

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching on
Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP
at Colchester Garrison PFI site,
Colchester, Essex**

June-July 2002

**on behalf of
RMPA Services
for the
MoD**

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1 Summary

This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP at the Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex. The combined size of these areas is 53.8 hectares. The work reported on here is part of a programme of archaeological evaluation at the Garrison. Areas C, E/F and KR have previously been reported on in CAT Reports 197 (Area C), 203 (Areas E/F) and 205 (Area KR).

Seventy-one trenches were excavated in Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP (Figs 1, 6, 8, 13). In total, 641 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. These were principally modern and post-medieval features, modern footings and services (44% of all contexts), and topsoils, subsoils and dumped soils (41%). There were smaller numbers of natural or undated features (12.3%). Significant archaeological remains accounted for only 2.7% of all contexts.

The main findings are:

- The excavated archaeological material reflects the built-up nature of large parts of the northern Garrison area (in particular Areas A, B, GJ, H and N). Post-medieval and modern archaeological contexts such as footings trenches, areas of rubble or concrete, rubbish-pits, ditches, post-holes, service-trenches and dumped soils make up the major part of the excavated sequence.*
- Significant archaeological features consisted of three Roman burials, a robbed-out Roman building, a prehistoric pit, and a few Roman pits and ditches. Some of the Roman ditches share a broad alignment with field-boundaries previously evaluated on Area C, and may be regarded as parts of the same Late Iron Age/Roman field system.*
- There were a few prehistoric sherds (mostly residual) and a few struck flints. A single dated pit was identified, but the prehistoric material suggests little more than scattered and intermittent activity in the prehistoric period.*

The expectation that an active barracks would undergo much repair, rebuilding and adjustment throughout its long life is confirmed by the discovery of substantial remains of recently demolished structures in all parts, particularly in Areas A, B, GJ and N. It is self-evident that building and rebuilding on this scale will have had a major impact on any archaeological remains.

As a consequence, the state of preservation of archaeological deposits differs from area to area. In some parts of the site, particularly Areas A, GJ, H and N, rebuilding and repair had caused significant damage to archaeological deposits. Other areas showed disturbance on a lesser but still significant scale (particularly Areas J and YP). In all areas, there was significant damage from modern footings and services.

The character of the archaeological remains identified can be summarised as principally modern in date, with a very small number of significant archaeological features. Features in Areas A and B particularly contained larger groups of artefacts than Areas C, E/F or KR. This is a reflection of the proximity of the area under study to the Roman town and Roman cemeteries, and to the medieval centre of activity at St John's Abbey.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** The proposed development of the Colchester Garrison PFI site involves the building of a new 101 hectare garrison in the centre of the existing Garrison lands (south of Abbey Field, north of Roman Barracks, and east of Kirkee McMunn Barracks), the demolition and refurbishment of existing barracks, and the redevelopment of the areas released by demolition, primarily for residential use.
- 2.2** A programme of archaeological evaluation has been agreed between the MoD, RMPA Services, English Heritage, Colchester Borough Council, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), and RPS, the project archaeological consultants.
- 2.3** The archaeological evaluation comprising fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching was commissioned by RMPA Services and carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The design of the evaluation work is detailed in RPS *Colchester Garrison PFI archaeological project strategy proposal* (June 2002).
- 2.4** The strategy proposal identifies two phases of evaluation trial-trenching to be carried out in areas designated for the construction of the Urban Village (Areas A, B, GJ, H, J, K and O). These areas are primarily located within the existing built Garrison and are currently occupied. Access for trial-trenching is very limited and precise impacts cannot be identified for evaluation as detailed development proposals have yet to be prepared. This report describes the initial phase of trial-trenching (Phase 1a) which provides an assessment of the character of the archaeological remains. The strategy proposal identifies a second phase of trial-trenching (Phase 1b) to be carried out prior to detailed planning permission, when the existing Garrison has been decommissioned and detailed development plans are available.
- 2.5** The initial stage of the evaluation was a fieldwalking survey reported on in CAT Report 184.
- 2.6** Undertaken concurrently with the fieldwalking survey was a geophysical survey carried out by Bactec International Ltd. The results were combined with the fieldwalking results in CAT Report 184.
- 2.7** This is the report on archaeological evaluation trial-trenching in Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP. Previous evaluation stages (Area C, Areas E/F, Area KR) have already been reported on (CAT Reports 197, 203 and 205 respectively). All previous archaeological reports are listed in Table 91 (below).
- 2.8** All work was carried out according to a method statement (CAT 2002) drawn up jointly with RPS and agreed with the Archaeology Officer of Colchester Borough Council (CBCAO). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, revised 1999).
- 2.9** The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.
- 2.10** Current land use of Areas A, B, GJ and H is built-up, with barracks and other Army buildings. Areas J and YP are dominated by Army buildings, but have areas of open grass, mainly paddocks for horses. Area D was overgrown scrub. The investigation at Area V consisted of a single trench cut into the south edge of Abbey Field.
- 2.11** The National Grid Reference location for the centre of Area A is TM 0030 2480; for Area B, TL 9980 24650; for Area D, TL 9970 2370; for Area GJ, TL 9890 2300; for Area H, TL 9960 2480; for Area J, TL 9900 2400; for Area N, TL 9870 2320; for Area V, TL 9937 2357; and for Area YP, TL 9980 2300.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation are to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, interpretation, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.

- 3.2 This assessment will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.
- 3.3 Specific aims will be to establish the character of Iron Age/Roman occupation within the *oppidum*.

4 Archaeological background

4.1 Introduction

The archaeological and historical setting of the proposed development area has been comprehensively explored in a desk-based assessment or DBA (CAT Report 97), and will only be summarised here. The Garrison areas which have already been evaluated were principally in the southern half of the PFI project area, where the primary archaeological focus was the remains of the Iron Age *oppidum* and related cropmark sites (below, section 4.3). However, the areas reported on here are at the northern end of the project area, where two more archaeological zones are considered: the Roman cemetery areas around the south side of the Roman town, and the remains of St John's Abbey. The archaeological background of these latter two areas is given in sections 4.4 and 4.5 below.

4.2 Archaeological remains of the Iron Age *oppidum*

- 4.2.1 Much of the land south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre falls within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are some of the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. The Garrison area occupies the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, and one of the defensive dykes (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison (on the east edge of Roman Barracks and between Areas S1 and S2 of the PFI site). Although some parts of the Berechurch Dyke are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument, the length that passes through the Garrison is not scheduled. Design proposals for the new Garrison include a green corridor along the line of the Berechurch Dyke, which will prevent any impact on the monument from the proposed development.
- 4.2.2 As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two main centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the *oppidum* and await discovery.
- 4.2.3 Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum* which also await discovery. The cropmarks in the survey area (described below) may represent the fields and droveways associated with such sites.

4.3 The cropmark sites

- 4.3.1 Over the southern part of the Garrison area (south of a line drawn between Kirkee McMunn Barracks and the modern Colchester Cemetery), a large area of cropmarks is recorded. Geophysical survey has partially confirmed and also added to the pattern of linear cropmark features (CAT Report 184). An informed interpretation based on previous limited excavation would indicate that they are late prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date, and represent the trackways, paddocks and field-boundaries of a rural settlement of that period. In some areas, the overlapping of the cropmarks suggests that more than one period or phase of activity is represented. At least one circular mark could represent an earlier prehistoric site. Other smaller discoveries are listed in the DBA (CAT Report 97).
- 4.3.2 There was a series of convincing cropmarks crossing Areas E and F and intruding slightly into Area KR (Fig 2). Therefore the archaeological potential for the discovery of features and finds relating to occupation sites associated with the cropmarks, and also for the recovery of finds which might date the cropmark ditches, was considered in the evaluation methodology and was one of the criteria used to select trench locations.

4.4 The Roman cemetery areas

4.4.1 The area around the southern side of the Roman town is dominated by Roman cemeteries. These have recently been discussed (Crummy *et al* 1993), so only a few general points will be made here. First, the density of burials is demonstrated by the very high numbers recorded at Butt Road (approximately a thousand burials; Crummy *et al* 1993), at Le Cateau Barracks (several hundred burials; Crummy *et al* 1993), and at the recent excavation on the site of the new all-weather sports pitch on Abbey Field (72 burials: CAT Report 138). The importance of these Roman cemeteries is underlined by the presence of an early Christian church at Butt Road (Crummy *et al* 1993), and their distribution is clearly shown by the fact that they spread over the Abbey Field as far as the Sobraon Barracks and the modern Colchester Cemetery. The cemeteries are considered to be of high regional importance, being some of the most extensive in the country.

4.4.2 The distribution of known Roman burials is in part a reflection of the way in which the town's suburbs have grown up in the 19th and 20th centuries and is also related to the locations of sand- and gravel-pits around the town. Also the apparent patchiness of the distribution of recorded burials, eg hundreds at Le Cateau Barracks but none at the Cavalry Barracks, may have more to do with the willingness of contractors to report discoveries and the diligence of local antiquarians in chasing up and recording the discoveries than the actual distribution of burials. It may be true that those burials from Sobraon Barracks and the modern Colchester Cemetery are on the outskirts of the Roman cemetery, but burials at Le Cateau Barracks and the north of Abbey Field would seem to be firmly within it.

4.4.3 Late Iron Age cremations have also been recorded in this zone, in particular in Abbey Field and Meeanee and Hyderabad Barracks, but in far fewer quantities than the Roman burials. It may be that this area was in continuous use as a cemetery from the late Iron Age and into the Roman period.

4.5 The St John's Abbey area

4.5.1 The dominant feature of the archaeological landscape in Area B is St John's Abbey. Parts of the precinct walls of the abbey still survive, along with the magnificent abbey gatehouse, but the surviving abbey is mostly restricted to buried remains. Below-ground remains may include domestic buildings of the abbey, the abbot's lodgings, guests' lodgings, and the post-Dissolution Lucas family house and gardens. The exact position of the medieval abbey church is not known.

4.5.2 The abbey was built over a Roman cemetery area; 34 Roman inhumations were found during excavations from 1971 to 1985 in St John's Abbey grounds (Crummy 1981, 40-46). The shallowest occur at approximately 1m below ground-level. Other inhumations have been found within the grounds since the 19th century, including those interred in lead coffins and one under 'The Mount' (*ibid*).

4.6 Anglo-Saxon remains

4.6.1 Discoveries in the 19th century of weapons and jewellery indicate the existence of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Mersea Road, between Areas A and B.

5 Trial-trenching in Area A (Meeanee and Hyderabad Barracks)

5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-3, 18, 19)

Nineteen trenches were machine-cut in this 13.8 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches A1-A19). Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area A in sections 5.4-5.6.

Table 1: Area A – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
A1	NNW: 599974.31; 224507.11	11.6	33.77-33.88	32.79-32.99
	SSE: 599977.31; 224494.40			
A2	NW: 600114.94; 224518.15	6.3	33.27-33.31	31.96
	SE: 600119.88; 224515.28			
A3	WNW: 600205.96; 224479.04	20.7	32.55-32.57	31.81
	ESE: 600224.64; 224470.18			
A4	NNW: 600225.40; 224504.39	28.9	32.40-32.52	31.14
	SSE: 600231.59; 224476.19			
A5	WNW: 600260.43; 224492.41	12.5	32.34-32.38	31.18
	ESE: 600272.56; 224489.51			
A6	W: 600264.44; 224485.67	20.5	32.29-32.45	31.22-31.32
	E: 600284.88; 224484.15			
A7	NNW: 600012.60; 224435.50	26.7	33.40-33.43	32.71
	SSE: 600018.02; 224409.38			
A8	NNW: 600022.88; 224393.25	20	33.29	32.50
	SSE: 600027.44; 224373.69			
A9	WSW: 599951.22; 224373.10	25	33.53-33.65	32.66-32.72
	ENE: 599975.43; 224378.10			
A10	WSW: 599954.18; 224362.64	43.2	33.54-33.58	32.59-32.68
	ENE: 599996.52; 224379.57			
A11	N: 660073.32; 224293.86	8	32.43-32.45	31.58-31.62
	S: 600074.87; 224286.04			
A12	NNW: 600185.18; 224318.27	10	32.24-32.27	31.51-31.61
	SSE: 600187.32; 224308.47			
A13	N: 600204.49; 224317.19	4.7	32.13-32.16	31.81
	S: 600205.50; 224312.51			
A14	W: 600246.43; 224279.01	7.8	32.08	-
	E: 600254.16; 224278.18			
A15	WSW: 600214.47; 224256.28	4.5	32.14-32.18	-
	ENE: 600218.97; 224256.71			
A16	WSW: 600216.38; 224247.86	5	32.17-32.19	30.67
	ENE: 600221.33; 224248.74			
A17	WSW: 600192.21; 224242.99	14.4	32.34-32.45	31.07
	ENE: 600206.27; 224245.76			
A18	W: 600142.83; 224233.49	9.6	32.50-32.60	-
	E: 600152.11; 224234.88			
A19	WSW: 599979.29; 224195.21	9	30.39-30.47	29.25
	ENE: 599988.10; 224197.26			

5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 2, 3, 18-19)

Typically, the stratigraphic sequence across Area A comprised an approximately 0.30-0.60m-thick topsoil, sealing a sandy silt of variable thickness (0.40-0.60m). In places, a tarmac top surface and associated dump layers replaced the original topsoil cover. The lower sandy silt deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

5.2.1 Trench A1: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Archaeological remains comprised one modern trench filled with building material, metal and wood (AF103) and two natural features (AF101-AF102).

Table 2: Trench A1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF101	Natural feature	no finds	-
AF102	Natural feature	no finds	-
AF103	Trench	no finds	modern
AL101	Tarmac	no finds	modern
AL102	Gravel bedding	no finds	modern
AL103	Levelling material	no finds	modern
AL104	Redeposited subsoil	no finds	-
AL105	Mixed subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.2 Trench A2: summary (Figs 2, 3)

This trench contained one modern pit (AF101) and one modern ditch (AF102).

Table 3: Trench A2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF201	Large pit	no finds	modern
AF202	Ditch	peg-tile, Fabric 48d	-
AL201	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL202	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
+AL203	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL204	Disturbed natural	no finds	-
AL205	Redeposited natural	no finds	-

5.2.3 Trench A3: summary (Figs 2, 3, 18)

The archaeological remains here included one prehistoric pit (AF301) and a pair of modern ditches (group number AF302).

Table 4: Trench A3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	dated finds	Phase
AF301	Pit	?prehistoric (MBA) pottery	prehistoric
AF302	Ditches	no finds	modern
AL301	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL302	Levelling material	Fabrics 45m and 48d	modern
AL303	Redeposited natural	no finds	-
AL304	Natural	no finds	-

5.2.4 Trench A4: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Apart from two modern services which were left unexcavated in baulks, there were no archaeological features in this trench. There was a sequence of modern dumped material in this trench (AL402-AL404).

Table 5: Trench A4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL401	Turf and topsoil	no finds	-
AL402	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL403	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL404	Levelling layer	peg-tile, clay pipe	modern
AL405	Redeposited natural	peg-tile, clay pipe	-
AL406	Natural		

5.2.5 Trench A5: summary (Figs 2, 3)

This trench revealed a large area of concrete with a manhole cover, quite possibly an air-raid shelter (AF501). There was also one modern pit (AF503) and an electricity service-trench (AF502).

Table 6: Trench A5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF501	Air-raid shelter	no finds	modern
AF502	Service-trench	clinker, clay pipe, peg-tile	modern
AF503	Modern pit	no finds	modern
AL501	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL502	Building debris	clinker, clay pipe, peg-tile	modern
AL503	Redeposited natural	Fabric 40 (PMRE), post-medieval brick, Roman brick	-
AL504	Backfill	no finds	modern

5.2.6 Trench A6: summary (Figs 2, 3, 18)

Excavation was not practicable in part of this trench because of the presence of substantial concrete foundations (almost certainly the air-raid shelter uncovered in Trench A5) and a large number of service-trenches.

Table 7: Trench A6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL601	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL602	Building debris	no finds	modern
AL603	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL604	Redeposited natural	no finds	-

5.2.7 Trench A7: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Excavation was not practicable in this trench because of the presence of a service-trench extending the length of the trench, and many services.

Table 8: Trench A7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL701	Tarmac	no finds	modern
AL702	Building debris	clay pipe	modern
AL703	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.8 Trench A8: summary (Figs 2, 3)

This trench contained a large modern pit (AF801), a modern service-trench (AF802), and a modern pit (AF803).

Table 9: Trench A8 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF801	Pit	no finds	modern
AF802	Trench	no finds	modern
AF803	Pit	no finds	modern
AL801	Tarmac	no finds	modern
AL802	Sand/gravel hardcore	no finds	modern
AL803	Rubble/asphalt	no finds	modern
AL804	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.9 Trench A9: summary (Figs 2, 3, 18)

This trench contained five post-holes: two modern (AF903, AF905), one post-medieval (AF902), and two unphased (AF901, AF904); and one natural feature (AF906).

Table 10: Trench A9 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF901	Post-hole	tile or brick scraps	unphased
AF902	Post-hole	Fabrics 21 or 21a	medieval/post-medieval
AF903	Post-hole	no finds	modern
AF904	Post-hole	no finds	unphased
AF905	Post-hole	coal, coke, Roman pot	modern
AF906	Natural feature		
AL901	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL902	Redeposited natural	no finds	modern
AL903	Demolition debris	no finds	modern
AL904	Subsoil	peg-tile, residual Roman brick and tile and LIA/Roman pot	

5.2.10 Trench A10: summary (Figs 2, 3, 19)

This trench contained a group of stratified features consisting of a probably Roman inhumation burial (AF1002) cut by a post-medieval ditch (AF1001). Although ditch AF1001 contained Roman material, the quantity of post-medieval material in its fill dates it to the post-medieval period. There was also a Roman pit (AF1006), a Roman ditch (AF1004), a post-medieval post-hole (AF1003), and a modern pit (AF1005). The inhumation burial is reported on below (section 14.5.1). The Roman features were sealed by a sequence of dumped modern material (AL1002-AL1003, AL1005) at a combined depth of 0.8m (ie from ground-level at 33.54m AOD to 32.72m AOD).

A significant quantity of Roman building material was recovered from this trench, ie Roman brick and tile, 32 pieces (4.5kg) and septaria (local, Roman period building stone), 4 pieces (507g). This indicates that the remains of a demolished Roman structure may exist nearby. Whether this structure was associated with the burial is not known.

Table 11: Trench A10 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AF1001	Ditch	Fabric 40 (PMRE), peg-tile, coke, residual Roman brick and tile.	post-medieval
AF1002	Burial cut	Roman tile	?Roman
AF1003	Post-hole	peg-tile, slate, Fabrics 21 and 40, residual Roman or medieval grey ware	post-medieval
AF1004	Ditch	no finds	Roman
AF1005	Pit	no finds	modern
AF1006	Post-hole/pit	Roman grey ware	Roman, 1st or 2nd century AD
AL1001	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1002	Demolition debris	lead musket ball	modern
AL1003	Dump	no finds	modern
AL1004	Reworked natural	Roman brick, tile and pottery	-
AL1005	Dump	no finds	post-Roman

5.2.11 Trench A11: summary (Figs 2, 3)

This trench was heavily disturbed by modern foundations and service-trenches. Natural ground could only be reached for a length of 3m at trench bottom, and no features were present in the exposed natural.

Table 12: Trench A11 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1101	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1102	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1103	Redeposited natural	no finds	unphased

5.2.12 Trench A12: summary (Figs 2, 3)

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Table 13: Trench A12 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1201	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1201	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1202	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.13 Trench A13: summary (Figs 2, 3)

In situ concrete obstacles prevented full excavation in this trench. Natural ground could only be reached for a length of 3m at trench bottom, and no features were present in the exposed natural.

Table 14: Trench A13 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1301	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1301	Levelling/debris layer	no finds	modern
AL1302	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.14 Trench A14: summary (Figs 2, 3)

In situ concrete obstacles and service-trenches prevented full excavation in this trench.

Table 15: Trench A14 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1401	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1402	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	modern
AL1403	Redeposited subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.15 Trench A15: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Massive *in situ* concrete obstacles prevented full excavation in this trench.

Table 16: Trench A15 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1501	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1502	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	-
AL1503	Redeposited levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1504	Tarmac	no finds	modern
AL1505	Hardcore	no finds	modern
AL1506	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	-
AL1507	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.16 Trench A16: summary (Figs 2, 3, 18)

This trench was abandoned due to the presence of a modern fibreglass water-pipe extending the full length of the trench at a depth of 1.3m.

Table 17: Trench A16 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1601	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1602	Building debris	no finds	modern
AL1603	Redeposited natural	no finds	modern

AL1604	Tarmac	no finds	modern
AL1605	Hardcore	no finds	modern
AL1606	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	-
AL1607	Redeposited natural	no finds	-

5.2.17 Trench A17: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Massive *in situ* concrete foundations limited this trench to a length of 5.5m. No archaeological features were observed.

Table 18: Trench A17 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1701	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1702	Building debris	no finds	modern
AL1703	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1704	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1705	Builder's sand	no finds	modern
AL1706	Natural	no finds	modern

5.2.18 Trench A18: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Massive *in situ* concrete foundations prevented excavation in this trench. No archaeological features were present.

Table 19: Trench A18 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1801	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1802	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
AL1803	Building debris	no finds	modern
AL1804	Redeposited subsoil	no finds	?

5.2.19 Trench A19: summary (Figs 2, 3)

Concrete and brick footings and service-trenches prevented full excavation in this trench. No archaeological features were encountered between the footings.

Table 20: Trench A19 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
AL1901	Turf/topsoil	no finds	modern
AL1902	Redeposited subsoil	no finds	modern
AL1903	Demolition layer	no finds	modern
AL1904	Silting layer	no finds	modern
AL1905	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area A

5.3.1 In total, 75 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (51 = 68% of all contexts: see Table 21). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern pits and ditches (14 = 19%). There were small numbers of natural features (3%) and unphased contexts (4%).

5.3.2 With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, there was one prehistoric pit in Trench A3, and one probable Roman inhumation burial, one Roman pit and one Roman ditch in Trench A10. Together, these constituted 6% of all archaeological contexts.

5.3.3 No Anglo-Saxon material was recovered.

5.3.4 Medieval material was restricted to a few residual sherds.

5.3.5 Given the proximity of the Roman town, there was a surprisingly small amount of Roman residual material in Area A. Residual Roman finds came from Trenches A5 and A9. The only significant remains were the burial and pits listed above (in Trench A10).

5.3.6 The high degree of disturbance in some parts of Area A may mean that the excavated remains under-represent the original extent of Roman activity in this area.

Table 21: Area A – summary of all features.

- (1) number of each context type
(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts
(3) that number as a percentage of cuts only (ie discounting layers).

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	51	4	0	14	2	3
(2) as % of all contexts	68	6	0	19	3	4
(3) as % of all cuts		18	0	59	9	14

5.4 Distribution of archaeological remains in Area A

5.4.1 Significant archaeological remains were found in only two of the nineteen trenches; a prehistoric pit in Trench A3, and a probable Roman burial and other Roman features in Trench A10.

5.4.2 Except for the above, archaeological features were post-medieval and modern, and are not considered to be significant.

5.5 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits in Area A

5.5.1 The archaeological deposits in Area A are very heavily disturbed. Building and rebuilding within the barracks has demonstrably caused damage to archaeological remains. There were modern footings in fourteen of the nineteen trenches.

5.5.2 There may be a correlation between the difference in height from modern ground-level to natural subsoil and the preservation of archaeological remains.

5.5.3 In the central part of Area A, between Trenches A9 and A3 (where the principal Area A remains were discovered), subsoil is found at 0.9m to 1.2m below modern ground-level. By contrast, in areas where no archaeological remains were encountered (for instance, on the southern edge of Area A: the area of Trenches A11-A19), modern ground-level is in the order of 0.6m to 0.8m above natural subsoil. It is possible that the extra depth of ground in the central part of Area A (whether caused by successive modern surfaces, topsoils, or an accumulation of dumped material near the town centre) has protected the underlying archaeological material.

5.5.4 The shallower depth of ground on the southern edge of Area A may suggest that either the ground has been terraced (ie reduced and flattened), or that this part of Area A was more rural in nature, with a shallower topsoil cover and none of the dumping of soils characteristic of urban settings.

5.5.5 The survival of a prehistoric pit in Trench A3 (at only 0.7m below modern ground-level) may simply indicate that the eastern edge of the barracks has been less intensively developed than elsewhere, ie in Meeanee and Hyderabad Barracks.

5.5.6 On the northern edge of Area A (Trenches A1-A2, Trenches A4-A6), subsoil is at 1.2m to 1.0m below modern ground-level. Although this depth of ground might suggest greater preservation of archaeological material, there were no significant finds from Trenches A1-A2 or Trenches A5-A6. Balancing this lack of finds, however, is the fact that it was not possible to insert many trenches into this part of Area A (due to standing buildings and services).

5.5.7 There has been significant damage caused by the construction of services. The trenches for pipes and cables bringing services to the various garrison buildings were found crossing eight of the nineteen trenches, despite the efforts made to locate trenches to avoid known locations of services.

5.5.8 A large proportion of the excavated features were post-medieval and modern, and clearly associated with the Garrison. Apart from service-trenches, many were pits and trenches used as rubbish tips.

5.5.9 The extent of modern disturbance is reflected in the relatively small quantity of finds and features recorded in Area A, compared with those in Areas E, F or C.

5.6 Area A chronological discussion

5.6.1 Prehistory to the Late Iron Age

5.6.1.1 Although no struck flints were recovered from the Area A trenches, the prehistoric pit in Trench A3 indicates a low level of prehistoric activity here.

5.6.2 The later Iron Age and the *oppidum*

5.6.2.1 Most of the modern Garrison lies within the area of the defended *oppidum* of Camulodunum. Unlike Areas C, E and F, there were no *oppidum*-related features in Area A, so detailed comment is inappropriate.

5.6.3 The Roman period

5.6.3.1 The single burial appears to confirm the existence of the Roman cemeteries identified around the southern fringes of Colchester (Crummy 1993). The limited dating evidence for the inhumation found in Trench A10 requires a cautious interpretation. A single fragment of Roman tile was recovered from the burial fill, and the location of the burial is near the site of a previous discovery of a Roman lead coffin on Mersea Road close to the Officers' Mess of Hyderabad Barracks in 1937 (CAT Report 97, 11). However, it should be noted that Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation burials have also been found in Hyderabad Barracks, near to Mersea Road (see section 5.6.4 below).

5.6.3.2 The nature of the other Roman features in Trench A10 is not clearly defined and a precise interpretation cannot be made at this stage.

5.6.3.3 The small quantity of residual Roman material from the other trenches (A5, A9) suggests little in the way of Roman occupation in Area A beyond Trench A10, but this must be balanced against the high degree of ground disturbance which was evident especially along the southern edge of Area A.

5.6.4 The Anglo-Saxon period

There were no Anglo-Saxon finds or deposits in Area A. This deserves some comment. The 19th-century discovery of Anglo-Saxon weapons and jewellery and a cremation pot is reasonable evidence for the existence of Anglo-Saxon cremation and inhumation burials on and around Mersea Road (Crummy 1981, 14-17; Fig 2). If so, then it would not be unreasonable to assume that further Anglo-Saxon burials may be located in Area A, especially in view of the fact that the Anglo-Saxon cremation pot discovered in the 19th century actually came from the extreme north-western corner of Meeanee and Hyderabad Barracks. The lack of Anglo-Saxon material in the Area A evaluation trenches is, at face value, surprising, but it is more a reflection of the limited access for trenching into Area A rather than of a genuine absence of Anglo-Saxon material.

5.6.5 Medieval

A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from Area A. With such small quantities, no comment is appropriate here.

5.6.6 Post-medieval and later

The post-medieval and modern features and finds formed a major component of the archaeological record. However, with the exception of specialist interest (for instance, in Army practice-trenches or the layout of barracks), the material is not significant.

6 Trial-trenching in Area B (St John's Abbey and Flagstaff House)

6.1 Introduction (Figs 2, 5, 20, 21)

Six trenches were machine-cut in this 6.9 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches B1-B6). Table 22 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 6.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area B in sections 6.3-6.6.

Table 22: Area B – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
B1	W: 599698.45; 224733.65	11.7	31.93-32.29	31.13
	E: 599710.19; 224733.63			
B2	W: 599748.76; 224716.93	10.4	30.51-31.07	29.84
	E: 599759.14; 224716.96			
B3	NNE: 599700.82; 224687.87	18.9	33.33-33.45	32.15
	SSW: 599704.20; 224669.25			
B4	NW: 599814.54; 224612.68	8.6	33.47	32.22-32.26
	SE: 599821.44; 224607.45			
B5	N: 599716.07; 224637.52	6.1	33.82	-
	S: 599715.86; 224631.41			
B6	W: 599706.52; 224603.44	13	33.73-33.92	33.04
	E: 599719.54; 224603.73			

6.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 2, 5, 20-21)

Typically, the stratigraphic sequence across Area B comprised a topsoil layer (0.20m thick) sealing a sequence of dumped sandy grey silts (0.50-0.80m deep). These silts were removed to reveal the underlying archaeological features. There was some variation to this basic stratified sequence where the trenches were cut through tarmac. Here, the topsoil cover was replaced by tarmac and associated make-up layers 0.15-0.20m deep.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

6.2.1 Trench B1: summary (Figs 2, 5)

Archaeological remains were all post-medieval in date: two ditches (BF101-BF102), three post-holes (BF103, BF105, BF108), four pits (BF106-BF107, BF109-BF110), and a root disturbance or stake hole (BF104). Pits BF106 and BF107/BF109 produced a significant group of 15th- to 16th-century Colchester-type ware.

A geophysical survey of this area by David and Aline Black (Black 2002, fig 4) showed a wide crescent-shaped anomaly in the lawn east of Abbey House. At the position where Trench B1 would intercept this feature, the 2m-wide ditch BF101 was excavated. Given the proximity of this trench to St John's Abbey gatehouse, where action took place during the Civil War siege, it is fair to ask whether this is a ditch associated with the Civil War siege. Unfortunately, the only finds were two prehistoric flints (which might be residual), so no firm date for the digging of the ditch can be established.

Table 23: Trench B1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF101	Ditch	residual flints	unphased
BF102	Ditch	Fabrics 20, 40 and 45, clay pipe, peg-tile, residual Roman brick and tile	post-medieval
BF103	Post-hole	Fabric 40 (PMRE), peg-tile	post-medieval
BF104	Stake hole or root	no finds	post-medieval
BF105	Post-hole	Fabric 21a, peg-tile	post-medieval
BF106	Pit	Fabrics 21a, 40 and 45c, residual Roman grey ware, peg-tile, slate	post-medieval
BF107	Pit	Fabric 21a	post-medieval
BF108	Post-hole	indeterminate tile	post-medieval
BF109	Pit	residual Roman sherd	post-medieval

BF110	Pit	peg-tile	post-medieval
BL101	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
BL102	Mixed deposit	Fabrics 45d and 45e, Roman brick, peg-tile	-
BL103	Build-up	Roman brick and tile, peg-tile	-

6.2.2 Trench B2: summary (Figs 2, 5, 20)

This trench contained two Roman ditches (BF202-BF203), one Roman pit (BF206), one post-medieval pit (BF201), one post-medieval ditch (BF204), one undated pit (BF205), and one undated pit/post-hole (BF207), and a dump of demolition material (group number BF208).

Table 24: Trench B2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF201	Pit	peg-tile, Fabric 22, residual Roman pot and tile	post-medieval
BF202	Ditch	intrusive post-medieval or modern brick, Roman brick and tile	Roman, early/mid 3rd century AD or later
BF203	Ditch	Roman grey wares	Roman
BF204	Gully	peg-tile	post-medieval
BF205	Pit	no finds	unphased
BF206	Pit	Roman grey wares	Roman
BF207	Pit/post-hole	no finds	-
BF208	Dumped demolition	no finds	-
BL201	Turf	no finds	modern
BF202	Mixed dump	Roman grey wares and colour-coats	modern
BL203	Deposit	no finds	modern
BL204	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
BL205	Demolition spread	peg-tile	post-medieval
BL206	Dump deposit	no finds	post-medieval
BL206/ BL209	Dump deposit	Roman grey wares	post-medieval
BL207	Demolition	architectural fragments	post-medieval
BL208	Demolition	peg-tile, slate, Roman brick and tile, quern, Roman grey wares and colour-coat	post-medieval
BL209	Deposit	no finds	
BL210	Deposit	Fabric 40 (PMRE), Roman grey wares, peg-tile, septaria	post-medieval
BL211	Debris	peg-tile, Roman grey ware and brick	post-medieval

6.2.3 Trench B3: summary (Figs 2, 5)

The archaeological features in this trench were principally post-medieval and modern post-holes (BF306, BF309-BF311, BF326, BF330-BF332, BF334, BF338, BF340?) and pits (BF304-BF305, BF307, BF312-BF315, BF317-BF318, BF320, BF322, BF325, BF328, BF329, BF336-BF337, BF339, BF341, BF342). There were also a number of root disturbances or animal holes (BF302, BF308, BF321), a modern dog burial (BF303), and an undated robber-trench (BF301).

A geophysical survey of this area by David and Aline Black (Black 2002, fig 4) showed a large curved anomaly in the grassy areas intercepted by this trench. Given the proximity of this trench to St John's Abbey gatehouse, where action took place during the Civil War siege, it is fair to ask whether this geophysical anomaly is associated with the Civil War. Scrutiny of the Trench B3 plan (Fig 5) shows that, rather than one large ditch-like feature, there are many small features here. As far as can be judged, these are two rows of post-holes aligned along the axis of the trench. This arrangement suggests a structure of some kind in this position.

The finds from this trench are a mixture of post-medieval and modern, and too many of the features are modern in date (ie 19th or 20th century) to allow a Civil War siege date of 1648 for the wooden structure (whatever it was) to be realistic. The 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey¹ shows a building parallel to and west of the position of Trench B3, which is located in what was an open area to the east. It is possible that the post-holes in Trench B3 represent a light structure built against the building which existed in 1893. A map of 1949 shows gardens and paths in this position², so the structure in question had been demolished by that time.

In summary, it seems that the geophysical anomaly has been caused by the large number of soil-filled post-medieval and modern pits and post-holes which mark the position of a timber structure of post-medieval origin.

Table 25: Trench B3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF301	Robber-trench	no finds	unphased
BF302	Root disturbance	peg-tile	modern
BF303	Dog burial	peg-tile, slate, Roman brick and tile	post-medieval
BF304	Pit	slate, peg-tile, Fabric 45m, Roman grey wares	modern
BF305	Pit	(slate)	post-medieval
BF306	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval
BF307	Pit	peg-tile, post-medieval brick, Roman tile and brick, Roman grey wares	post-medieval
BF308	Root or animal disturbance	no finds	post-medieval
BF309	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval
BF310	Post-hole	Tudor brick, post-medieval brick, prehistoric pot, Roman brick and tile	post-medieval
BF311	Post-hole	Fabric 51a, peg-tile	modern
BF312	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF313	Pit	slate, ?peg-tile, modern wood, Roman tile and colour-coat	modern
BF314	Pit	peg-tile, slate	post-medieval
BF315	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF316	Demolition layer	no finds	post-medieval
BF317	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF318	Pit	very modern glass, briquetage, peg-tile, Roman grey ware	modern
BF319	Cut	Roman colour-coat	post-medieval
BF320	Pit	Roman colour-coat	post-medieval
BF321	Stake hole or animal/root hole	no finds	post-medieval
BF322	Pit	-	post-medieval
BF323	Part of BF315	slate, modern mortar, peg-tile, post-medieval brick, Roman tile?	post-medieval
BF324	Demolition layer	Fabric 45m, peg-tile, post-medieval glass	modern
BF325	Pit	Anglo-Saxon sherd, post-medieval brick, slate, peg-tile, Roman pot	post-medieval
BF326	Post-hole	clay pipe, peg-tile	post-medieval

1 1893 1:2500
2 Colchester Garrison Sheet No 1: scale 1/2500 (unpublished)

BF327	Post-hole	Fabrics 10 and 45c, peg-tile, slate, septaria	post-medieval
BF328	Pit	-	post-medieval
BF329	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF330	Post-hole	Fabric 21a, peg-tile, slag, slate, Roman pottery and tile	post-medieval
BF331	Post-hole	peg-tile	post-medieval
BF332	Post-hole	-	post-medieval
BF333	Pit	Roman brick	post-medieval
BF334	Post-hole	slate, peg-tile	post-medieval
BF335	Post-hole	slate, peg-tile	post-medieval
BF336	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF337	Pit	Fabric 48d	modern
BF338	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval
BF339	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF340	Post-hole?	clay pipe, Roman tile	post-medieval
BF341	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BF342	Pit	no finds	post-medieval
BL301	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
BL302	Dump	no finds	modern
BL303	Dump	no finds	modern
BL304	Dump	Fabric 48d, coal, coke	modern
BL305	Dump	no finds	post-medieval
BL306	Disturbed natural	no finds	-
BL307	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
BL308	Rubble dump	no finds	unphased
BL309	Shelly deposit	no finds	unphased
BL310	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
BL311	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
BL312	Lower fill of BF301	no finds	Roman

6.2.4 Trench B4: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained an electricity cable (BF401) and a brick wall (BF402).

Table 26: Trench B4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF401	Electricity cable	no finds	modern
BF402	Brick wall	no finds	modern
BL401	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
BL402	Rubble deposit	(brick, tile)	modern
BL403	Deposit	(coal)	post-medieval
BL404	Deposit	-	post-medieval
BL405	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval

6.2.5 Trench B5: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained three modern foundations (BF501-BF503).

Table 27: Trench B5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF501	Brick/concrete foundation	no finds	modern
BF502	Brick wall	no finds	modern
BF503	Brick/concrete foundation	no finds	modern
BL501	Tarmac	no finds	modern
BL502	Rubble	no finds	modern
BL503	Dump	(modern pot, coal)	modern

6.2.6 Trench B6: summary (Figs 2, 5, 21)

This trench contained a Roman pit BF605/BF613, and modern features BF601 (foundation), BF602 (drain), BF604 and BF606 (ditches), and BF612 (cable-trench). Post-medieval features consisted of BF603 (ditch), BF608/BF611 (pits), and BF613-BF614 (pit). Undated features were BF607, BF609, BF615 and BF610.

There is a good group of Roman pottery from BF605 with a group date of early to mid 2nd century AD. The Roman material from adjacent pits BF603-BF604 included sherds from the same carrot amphora as appears in BF605, so some cross-cutting of features is evident here. It is also noteworthy that apart from the Roman brick and tile from this trench, there is also a piece of septaria and a *tessera*. Roman building debris from Trench B6 weighs 1.62kg; not a substantial group, but perhaps indicative of the proximity to the Roman town or extra-mural buildings in the area.

Table 28: Trench B6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
BF601	Concrete foundation	no finds	modern
BF602	Drain	no finds	modern
BF603	Ditch	peg-tile, Roman grey wares	post-medieval
BF604	Ditch	Roman grey wares, carrot amphora, Fabric 21?	post-medieval
BF605	Pit	Roman grey wares, carrot amphora, Roman brick and tile, <i>tessera</i> , samian	Roman: early to mid 2nd century AD
BF606	Ditch	Fabric 13, clay pipe, slate, peg-tile	post-medieval
BF607	Natural feature?	no finds	-
BF608	Pit	Fabric 21, Roman amphora	post-medieval
BF609	Natural feature	no finds	-
BF610	Ditch	no finds	post-medieval/modern
BF611	Pit	Fabric 21a, peg-tile, Roman brick, Roman grey wares	post-medieval
BF612	Cable-trench	no finds	modern
BF613	Pit	residual Roman grey wares	post-medieval
BF614	Pit	peg-tile	post-medieval
BF615	Natural feature	no finds	-
BL601	Tarmac	no finds	modern
BL602	Rubble	no finds	modern
BL603	Dump	(slate, coal)	post-medieval
BL604	Deposit	Fabric 51a, peg-tile	post-medieval

6.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area B

- 6.3.1** In total, 114 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were post-medieval or modern features (55 = 48% of all contexts: see Table 29), followed by topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (38 = 33%). There were small numbers of natural features (6%), modern footings (4%), and unphased contexts (3%).
- 6.3.2** With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, there were two Roman pits (Trenches B2 and B6) and two Roman ditches (in Trench B2). Together, these constituted 4% of all archaeological contexts.
- 6.3.3** The Roman contexts in Trench B6 produced a large group of Roman material, totalling 102 pieces of pottery, brick and tile (2.97kg).
- 6.3.4** In addition to this, a relatively large volume of Roman pottery and tile or brick was found in residual contexts in Area B: a total of 147 pieces at 6.8kg.
- 6.3.5** One sherd of hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery (Fabric 97) dating probably to the 8th or 9th century was recovered from a residual context in Trench B3.
- 6.3.6** Early medieval pottery was restricted to single, residual sherds of Fabrics 10 (St Neots ware), 13 (early medieval ware), 20 (medieval coarse ware), and 22 (Heddingham ware).

- 6.3.7** There was a large residual group of Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a) from BF106 and BF107/BF109, totalling in 5kg in weight. While there were no associated medieval features, this is a clear indication of late medieval activity in the near vicinity.
- 6.3.8** The principal point of interest with regard to the post-medieval features is how they relate to the post-Dissolution history of the St John's Abbey area. A large ditch (Trench B1) west of Abbey House was undated, and there is therefore no evidence to support the suggestion that it was a Civil War siege earthwork. Similarly, a series of post-holes and pits (Trench B3) appear to represent an unknown structure of the post-medieval period, and are too late in date for a Civil War connection to be tenable. Apart from the above, the post-medieval and later material from this area was not significant.

Table 29: Area B – summary of all features.

- (1) number of each context type
(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts
(3) that number as a percentage of cuts only (ie discounting layers).

	natural features	undated features	services	footings	post- medieval and modern features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	prehistoric and Roman features	topsoils, subsoils, other layers
(1) number	7	3	2	5	55	0	4	38
(2) as % of all contexts	6	3	2	4	48	0	4	33
(3) as % of all cuts	9	4	3	7	72	0	5	

6.4 Distribution of archaeological remains in Area B

- 6.4.1** Significant archaeological remains were found in two of the six trenches; Roman pits in Trenches B2 and B6 and Roman ditches in Trench B2.
- 6.4.2** Except for the above, archaeological features were post-medieval and modern, and are not considered to be significant.
- 6.4.3** There was residual Roman material in Trenches B1-B3 and B6.

6.5 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits in Area B

- 6.5.1** The archaeological deposits in Area B are very heavily disturbed. Whereas Area A proved to be heavily disturbed by Army buildings, even greater intrusion has been caused in Area B by post-medieval and modern pit- and trench-digging. Here, 48% of all contexts were post-medieval or later cuts.
- 6.5.2** Some damage to deposits was also caused by modern footings and service-trenches which were found in three out of six and two out of six trenches respectively.
- 6.5.3** Unlike Area A, it is not possible to directly relate depth of overlying soil to the preservation of archaeological features. For instance, in Trenches B2 and B6, archaeological features survived under a protective blanket of post-medieval or modern soils up to 1m deep, but in Trench B3, post-medieval dumped soils were found at the same depth without any surviving Roman features. The conclusion must be either that the presence of significant archaeological remains is variable across Area B or that significant features survive in some parts of Area B but not in others.
- 6.5.4** An initial target of the evaluation was to intercept the line of the abbey precinct wall in its northern and eastern sides. Unfortunately, this could not be achieved due to the large number of services and other obstructions in and around the buildings of Flagstaff House.

6.6 Area B chronological discussion

6.6.1 Prehistory to the Late Iron Age

The two struck flints from Trench B1 point to a low level of prehistoric activity here.

6.6.2 The later Iron Age and the *oppidum*

Most of the modern Garrison lies within the area of the defended *oppidum* of Camulodunum. Unlike Areas C, E and F, there were no *oppidum*-related features in Area B, so detailed comment is inappropriate here.

6.6.3 The Roman period

6.6.3.1 In view of the discovery of two Roman burials in Area A, and the existence of Roman cemeteries in the vicinity (Crummy 1993), the absence of Roman burials in Area B is of note. Though some Roman burials are reported from the Garrison area (see section 4.4 above), their absence from the Area B evaluation trenches indicates that Roman burials were not continuous across the whole of the south side of Colchester. Instead, the quantity of Roman pottery, brick and tile (also *tessera* and *septaria*) from Area B suggests that other forms of Roman extra-mural activity occurred in the vicinity.

6.6.3.2 Although few in number, the Roman ditches and pits in Trenches B2 and B6 appear to support this suggestion.

6.6.4 The Anglo-Saxon period

There was a single sherd of hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery from a residual context in Trench B3. Anglo-Saxon weapons and jewellery (almost certainly derived from burials) are reported from Mersea Road (Crummy 1981, 14-17; Fig 2). The sherd from Trench B3 provides some evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in this area, but it is difficult to know whether it is derived from a burial or from a domestic context.

6.6.5 Early medieval

A few sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from residual contexts in Area A. With such small quantities, no comment is appropriate here.

6.6.6 Late medieval

A large group of Colchester-type ware came from Trench B1. This trench is located to the east of Abbey House. The pottery group includes cisterns and cooking pots (a normal domestic assemblage), and must have been part of a pre-Dissolution dump from St John's Abbey.

6.6.7 Post-medieval and modern

The post-medieval and modern features and finds formed a major component of the archaeological record. The principal point of interest is how they relate to the post-Dissolution history of the St John's Abbey area. A large ditch (Trench B1) west of Abbey House was undated, and the hypothesis that it was a Civil War siege earthwork cannot be proved. Similarly, post-holes and pits (Trench B3) post-date the Civil War, and appear to represent an unknown structure. Apart from the above, the post-medieval and later material from this area was not significant.

7 Trial-trenching in Area D

7.1 Introduction (Figs 6-7)

Three trenches were machine-cut in this 4.9 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches D1-D3). Table 30 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 7.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area D in section 7.3.

Table 30: Area D – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
D1	WNW: 599697.76; 223386.76	50	32.12-32.52	31.63-31.88
	ESE: 599652.31; 223407.92			
D2	WNW: 599703.86; 223527.62	50	31.81-32.93	30.86-31.99
	ESE: 599657.42; 223546.26			
D3	WNW: 599654.40; 223406.97	45.2	33.65-33.90	32.97-33.39
	ESE: 599695.73; 223387.67			

7.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 6-7)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area D comprised an approximately 0.30m-thick topsoil sealing a mid brown clay silt subsoil (0.35m thick). This lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

7.2.1 Trench D1: summary (Figs 6, 7)

This trench contained no archaeological features.

Table 31: Trench D1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
DL101	Topsoil	no finds	modern
DL102	Subsoil	no finds	-
DL103	Natural	no finds	-

7.2.2 Trench D2: summary (Figs 6, 7)

This trench contained four modern pits (DF201-DF203, DF205), one modern post-hole (DF206), and a natural feature (DF204).

Table 32: Trench D2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
DF201	Pit	no finds	modern
DF202	Pit	slate	modern
DF203	Pit	Fabrics 48d and 45m, Roman brick	modern
DF204	Natural feature	no finds	modern
DF205	Shallow pit	no finds	modern
DF206	Post-hole	no finds	modern
DL201	Topsoil	no finds	modern
DL202	Subsoil	no finds	-
DL203	Natural	no finds	-

7.2.3 Trench D3: summary (Figs 6, 7)

This trench contained four ditches, either modern (DF301, DF303) or undated (DF302, DF304).

Table 33: Trench D3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
DF301	Ditch	no finds	modern
DF302	Ditch	no finds	?modern
DF303	Ditch	Fabrics 40 and 48d, clay pipe, slate	modern
DF304	Ditch	no finds	unphased
DL301	Topsoil and grass	no finds	modern
DL302	Subsoil	tile	post-medieval?
DL303	Natural	no finds	-
DL304	Subsoil	no finds	-

7.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area D

7.3.1 In total, nineteen archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. The overwhelming majority of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (10 = 53% of all contexts: see Table 34). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern pits and ditches (7 = 37%). There was one natural feature (5%), and one unphased context (5%).

7.3.2 In view of the post-medieval and modern date of these features and the lack of pre-modern material or features, no detailed comment is justified here. This negative evidence suggests that evidence for prehistoric or Roman settlement is absent in Area D.

Table 34: Area D – summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	10	0	0	7	1	1
(2) as % of all contexts	53	0	0	37	5	5

8 Trial-trenching in Area GJ (Goojerat Barracks)

8.1 Introduction (Figs 13-14)

Eight trenches were machine-cut in this 3.6 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches GJ1-GJ8). Table 35 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 8.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area GJ in section 8.3.

Table 35: Area GJ – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
GJ1	N: 598905.18; 223754.54	10	33.69-33.92	32.31
	S: 598905.56; 223745.27			
GJ2	WSW: 598908.28; 223734.25	25	33.52-33.67	32.85
	ENE: 598930.07; 223744.35			
GJ3	N: 599002.9; 223753.04	20	32.39-32.98	31.51
	S: 599001.36; 223734.3			
GJ4	W: 599040.49; 223739.55	15	32.48-32.55	30.40
	E: 599053.96; 223740.78			
GJ5	NNW: 599070.8; 223743.86	15	32.30-32.42	30.69
	SSE: 599077.66; 223731.8			
GJ6	N: 599004.44; 223697.61	30	32.42-32.45	30.20-30.69
	S: 599006.83; 223663.88			
GJ7	N: 598880.09; 223680.3	10	32.68-32.79	32.03
	S: 598881.07; 223670.31			
GJ8	N: 598881.12; 223656.42	60	32.48-33.55	30.59-32.70
	S: 598881.9; 223596.79			

8.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 13-14)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area GJ comprised an approximately 0.20m-thick topsoil sealing a mid brown clay silt subsoil which was generally 0.50m thick. This lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

8.2.1 Trench GJ1: summary (Figs 13-14)

Excavation in this trench was hampered by the presence of modern concrete blocks. There were no archaeological features in this trench.

Table 36: Trench GJ1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJL101	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL102	Topsoil	no finds	modern
GJL103	Dump	no finds	modern

8.2.2 Trench GJ2: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained modern foundations (GJF201-GJF202).

Table 37: Trench GJ2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF201	Building remains	no finds	modern
GJF202	Stanchion	no finds	modern
GJL201	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL202	Topsoil	no finds	modern

8.2.3 Trench GJ3: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained modern building remains (GJF301, GJF303) and an undated linear feature (GJF302).

Table 38: Trench GJ3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF301	Stanchion	no finds	modern
GJF302	Linear feature	no finds	modern
GJF303	Building remains	no finds	modern
GJL301	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
GJL302	Subsoil	no finds	modern

8.2.4 Trench GJ4: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained a modern foundation (GJF401) and one natural feature (GJF402).

Table 39: Trench GJ4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF401	Building footing	no finds	modern
GJF402	Natural feature	no finds	modern
GJL401	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL402	Topsoil	no finds	modern
GJL403	Make-up layer	no finds	
GJL404	Subsoil	no finds	

8.2.5 Trench GJ5: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained one modern drain (GJF501).

Table 40: Trench GJ5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF501	Drain	no finds	modern
GJL501	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL502	Topsoil	no finds	modern
GJL503	Dump	no finds	modern

8.2.6 Trench GJ6: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained a modern building stanchion (GJF601).

Table 41: Trench GJ6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF601	Concrete stanchion	no finds	modern
GJL601	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL602	Topsoil	no finds	modern
GJL603	Make-up	no finds	modern
GJL604	Subsoil	no finds	modern

8.2.7 Trench GJ7: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained a modern foundation (GJF701), a service-pipe (GJF702), and a modern pit (GJF703).

Table 42: Trench GJ7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF701	Foundation	no finds	modern
GJF702	Service-pipe	no finds	modern
GJF703	Pit	post-medieval or modern brick, modern bottle, residual Roman box tile	modern
GJL701	Turf	no finds	modern
GJL702	Topsoil	no finds	modern

8.2.8 Trench GJ8: summary (Figs 13-14)

This trench contained modern building remains (GJF802-GJF804), and a modern rubbish-pit (GJF805) and service-pipe (GJF801).

Table 43: Trench GJ8 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
GJF801	Service-pipe	no finds	modern
GJF802	Building stanchion	no finds	modern
GJF803	Wall	no finds	modern
GJF804	Building stanchion	no finds	modern
GJF805	Rubbish-pit	no finds	modern
GJF801	Turf	no finds	modern
GJF802	Topsoil	no finds	modern
GJF803	Make-up	no finds	modern
GJF804	Subsoil	no finds	-

8.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area GJ

8.3.1 In total, 40 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (23 = 58% of all contexts: see Table 44). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern pits and ditches (16 = 40%), and there was one natural feature (2%).

8.3.2 The post-medieval contexts were dominated by modern footings and service-trenches, the remains of recently demolished Army structures.

8.3.3 Full excavation was only practicable in one case, ie the modern ditch GJF703.

- 8.3.4** There were no pre-modern features and only a single residual Roman find (a fragment of box tile from Trench GJ7).
- 8.3.5** In view of the modern date of all the contexts and the lack of significant finds, no detailed comment is justified here.
- 8.3.6** A shallow dry valley aligned east-west runs through Area GJ and Abbey Field (indicated by the route of the present Circular Road South). Deposits in the valley bottom were responsible for variations in the depth of the sequences revealed in the Area GJ trial-trenches. In Trenches GJ5-GJ8 the depths were approximately 2m to the surface of the gravel, compared with Trenches GJ1-GJ4, where the depths varied from approximately 0.8-1.6m. This variation was primarily due to modern infilling and was represented by greater depths of made ground deposits. However, there was a slight increase in the depth of the earlier deposit, probably representing an accumulation of medieval and post-medieval ploughsoil in the lower elevations.

Table 44: Area GJ – summary of all features.

- (1) number of each context type
(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	23	0	0	16	0	1
(2) as % of all contexts	58	0	0	40	0	2

9 Trial-trenching in Area H (Le Cateau Barracks)

9.1 Introduction (Figs 8, 9)

Three trenches were machine-cut in this 2.5 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches H1-H3). Table 45 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 9.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area H in section 9.3.

Table 45: Area H – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
H1	SSW: 599254.12; 224621.37 NNE: 599258.46; 224630.25	10	34.72-32.85	-
H2	SW: 599324.9; 224598.27 NE: 599330.35; 224606.71	10	34.20-34.28	33.64-33.80
H3	SW: 599298.04; 224563.39 NE: 599303.73; 224571.39	10	34.59-34.70	33.59-34.59

9.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 8, 9)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area H comprised an approximately 0.15m-thick topsoil sealing a 0.15m-thick layer of building debris. This sealed a mid brown sand silt subsoil (0.175m thick). This lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

9.2.1 Trench H1: summary (Figs 8, 9)

Archaeological remains comprised one brick foundation (HF101) and one service-trench (HF102).

Table 46: Trench H1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
HF101	Brick foundation	no finds	mid 19th century
HF102	Service-trench	no finds	modern
HL101	Topsoil	no finds	modern
HL102	Make-up	no finds	modern
HL103	Topsoil	no finds	modern
HL104	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

9.2.2 Trench H2: summary (Figs 8, 9)

There were no archaeological features in this trench.

Table 47: Trench H2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
HL201	Make-up	no finds	modern
HL202	Topsoil	no finds	modern
HL203	Reworked subsoil	no finds	modern

9.2.3 Trench H3: summary (Figs 8, 9)

This trench revealed one large post-medieval or modern pit (HF301).

Table 48: Trench H3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
HF301	Pit	no finds	modern
HL301	Make-up	no finds	modern
HL302	Topsoil	no finds	modern
HL303	Make-up	Fabric 48d, clay pipe	modern
HL304	Topsoil?	no finds	post-medieval/modern

9.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area H

9.3.1 In total, eighteen archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (10 = 56% of all contexts: see Table 49). The remainder of the contexts were post-medieval or modern features (8 = 44%).

9.3.2 There were no pre-modern archaeological features or finds. In view of this, no detailed comment is justified here.

9.3.3 Deposits here were surprisingly shallow, given the sharp drop down to Butt Road immediately to the west.

Table 49: Area H – summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post-medieval and modern features
(1) number	10	0	0	8
(2) as % of all contexts	56			44

10 Trial-trenching in Area J

10.1 Introduction (Figs 1, 12, 21-24)

Twenty trenches were machine-cut in this 11.1 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches J1-J20). Table 50 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 10.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area J in sections 10.3-10.6.

Table 50: Area J – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
J1	SW: 599259.07; 224562.91	40.3	34.87-35.06	33.66-34.37
	NE: 599239.88; 224527.14			
J2	W: 599167.23; 224464.09	40.6	35.26-35.29	34.49
	E: 599207.31; 224472.27			
J3	NW: 599134.83; 224435.23	35.5	35.46-35.60	34.44-34.64
	SE: 599163.83; 224414.65			
J4	WSW: 599336.42; 224464.85	40.5	34.35-34.54	32.58-32.80
	ENE: 599373.24; 224480.43			
J5	NW: 599395.34; 224486.46	46.8	34.34-34.42	32.68-33.19
	SE: 599430.37; 224455.40			
J6	SW: 599424.69; 224464.25	100.6	35.34-35.80	34.69-34.80
	NE: 599508.30; 224520.66			
J7	SW: 599358.23; 224402.79	25.3	34.42-34.49	32.98-33.60
	NE: 599377.82; 224418.80			
J8	WNW: 599315.80; 224406.47	39.8	34.46-34.86	33.10-33.41
	ESE: 599355.39; 224400.15			
J9	SW: 599200.89; 224407.75	20.3	35.52	34.39
	NE: 599213.43; 224423.92			
J10	SW: 599199.49; 224298.14	57.6	35.11	34.34-34.53
	NE: 599236.91; 224345.33			
J11	SW: 599223.25; 224280.24	92.8	35.10-35.22	34.18-34.38
	NE: 599283.65; 224332.64			
J12	NW: 599185.34; 224285.25	24.2	35.04-35.29	34.32-34.45
	SE: 600178.90; 224323.70			
J13	NW: 599165.48; 224250.73	23.2	34.73-34.97	34.32-34.36
	SE: 599178.60; 224235.40			
J14	SSW: 599123.97; 224203.03	9.3	35.38-35.48	34.27
	NNE: 599131.71; 224197.11			
J15	NW: 599153.23; 224210.56	9.3	35.37-35.42	34.23-34.29
	SE: 599158.61; 224218.67			
J16	SW: 599107.99; 224169.67	3.9	35.25	34.70
	NE: 599111.18; 224172.15			
J17	NNW: 599063.79; 224194.58	19.4	35.60-35.93	34.17
	SSE: 599077.23; 224179.39			
J18	NW: 599014.55; 224256.72	14.6	35.08	34.40-34.60
	SE: 599027.16; 224247.96			
J19	NW: 598986.28; 224278.48	12.9	35.13-35.26	34.53
	SE: 598997.09; 224270.35			
J20	SW: 599064.56; 224425.26	9.5	35.59-35.63	-
	NE: 599070.56; 224433.26			

10.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 8, 10-12, 21-24)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area J comprised an approximately 0.15-0.20m-thick topsoil, sealing a mid brown sand silt subsoil of variable thickness (0.20-0.40m). In some cases, the topsoil was sealed by a layer of building debris or make-up (0.15-0.20m thick). The lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It

overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

10.2.1 Trench J1: summary (Figs 8, 11, 21, 22)

- 10.2.1.1** This trench was very heavily disturbed by modern footings (JF101), despite which two Roman burials were recovered. These were an inhumation burial (JF107) and a cremation burial in a pot (JF108); the inhumation burial extended beyond the trench limits, so only the skull was exposed (report on burials, below in section 14.5.2). There were also two possible Roman burials in this trench.
- 10.2.1.2** Both Roman burials were cut by pit JF102 which contained prehistoric pot and flint, Roman sherds and also iron hobnails. There was also intrusive post-medieval material from this pit. If the hobnails are unconnected with the identified inhumation burial, then a third truncated burial may be represented by these hobnails. The function of pit JF102 is unclear, but it could be the result of gravel-extraction. JF106 was perhaps a pyre-related feature associated with the cremation burial.
- 10.2.1.3** The cremation (JF108) was found upright in pit JF106, and is therefore *in situ*. The cremation contents were undisturbed, and there were nails associated with it, possibly from a wooden lid.
- 10.2.1.4** There may be further evidence for yet another burial in this trench. An almost complete Roman white-ware flagon was found in a residual context in the centre of the trench. Pots are very rarely found in such condition outside Roman burials, so it is probable that this pot has been displaced from a Roman inhumation burial.
- 10.2.1.5** There was also a post-medieval or modern ditch (JF103) in this trench, and two natural features (JF104-JF105).

Table 51: Trench J1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF101	Brick footings	clay pipe, Roman grey ware and tile, Fabrics 21 and 20, peg-tile	Victorian?
JF102	Pit/ditch	prehistoric pottery, Roman, pottery tile and brick, Fabric 20, coke, modern glass, peg-tile, Fe hobnails	Roman
JF103	Ditch	prehistoric sherd, Roman pottery and tile, peg-tile	post-medieval or later
JF104	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF105	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF106	Pit associated with cremation JF108?	no finds	Roman
JF107	Inhumation burial	no finds	Roman
JF108	Cut with cremation	prehistoric sherds, Roman pottery, Fe nails	Roman
JL101	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
JL102	Demolition rubble	no finds	modern
JL103	Redeposited layer	clay pipe, modern glass, peg-tile, Roman grey ware, whiteware and brick, Fabrics 45f, 45m and 48d	modern
JL104	Asphalt	no finds	modern
JL105	Foundation for JL104	no finds	modern

10.2.2 Trench J2: summary (Figs 8, 11)

Excavation was not practicable in this trench because of the presence of substantial modern foundations. No features of interest were noted between the foundations.

Table 52: Trench J2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF201	Modern foundations	no finds	modern
JL201	Building debris	no finds	modern
JL202	Levelling layer	no finds	modern
JL203	Redeposited natural	no finds	-

10.2.3 Trench J3: summary (Figs 8, 11)

This trench contained one modern pit (JF301), one modern ditch (JF303), and one natural feature (JF302).

Table 53: Trench J3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF301	Pit	Roman grey ware, Fabric 40 (PMRE), peg-tile, clay pipe, post-medieval glass	modern
JF302	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF303	Ditch	no finds	modern
JL301	Turf	no finds	modern
JL302	Gravel surface	no finds	modern
JL303	Subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.4 Trench J4: summary (Figs 8, 11)

This trench contained one large post-medieval or modern gravel-pit (JF401).

Table 54: Trench J4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF401	Gravel-pit	no finds	post-medieval or modern
JL401	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL402	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL403	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL404	Topsoil?	no finds	modern
JL405	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL406	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL407	Reworked subsoil?	no finds	modern

10.2.5 Trench J5: summary (Figs 8, 11)

This trench contained two pits (JF501, JF505) and three post-holes (JF502-JF504), probably all post-medieval.

Table 55: Trench J5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF501	Pit	no finds	modern
JF502	Post-hole	no finds	unphased
JF503	Post-hole	peg-tile	post-medieval
JF504	Post-hole	peg-tile, Fabric 40 (PMRE)	post-medieval
JF505	Pit	no finds	unphased
JL501	Turf	no finds	modern
JL502	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL503	Redeposited sand	no finds	modern
JL504	Buried topsoil	no finds	post-medieval
JL505	Subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.6 Trench J6: summary (Figs 8, 11, 22-3)

10.2.6.1 This trench contained three robber-trenches (JF605-JF606, JF608), seven natural features (JF602-JF604, JF607, JF610, JF614-JF615), a modern pit (JF601), and two

undated post-holes (JF611-JF612). There were two undated but possibly Roman features: pit (JF609) and pit (JF616), cut by two of the robber-trenches.

- 10.2.6.2** The robber-trenches mark the position of wall foundations which were subsequently used as stone quarries. The fills of the trenches contain Roman brick, limestone and greensand fragments with mortar adhering, an indication of the composition of the foundations which once stood here. The materials in the foundations are typically Roman, and there can be little doubt that the robbed walls were originally part of a Roman structure.
- 10.2.6.3** A robber-trench excavated at the all-weather sports pitch site in 2000 (CAT Report 138) is parallel to and south of the Trench J6 footings. There can be no reasonable doubt that this robbed wall footing is the same structure as the Trench J6 building.
- 10.2.6.4** The date at which the foundations were robbed is indicated by fragments of Colchester-type ware of the 15th or 16th century. This date is a little later than one would generally expect for stone robbing in the town centre³, but this site is a little way from the town centre, and pressure to seek reusable building material here would presumably not be so great.
- 10.2.6.5** The question of the purpose or function of the robbed structure is more difficult. Stone buildings connected with cemeteries are known at several places in Colchester, including the Roman church adjacent to the Butt Road cemetery (Crummy *et al* 1993, 4-163). In some instances, Roman cemetery areas are also walled (Crummy & Crossan 1993), such as the smaller walled cemetery in Lexden (Hull 1958, 254). The noticeable lack of artefacts rules against a domestic interpretation for this structure.

Table 56: Trench J6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF601	Pit	no finds	modern
JF602	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF603	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF604	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF605	Robber-trench	Roman brick, and greensand with mortar adhering	15th or 16th century
JF606	Robber-trench	Fabric 21a or 40 (PMRE)	15th or 16th century
JF607	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF608	Robber-trench	no finds	15th or 16th century
JF609	Pit	no finds	?Roman
JF610	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF611	Post-hole	no finds	unphased
JF612	Post-hole	peg-tile, Roman tile	unphased
JF613	Linear feature	no finds	unphased
JF614	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF615	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF616	Pit	no finds	?Roman
JL601	Turf	no finds	modern
JL601	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL602	Building debris	no finds	modern
JL603	Disturbed subsoil	Roman brick, clay pipe	-

10.2.7 Trench J7: summary (Figs 8, 11)

This trench contained one large gravel-pit (JF701) and one service-trench (JF702).

Table 57: Trench J7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF701	Pit	no finds	modern
JF702	Service-trench	no finds	modern
JL701	Turf	no finds	modern
JL702	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL703	Hoggin	no finds	modern

³ most stone robbing is 11th-13th century in date, sometimes a little later (Crummy 1992, 34)

10.2.8 Trench J8: summary (Figs 8, 11, 24)

This trench contained two modern pits (JF801, JF806), four modern ditches/trenches (JF802, JF804-JF805, JF807), and one Roman ditch (JF803).

Table 58: Trench J8 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF801	Pit	Fabric 48d	modern
JF802	Ditch	no finds	modern
JF803	Ditch	flint, Roman grey ware	Roman
JF804	Ditch	clay pipe	modern
JF805	Ditch	peg-tile	modern
JF806	Pit	no finds	modern
JF807	Trench	no finds	modern
JL801	Turf	clay pipe	modern
JL802	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL803	Subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.9 Trench J9: summary (Figs 8, 11)

Excavation was not practicable in part of this trench because of the presence of a concrete bunker (JF901). Interestingly, the iron air-vent pipes of the bunker were found intact at ground-level. Removal of one of these revealed the chamber below. No archaeological features were exposed in the remainder of the trench.

Table 59: Trench J9 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF901	Concrete bunker	no finds	modern
JL901	Turf	no finds	modern
JL902	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL903	Sand	no finds	modern
JL904	Subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.10 Trench J10: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench was dominated by modern post-holes and concrete pads which appear to be the remains of recent fence lines within the paddocks in Area J (JF1002-JF1004, JF1006, JF1009-JF1010, JF1013, JF1016, JF1018-JF1022, JF1024-JF1025, and group number JF1030). There were also modern drains or pipes (JF1028-JF1029), modern pits (JF1008, JF1011, JF1014-JF1015, JF1023), and natural features (JF1005, JF1007, JF1017, JF1026-JF1027).

Table 60: Trench J10 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1001	void number		-
JF1002	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1003	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1004	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1005	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1006	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1007	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1008	Pit	no finds	modern
JF1009	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1010	Pad	peg-tile, Roman tile, post-medieval brick, very modern glass	modern
JF1011	Pit?	no finds	modern
JF1012	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval or later
JF1013	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1014	Pit	no finds	modern

JF1015	Pit	Fabric 48d	modern
JF1016	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1017	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1018	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1019	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1020	Pad	modern glass	modern
JF1021	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1022	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1023	Pit	no finds	modern
JF1024	Pad	no finds	modern
JF1025	Pad	Roman tile?, modern glass, Fabric 48d	modern
JF1026	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1027	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1028	Pipe-trench	no finds	modern
JF1029	Drain	no finds	modern
JF1030	Pads	no finds	modern
JF1031	Post-hole	post-medieval brick or tile	modern
JL1001	Turf	no finds	modern
JL1002	Deposit	no finds	modern
JL1003	Subsoil	no finds	-
JL1004	Rubble layer	no finds	modern

10.2.11 Trench J11: summary (Figs 8, 12)

Most of the features in this trench were small undated stake holes or post-holes. However, due to the number of root holes noted by the excavators, it is possible that some of the stake holes were root holes. There was also a number of natural features (JF1109, JF1116-JF1118) and one post-medieval ditch (JF1119).

Table 61: Trench J11 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1101	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1102	Stake hole	no finds	modern
JF1103	Stake hole/root?	peg-tile, post-medieval or modern glass	modern
JF1104	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1105	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1106	Stake hole	no finds	modern
JF1107	Post-hole/root?	no finds	modern
JF1108	Post-hole?	no finds	modern
JF1109	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1110	Post-/stake hole	no finds	modern
JF1111	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval
JF1112	Post-hole	no finds	post-medieval
JF1113	Post-hole	no finds	modern
JF1114	Root disturbance	no finds	-
JF1115	Post-hole/root disturbance	no finds	?modern
JF1116	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1117	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1118	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1119	Ditch	Roman brick and tile, peg-tile, Fabric 40 (PMRE)	post-medieval
JL1101	Turf	no finds	modern
JL1102	Cinder deposit	no finds	modern
JL1103	Deposit	no finds	modern
JL1104	Subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.12 Trench J12: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained modern services (JF1201-JF1202), a modern post-hole (JF1204) and a modern ditch (JF1205), and four natural features (JF1203, JF1206-JF1208).

Table 62: Trench J12 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1201	Drain	no finds	modern
JF1202	Metal pipe	no finds	modern
JF1203	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1204	Post-hole?	no finds	modern
JF1205	Ditch	peg-tile	modern
JF1206	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1207	Natural feature	no finds	-
JF1208	Natural feature	no finds	-
JL1201	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1202	Deposit	no finds	modern
JL1203	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
JL1204	Subsoil	no finds	-
JL1205	Deposit	no finds	modern

10.2.13 Trench J13: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained two probably natural features (JF1301-JF1302).

Table 63: Trench J13 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1301	Natural feature	no finds	modern
JF1302	Natural feature	no finds	-
JL1301	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1302	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.14 Trench J14: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained several natural features (group number JF1401).

Table 64: Trench J14 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1401	Natural feature	no finds	-
JL1401	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1402	Gravelled surface	no finds	modern
JL1403	Topsoil	no finds	-
JL1404	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.15 Trench J15: summary (Figs 8, 12)

The archaeological features included a large trench, probably an Army practice-trench (JF1501), a natural feature (JF1502), and a concrete foundation (JF1503).

Table 65: Trench J15 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1501	Trench	Roman tile, post-medieval or modern brick	modern
JF1502	Natural feature	no finds	modern
JF1503	Concrete foundation	no finds	modern
JL1501	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL1502	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1503	Gravelled surface	no finds	modern
JL1504	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1505	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.16 Trench J16: summary (Fig 8)

Excavation was not practicable in this trench because of the presence of live cables.

10.2.17 Trench J17: summary (Figs 8, 12)

Several probably modern features were observed during machining, but were not excavated for safety reasons.

Table 66: Trench J17 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JL1701	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1702	Build-up	no finds	modern
JL1703	Dump	no finds	modern
JL1704	Tarmac surface	no finds	modern
JL1705	Foundation for JL1704	no finds	modern
JL1706	Deposit	no finds	post-medieval
JL1707	Layer	no finds	?Roman

10.2.18 Trench J18: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained a large brick foundation (JF1801), modern services (JF1802-JF1803), and a series of natural features (group number JF1804).

Table 67: Trench J18 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1801	Brick foundation	no finds	modern
JF1802	Drain	no finds	modern
JF1803	Iron pipe in trench	no finds	modern
JF1804	Natural features	no finds	-
JL1801	Turf	no finds	modern
JL1802	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL1803	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1804	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.19 Trench J19: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained modern foundations (JF1901, JF1904), an undated pit (JF1902), and a series of natural features (group number JF1903).

Table 68: Trench J19 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF1901	Brick foundation	no finds	modern
JF1902	Pit	no finds	undated
JF1903	Natural features	no finds	modern
JF1904	Concrete footings	no finds	modern
JL1901	Turf	no finds	modern
JL1902	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL1903	Topsoil	no finds	modern
JL1904	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.2.20 Trench J20: summary (Figs 8, 12)

This trench contained modern footings (JF2001-JF2002). The depth of modern dumping is demonstrated by the presence of a concrete floor JL2003 at 0.08-0.30m below modern ground-level. The old ground-level is represented by the topsoil JL2006 at 0.50m below modern ground-level.

Table 69: Trench J20 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
JF2001	Brick foundation	no finds	modern
JF2002	Brick footings	no finds	modern
JL2001	Turf	no finds	modern

JL2002	Brick rubble	no finds	modern
JL2003	Concrete floor	no finds	modern
JL2004	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL2005	Make-up	no finds	modern
JL2006	Topsoil?	no finds	post-medieval/modern
JL2007	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

10.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area J

10.3.1 In total, 217 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (83 = 38% of all contexts: see Table 70). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern pits and ditches (81 = 37%). There were smaller numbers of natural features (13%), modern footings (4%), service-trenches (2%), and unphased contexts (2.5%).

10.3.2 With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, there was one Roman ditch, one Roman inhumation burial, one Roman cremation burial and ?associated pit, and a large Roman or post-Roman pit. There were also three late medieval robber-trenches.

10.3.3 No Anglo-Saxon material was recovered

Table 70: Area J – summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	footings	services	undated features	natural features
(1) number	83	5	3	81	8	4	5	29
(2) as % of all contexts	38	2.5	1	37	4	2	2.5	13

10.4 Distribution of archaeological remains in Area J

10.4.1 Small amounts of prehistoric material were found in residual contexts in Trenches J1 (pottery) and J8 (flint).

10.4.2 Residual Roman material came from Trenches J1, J3, J6, J8, J10, J11 and J15. However, the material is generally in small quantities except for Trench J6, where 2.2kg of Roman tile was recovered.

10.4.3 The main focus of Roman activity is at the north end of Area J, with two Roman burials in Trench J1 and robbed-out Roman walls in Trench J6.

10.4.4 Three medieval robber-trenches were excavated in Trench J6. These had robbed out the walls of a Roman structure of unknown purpose.

10.5 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits in Area J

10.5.1 The archaeological deposits in Area J are very heavily disturbed.

10.5.2 This extent of this disturbance is shown by the high number of post-medieval and modern cuts (81 = 37% of all contexts). In addition to this, there were modern footings and service-trenches making up a further 6% of all contexts.

10.5.3 Despite this, significant archaeological remains survived in Trenches J1 and J6.

10.6 Area J chronological discussion

10.6.1 Prehistory to the Late Iron Age

One stuck flint and four prehistoric sherds attest to a very low level of prehistoric activity here.

10.6.2 The later Iron Age and the *oppidum*

10.6.2.1 Most of the modern Garrison lies within the area of the defended *oppidum* of Camulodunum. Unlike Areas C, E and F, there were no *oppidum*-related features in Area J, so further comment is inappropriate here.

10.6.3 The Roman period

- 10.6.3.1** The two principal results of the Area J evaluation are the discovery of two burials in Trench J1 and the robbed walls in Trench J6, and two possible burials.
- 10.6.3.2** Two Roman burials were recovered from Trench J1: one inhumation (JF107) and one cremation (JF106/JF108). The inhumation burial lay mainly off site, and so only the skull was present in the evaluation trench. The cremation pot was found upright in pit JF106. There were nails associated with it, possibly from an associated wooden lid.
- 10.6.3.3** The Roman inhumation was cut by Roman pit F1002 which contained iron hobnails, most of which are derived from shoes which had been deposited in an inhumation burial (either burial JF107 here, or another nearby inhumation).
- 10.6.3.4** The cremation pot was in a pit which contained 2nd-century AD material, and the pot itself is of mid to late 2nd-century AD date.
- 10.6.3.5** As well as the two burials above, there may be evidence for a further burial in this trench. An almost complete Roman white-ware flagon was found in a residual context in the centre of the trench. Pots are very rarely found in such condition outside Roman burials, so it is most likely that this pot has been displaced from a Roman inhumation burial or cremation. Given the two other burials from this trench, this is not altogether surprising.
- 10.6.3.6** The presence of two certain burials and two other possible burials attested by the hobnails and the flagon is confirmation of the existence of part of a Roman cemetery which was previously known in this area (see Crummy 1993).
- 10.6.3.7** Trench J6 contained three robber-trenches (JF605-JF606, JF608).
- 10.6.3.8** The robber-trenches mark the position of wall foundations which have later been used as stone quarries. The fills of the trenches contain Roman brick, limestone, and greensand fragments with mortar adhering, an indication of the composition of the foundations which once stood here. The materials in the foundation are typically Roman, and there can be little doubt that the robbed foundations were originally part of a Roman structure.
- 10.6.3.9** The date at which the foundations were robbed out is indicated by fragments of Colchester-type ware of the 15th or 16th century.
- 10.6.3.10** The question of the purpose and function of the structure represented by the robbed walls is more difficult; it could be either a building, or walls associated with the cemetery. The absence of artefacts suggest that this is unlikely to have been a domestic structure, but it is difficult to be certain from the evidence available here. However, the existence of a robbed wall on the adjacent Abbey Field excavation site supports the cemetery wall interpretation.

11 Trial-trenching in Area N (Goojerat Barracks)

11.1 Introduction (Figs 13-15)

Three trenches were machine-cut in this 7.0 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches N1-N2 and N4). Table 71 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 11.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area N in section 11.3.

Table 71: Area N – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
N1	S: 598931.4; 223885.63	10	33.58-33.63	32.71
	N: 598931.02; 223895.63			
N2	S: 599000.46; 223881.63	35.7	32.81-32.86	31.69-31.98
	N: 598999.48; 223917.26			
N3	-	-		
	-			
N4	W: 600178.9; 224323.7	15.2	32.73-33.02	32.20-32.47
	E: 599041.94; 223820.97			

11.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 13-15)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area N comprised a thin topsoil cover (approximately 0.05-0.10m thick) sealing a mid grey-brown stony silt subsoil of variable thickness (0.35-0.40m). This lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features. Where the trenches cut through tarmac, the stratigraphical sequence was 0.40m of tarmac and associated make-up layers lying directly over natural sand.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

11.2.1 Trench N1: summary (Figs 13, 15)

This trench contained no archaeological features.

Table 72: Trench N1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
NL101	Tarmac surface	no finds	modern
NL102	Concrete base for tarmac	no finds	modern
NL103	Brick rubble	no finds	modern
NL104	Natural	no finds	-

11.2.2 Trench N2: summary (Figs 13, 15)

This trench contained no archaeological features.

Table 73: Trench N2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
NL201	Tarmac surface	no finds	modern
NL202	Concrete base for tarmac	no finds	modern
NL203	Brick rubble	no finds	modern
NL204	Natural	no finds	-

11.2.3 Trench N3: summary (Fig 13)

This trench was not dug due to the presence of services.

11.2.4 Trench N4: summary (Figs 13, 15)

This trench contained one modern ditch (NF401), two modern pits (NF402, NF408), four concrete post-bases (NF403-NF406), and one natural feature (NF407).

Table 74: Trench N4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
NF401	Ditch	no finds	modern
NF402	Pit	no finds	modern
NF403	Concrete post-base	no finds	modern
NF404	Concrete post-base	Roman brick, modern glass, slate	modern
NF405	Concrete post-base	coal	modern
NF406	Concrete post-base	no finds	modern
NF407	Natural feature	no finds	modern
NF408	Pit	slate	modern
NL401	Topsoil	no finds	modern
NL402	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	modern
NL403	Redeposited natural	no finds	modern
NL404	Redeposited natural	no finds	modern
NL405	Disturbed subsoil	no finds	modern

11.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area N

- 11.3.1** In total, 21 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (13 = 62% of all contexts: see Table 75). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern features (7 = 34%).
- 11.3.2** There were no pre-modern archaeological features, and finds were restricted to residual Roman brick in Trench N4.
- 11.3.3** Given the nature of the archaeological material here, no detailed comment is justified here.

Table 75: Area N – summary of all features.

- (1) number of each context type
(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	13	0	0	7	0	7
(2) as % of all contexts	62	0	0	33	0	5

12 Trial-trenching in Area V (south edge of Abbey Field)

12.1 Introduction (Figs 13, 16)

One trench was machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area V (Trench V1). Table 76 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of the trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given (section 12.2 below).

Table 76: Area V – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground- level	OD level on natural
V1	S: 599105.22; 223695.82	23.4	26.08-26.10	25.57
	N: 599137.42; 223657.39			

12.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 13, 16)

The stratigraphic sequence here was 0.09m of topsoil over 0.09m of rubble, sealing 0.20m of mid brown silts, which in turn sealed 0.2m of dark grey brown silts. This last deposit was removed to reveal the archaeological features.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

12.2.1 Trench V1: summary (Figs 13, 16)

This trench contained four modern ditches (VF101-VF103, VF105) and one possible Roman ditch (VF104).

Table 77: Trench V1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
VF101	Ditch?	no finds	modern
VF102	Shallow ditch	no finds	modern
VF103	Ditch	Fabrics 40 and 48d, peg-tile, cinders	modern

VF104	Ditch	Roman brick, Roman pot?	Roman
VF105	Ditch	no finds	modern
VL101	Topsoil	no finds	modern
VL102	Make-up	no finds	modern
VL103	Reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

12.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area V

12.3.1 In total, eight archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were modern ditches (4 = 50% of all contexts: see Table 78), followed by topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (3 = 38%).

12.3.2 With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, there was one possible Roman ditch. This constituted 12.5% of all archaeological contexts.

12.3.3 No Anglo-Saxon material was recovered

12.3.4 No medieval material was recovered.

12.3.5 In view of the nature of the archaeological record from Trench V1, no detailed comment is justified here other than to note that the Roman ditch may be part of the extensive field system identified in Areas C, E and F to the south.

Table 78: Area V – summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	3	1	0	4	0	0
(2) as % of all contexts	37.5	12.5	0	50	0	0

13 Trial-trenching in Area YP (land north of Ypres Road)

13.1 Introduction (Figs 1, 13, 17, 24)

Seven trenches were machine-cut in this 4.0 hectare area under archaeological supervision (Trenches YP1-YP7). Table 79 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 13.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area YP in section 13.3-13.6.

Table 79: Area YP – trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil in Area YP.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
YP1	NNW: 599142.15; 223626.66 SSE: 599158.27; 223570.00	58.9	34.35-34.77	33.97
YP2	NNW: 599188.36; 223644.61 SSE: 599201.05; 223580.14	66.2	34.21-34.89	33.18
YP3	NNW: 599237.58; 223656.66 SSE: 599258.93; 223574.42	85.4	34.36-34.81	33.52
YP4	NW: 599317.51; 223668.01 SE: 599341.99; 223636.24	40.3	34.46-34.67	33.91

YP5	WSW: 599287.80; 223587.08	146.3	34.35-34.88	33.72-34.25
	ENE: 599407.67; 223668.88			
YP6	WSW: 599407.10; 223566.89	5	-	-
	ENE: 599411.86; 223568.63			
YP7	NNW: 599105.17; 223695.75	50.3	32.26-32.61	31.95-32.29
	SSE: 599137.48; 223657.42			

13.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 13, 17, 24)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area YP comprised an approximately 0.15-0.20m-thick topsoil sealing a brown sand silt subsoil of variable thickness (0.30-0.40m). This lower deposit appears to be modified by ploughing, weathering and bioturbation, and is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits. It overlay terrace sands and gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features. In some places there was a blanket of building debris 0.02-0.30m thick lying under the topsoil cover.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

13.2.1 Trench YP1: summary (Figs 13, 17)

This trench contained modern post-holes YPF104-YPF105 and YPF109-YPF110; modern pits YPF108, YPF111 and YPF113; services YPF101 and YPF106; a modern trench YPF102; and natural features YPF103, YPF107, YPF112 and YPF114.

Table 80: Trench YP1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF101	Cable	no finds	modern
YPF102	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF103	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF104	Post-hole	Roman brick?	modern
YPF105	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF106	Service cut?	no finds	modern
YPF107	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF108	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF109	Post-hole	modern glass	modern
YPF110	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF111	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF112	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF113	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF114	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPL101	Topsoil	no finds	modern
YPL102	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL103	Dump	no finds	-
YPL104	Burnt dump	no finds	modern
YPL105	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL106	Dump	peg-tile	modern
YPL107	Subsoil	no finds	modern
YPL108	Natural	no finds	modern
YPL109	Subsoil	no finds	modern

13.2.2 Trench YP2: summary (Figs 13, 17)

This trench contained a series of modern features: drains YPF201 and YPF208; pits YPF205-YPF206 and YPF209; ditches YPF204, YPF213 and YPF215; a trench YPF207; post-holes YPF211 and YPF216; and natural features YPF202-YPF203, YPF210, YPF212 and YPF214.

Table 81: Trench YP2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF201	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF202	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF203	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF204	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF205	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF206	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF207	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF208	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF209	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF210	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF211	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF212	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF213	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF214	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF215	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF216	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPL201	Topsoil	no finds	modern
YPL202	Dump	post-medieval or modern brick, Roman brick	modern
YPL203	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL204	Subsoil	no finds	-
YPL205	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL206	Subsoil	no finds	-

13.2.3 Trench YP3: summary (Figs 13, 17)

This trench contained a possible Roman ditch YPF313, modern ditches and trenches YPF301, YPF305, YPF307, YPF309-YPF312 and YPF315 and services YPF304, and natural features YPF302-YPF303, YPF306, YPF308 and YPF314.

Table 82: Trench YP3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF301	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF302	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF303	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF304	Pipe-trench	no finds	modern
YPF305	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF306	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF307	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF308	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF309	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF310	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF311	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF312	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF313	Ditch	no finds	?Roman
YPF314	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF315	Trench	no finds	modern
YPL301	Topsoil	no finds	modern
YPL302	Deposit	Roman tile, modern glass	modern
YPL303	Subsoil	no finds	modern
YPL304	Dump	no finds	-

13.2.4 Trench YP4: summary (Figs 13, 17, 24)

This trench contained one Roman ditch YPF407, and a series of modern features, ie trenches and ditches YPF401, YPF403, YPF406-YPF408 and YPF410, and post-hole YPF402. There was also a natural feature YPF409 and root activity YPF405.

Table 83: Trench YP4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF401	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF402	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF403	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF404	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF405	Root activity	no finds	-
YPF406	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF407	Ditch	Roman brick, Roman tile	Roman
YPF408	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF409	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF410	Trench	no finds	modern
YPL401	Topsoil	no finds	modern
YPL402	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL403	Subsoil	no finds	-

13.2.5 Trench YP5: summary (Figs 13, 17)

This trench contained one possible Roman ditch YPF509, and a series of modern features: trenches and ditches YPF502-YPF504, YPF517-YPF518 and YPF524; drains YPF506-YPF508; post-holes YPF510-YPF512; and pits YPF505, YPF513, YPF519-YPF520 and YPF522. There were also root disturbances YPF501 and YPF521.

Table 84: Trench YP5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF501	Root disturbance	no finds	-
YPF502	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF503	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF504	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF505	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF506	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF507	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF508	Drain	no finds	modern
YPF509	Ditch	no finds	?Roman
YPF510	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF511	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF512	Post-hole	no finds	modern
YPF513	Pit	Roman tile, post-medieval or modern brick	modern
YPF514	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF515	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF516	Ditch	no finds	modern
YPF517	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF518	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF519	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF520	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF521	Root disturbance	no finds	-
YPF522	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF523	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF524	Trench	no finds	modern
YPF525	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPF526	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF527	Natural feature	no finds	-
YPL501	Topsoil	Roman grey ware	modern
YPL502	Disturbed subsoil	Roman tile, clay pipe	modern
YPL503	Compact layer	no finds	modern

13.2.6 Trench YP6: summary (Figs 13, 17)

Excavation was abandoned due to the presence of services (telephone cable).

Table 85: Trench YP6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPL601	Leaf litter	no finds	modern
YPL602	Compact layer	no finds	modern

13.2.7 Trench YP7: summary (Figs 13, 17)

This trench contained modern footings YPF701-YPF707, pits YPF708-YPF709 and YPF711, cables YPF712-YPF713, and a ?natural feature YPF710.

Table 86: Trench YP7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
YPF701	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF702	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF703	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF704	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF705	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF706	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF707	Footing	no finds	modern
YPF708	Pit	residual Roman pottery	modern
YPF709	Pit	no finds	modern
YPF710	Natural feature?	no finds	modern
YPF711	Pit	post-medieval or modern brick	modern
YPF712	Cable	no finds	modern
YPF713	Cable	no finds	modern
YPL701	Turf	no finds	modern
YPL702	Demolition debris	no finds	modern
YPL703	Foundation layer	no finds	modern
YPL704	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL705	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL706	Sand	no finds	modern
YPL707	Dump	no finds	modern
YPL708	Natural	no finds	modern

13.3 Discussion of the archaeological sequence in Area YP

13.3.1 In total, 129 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of these were post-medieval or modern pits and ditches (57 = 44% of all contexts: see Table 87), and topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (35 = 27%). Significant numbers of modern footings (5%) and services (4%) were also excavated. Natural features amounted to 18% of all contexts.

13.3.2 With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, there was one Roman ditch (Trench YP4) and two further possible Roman ditches (Trenches YP3 and YP5). Together, these constituted only 2% of all archaeological contexts. The ditches did not share a precise alignment (Fig 13), but they are presumed to relate to the multi-phased field systems identified in Areas C, E and F to the south.

13.3.3 No Anglo-Saxon material was recovered.

13.3.4 No medieval material was recovered.

Table 87: Area YP – summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts.

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post-medieval and modern features	footings	services	undated features	natural features
(1) number	35	3	0	57	7	5	0	23
(2) as % of all contexts	27	2	0	44	5	4	0	18

13.4 Distribution of archaeological remains in Area YP

13.4.1 Archaeological features were found in three of the seven trenches: a Roman ditch in Trench YP4, and two possible Roman ditches in Trenches YP3 and YP5.

13.4.2 The ditches in Trenches YP4 and YP5 were aligned roughly north to south, and share an alignment with the Late Iron Age (LIA) or Roman field-ditches in Area C (CAT Report 197, fig 3).

13.4.3 There were small quantities of residual Roman material from Trenches YP1-YP5 and YP7. However, the quantities involved are too low to be evidence that the site of a Roman settlement focus lies close by.

13.5 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits in Area YP

13.5.1 The archaeological deposits in Area YP are very heavily disturbed.

13.5.2 This disturbance was caused primarily by modern footings in Trench YP7, and by post-medieval and modern trenches in Trenches YP1-YP5.

13.6 Area YP chronological discussion

13.6.1 Prehistory to the Late Iron Age

There were no struck flints or prehistoric sherds in Area YP, indicating an absence of significant prehistoric activity here.

13.6.2 The later Iron Age and Roman periods

By the late Iron Age and early Roman period, most of the Garrison area lay within the *oppidum*. The ditches in Trenches YP3, YP4 and YP5 (particularly the latter two) are aligned in broadly the same direction as field-ditches in Area C, and are probably part of the same field system.

13.6.3 There were no Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains from Area YP.

13.6.4 The post-medieval and modern remains (pits, footings) are not significant.

14 The finds

14.1 General

The finds are listed in Table 92 (Appendix 2) which gives quantities, weights, descriptions and dates for stratified finds. Where comments on groups of finds are justified, these are given below in section 14.

14.2 The prehistoric pottery

by N J Lavender⁴

This report offers comments on the prehistoric pottery from the areas under consideration in this report, and also an overview of the material from the garrison project as a whole.

In total, 363 sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 2081g, were recovered from 47 contexts. The material has been recorded using a system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex (details in archive). Fabrics are identified on the basis of type, size and frequency of inclusions. Fabrics present in the Colchester Garrison assemblage are:

- A Flint, S 2 well sorted.
- B Flint, S-M 2.
- C Flint, S-M with occasional L 2.
- D Flint, S-L 2 poorly sorted.
- E Flint and sand, S-M 2.
- F Sand, S-M 2-3 with additional L flint.
- G Sand, S 3.
- I Sand, S-M 2-3.
- J Sand with vegetable voids, particularly on surface.
- M Grog, often with some flint or sand and occasional small rounded sub angular voids.
- O Quartz, flint and some sand, S-L poorly sorted.
- P Sparse, very fine sand. Occasional S flint.
- W Flint, S-L, with some sand and vegetable voids often on exterior.
- X Quartz sand S-L, some S-L flint 3.
- Y Dense sand and S-L flint.

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Where:

Size of inclusions:

S = less than 1mm diameter

M = 1-2mm diameter

L = more than 2mm diameter

Density of inclusions:

1 = less than 6 per cm²

2 = 6-10 per cm²

3 = more than 10 per cm²

Prehistoric pottery was recovered from Areas A, C, E, F, DR, G, J, P, Q, R and RO.

Area A

Three undiagnostic sherds (10g) in a grog-tempered fabric were recovered from pit AF301. The fabric would suggest a date in the Middle Bronze Age or later.

Area J

(16 sherds, 82g). The pottery from this area comprised a mixture of small sherds in mainly sand or flint-tempered fabrics from Trench J1. Nothing was closely datable, but the sandy sherds suggest a Late Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age date.

Discussion

The ceramic evidence for prehistoric activity in the areas covered by this report is very limited. This small assemblage is typical of the material recovered elsewhere on the Garrison site, which characteristically comprises small, abraded and often residual sherds, with very few rims, decorated or otherwise diagnostic sherds. This pottery cannot be closely dated.

14.3 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*⁵

Camulodunum forms are after Hull 1958 and fabric codes after Symonds & Wade 1999.

Area A

There was very little from Area A, ie a Camulodunum form 243-4/6 bowl of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Area B

The largest assemblage in this group is from Area B. Overall this material is no later than the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, consisting mainly of grey wares, but including Colchester colour-coats and roughcast colour-coats (early 2nd to 3rd centuries AD), Nene Valley colour-coats (mid 3rd century AD and later), black-burnished ware (after AD 120), and Camulodunum forms 407 (early-mid 3rd century AD), 40 and 37.

The large group from BF605 includes a carrot amphora (Camulodunum 189, probably 1st century AD), a Colchester roughcast colour-coat indented beaker, Cologne colour-coat (2nd century AD), samian Drag 33 (2nd century AD), Dressel 20 amphora, and Camulodunum form 37 (2nd century AD); this group is probably early-mid 2nd century AD.

Area J

The cremation pot from JF108 (find J1024) is a mid-late 2nd-century AD black-burnished (BB) ware 2 type, of height 270mm and rim diameter 200mm. Other material consisted of principally Roman grey wares, but also black-burnished ware (after AD 120), most of a small whiteware flagon (probably 2nd-3rd centuries AD, but not closely datable because the rim is absent), a rim of Camulodunum black-burnished ware 1 type, a flared rim of the later 3rd or 4th centuries AD, a folded beaker (2nd-3rd centuries+ AD), a bowl of Camulodunum form 243/4-246 (1st-2nd centuries AD), and Camulodunum form 268 (early 2nd century+ AD). A good group of grey wares from JF102 included a bowl of Camulodunum form 243/4-246 (1st-2nd centuries AD), a jar of Camulodunum form 279 (2nd, possibly early 3rd century AD), and Camulodunum form 268 (early 2nd century+ AD).

⁵ of Colchester Archaeological Trust

An overall comment for Area J is that it produced mainly 1st-2nd century AD grey wares. This material as a whole need not be later than the 2nd or 3rd century AD, and there is nothing necessarily dating to the 1st century AD or after the 3rd century AD.

14.4 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks⁶

The material consists mainly of modern and post-medieval Fabrics 48d (modern ironstone), 40 (post-medieval red earthenwares), and 45 (German stonewares). Of interest are single sherds of hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery (Fabric 97) from Area B, and a St Neots ware (Fabric 10) rim from the same area. This would indicate mid and late Anglo-Saxon activity at the site of St John's Abbey. There is a large group (126 sherds, 5kg) of local Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware) from Area B BF106 and BF107. This includes a narrow necked cistern (see Cotter 2000, fig 84, no 73), storage jar rims, and a bowl rim (see Cotter 2000, fig 94, no 158). This pre-Dissolution material is probably derived from St John's Abbey. Further details (including smaller quantities of other fabrics) are in the finds list (Table 92, Appendix 2).

For detailed descriptions of all the post-Roman pottery fabrics referred to in this report, see Cotter 2000.

14.5 Human remains from Areas A and J

by Sue Anderson⁷

14.5.1 The Area A inhumation

A partial human skeleton was recovered from burial AF1002 (skeleton A1006). The bones were in poor condition and most surfaces were heavily eroded. Surviving fragments consisted of an incomplete cranium (a large piece consisting of part of the frontal, the superior portions of both parietals and part of the occipital, together with fragments of frontal, occipital and temporals), one small fragment of mandible and two tooth root fragments, small fragments of both humeri, a small piece of left innominate (part of the acetabulum) and the shafts and proximal fragments of both femora. No measurements could be taken due to the loss of bone surfaces.

The fragments of femoral heads indicated that epiphyseal fusion was complete and had occurred well before death. No fusion lines were visible in the cancellous bone. The cranial sutures were almost completely obliterated on the internal surface, and the sagittal suture had disappeared ectocranially, although the outer edges of the coronal suture were still patent. One of the tooth roots may have been fully worn, but the condition was poor and it may simply have been post-mortem erosion which had removed the crown. This limited evidence suggests that the individual was a mature adult, possibly in old age.

Sexing criteria were equally absent. One fragment of mastoid process appeared large and the remainder of the skull appeared relatively robust, but the other bones were all too eroded to be certain. The individual was possibly male.

The presence of a large inca bone in the lambdoid suture of the skull was the only non-metric trait which could be recorded. This is an unusual trait in most populations.

The skull appears thickened in the parietal and occipital regions. Erosion has removed much of the outer table of the skull, but it is clearly thinned over the areas of generally skull thickening, and the inner table is also thinner than normal. The diploë appears slightly thickened and disorganised. The appearance is reminiscent of Paget's Disease, but an x-ray would be required to confirm this diagnosis. This is a disease of possible viral or hereditary origin which can affect one or more bones of the skeleton. It is rare in individuals under the age of 40, and is often without symptoms. If any were present, the most likely symptoms in Paget's Disease of the skull would be headache and hearing loss. There is also an increase in head size due to bone thickening.

Summary

In summary, the skeleton is probably that of a middle-aged or elderly man who was affected with a disease which is relatively common in older individuals, occurring in approximately 3% of today's population.

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14.5.2 The cremation and inhumation from Area J

Introduction

Human skeletal remains from two contexts were submitted for analysis. From JF107 there was a fragmentary inhumation (finds reference J(1020)) and from JF108 there was an urned cremation (finds reference J(1024)).

The inhumation

Skeleton J(1020) from JF107 consisted of fragments of the base and right side of the cranial vault, the right side of the mandible and maxilla, and the first two cervical vertebrae. The bone was in fair condition but was soft and friable, and part of the skull and jaw was unwashed. All cranial sexing criteria were missing, but the teeth were relatively small, perhaps indicating a female.

The following teeth were present:

8	7	6	5	4	3	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	-	7	-
8	7	6	5	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no carious lesions, abscesses or signs of ante-mortem tooth loss. Alveolar resorption was slight. There was enamel hypoplasia (consisting of three shallow lines) on the lower right canine and upper left first incisor, suggesting episodes of illness or malnutrition between the ages of 3-5 years. Tooth wear suggested an approximate age of 25-35 years.

An unusual pathological feature was noted on a small fragment of occipital bone, from the posterior edge of the foramen magnum. An oval abscess or cyst had formed on the internal surface of the bone. It measured 17 x 6mm and was 7mm deep, with a smooth floor and edges. The cause of this is unknown.

The cremation

Cremated human remains were excavated from the urn J(1024) from JF108 under laboratory conditions and were removed and bagged in eleven 'spits' (5-15). Most of the bone was collected from spits 12-15. The bone ranged in colour from white and pale beige to grey and black.

Table 88 shows the quantities of bone by spit and by general area of the skeleton.

Table 88: Quantification (weight/g) of cremated bone.

Spit	Skull	Axial	Arm	Leg	Unident	Total	% ident
5-9	1	1	1		12	15	20.0
7				7		7	100.0
10		1		1	1	3	66.6
11					1	1	0.0
12	20	76	11	88	178	373	52.3
13	30	132	36	114	226	538	58.0
14	13	32	27	83	147	302	51.3
15	62	102	32	96	280	572	51.0
Total	126	344	107	389	845	1811	53.3
% of ident	13.0	35.6	11.1	40.3			

These figures do not indicate any pattern in the collection of bone fragments from the pyre, as pieces of bone from all parts of the skeleton were present throughout the vessel.

The average weights of identified pieces from the four main spits are shown in Table 89. Many large fragments were preserved, including almost complete vertebrae, large pieces of distal femur, pelvis and ribs, and a near-complete calcaneum. The largest cranial and long bone dimensions recorded were a piece of skull which measured 60mm across and a fragment of tibia shaft which was 120mm long.

Table 89: Average weights (g) of fragments.

Spit	Skull	Axial	Arm	Leg
12	1.8	3.0	1.6	2.8
13	1.5	2.5	2.4	1.7
14	1.6	1.3	2.5	2.8
15	3.3	2.6	4.0	3.6
Overall	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4

The cremated bone appeared to represent a single individual, and no animal bone was present. The bones were generally large with pronounced muscle markings, and the mastoid processes were large. The sciatic notch was incomplete but appeared medium-narrow. No teeth or fragments of face were present. The skeleton was probably that of a mature adult male.

The vertebrae were fairly complete and much of the spine was present. A small osteophyte had formed on the superior border of the fifth lumbar vertebra, but no other bones showed any signs of degenerative disease. The third to fifth thoracic vertebrae were all slightly wedged to the left, suggesting that the individual had suffered from a slight scoliosis. These vertebrae also had Schmorl's nodes, which are formed as a result of physical stress to the spine. No other pathology was observed.

Summary

Two individuals were represented by the human remains from these two contexts, both adults. One was possibly female in young to middle-age, and the other was a mature adult male. Some minor pathological changes were present in both.

14.6 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Area J

by Val Fryer⁸

Introduction

Evaluations at Colchester Garrison by the Colchester Archaeological Trust revealed features of Roman date including the fill of a feature containing a Roman cremation pot (JF106/JF108) and a Roman pit (JF102). Three samples were taken for the extraction and assessment of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 90. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were preserved by charring. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds/fruits and arthropod remains were present in all samples.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm-mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present.

Results of assessment

Plant macrofossils

With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils were extremely rare and were totally absent from sample J1025. Preservation was poor, and the few macrofossils present were badly fragmented.

A single indeterminate grain fragment was noted in sample J1029. The remaining macrofossils were difficult to identify accurately because of their poor condition, but a single grass (Poaceae) fruit was present in sample J1031 and very puffed seed, probably of meadow/creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) was noted in sample J1029.

Charcoal fragments were common in all three samples. Other plant macrofossils included rare pieces of charred root, rhizome or stem and indeterminate seeds.

⁸ Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norfolk

Other materials

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probably the residues of the combustion of organic remains at extremely high temperatures. The small coal fragments may be modern in origin.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The extremely low density of material recovered makes close interpretation of these assemblages virtually impossible. However, the weed seeds, charcoal fragments and pieces of charred stem from the Roman cremation pit may possibly be related to materials used as fuel/kindling for the cremation pyre. The macrobotanical and other remains associated with the Roman pit are almost certainly derived from low-density scatters of wind-blown detritus.

As none of the samples contain a quantifiably viable assemblage (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

Key to table

x = 1-10 specimens
xx = 10-100 specimens
xxx = 100+ specimens
fg = fragment
b = burnt

Table 90: Plant macrofossils and other material from Area J.

Area	J	J	J
Bag	1025	1029	1031
Feature no	102	106	108
Cereals			
Cereal indet. (grain)		xfg	
Herbs			
<i>Galium</i> sp.			xcf
<i>Kickxia spuria</i> (L.) Dumort			xcf
Lamiaceae indet.			x
Small Poaceae indet.			x
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens./bulbosus</i>		xcf	
Scrophulariaceae indet.			x
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x
Charred root /rhizome/stem	x	x	x
Indet. seeds			x
Other materials			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x
Black tarry material	x		x
Bone	x		xb
Small coal fragments	x		x
Vitrified material	x		
Sample volume (litres)	10.5	10.5	9.5
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

14.7 Small finds listing

by Nina Crummy⁹

Area A: metalwork

A(902) AF901. Fragment of iron wire. Length 57 mm.

A(1001) AL1002. Lead shot with a concave area from casting. Diameter 15 mm, weight 18 g. Probably quite modern.

A(1001) AL1002. Lead-alloy (?pewter) spoon handle fragment with maker's stamp and mark on the reverse. Only the end of the stamp remains, reading -/ER & SON. Length 70 mm. Modern.

Area B: small finds and other material

This area produced material ranging in date from at least the Roman period to modern. Several fragments of thick briquetage are probably Roman in date (BF203, BF318). That from BF318 was found in association with less heavily vegetable-tempered ceramic fragments that may be from a structure associated with salt-making or from briquetage vessels so large that the vegetable content was reduced to strengthen the fabric. The same feature also contained a coin of Domitian (AD 83-96) but this early material was residual as post-medieval pottery and tile was also present. It is unusual to find so much briquetage in a residual context, and also to find so much so far from the coast. However, its occurrence on inland sites is increasing as the fabric is more generally recognised, and some has been found as far inland as Baldock, Hertfordshire (Rigby & Foster 1986, 188). The recovery of briquetage at Sheepen led Hawkes and Hull to suggest that the Colne was tidal and so saline to that point and that salt production took place there (1947, 346-7), though Eddy has suggested with reference to briquetage from Kelvedon that raw salt-cakes might be acquired at the coast to be refined inland (1982, 26).

The other Roman objects consist of two more coins (?Trajan, AD 98-117, and Hadrian, AD 117-38, possibly AD 119-38), part of a glass jar which is of Flavian or later date, and some iron nails and copper-alloy fragments from the same feature as the jar (BF605). A few of the other nails from this area may also be Roman.

A small moulded fragment of creamy limestone probably derives from the Abbey buildings, as may a small piece of gastropodic limestone from the same layer (BL207). The latter is denser and blacker than the Purbeck marble generally found in Roman contexts in Colchester, but may still come from the Purbeck beds. A small drum-shaped piece of sandstone from BL208 may also be part of a medieval architectural feature.

The rest of the material is probably of later post-medieval or modern date. A thimble from BF106 appears to be earlier than the rest of the objects from the feature.

The coins are listed first, followed by the rest of the objects, irrespective of their material, by feature and then layer number, with unstratified items last.

SF 41. B(3024) BF318. Copper-alloy *sestertius* of Domitian, the reverse completely obliterated by a combination of wear and corrosion, the latter exacerbated by organic material which has adhered to the surface and also perhaps by burning. A large part of the obverse is similarly affected, but the upper parts of the portrait and legend survive. The emperor is wreathed, and the legend reads -/OMITA-/GERM COS/-, providing a date of AD 83-96.

SF 71. B(2015) BL208. Copper-alloy *dupondius*, probably of Hadrian. The edges have been trimmed to form an irregular polygon, and the coin has been much worn after this was done. Only -/NVS/-/COSI/- remains of the obverse legend. Hadrian's first consulship was from AD 117-18, his second from AD 118-19, his third lasted for the rest of his reign from AD 119 to AD 138. It is most likely that this coin dates to the latter period. The very worn reverse shows a figure standing either close to an altar or holding a cornucopia, flanked by the letters S C.

SF 75. B(2004) BL204. Copper-alloy *sestertius*, probably of Trajan, AD 98-117, though no clear part of the legend remains. The form of the shoulders, however, belongs to either Trajan or Hadrian. The reverse is very worn and corroded, but may show a reclining figure.

B(1002) BF102. Iron nail. Length 39 mm. Modern.

⁹ 2 Hall Road, Copford, Essex

B(1008) BF104. Two small iron tacks. Lengths 18 and 21 mm.

B(1003) BF106. 1) Eight iron nails, more or less complete. One has a large subsquare head. Lengths 49 (bent), 57 (bent), 58 (bent), 59 (bent), 58 mm (bent), 55, 78, 62 mm. 2) Iron nail fragment, length 31 mm. 3) Iron wire nail shank, length 62 mm. Iron object with hook terminal at one end and at the other a flattened, possibly pierced, terminal set at an obtuse angle. Possibly a spring key. Length 82 mm. 4) Four fragments of sheet iron, one with small fragments adhering. Possibly from a lock. Maximum dimensions of largest piece 65 by 38 mm. 5) Hollow conical tube. Length 35 mm. Post-medieval to modern.

SF 53. B(1012) BF106. Small copper-alloy machine-made dressmaker's pin. Length 34 mm. Modern.

SF 50. B(1013) BF106. 1) Curved iron handle with knobbed ends. In two pieces. A central excrescence appears to be a mix of corrosion and wood. Length about 160 mm. Probably from a large chest or drawer. Modern. 2) Amorphous iron fragment, possibly clinker or slag. Weight 10 g. Modern.

SF 52. B(1015) BF106. Tongue-shaped fragment of wood with copper-alloy edge binding. Length 27 mm, width 17 mm. Modern.

SF 51. B(1019) BF106. A copper-alloy thimble with pits of variable size and form, passing from large and elliptical at the base to small and round at the top. Though rather irregular in form, they are laid out in a neat spiral and appear to have been made with a knurled wheel or set of wheels. Three incisions on the plain base band may be a maker's mark. The base is slightly distorted. Height 17 mm, internal base diameter about 17 mm. Probably 16th or 17th century in date.

SF 55. B(1020) BF106. Fitting consisting of a large cast iron bar, slightly expanded around a central perforation. Two horn-like points project on either side of the hole. Probably a machine part. Length 241 mm. Modern.

SF 56. B(1021) BF106. Two iron strip fragments. Lengths 65 and 62 mm.

B(2009) BF203. Five fragments of briquetage of north-east Essex type, the thickness (where complete) varying from 27 to 17 mm. All the fragments are oxidised and contain a great deal of vegetable tempering. Two are particularly badly weathered. Total weight 177 g.

B(3001) BF304. Iron shank or tang. Length 87 mm.

B(3011) BF304. 1) Iron nail, length 43 mm (incomplete). 2) Iron nail, length 66 mm. 3) Iron ?nail shank, length 64 mm.

B(3023) BF318. 1) Eight fragments of briquetage of typical north-east Essex type, ranging in thickness from 18 to 27 mm. None is large, and no rims or corners are present. One small piece has a partially rebated inner surface. Total weight 225 g. 2) Twelve fragments of briquetage in a rather different fabric, containing much less vegetable-tempering than is generally used and many chalky inclusions. The pieces also appear to have been fired at a higher temperature than usual. The fabric does, however, have the characteristic randomly-aligned streaking of briquetage and two are straight-sided rim fragments, suggesting that they are from large troughs. If these vessels were larger than usual, they may have required use of a stronger fabric. Several of the pieces also have a whitened internal surface, in some places obscured by a hard lime-like accretion. On one piece this surface is partially vitrified. Average thickness about 24 mm, with one piece 40 mm where it thickens towards a corner, and one rim fragment up to 37 mm thick. Total weight 1.119 kg.

B(3006) BF319. Iron nail. Length 44 mm.

B(3019) BF324. Iron nail fragment. Length 27 mm.

SF 43. B(3037) BF315. Copper-alloy lace-end of Colchester Type 2 form, a piece of sheet metal rolled up so that the edges grip the lace (Crummy 1988, 13). Length (bent) 25 mm. The form dates from c 1550/75 into the post-medieval period.

B(3026) BF331. Burnt iron nail. Length 57 mm.

B(3038) BF340. Grinding wheel fragment, consisting of an iron bolt fixed within a small stone disc, only part of which remains. Length 68 mm. Diameter of stone disc 62 mm.

B(6002) BF605. Four iron nails of Manning Type 1b (1985, 134), all incomplete. Lengths 44, 43, 37 and 24 mm.

SF 35. B(6006) BF605. Five corroded copper-alloy strip or band fragments. Lengths 37.5, 29, 17.5, 17, and 11 mm. Roman.

B(6008) BF605. Two iron nails of Manning's Type 1b (1985, 134). Both are 50 mm long. Roman.

B(6008) BF605. The rim and part of the shoulder of a blue/green jar with the rim bent out and the edge rolled in (Cool & Price 1995, 110-12). Rim diameter 62 mm. Late 1st to 3rd century.

SF 77. B(2006) BL207. Weathered fragment of a dense gastropodic limestone, probably from the Purbeck beds. One edge may be original but is irregular and worn. The more weathered surface is probably also original. Maximum dimensions 51 by 39 by 30 mm. Roman or medieval.

SF 78. B(2006) BL207. Fragment (in three pieces) of creamy limestone with some haematite inclusions. The upper surface has been cut and smoothed into a shallow concave moulding. The flat undersurface has worn saw marks, the surviving edge is pecked. Maximum dimensions 109 by 50 mm, 31 mm thick. Probably later medieval.

B(2014) BL208. 1) Iron nail fragment. Length 35 mm. 2) Tanged iron object with thick tapering section. Length 132 mm.

SF 72. B(2016) BL208. Worked stone disc or short cylinder of fairly coarse grey-yellow sandstone, possibly a composite pilaster base, though there are no traces of mortar on either surface. Most of one side is missing. There are saw marks on one flat side, and short runs of up to six narrow rectangular depressions on the other. Most of the latter are set on the same alignment across the face, apart from one near the edge, and a possible worn one near the centre. The regularity of these depressions suggests they were all made with the same six-toothed claw. They are too shallow to be keying for mortar. Length 30.5 mm, diameter 57.5 mm. Date uncertain, probably medieval.

SF 38. B(3008) BL305. Small fragment of copper-alloy working debris. Weight less than 1 g.

Area H: coin

SF 65. H(1001) HL101. George VI halfpenny, 1945.

Area J: small finds and other material

The majority of these items are either modern or not diagnostic of date. However, a few small fragments of Late Iron Age or Roman briquetage were found in JF106, and a small bead from JF102 may be Roman. A small hinged disc is of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

SF 57. J(9001). Unstratified. Copper-alloy Edward VII penny, 1907.

SF 60. J(1007) JF101. Worn copper-alloy disc, possibly a post-medieval coin as there may be very small and faint traces of a milled edge on each side. Diameter 25.5 mm.

J(1002) JF102. Small amorphous lump of iron. Maximum dimensions 29 by 16.5 by 12 mm.

SF 59. J(1010) JF102. Small biconical bead of opaque green glass. The perforation is wider on one side than the other. Diameter 6 mm, length 3 mm. Probably Roman, but possibly post-medieval or modern.

J(1017) JF102. Two iron nails, lengths 36 and 30 mm.

J(1018) JF106. Four very small fragments of briquetage. None retain their complete thickness. Total weight 10 g.

SF 67. J(1003) JF301. Fragment of a tapering cylindrical bone knife handle with the iron whittle tang remaining in position. The tang projects beyond the end of the handle. Length 40 mm, maximum diameter 12 mm. Late post-medieval to modern.

J(3002) JF301. Iron curved ?blade fragment. The object is wider at one end than the other and the degree of curvature increases towards the wider end, which is either damaged or incomplete. The other end is straight and may be original. The outer edge is thicker than the inner, suggesting this is a blade of some kind, though the section is slightly plano-convex. Length 184 mm, width 23 to 29 mm. Late post-medieval to modern.

J(8002) JF803. 1) Iron nail, length 51 mm. 2) Iron nail shank, length 57.5 mm.

J(10004) JF1010. 1) Two fragments of a sheet iron object with flat upper/inner surface and heavily soil-encrusted under/outer surface. The larger piece has a straight edge curved at one end. The other end and other side are missing. Maximum dimensions 114 by 68 mm, 15 mm thick. The smaller piece has a straight edge. Maximum dimensions 73 by 35 mm, 20 mm thick. Modern. 2) Four heavily soil-encrusted sheet iron fragments, probably from the same object as 1). Possibly slaggy. Maximum dimensions of largest piece, which is concave on one side, 89 by 47 mm, 19 mm thick. 3) Iron nail or bolt fragment, length 57 mm. 4) Two shank fragments, probably from nails. Lengths 37 and 42 mm.

J(1006) JF1012. 1) Iron nail fragment, length 50 mm. 2) Small fragment of tap slag from iron production. Weight 6 g.

J(1003) JF1105. Small piece of tap slag from iron production. Weight 21 g.

J(12001) JF1205. Curved wrought iron hook with the upper terminal expanded and squared-off. Probably a wall-hook. Length 160 mm. Probably post-medieval but possibly earlier.

SF 45. J(1001). Unstratified. A small hinged copper-alloy disc with a single pierced flat-backed lug projecting from one side of the upper edge. The object would have been hinged on an axial bar fixed between this and a corresponding lug on the other side. There is a small hole in the disc, and a rough patch on the edge opposite the lug suggests there was a small projection at that point. The underside is quite roughly made. The surface is decorated with an incised crude fleur-de-lys design, set with its base on the hinged edge. This cannot therefore be a harness pendant, examples of which usually have a single round suspension lug and designs meant to be viewed with the lug upwards. It may be part of a hinged book-clasp, most of which have a central hole to pin the clasp to the book and a projection opposite the hinge, though they tend to be stouter than this object (Egan 1998, fig 214), or perhaps part of a strap-end, the designs on which can hang upside down (Egan & Pritchard 1991, fig 99, 717). Alternatively, it may be the lid of a small receptacle. Length 25 mm, width 18.5 mm. The style is later medieval or early post-medieval.

SF 58. J(3001). Unstratified. Composite copper-alloy regimental button with rear loop for attachment. The convex upper part bears the monarch's Royal coat of arms (with the motto *Dieu et mon droit*), the back-plate the manufacturers' legend, West & Price of London, now partly obscured. Diameter 24 mm.

Area YP: small finds

The recovery of at least two Leinster Regiment objects from this area suggests it was the site of either an encampment of the regiment or of exercises during the 1914-18 war, when many troops passed through Colchester on their way to France. The Leinster was disbanded in 1922 when the Irish Free State was formed.

SF 15. YP(3) YPL301. Elliptical copper-alloy regimental label plate with a single hole for attachment at the top and curved on the long axis. The legend reads THE "LEINSTER" REGT/40217/TALBOT C. The first line curves to follow the line of the upper edge, the other two lines are straight and are centred in the middle of the plate. There is a small fleur-de-lys or Prince of Wales's feathers motif above the number, which refers to the regiment's full title of 'The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment'. Length 75.5 mm, width 46 mm. Pre-1922.

SF 63. YP(1) YPL301. Copper-alloy ring, probably from machinery. The inside face is hollow. The upper and lower edges have concentric grooves and ridges. Internal diameter 42 mm, height 7 mm, thickness 4 mm. Modern.

SF 14. YP(2) YPL501. Copper-alloy cap badge of the Leinster Regiment, with simple rear tag for attachment. The design shows the Prince of Wales's feathers (damaged on the right hand side) gathered at the base by a crown, above the motto THE LEINSTER. Height 44 mm, width 33 mm. Pre-1922.

SF 16. YP(7) YPL501. Copper-alloy composite regimental button with rear attachment loop. The upper plate bears the Royal arms, but the spaces available for the Garter and monarch's mottos are so small that only some of the letters are shown. Possibly from uniform of the Leinster Regiment, given the presence of the other two objects from this regiment in this trench. Diameter 17.5 mm. Modern.

14.8 The flints

by Hazel Martingell¹⁰

Area B

Bag nos B1010 and BF101

1 flake, secondary, with utilized and smoother distal edge, possibly a strike-a-light. Good black flint.

1 flake, trimming/thinning, secondary, brown stained flint. Possibly Neolithic (could be later).

Area J

Bag nos J8002 and JF803

1 pseudo-burin? on flake with wide cortex platform. Iron Age?

¹⁰ 40 Bradford Street, Bocking, Braintree, Essex

14.9 Other finds

None of the other finds categories were sufficiently large or archaeologically important to justify detailed work. Full details of all finds are given in Table 92 (Appendix 2).

15 Discussion

15.1 The archaeological sequence in Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP

In total, 641 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. In numerical order, the contexts are classified as follows:

- topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (41% of all contexts)
- modern pits, ditches (26%)
- post-medieval pits, ditches (11%)
- natural features and root disturbance (10%)
- modern footings and service-trenches (7%)
- undated, and other features (2.3%)
- Roman features (2%)
- medieval features (0.5%)
- prehistoric features (0.2%)

15.2 The above figures demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of the archaeological contexts were post-medieval and modern in date, and of little archaeological value.

15.3 With regard to pre-modern archaeological features, these formed a very small percentage of the total (2.7%). The significant groups of features were a single Roman inhumation from Area A Trench A10, a Roman inhumation and cremation from Area J Trench J1, and a robbed-out Roman structure in Area J Trench J6. The distribution of the Roman material confirms the previously identified archaeological significance of the northern limit of the Garrison site, which adjoins the Roman town, and was part of the extra-mural Roman cemetery. There was a single prehistoric pit in Area A Trench A3. Field-ditches in Area YP, which again appear to relate to LIA/Roman field systems previously identified in geophysical and cropmark surveys, were detected during trial-trenching in Areas C, E and F.

15.4 Not only is the extent of significant archaeological remains limited and discrete, but the state of preservation of archaeological deposits is generally poor, with a degree of variability from area to area. In Areas A, GJ, H and N, rebuilding and repair of the Garrison had caused significant damage to archaeological deposits; this was particularly marked across the southern edge of Area A. Other areas showed disturbance on a lesser but still significant scale (particularly Areas J and YP). In all areas, there was substantial damage from modern footings and services.

15.5 Due to this disturbance, archaeological deposits survived in 'islands' at various points, particularly in Areas A, B and J where the most important surviving remains were uncovered (above section 15.3).

15.6 Previously known Roman cemeteries across the south side of the town were confirmed by the discovery of burials in Areas A and J, and a robbed building in Area J. A previously unknown area of Roman activity is suggested by the quantities of Roman building materials from Area B. Other than this, prehistoric and Roman residual remains were not plentiful or extensive.

15.7 No Anglo-Saxon material was found in the Area A trenches which might extend our knowledge of the Anglo-Saxon burials previously reported at several points along the Mersea Road. However, this statement should be balanced by the limited access available for trenching in the built-up and heavily disturbed areas of Meeanee and Hyderabad Barracks.

15.8 Evidence for the buried remains of the medieval St John's Abbey were not identified in the limited trial-trench locations, although evidence for the post-Dissolution history of the property were encountered.

16 Conclusions

The main findings are as follows.

The excavated archaeological material reflects the built-up nature of large parts of the northern Garrison area (in particular Areas A, B, GJ, H and N). Archaeological contexts such as footings trenches, areas of rubble or concrete, rubbish-pits, ditches, post-holes, service-trenches and dumped soils make up the major part of the excavated sequence. This evidence clearly relates to the Garrison and the recent land use.

The expectation that an active barracks would undergo much repair, rebuilding and adjustment throughout its life is confirmed by the discovery of substantial remains of recently demolished structures in all parts, particularly in Areas A, B, GJ and N. It is self-evident that building and rebuilding on this scale will have had a major impact on any archaeological remains. Features are generally heavily truncated by modern intrusions, but some islands of material survive.

Significant archaeological features consisted of three Roman burials, a robbed-out Roman building, a prehistoric pit, and a few Roman pits and ditches. Some of the Roman ditches share a broad alignment with field-boundaries previously evaluated in Area C, and may be regarded as parts of the same LIA/Roman field system.

There were a few prehistoric sherds (in a prehistoric pit, and residual) and a few struck flints, but none of the prehistoric material is at a level to suggest anything other than scattered and intermittent activity in the prehistoric period.

The character of the archaeological remains identified can be summarised as principally modern in date, with very small numbers of significant features (Roman burials, a robbed Roman building, and Late Iron Age and Roman linear ditches). Features in Areas A and B in particular contained larger groups of artefacts than Areas C, E/F or KR. This is a reflection of the proximity of the area under study to the Roman town and Roman cemeteries and to the medieval centre of activity at St John's Abbey.

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19 Glossary and abbreviations

Anglo-Saxon	the period from <i>circa</i> AD 430 to AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (<i>circa</i> 2000 BC-700 BC)
BB	Roman black-burnished ware
bioturbation	disturbance to a soil or rock layer by natural agency (especially glacial action)
Boudican	(same date as) the native rebellion led by Boudica in AD 60/1
box tile	tile from a Roman hypocaust (underfloor heating) system
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
Fabric 40	post-medieval red earthenware pottery dated to the 16th-19th centuries
Fabric 48d	modern ironstone pottery dated to 19th or 20th century
Fabric 45m	English stonewares (19th/20th centuries)
Fabric 51a	late slipped kitchen ware (19th-20th centuries)
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
<i>imbrex</i>	Roman curved roof-tile
<i>in situ</i>	in its original position
LBA	late Bronze Age (<i>circa</i> 1000 BC-700 BC)
LIA	late Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 200 BC-AD 43)
make-up	soil dumped to raise ground-level, usually before construction work
manure scatter	broken pot sherds spread out when manure is carted out onto the fields
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	modern (19th and 20th centuries)
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	post-medieval (from Henry VIII to late 18th century)
PMRE	post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40)
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
quern	grinding-stone to convert grain to flour
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to <i>circa</i> AD 430
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
<i>tegula</i>	Roman roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	red baked clay cube from Roman floor

20 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held at the Colchester Archaeological Trust, 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2002.8.

21 Appendices

21.1 Appendix 1

Table 91: Tabulation of report numbers and evaluation stages.

Evaluation type	Report number
Desk-based assessment	CAT Report 97
Fieldwalking survey	CAT Report 184
Geophysical survey (Bactec)	CAT Report 184
Area C	CAT Report 197
Areas E and F	CAT Report 203
Area KR	CAT Report 205
Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V, YP	this report (CAT Report 206)

21.2 Appendix 2

Table 92: Finds list.

Qt = quantity W = weight (grammes) D = discarded

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
02002	F0202	A	1	16		Fabric 48d jar with transfer print "SAILOR ..."	19th-20th century
02002	F0202	A	1	16	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03001	F0301	A	3	10		prehistoric pot	?MBA
09002	F0901	A	11	11		tile or brick scraps	
09002	F0901	A	1	2		Fe nail fragment	
09003	F0902	A	1	4		Fabric 21 or 21a sherds	13th-16th century
09003	F0902	A	2	25		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
09003	F0902	A	8	6		tile scraps	
09003	F0902	A	2	5		Fe nail fragments	
09009	F0905	A	1	1		Roman grey ware	Roman
09009	F0905	A	23	28		undated tile bits	
09009	F0905	A	3	5		mortar bits	
09009	F0905	A	1	4		Fe nail	
09009	F0905	A	1	0		coke	post-medieval
09009	F0905	A	3	2		coal	post-medieval
01003	F1001	A	1	1		animal bone	
01003	F1001	A	3	19		undated brick fragments	
01005	F1001	A	1	8		Fabric 40 (PMRE) pottery	16th-19th century
01005	F1001	A	1	405		Roman brick	Roman
01005	F1001	A	2	104		Roman tile	Roman
01005	F1001	A	1	10		peg-tile	post-medieval
01005	F1001	A	2	4	✓	animal bone	-
01005	F1001	A	1	75		septaria	?Roman
01005	F1001	A	2	12		coke	post-medieval
01007	F1001	A	1	95		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
01007	F1001	A	9	536	✓	Roman tile	Roman
01007	F1001	A	1	120		Roman tile	Roman
01007	F1001	A	1	363		Roman brick	Roman
01007	F1001	A	2	606	✓	Roman brick	Roman
01007	F1001	A	1	158		modern ceramic drain	modern
01007	F1001	A	1	250		septaria	?Roman
01007	F1001	A	2	182	✓	septaria	?Roman
01007	F1001	A	1	796		slag	
01004	F1002	A	1	50		Roman tile	Roman
01004	F1002	A	1	75		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
01004	F1002	A	1	1		undated tile spall	
01006	F1002	A	1	-		human skeleton	Roman
01008	F1003	A	1	7		Roman or medieval grey ware	Roman
01008	F1003	A	2	5		Fabric 40 (PMRE) sherd	16th-19th century
01008	F1003	A	1	5		Fabric 21 sherd	13th-16th century
01008	F1003	A	2	14		peg-tile	post-medieval
01008	F1003	A	1	49		slate	post-medieval
01008	F1003	A	2	2	✓	indeterminate tile	
01008	F1003	A	15	38		oyster	
01008	F1003	A	1	13		septaria	?Roman
01008	F1003	A	1	14		animal bone	
01009	F1006	A	1	8		Camulodunum form 243-4/246 bowl	Roman, 1st-2nd century
00302	L0302	A	6	32		Fabric 48d pot	19th-20th century
00302	L0302	A	1	21		Fabric 45m	19th-20th century
00302	L0302	A	1	3		drain fragment	modern
00302	L0302	A	2	4	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
04001	L0405	A	1	30		peg-tile	post-medieval
04001	L0405	A	1	3		clay pipe	post-medieval
04001	L0405	A	1	1	✓	animal bone	
04001	L0405	A	1	1	✓	oyster	
00502	L0502	A	2	61		peg-tile	post-medieval
00502	L0502	A	1	7		clay pipe	post-medieval
00502	L0502	A	1	17		bit of rubber	very modern
00502	L0502	A	1	7		clinker	post-medieval or modern
00501	L0503	A	1	61		Fabric 40 (PMRE): rim of large vessel, well worn	16th-19th century
00501	L0503	A	3	65		probably Roman brick	?Roman

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
00501	L0503	A	1	27		post-medieval or modern brick, odd shape	post-medieval or modern
00501	L0503	A	1	9		oyster	
00701	L0702	A	1	2		clay pipe	post-medieval
00701	L0702	A	1	12		spent cartridge	modern
09001	L0904	A	3	20		2 sherds LIA/Roman, 1 Roman	LIA/Roman
09001	L0904	A	2	69		Roman brick	Roman
09001	L0904	A	3	253		Roman tile	Roman
09001	L0904	A	1	7		peg-tile	post-medieval
09001	L0904	A	3	47		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
09001	L0904	A	3	28		oyster shell	
09001	L0904	A	1	8		coal	post-medieval
01001	L1002	A	1	27	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01001	L1002	A	1	16		lead musket ball	post-medieval
01001	L1002	A	2	4		Fe nails	
01001	L1002	A	1	17		spoon	modern
01001	L1002	A	12	166		oystershell	
01002	L1004	A	7	1672		Roman brick	Roman
01002	L1004	A	3	199		Roman tile	Roman
01002	L1004	A	1	135		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)	Roman
01002	L1004	A	1	104		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
01002	L1004	A	1	22	✓	animal bone	
01002	L1004	A	2	81		Roman pot, inc amphora Dressel 20 or Haltern 70	1st-2nd or early 3rd century AD
01002	L1004	A	1	41		Fabric 20 sherd	late 13th-14th century
01010	F0101	B	2	17		flints	prehistoric
01002	F0102	B	1	4		Fe nail	
01002	F0102	B	1	3		Fabric 20 sherd	late 13th-14th century
01002	F0102	B	1	3		Fabric 45	16th-18th century
01002	F0102	B	1	45		Roman tile	Roman
01002	F0102	B	3	110	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01002	F0102	B	3	110	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	post-medieval or modern
01005	F0102	B	1	25		Fabric 40 (PMRE) base	16th-19th century
01005	F0102	B	1	537		Roman brick	Roman
01005	F0102	B	1	21		Roman tile	Roman
01005	F0102	B	7	223	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01005	F0102	B	1	2		clay pipe	post-medieval
01005	F0102	B	2	18		animal bone	
01006	F0103	B	1	9		Roman sherd	
01006	F0103	B	1	8		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
01006	F0103	B	3	102		peg-tile	post-medieval
01006	F0103	B	1	1		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01008	F0104	B	2	2		Fe nails	
01007	F0105	B	1	5		Fabric 21a	15th-16th century
01007	F0105	B	1	30		peg-tile	post-medieval
01007	F0105	B	1	7		animal bone	
01007	F0105	B	3	4		tile scraps	
01003	F0106	B	4	85		Roman grey wares	
01003	F0106	B	36	565		Fabric 21a	15th-16th century
01003	F0106	B	13	221		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
01003	F0106	B	1	86		burnt peg-tile	post-medieval
01003	F0106	B	3	105		mortar bits	
01003	F0106	B	3	95		oystershell	
01003	F0106	B	6	349		Fabric 45c	mid 15th-late 16th century
01003	F0106	B	1	7		mussel shell	
01003	F0106	B	7	44		whelk shells	
01003	F0106	B	9	24		winkle shells	
01003	F0106	B	15	200		Fe nails and debris	
01003	F0106	B	1	13		Fabric 40 (PMRE)?	16th-19th century?
01003	F0106	B	1	51		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)	Roman
01003	F0106	B	37	1565		peg-tile	post-medieval
01003	F0106	B	1	375		post-medieval or modern brick, frogless, 56mm thick	post-medieval or modern
01003	F0106	B	1	12	✓	septaria	?Roman
01003	F0106	B	1	3		slate	post-medieval
01003	F0106	B	1	535		post-medieval floor-tile	post-medieval
01003	F0106	B	2	102		burnt clay lumps	
01003	F0106	B	1	45	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01003	F0106	B	2	341		post-medieval or modern brick, Tudor type	post-medieval or modern

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
01003	F0106	B	1	106		rubbed brick fragment	post-medieval or modern
01003	F0106	B	36	1527		Fabric 21a including narrow-necked cistern (see Cotter 2000, fig 84 no 73) storage jar rims, and bowl rim (see Cotter 2000, fig 94 no 158)	group late 15th-16th century
01003	F0106	B	2	128		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
01003	F0106	B	75	1038		animal bone	
01004	F0106	B				Roman white coated ware, not Oxford	Roman
01016	F0107	B	2	1		mussel	
01016	F0107	B	1	2		indeterminate tile	
01014	F0107/ F0109	B	54	2884		good group of Fabric 21a cistern or storage jar(s?). Thumbled base and under rim, painted leaf decoration and swags (see Cotter 2000, fig 87, 86)	15th/16th century
01022	F0108	B	1	6		animal bone	
01022	F0108	B	1	2		indeterminate tile	
01017	F0109	B	1	8		Colchester colour-coat	early/mid 2nd-3rd century AD
01017	F0109	B	1	1		animal bone	
01018	F0110	B	1	10		peg-tile	post-medieval
01018	F0110	B	1	1	✓	animal bone	
01018	F0110	B	1	2	✓	indeterminate tile	
02003	F0201	B	22	395		Roman grey ware	
02003	F0201	B	1	4		Nene Valley colour-coat	mid 3rd century + AD
02003	F0201	B	1	5		Fabric 22, speckly clear glaze over pale orange fabric	13th-14th century
02003	F0201	B	3	80		Roman tile	Roman
02003	F0201	B	5	68	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
02003	F0201	B	8	103		animal bone	
02003	F0201	B	2	4	✓	indeterminate tile	
02003	F0201	B	1	31		daub	
02003	F0201	B	3	62		oystershell	
02008	F0202	B	7	59		Roman grey ware, plus Nene Valley colour-coat	early/mid 3rd-4th century AD
02008	F0202	B	2	2		Roman red fabric	
02008	F0202	B	1	103		Roman brick	Roman
02008	F0202	B	2	100		Roman tile	Roman
02008	F0202	B	3	380		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
02008	F0202	B	7	202		animal bone	
02008	F0202	B	1	379		septaria	
02008	F0202	B	1	64		oyster shell	
02009	F0203	B	0	0		Roman grey wares	
02010	F0204	B	3	86		peg-tile	post-medieval
02010	F0204	B	4	57		animal bone	
02013	F0206	B	6	225		Roman grey wares, inc large storage jar	
02013	F0206	B	1	2		animal bones	
03040	F0302	B	2	9		peg-tile	post-medieval
03040	F0302	B	1	1		animal bone	
03040	F0302	B	1	5		oystershell	
03003	F0303	B	12	105		animal bone	
03009	F0303	B	many	-		complete dog burial	
03010	F0303	B	3	192		Roman brick	Roman
03010	F0303	B	6	85		peg-tile	post-medieval
03010	F0303	B	2	16		animal bone	
03010	F0303	B	1	2		slate	post-medieval
03010	F0303	B	5	70	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	
03010	F0303	B	1	41		septaria	?Roman
03011	F0304	B	3	55		Fe nails	
03011	F0304	B	1	17		Roman grey ware	
03011	F0304	B	1	25		amphora sherd	
03011	F0304	B	1	21		Fabric 45	16th-18th century
03011	F0304	B	12	297	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03011	F0304	B	1	239	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03011	F0304	B	3	40		animal bone	
03011	F0304	B	6	32		slate	post-medieval
03012	F0307	B	1	6		Roman grey ware	

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
03012	F0307	B	1	61		Roman tile	Roman
03012	F0307	B	5	188		peg-tile	post-medieval
03012	F0307	B	3	296		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03012	F0307	B	1	26		animal bone	
03012	F0310	B	1	238		Roman brick	Roman
03012	F0310	B	1	33		Roman tile	Roman
03012	F0310	B	1	820		Tudor-type brick	post-medieval
03012	F0310	B	1	72		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03012	F0310	B	1	960		stone floor slab	
03013	F0310	B	2	15		burnt prehistoric sherds?	?prehistoric
03028	F0311	B	1	29		Fabric 51a	19th-20th century
03028	F0311	B	1	8	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03028	F0311	B	1	188		indeterminate brick	
03104	F0313	B	1	5		Roman colour-coat sherd, prob Nene Valley ware	3rd century + AD
03104	F0313	B	2	289		Roman tile	Roman
03104	F0313	B	1	27		peg-tile?	post-medieval?
03104	F0313	B	1	8		slate	post-medieval
03104	F0313	B	1	1		oystershell	
03104	F0313	B	1	1		bit of modern plywood	modern
03015	F0314	B	3	69		peg-tile	post-medieval
03015	F0314	B	8	56		slate	post-medieval
03015	F0314	B	1	6		oystershell	
03018	F0318	B	2	45		Roman grey wares	
03018	F0318	B	33	1570		over-fired tile? or briquetage, as from BF0318	
03018	F0318	B	1	14		peg-tile	post-medieval
03018	F0318	B	2	53		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03018	F0318	B	3	18	✓	animal bone	
03018	F0318	B	1	6	✓	oyster	
03023	F0318	B	3	6		animal bone	
03023	F0318	B	25	428		burnt, briquetage type of daub, some with painted surface	
03023	F0318	B	1	1		very modern glass	modern
03023	F0318	B	1	17		animal bone	
03023	F0318	B	19	1047		briquetage-type tile with painted surface	
03023	F0318	B	1	277		tile which I don't recognise	
03006	F0319	B	1	2		animal bone	
03006	F0319	B	0	0		Colchester roughcast colour-coat	early 2nd-3rd century AD
03009	F0319	B	1	9		Fe nail	
03007	F0320	B	2	32		Roman colour-coats, prob Colchester	probably 2nd-3rd century AD
03029	F0322	B	22	234		animal bone	
03029	F0322	B	5	70		oystershell	
03020	F0323	B	1	60		Roman tile?	?Roman
03020	F0323	B	2	41		peg-tile	post-medieval
03020	F0323	B	8	66	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03020	F0323	B	1	336		limestone lump	
03020	F0323	B	2	55		oystershell	
03020	F0323	B	4	122	✓	modern mortar	
03020	F0323	B	2	37		slate	post-medieval
03019	F0324	B	1	14		Fabric 45m	19th-20th century
03019	F0324	B	2	25		peg-tile	post-medieval
03019	F0324	B	21	485		post-medieval or modern brick, very smashed up	post-medieval or modern
03019	F0324	B	1	1		post-medieval or modern glass	post-medieval or modern
03019	F0324	B	4	216	✓	mortar bits	
03019	F0324	B	1	34		septaria	
03019	F0324	B	2	66		oystershell	
3022	F0325	B	1	1		Roman grey ware	
3022	F0325	B	1	18		hand-made Anglo-Saxon sherd	8th-9th century
3022	F0325	B	6	110		peg-tile	post-medieval
3022	F0325	B	2	202		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
3022	F0325	B	11	252	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
3022	F0325	B	3	14	✓	animal bone	
3022	F0325	B	10	142	✓	modern mortar	
3022	F0325	B	2	4		Fabric 21 or 40?	16th? century
3022	F0325	B	1	67		oyster	

Find no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
3022	F0325	B	2	26		burnt stones	
3022	F0325	B	2	5		slate	post-medieval
3033	F0326	B	4	42	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
3033	F0326	B	1	2		clay pipe	post-medieval
3106	F0327	B	1	15		Fabric 10	
3106	F0327	B	1	11		Fabric 45b	late 15th-early 16th century
3106	F0327	B	1	55		peg-tile	post-medieval
3106	F0327	B	26	774	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
3106	F0327	B	7	476	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
3106	F0327	B	14	142		animal bone	
3106	F0327	B	1	120		mortar	
3106	F0327	B	1	169		septaria	?Roman
3106	F0327	B	1	106	✓	septaria	?Roman
3106	F0327	B	2	95		daub?	
3106	F0327	B	1	5		slate	post-medieval
3017	F0328	B	1	23		animal bone	
3025	F0330	B	1	3		Roman colour-coat	
03025	F0330	B	5	42		Fabric 21a body sherds with slip painting	1450-1550
03025	F0330	B	1	20		Roman tile	Roman
03025	F0330	B	20	399	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03025	F0330	B	9	33		animal bone	
03025	F0330	B	2	42		indeterminate tile	
03025	F0330	B	3	59		slate	post-medieval
03025	F0330	B	1	255		slag	
03025	F0330	B	1	27		Roman tile	Roman
03025	F0330	B	1	14		Roman grey ware rim	
03025	F0330	B	1	2		Roman colour-coat, possibly Colchester	late 2nd century+ AD
03026	F0331	B	2	30		Fe nails?	
03026	F0331	B	8	155	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03026	F0331	B	1	80		peg-tile	post-medieval
03026	F0331	B	2	2		animal bone	
03036	F0333	B	1	20		Roman brick	Roman
03034	F0334	B	16	329	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03034	F0334	B	4	39		animal bone	
03034	F0334	B	1	16		oyster shell	
03034	F0334	B	1	10		slate	post-medieval
03034	F0334	B	1	13		septaria	?Roman
03034	F0334	B	9	59	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	
03035	F0335	B	7	66	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03035	F0335	B	2	6		animal bone	
03035	F0335	B	3	6		slate	post-medieval
03035	F0335	B	1	6		septaria	?Roman
03035	F0335	B	1	19		indeterminate tile	
03030	F0337	B	1	2		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
03030	F0337	B	1	5	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03038	F0340	B	1	80		Fe: ordnance fragment?	modern
03038	F0340	B	2	73		Roman tile	Roman
03038	F0340	B	1	8		clay pipe	post-medieval
03038	F0340	B	2	108		oystershell	
06005	F0603	B	1	44		peg-tile	post-medieval
06005	F0603	B	1	11		animal bone	
06005	F0603	B	2	8		oystershell	
06014	F0603	B	1	76		Roman grey ware, large storage jar	1st-3rd century AD
06014	F0603	B	2	1		glass – Roman?	?Roman
06001	F0604	B	2	7		Roman grey ware	
06001	F0604	B	1	2		Roman colour-coat, prob Colchester	2nd century AD
06001	F0604	B	1	32		carrot amphora	1st century AD
06001	F0604	B	1	6		Fabric 21?	13th-16th century?
06001	F0604	B	1	4		Roman brick?	?Roman
06001	F0604	B	2	55		Roman brick	Roman
06001	F0604	B	1	22		peg-tile	post-medieval
06001	F0604	B	1	3	✓	indeterminate tile	
06015	F0604	B	1	15		post-medieval glass	post-medieval
06002	F0605	B	4	64		Fe nails	group early/mid 2nd century AD

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
06002	F0605	B	5	113		Roman carot amphora	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	3	1006		Roman brick	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	2	80		Roman tile	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	1	60		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	10	133		animal bone	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	6	128		oystershell	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	1	22		<i>tessera</i>	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	8	84	✓	indeterminate tile or brick, probably Roman	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	5	53		samian ware inc stamp PVGNIM	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	22	165		Roman grey wares	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	3	14		Roman colour-coats, Colchester roughcast colour-coats, Cologne colour-coats	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	2	329		Dressel 20 amphora sherds	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06002	F0605	B	27	406		buff flagon sherds	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06008	F0605	B	2	32		Fe nails	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06008	F0605	B	3	34		Roman sherds	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06008	F0605	B	1	13		animal bone	group early/mid 2nd century AD
06009	F0606	B	1	42		Fabric 13	12th century
06009	F0606	B	5	175		peg-tile	post-medieval
06009	F0606	B	2	7		clay pipe	post-medieval
06009	F0606	B	5	66		animal bone	
06009	F0606	B	1	182		slate	post-medieval
06009	F0606	B	1	60		septaria	?Roman
06009	F0606	B	1	11	✓	mortar	
06011	F0608	B	1	106		Dressel 20 amphora	1st-early 3rd century AD
06011	F0608	B	1	17		Fabric 21?	
06011	F0608	B	1	80		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)	Roman
06012	F0611	B	5	30		Roman grey wares	
06012	F0611	B	2	12		green glazed Fabric 21a	15th-16th century
06012	F0611	B	1	137		Roman brick	Roman
06012	F0611	B	1	5		peg-tile	post-medieval
06012	F0611	B	1	62		indeterminate tile or brick	post-medieval or modern
06012	F0611	B	2	133		oystershell	
06004	F0613	B	1	12		Roman grey ware	
06004	F0613	B	1	15		animal bone	
06013	F0614	B	4	512	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
06013	F0614	B	1	433		peg-tile	post-medieval
01009	L0102	B	1	185		Fabric 45d/e	late 16th-17th century
01009	L0102	B	1	94		Roman brick	Roman
01009	L0102	B	2	71		peg-tile	post-medieval
01011	L0103	B	1	5		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
01011	L0103	B	1	338		Roman brick	Roman
01011	L0103	B	1	84		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i> - reused)	?Roman
01011	L0103	B	1	254	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01011	L0103	B	1	69		peg-tile	post-medieval
01011	L0103	B	1	1228	✓	post-medieval brick, frogless 62mm thick	post-medieval
01011	L0103	B	1	15		oystershell	
01011	L0103	B	1	6	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	
02001	L0202	B	5	33		Roman grey ware and Colchester colour-coat	early 2nd-3rd century AD
02005	L0205	B	8	742	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
02005	L0205	B	4	63		animal bone	
02005	L0205	B	1	114		peg-tile	post-medieval

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
02011	L0206/ L0209	B	5	41		Roman grey wares	
02011	L0206/ L0209	B	3	27		animal bone	
02011	L0206/ L0209	B	1	72		animal bone	
02011	L0206/ L0209	B				Cam 40 BB copy	early/mid 2nd-mid/late 3rd century AD
02006	L0207	B	1	95		odd stone	
02006	L0207	B	3	216		architectural fragments	
02007	L0208	B	8	145		Roman grey wares, inc large storage jar	Roman
02007	L0208	B	3	522	✓	Roman brick	Roman
02007	L0208	B	1	3		animal bone	
02007	L0208	B	2	463	✓	septaria	?Roman
02007	L0208	B	1	383		septaria	?Roman
02007	L0208	B	1	5		slate	post-medieval
02007	L0208	B	1	2	✓	oystershell	
02007	L0208	B	1	150		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
02007	L0208	B	1	22		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)	Roman
02007	L0208	B	2	53		animal bone	
02007	L0208	B	5	102		oystershell	
02007	L0208	B	2	33		slate	post-medieval
02014	L0208	B	1	8		Fe nail	
02014	L0208	B	1	101		Fe clasp?	
02014	L0208	B	8	32		Roman grey wares, and folded beaker probably from Colchester	late 2nd-3rd century AD
02014	L0208	B	2	84		peg-tile	post-medieval
02014	L0208	B	9	86		animal bone	
02014	L0208	B	1	272		stone	
02014	L0208	B	1	95		quern	
02014	L0208	B	3	66		oystershell	
02014	L0208	B	5	7		mussel shell	
02014	L0208	B	4	26		whelk shell	
02017	L0210	B	5	19		Roman grey ware	
02017	L0210	B	5	63		Fabric 40 (PMRE), some bits heavily burnt	16th-19th century
02017	L0210	B	2	14		peg-tile?	post-medieval?
02017	L0210	B	2	148		animal bone	
02017	L0210	B	13	46		oystershell	
02017	L0210	B	5	7		mussel	
02017	L0210	B	2	8		whelk	
02017	L0210	B	1	47		septaria	?Roman
02012	L0211	B	9	39		Roman grey ware (Camulodunum 37)	1st-2nd century AD
02012	L0211	B	1	20		Roman brick	Roman
02012	L0211	B	1	16		peg-tile	post-medieval
02012	L0211	B	3	45		animal bone	
02012	L0211	B	3	35		oyster shell	
03005	L0304	B	3	3		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
03005	L0304	B	1	1		post-medieval window glass?	post-medieval?
03005	L0304	B	1	2	✓	animal bone	
03005	L0304	B	1	2	✓	coke	post-medieval
03031	L0304	B	1	2		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03031	L0304	B	1	45		indeterminate brick/tile	
03031	L0304	B	2	1		coke	post-medieval
03031	L0304	B	1	1		coal	post-medieval
06007	L0604	B	1	15		Fabric 51a	19th-20th century
06007	L0604	B	7	287	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
2002	U/S	B	1	18		Roman grey ware	
2002	U/S	B	2	434	✓	Roman brick	Roman
2002	U/S	B	1	224		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
4001	U/S	B	4	73		Roman grey ware	
02001	F0202	D	1	33		slate	post-medieval
02002	F0203	D	4	15		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
02002	F0203	D	1	12		Fabric 45m	19th-20th century
02002	F0203	D	1	32		Roman brick	Roman
02002	F0203	D	3	63	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
02002	F0203	D	1	22	✓	animal bone	

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
02002	F0203	D	2	16	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	
02002	F0203	D	1	7		very modern glass	modern
03001	F0303	D	1	14		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
03001	F0303	D	2	6		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
03001	F0303	D	6	74	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03001	F0303	D	1	1		clay pipe	post-medieval
03001	F0303	D	1	6	✓	slate	post-medieval
03001	F0303	D	1	1	✓	oystershell	
03001	F0303	D	3	5	✓	coal	modern
03001	F0303	D	4	16	✓	cokey bits	modern
03001	F0303	D	1	7	✓	Fe lump	
03001	F0303	D	3	13	✓	indeterminate tile or brick	
02003	U/S	D	1	43		Fabric 40 (PMRE) handle	16th-19th century
00701	F0703	GJ	1	52		Roman tile (box flue tile)	Roman
00701	F0703	GJ	1	429		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
00701	F0703	GJ	1	14		green beer bottle fragment: "...ITED"	post-medieval or modern
03001	L0303	H	1	35		Fabric 51a	19th-20th century
03001	L0303	H	17	859		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
03001	L0303	H	2	5		clay pipe	post-medieval
03001	L0303	H	1	3		glass	
01002	U/S	H	1	211		Roman brick	Roman
03002	U/S	H	1	131		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
03002	U/S	H	1	2200		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03002	U/S	H	1	3000		architectural brick fragment from brick arch?	post-medieval
17001	JL1707	J	6	2148		Roman brick	Roman
17001	JL1707	J	2	73		Roman tile	Roman
17001	JL1707	J	1	62		peg-tile?	post-medieval?
01006	F0101	J	12	112	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01006	F0101	J	1	35		peg-tile	post-medieval
01006	F0101	J	2	47		Fe nails	
01006	F0101	J	5	48		Roman grey wares	
01006	F0101	J	2	7		Fabric 21	13th-16th century
01006	F0101	J	1	2		Fabric 20	late 13th-14th century
01006	F0101	J	1	32		Roman tile	Roman
01012	F0101	J	2	14		Cam BB ware type, flared rim jar	later 3rd-4th century AD
01014	F0101	J	1	1		clay pipe	post-medieval
01002	F0102	J	1	6		Fe nail	
01002	F0102	J	1	3		Roman orange ware sherd	
01002	F0102	J	2	18		Roman grey wares (BB)	after AD 120
01002	F0102	J	1	56		amphora	
01002	F0102	J	3	30		Fabric 20, inc rim	late 13th-14th century
01002	F0102	J	1	24		Roman brick	Roman
01002	F0102	J	6	45		peg-tile (intrusive)	post-medieval
01002	F0102	J	1	5		very modern plate glass (intrusive?)	modern
01002	F0102	J	2	15		animal bone	
01005	F0102	J	11	91		Roman grey ware	
01005	F0102	J	2	3		Fe hobnails (from burial?)	
01005	F0102	J	2	4		indeterminate tile	
01005	F0102	J	1	2		Roman orange ware	
01005	F0102	J	6	18		LIA/early Roman sherds	LIA/early Roman
01005	F0102	J	1	4		prehistoric sherd	prehistoric
01009	F0102	J	6	58		Roman grey ware	
01009	F0102	J	1	1		Fe hobnail (from burial?)	
01011	F0102	J	2	22		Roman grey wares	
01011	F0102	J	1	3		Fe nail	
01015	F0102	J	5	28		Roman grey wares: bowl Cam 243/4-246	1st-2nd century AD
01016	F0102	J	4	45		Roman grey wares (Cam 243/4-246)	1st-2nd century AD
01016	F0102	J	4	8		Roman buff sherds	
01016	F0102	J	3	15		prehistoric sherds	prehistoric
01016	F0102	J	1	84		Roman brick	Roman
01016	F0102	J	1	5		Fe nail	
01017	F0102	J	1	17		amphora	
01017	F0102	J	2	7		prehistoric sherds	prehistoric
01017	F0102	J	2	18		Fe nails	
01017	F0102	J	5	50		Roman grey wares: Cam 268	early 2nd century+ AD

Find no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
01021	F0102	J	4	8		prehistoric sherds	prehistoric
01021	F0102	J	7	63		Roman orange fabric	
01021	F0102	J	23	197		Roman grey wares: nice group, inc Cam 243/4-246	1st-2nd century AD
01021	F0102	J	1	2		Fe nail?	
01021	F0102	J	2	11		coke (intrusive)	
01013	F0103	J	1	8		prehistoric sherd	prehistoric
01013	F0103	J	13	27		Roman grey wares and a folded beaker	2nd-3rd century + AD
01013	F0103	J	1	145		Roman tile	Roman
01013	F0103	J	1	13		peg-tile	post-medieval
01013	F0103	J	1	7		animal bone	
01022	F0108	J	7	161		Roman sherds, buff/orange	
01022	F0108	J	23	241		Roman grey wares: Cam 279	2nd, poss 3rd century AD
01022	F0108	J	1	3		prehistoric sherd	prehistoric
01023	F0108	J	3	15		Fe nails	
01024	F0108	J	16	1694		cremation pot and fragments	mid-late 2nd century AD
03002	F0301	J	1	103		Fe knife?	
03002	F0301	J	1	7		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
03002	F0301	J	3	62		peg-tile	post-medieval
03002	F0301	J	2	2		post-medieval glass	post-medieval
03002	F0301	J	6	31		animal bone	
03002	F0301	J	1	6		oystershell	
03002	F0301	J	2	14		Roman grey wares	
03002	F0301	J	1	21		Roman sherd made into spindle whorl	
03002	F0301	J	7	113	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
03002	F0301	J	1	5		clay pipe	post-medieval
05002	F0503	J	1	23		peg-tile	post-medieval
05004	F0504	J	1	5		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
05004	F0504	J	2	18	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
05004	F0504	J	1	333		greensand lump	
05003	F0505	J	3	12		animal bone	
06004	F0605	J	1	80		Roman brick with mortar adhering	?Roman
06004	F0605	J	2	1946		pieces of greensand with mortar adhering	
06007	F0605	J	1	202		Roman brick	Roman
06007	F0605	J	2	854		limestone piece	
06007	F0605	J	1	62		mortar	
06005	F0606	J	1	4		glazed Fabric 40 or 21a	15th-16th century? or later?
06005	F0606	J	21	2284		greensand lumps and chips	
06005	F0606	J	2	20		mortar	
06005	F0606	J	10	43	✓	mortar	
06005	F0606	J	1	3		indeterminate brick or tile	
06006	F0612	J	1	21		Roman tile	Roman
06006	F0612	J	1	60		peg-tile	post-medieval
06006	F0612	J	1	342		limestone	
06006	F0612	J	1	7		indeterminate tile or brick	
08003	F0801	J	2	18		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
08003	F0801	J	3	40	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
08002	F0803	J	2	49		Fe nails	
08002	F0803	J	1	6		flint	
08002	F0803	J	2	7		Roman grey ware	
08002	F0803	J	6	92		animal bone	
08006	F0804	J	1	5		clay pipe	post-medieval
08005	F0805	J	7	142		peg-tile	post-medieval
08005	F0805	J	3	260		post-medieval brick or tile	post-medieval or modern
08005	F0805	J	3	275		slag	
10004	F1010	J	10	449		Fe scrap	
10004	F1010	J	1	15		Roman tile	Roman
10004	F1010	J	2	28	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
10004	F1010	J	2	6	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	
10004	F1010	J	1	4		very modern glass	modern
10003	F1015	J	4	565		fragments of Fabric 48d vessel with transfer print "DOULTON'S IMPROVED FOOT WARMER.. LAMBETH POTTERY LONDON"	19th-20th century

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
10002	F1020	J	2	97		modern glass	
10001	F1025	J	3	225		Fabric 48d -2 are very modern	20th century
10001	F1025	J	1	127		Roman tile?	?Roman
10001	F1025	J	3	50		modern glass	19th-20th century
10001	F1025	J	1	12		empty cartridge	modern
10005	F1031	J	1	2		post-medieval brick or tile	post-medieval or modern
11004	F1104	J	1	11		slag	
11003	F1105	J	1	20		slag	
11001	F1119	J	2	36		Fabric 40 (PMRE) rims	16th-19th century
11001	F1119	J	3	155		Roman brick	Roman
11001	F1119	J	1	115		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
11001	F1119	J	9	276		peg-tile	post-medieval
11001	F1119	J	3	62		animal bone	
11001	F1119	J	4	26	✓	indeterminate tiles	
11001	F1119	J	1	31	✓	indeterminate brick	
12001	F1205	J	1	17		peg-tile	post-medieval
12001	F1205	J	1	116		Fe band	
12001	F1205	J	3	29		indeterminate brick fragment	
15001	F1501	J	1	125		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)	Roman
15001	F1501	J	1	69		Roman tile	Roman
15001	F1501	J	1	56		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01003	L0103	J	28	132		Roman whiteware flagon, almost complete, no rim	prob 2nd-3rd century AD
01004	L0103	J	1	16		Roman grey ware	
01004	L0103	J	1	13		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
01004	L0103	J	1	14		Fabric 45m	19th-20th century
01004	L0103	J	2	20		Fabric 45f	early 18th century
01004	L0103	J	1	27		Roman brick	Roman
01004	L0103	J	15	275	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01004	L0103	J	1	93		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01004	L0103	J	1	7		clay pipe	post-medieval
01008	L0103	J	1	1		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
01008	L0103	J	2	34	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
01008	L0103	J	1	1		very modern glass	modern
01008	L0103	J	2	4		clay pipe	post-medieval
06008	L0603	J	1	63		Roman brick	Roman
06008	L0603	J	1	7		clay pipe	post-medieval
08001	L0801	J	3	27		clay pipe	post-medieval
11002	L1103	J	2	19		peg-tile	post-medieval
11002	L1103	J	2	5		post-medieval or modern glass	post-medieval or modern
11002	L1103	J	1	5		Fe nail	
11002	L1103	J	3	28		indeterminate brick or tile	
06001	U/S	J	2	18		Roman grey wares	
06001	U/S	J	3	21		Fabric 20	late 13th-14th century
06001	U/S	J	1	185		Roman brick	Roman
06001	U/S	J	1	188	✓	post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
06001	U/S	J	1	3	✓	very modern glass	modern
06003	U/S	J	10	1360	✓	Roman brick	Roman
06003	U/S	J	1	863		Roman brick	Roman
07001	U/S	J	1	16		Fabric 45f	early 18th century
07001	U/S	J	1	26		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
07001	U/S	J	2	55	✓	peg-tile	post-medieval
07001	U/S	J	1	2		clay pipe	post-medieval
04003	F0404	N	1	6		Roman brick?	?Roman
04003	F0404	N	2	23		peg-tile	post-medieval
04003	F0404	N	1	3		post-medieval or modern brick or tile	post-medieval or modern
04003	F0404	N	1	10		modern glass	modern
04003	F0404	N	1	16		slate	post-medieval
04003	F0404	N	1	5		bit of modern mortar	modern
04002	F0405	N	30	34	✓	tiny bits of coal	post-medieval
04004	F0408	N	1	103		fragmented animal skull	
04004	F0408	N	1	7		slate	post-medieval
01001	F0103	V	1	3		Fabric 48d	19th-20th century
01001	F0103	V	1	7		Fabric 40 (PMRE)	16th-19th century
01001	F0103	V	3	62		peg-tile	post-medieval
01001	F0103	V	1	5		post-medieval or modern glass	post-medieval or modern
01001	F0103	V	1	4		animal bone	
01001	F0103	V	2	11		cinders	post-medieval
01001	F0103	V	2	2	✓	indeterminate brick or tile	

Finds no	Context number	Area	Qt	W	D	Find type	Find date
01002	F0104	V	1	4		Roman pot?	
01002	F0104	V	1	22		Roman brick	Roman
01003	U/S	V	1	1237		Roman brick	Roman
01002	F0104	YP	1	27		Roman brick, probably	?Roman
01003	F0109	YP	1	11		modern glass	modern
04001	F0407	YP	2	443		Roman brick	Roman
04002	F0407	YP	1	147		Roman brick	Roman
04002	F0407	YP	1	121		Roman tile	Roman
05005	F0513	YP	1	3		Roman tile?	?Roman
05005	F0513	YP	1	8		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
05006	F0520	YP	3	9		indeterminate brick or tile	
07001	F0708	YP	1	4		Nene Valley colour-coat ware	mid 3rd century+ AD
07002	F0711	YP	2	27		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
01001	L0106	YP	1	19		peg-tile	post-medieval
02001	L0202	YP	3	271		Roman brick	Roman
02001	L0202	YP	1	133		post-medieval or modern brick	post-medieval or modern
03002	L0302	YP	1	20		Roman tile	Roman
03002	L0302	YP	1	2		modern glass	modern
05003	L0501	YP	1	15		Roman grey ware (GX)	
05001	L0502	YP	1	8		clay pipe	post-medieval
05002	L0502	YP	1	83		Roman tile	Roman

Howard Brooks, August 2002

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Distribution list:

MoD

RMPA Services

RPS

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Heritage Conservation Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

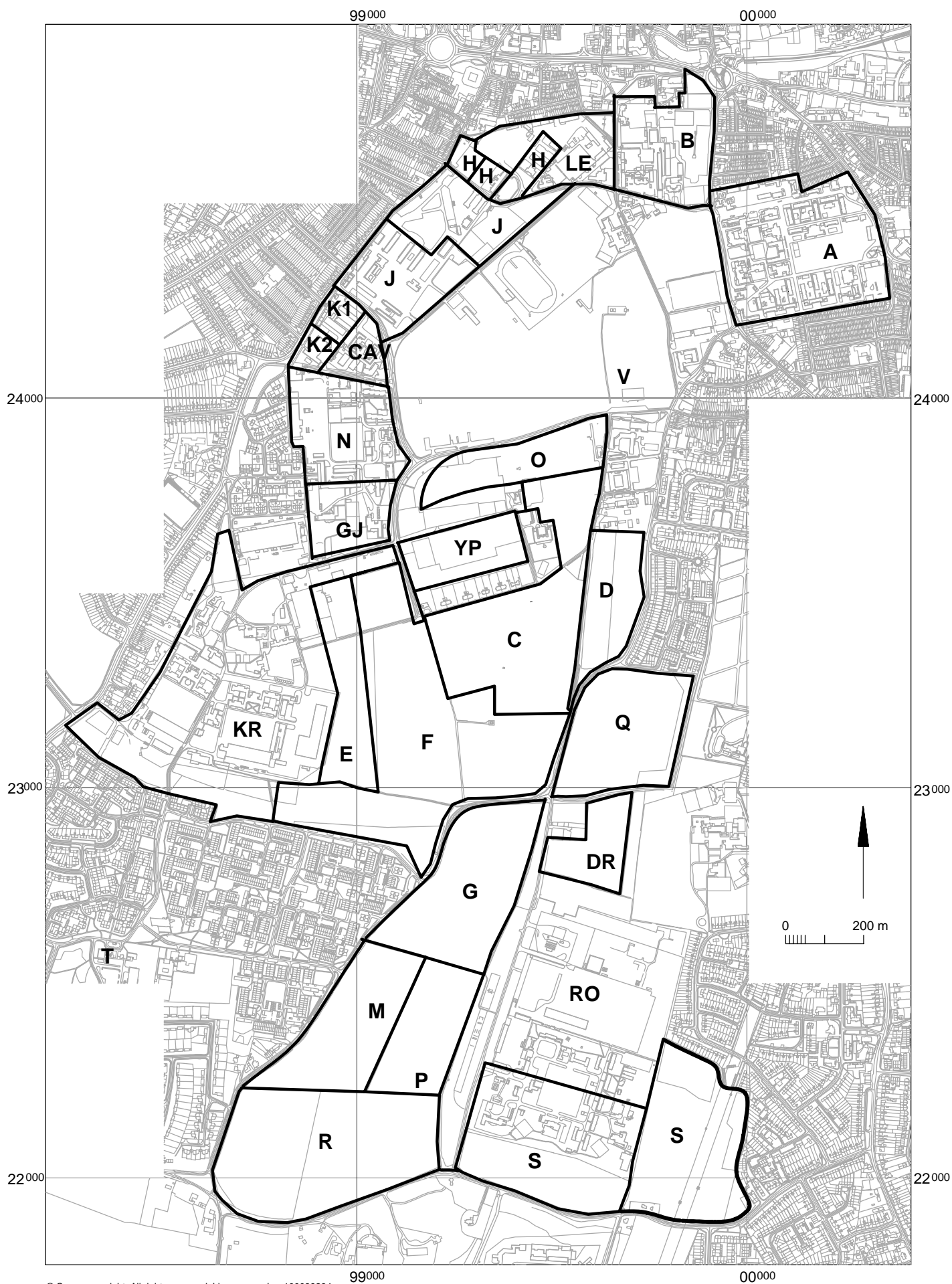
tel.: (01206) 541051

tel/fax: (01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 18.09.02

Adams c:/reports02/garrieval02/trial-trenching/AreasAB/report206final.doc



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Fig 1 Area locations.

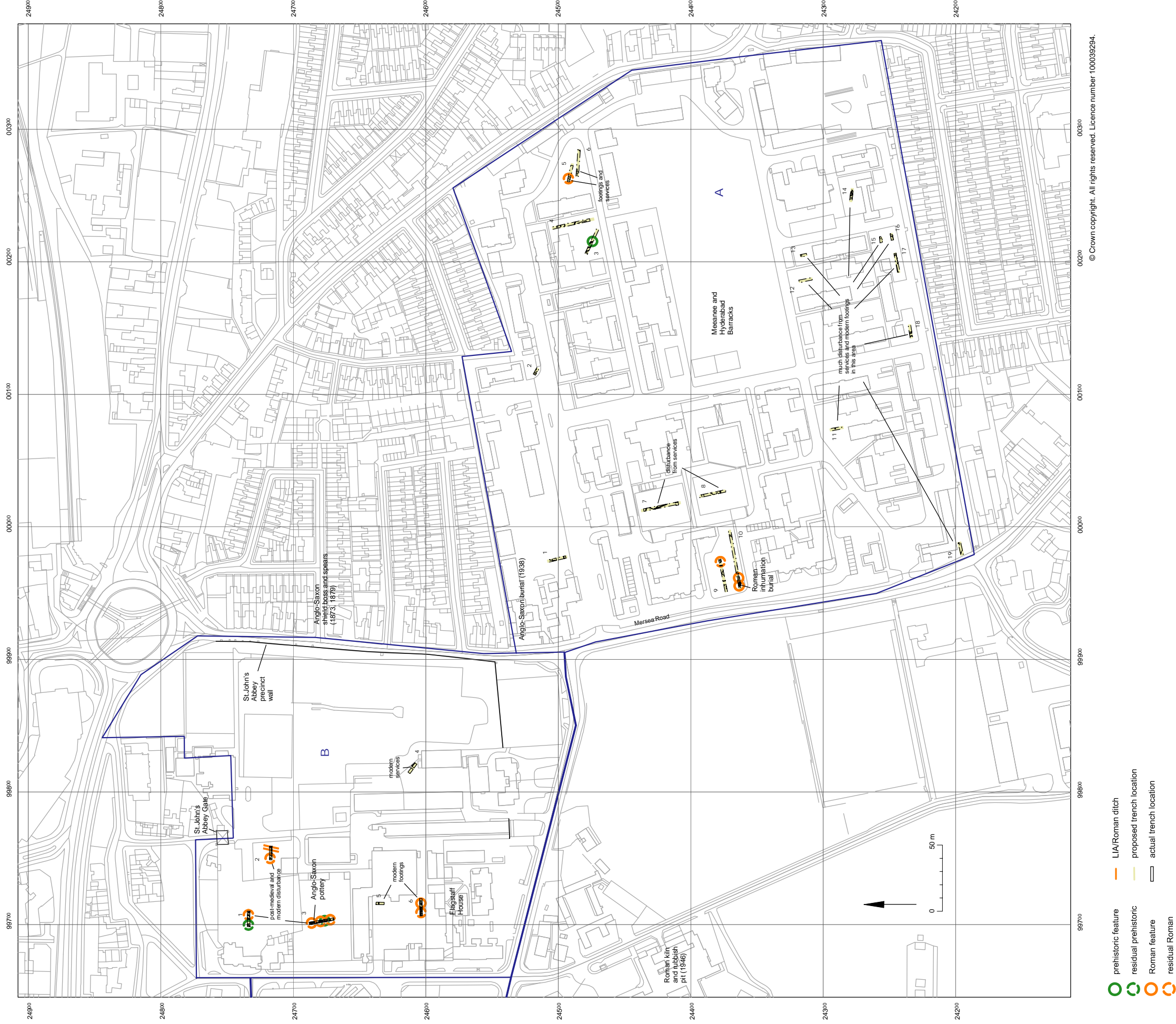


Fig 2 Areas A and B: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

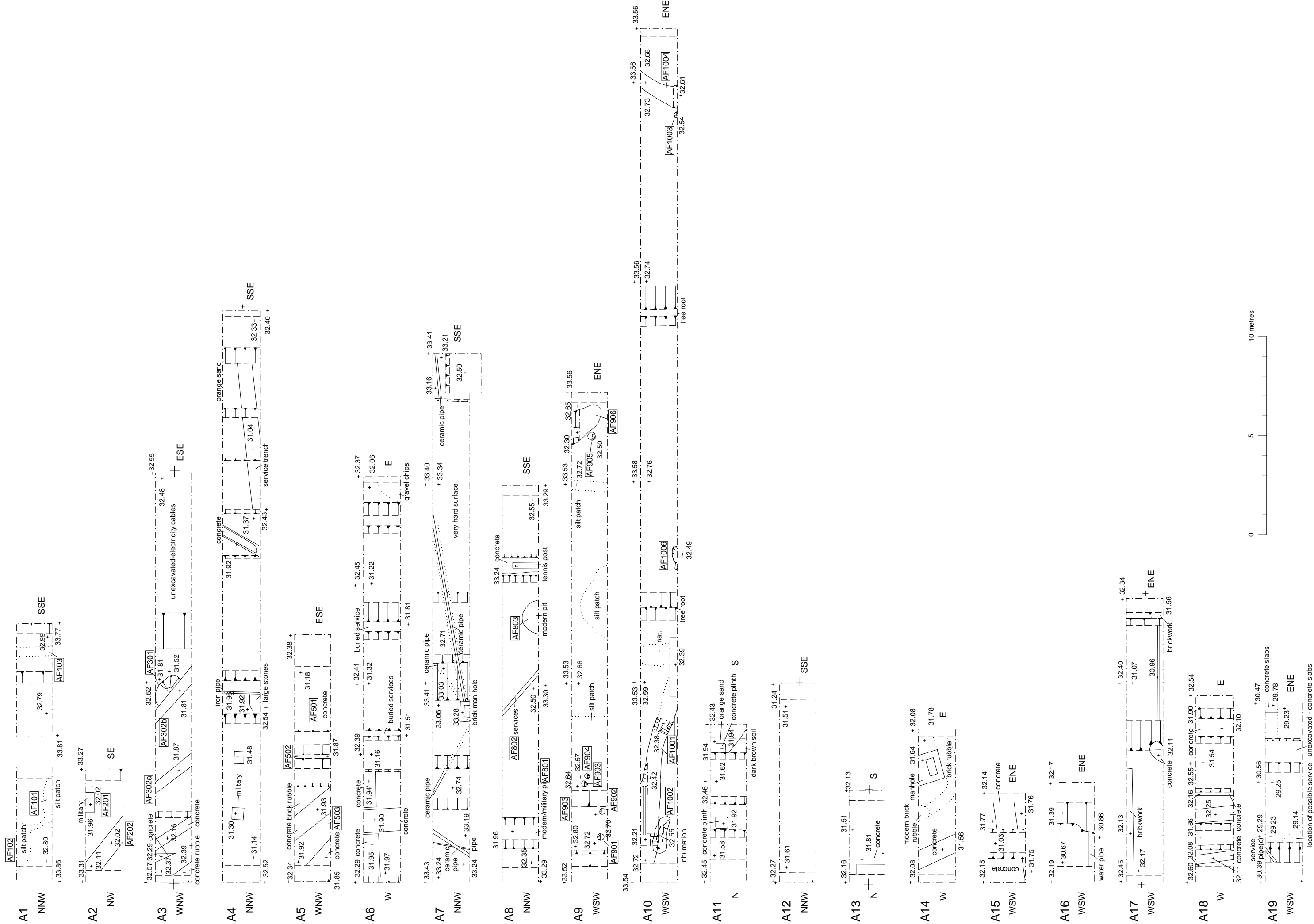


Fig 3 Area A: trench plans.

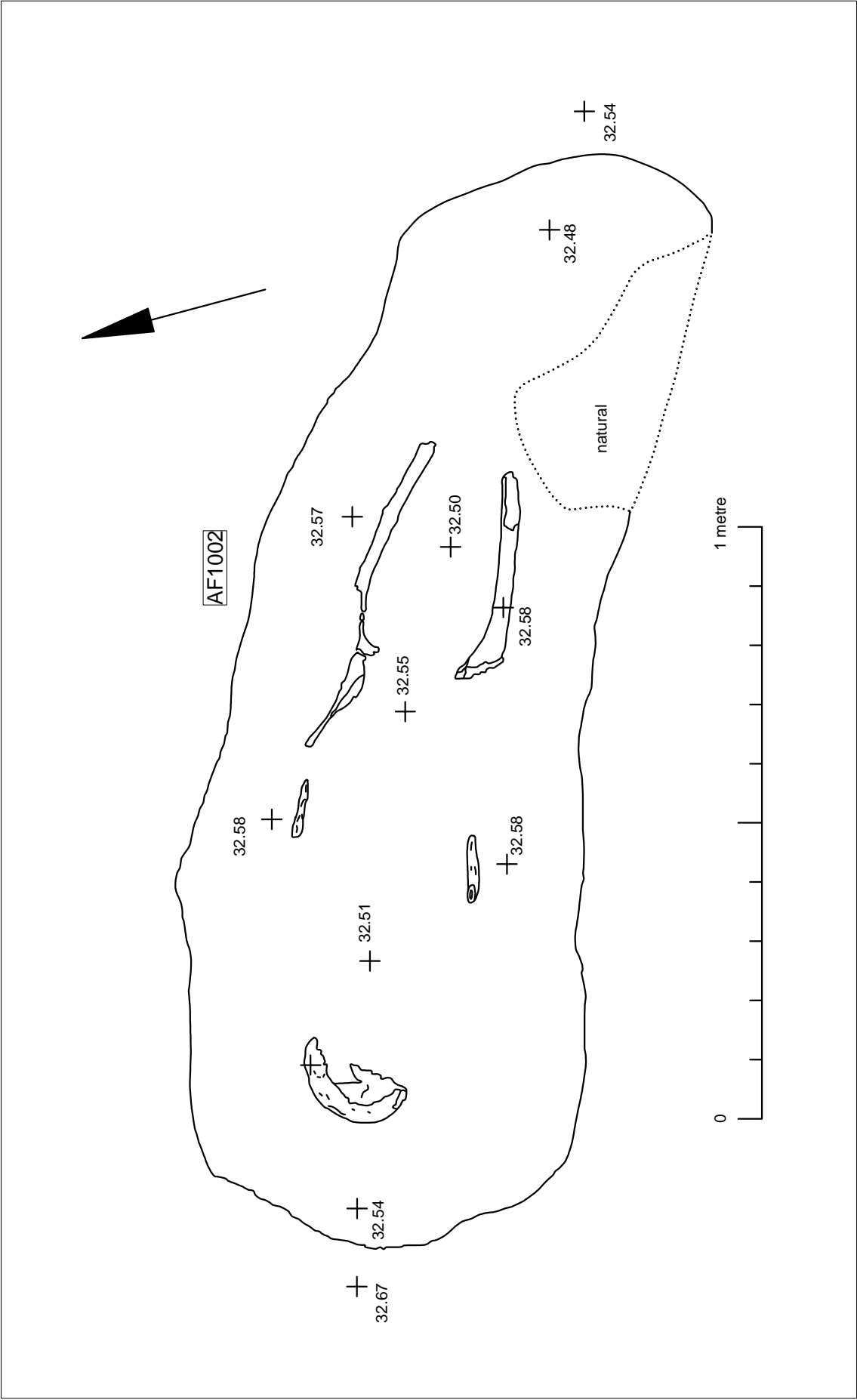
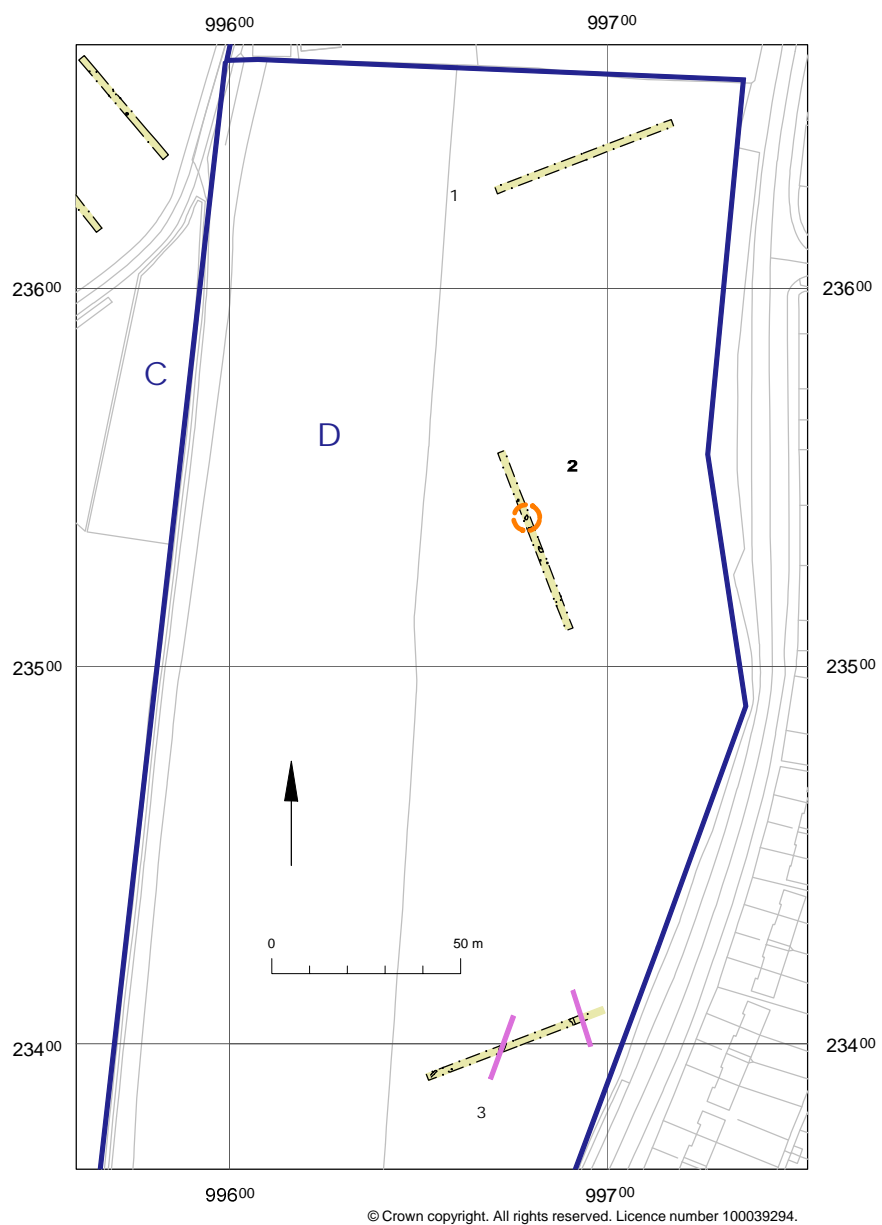


Fig 4 Area A: detail of inhumation AF1002.



Fig 5 Area B: trench plans.







- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | residual Roman material |  | proposed trench location |
|  | undated ditch |  | actual trench location |

Fig 6 Area D: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

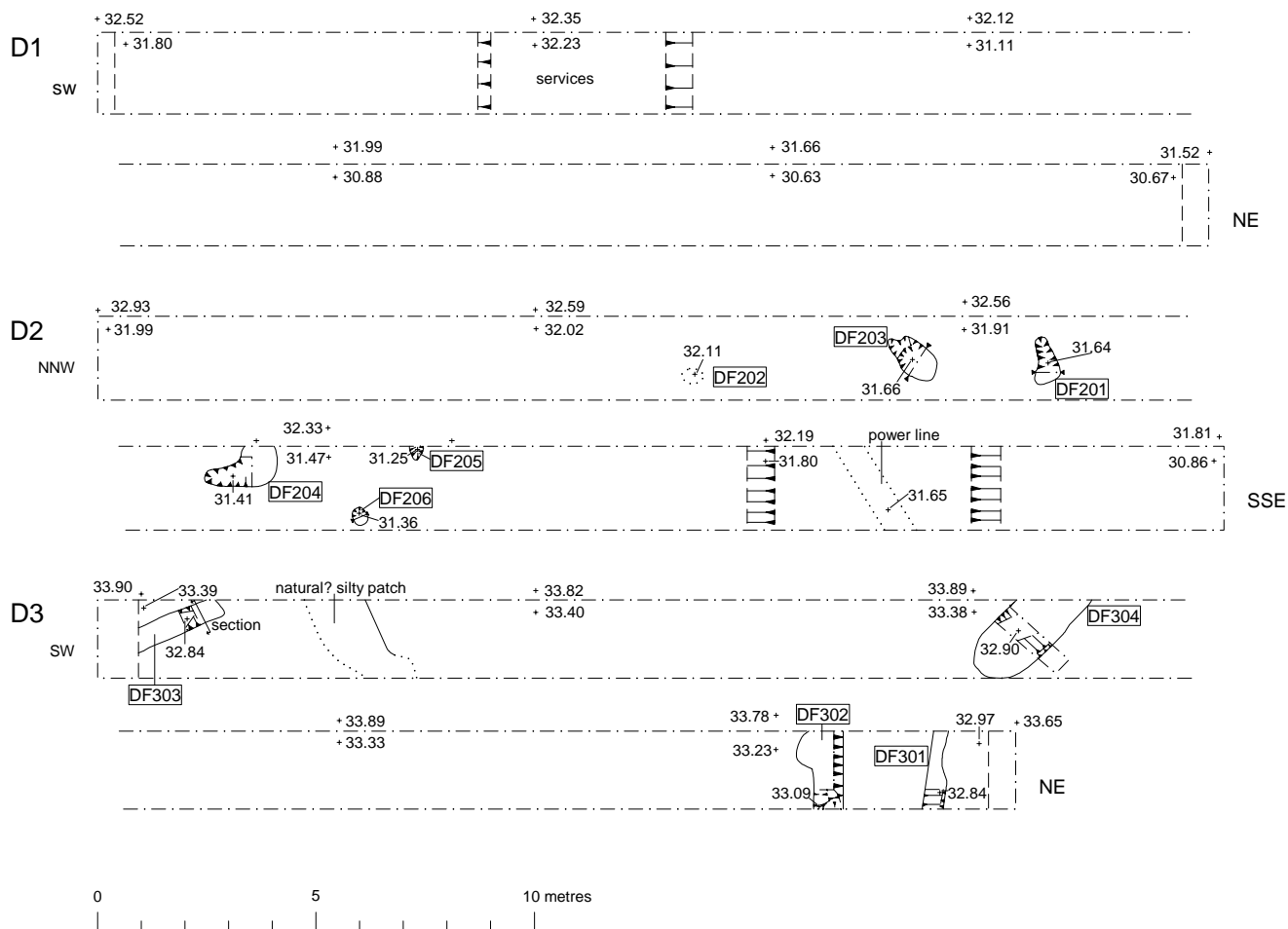
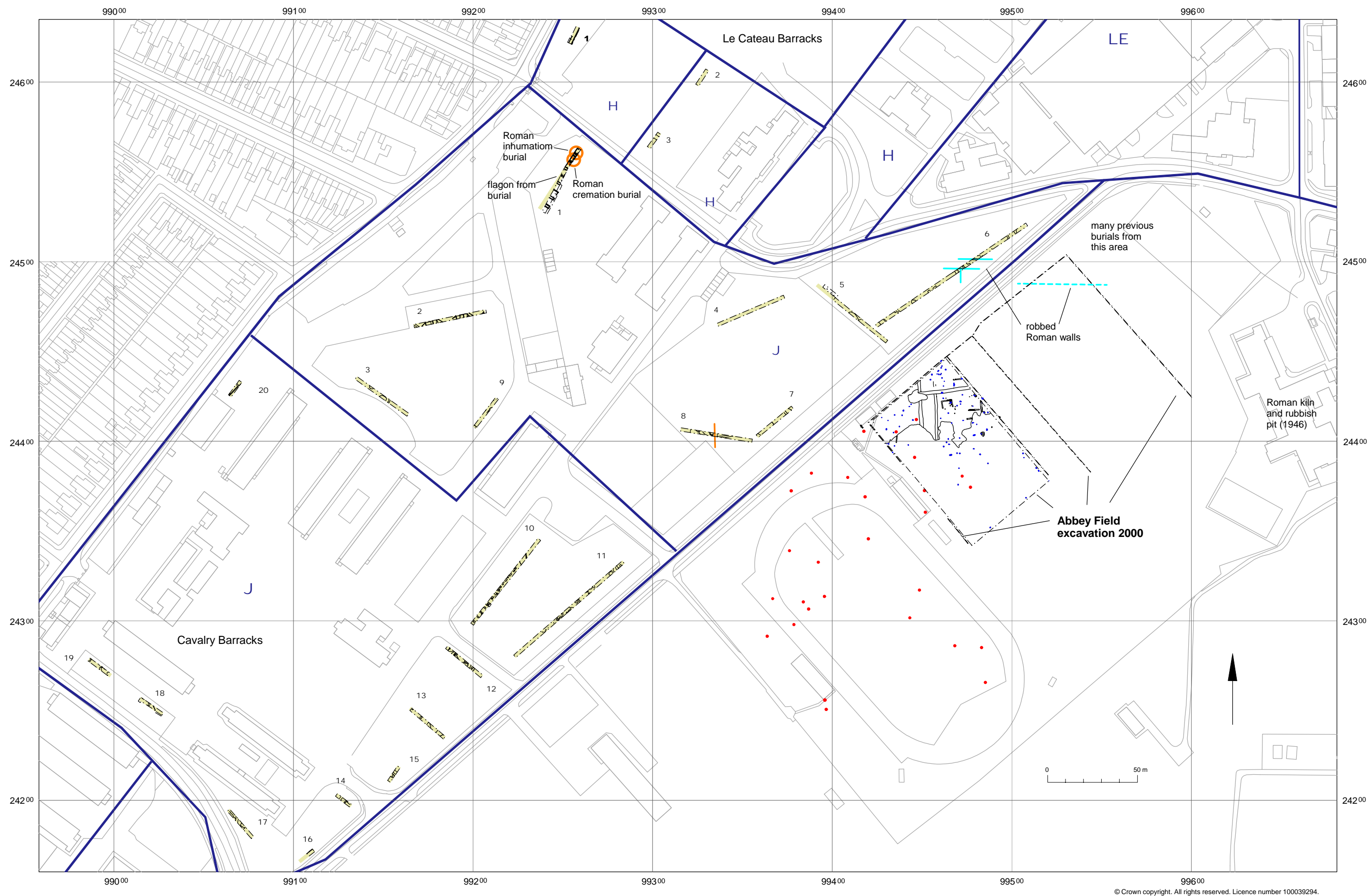


Fig 7 Area D: trench plans.



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Fig 8 Areas H and J: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| — LIA/Roman ditch | — proposed trench location | • Roman cremations recorded during construction of sports pitch in 1925 |
| — robbed Roman wall | - - - actual trench location | • Roman cremations excavated in 2000 |
| — robbed Roman wall (assumed) | ○ Roman feature | ○ other features |

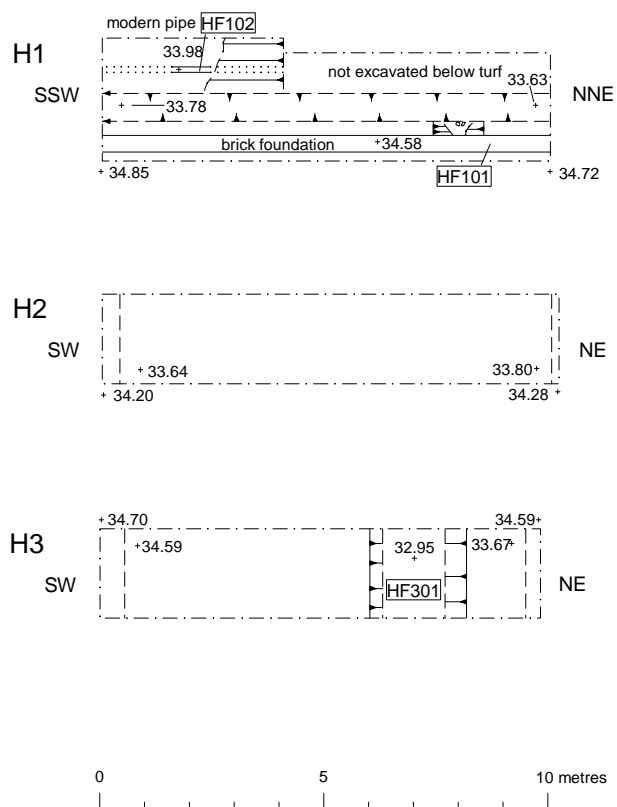
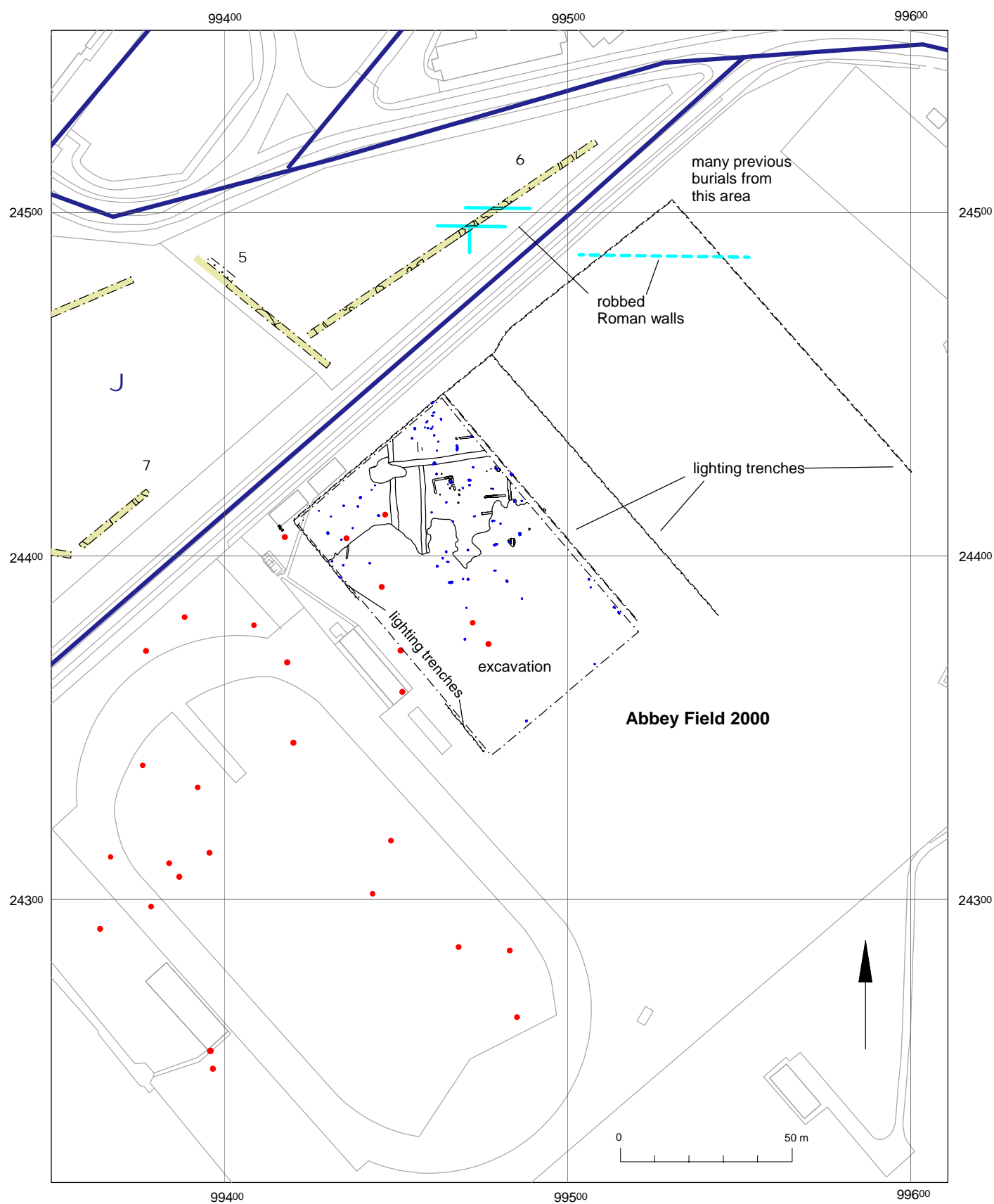


Fig 9 Area H: trench plans



- | | |
|---|--|
| --- robbed Roman wall | ● Roman cremations recorded during construction of sports pitch in 1925 |
| --- robbed Roman wall (assumed) | ● Roman cremations excavated in 2000 |
| --- proposed trench location | ○ other features |
| --- actual trench location | |

Fig 10 Area J: detail plans of burials and robber trenches.

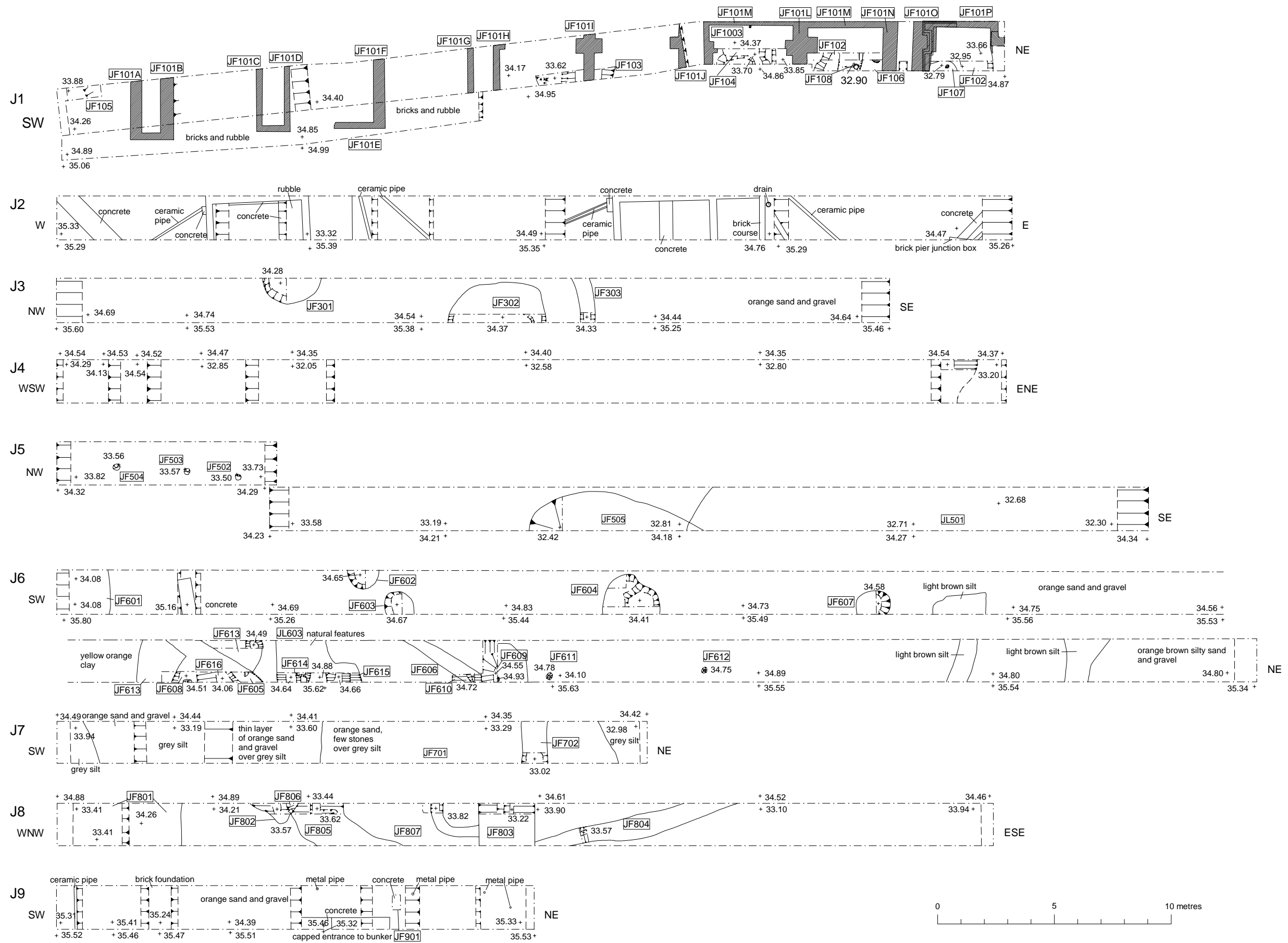


Fig 11 Area J: trench plans J1-J9.

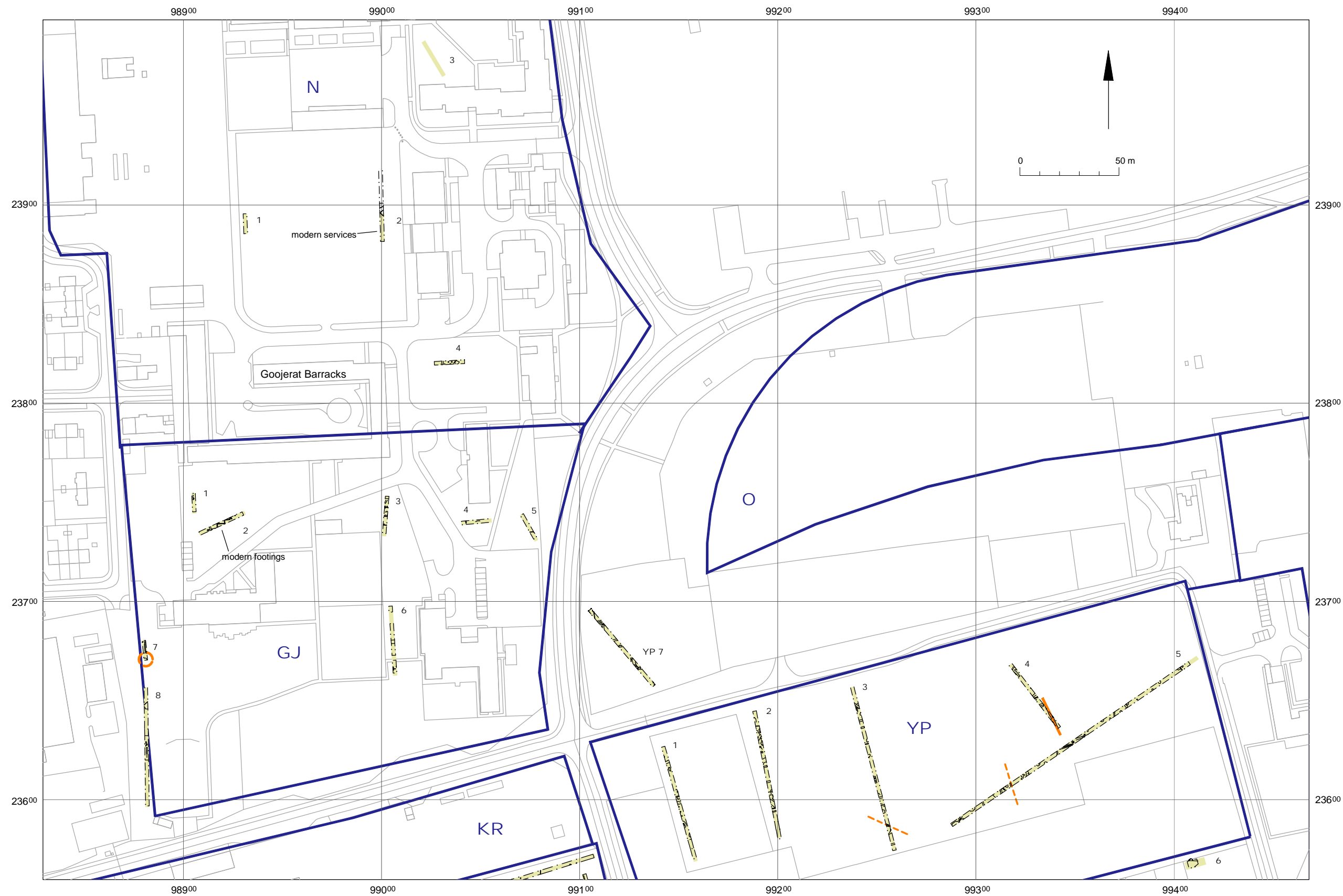


Fig 13 Areas GJ, N and YP: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

- LIA/Roman ditch
- - - LIA/Roman ditch (assumed)
- residual Roman
- proposed trench location
- - - actual trench location

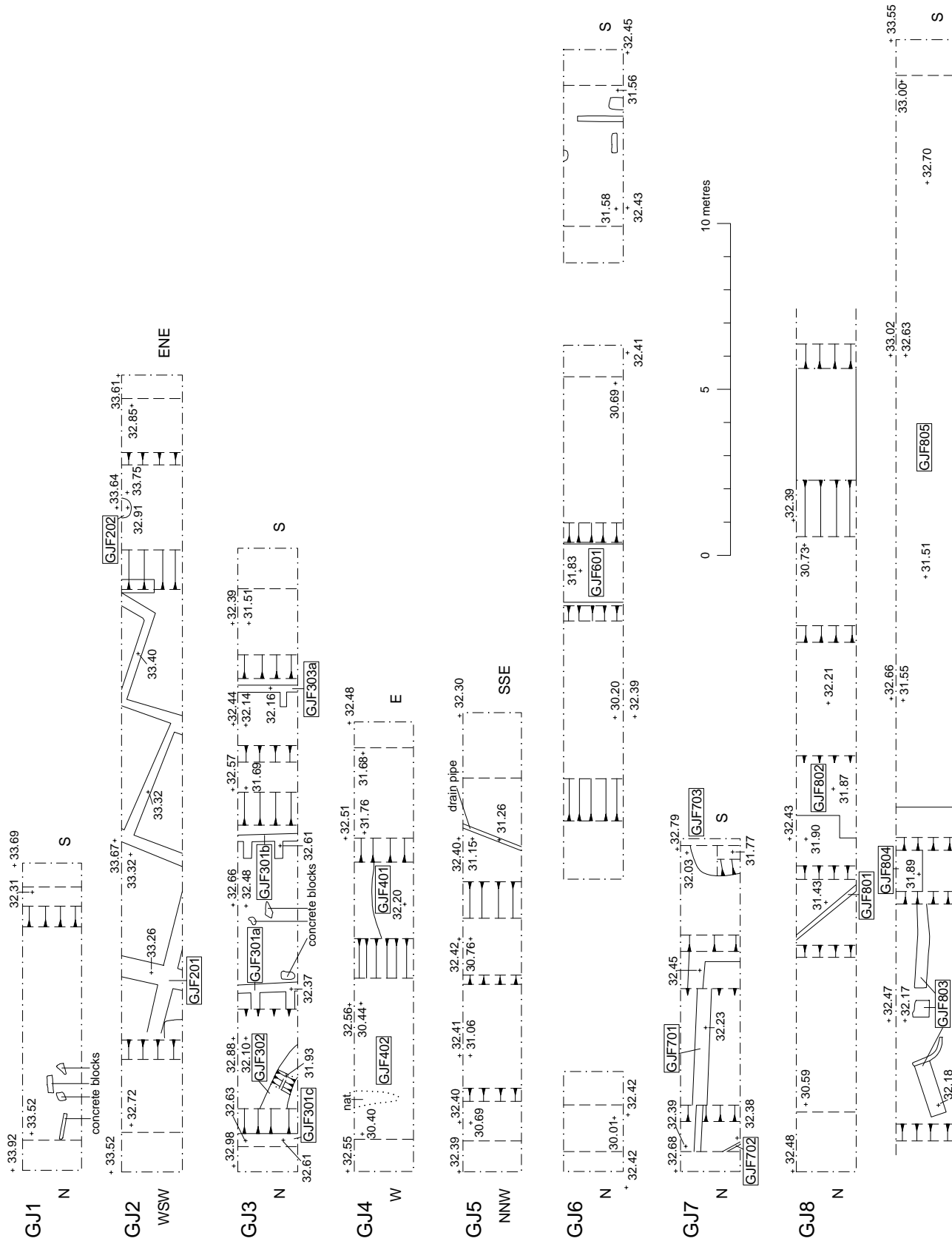


Fig 14 Area GJ: trench plans.

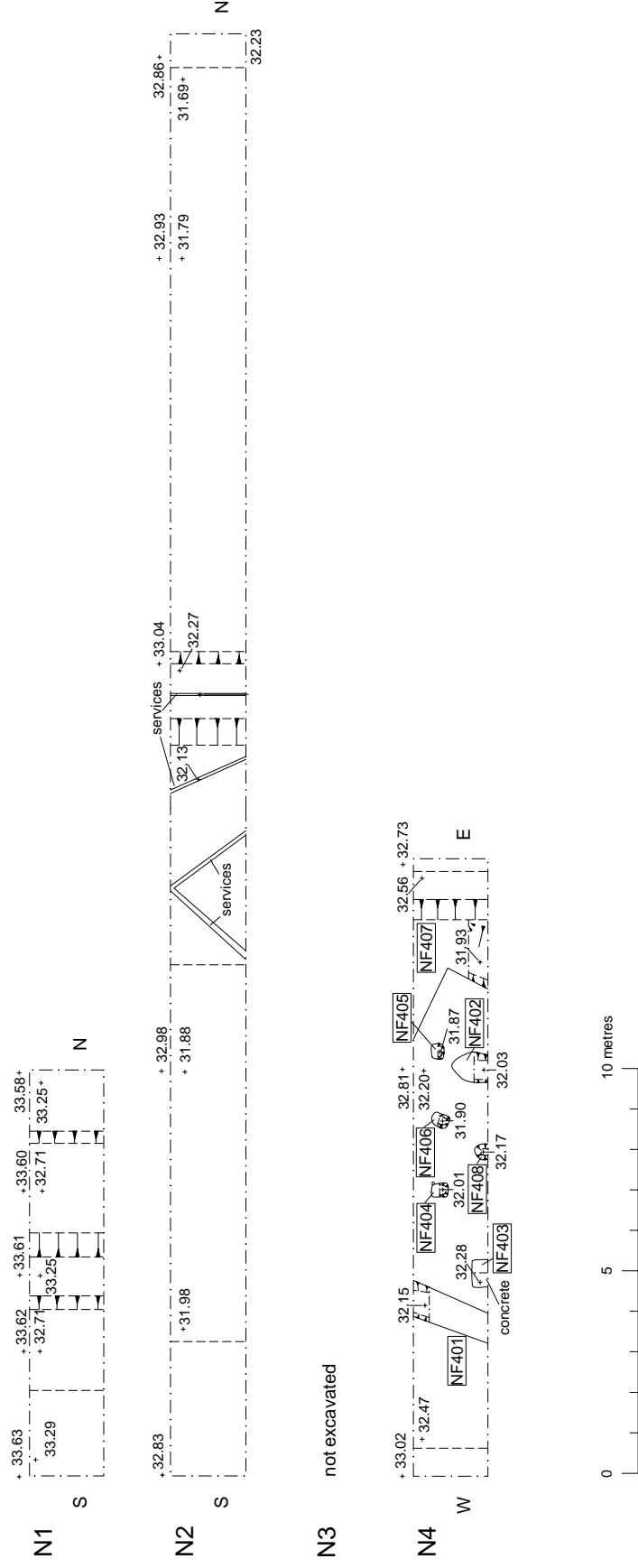


Fig 15 Area N: trench plans.

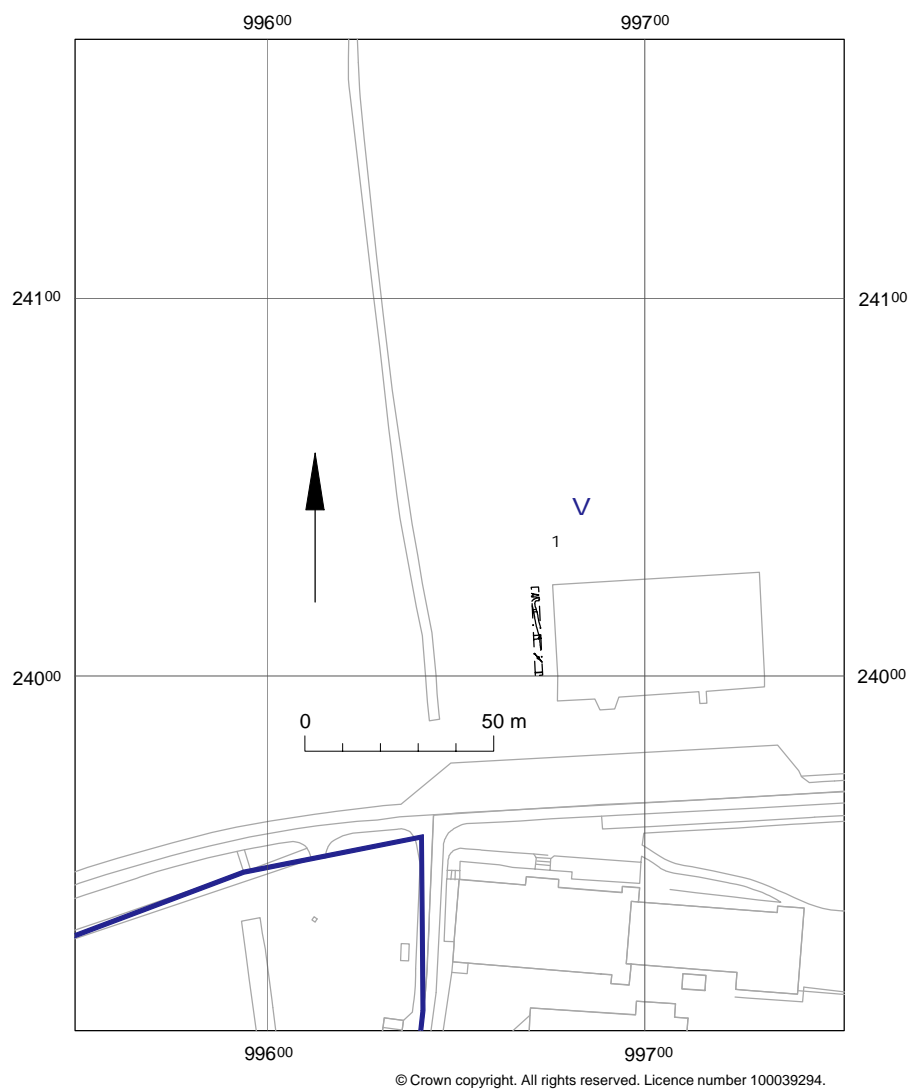


Fig 16 Area V: trench location.

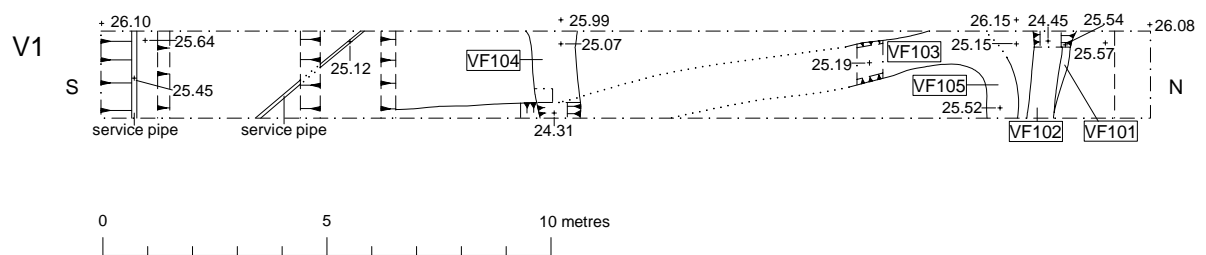


Fig 17 Area V: trench plan.

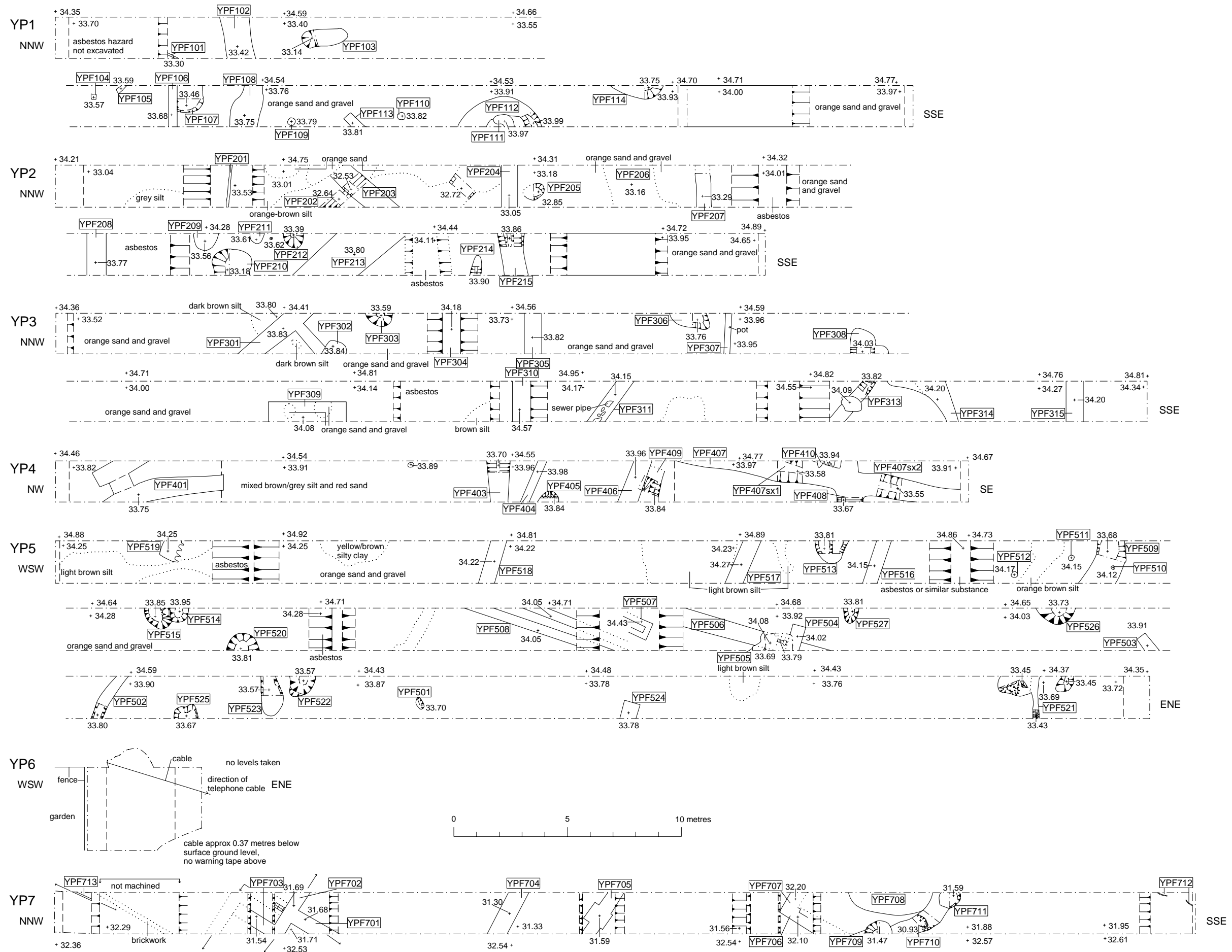


Fig 18 Area YP: trench plans.

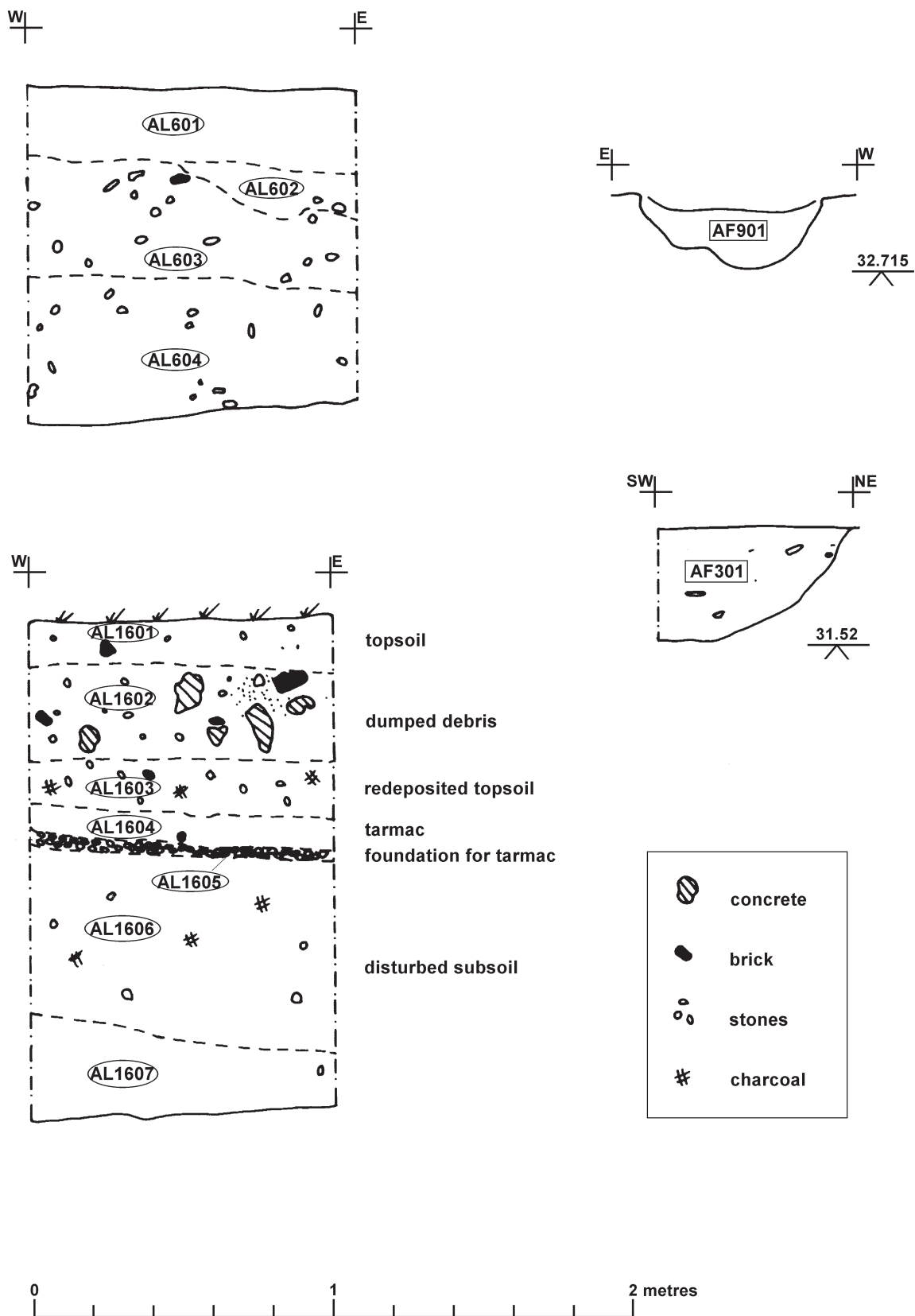


Fig 19 Section sheet 1 (Area A trenches A3, A6, A9, and A16).

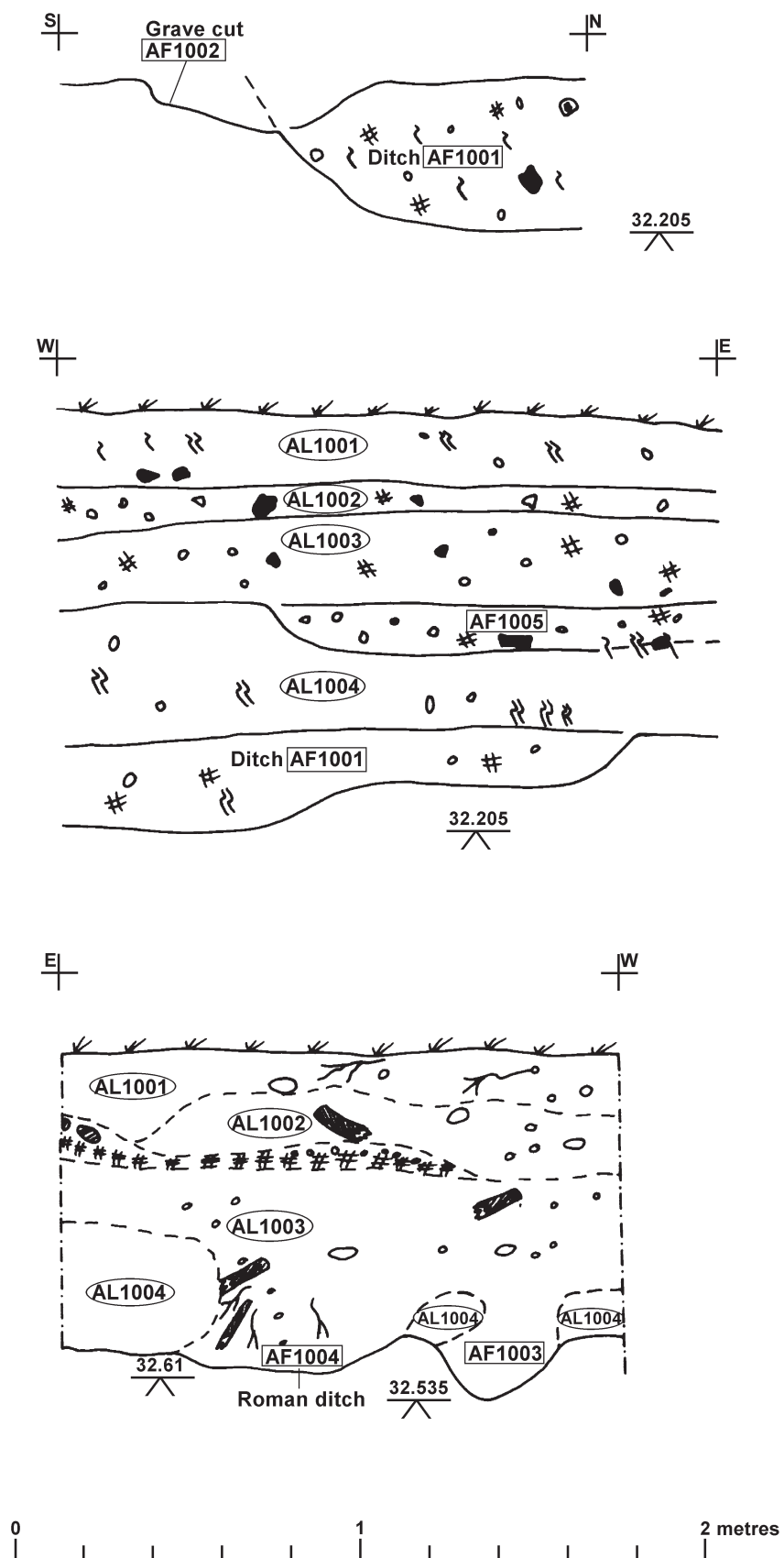


Fig 20 Section sheet 2 (Area A trench 10).

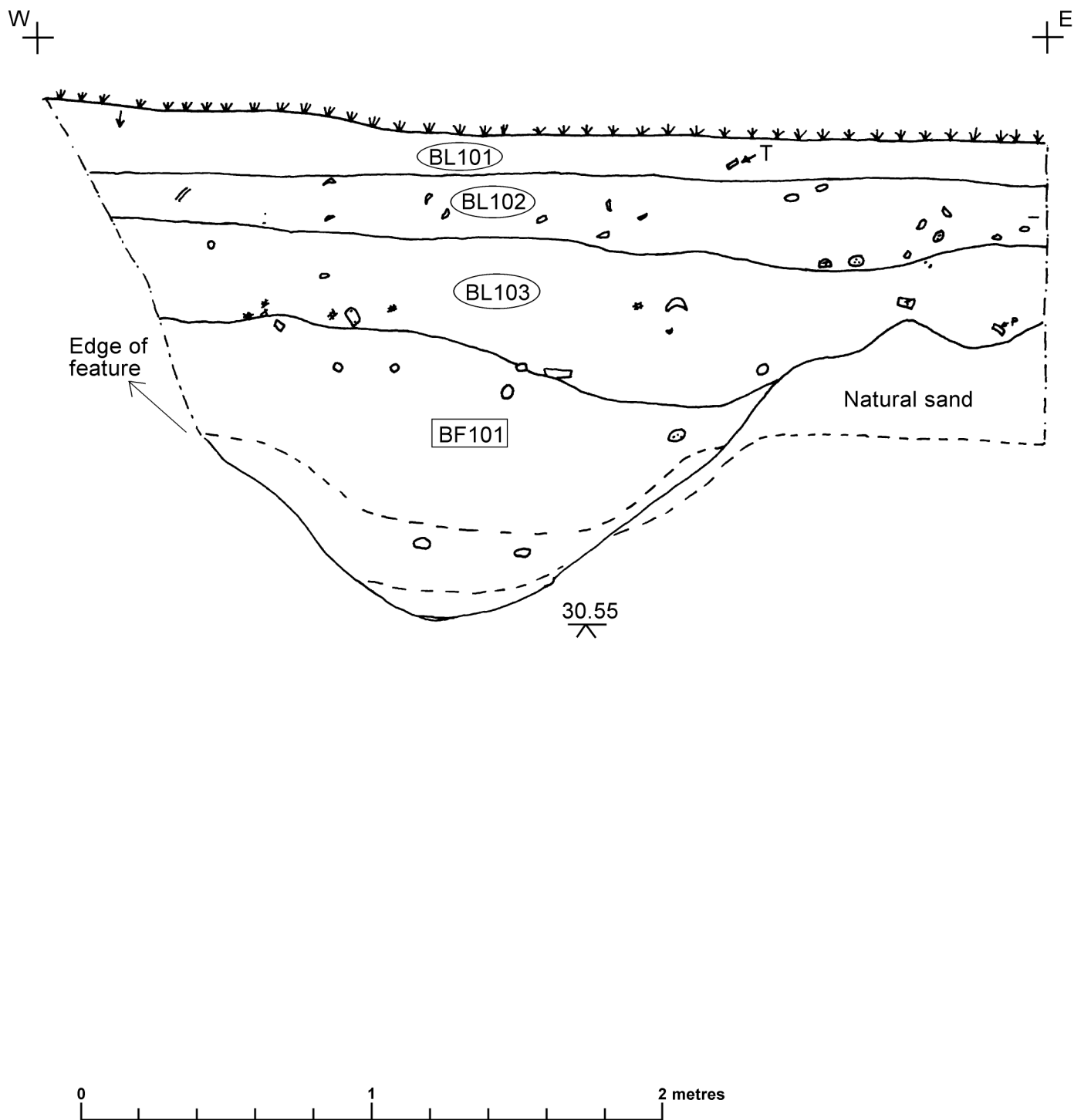


Fig 21 Section sheet 3 (Area B trench B1)

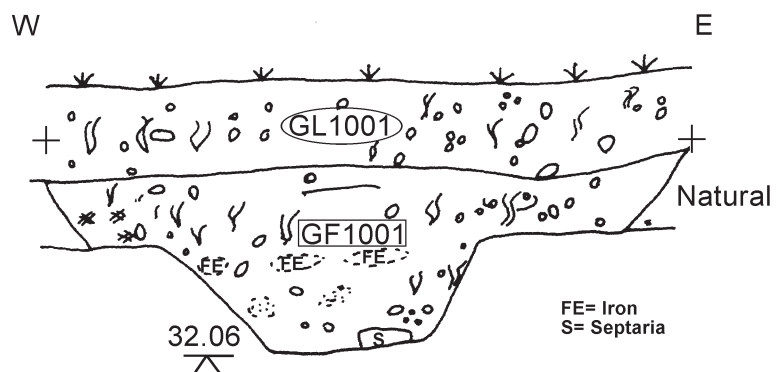
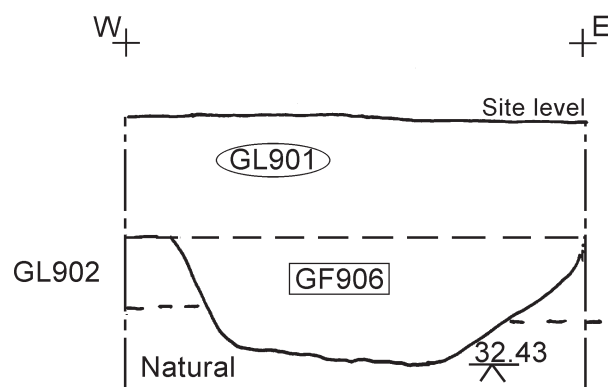
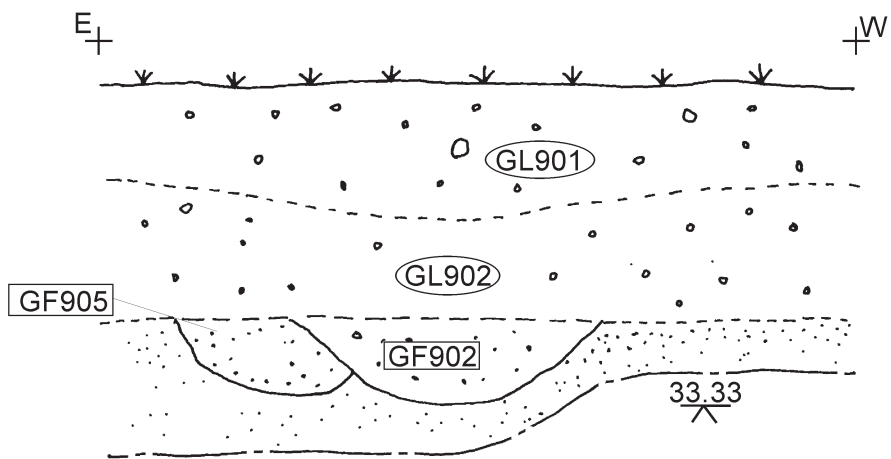


Fig 22 Area G: section sheet 4 (GF901/905, GF906 and GF1001).

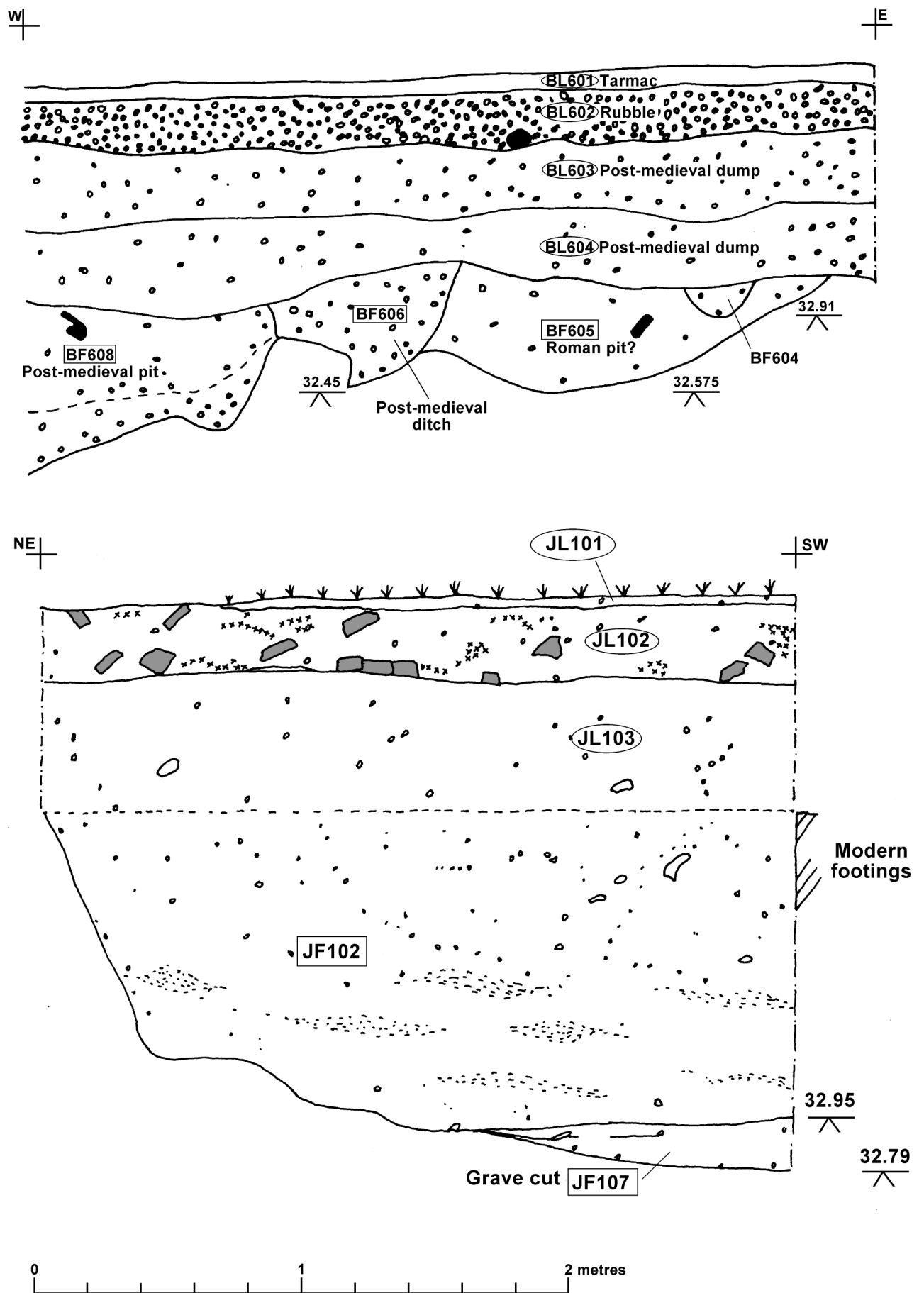


Fig 23 section sheet 5 (Area B trench B6, Area J trench J1).

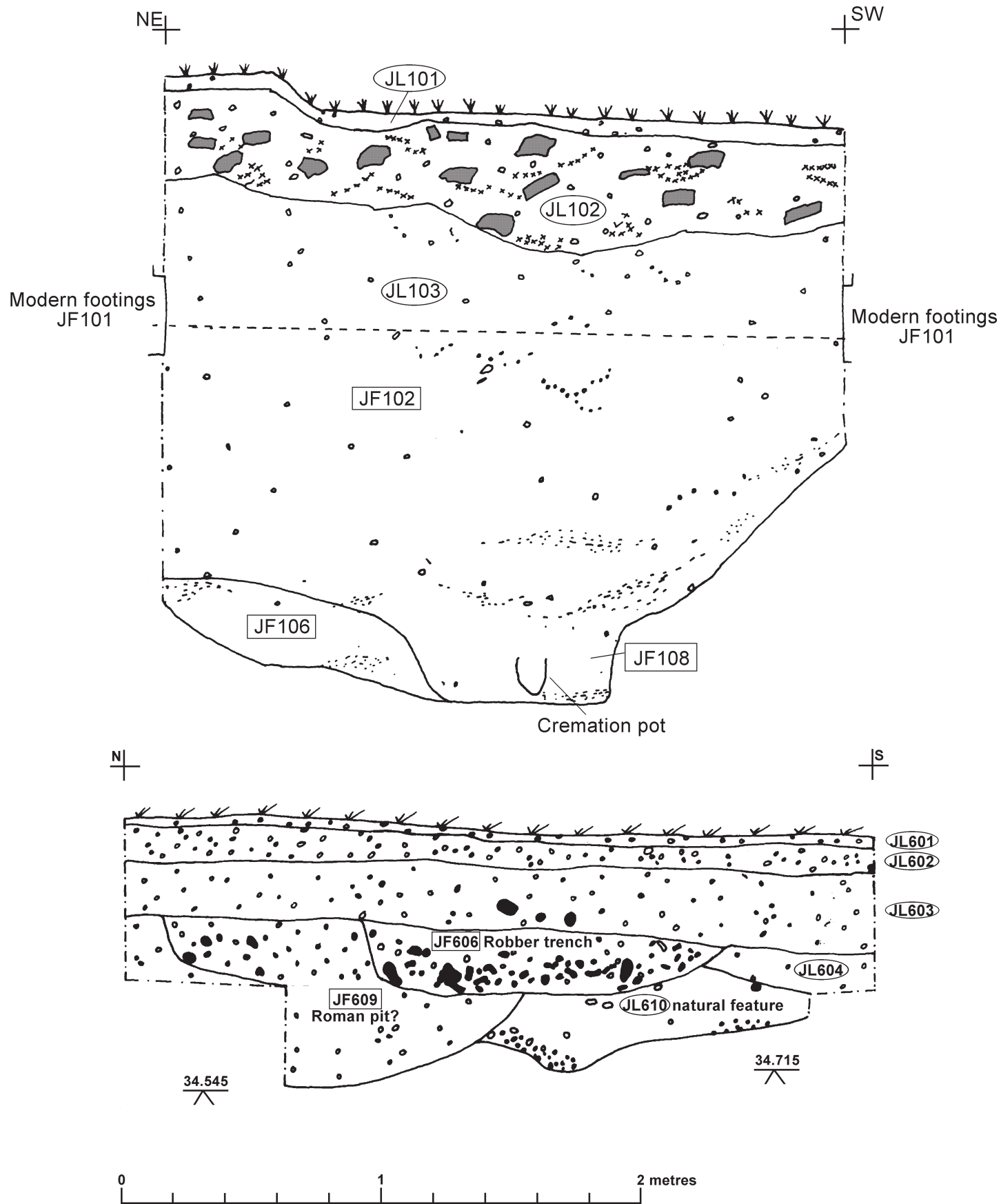


Fig 24 Section sheet 6 (Area J trenches J1 and J5).

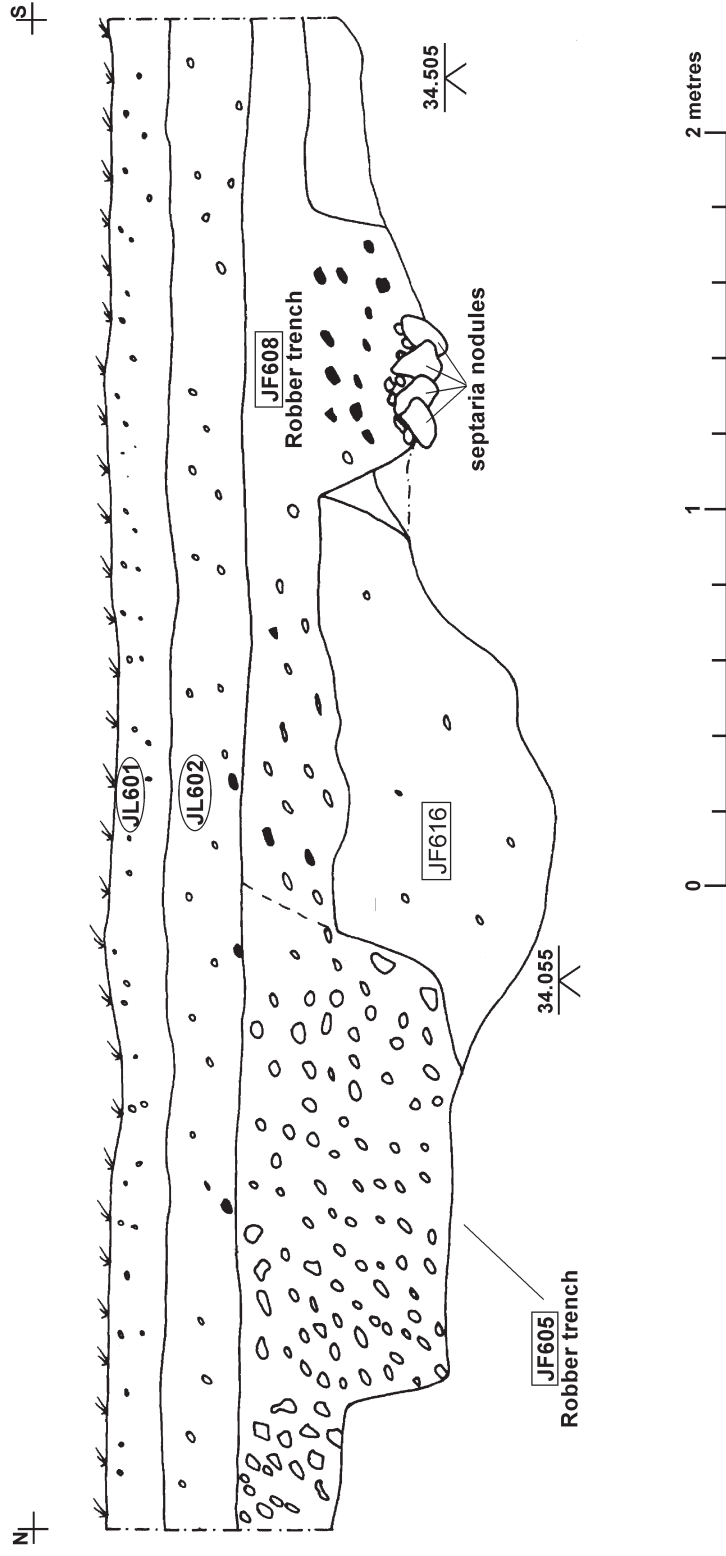


Fig 25 Section sheet 7 (Area J trench J6).

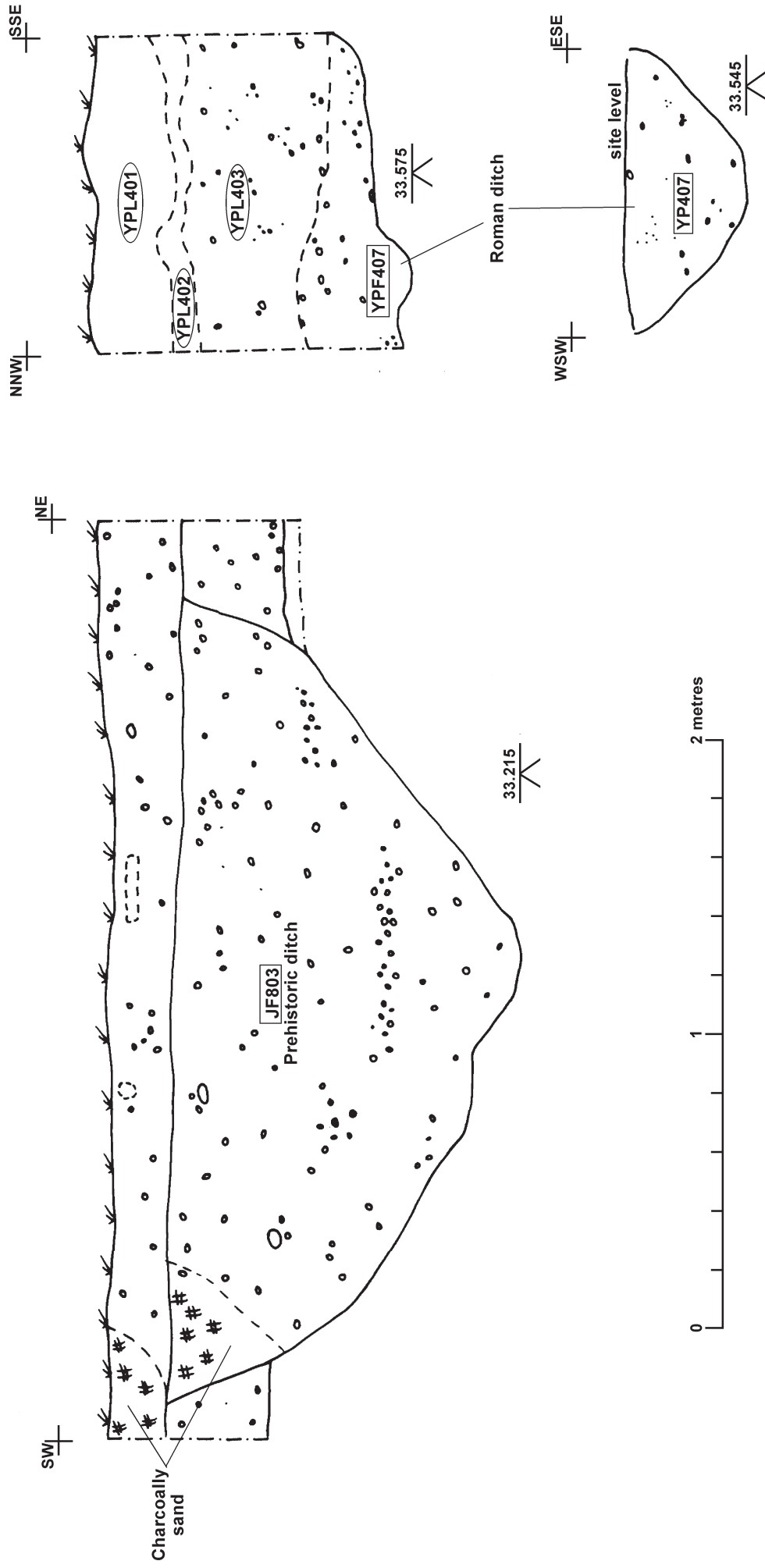


Fig 26 Section sheet 8 (Area J trench J8, Area YP trench YP4).

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP at the Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: Area A: TM 0030 2480; Area B, TL 9980 2450; Area D, TL 9970 2370; Area GJ, TL 9890 2300; Area H, TL 9960 2480; Area J, TL 9900 2400; Area N, TL 9870 2320; Area V, TL 9966.5 2386; Area YP, TL 9980 2300	Site code: Museum accession code 2002.8
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: June-July 2002	Size of area investigated: 53.8 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes: trenching in adjacent areas, and possible excavation (tbc)	Related EHCR nos: 11879, 12510, 12558-9, 12618, 12674
Final report: CAT Report 206, summary in EAH, final report tbc	
Periods represented: prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>Seventy-one trenches were excavated in Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP. In total, 641 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. These were principally modern and post-medieval features, modern footings and services (44% of all contexts) and topsoils, subsoils and dumped soils (41%). There were smaller numbers of natural or undated features (12.3%). Significant archaeological remains accounted for only 2.7% of all contexts.</i></p> <p><i>Significant archaeological features consisted of three Roman burials, a robbed-out Roman building, a prehistoric pit, and a few Roman pits and ditches. Some of the Roman ditches share a broad alignment with field-boundaries previously evaluated on Area C, and may be regarded as parts of the same LIA/Roman field system.</i></p> <p><i>There were a few prehistoric sherds and struck flints, but none of the prehistoric material is at a level to suggest anything other than scattered and intermittent activity in the prehistoric period. The character of the archaeological remains identified can be summarised as principally modern in date, with a very small numbers of significant features. Features in Areas A and B in particular contained larger groups of artefacts than Areas C, E/F or KR. This is a reflection of the proximity of the area under study to the Roman town and Roman cemeteries and to the medieval centre of activity at St John's Abbey.</i></p> <p><i>Trenching work continues in adjacent areas.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: 30th August 2002