

**Archaeological monitoring (watching brief)
at Blue Anchor Lane,
West Tilbury, Essex
July 2012**



**report prepared by
Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of
P. Carter**

CAT project ref.: 12/7d
NGR: TQ 6694 7863 (c)
HEM project code: THBA12



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 658
July 2012

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

**Archaeological monitoring
(watching brief) at
Blue Anchor Lane, West Tilbury, Essex
July 2012**

CAT Report 658

Summary sheet

Address: land at the junction of Blue Anchor Lane and Muckingford Road, West Tilbury, Essex	
Parish: West Tilbury	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 6694 7863 (c)	Site codes: CAT project code – 12/7d ECC code - THBA12 Museum accession code – pending (requested 25/07/12)
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd-24th July 2012	Size of area investigated: 4m x 3m footprint
Location of curating museum: Thurrock Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 1753, 1798
Final report:	CAT Report 658
Periods represented:	modern
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out in July 2012, in accordance with a brief issued by an Essex County Council Heritage Environment Management (HEM) team officer. Observations were made during the excavation of foundation groundworks for a new house and garage. Modern topsoil (L1) had been all but removed by the initial site clearance, although it was observed at the edge of the development site measuring approximately 100mm in thickness. This material sealed a relatively thin accumulation horizon (L2), 100-150mm in thickness. L2 sealed deposits of natural gravels and sand (L3). This material appears to be part of a geological formation known as the Lower Bagshot Beds. The foundations measured 500mm in width and were observed to an excavated depth of between 1.0m and 1.1m.</i>	

No significant archaeological material or features were identified during the monitoring work at the site. Modern material was observed as surface finds and included brick and tile fragments associated with the recently demolished building on the site, and fragments of coal remaining from its former use as a coal yard. None of this material was retained.

Previous summaries/reports: none

Keywords: modern

Significance: neg

Author of summary:

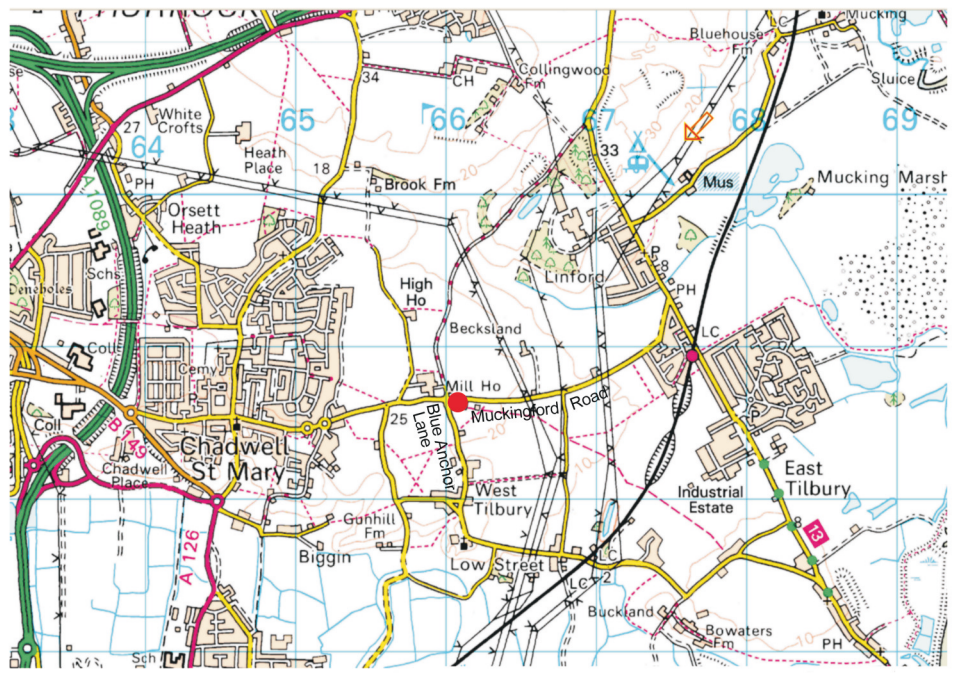
Ben Holloway

Date of summary:

July 2012

ECC HEM monitor:

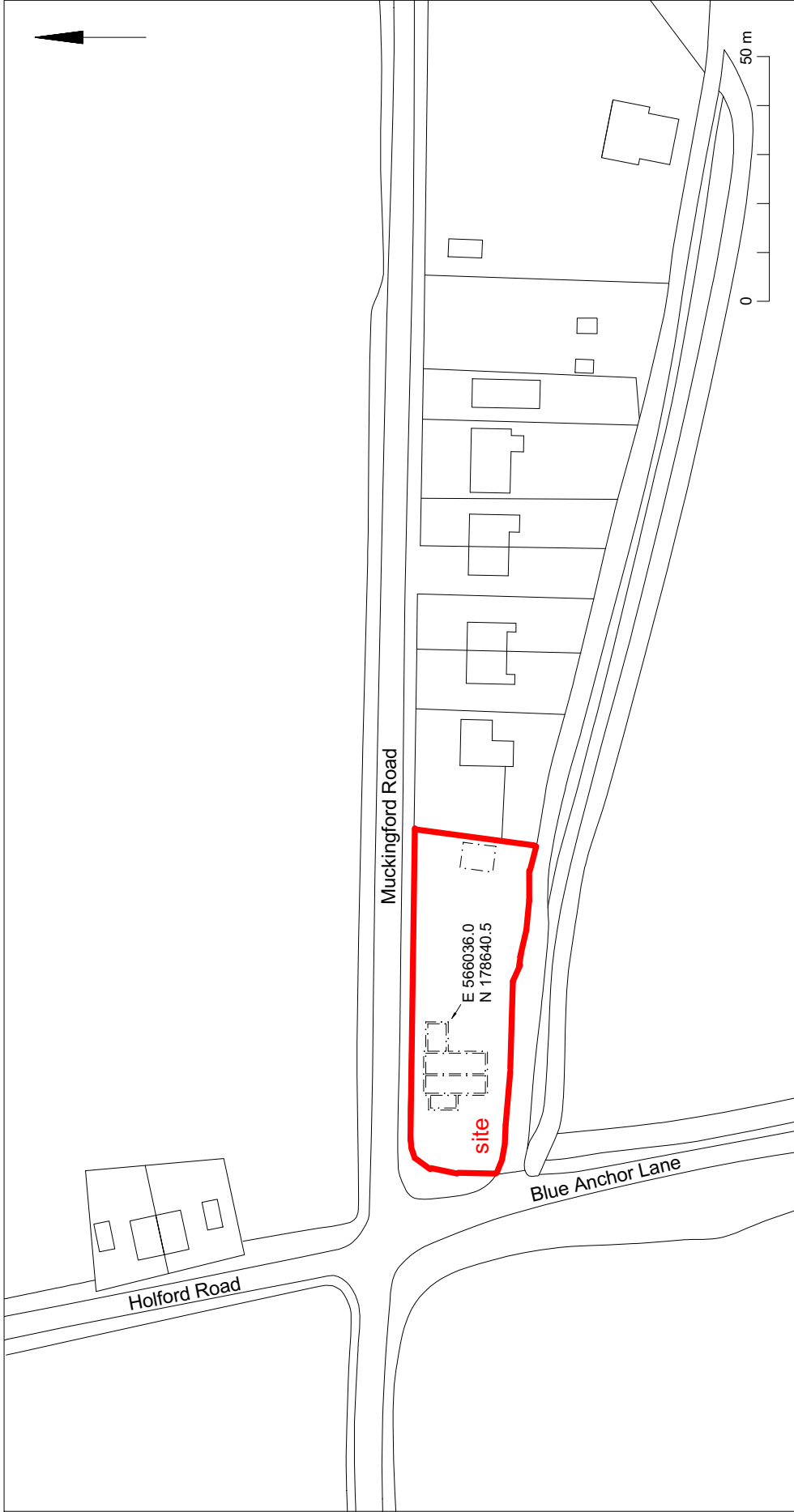
Richard Havis



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Fig 1 Site location, shown as a red dot.





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Fig 2 Results of watching brief.

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation
At The Junction of
Muckingford Road and Blue Anchor Lane,
West Tilbury, Essex**

Planning application no: 09/00634/FUL
NGR: TQ 6694 7863 (centre)

July 2012



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1 Introduction

This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and excavation at the junction of Muckingford Road and Blue Anchor Lane, West Tilbury Essex.

The site lies at the junction of Muckingford Road and Blue Anchor Lane, and currently comprises a new build and two existing buildings due for demolition before development continues. The proposed works involve the construction of an additional new build and garage.

The site lies in the centre of West Tilbury at the junction of Muckingford Road and Blue Anchor Lane, located at NGR TQ 6694 7863 (centre).

The monitoring is required to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by the development of the site for housing.

This WSI sets out proposals for the archaeological monitoring of level reduction and groundwork, the results of which will lead to subsequent post-excavation work and the production of archive and (if necessary) publication texts.

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.

Little detailed information is known about the archaeological background for the Blue Anchor Lane site. The Historic Environment Record shows the proposed development to be located in a highly sensitive area between two cropmark complexes.

To the north and south of the development area lie extensive cropmark complexes (HER 1753, 1798), which will extend into the development area. The cropmarks, although at present undated, as no excavations have been undertaken, are likely to be of prehistoric and Roman date. The cropmark complex comprises enclosures, pit sequences and ring ditches indicative of ploughed out burial mounds. A triple ditched enclosure, probably of prehistoric date is located just to the north of the development area.

3 Aim

The aim of the monitoring is to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected or removed by development of the site for housing. 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.

CAT is not carrying out the groundwork. The location and avoidance of existing services is the responsibility of the groundwork contractor.

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 Thurrock 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 watching brief (2008a)*, including its 'Code of Conduct'. The Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (2008a)*, 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 **Monitoring methodology**

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.

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 the 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 Thurrock Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.

The site archive will be presented to Thurrock 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 monitoring 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) and 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 Thurrock Museum with the archive.

This report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the monitoring.
- Location plan of the monitoring area, with 10-figure grid references at two points.
- A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground level.
- 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 Thurrock 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 Thurrock Museum.

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

Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Thurrock 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 Thurrock 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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| Colchester Archaeological Trust | 2008 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> . |
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| Glazebrook, J. | 1997 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 (EAA3) |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (EAA14) |
| Havis, R. | 2012 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation at the junction of Muckingford Road and Blue Anchor Lane West Tilbury</i> Essex County Council Brief. |
| IfA | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i> . |
| IfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Medlycott, M. | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA24) |

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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*.