

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Topfield Rawstorn Road, Colchester

on behalf of Mark Perkins Partnership

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1 Summary

Roman pits and ditches and probably four Roman inhumations were revealed by the evaluation. All features were shallow and were covered by at least 800mm of topsoil containing residual Roman pottery. This indicated that the previous land surface had been stripped at some stage, and other material dumped on top.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

2.1 This is the archaeological report of an evaluation of the area known as 'Topfield', Colchester. The site is located to the west of the former St. Mary's Hospital at national grid reference TL 99022522. The evaluation area is a triangular shaped parcel of land of approximately 0.216 hectares which slopes from south east to north west. A derelict house occupies part of the central southern area of the site. The investigation was prompted by a planning application for the construction of five townhouses and a separate garage block, under planning application no 23/02/2001.

2.2 The evaluation which consisted of the excavation of three trenches was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) following a written scheme of investigation approved by the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Museums. Archaeological site work was carried out by Kate Orr, Philip Lomas and Steven Benfield on the 5th and 6th of April. Post excavation work was carried out between the 9th and 19th of April.

2.3 The project was monitored by the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Museums.

3 Archaeological background

3.1 The evaluation site is outside the walled Roman town area which lies approximately 250m to the east. Prior to the evaluation no significant archaeological remains had been recorded within the site boundary. However the site is surrounded by known important archaeological remains, principally of Roman date.

3.2 Extra-mural Roman occupation, considered to be a possibly an extension of the Roman town (CAR 3 fig 8), is known to extend up to 300m west of the walled area. Part of this settlement close to the town wall has been subject to archaeological excavation at Balkerne Lane (CAR 3). Here buildings and property plots fronting the Roman road west from the Balkerne Gate were recorded. Further buildings and activities including horticulture and sand quarrying were located on areas away from the road frontage.

3.3 To the north of the Balcerne Lane site an archaeological evaluation by Colchester Archaeological Trust on the site of the former St. Mary's Hospital recorded Roman occupation, including buildings, and a Roman inhumation burial on the east of the hospital site (CAT Report 3). Earlier recorded finds from the area of St. Mary's Hospital include a small group of Roman burials, mostly inhumations with a few cremations in lead urns, and these Roman burials are referred to as the Union Cemetery (Hull 1958, CAR 6 p. 261-2). There are also a number of individual finds of objects, mostly of Roman date, but which include a few prehistoric artefacts amongst which are a Mesolithic flint axe (Essex Heritage Conservation Record 12372) and fragments of a Late Bronze Age bucket urn (12367).

3.4 To the north west and west of the site are concentrations of late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and Roman industrial activity. Approximately 400 m to the north west is the important late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen, the main period of occupation of which is circa 5 AD - 60 AD, (Hawkes & Hull 1946, Niblett 1984) though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (CAR 11 p. 132-3). Approximately 400 m to the west is a concentration of Roman kilns, the majority of which were in use during the 2nd - 3rd centuries (Hull 1963).

4 Aims and objectives

4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out with the aim of determining the location, extent, date and significance of any surviving archaeological remains on the site. This information can then be used to inform any requirements for future necessary archaeological work.

5 Methods

5.1 The evaluation was carried out by a team of professional archaeologists following guidelines set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and Colchester Borough Council.

5.2 Three trenches were opened. In each trench the topsoil was excavated by JCB machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket onto the highest surviving significant archaeological level or onto natural sub-soil deposits. Archaeological features were tested by hand excavation.

5.3 All layers, features and finds were recorded using CAT standard record sheets. All features were planned. Most layers and features were recorded in section.

5.4 Finds were retained from each archaeological context, were washed, marked and

bagged according to context.

5.5 Human remains from F4 were recorded and then re-buried.

6 Results (Figs. 2 & 3)

6.1 All site contexts are listed in Appendix 1.

6.2 In all of the three trenches there was a considerable depth of topsoil immediately below the turf line. In Trench 1 this extended to a minimum depth of 900 mm below the present surface level, in Trench 2 to 800 mm -1m, and in Trench 3 to 1.9 m due presumably to the slumping of material down the slope. This material is a dark sandy silt containing abundant Roman pottery and tile, some post-medieval pottery and peg-tile, and substantial quantities of undated animal bone. In Trench 1 more detailed examination showed this to be composed of two layers, the upper layer (L1) is a dark brown soil which occurred to a depth of 450 mm, the lower is a slightly lighter soil layer (L2) which extended to the base of this material at 900 mm. In Trenches 2 and 3 this material was recorded as a single deposit, L5 in Trench 2 and L7 in Trench 3. The dark soils sealed all of the significant archaeological remains.

6.3 In trench 1 a lighter brown mottled sandy silt layer was observed below the dark soil, 900mm below ground level in the middle and western end of the trench (Layer 3). L3 contained much Roman pottery, tile, animal bone and stones and was cut by Features 1 and 2. This may be disturbed natural cut into in the Roman period. In trench 2 a layer of mottled yellow sand and medium dark brown sandy loam was recorded below the dark soil, 1m below ground level (Layer 9). This may also be natural, disturbed by tree root activity and cut by Features 5, and 7).

6.4 Natural ground was reached at various levels in the trenches. In trench 1 a natural orange sand and gravel was encountered at the eastern end of the trench at 1m below ground level (Layer 4) and was cut by Features 1 and 3. At the western end of the trench it was only observed at the bottom of Feature 2 at 1.45m below ground level. In trench 2 natural yellow sand was recorded (Layer 6) starting at 600mm below ground level in the northern part of the trench and cut by Feature 8. In the southern part of the trench natural sand and gravel was observed at the bottom of F7 at 1.7m below ground level. In trench 3 natural grey sand and gravel (Layer 8) was not reached till 1.9m below ground level.

6.5 Features were apparent in trenches 1 and 2 but were absent in trench 3.

Feature 1 is a 2-3m wide ditch running approximately north-south across trench 1, cutting into natural. The section excavated shows that it is flat-bottomed and relatively shallow being 300mm deep and is filled with light orangey medium greyish brown loam with rotted dark brown patches, coming down onto a light sandy yellowish soil rotted

with medium greyish brown loam. It is filled with early Roman pottery and animal bone.

Feature 2 further to the west in trench 1 is possibly the corner of a ditch just over a metre wide and 1m below ground level. The section shows a gently sloping edge which flattens out at the bottom. The feature is 400mm deep and filled with dark medium greyish brown loam containing early Roman pottery and animal bone.

Feature 3 is a small very shallow pit projecting from the southern section at the eastern end of trench 1 at 1m below ground level. It is almost flat-bottomed and contains early Roman pottery, animal bone and charcoal.

Feature 4 is an adult Roman inhumation which occurred in the northern end of trench 2 at 1.1m below ground level, possibly cutting into an earlier (quarrying?) ditch (F8). The JCB bucket removed some loose bones by accident but the skull was complete and in situ. The inhumation was not totally excavated and the loose bones were collected and re-buried. At least two nails were recorded near the skull suggesting that the inhumation was interred in a coffin, however there was no clear grave cut. Fragments of later Roman pottery was found in this feature. There may have been a second, later, inhumation here as there were too many bones for one inhumation.

Feature 5 is a fragment of an inverted human skull and nails, found further south at the eastern edge of trench 2 at over a metre depth. Closer examination showed the outline of a grave cut. The burial had been disturbed judging from the fragmented and inverted nature of the remains as well as a gun cartridge found mixed in from an earlier layer. The rest of the grave appears to extend outside the limit of trench.

Feature 6 is a large pit at the southern end of trench 2, at least 370 - 550mm wide and 1.3m below ground level. Although the feature contains animal bone and mainly Roman pottery, the dark fill and the presence of one piece of peg tile suggests more recent origin.

Feature 7 is a probable grave cut 850mm wide, projecting from the west section of trench 2 at the same alignment as Feature 5. The feature is straight sided and flat-bottomed with a depth of 200mm. Although no human remains were found they may be beyond the reach of the trench. The late Roman vessel found is reminiscent of a grave offering. Two nails were also found whilst digging the section.

Feature 8 is an extensive feature at the northern end of trench 2. It appears to be an early Roman pit cut into natural yellow sand from 800mm below ground level with a depth of 500mm. Some of the finds assigned to Layer 5 may be from this feature. This feature appears to have been cut by later burial (s) F4.

7 Finds

7.1 All finds are listed in Appendix 2.

7.2 The Roman pottery by Stephen Benfield

Cam form numbers refer to the Camulodunum Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1963), fabric codes and pottery dating refer to CAR 10.

There is just over 11 kg. (11151 grms.) of Roman pottery from all site contexts of which approximately 4 kg. (4036 grms.) is residual from post-Roman layers.

The residual Roman pottery from L1, L2, L5 and L7 is mostly of 1st century date, though there is little material which need be pre-Flavian suggesting that most is of later 1st century date, with a smaller quantity of material which can be dated to the 2nd - earlier 3rd century. Of interest is a small externally burnished bowl of form Cam 311 in coarse grey ware (Fabric GX) from L2 which though broken is almost complete. This form can be dated as Claudio-Neronian - early 2nd century. The disposal of whole pots as rubbish is unusual and whole vessels usually result from deliberate burial, most commonly as grave offerings so that this pot may be disturbed from an early Roman burial. Overall the Roman pottery from all site contexts lacks material which can be dated to the later Roman period of the later 3rd-4th century, and none need date later than the late 2nd - early 3rd century, with one exception which is a near complete pot from F7 (Trench 2) detailed below.

The pottery from the features F1 and F2 in Trench 1 is predominantly of 1st century date with some probable 2nd century sherds. Though the pottery sample from F1 is not large (445 grms.) it has a similar range of material to that from F2 where the sample is considerably larger at just over 1 kg. (1181 grms). Both contain 1st century fine ware, South Gaulish samian (Fabric SG) including the Claudian-early Flavian form Ritterling 12, and Terra Nigra type wares (Fabric UR) including a probable Terra Rubra sherd which would be of pre-Flavian date. While there are no clear earlier 2nd century Roman pottery fabrics or forms present the mica dusted wares (Fabric ON) which are proportionately well represented here are most common in the 2nd century (CAR 10 p.245). Also F1 contained a sherd from a dot panel beaker in Fine grey ware (Fabric GP) of Cam form 122 or Cam 123, and F2 contained a grey ware (Fabric GX) jar rim which may be of form Cam 268 (early-mid 2nd - early 3rd century). Pottery from L3 (718 grms.), which was cut by Feature 2, contains sherds dated to the early 2nd - mid 3rd century. These are two sherds of late Colchester colour-coat ware (Fabric CZ & Fabric CB) and sherd of Black Burnished ware category 2 from a Cam 37A bowl or 38A dish (both forms dated to the early 2nd - late 2nd century/early 3rd century). This suggests that Feature 2 and Layer 3 can be broadly dated as 2nd - ?earlier 3rd century and that most of the pottery from Feature 2 is residual. The small quantity of pottery from F3

(172 grms.) contains a similar range of pottery to the features F1 and F2 in the same trench. From F3 there is a probable Terra Rubra pedestal base of pre-Flavian date and an amphora rim from a Dressel 20 which is of Claudian - early-Flavian form, also sherds from a small mica dusted everted rim beaker. However though primarily 1st century in date the assemblage includes a sherd from a bowl in Black Burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB) of form Cam 37A which is dated to the early 2nd - late 2nd century/early 3rd century.

In Trench 2 the pottery from F6 (1086 grms.) contains residual 1st century material (though no clear pre-Flavian sherds) and imported Cologne colour-coat roughcast ware (Fabric group EZ). Cologne ware appears in the early 2nd century (probably after circa. 110 AD, CAR 10 p.229) and can be dated as early 2nd - early 3rd century. There were also small quantities of pottery from F5 (27 grms.) and F7 (360 grms.). The most closely datable pottery from F5 is a greyware sherd from a bowl of form Cam 243-244/246 (Claudio-Neronian - Hadrianic). However the other sherds present, grey ware and coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ) which make up the majority of the group can only be dated as Roman, though the sherds in Fabric DJ are most probably from locally produced flagons are most probably of 1st - 3rd century date. The pottery from F7 while mostly sherds also includes a near whole (though broken) beaker. The beaker is a Nene valley product (Fabric EA) of form Cam 410 which can be dated to the second quarter of the 3rd century - 4th century. The appearance and form type of this vessel located at one end of F7 suggests deliberate burial within a grave context.

7.3 Post-Roman pottery by Howard Brooks

This is a small group of material, derived mainly from topsoil contexts¹. Fabrics include 21 (sandy orange ware), 40 (post-medieval red earthenware), 45 (stoneware). These fabrics indicate a general post-medieval date range, which is in keeping with these topsoil horizons. The only stratified material is a single sherd of fabric 20 (medieval grey ware). However, in this context (which is otherwise Roman) this sherd is probably intrusive.

7.4 Human bone

The human bone from the inhumation (s) F4 included leg bones, rib bones, vertebra, feet or hand bones and part of a pelvis. On advice from the Archaeological Officer they were re-buried in the trench and therefore were not examined by a specialist. However, the fragments of human skull from F5 were retained and seen by Alec Wade (independent bone specialist). They were identified as fragments of the rear base of a human skull of a sub-adult.

¹ fabric codes are after Cunningham 1985 and Cotter 2000.

7.5 Metal Object

The metal object from T1, L2 was identified by Nina Crummy (independent small finds specialist) as part of an iron agricultural or garden implement such as a billhook. Judging by the corrosion, a nineteenth century date is probable.

8 Conclusions

8.1 The central and south eastern areas of the site are occupied by Roman ditches and pits dug possibly for rubbish disposal and quarrying. At least two inhumations and further possible gravecuts were found in the east side of the site nearest St Mary's Hospital - where other Roman burials are known. All features in the trenches are shallow and are sealed by at least 800mm of topsoil, however the land is unlikely to have been cultivated to that depth. One would expect graves and ditches to have been cut deeper into the original ground surface. Therefore it would appear that the features have been truncated by some sort of soil stripping in the past, perhaps quarrying for sand and gravel. Later on soil has been dumped on top from elsewhere (layers 1, 2, 5 and 7). This dumping activity must be post medieval as the topsoil contains post medieval pot and peg tile. The abundant early Roman pottery in the topsoil must therefore be residual.

9 Archive deposition

9.1 The full archive, including a copy of this report, the bagged and boxed finds, digital photographs and transparencies, plus section drawings and plans on hanging strips, digital data on disk, and a summary, will be permanently lodged at Colchester Museum under accession code 2001.70.

10 Acknowledgements

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Mark Perkins Partnership

Martin Winter - Archaeological Officer for Colchester Museums

Wormell Contractors

11 Bibliography

11.1 Abbreviations

CAR 3 1984	Philip Crummy	Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex
CAR 9 1993	Nina Crummy, Philip Crummy and Carl Crossan	Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88
CAR 10 1999	Robin Symonds and Sue Wade	Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86
CAR 11 1995	C F C Hawkes and Philip Crummy	Camulodunum 2
CAT Report 3 1997	Howard Brooks	St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester, Archaeological Evaluation

11.2 References

Cotter, John	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1985</i> . Colchester Archaeological Report 7 .
Cunningham C. M,	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C. M. and Drury, P. J., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 5 , Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 54 , 1-16
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R,	1947	Camulodunum, RRCSAL 14
Hull, M R,	1958	Roman Colchester, RRCSAL 20
Hull, M R,	1963	The Roman potters kilns of Colchester, RRCSAL 21

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Appendix 1: Tables of contexts

Table 1: layers

layer	trench no.	description	soil type/comments	date
L1	1	dark grey-brown sandy silt	topsoil, approximately 450 mm thick	post-medieval - modern
L2	1	dark-medium brown sandy silt	topsoil, lower portion of topsoil, sealed by L1, occurs from approximately 450 mm - 900 mm depth	post-medieval - modern
L3	1	mottled light brown sandy silt	disturbed natural,sealed by L2, occurs at approximately 900 mm, contains Roman finds material	Roman
L4	1	orange sand and gravel	natural, occurs at approximately 100 mm	-
L5	2	dark brown sandy silt	topsoil, between approximately 800 mm - 1.0 m in depth	post-medieval - modern
L6	2	yellow sand	natural, starts at 600mm below ground level	-
L7	3	dark brown sandy silt	topsoil, approximately 1.9 m in depth	post-medieval - modern
L8	3	grey sand and gravel	natural, occurs at approximately 1.9 m, water seeping in at the bottom of the trench.	-
L9	2	mottled light brown and grey sandy silt	disturbed natural sealed by L5, occurs over a metre below ground level	

Table 2: features

feature	trench no.	description	feature type/comments	date
F1	1	linear feature, N-S centre-east of trench	ditch	Roman, ?late 1st - 2nd century
F2	1	linear feature, N-S centre-west of trench	ditch	Roman, ?1st - 2nd century
F3	1	small discreet feature projecting from S section edge at east end of trench	small pit	Roman
F4	2	human skeleton, grave cut not visible but almost certainly cut into F8	grave, inhumation burial	Roman, probably later Roman
F5	2	cut projecting from east section edge of trench, fill similar to that of F7	?grave cut	probably Roman
F6	2	large feature at S end of trench, dark fill suggests more recent origin than the Roman dated features	large ?pit	probably post-medieval - modern
F7	2	cut feature projecting from west section edge of trench	grave	Roman, early-mid 3rd - 4th century
F8	2	extensive feature at north end of trench	pit	Roman

Appendix 2: Tables of finds from layers and features

Roman pottery Cam forms refer to the Camulodunum Roman pottery type series (Hawkes C F C, & Hull, M R, 1947, Camulodunum, RRCSAL 14 and Hull, M R, 1963, The Roman potters kilns of Colchester, RRCSAL 21). Roman pottery fabric codes as per CAR 10 (Robin Symonds and Sue Wade, Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86). Roman pottery fabric codes: Amphorae: Fabric AJ Dressel 20 amphorae, Fabric AA all other amphorae. Samian: Fabric SG south Gaulish samian. Mortaria: Fabric TZ local and imported mortaria, Fabric TD Verulamium region mortaria. Fabric UR Gallo-Belgic type wares. Fabric ON mica-gilt wares. Fabric CB late Colchester colour-coat roughcast ware. Fabric CZ late Colchester and other red colour-coat wares. Fabric EZ other fine colour-coat wares mostly white/buff. Fabric DJ coarse oxidised wares. Fabric GA Black Burnished ware category 1. Fabric GB Black Burnished ware category 2. Fabric GP fine grey wares. Fabric GX coarse grey wares. Fabric HZ large storage jars and other vessels in heavily tempered coarse ware.

Table 3: finds from layers

trench	context	finds type	comments	wt. grms.	archive status retained for museum/ discarded
1	L1	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AJ (2000 grms) Dressel 20, includes Claudio-Neronian rim, Fabric AA (316 grms). Samian: 2 sherds (6 grms). Mortaria: Fabric TZ 1 sherd (10 grms). Fabric GB (31 grms) Cam 37A. Fabric DJ (112 grms). Fabric GX (513 grms) Date: 1st-2nd century, predominantly 1st century, one sherd (fabric GB) early 2nd - late 2nd-early 3rd century	2988	retained
1	L1	post-Roman pottery	stone ware flagon rim, fabric 45 (10 grms), 17th or 18th century. Post-medieval red earthen ware Fabric 40 (17 grms), 17th -18th century.	27	discarded
1	L1	Roman brick/tile	mostly roof tile fragments with some brick, includes 3 tesserae and 1 combed flue tile fragment	9082	retained
1	L1	post Roman brick/tile	peg-tile fragments	1049	discarded
1	L2	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AJ (514 grms) Dressel 20, Fabric AA (288 grms). Samian: Fabric SG (250 grms) 1st century includes Dragendorff 27, 18 & 29. Mortaria: Fabric TZ & Fabric TD (1155 grms) minimum of 6 vessels, 2 from Verulamium region (Fabric TD). Fabric DJ (116 grms). Fabric GX (885 grms) includes broken whole bowl Cam 311 and lid Cam 11. Fabric HZ (460 grms)	3668	retained

			Date: 1st - earlier 2nd century, predominantly 1st century		
1	L1	stone: septaria	building stone	800	discarded
1	L1	bone	animal bone	148	discarded
1	L2	Roman brick/tile	mostly roof tile fragments with some brick, includes one fragments of white tile	10246	discarded
1	L2	daub	fragment of fired large daub block or brick, possibly part of a kiln or oven structure, presumed Roman in date	2500	discarded
1	L2	stone: lava	2 fragments of lava, probably part of a quern stone	45	discarded
1	L2	stone: Septaria	building stone	115	discarded
1	L2	Fe nails	2 nails	19	discarded
1	L2	glass	1 fragment, pale green, abraded	12	discarded
1	L2	Fe object and nail	part of a FE agricultural or garden implement eg a billhook, probably 19th century judging by the corrosion.	76	retained
		oyster shell	fragments	9	discarded
1	L2	bone	animal bone	1000	discarded
1	L3	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AJ (120 grms) Dressel 20. Samian (69 grms). Fabric CB (9 grms). Fabric CZ (6 grms). Fabric GB (24 grms) Cam 37A or 38A. Fabric DJ (11 grms). Fabric GX (288 grms). Fabric HZ (191 grms) Date: 2nd - mid 3rd century	718	retained
1	L3	Roman brick/tile	roof tile	3700	discarded
1	L3	post Roman brick/tile	peg-tile, 2 fragments, intrusive in this context	89	discarded
1	L3	stone: Septaria	building stone	2000	discarded
1	L3	Fe nails	3 nails and several nails fused together	59	discarded
1	L3	oyster shell	2 shells	24	discarded
1	L3	bone	animal bone	440	discarded
2	L5	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AJ (136 grms) Dressel 20, Fabric AA (18 grms). Samian (17 grms). Fabric CB (4 grms). Fabric GB (62 grms) Cam 37. Fabric DJ (75 grms). Fabric GX (53 grms). Date: early 2nd-mid 3rd century	365	retained
2	L5	post Roman pottery	stone ware 1 sherd (9g), and 1 sherd of ? Post medieval red earthenware (19g)	28	discarded
2	L5	Roman brick/tile	roof tile fragments	391	discarded
2	L5	post-Roman brick/tile	red un-frogged bricks, peg-tile	2000	discarded
2	L5	Fe nails	2 nails	41	discarded
2	L5	glass	1 fragment, dark blue, post-medieval/modern	5	discarded
2	L5	bone	animal bone	141	discarded

2	L6	Roman pottery	Fabric DJ (81 grms) Cam 156. Fabric GB (37 grms). Fabric GX (20 grms). Date: early 2nd - mid-late 3rd century	138	retained
2	L6	post-Roman tile	peg-tile	60	discarded
2	L6	bone	bone	29	discarded
3	L7	Roman pottery	Fabric GX (56 grms) Date: Roman	3	retained
3	L7	post-Roman pottery	Sandy Orange Ware, Fabric 21 or Fabric 40 PMRE (16th -18th century).	19	discarded
3	L7	bone	bone	34	discarded
3	L7	Roman brick/tile	mostly roof tile fragments	4000	discarded
3	L7	post-Roman brick/tile	peg-tile	40	discarded

Table 4 : finds from features

trench	context	finds type	comments	wt. grms	archive status
1	F1	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AA (136 grms). Samian: ?SG (48 grms) Dragendorff 27, Ritterling 12. Fabric ?UR (3 grms) ?Terra Rubra. Fabric DJ (72 grms). Fabric GP (4 grms) Cam 122-123. Cam 198. Fabric GX (186 grms) Date: late 1st - 2nd century	445	retained
1	F1	post-Roman pottery	1 sherd, Fabric 20, 13th century	10	retained
1	F1	glass	fragment of rim or neck, pale blue-green	4	retained
1	F1	Roman tile	tile fragments	444	retained
1	F1	stone: Septaria	fragment	93	retained
1	F1	Fe nails	2 nails	25	retained
1	F1	bone	animal bone	372	retained
1	F2	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AA (34 grms). Samian: Fabric SG (211 grms) Dragendorff 18 (stamp fragment in base). Fabric UR (25 grms) coarse Terra Nigra Type ware. Mortaria: Fabric TZ (171 grms) Cam 195A, Cam 195B. Fabric ON (31 grms) Cam 17 platter. Fabric DJ (156 grms). Fabric GX (553 grms) Cam ?268. Date: ?1st - earlier 2nd century	1181	retained
1	F2	Fe nails	5 nails	51	retained
1	F2	vitrified clay	heavily organic tempered clay/daub with glassy vitrified surface, possibly fragment of kiln/oven lining.	55	retained
1	F2	Roman tile/brick	Tile fragments and tessera cube	414	retained
1	F2	bone	animal bone	674	retained
1	F3	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AA (35 grms). Fabric ?UR (24 grms) ?Terra Rubra pedestal.	172	retained

			Fabric ON (35 grms) everted rim beaker. Fabric GX (78 grms). Date: 1st - ?early 2nd century		
1	F3	bone	animal bone	245	retained
1	F3	flint	smashed flint lump	118	retained
2	F5	Roman pottery	Fabric DJ (18 grms) burnt. Fabric GX (9 grms) Cam ?243-244/246 Date: Roman, probably 1st-2nd/early 3rd century	27	retained
2	F5	Fe nails	4 nails	68	retained
2	F5	modern gun cartridge	rifle blank, probably disturbed from L5.	13	retained
2	F5	bone	human bone: fragments of rear base of skull from young person or sub adult. One other fragment of animal bone.	88	retained
2	F6	Roman pottery	Amphorae: Fabric AJ (41 grms) Dressel 20. Samian: Fabric SG (2 grms). Fabric ON (15 grms) flanged rim bowl Cam 311 type. Fabric EZ (14 grms) roughcast Cologne ware. Fabric GA (124 grms) Cam 303. Fabric GX (669 grms) Cam 243-244/246, Cam 108. Fabric HZ (221 grms). Date: early 2nd - early 3rd century, probably early-mid 2nd century	1086	retained
2	F6	post-Roman brick/tile	peg-tile, 1 fragment	19	retained
2	F6	oyster shell	fragments	4	retained
2	F6	bone	unident. bone, most certainly animal bone	133	retained
2	F7	Roman pottery	Fabric EA (110 grms) Cam 410 second quarter of 3rd century - 4th century, almost complete though broken, grave offering. Other sherds in fill: Mortaria: Fabric TZ (59 grms). Fabric GX (123 grms). Fabric HZ (68 grms). Date: second quarter of 3rd century - 4th century	360	retained
2	F7	bone	unident. bone	52	retained

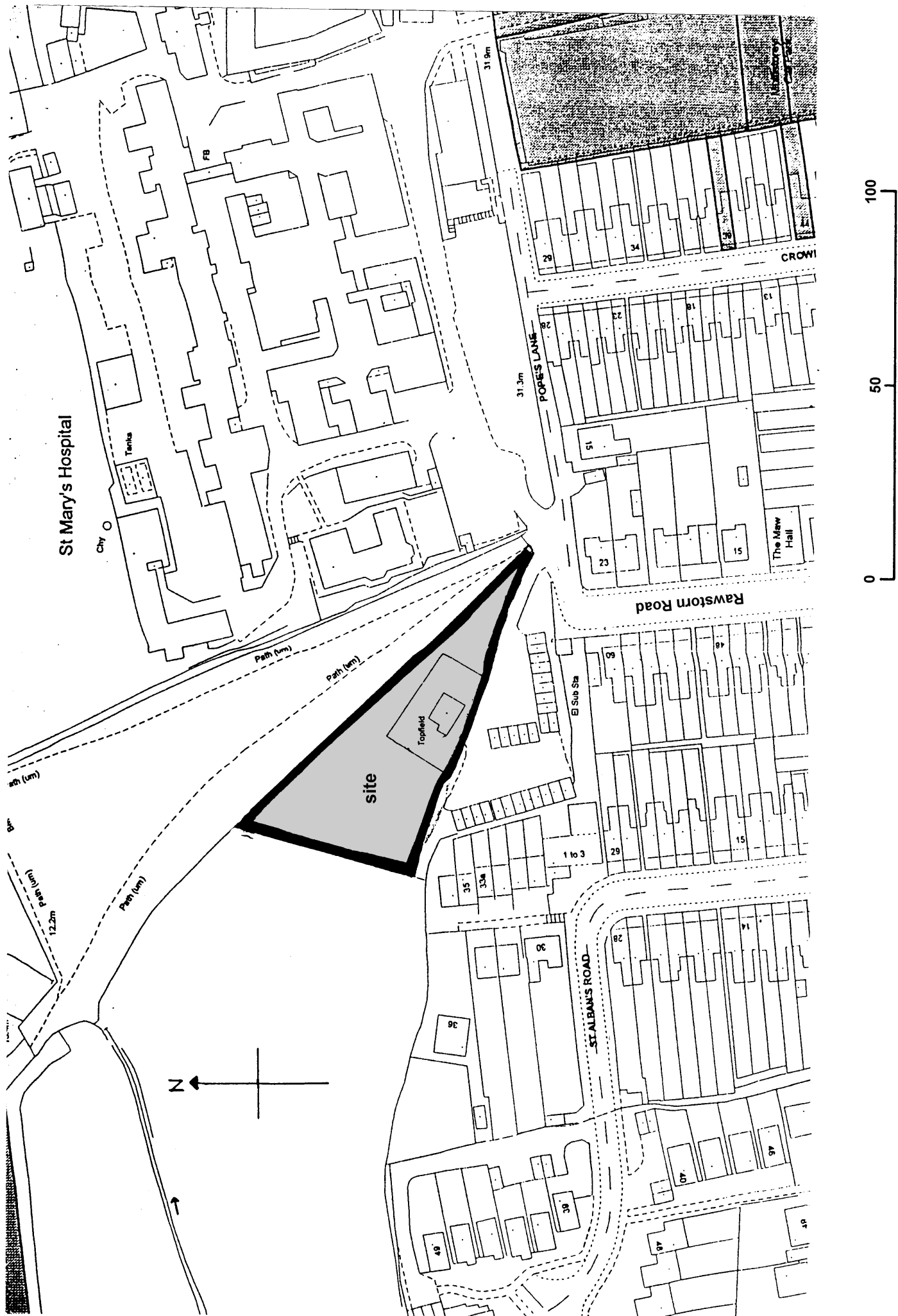


Fig 1 Site location. Scale 1:1250

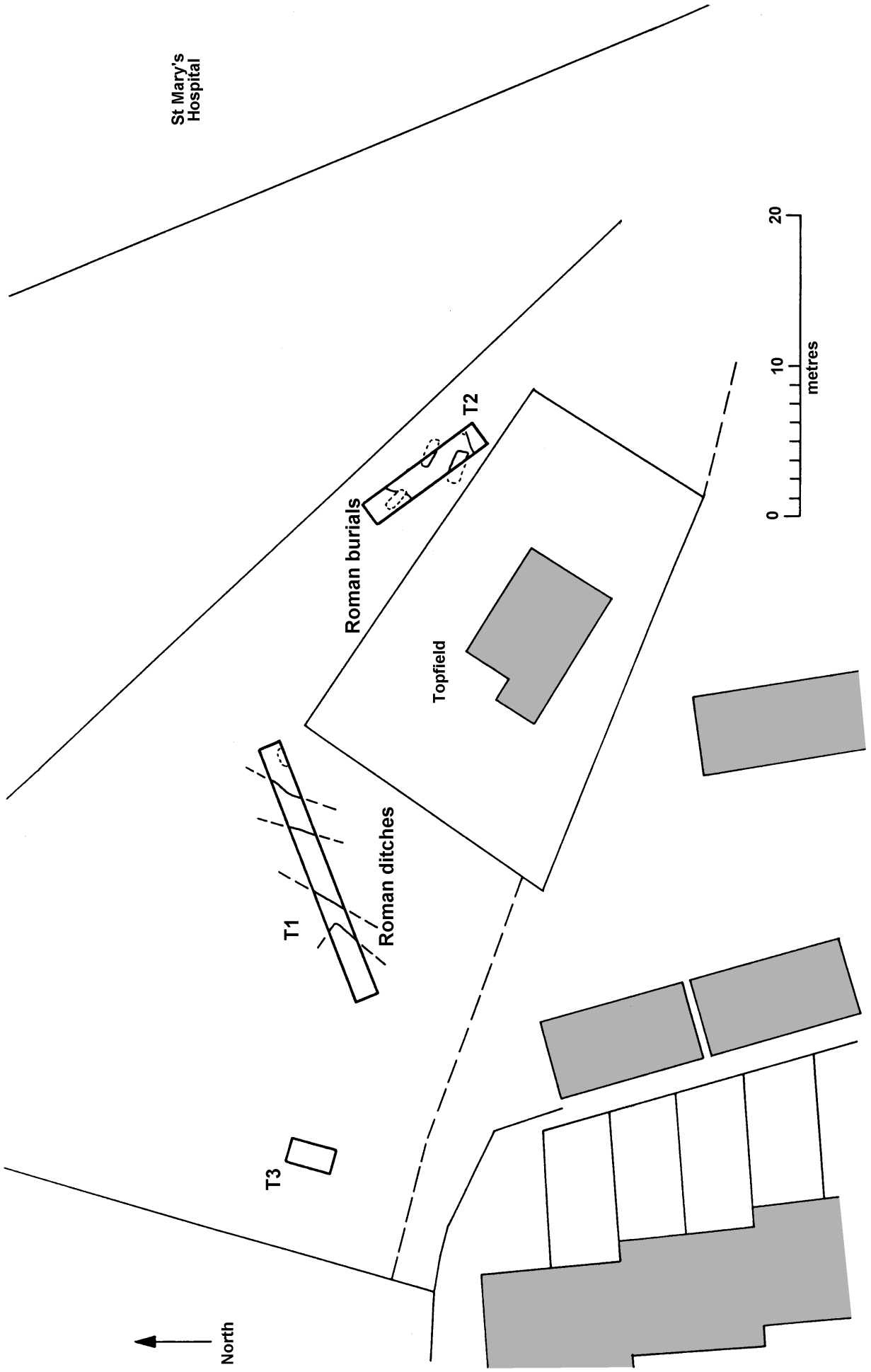


Fig 2 Site plan. Scale 1:350

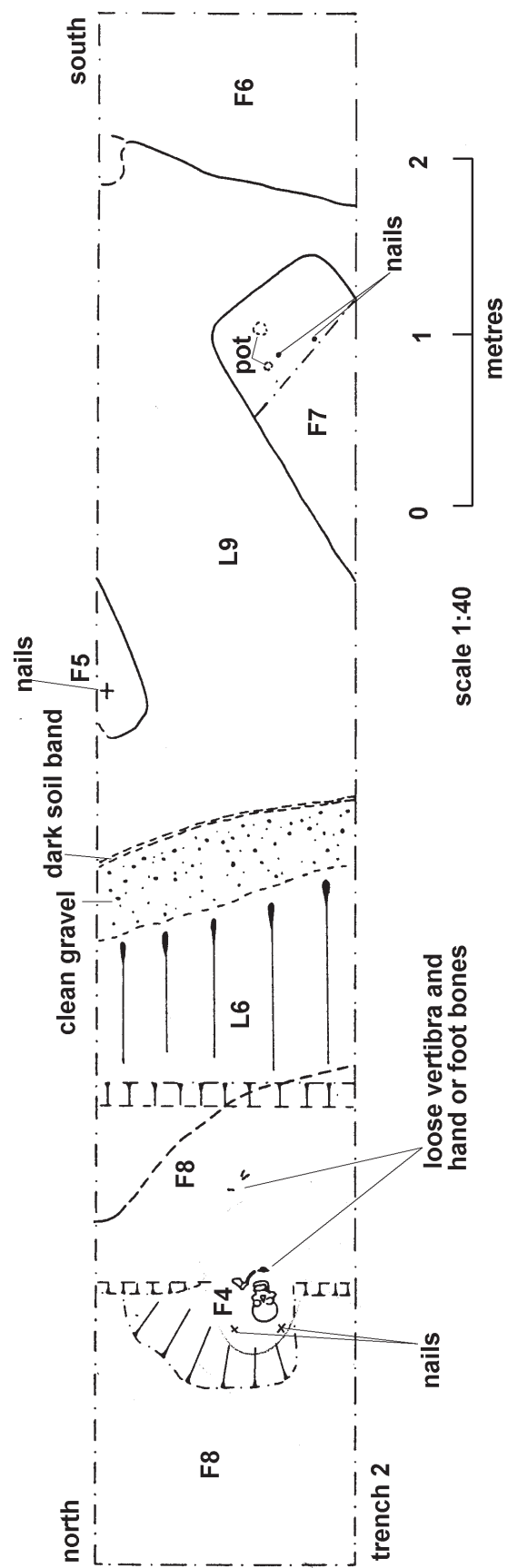
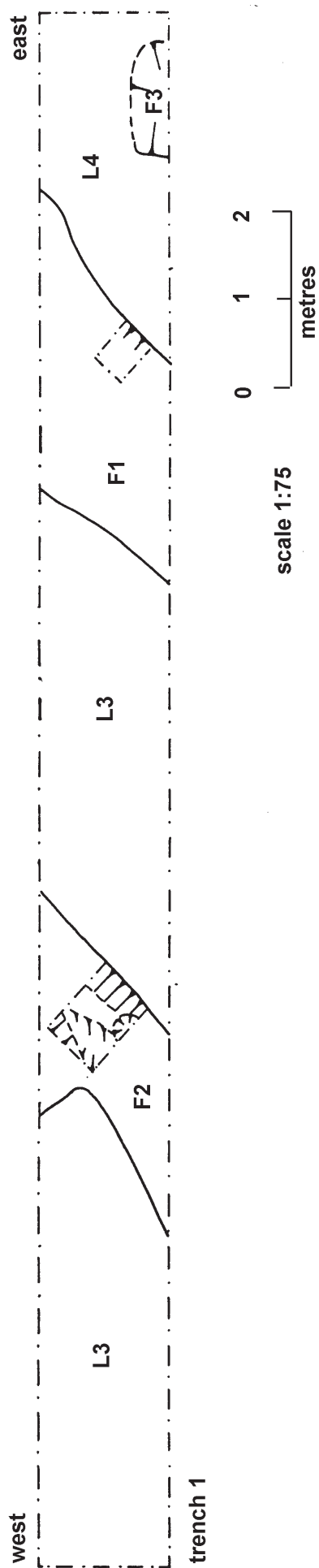


Figure 3 plans of trench 1 and trench 2

ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Topfield, Rawstorn Road, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 99022522	Site Code: Topfield 2001.70
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of Work: April 2001	Size of Area Investigated: 0.216 hectares
Location of Finds/Curating Museum Colchester Museum	Funding Source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated? No	Related SMR No's:
Final Report: Summary in Essex Archaeology and History	
Periods Represented: Roman	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Three trial trenches were excavated. Roman pits and ditches and probably four Roman inhumations were revealed by the evaluation. All features were shallow and were covered by at least 1m of topsoil containing residual Roman pottery. This indicated that the previous land surface had been stripped at some stag, and other material dumped on top.	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: April 2001