

**An archaeological evaluation  
by trial-trenching at  
35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex  
November 2012**



**report prepared by  
Adam Wightman**

**on behalf of  
the John Finch Partnership/Granville Developments**

CAT project ref.: 12/7h  
Braintree Museum accession code: pending  
HEM site code: WHHR12  
NGR: TL 8159 1380

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Off Circular Road North,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 07436273304

*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 676**

December 2012

## Summary

*Five trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of four proposed buildings and a new access road in the grounds of a former care home in Witham.*

*A post-medieval field-boundary ditch was identified in two of the trenches. Two sherds of residual pottery were recovered from the boundary ditch, ie one grey ware sherd of probable Roman date and a medieval sandy orange ware sherd of 13th-to 15th-century date.*

*No archaeological features or deposits associated with the Iron Age and Roman Witham Lodge earthwork site, or with any later settlement along Hatfield Road, were uncovered in the trial-trenches.*

## Introduction

This is the summary report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 8159 1380; Fig 1). The proposed development comprises the demolition of a former care home and the construction of four detached dwellings, garages and associated access road (Fig 2).

The development site is located directly adjacent to the line of the Roman road from London to Colchester (now Hatfield Road, the B1389) and within the postulated boundary of the Iron Age and Roman Witham Lodge earthwork site, a settlement and temple complex (also known as 'Ivy Chimneys'). For more information on the historical background of the area and details of archaeological finds recovered in the vicinity, see the Essex County Council brief (HEM 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (CAT 2012), both of which are appended to this report.

Five trial-trenches (T1-T5), which totalled 55.5m in length, were excavated within the footprints of the four proposed buildings and the proposed access road into the site. The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

## Results

### T1 (Figs 2-4)

T1 was located in a grassed area (Fig 2) in the footprint of the proposed access road (Fig 3). A dark brown clayey-silt topsoil (L1) overlaid a lighter soil accumulation (L2) which, in turn, overlaid a variable grey/brown glacial clay (L3; Fig 4). A sondage excavated through the glacial clay at the northern end of T1 exposed a patch of compacted gravel (Fig 3). A close examination of the gravel confirmed that it was glacially deposited and that no archaeological deposits were present directly adjacent to the line of the Roman road.

The only finds or inclusions observed in L1 and L2 were rare peg-tile and brick fragments. No archaeological features were uncovered in T1.

### T2 (Figs 2-4, Plate 1)

T2 and T3 were both located in the car-park at the front of the care home (Fig 2). In both trenches, tarmac and hoggin (L4) overlaid a layer of silty soil with a high gravel content (L5), which in turn overlaid glacial clay/gravel (L3; Fig 4). It is probable that, prior to the construction of the car-park, the soil layers (L1 and L2) and the glacial silty clay observed in trenches T1, T4 and T5 were removed and that L5 is the upper surface of the clay/gravel geology which has been mixed with the overlying soil. Therefore, any shallow features or finds/deposits within the two soil layers (L1, L2) will have been removed within the area of the car-park (Fig 2).

A NW-SE orientated ditch (F1) was identified in T2 (Fig 3). The ditch had a dark grey/brown clayey-silt fill which contained rare charcoal and CBM (ceramic building material) flecks (Fig 4). Two fragments of peg-tile and a corroded iron nail were recovered from the excavated section. The ditch was cut by the trench for a water-main (Fig 3).

**T3** (Figs 2-4)

In T3, as in T2, the tarmac and hoggin (L4) overlaid a silty soil with a high gravel content (L5) which, in turn, overlaid glacial clay/gravel (L3; (Fig 4). Modern brick and tile fragments were observed in L5.

A pit (F2) was identified in the northern end of T3 (Fig 3). F2 was very shallow, sub-square in shape, and cut from directly beneath the hoggin. The fill of F2 was a light grey sandy-silt which contained coal, clinker and peg-tile. The presence of a piece of coal and the height from which the pit was cut indicate a probable late post-medieval or modern date for this feature.

**T4** (Figs 2-4, Plate 2)

T4 and T5 were both located in the back garden of the former care home (Fig 2). A dark brown clayey-silt topsoil (L1) overlaid a lighter soil accumulation (L2) which, in turn, overlaid a grey/brown glacial clay with gravel patches (L3; Fig 4).

A NW-SE orientated ditch (F3), with a medium grey/brown clayey-silt fill, was identified in T4. The ditch fill contained rare charcoal and brick flecks, and pottery fragments, peg-tile, clay-pipe and an iron nail were recovered from the excavated section (see below).

**T5** (Figs 2-4)

In T5, as in T4, the dark brown clayey-silt topsoil (L1) overlaid a lighter soil accumulation (L2) which, in turn, overlaid a grey/brown glacial clay with gravel patches (L3; Fig 4). L1 contained much charcoal flecking and small brick/tile fragments. No finds were recovered from L1 or L2 and no archaeological features were identified in this trench.



**Plate 1: T2, view south-east.**



Plate 2: T4, view north-west.

## Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of bulk finds, consisting of pottery, CBM, clay-pipe and iron (nails), was recovered. All the finds are listed by finds number for each context in Table 1 and a spot-date is provided for each finds number. The finds are dated to the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Essex Roman pottery fabric series (Going 1987) and post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Essex post-Roman pottery fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985; CAR 7).

Table 1: list of finds by context with spot-dating.

context	finds no	finds	finds spot-date
F1	1	<b>CBM</b> Peg-tile (2@47 g), one piece in orange fine sand fabric, other piece in quartz sand fabric (medieval-modern) <b>Iron</b> Corroded nail	medieval- post- medieval/ modern
F2	2	<b>CBM</b> Brick or tile fragment (6 g), abraded, orange silty fabric (medieval-modern) <b>Coal</b> Small piece (2 g), (probably post-medieval to modern)	post- medieval to modern
F3	3	<b>Pottery</b> (2@6 g): one sherd is a sandy grey ware and is probably Roman (Fabric 47 - Roman sandy grey wares (general), dated Roman); the other is a sandy orange fabric with brownish grey surface and traces of clear glaze (Fabric 21- medieval sandy orange wares (general), dated 13th-15th centuries) <b>CBM</b> Peg-tile (4@115 g), orange-brown fine-medium sandy fabrics (medieval-modern) <b>Clay-pipe</b> Stem pieces (3@9 g), large bore - approximately 2.5 mm-3 mm diameter indicates a possible early dating (possibly 17th or early 18th century) <b>Iron</b> Nail shaft piece	post- medieval (17th-early 18th century+)

## Conclusion

It is probable that F1 and F3 are parts of the same ditch (Fig 3). The latest closely-dated finds from the ditch are of 17th- to early 18th-century date. This suggests that the ditch was infilled in the later post-medieval period. It is probable that the ditch was a field boundary. The OS maps which pre-date the development of this stretch of Hatfield Road (1875-1938) show the local field system to be aligned at right-angles to the road, on the same alignment as the ditch F1/F3. Two sherds of residual pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the ditch. One is a grey ware sherd of probable Roman date, the other is a medieval sandy orange ware of 13th- to 15th- century date. Both sherds are abraded and may originate from manure scatter.

No archaeological features or deposits associated with the Iron Age and Roman Witham Lodge earthwork site), or later settlement along Hatfield Road, were uncovered on the site.

## Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the John Finch Partnership and Granville Developments for commissioning and funding the project. The site work was undertaken by A Wightman and C Lister. The digital survey is by C Lister and the section illustrations are by E Holloway.

The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (HEM) team.

## References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

- |                           |      |   |
|---------------------------|------|---|
| CAR 7                     | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter               |
| CAT                       | 2012 | Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trenching and monitoring at 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex, by B Holloway     |
| Cunningham, C, & Drury, P | 1985 | <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report, <b>54</b>                        |
| Going, C                  | 1987 | <i>The mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman pottery</i> , CBA Research Report, <b>62</b> |
| HEM                       | 2012 | Archaeological trial-trenching on land at 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Braintree, by T O'Connor of the Essex County Council HEM team |

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### Distribution list:

Richard Horley, the John Finch Partnership  
Teresa O'Connor, ECC HEM team  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
off Circular Road North  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304

email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

checked by: Philip Crummy  
date: 14.12.12

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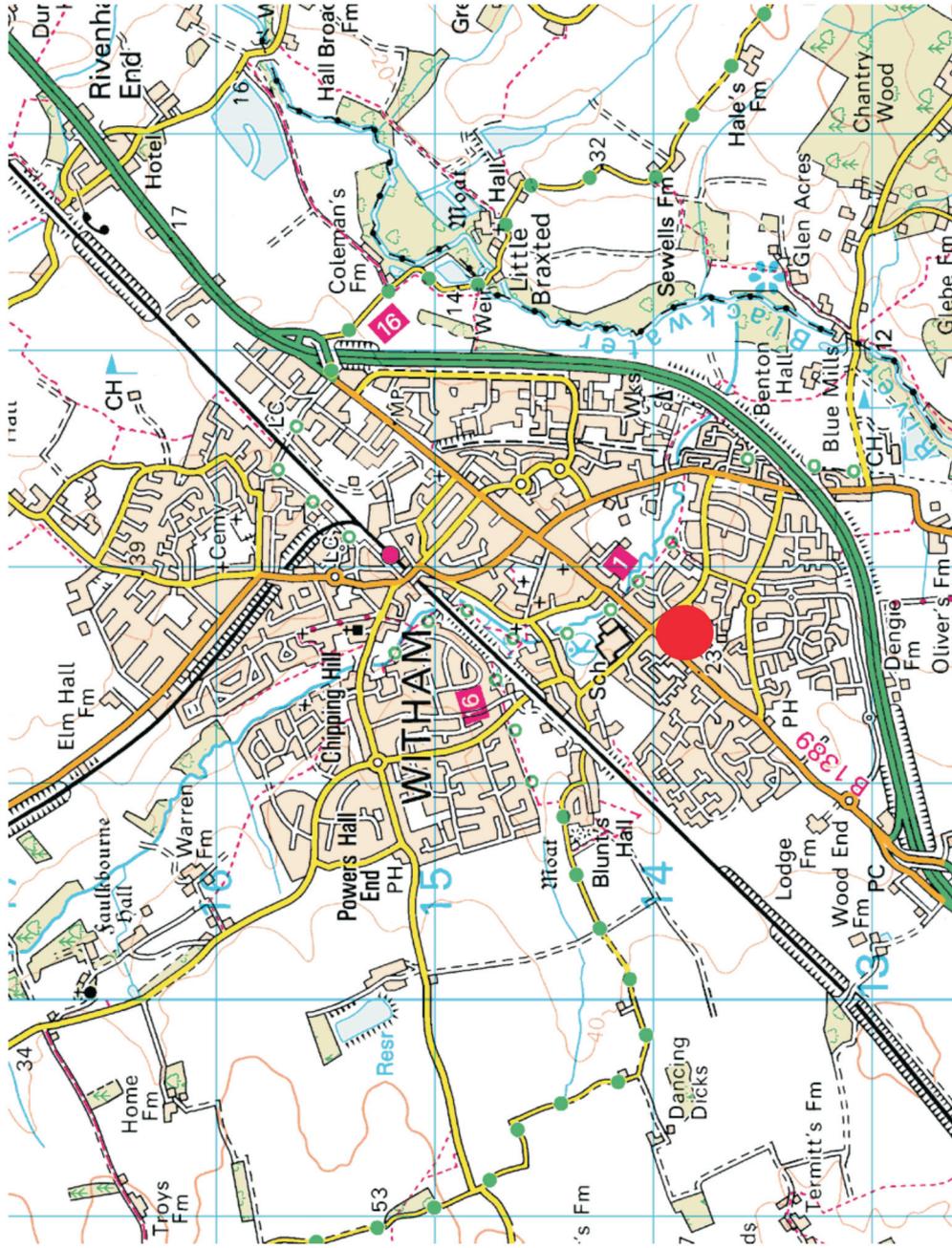
## **Appendix 1: contents of archive**

One A4 document wallet containing:

- 1 Introduction**
  - 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by the ECC HEM team
  - 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
  - 1.3 Risk assessment
  - 1.4 1 x A3 site plans provided by developer
  
- 2 Site archive**
  - 2.1 Site digital photographic record
  - 2.2 Attendance register
  - 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F3, L1-L4)
  - 2.4 Finds register
  - 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
  - 2.6 OS benchmark information
  
- 3 Research archive**
  - 3.1 Finds report
  - 3.2 Monitoring (client) report

### **Not in wallet**

The finds (1 small bag)  
1 x A3 Sx sheet



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Fig 1 Site location (marked by a red dot).

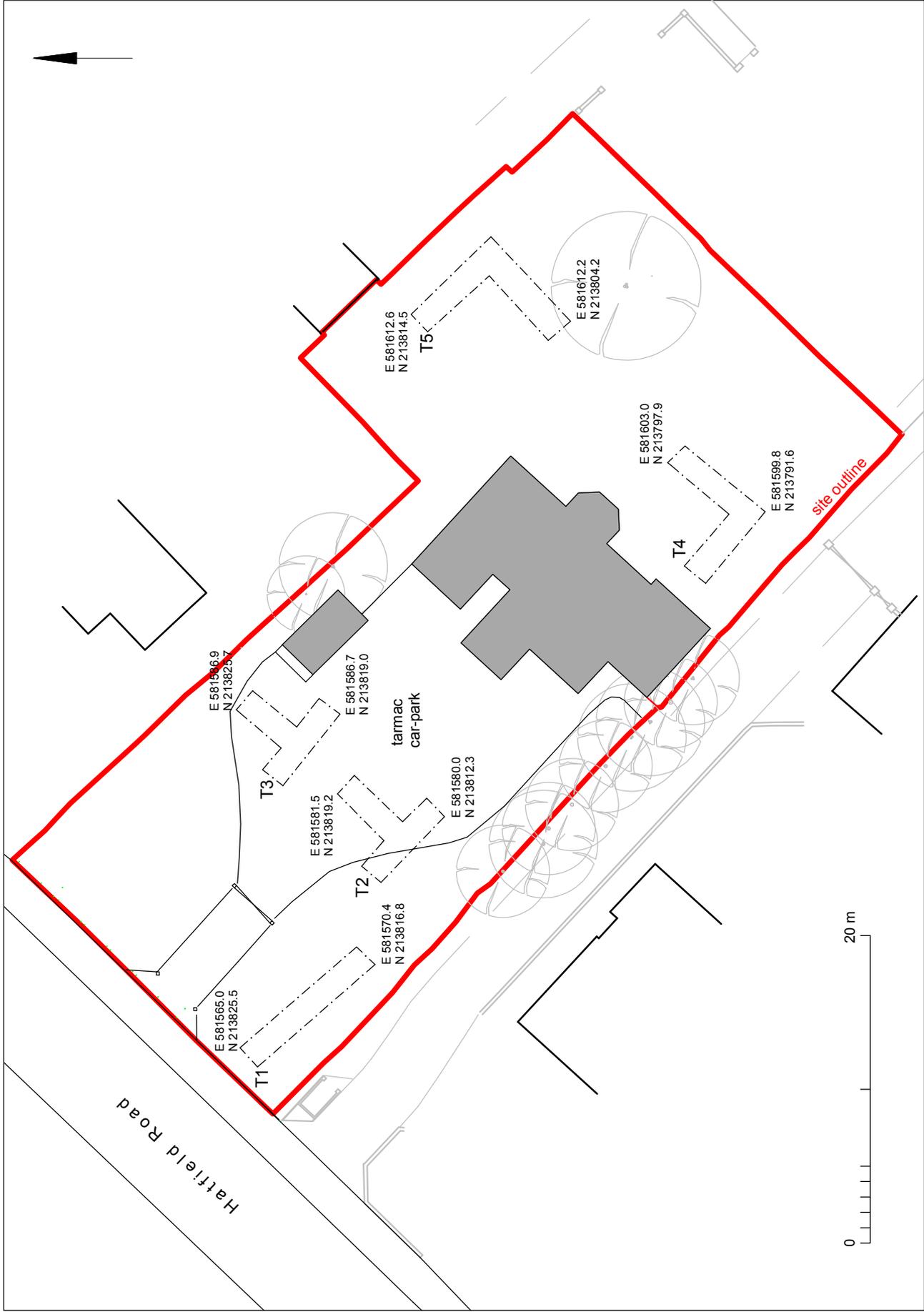
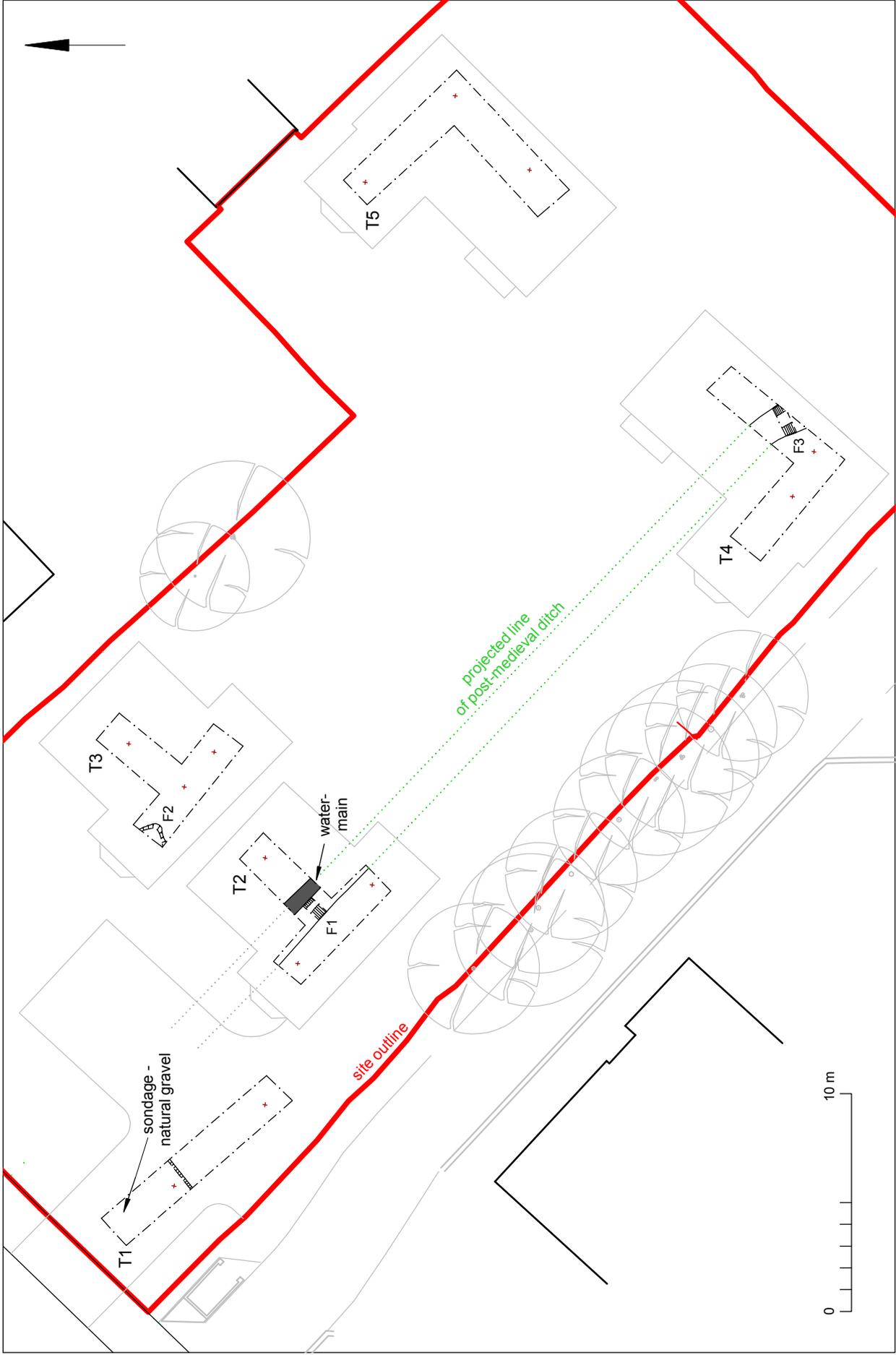


Fig 2 Site plan (care home buildings to be demolished shown with grey tone).



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Fig 3 Results (grey outlines show the proposed buildings and access road; dark grey tone shows modern feature).

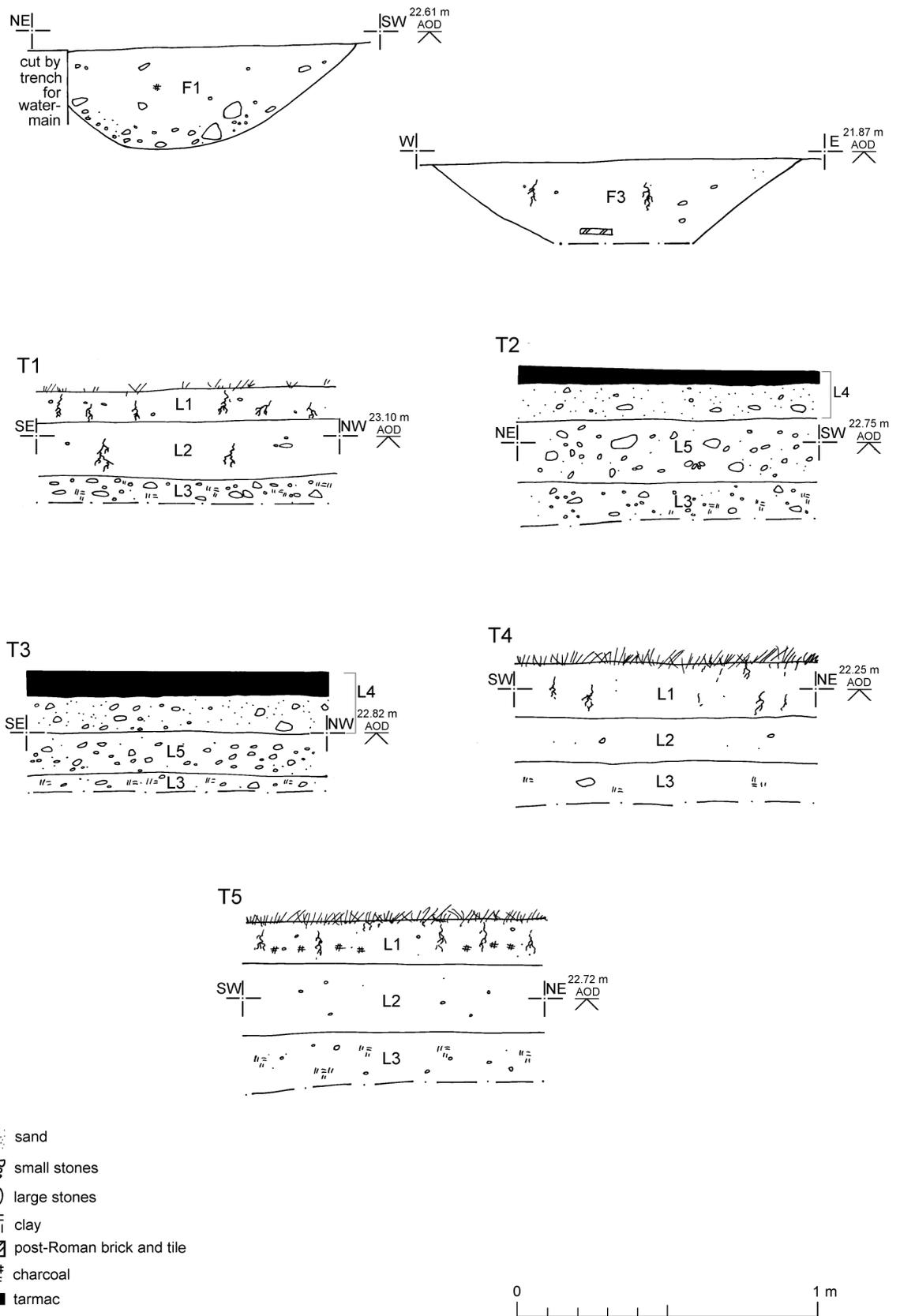


Fig 4 F1 and F3: sections; T1-T5: representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Witham	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 8159 1380	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 12/7h ECC – WHHR12 Museum accession – pending
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation by trial-trenching	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 27th November 2012	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1,500m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Braintree Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 14040, 14043, 19752
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 676
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern, post-medieval	
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <i>Five trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of four proposed buildings and a new access road in the grounds of a former care home in Witham.</i>  <i>A post-medieval field-boundary ditch was identified in two of the trenches. Two sherds of residual pottery were recovered from the boundary ditch, ie one grey ware sherd of probable Roman date and a medieval sandy orange ware sherd of 13th- to 15th-century date.</i>  <i>No archaeological features or deposits associated with the Iron Age and Roman Witham Lodge site, or with any later settlement along Hatfield Road, were uncovered in the trial-trenches.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>Keywords:</b> post-medieval, field boundary ditch	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Wightman	<b>Date of summary:</b> December 2012

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND AT  
35 HATFIELD ROAD,  
WITHAM,  
BRAINTREE**

**June 2012**



**Essex County Council**

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BRANCH**

**Site:** 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Braintree

**Planning app. no.:** 12/00482/FUL

**Agent:** Richard Horley (John Finch Partnership) Richard@johnfinchpartnership.co.uk

**Historic Environment Management (HEM) Team Officer:** Teresa O'Connor,  
teresa.oconnor@essex.gov.uk, Tel: 01245-437638, Mobile: 07786 125894

**Museum:** Robert Rose, Museum Collections & Heritage Manager, Braintree District Museum

E-mail: [robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk) Tel. (01376) 325266 or (01376) 551414 Ext. 6180

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

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

## **1. Introduction**

The HEM Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for an archaeological investigation at the above site. The proposed development comprises the demolition of former care home and erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated garages and modified highway access. . The proposed development is located within the postulated boundary of the Witham Lodge earthwork enclosure known to contain Iron Age and Roman settlement and religious temple focussed on Ivy Chimneys; hence there is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the site.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

The proposed site lies along the Hatfield Road in Witham (TL 8159 1380). The site is currently occupied by no.35 which will be demolished and the new homes will be built in the garden and along the frontage of Hatfield Road.

## **3. Planning Background**

A planning application for the demolition of former care home and erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated garages and modified highway access was granted by Braintree District Council in June 2012.

As the development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council made the following recommendation to the LPA in line with advice given in National Planning Policy Framework (replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment):

**RECOMMENDATION: Full condition**

**"No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."**

All archaeological work should be undertaken by a professional recognised archaeological contractor and there will be a financial implication for the applicant.

#### **4. Archaeological Background**

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

The Essex Historic Environment Record suggests that the proposed development is located within the Iron Age and Roman earthwork known as the Witham Lodge earthwork. It is sited along the Roman Road from London to Colchester. Excavations to the west and north have recovered archaeological features dating from the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. Such archaeological deposits are both fragile and finite.

The archaeological background for this and other parts of Witham has been discussed in detail by Rodwell (1993) and Turner (1999) and summarised/reviewed by Medlycott (1998). In view of this, only a summary of the most pertinent information is presented here.

The most pertinent excavations encompass the nearby areas of Ivy Chimneys/Witham Lodge and Maltings Lane (Fig 3). These are situated to the west of the development and each comprised multi-period features and deposits. Excavations at the former in 1970-72 revealed evidence for Iron Age settlement including a hut circle and postholes forming a possible structure (HER 14040). Sewer trenches dug in 1970 intercepted a parallel pair of major ditches running on an east to west alignment and appearing to pass obliquely under the Roman Road. This has been interpreted as a large Iron Age earthwork enclosure, however this hypothesis has not been proven. Slight traces of earthworks were visible in parkland and cartographic evidence can be seen as indicating the course of a large enclosure. Direct dating evidence is slight, since no artefacts were recovered; a prehistoric origin is

indicated however by the fact that the inner ditch was half silted by the later Roman period and that the London to Colchester road passes obliquely over the southern defences; also it is surrounded by and clearly related to an extensive pre-Roman rectilinear field system. An Iron Age inhumation was located towards the fringe of settlement which was dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods. In addition to the Iron Age earthwork, a second enclosure was recorded in 1972. This comprised the rounded corner of an enclosure, with a pair of broad shallow ditches. On the south-east side a third ditch was located outside the others. These ditches yielded much Roman material and clearly defined the *temenos* in which the religious temple was set. The Roman temple site lies less than 200m to the southwest of the development site. The large number of votive finds from excavations in 1976 left little doubt as to the religious nature of the site. Excavations in 1978-83 revealed a sequence of occupation dating from c. AD 70-96 (earliest datable Roman pottery is Flavian samian) and going on into the early fifth century. In the Early Roman period a fence with two timber structures and centrally placed depression bordering a pond was enclosed by large, possible *temenos* ditches; In the late 2nd or early 3rd century a pond was dug, water was supplied from springs to the north by means of a c.45cm deep inlet ditch. In the late third to early 4th century a major timber building, some c.18m by 22m, probably a Romano-Celtic temple was constructed, separated from the pond by a new fence. Immediately north of the temple was a single flue updraught pottery kiln dated archaeomagnetically to AD 325+ -25, nearby was a possible potters shed. In the mid-4th century the almost square temple was replaced by a large rectangular structure beside a new gravelled area on the east side of the pond, which may also have been a temple, c.20m long by 10m. An infant burial associated with a small hoard of 6 barbarous radiate coins (AD 270-290) was found in the upper fill of the surrounding apsidal ditch, but the date of the coins does not reflect that of deposition. The ditch was continuous and access must have been via a footbridge. Large depressions yielded finds of a votive nature. A single large post-hole could have held a Jupiter-Giant column. In addition to pottery finds included over 1000 Roman coins, dating from the 2nd to the late 4th century; a carved chalk votive relief; copper alloy brooches, bracelets, finger rings tweezers and a letter 'V'; bone pins, handles etc., iron knives, tools etc.; querns and vessel glass. With the advent of Christianity in late 4th century, the pagan features including the pond and pits were backfilled. A new pond was created with baptismal font and small stone building, perhaps a chapel, built on opposite sides. The site continued to be occupied into the early 5th century as evidenced by Theodosian coins and was certainly again used as a pagan shrine

At Maltings Lane to the south evidence was found for domestic occupation during the Roman period, including rubbish pits and ditches, as well as considerable quantities of Roman building material residual in Saxon contexts. The finds suggest a second to third century date with a lesser degree of activity in the fourth century (HER 19752).

Excavations in advance of the NEACC Complex (2006) to the north uncovered archaeological features including boundary ditches, gully, pits and stake holes suggesting occupational activity during the

Middle/ Late Iron Age. Sections of large parallel ditches and earthworks have been investigated in the past however the full extent is unclear. These features are interpreted as a large Iron Age earthwork enclosure which appears to be cut by the northeast-southwest running Roman Road. Recent excavations in advance of the new Maltings Academy have revealed deeply buried medieval features indicating nearby settlement.

## 5. Requirement for Work

The specific aim of the investigation is to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area and to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that will be destroyed by the construction of the new buildings, access roads and other significant groundworks.

The proposed development area is within an area of archaeological potential that will be assessed by trial trenching in the first instance. The archaeological work will consist of trial-trenches within the footprint of each of the new houses and a single trial trench of 10m in the area of the new access road as close to the road frontage as possible. The trial trenches within the footprint of the two houses closer to the road will form a T shape while those to the rear will form an L shape. All trenches should be 1.8m width.

Specific attention should be paid to:

- Further evidence for the Witham Lodge Iron Age enclosure and Roman settlement;
- Evidence for features and/or activity associated with the adjacent Roman road
- Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity.

**Should significant archaeological deposits be revealed further open area excavation will be required which will be defined following a site meeting and/or further brief.**

## 6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological work shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation.
- 6.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003).
- 6.3 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.

- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Management Team one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 6.6 A site code shall be obtained from the HEM Team Officer of Essex County Council.
- 6.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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 and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 6.10 Masonry walls shall be carefully cleaned and planned. Where possible these will be left in situ. If these have to be removed then detailed drawings both in plan and section will be required.
- 6.11 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). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available from the HEM.
- 6.12 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. Burials will require 100% excavation
- 6.13 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 6.14 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the project 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.

- 6.14 Section drawings shall be completed on all trenches identifying the depth of the archaeological deposits and the depth of the natural sub-soil.
- 6.15 The photographic record policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. A photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.
- 6.16 The IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003) should be used for additional guidance in the production of the archaeological written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

## **7. Finds**

- 7.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 7.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 7.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who will be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 7.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the written scheme of investigation.
- 7.5 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.

## **8. Results**

- 8.1 The full report shall be submitted to the HEM Team within a length of time (but not exceeding 4 months) from the end of the fieldwork. A full digital copy shall be supplied to the HEM team.
- 8.2 This report must contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological programme.
  - Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of excavated areas 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 or assessments
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 8.3 An EHER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks. This will be completed in digital form (copy can be emailed). This shall include a plan showing the position of the trenches.
- 8.4 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the EHER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 8.4 Publication of the results 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.

## **9. Archive Deposition**

- 9.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Braintree), and confirmed in writing to the HEM Officer.
- 9.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the paper archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 9.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the report and confirmed in writing to the HEM Team.
- 9.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEM Team at the time of deposition to the museum.

## 10. Monitoring

- 10.1 The HEM 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.
- 10.2 Notification of the start of the archaeological work shall be given to the HEM Team one week in advance of its commencement.
- 10.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the HEM Team prior to them being carried out.
- 10.4 All excavated trenches must be inspected by the HEM Team Officer prior to their backfilling.

## 11. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the HEM Team of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 11.3 The involvement of the HEM Team shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
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**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.**

Teresa O'Connor  
Historic Environment Management Team  
Historic Environment Branch  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

Tel (01245) 437638  
Mobile: 07786 125894  
Email : [teresa.oconnor@essex.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.oconnor@essex.gov.uk)



**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Trenching and monitoring at  
35 Hatfield Road,  
Witham, Essex**

Planning application no: 12/00482/FUL  
NGR: TL 8159 1380 (centre)

July 2012



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
ROMAN CIRCUS HOUSE,  
CIRCULAR ROAD NORTH,  
COLCHESTER,  
ESSEX C02 7GZ  
tel: 07436273304  
email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

## **1 Introduction**

This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and monitoring at 35 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex.

The site is currently an area of open ground associated with 35 Hatfield Road Witham. The proposed works involve the demolition of the former care home and the redevelopment of the site for housing to include 4 new dwellings.

The site lies south side of Hatfield Road, located at NGR TL 8159 1380 (centre). Within the postulated boundary of the Witham Lodge earthwork enclosure, containing evidence of Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman settlement and ritual activity.

The evaluation and monitoring work is required to establish and record the character, extent, date and significance of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be damaged or removed by groundwork associated with redevelopment.

This WSI sets out proposals for the evaluation and monitoring, 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 in this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Officer (HEM).

## **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 Essex Historic Environment Record suggests that the proposed development is located within the Iron Age and Roman earthwork known as the Witham Lodge earthwork. It is sited along the Roman Road from London to Colchester. Excavations to the west and north have recovered archaeological features dating from the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. Such archaeological deposits are both fragile and finite.

*The archaeological background for this and other parts of Witham has been discussed in detail by Rodwell (1993) and Turner (1999) and summarised/reviewed by Medlycott (1998). In view of this, only a summary of the most pertinent information is presented here.*

The most pertinent excavations encompass the nearby areas of Ivy Chimneys/Witham Lodge and Maltings Lane (Fig 3). These are situated to the west of the development and each comprised multi-period features and deposits. Excavations at the former in 1970-72 revealed evidence for Iron Age settlement including a hut circle and postholes forming a possible structure (HER 14040). Sewer trenches dug in 1970 intercepted a parallel pair of major ditches running on an east to west alignment and appearing to pass obliquely under the Roman Road. This has been interpreted as a large Iron Age earthwork enclosure, however this hypothesis has not been proven. Slight traces of earthworks were visible in parkland and cartographic evidence can be seen as indicating the course of a large enclosure. Direct dating evidence is slight, since no artefacts were recovered; a prehistoric origin is indicated however by the fact that the inner ditch was half silted by the later Roman period and that the London to Colchester road passes obliquely over the southern defences; also it is surrounded by and clearly related to an extensive pre-Roman rectilinear field system. An Iron Age inhumation was located towards the fringe of settlement which was dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods. In addition to the Iron Age earthwork, a second enclosure was recorded in 1972. This comprised the rounded corner of an enclosure, with a pair of broad shallow ditches. On the south-east side a third ditch was located outside the others. These ditches yielded much Roman material and clearly defined the tenement in which the religious temple was set. The Roman temple site lies less than 200m to the southwest

of the development site. The large number of votive finds from excavations in 1976 left little doubt as to the religious nature of the site. Excavations in 1978-83 revealed a sequence of occupation dating from c. AD 70-96 (earliest datable Roman pottery is Flavian samian) and going on into the early fifth century. In the Early Roman period a fence with two timber structures and centrally placed depression bordering a pond was enclosed by large, possible temenos ditches; In the late 2nd or early 3rd century a pond was dug, water was supplied from springs to the north by means of a c.45cm deep inlet ditch. In the late third to early 4th century a major timber building, some c.18m by 22m, probably a Romano-Celtic temple was constructed, separated from the pond by a new fence. Immediately north of the temple was a single flue updraught pottery kiln dated archaeomagnetically to AD 325+ -25, nearby was a possible potters shed. In the mid-4th century the almost square temple was replaced by a large rectangular structure beside a new gravelled area on the east side of the pond, which may also have been a temple, c.20m long by 10m. An infant burial associated with a small hoard of 6 barbarous radiate coins (AD 270-290) was found in the upper fill of the surrounding apsidal ditch, but the date of the coins does not reflect that of deposition. The ditch was continuous and access must have been via a footbridge. Large depressions yielded finds of a votive nature. A single large post-hole could have held a Jupiter-Giant column. In addition to pottery finds included over 1000 Roman coins, dating from the 2nd to the late 4th century; a carved chalk votive relief; copper alloy brooches, bracelets, finger rings tweezers and a letter 'V'; bone pins, handles etc., iron knives, tools etc.; querns and vessel glass. With the advent of Christianity in late 4th century, the pagan features including the pond and pits were backfilled. A new pond was created with baptismal font and small stone building, perhaps a chapel, built on opposite sides. The site continued to be occupied into the early 5th century as evidenced by Theodosian coins and was certainly again used as a pagan shrine

At Maltings Lane to the south evidence was found for domestic occupation during the Roman period, including rubbish pits and ditches, as well as considerable quantities of Roman building material residual in Saxon contexts. The finds suggest a second to third century date with a lesser degree of activity in the fourth century (HER 19752).

Excavations in advance of the NEACC Complex (2006) to the north uncovered archaeological features including boundary ditches, gully, pits and stake holes suggesting occupational activity during the Middle/ Late Iron Age. Sections of large parallel ditches and earthworks have been investigated in the past however the full extent is unclear. These features are interpreted as a large Iron Age earthwork enclosure, which appears to be cut by the northeast-southwest running Roman Road. Recent excavations in advance of the new Maltings Academy have revealed deeply buried medieval features indicating nearby settlement.

### **3 Aim**

The aim of the evaluation and monitoring is to establish and record the character, extent, date and significance of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be damaged or removed by groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the Hatfield road 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 2008).

A site code will be obtained from HEM. 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 Braintree 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* (IfA 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 Excavation methodology**

5 evaluation trenches will be investigated at a total length of 50m x1.8m across the footprint of each of the proposed new builds and along the alignment of the new access road. The trench positions are 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 HEM officer (see Section 7).

Should additional excavation be unnecessary, a further phase of monitoring work will be implemented. The work will comprise of a CAT archaeologist making regular site visits to observe groundwork, as part of the development attention will be paid to ground level reduction and the excavation of footing trenches and infrastructure runs.

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).

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 HEM 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 HEM and DoJ on best practice.**

All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with HEM 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 Braintree Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.

The site archive will be presented to Braintree 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.

## 7 Results

Notification will be given to HEM officer when the fieldwork has been completed. The excavation will be followed by the production of an archive report.

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 HEM officer within a length of time not exceeding 4 months from the end of fieldwork, with one copy supplied to EHER (with a digital copy) and one to Braintree Museum with the archive.

This report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation and monitoring.
- 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 excavation 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 HEM, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex 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.

## 8 **Archive deposition**

The full archive will be deposited at Braintree Museum within 2 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to HEM. All requirements for archive storage as required by Braintree Museum.

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

Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Braintree 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 Braintree Museum.

A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to HEM at the time of deposition at the museum.

## 9 **Monitoring**

HEM 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 HEM officer one week in advance of its commencement.

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

HEM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of HEM shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 10 **References**

- |                                 |       |  |
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Ben Holloway 12/12/12  
[bh@catuk.org](mailto:bh@catuk.org)

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ROMAN CIRCUS HOUSE, CIRCULAR ROAD NORTH,  
COLCHESTER, ESSEX C02 7GZ  
tel: 07436273304 email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

## **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 Spurgeon, G Adams

#### **Report writing**

Ben Holloway, Howard Brooks

### **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 Gilbert 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*.

