecks (L2). This subsoil sealed natural mottled sand (L3).

5 Finds

Modern bottles, pottery and animal bone were recovered from modern pit F1. None of these were retained.

6 Discussion

Despite the site being in an area of archaeological importance, there were no significant discoveries here. The only find was a modern pit.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Cooke and Ms Kelliher for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed B Holloway and fieldwork was carried out by M Baister. Site plans were prepared by M Baister and H Brooks. 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	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for continuous archaeological recording at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3SD</i>
CBCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3SD</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

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 868)

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: 2015.45.

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Mr Cooke and Ms Kelliher
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 22/09/2015



Fig 1 Site plan.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9770 2543	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/05b UAD ref: ECC2963 OASIS ref: colchest3-210984
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th July 2015	Size of area investigated: c 20m2
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code : 2015.45	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: SM1019965 SM1002173 UADEVT1102
Final report: CAT Report 868	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks in advance of a rear extension at 24 Glen Avenue revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. The only discovery was a large modern pit containing modern bottles, pottery and animal bone</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Modern	Significance: -
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: September 2015

Appendix 1

(following pages)

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous Archaeological Recording at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex

NGR: TL 9770 2543 (centre)

Planning reference: 146587

Client: Mr Cooke & Ms Kelliher

Agent: Chris Morris Design Ltd

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2015.45

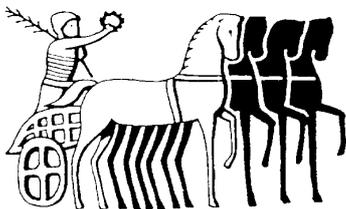
ECC Project code: n/a

CAT Project code: 15/05b

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 12.05.2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 07436 273 304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SD. It lies approximately 1.5 miles to the west of Colchester town centre on the eastern side of Glen Avenue. Centred at NGR TL 9770 2543 (Fig 1).

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of an extension to the rear of the house to form a new kitchen and shower-room.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background derives from the CBCAA brief with data from the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

This application lies in an area of high archaeological potential. The development is in an area of high archaeological potential, located between the Iron Age Lexden Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1019965) and the western end of the site the pre-Roman settlement at Hilly Fields and Sheepen (Scheduled Monument 1002173). It is also to the north of the early Romano-British cemetery area grouped on either side of Lexden Road. In 1937 a bronze palstave axe-head and an amber bead, possibly from a Bronze Age burial were found during the removal of hedge bank on the west side of Glen Avenue 140m to the south of the development site (UAD EVT 1102).

Planning Background

A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 146587). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER 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:

" Prior to commencement of development, details of a watching brief to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist (during construction works) shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter be carried out in strict accordance with these agreed details. In the event that any significant archaeological features or remains are discovered which are beyond the scope of the watching brief (and require fuller rescue excavation) the construction work shall cease immediately and shall not recommence until a revised programme of archaeological work including a scheme of investigation has been submitted to, and approved in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. This will record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets that might be present at this location before they are damaged or destroyed."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work involves undertaking a Continuous Archaeological Recording (Watching Brief) of all the groundworks undertaken by the contractor (including the removal of foundations of the previous buildings). The mechanical stripping will involve using a flat-edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex - CBC 2015). Once the strip is complete a meeting will be held on site with CBCAA, the developer and CAT to discuss if any further work is needed.

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.

Specific research aims are:

- Follow requirements as stated in section 3.1 and 3.2 of the Brief
- To preserve by record any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by the development.

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* (ClfA 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 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 to continually monitor the strip
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Watching brief methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which 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-excavation 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, ClfA 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 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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	1999	<i>The Colchester archaeologist magazine, 12</i>
CBCAA	2015	Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

Emma Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, C02 2GZ
tel: 07436 273 304:
email: eh@catuk.org

Appendix 2

(following pages)

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: colchest3-210984

Project details

Project name	Colchester 24 Glen Ave WB 15
Short description of the project	Continuous watching brief on an extension to the rear of the house
Project dates	Start: 14-07-2015 End: 14-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/05b - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 24 Glen Avenue, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3SD
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9770 2543 51.891782950574 0.873449535529 51 53 30 N 000 52 24 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager	Ben Holloway
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Cooke and Ms Kelliher

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Notebook - Excavation", 'Research', ' General Notes', "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Pip Parmenter (pcrparmenter@gmail.com)
Entered on	15 September 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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