Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at ‘Bo Peep’, Station Road, Wickford, Essex March 2013

report prepared by
Ben Holloway

on behalf of
Jason Brown (EP Ceramics Ltd)

CAT project ref.: 13/02g
HE project code: WKDBP13
NGR: TQ 7407 9472
Southend Central Museum accession code: (requested 11/3/13)
**Essex Historic Environment Record**

**Essex Archaeology and History**

Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at
‘Bo Peep’, Station Road, Wickford
CAT Report 688
Summary sheet

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<td>Final report:</td>
<td>CAT Report 688</td>
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**Summary of fieldwork results:**

The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential adjacent to Berne Hall moated site (EHER Record nos. 7515-6, 18478). The EHER records that Berne Hall site dates back to the 13th century and excavations within the moated area in 1998 recorded a medieval pit. It is possible that medieval features associated with the moat survive to the north of the moat as it was accessed by a roadway from this direction (as shown on the Chapman and André map number XVIII dating to 1777). Within a 1 km radius of the proposed new dwelling are earlier remains dating from the prehistoric period including a Bronze Age hoard (EHER 7589), prehistoric pottery EHER 7646, Roman pottery and coins (EHER 7571) and the possible route of a Roman road running to the south (EHER 7564).

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in March 2013, in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Officer. A single evaluation trench, measuring 10m x 1.8m, was excavated across the footprint of the proposed building (see fig 1 for trench position).

The evaluation trench was excavated through a humic topsoil (L1), some 300mm in thickness, an accumulation horizon (L2), 150mm in thickness, which sealed natural geological deposits (L3) of brick-earth and clay. No archaeological deposits or features were observed. A small quantity of modern brick and plastic sheeting was noted in L1. This material was not retained. It may be associated with drainage activity, as the site conditions were exceptionally wet underfoot with groundwater beginning to pool in the central part of the evaluation trench.

The evaluation showed no evidence of features associated with access to the Berne Hall moated site. In particular there was no sign of the road or track thought to be on the
northern side of the moat. The lack of archaeological material or features identified during the work and the significant depth of topsoil and accumulation material suggest the settlement focus of Berne Hall is within the moat to the south of the evaluation area.

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<td>Ben Holloway</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
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Fig 1 Trench location with new development shown in grey.
Fig 2  T1 representative section.
Plate 3 Trench 1 Full excavation View South

Plate 4 Trench 1 Detail Section View West
Plate 5 Trench 1 Section View West
BRIEF FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

12/00552/FULL
Bo Peep, Station Road
Wickford

January 2013
Site: BAS/12/00552, Bo Peep, Station Road, Wickford

Agent: Mr David Walker, djwalkerdesigns@hotmail.com

Historic Environment Officer: Sue Tyler (01245-437676)

Museum: Southend Central

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment team of Place Services, Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether changes are required. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

The archaeological contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation (WSI) as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

The Historic Environment Team, Place Services of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and potential excavation on the above site. The proposed development lies adjacent to Berne Hall moated site (EHER Nos.7515-6 and 18478). The archaeological trial trenching is designed to identify the extent and importance of surviving archaeological deposits and any further excavation required to mitigate the potentially destructive effects of development on site.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development is located adjacent to Berne Hall moated site (EHER Nos.7515-6 and 18478). The development comprises the construction of a single dwelling-house.

Planning Background
A planning application (BAS/12/00552) for the development of the site as outlined above was submitted to Basildon District Council. Given the archaeological potential of the site a condition requiring archaeological work was placed on the planning application. This follows the guidance given in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

L1 Archaeological Assessment
No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will
inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.

3. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors can visit the HER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation (To make an appointment contact Ms A. Bennett, 01245 437637).

The proposed development lies adjacent to Berne Hall moated site (EHER Record nos.7515-6, 18478). The EHER records that Berne Hall moated site dates back to the 13th century and excavations within the moated area in 1998 recorded a medieval pit. It is possible that medieval features associated with the moat survive to the north of the moat as it was accessed by a roadway from this direction (as shown on the Chapman and André map number XVIII dating to 1777). Also within a 1 Km radius of the proposed new dwelling are earlier remains dating from the prehistoric period including a Bronze Age hoard (EHER 7589), prehistoric pottery EHER 7646, Roman pottery and coins (7571) and the possible route of a Roman road running to the south (EHER 7564).

4. Requirement for Work

The first phase of archaeological work will consist of a trial trench bisecting the footprint of the new house-plot (the suggested siting of the trench is shown on the attached sketch plan). The trench should be single bucket width (1.8m). The trial-trenching will form the first phase of the archaeological work. If archaeological features are uncovered the trench will be opened out to encompass the area of development or extent of the archaeology (whichever is the smaller), following on site discussions between the Historic Environment Officer (Sue Tyler), the applicant and the applicant’s contracting archaeologist. All features and finds uncovered will be planned and excavated.

5. General Methodology

5.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the trial trenching. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager’s name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment team one week in advance of commencement of work.

5.2 A provisional timetable for the work shall be given in the written scheme of investigation.

5.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
5.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains’ service locations and avoid damage to these.

5.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.

5.6 A meeting shall be held on site once the trenches are open, with a summary sheet completed by the contractor assessing the results. The meeting will define requirements for extra work if necessary.

5.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

6. Trial Trenching Methodology

6.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

6.2 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment officer to deepen the trenches by this method.

6.3 The trenching will comprise a single trial trench, targeting the area of the new building. The trenches should be single bucket width (1.8m).

6.4 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.

6.5 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

6.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

6.7 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed.

6.8 Details of the site photographic policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
6.9 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.

6.10 The IFA’s Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, and excavations and the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7. Further Excavation

7.1 Following excavation of the trial-trenches, a site plan will be prepared, together with a one page summary of the site results including spot-dating.

7.2 This will form the basis of information for an on-site meeting between the Historic Environment monitoring officer (on behalf of Basildon District Council), the supervisor of the archaeological contracting team and the developer or developer’s agent to establish the extent and scope of any further archaeological work required. This may include the full excavation of the total building footprint and of any associated services or other groundworks.

7.3 If further fieldwork is required a second brief will be issued from this office.

8. Finds

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

8.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

8.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Southend) prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the HE Team.

9. Results

9.1 Should the investigation not proceed beyond initial trenching then the report shall be submitted within 1 month from the end of the fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the HER. (A full digital copy of the report will be supplied to the HE Team as a single .pdf and a single hard copy for inclusion in the HER).

9.2 This report must contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trenching.
- Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the areas or trenches shall be given 10 figure grid references.
• A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
• Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
• All specialist reports
• A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

9.3 An EHER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the HE Team officer. This will be completed in digital form (copy can be emailed). This shall include a plan showing the position of the excavation.

9.4 Publication of the results (including any further analysis of finds from the evaluation stage) at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in Essex Archaeology and History) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Southend), and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Team.

10.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

10.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the report and confirmed with the Historic Environment Team.

10.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Team at the time of deposition to the museum.

11. Monitoring

11.1 The HE Team of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

11.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the HE Team one week in advance of its commencement.

11.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the HE Team prior to them being carried out.

12. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

12.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide the basis for a measurable standard and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
12.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a written scheme of investigation to the HE Team of Essex County Council for validation before any work is undertaken on site. This validation is undertaken on behalf of the Planning Authority.

12.3 The involvement of the HE Team shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References


For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

Sue Tyler Historic Environment Team
Place Services
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Tel (01245) 437676
E-mail: sue.tyler@essex.gov.uk
ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

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SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Previous Summaries/Reports:

Author of Summary: Date of Summary:
Plan showing suggested location of trench for archaeological investigation (red line)
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological trial trenching at ‘Bo Peep’ Station Road, Wickford, Essex

Planning application no: BAS/12/00552/FUL
NGR: TQ 7407 9472 (centre)

March 2013

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
ROMAN CIRCUS HOUSE,
CIRCULAR ROAD NORTH,
COLCHESTER,
ESSEX,
C02 7GZ
tel: 07436273304
e-mail: archaeologists@catuk.org
1 Introduction
This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological investigation by trial trenching at 'Bo Peep' Station Road, Wickford, Essex.

The site is currently an area of open ground consisting of grass and shrubs. The proposed development works involve the construction of a single new dwelling.

The site lies on the east side of Station Road, in the northern part of Wickford centred on NGR TQ 7407 9472.

The trial trenching is required to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by ground works associated with the development.

This WSI sets out proposals for the trial trenching, the results of which will lead to subsequent post-excavation work and the production of archive and (if necessary) publication texts. Should significant deposits be revealed in the trenching further archaeological works may be required (see section 7).

Any variations to this WSI will be agreed beforehand with Essex County Council's Historic Environment team.

2 Archaeological background
This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development lies adjacent to Berne Hall moated site (EHER Record nos.7515-6, 18478). The EHER records that Berne Hall moated site dates back to the 13th century and excavations within the moated area in 1998 recorded a medieval pit. It is possible that medieval features associated with the moat survive to the north of the moat as it was accessed by a roadway from this direction (as shown on the Chapman and André map number XVIII dating to 1777).

Also within a 1 Km radius of the proposed new dwelling are earlier remains dating from the prehistoric period including a Bronze Age hoard (EHER 7589), prehistoric pottery EHER 7646, Roman pottery and coins (EHER 7571) and the possible route of a Roman road running to the south (EHER 7564).

3 Aim
The aim of the evaluation is to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by ground works associated with the development of the site. Specific attention shall be paid to the potential for archaeology mentioned in section 2 above.

4 General Methodology
All works will be undertaken by professional archaeologist(s) employed by CAT. The field officer(s) will have a level of experience appropriate to the work.

Prior to excavation, CAT will seek information about existing service locations from the developer.

All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard Health and Safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 2012).
A site code will be obtained from The Historic Environment team. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.

For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Southend Central Museum. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.

The relevant document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2008a)*, including its ‘Code of Conduct’. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA 3, EAA 8, EAA 14 and EAA 24.

At the start of the work an OASIS online record will be initiated. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5 Trial trenching methodology

A single evaluation trench measuring 10m x 1.8m will be investigated across the footprint of the proposed new build. The trench position is shown on the attached figure. Further excavation may be required should significant features/deposits be identified which cannot be preserved *in situ*. A decision will be made regarding further excavation by the Historic Environment officer (see Section 7).

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket will progressively strip the topsoil down to the uppermost surviving level of archaeological significance. All further investigation will be carried out by hand to an extent necessary to achieve the aims set out in section 3. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches etc).

The evaluation area has high potential for human burials, should such deposits be encountered they will be excavated to the extent necessary that the nature of the deposit can be confirmed as a burial. The deposit will then backfilled, its position logged and left in situ to be fully excavated and recorded as part of a later excavation stage.

Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds and samples.

The normal recording scale will be feature plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.

A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. Standard ‘record’ shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. Colour transparencies will be used for overall site shots and all important contexts.

The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

The policy for environmental sampling will be as follows; any features, which appear to be organically rich, should be sampled, but only if they can be dated. If advice is required Helen Chapel the English Heritage regional science advisor will be consulted.

6 Finds

Environmental sampling policy. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a
matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. Helen Chapel of EH is available for further advice.

The policy with regard to human remains depends on how old they are. 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 Historic Environment officer will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed. **Note: As the relevant legislation is currently in a state of flux, advice will be sought from The Historic Environment team and DoJ on best practice.**

All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with Historic Environment officer and the site owner.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.

A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester and Ipswich Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.

The site archive will be presented to Colchester and Ipswich Museum in accordance with their requirements.

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.

Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b).

A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

### Results

Notification will be given to Historic Environment officer when the fieldwork has been completed. The trial trenching will be followed by a single page summary report, which will either lead to further archaeological work in accordance with a further brief and WSI, or to the production of a report on the trial trenching alone.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE English Heritage 2006) will be submitted to the Historic Environment officer within a length of time not exceeding 3 months from the end of fieldwork, with one copy supplied to EHER (with a digital copy) and one to Southend Central Museum with the archive. This report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- Location plan of the evaluation trench area, with 10-figure grid references at two points.
- A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground level.
- The evaluation methodology and results with a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- All specialist reports and assessments. Recommendations for further work will be kept separate from the results.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

If, after discussion with Historic Environment officer, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex*
**8 Archive deposition**

The full archive will be deposited at Southend Central Museum within 1 month of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to Historic Environment team. All requirements for archive storage as required by Southend Central Museum.

Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Southend Central Museum.

Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Southend Central Museum storage systems.

The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Southend Central Museum.

A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to Historic Environment officer at the time of deposition at the museum.

**9 Monitoring**

The Historic Environment team 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 Historic Environment team one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with Historic Environment officer in writing prior to them being carried out.

Historic Environment team will be notified when the fieldwork is complete. The involvement of Historic Environment team shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

**10 References**


Colchester Archaeological Trust 2012 *Policies and procedures*.

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*


IfA 2008a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*. 

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*Archaeology and History. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.*
IfA 2008b Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials


Tyler, S. 2013 Archaeological Investigation 'Bo Peep' Station Road Wickford Essex, Essex County Council brief
APPENDIX: TEAM STRUCTURE

List of team members

Site supervision and Recording
Ben Holloway

Assistants
TBC

Finds consultants
Stephen Benfield (CAT): LIA/Roman pottery, Roman and later CBM, Saxon and Med pottery
Hazel Martingell (Braintree): Lithics
Joanna Bird (Guildford): samian ware
Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass
Nina Crummy (Colchester): small finds, coins
Julie Curl (Sylvanus): Human/animal bone
Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): environmental
Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics
Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman amphoras, prehistoric & Roman pottery

Graphics
E Holloway, G Adams

Report writing
Ben Holloway

Senior Site Staff

Ben Holloway BSc AIFA
Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

Finds Specialists

Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Late Iron Age and Roman pottery
Steve’s first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.
Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian
Joanna is one of the country’s top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986.*

Howard Brooks BA, MIFA (CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery
Howard’s involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1970 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1976 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (*Colchester Archaeological Report 3* [1994]). Between 1986 and 1991 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (*East Anglian Archaeology* 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC to set up and run HBAS, the county’s smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History,* and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass
Another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85,* and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88* (1993). Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85.*

Nina Crummy FSA (Colchester) Small finds
Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports,* and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports 2* (Roman small finds), 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

Julie Curl AIFA (Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal Bone
Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. Currently working as a freelance specialist in both human and animal bone and Illustration. She has been producing faunal and Human remains reports for many years and produces assessment and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

Val Fryer (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist BA, MIFA
Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in East Anglian Archaeology (including occasional papers), *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Medieval Archaeology* and *Norfolk Archaeology.* Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special
accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics
Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country’s leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major works include Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead). On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88, and to Ros Niblett’s Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (CBA Research Report 57, 1985).

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile
Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to Essex Archaeology & History, therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex (1993).

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras
Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen (BAR 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett’s Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to Essex Archaeology & History.
Fig 1 Proposed trench location.