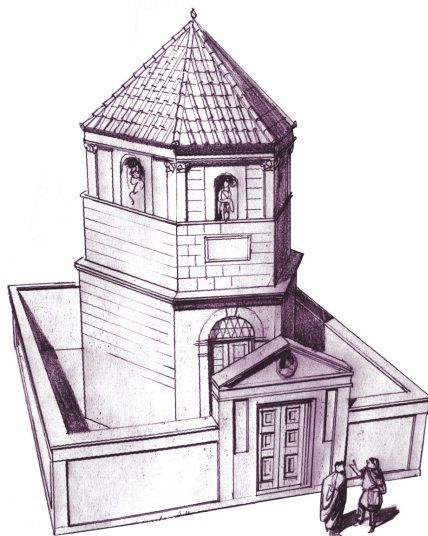


**A Roman temple-tomb
at Colchester Royal Grammar School,
6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex
August-September 2005**



**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Colchester Royal Grammar School**

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1 Summary

A Roman temple-tomb was constructed in the 3rd century AD at the crossroads of two major routes into Roman Colchester, in an area where Roman cemeteries, monumental tombstones and pyre sites are known from previous investigations. Prior to the construction of the temple-tomb, a major ditch crossed the site in the 1st century AD, after which the site was used for the cremation of human remains in the 2nd century AD.



Plate 1: view of the temple-tomb, looking north-east.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological watching brief on the construction of an extension to the science block at the Colchester Royal Grammar School (CRGS), 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex.
- 2.2 The watching brief was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 16th August and 9th September 2005, on behalf of CRGS.
- 2.3 Planning permission for development was given with a condition for an intensive archaeological watching brief (planning application no F/COL/04/2335).
- 2.4 The site is located directly to the rear (south) of the existing science block, south-west of the main school building, at NGR TL 9875 2480.
- 2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 The site is situated close to the intersection of several Roman roads and within an area of Roman burials and funerary monuments (Essex Historic Environment

Record or EHER nos 11705, 11854). Much of the known archaeology of the immediate site area is summarised in Hull (1958; Fig 1 – dates of finds and references are given in brackets).

- 3.2 Though no archaeological records exist for the exact site of the footprint of the science block extension, a number of important finds of Roman date come from the area immediately to the west (EHER nos 11853, 11855, 11857).
- 3.3 Based on previous finds and records, the footprint of the new extension is located over the south side of the major Roman road which runs west from the Balcerne Gate via Chelmsford (Roman Caesaromagus) to London (Roman Londinium). Previous records show this as a broad road with gravel surfaces and a ditch on each side (Hull 1958, 7-9).
- 3.4 Roman burial monuments were often sited close to roads, and two Roman tombstones and a walled cemetery with a possible tomb have been found just to the west (Hull 1958, 254, plate 1; *CAR* 9, 259, fig 8.2; Fig 1). The Roman burials from the area are primarily cremations (with the ashes in a pottery urn). Burnt features representing the sites of the cremation pyres are also recorded elsewhere in the Grammar School site.

4 Aim

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the development and to assess their quality, extent, date, condition, and importance.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

The archaeological sequence is split into three phases, described below.

5.1 Phase 1: mid to late 1st century – the Claudian/Flavian ditch

The earliest feature is a ditch (Feature or F21), running west-north-west to east-south-east. It is sealed by patches of phase 2 pyre burning (Layer or L5), and cut by the phase 2 roadside ditch F34. The cutting and eventual filling of this ditch must therefore pre-date the creation of the Gosbecks Roman road. Rex Hull reports that he sectioned the Gosbecks road near Rayner's Farm in Shrub End in 1936, and found pottery in the road ditch dating to the second half of the 1st century AD (Hull 1958, 10). Two sections have been cut through this road in recent times, in part of what was Gosbecks Farm: the first by CAT in 1989 (*CAR* 11, 121), when a Nene Valley colour-coat vessel of 3rd- to 4th-century date was recovered from one of the roadside ditches (Stephen Benfield pers comm), and the second by CAT in 1995, when no dating evidence was found in the ditches (CAT Report 127, section 8.2). The conclusion from these various excavations is that Hull's date of the second half of the 1st century AD (Hull 1958, 10) is reasonably close to the date when the road was laid out and its ditches dug.

Ditch F21 was excavated at two places, and was also seen in section at two points during the watching brief. Despite this, the exact width is uncertain. Where observed on the surface of the site (and it was never very clear), its width varied between 4m and 1.2m, yet in section it was 1.8m wide and 0.9m deep below excavated site level. The variable width of the ditch suggests that it was made up of a series of pits of different sizes.

Pottery from the ditch fill is quite plentiful (44 sherds, 1,165 grammes), and includes pre-Flavian and Claudio-Neronian samian wares, plus other coarse wares of 1st- to early 2nd-century type. There is one piece dated to the 2nd to early 3rd century AD, which must be intrusive and is discounted here. From the pottery alone, one could argue a date for the filling in of the ditches in the early 2nd century AD, but this must be too late, since the Gosbecks road (which seals this ditch) must presumably have been operational by the later 1st century AD to allow access from the Roman town to the temple and theatre at Gosbecks. It is likely, therefore, that the ditch is early Roman (Claudio-Neronian?) in origin, and had been filled in by the later 1st century AD (late Flavian period?).

Hull (1958, 7 and 259) reports a feature known as the 'Camp Ditch', which by implication crosses the Grammar School site. This may be the same feature as ditch F21. Recent excavations at Colchester Garrison suggest this may actually be a ditch on the south or west side of a Late Iron Age or early Roman trackway leading from the fields of the *oppidum* (CAT Report 361, fig 25). If this is so, then the Gosbecks road must be a later addition to the road system, because it runs across the top of the 'Camp Ditch'.

There is a coin of this period, a *dupondius* issued by Claudius I, AD 41-54. It was found near the east outer wall of the phase 3 temple-tomb, in a residual context.

5.2 Phase 2: later 1st century to early 3rd century AD: Roman roads, ditches, and pyre sites (Figs 1-3)

Roman roads and ditches

The site lies obliquely across the site of the south-west angle formed by the intersection of two Roman roads: the first (F33) running approximately west-north-west to east-south-east (the London road); and the second (F1) running south-south-west to north-north-east (the Gosbecks road). In neither case was a true section of the road available – a little under 3m width of the London road and approximately 4.5m width of the Gosbecks road was visible on site, though both are clearly much wider than this. Where excavated in 1995, the main carriageway of the Gosbecks road was 7m wide, flanked by a 2m-wide footway on each side (CAT Report 127).

There was a ditch on the east side of the Gosbecks road (F34) and on the south side of the London road (F35). Neither appeared in true cross-section on site, but the Gosbecks road ditch was up to 0.75m wide (depth not established), and the London road ditch was up to 1.1m wide and 0.6m deep.

Bearing in mind that the Gosbecks road has footways farther south, it is curious that they do not appear here. The possibility that the road ditch is actually on the outer edge of the footway can be discounted, because there is continuous road gravel from the ditch edge for 3.6m east, and the ditch should be only 2m away from it.

Surviving thickness (ie depth) of the gravel make-up of the Gosbecks road was between 0.44m and 0.58m. It survived best along the southern part of the recorded section, where it appeared to consist of distinct base and surface layers. The base was an 0.2m-thick layer of silty sand with oyster and tile flecks (L1) sandwiched between two layers of compact gravel in a silty white mortar, both generally 0.1m thick. None of the components of this base layer were of equal thickness, but the whole had an average thickness of 0.4m. On top of this base was a road surface of small to medium gravels in a sandy-silt matrix, to a maximum surviving thickness of 0.25m. The make-up of the London road was not seen.

There are two small finds associated with the London road surface. First, there is a Hod Hill brooch, dating to c AD 43 to 60/5 (Fig 5.5; SF 4, 83). This is firm dating for the construction of the road, which must have been functional within a few years of the date of the Claudian conquest. Second, there is a copper-alloy ring, probably from harness (Fig 5.6; SF 5, 82).

The pyre sites

Three patches of orange burnt ground (L5, F12, F10) define a phase of burning activity, presumably pyre-related. This phase post-dates the infilling of the phase 1 ditch F21 (which is sealed by L5), and pre-dates the construction of the temple-tomb (L5 and F12 are cut by its walls). There is no stratigraphic relationship between the Roman roads and the pyre sites, but they are grouped together because they both post-date ditch F21 and pre-date the temple-tomb. Dating from these contexts is not good. L5 contained six sherds dated ?1st to 2nd century AD.

The burnt patches are thought to represent the sites of pyres for the cremation of human remains, and their position in the stratified sequence indicates that this area was used for cremation prior to the construction of the temple-tomb. Evidence for these earlier cremations comes in the form of loose cremated bone recovered from contexts cut through by the temple-tomb (L3, L4, L10, L11), and, from similar contexts, glass fragments probably derived from glass cinerary urns containing the

cremated bone, especially the thick body sherds (L3, L12) and the handles (from L3, and unstratified). Loose cremated bone was also seen on the surface of F10, but none emerged from the sieved samples from this context. For these earlier cremations, age at death was determined as follows: L3 – foetal or perinatal; L4 – unclassified; L10 – young adult (20-35); L11 – adult (>20 years).

There are records of areas of burning (possibly pyre sites) elsewhere at the Grammar School. The first record comes from the 1930s, when Grammar School master A F Hall cut trial-trenches into the front garden (near the Headmaster's house). He was looking for the Roman road to the Balcerne Gate which was thought to run through that spot. He did not find the line of the road (which runs farther north) but he did find areas of intense burning (Crittenden 1967, 2-4). Although he argues that the burning was the result of some kind of industrial activity (slag was found), the scorching could equally be the product of pyres, perhaps on a more intensive scale than indicated by the patches of burning on the 2005 site. No cremated bone is reported from the site. The second record is from a 1999 CAT watching brief on the building of a new teaching block over the same garden (archive notes by H Brooks 1999). In this, a block of solid gravel was seen in the extreme south-east corner of the plot. This is taken to be the edge of the Roman road to the Balcerne Gate, and the road alignment on Figure 1 takes this into account. Also apparent were a few patches of gravel, and a few areas of faint burning, less intense than those found by A F Hall. These patches of burning may also be part of this same area of pyre activity. The final record to mention is the heavily constructed, tile-built furnaces found by A F Hall to the south of Gurney Benham House in the Grammar School grounds (Hull 1958, 259). Grey powder containing phosphates and calcium is reported from this site, and Hull suggests, surely correctly, that the furnaces were used for cremation. Although pyre activity is suggested for the 2005 site, there were finds indicative of possible industrial activity here, too; a fragment from the base of a iron-working hearth or furnace from rubble F25 (sealed by phase 3 wall F6) and a small fragment of iron-working slag from L9.

Three other placed deposits or token burials may be associated with this phase (Figs 2-3). These are F4, a 3.25kg deposit of amphora, samian and grey ware sherds with oyster shells; F29, a possible disturbed cremation or placed deposit consisting of 0.4kg of samian and grey ware sherds; and, especially, F32, a 5kg deposit of Dressel 20 amphora sherds. There is always the possibility that these are merely rubbish deposits, but, in the context of a site used mainly for cremation and burial, a ritual use cannot be ruled out. If they are placed deposits, then they may have been deposited in the disturbed condition in which they were excavated, or they may have originally been more intact and perhaps disturbed during the phase 3 construction of the temple-tomb. Strong evidence for other unspecified disturbed burials comes in the form of loose mirror fragments found in L9 (SF 10) and L15 (SF 6).

A possible structure of this phase is the group of tiles F27, which is cut through by the hexagon of the temple-tomb. This may be connected with cremation. It showed no signs of burning.

Thus, the remains at the Grammar School site show an area, at least 100m across, in which the cremation of human remains was being carried out either on discrete pyre sites (small areas of burning as L5 and F12 here) or on more formally built structures (such as the Gurney Benham House furnace).

Other features of this period include a pit (F24) cut by the later temple-tomb wall (F9). This contained a single piece of glass, perhaps from a cinerary urn.

5.3 Phase 3: mid 3rd to 4th century – the temple-tomb (Plates 1-3)

A temple-tomb was built on the site. The dating of this event is primarily taken from the date of pottery in the layers cut by its construction, principally the mid 3rd- to 4th-century pottery in L11.

The ground plan of the temple-tomb was a hollow hexagon within a square. The square measured 9.2m externally, and 8.4m wall-centre to wall-centre. The hexagon was slightly uneven in size, with a maximum width of 5.2m. It had an irregular circular central space (diameter 3.0m to 3.2m). The outer wall varied in thickness from 0.86m to 0.94m.

The temple-tomb survived at foundation level only, with the exception of the north wall where a course of septaria in mortar capped by a single course of dressed and externally chamfered tufa blocks gave some impression of the nature of the superstructure (Plate 2). The foundations were of an unusual build, with alternating layers of loose sandy gravel, and cemented, mortared, small stones. The hexagon foundation was broad enough to support a substantial superstructure, such as the tower shown on the reconstruction (see cover). There is no indication of any decorative schemes – the only surviving fragments of painted wall-plaster, one yellow and one white, were recovered from phase 2 layers and therefore presumably relate to an unknown earlier structure.



Plate 2: surviving superstructure – chamfered tufa blocks on foundation of temple-tomb north wall F6, looking south.

A line of rubble (F25) had been dumped along the line later followed by wall F6. This was not a convincing earlier structure, and is interpreted as preparatory work to infill a patch of soft ground prior to construction.

5.4 Burials associated with the temple-tomb (Figs 2-3)

There were two cremation burials inside the hexagon (F23, F31), four between the hexagon and the outer wall (F3, F8, F13, F22), and none beyond the outer wall. None had intact cremation urns. Three (F3, F8, F13) had parts of urns, and were probably disturbed after deposition. The others (F22, F23, F30) had no urns. Of these, F22 and F23, which contained fragments of modern iron, have certainly been disturbed in recent times. However, for reasons given below, it looks as though the contents of even the disturbed burials were tipped back into their original positions (only F22 and F23 had cuts which were larger than the others, perhaps because they were enlarged when the burials were disturbed). We cannot know what has been removed from these burials, but the absence of urns in three of them may be a clue. The circumstances of this disturbance are discussed below in section 7.

The burials, as excavated, varied greatly in their content and condition (see Table 1 below). Could these simply be phase 2 burials placed in the area later occupied (coincidentally) by the temple-tomb? The answer is no, and there are two reasons for this conclusion. First, the pot sherds in the burial cuts are consistently 3rd and 4th century in date. Second, they were stratigraphically too high to belong to phase 2.

One of the burials (F23) had been placed almost exactly centrally in the circular space within the hexagon. Was this the primary burial? This burial also contained a substantial quantity of tufa chips and septaria, some of it burnt. Dressed tufa blocks, probably the only surviving superstructure, were found *in situ* on the north temple-tomb wall F6. Therefore the occurrence of tufa chips, which may have been produced when the stone for the north wall was being dressed, indicates that at least burial F23 is contemporary with the temple-tomb structure.

None of the burials was undisturbed (see discussion, section 7).

Associated pottery dates the burials as follows: F3, late 2nd or 3rd century; F8, 3rd century; F13, mid-late 3rd century; F20, mid 3rd century; F22, 2nd century; F23, mid 3rd-4th century; and F31, Roman. There are two ways in which these dates can be interpreted: first, all the burials were placed here close to the date of construction in the mid 3rd century AD; or second, the burials were placed over a period of time between the mid 3rd and the 4th century AD.

Table 1: burials – ages, and associated finds.

Numbers are small finds number (SF) and finds number (in brackets).

	F3	F8	F13	F22	F23	F31
Age of buried person	young Adult (20-35 years)	adult (>20yrs)	adult (>20yrs)	adult (>20yrs)	adult (>20yrs)	adult (>20yrs)
Associated pottery	lower half of large storage jar, other broken sherds	sherds from six vessels	part of one grey ware vessel?	sherds from five vessels	sherds from six vessels	part of a single grey ware vessel
Small finds				burnt handle from the lid of a bone <i>pyxis</i> , SF18 (108) amorphous heat-affected copper-alloy fragment, probably a brooch. SF15 (100) four heat-affected copper-alloy fragments and a small part a brooch spring. SF 16 (105) three small copper-alloy toggles or catches, possibly from a garment. SFs 11-13 (96-98). Fig 5.2-5.4	two small copper-alloy fragments, possibly studs. SF 8 (49)	
Glassware				lump of pale green molten glass with three tiny scraps (62), twisted molten glass fragment (107), 2 scraps of molten glass (108)	pale green body sherd from globular vessel	
Iron objects			1 nail, burnt	fourteen complete and ten incomplete nails modern headless nail. Intrusive? SF 14. (99)	fragment of cast iron sheet, post-medieval or modern. SF 19. (58)	
Animal bones		goose	adult sheep/goat	juvenile sheep/goat, adult falcon, juvenile bird, juvenile bird (minimum 4 birds), bird (miscellaneous small fragments of bird bone, all burnt), pig		sheep/goat
Other			1 <i>tegula</i> fragment (70g)			

5.5 Other phase 3 features

There were several pits cutting into the line of the phase 1 ditch F21. These were pits F20 and F26. Pottery from these dates to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD and late 2nd-mid 3rd century AD.



Plate 3: excavating in and around the central hexagon, looking north.

6 Finds

6.1 The small finds, bulk metalwork and metal-working debris by Nina Crummy

Coins

SF 1. (5) F5, near east temple-tomb wall. *Dupondius* of Antonia, issued commemoratively by Claudius I, AD 41-54. Obverse, ANTONI[A AVGUSTA], draped bust of Antonia, right; reverse, [TI.CLAUDI]VS CAESAR AVG.P M.TR.P.IMP.[P.P], S C in field, Claudius standing facing left, holding simpulum. Reference: *RIC* 92. Diameter 27 mm, weight 7.95g.

Funerary deposits

F13

Soil sample 4. (17) F13. Heat-affected iron nail shank, length 24.5 mm.

F22

Fig 5.1. SF 18. (108) F22. Burnt handle from the lid of a bone *pyxis*, decoratively carved with a baluster moulding between two reels, beneath a short cone with radiating grooves on the top (Mikler 1997, 65). Length 21 mm. The lids were composite items, with the handles inserted into a hole in the centre of a disc decorated with concentric grooves and/or mouldings.

In Britain fragments of bone *pyxides* are usually found in contexts dating from the conquest into the 2nd century, but they first appeared on the continent in the 1st century BC, and parts of several were found at the Magdalensberg, which was abandoned in the AD 40s (Gostenčnik 2005, 122-300). These small boxes, like *balsamaria*, were used as containers

for salves, cosmetics and other items associated with the female toilet. Martial describes an elderly courtesan as having a hundred *pyxides* in which she stored her teeth, hair, eyelashes etc (*Epigrams* 9, 37). The form of the bone examples is closely similar to those made of boxwood, and *pyxis* originally meant a box made of boxwood, although the term later became more generally applied. Wood and bone may in some cases have been used in combination. The recovery of two bone handles and three bone lids, but no box bases, from the richly-furnished amphora grave 302 from Sheepen, Colchester, suggests that bone lids may have been used as replacements for broken wooden ones. Grave 302 was a woman's grave; as well as the bone lids it contained a necklace, a mirror, two brooches, a needle, an earring, and a small bronze spatula, probably used in the application of cosmetics (Hull 1963, 144-6).

SF 15. (100) F22. Amorphous heat-affected copper-alloy fragment; traces of transverse features on one face suggest that this might have been a brooch. Length 30 mm, maximum width 10 mm.

SF 16. (105) F22. Four amorphous heat-affected copper-alloy fragments and a small part of one coil from a brooch spring. Maximum dimensions 20 x 9, 9 x 7, 9 x 7, 7 x 5 mm; diameter of coil fragment 6 mm.

Fig 5.2. SF 11. (96) F22. Small copper-alloy toggle or catch, one of three from the grave. The side bars are rectangular in section, while the curved hook is round in section and terminates in a small knob. Length 7 mm, width 12 mm. The function of this object is unknown, but the recovery of three from the grave (see below) and their form suggests that they were used as catches on an item made of fabric or leather, possibly a garment of some kind. They were probably attached to the cloth by stitching over the side bars, leaving the hook free to be inserted into an eyelet. They are not common as site finds, however, and so would not have been used on everyday items of clothing.

The only parallels found so far are eight, identified as dress hooks, from the Middle Walbrook assemblage in London (Merrifield 1965, fig 137, 4; J Hall, pers comm). The association of the London group with the ritual deposition of trinkets and other personalia means that they are more likely to come from a small object rather than a garment. The most likely item is perhaps a small cloth bag, and a parallel might be drawn with the hooked tags of the Saxon and early medieval periods, some of which were used to close fabric purses or satchels, such as those containing coin hoards found at Rome and Tetney, Lincolnshire (Blunt 1974, 141; Wilson 1964, 86-7, pl 32).

Fig 5.3. SF 12. (97) F22. Toggle or catch, as above. Length 9 mm, width 12 mm.

Fig 5.4. SF 13. (98) F22. Toggle or catch, as above. Length 7.5 mm, width 11 mm.

SF 17. (106) F22. Two iron nails: b) 12, incomplete; i) 14, incomplete, clenched.

(104) F22. A group of iron nails of various sizes. Unless qualified as incomplete, Lengths (mm) given here are complete, or very nearly so: a) 28; c) 28; d) approximately 45, tip hooked; e) 24, incomplete; f) 19; g) 16, incomplete; h) 50, clenched into a U-shape; j) 39, clenched; k) 54; l) 27; m) shank fragment, 29; n) shank fragment, 21; o) 22, incomplete; p) 25; q) 17, incomplete; r) 38; s) 27; t) 66, incomplete; u) 23; w) 36; x) 28, clenched; y) 29, clenched; z.i) 53; z.ii) 27; aa) 40, clenched.

Soil sample 2. (108) F22. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 16 mm.

SF 14. (99) F22. Modern headless nail. Length 51 mm.

General site finds

Fig 5.5. SF 4. (83) F33, early Roman metalled road surface. Copper-alloy Hod Hill brooch, lacking part of the head and the hinged pin. The bow widens downwards from the head and is decorated with scrolls of fine punched dots. It is separated from the narrow tapering foot by a sharp transverse moulding. There is a small foot knob. Length 39 mm. This particular form is rare, but a similar brooch came from an early context at the Shrine of Apollo at Nettleton, Wiltshire (Wedlake 1982, 121, fig 50, 18). The brooch is an imported form dating to c AD 43 to 60/5.

Fig 5.6. SF 5. (82) F33, early Roman metalled road surface. Copper-alloy ring of lozenge-shaped section, probably from harness, but similar rings were also used as strap-rings,

handles and rudimentary hinges on wooden boxes. Diameter 28 mm, section 4.5 mm by 5 mm.

Fig 5.7. SF 3. Unstratified. Roman copper-alloy needle with short spatulate head and rectangular eye. Length 119 mm.

Fig 5.8. SF 2. (11). Unstratified. Fragment of the lower part of a ceramic nozzled factory lamp, probably used in the rituals, funerary or otherwise, associated with the monument. The sherd, in an orange-buff fabric, is thick and the moulding rudimentary. The base is rounded, making the lamp unstable. Length (incomplete) 72 mm, height 24 mm. Date-range: 2nd(-3rd) century.

SF 10. (35) L9, soil layer. Small fragment of high-tin bronze sheet from a mirror; in two pieces. Maximum dimensions 14 x 10, 10 x 7 mm.

SF 6. (74) L15, soil layer. Small fragment of copper-alloy sheet, probably from a mirror of high-tin bronze; in two pieces Maximum dimensions 18 x 17 mm.

SF 8. (49) F23, Roman pit. Two small copper-alloy fragments, possibly studs. Maximum dimensions 7 x 7 x 4 mm, 8 x 6 x 2 mm.

SF 19. (58) F23. Roman pit. Fragment of cast iron sheet, post-medieval or modern. 33 by 36 mm.

SF 7. (70) F2, post-medieval ditch. Bent copper-alloy medieval dress pin of Colchester Type 1, with the head formed by wrapping a short length of wire around a wire shank. Length (bent) 40 mm.

SF 9, (75) F17, modern pipe trench. Fragments of copper-alloy sheet boss or stud with concentric mouldings. Maximum surviving diameter 14 mm. Possibly residual Roman.

(29) F20, Roman pit. One iron nail with round convex head and one nail shank. Lengths 48 (complete) and 37 mm.

(50) F20, Roman pit. Iron nail with round convex head and two small shank fragments. Lengths 48 (incomplete), 28 and 11 mm.

(91) F21, Roman ditch. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 19 mm.

(43) L3, soil layer. Three iron nails with round convex heads. Lengths (all incomplete) 69, 57, 34 mm.

(46) L3, soil layer. Clenched iron nail shank. Length (bent) 55 mm.

(34) L4, contaminated soil layer. Modern iron nail with small flat round head. Length 46 mm.

(41) L11, disturbed cover loam. Two iron nails, one with round convex head, one with round flat head. Lengths (complete) 48 and 52 mm.

(73) L14, soil layer. Iron nail with small round convex head. Length (incomplete) 47 mm.

(54) F25, base of foundation F6. Fragment from the base of a iron-working hearth or furnace.

(32) L9, soil layer. Small fragment of iron-working slag.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery

by Stephen Benfield

This is a single flint-gritted body sherd, probably Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (weight 11 grammes) residual in L13 (finds no 47). This seems to be the only prehistoric find from the site; no other prehistoric material is listed on the EHER from this area of town.

6.3 Roman pottery (Tables 2-4)

by Stephen Benfield

The Roman pottery was identified by S Benfield of CAT; fabrics are after *CAR 10* and Cam numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947. The post-Roman pottery was identified by Howard Brooks of CAT (fabric numbers are after *CAR 7* and Cunningham 1985).

Introduction

In this report, Roman pottery vessel form numbers follow those of the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian forms refer to Dragendorff (Dr) and Ritterling samian form numbers. Roman pottery fabrics used in this report (Table 2) follow those devised for *CAR 10*.

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names.

Fabric code	Fabric name
AA	amphoras, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras)
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20
BA	plain samian
SG	South Gaulish plain samian
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian
EG	East Gaulish plain samian
BX	decorated samian
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian
CB	Colchester red colour-coated roughcast wares
CH	oxidised Hadham wares
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares
NF	Trier fabric
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
DZ	fine oxidised wares
EZ	other fine colour-coat wares, mostly white/buff
LRW	Cologne (Lower Rheinland) ware
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware
MQ	white-slipped fine wares and parchment wares
TD	mortaria, Verulamium region
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares
E	'eggshell' fabric
LTC	local traded coarse ware

Table 3: summary of pottery from features (cremation burials are toned).

Feature	Finds no	Sherd quantity	Wt (g)	Fabrics recorded	Pot forms and comments	Context dated
F1	3	4	23	GX KX	Cam 37B/38	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F1	59	27	1,954	AA BX(SG) CH DJ GA GX GB KX MQ TZ	Dr 29, Cam 37B/38, Cam 39A Cam 175/177, Cam 279, Cam 299 Fabric TZ mortaria stamp, MARTINVS F (CAR 10, p 200, S54-65); Martinus dated c AD 150/160-180	late 3rd-4th century
F3	8 & 12	3	22	DJ	Cam 156	early 2nd-early 3rd century
F3	10	10	1,465	HZ	broken lower half of a large jar	1st-2nd/3rd century
F4	9	25	3,254	AA AJ BA(SG) EC GX	Dressel 20, Dressel 2-4 Dr 27. Dressel 2-4 broken partial pot (amphora)	1st century, pre-Flavian
F5	22	13	238	DJ EG GX HD	Cam 258A, Cam 218	1st century, pre-Flavian
F8	14	17	694	BA(CG) BA(EG) CL(NF) CZ DJ GX	Dr 31, Dr 45	3rd century
F9	21	16	352	BA(SG) BX(SG) BA(CG) DJ FJ GX KX	Dr 18/31, Dr 36?, Dr 37, Cam 39B, Cam 154/155, Cam 266	early-mid 2nd century
F11	63	1	312	HZ		1st-2nd/3rd century
F11	79	2	23	GX		Roman
F13	16 & 17	40	2,148	GB? GX	Cam 270B, Cam 278?	1st-2nd/3rd century, probably early 2nd-mid-late 3rd century
F20	29	13	284	BA(SG) CZ DJ EZ(LRW) GX KX HZ	Dr 15/17, Cam 40B, Cam 207/296, Cam 407	early-mid 3rd century
F20	50	4	38	CB EZ(LRW) GX	Cam 268	mid 2nd-mid 3rd century
F21	36	3	96	AA HZ		1st-early 2nd century
F21	37	8	242	DJ GX HZ	Cam 266	1st-early 2nd century
F21	81	2	19	GX	Cam 108	1st-early 2nd century
F21	89	4	83	BX(SG) GX HZ	Dr 29	?Claudio-Neronian
F21	91	15	81	AA GX HZ	Cam 392?	?late 2nd-mid 3rd century – otherwise Roman, ?early Roman
F21	92 & 93	12	644	AJ GX HZ TD		1st to early-mid 2nd century
F22	62	12	145	AA GX HZ	Cam 218; some sherds are burnt	1st-early 2nd century
F22	94	5	8	GX	some sherds are burnt	Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
F22	102	1	1	GX		Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
F23	48	1	3	GX		Roman
F23	57	7	79	GA GX HD	Cam 279C	mid 3rd-4th century
F23	58	6	102	BA(EG) EA? GA GX HD	Dr 31, Cam 279C?	mid 3rd-4th century
F23	76	12	255	GA GX HD	Cam 279C?	mid 3rd-4th century?
F24	60	3	15	DJ GX		Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

Feature	Finds no	Sherd quantity	Wt (g)	Fabrics recorded	Pot forms and comments	Context dated
F25	54	1	32	GX	Cam 243-244/246	1st-early 2nd century
F26	51	7	88	CZ GB HZ		late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F29	61	15	471	BA(SG) DJ GX HD HZ	Dr 27, Dr 18, Cam 108, Cam 266	1st century
F30	64	1	31	GX		Roman
F31	68	3	670	GX		Roman
F32	66	20	5,000	AJ	Dressel 20; broken partial pot (amphora)	Claudio-Neronian
F34	86	5	181	GX	Cam 268	mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century
F34	87	2	53	DJ EC	Cam 156	early 2nd-early 3rd century
F35	88	8	136	BA(SG) BA(CG) CB GR GX UR(E)	Dr 27, Dr 18/31, Cam 68/329, Cam 268	mid 2nd century
F35	90	3	130	GB GX	Cam 218?, Cam 278	mid 2nd-mid 3rd century

Table 4: summary of pottery from layers.

Layer	Finds no	Sherd quantity	Wt (g)	Fabrics recorded	Pot forms	Comments	Context dated
L1	1	7	106	CH CZ EA GX HZ	Cam 407		late 3rd-4th century
L3	18	10	304	CH DJ GA GX	Cam 297	Fabric GA, Cam 297C?	late 3rd-4th century
L3	27	36	264	GX	Cam 268		mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century
L3	28	11	275	GA GX	Cam 279	Fabric GX includes roller-stamped sherd of probable 3rd-century date	3rd-4th century
L3	33	1	7	DZ			Roman
L3	39	8	139	BX(SG) DJ GX	Dr 37		Roman, after c AD 70
L3	40	4	158	GB GX HD	Cam 278	Fabric GX includes rim which may either be part of a bowl of form Cam 251(dated 1st century) of cup Cam form 333 (dated 1st-mid 2nd century)	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
L3	43	16	206	BA(SG) CB GB GX	Ritterling 12, Dr 27, Cam 37	Fabric GB, Cam 37: rim profiles suggest one pot is a decorated Cam 37B, other an un-decorated Cam 37A	probably later 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
L3	46	14	221	BA(EG) DJ GX	Dr 33, Cam 266?		mid-late 2nd-earlier 3rd century
L3	56	3	51	DJ GX			Roman
L3	71	9	151	DJ GX HD HZ	Cam 266		Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
L3	72	11	140	GX HZ	Cam 108, Cam 218		1st-early 2nd century
L4	34	4	43	DJ GX			Roman, ?1st-2nd century/3rd century
L4	65	1	13	BA(SG)			1st century
L4	20	8	255	AJ BA(SG) DJ GX HZ UR(LTC)	Dr 24/25, Cam 28, Cam 266		pre-Flavian
L5	24	6	80	DJ GX			Roman, ?1st-2nd century

Layer	Finds no	Sherd quantity	Wt (g)	Fabrics recorded	Pot forms	Comments	Context dated
L7	53	9	89	DJ EC GX	Cam 94, Cam 108		pre-Flavian
L10	26	60	2,759	CL(NF) CZ DJ EA GA GX HZ	Cam 279C?		mid 3rd-4th century
L11	41	50	1,367	AA BA(SG) CL(NF) CZ DJ EA GA GB GX	Trier form 1, Cam 279C	Fabric GX includes 5 roller-stamped sherds, of probable 3rd-century date, all from the same pot	mid 3rd-4th century
L11	44	2	11	CZ DJ		sherds from a beaker in fine fabric, probably Fabric CZ, rim missing but probably a had a cornice rim	early 2nd-early 3rd century
L11	45	20	298	AA BA(SG) BX(SG) DJ GX	Dr 18, Dr 27, Dr 37, Cam 218, Cam 266		1st century
L11	67	15	170	BA(SG) DJ GX	Ritterling 12?, Cam 108		pre-Flavian
L14	73	1	3	DJ			1st-2nd century/3rd century
L17	84	5	68	GX			Roman, probably early Roman, c 1st-2nd century

6.4 Medieval and later pottery (Table 5)

A few sherds of medieval and later pottery were recovered from modern pipe trench F2 and Roman soil layer L14 (where these sherds must be intrusive).

Table 5: medieval and later pottery.

Context	Finds no	Qt	Wt (g)	Description
L14	73	1	2	Orange fabric, probably a flowerpot sherd (Fabric 51b), 19th-20th century
F2	2	4	106	flowerpot Fabric 51b, 19th-20th century
F2	3	5	124	flowerpot Fabric 51b, 19th-20th century

6.5 Roman glass (Table 6)

Glass from features

The only glass from cut features is the six scraps of molten glass from cremation burials F22 (finds nos 62, 107, 108) and F23 (finds no 48). In these contexts, these will represent whole vessels placed into the cremation burial, and melted at that point. Two of these vessels were probably unguent vessels (see the following two identifications by N Crummy):

F22 (107) is a drip, not a rod – but it is the right quantity of glass to have come from a small tubular unguent bottle (or fragment of) of about the same size as *CAR 8*, fig 9.11, 1223, 1236-1237 would have been. The type is often found in early Roman cremations.

F22 (62) has come from a bigger vessel, perhaps a larger unguent bottle (as *CAR 8*, fig 9.11, 1212, or something completely different, like a cup.

F4 was a group of amphora sherds, black-burnished ware sherds, and a single glass handle (finds no 9). There was no cremated bone with this group, so it is not a burial. However, it may be a placed deposit. The handle and body fragment from F4 is from a large cylindrical bottle, the neck is missing, but in general this is quite close to *CAR 8*, fig 11.8, 2139. This published example is from Colchester glass period 5 (c AD 230-300), but F4 is of our phase

2 (the pyre phase pre-dating the temple-tomb), which is 2nd or early 3rd century AD. Large bottle such as these were originally used as containers to transport liquids, but many were ultimately used as cinerary urns in burials (*CAR 8*, 179). Given the funerary nature of much of the evidence from this site, it seems very likely that this was used here as a cinerary urn before ultimately being broken and placed in F4. The idea that there have been an unknown number of disturbed cremation burials here is confirmed by the relatively large volumes of loose human cremated remains, particularly from L10 and L11 which pre-date the temple-tomb. (See Francesca Boghis's report, section 6.6.)

Glass from layers

Seven sherds of glass came from layers pre-dating the construction of the temple-tomb. Some are too thin to be certainly identified with any certainty, but one of the sherds from L12 is quite thick, and may be from a substantial vessel such as a large bottle. The two pieces from L3 are interesting. One is from a thin-walled globular vessel, perhaps a hemispherical cup. The other is a ribbed handle fragment from a bottle, quite close to *CAR 8*, figure 11.7, 1837-8. These two published examples are from Colchester glass periods 4 and late 5 respectively (c AD 170-230, c AD 250?-300). The earlier of these two dates accords well with the context of L3, which is phase 2 here (2nd or early 3rd century AD).

Unstratified glass

Three sherds are unstratified. One (finds no 101) is a blue, slightly ribbed body sherd with applied white surface pattern, perhaps from a ribbed cup. Another (finds no 23) is a bottle neck with an external diameter of 56mm and a body width of approximately 120mm. This is also likely to have been used as a cinerary urn. Its rim was turned out externally and tucked under, whereas the majority of illustrated bottles in *CAR 8* have the reverse of this (turned inwards: fig 11.7, 1843-90).

Table 6: Roman glass.

Context	Finds no	Qt	Wt	Description
F4	9	1	122	chunky blue green handle from globular vessel
F22	62	4	23	lump of pale green molten glass with three tiny scraps
F22	107	1	5	twisted molten glass fragment
F22	108	2	3	scraps of molten glass (recovered from soil sample)
F23	48	1	2	pale green body sherd from globular vessel
L3	27	1	6	thick glass sherd (8mm) from thick-walled vessel
L3	46	1	2	very pale green glass sherd from globular vessel, slight roughened surface over bubbly area
L3	46	1	12	pale green glass handle fragment
L9	32	1	1	pale green body sherd
L10	26	1	1	pale green body sherd
L11	41	1	5	pale green molten glass, possibly a molten twisted rod
L12	21	1	9	thick glass sherd (9mm) from thick-walled vessel
U/S	23	1	112	rim, neck and part of shoulder of pale green glass bottle
U/S	52	1	6	pale green body sherd from small round or cylindrical vessel
U/S	101	1	1	blue slightly ribbed body sherd with applied white surface pattern

6.6 The human skeletal remains (Tables 7-9, Tables 15-26 in Appendix 2) by Francesca Boghi (Norfolk Archaeological Unit)

Introduction

Unburnt and cremated human skeletal remains from 11 features (18 finds bags) was received for analysis. One feature (F20) containing exclusively animal bone was excluded from this analysis. Only one stratified context contained a small amount of unburnt human bone (finds no 56 from L3); there was also a small amount of unstratified unburnt human bone (finds no 103). The material derives from an excavation carried out at the Grammar School site in 2005 which revealed features pre-dating as well as contemporary to a mid to late Roman temple-tomb structure. The material has been preliminarily dated as outlined in Table 6

(H Brooks, pers comm). Early Roman bone assemblages (L3, L4, L11) derive from soil layers cut by the temple-tomb. Probable pyre sites pre-dating the temple-tomb were also identified around the temple-tomb structure but it is uncertain if the identified pyre sites continued to be used in the later burial phase. Uncremated bone in L3 could derive from disturbed inhumations, for which there is no other evidence from the excavation. Late Roman features associated with the temple-tomb are F23 (from a central probably disturbed cremation pit), disturbed urned cremation F3, urned cremations F8 and F13, loose cremation F22, disturbed cremation F31, and probably redeposited bone from a disturbed burial F20. L10 derived from a layer in the centre of the hexagon.

Table 7: provisional dating.

Context	Date
L3, L4, L11	early Roman
F3, F8, F13, F22, F23, F31	late Roman
F20	?late Roman
L10	Roman

Methodology

Unburnt human bone

The unburnt bone sample was analysed according to the *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains* (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994) and the analysis incorporates suggestions from the *Guidelines to the standards for recording of human remains* (Brickley & McKinley 2004). The ageing of juvenile remains was based on data from Scheuer and Black (2000).

Cremated bone

The analysis of the cremated bone follows the guidelines drafted by McKinley (2004). The cremated bone was first analysed to determine whether it was human or non-human. The total weight of each assemblage was taken and then animal bone and inclusions were separated. The human bone was then dry-sieved through a stack of sieves with 10mm, 5mm and 2mm mesh sizes to maximise bone recovery and assess the degree of fragmentation. The identifiable bone fragments were divided into four skeletal areas – skull, axial skeleton, upper limb and lower limb – for further analysis, and bagged separately.

Results

A summary of the basic characteristics (Table 15) and a description of each context (Table 16) are given in Appendix 2. Data on the unburnt human bone including age at death, metric recording and skeletal inventory are given in Appendix 2.

Unburnt human bone

Unburnt human bone was found in L3 (finds no 56) and unstratified (finds no 103). The remains (20g) derive from a minimum of two individuals both of foetal/perinatal age, one aged 32 weeks and one aged 37 weeks. Individual A (aged 37 weeks) was formed by the right humerus, right and left femur, right tibia and fibula and by one metatarsal bone. Individual B (aged 32 weeks) was formed by one left humerus and left femur. Both contexts contain part of both individuals probably indicating post-depositional disturbance of L3 or a higher number of individuals.

Cremated bone

Physical characteristics of the material

A total of 2,300g of cremated human bone from ten features was present in this sample. F20 contained only a small quantity (5g) of cremated animal bone. The bone contained in L3 (finds no 27), L4 (finds no 19) and L11 (finds no 41) could not be positively identified as either human or animal, due to the small quantity and heavily fragmented nature of the remains. The quantity of cremated bone per feature varied considerably from 2g to 769g with an average weight of 230g (Table 8). The amount of bone was very small (0-9g) in two features, small (10-99g) in two

features, small/medium (100-499g) in five features, and medium/large (500-999g) in one feature (Tables 17-18, Appendix 2).

Table 8: bone fragmentation.

	residue (%)	% of bone in the residue (visual estimate)	2 mm (%)	5 mm (%)	10 mm (%)	max fragment size (mm)	Total (g)
COUNT	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
MIN	0	0	0	0	46.6	22	2
MAX	5.7	90	9.2	43.7	100.0	70	769
AVERAGE	1.7	44	3.1	16.3	78.9	55	230

The size of a cremation depends on the individual (age, sex, body size, bone density), and the extent of bone recovery from the pyre site and during excavation, as well as on the rate of bone preservation (McKinley 1993, 285). All archaeological cremation burials (with the possible exception of *busta*) represent a partial collection (McKinley 1998, 19). Cremations in containers are normally larger than those in pits and finely crushed cremations tend to be smaller due to poor preservation. The features in this sample appear incomplete in comparison to a modern cremation (1,000-3,600 g) (McKinley 2000, 404), though most fall within the size range (57-3,000g) for archaeological cremations (McKinley 2000, 408-9). The present sample was composed by three urned cremations (F3, F8, F13), one loose cremation (F22), two disturbed cremation (F31, F23), and four assemblages from soil layers (L3, L4, L10, L11). There seems to be a poor correlation between the type of context and the size of the cremation deposit. F13 is comparatively small for an urned cremation, whilst the amount of bone from L10 and L11 is substantial for disturbed cremated material within a layer.

The maximum fragment size ranged from 22mm to 70mm with an average of 55mm (Table 4). An assessment of the degree of fragmentation indicated that, on average, the vast majority (78.9%) of bone fragments was over 10mm in size. In the rest of the sample, 16.3% of bone fragments was 5mm and 3.1% of bone was on average 2mm in size (Table 4). The proportion of fragments over 10mm in this sample is higher than expected for archaeological cremations where an average of 50% of bone fragments are over 10mm in size (McKinley 1994, 340). The bone residue was also found – by visual estimate – to contain a large proportion of bone (44%). For this reason, the weight of the residue was included in the total weight.

The bone showed extensive evidence of dehydration such as fissuring, cracking both longitudinally and transversely and several long-bone fragments were warped. Concentric fissuring was noticed on the articular surfaces. These types of surface changes are compatible with the cremation of fresh bone.

The bone in the majority of assemblages was predominantly buff/white with small amounts of blue/grey areas (Table 7, Appendix 2). These were mainly shielded areas such as the medullary cavity of the long bones, the skull diploë and the cancellous bone. The predominant white colour indicates the full oxidation of bone, which occurs when a temperature in excess of 600° is reached. The bone from four features was incompletely oxidised as it included up to 50% of blue/grey bone (indicative of a lower attained temperature) alongside fully oxidised bone.

Biological anthropology

Identification

Fragments were considered identifiable when they could be attributed to a specific bone element rather than to a generic skeletal area. Identifiable bone was separated, quantified and classified into four skeletal areas: skull, axial skeleton, upper limb and lower limbs. It was possible to identify some skeletal elements in all but two features containing less than 10g of bone (Table 16, Appendix 2). On average, 20.8% of bone fragments could be identified (Table 9). The percentage of

identified bone falls within the expected range (20-50%) of an archaeological cremation that is normally identifiable (McKinley 1989, 68).

Table 9: bone identification.

	% IDENTIFIED
COUNT	10
MIN	0
MAX	88.9
AVERAGE	20.8

Bone elements from all four skeletal areas were identified in three features. Two or more skeletal areas could be identified in three features whilst only one area was recognised in one feature and no bone identification was possible in two features. With respect to the relative representation of skeletal areas, elements from the skull were best represented, followed by the axial skeleton and lower limb fragments. Upper limb fragments were the least represented (Tables 17-18, Appendix 2).

One feature (F31) was excavated in two spits (finds nos 68 and 69) in an attempt to ascertain whether the bone was distributed in a deliberate order or whether it had been deposited randomly. It is possible that deposition in rough anatomical order was followed, as skull bones were only present in spit 1 and pelvic bones were only found in spit 2. However, the fact that the limb bones present in both spits could not be identified into upper or lower limbs makes this interpretation inconclusive. No evidence for bone deposition in anatomical order was found in the four finds numbered 108 from F22 (Table 17, Appendix 2).

Minimum number of individuals

The minimum number of individuals was established according to the duplication of bone elements or if skeletons of different ages are represented in one feature. No multiple burials were identified in this sample.

Age at death

Age at death was determined as in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). The estimation of age at death was difficult as most ageing features were unavailable. Most individuals could be only be generically classified as Adults (>20 years) based on the stage of epiphyseal fusion. The individual in F3 (7) was classified as a Young Adult (20-35 years) based on the morphology of the auricular surface of the ilium and the lack of degenerative changes in the spine where thirteen vertebral bodies were present. Another individual (L10, 26) was classified as a Young Adult (20-35) based on the rate of fusion in the skull sutures.

Determination of sex

Methods for sex determination in skeletal material rely on morphological and metric differences between male and female in body size, proportions, robusticity, development and different role in reproduction. The chosen criteria for sex determination included skull and pelvic morphology as in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Metric criteria for sexing cremated material devised by Gejvall (1969) were also included despite reservations on their applicability and accuracy (McKinley 2000, 412). None of the morphological criteria for determining sex was available and most of the metric features were either absent or insufficiently complete. The measurement of the external occipital protuberance (after Gejvall 1969) could be taken in three individuals but the large overlap between the female and male range meant that a sex category could not be assigned. Therefore, all the human remains in this sample were classified as indeterminate.

Pathological changes

The incomplete and fragmented nature of cremated remains inevitably affects the diagnosis of pathological conditions. A small number of pathological changes were observed in this sample. Arthritic changes in the spine consisting of lipping and macroporosity were noted in the only available thoracic vertebra from F8 (15). This type of change is age-progressive and very commonly diagnosed in skeletal

material. Schmorl's nodes were recorded in 1/13 vertebral bodies of F3 (7) and in both thoracic vertebra from F31 (68, 69). Schmorl's nodes consist of depressions in the superior/inferior articular surface of the vertebral bodies. They form because of ageing and/or traumatic events associated with an overload of the weight-bearing capacity of the spine.

Additional material

Inclusions of animal bone were found in eight features (Table 6). Five features contained unburnt animal bone and this may be intrusive. Three features contained cremated animal bone alongside human cremated remains. The animals had probably been placed on the pyre with the deceased as pyre goods and were selected later for inclusion in the grave. In all three features, the animal remains were randomly and incompletely oxidised. One context (108 from F22) contained 26g of cremated animal bone as well a small number of cremated objects including one fragment of melted glass, one twisted tapering nail shank (copper alloy), one T-shaped object fragment (copper alloy), and one iron piece of wire with circular section. Iron corrosion material was also encrusted on the dens of the axis (second cervical vertebra).

Summary and discussion

Unburnt and cremated bone was recovered from eleven contexts at the Grammar School site in 2005. One of these contained solely animal bone. Only one stratified context contained a small amount of unburnt human bone (finds no 56 from L3); there was also a small amount of unstratified unburnt human bone (finds no 103). The unburnt human bone assemblage (20g) accounted for a minimum of two individuals, both of foetal/perinatal age, one aged 32 weeks and one aged 37 weeks. Since L3 comes from the highest soil layer cut by the temple-tomb, the unburnt human remains could well represent the evidence of previously unknown disturbed inhumations pre-dating the temple-tomb.

Three early Roman bone assemblages (L3, L4, L11) derived from soil layers cut by the temple-tomb. They could represent earlier disturbed cremation burials rather than redeposited pyre debris, which is commonly found around pyre sites in spreads or in deliberately excavated features. In fact, pyre debris deposits are typically mixed in nature generally containing fuel ash, burnt flint, burnt stone or burnt clay as well as bone (McKinley 1998, 19). The rest of the sample was composed by three urned cremations (F3, F8, F13), one loose cremation (F22), two disturbed cremation (F31, F23) and one assemblage from a soil layer (L10).

A total of 2,300g of cremated human bone was present in this sample. The quantity of cremated bone per feature varied considerably from 2g to 769g with an average weight of 230g. Cremations in containers are normally larger than those in pits and finely crushed cremations tend to be smaller due to poor preservation. The features in this sample appear incomplete in comparison to a modern cremation (1,000-3,600 g) (McKinley 2000, 404), though (with the exception of those very disturbed and/or redeposited features) falling within the expected size range (57-3,000 g) for archaeological cremations (McKinley 2000, 408-9). There seems to be a poor correlation between the type of context and the size of the cremation deposit. F13 is comparatively small for an urned cremation, whilst the amount of bone from L10 and L11 is substantial for disturbed cremated material within a layer. The small size of some of the assemblages in this sample may be due to a range of factors including the type of context, post-depositional disturbance and bone decay from contact with acidic sandy soil. It is difficult to estimate in what measure other factors such as the loss of the volatile portion of bone before burial, or the partial collection of bone at the pyre site may have played a part.

The analysis of the degree of fragmentation showed that the maximum fragment size was on average of 55mm and that the vast majority (78.9%) of bone fragments were over 10mm in size. This figure was higher than that expected for archaeological cremations (50%) (McKinley 1994, 340). The average large size of the fragments and the fact that the fractures largely occurred along fissure lines make it unlikely that the bone was deliberately crushed before burial.

On average 20.8% of bone fragments could be identified. This figure falls within the expected range (20-50%) of an archaeological cremation that is normally identifiable (McKinley 1989, 68). The collection of the cremated remains at the pyre site appears to have been meticulous enough to include bone elements from all four skeletal areas in three features. With respect to the relative representation of skeletal areas, elements from the skull were best represented across the sample, followed by the axial skeleton and lower limb fragments. Upper limb fragments were the least represented. These findings are more likely to reflect the ease of identifying fragments of the skull and axial skeleton with respect to limb bones, therefore increasing the percentage of identifiable fragments in these areas, rather than a bias in the skeletal areas collected. Moreover, missing skeletal areas may be present in the large proportion of unidentified bone.

No multiple burials were identified in this sample, as there was no evidence for duplication of bone elements or discrepancies of age at death in any of the features. Evidence for bone deposition in anatomical order was searched for in two features that were excavated in spits but was found to be absent in F22 and inconclusive for F31.

The estimation of precise age at death, and of sex, was difficult as most ageing features and criteria for sex determination were unavailable. Two individuals were classified as young adults (20-35 years), though most individuals could be only be generically classified as Adults (>20 years) based on the stage of epiphyseal fusion. None of the morphological criteria for determining sex was available and most of the metric features were either absent, insufficiently complete or ambiguous. Consequently, all of the human remains in this sample were classified as Indeterminate. A small number of pathological conditions were found. They were all classified as spinal pathology.

The temperature of the cremation was probably in excess of 600° in most features. This assessment is based on the predominantly buff/white colour which is believed to result from exposure to high temperature (Shipman *et al* 1984). The bone from four features was incompletely oxidised as it included up to 50% of blue/grey bone (indicative of a lower attained temperature) alongside fully oxidised bone. In these features, other factors may have affected the colour of the bone, including the type and amount of fuel (including the proportion and amount of body fat), the length of the cremation process, the availability of oxygen and the distance from the heat source. The typical pattern of burning on the bones of a skeleton – indicative of different degrees of incineration across the body – with shielded anatomical parts such as articular surfaces exhibiting signs of proportionately less exposure to heat, was found across the whole sample.

Probable pyre sites in part at least pre-dating the temple-tomb were identified around the temple-tomb structure (H Brooks, pers comm). These deposits consisted of three distinct areas of burnt ground indicating that the pyres were constructed on the ground. The bodies were probably fleshed and cremated soon after death, as the bones were extensively cracked and fissured as a result of dehydration and were also warped by the shortening of tendons during the cremation process (McKinley 2000, 405).

Charcoal and other pyre debris were absent, indicating that the bone fragments seem to have been carefully separated from the pyre debris, but it is difficult to suggest what method might have been used for this purpose (manual selection, winnowing or immersion in liquid).

Evidence for possible grave goods was found in three burials in the form of cremated animal bone. The bone was oxidised and had probably been placed on the fire with the deceased. The non-uniform and incomplete degree of oxidisation of the animal bone – with comparison to the human bone in the same feature – indicates that the animal bone was placed at the margins of the pyre or added later. Cremation burials commonly contain cremated animal bone in progressively increasing quantities from the Bronze Age to the Anglo-Saxon period (McKinley 2000, 416). The remains generally represent pyre goods, food, amulets, pets, indicators of status or remnants of funeral feasts (*ibid*). F22, a mid Roman loose cremation deposit associated with the temple-tomb, contained a small number of cremated glass, copper-alloy and iron objects as well as cremated animal bone.

The small quantity of uncremated animal bone found in five features was probably intrusive.

6.7 The faunal remains

by Julie Curl (Norfolk Archaeological Unit)

Introduction

A total of 0.078kg of faunal remains, consisting of eighty-six pieces, was recovered from eight features containing human remains (see Table 10). The variety of cremations produced bone that represents offerings for the deceased. The faunal assemblage also contains remains of at least one hawk that may have been a falconer's bird, and this may represent some of the earliest evidence for falconry in Britain.

Methodology

The bone was examined and recorded using a modified version of Davis (1992). The remains were studied for information, recording identifiable species and ages where possible, and briefly noting any butchery, degree of burning where present, and pathological conditions. The total number of pieces identifiable to a species was recorded on the faunal remains record sheet along with the number of measurable and 'countable' bones for each species following guidelines in Davis 1992. The total weight for each context was also recorded. A summary of the information is included in a table with this report.

Summary of results and discussion

F22

The most interesting feature for faunal remains is F22, finds nos 94, 102 and 108, which are associated with a loose cremation of an adult over 20 years of age, associated with the temple-tomb. The faunal remains consisted of numerous juvenile sheep/goat bones (vertebrae, skull, radius and pelvis fragments), all of which had been burnt, but incompletely oxidised.

One bone from a falcon, a large Sparrowhawk (probably female from the size) was positively identified in F22 (finds no 108). Several other tibiotarsi were also found in this group of bone; these bones are all from juvenile birds and all from the proximal ends of the bone. This may suggest that these juvenile bones had been butchered and that only parts of the birds were buried with the human bone. In addition, fragments of a juvenile bird's humerus, coracoid and a few other small pieces of bird bone were also recorded. All but one of the bird bones had been burnt, although incompletely oxidised, demonstrating that they had been cremated, probably at the same time as the human remains.

The sheep/goat bone in this feature would represent food placed on the pyre. The remains of the Sparrowhawk and the juvenile bird bones are much more interesting. The adult Sparrowhawk bones were easily identifiable, but the juvenile bones are too porous and worn to allow full identification. The inclusion of the Sparrowhawk with the human remains could suggest that the human remains are those of a falconer with his bird/s being cremated with him. It may be possible that the juvenile bird bones could be from further young hawks (there are falcon similarities with these bones). Falconers do need to use young birds to begin training, so these juveniles may represent birds that could have been taken from a nest and raised for training. The falcons themselves may be used for catching a variety of prey, mostly other birds in the case of Sparrowhawks, or they may be used as decoys to drive birds to another source of entrapment.

There is no clear archaeological evidence for hawking in Britain before the Anglo-Saxon period (Parker 1988), but there is evidence for this practice in Europe by the late 4th century (Prummel 1997); it is thought to have been well established in the Middle and Far East by 2,000 BC (Hawk Conservancy Trust). Excavations in London have also produced the remains of two female Sparrowhawks from deposits dating to between AD 300 and AD 410 (Rielly, forthcoming).

A fragment of the common oyster shell was also found in F22 (finds no 108) and a cut pig phalange was found in F22 (finds no 102), both of which may derive from food offerings.

Other features

A sheep/goat molar and fragments of large mammal (?cattle) pelvis and shaft were found in the urned cremation F13 (finds no 17). A goose wing bone (a proximal phalanx) was recovered from another urned cremation (F8, finds no 15).

L10, a layer at the centre of the temple-tomb (hexagon), produced remains of sheep/goat teeth and mammal bone fragments that are probably from the sheep/goat jaw and ribs (finds no 26). Further remains of sheep/goat were retrieved from the disturbed late Roman cremation F31 (finds no 69) and from the ?late Roman pit fill F20 (finds no 29); the remains from the pit fill were cremated.

Other fragments of mammal bone, which were probably from butchered cattle, were found in L11 (finds no 42) and L4 (finds no 19).

Table 10: catalogue of faunal remains by context.

E Rom = phase 1 (mid to late 1st century); L Rom = phase 3 (mid 3rd to 4th century); juv = juvenile; subad = subadult; FLV = fusion line visible.

Context	Finds no	Date	Type	Total qt	Wt (g)	Species	Species qt	Age	Butchering	Comments
F8	15	L Rom	urn cremation	1	1	goose	1	adult		proximal phalange
F13	17	L Rom	urn cremation	3	8	sheep/goat	1	adult		molar
F13	17	L Rom	urn cremation			mammal	2		butchered	large mammal pelvis and shaft fragment
F20	29	?L Rom	pit	1	6	sheep/goat	1		?butchered	humerus shaft, fully oxidised
F22	94	L Rom	loose cremation	17	16	sheep/goat	4	juv	chopped	radius, pelvis – not burnt; vertebrae and sacrum fragments – burnt
F22	94	L Rom	loose cremation			mammal	12		?butchered	rib fragments, probably sheep/goat
F22	94	L Rom	loose cremation			oyster shell	1			fragment of shell
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation		27	sheep/goat	13	juv	chopped	several vertebrae, tooth, jaw fragment, skull fragment, all burnt
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation			falcon	1	adult		tibiotarsus
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation			bird	3	juv		coracoid, humerus
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation			bird	8	juv		8 proximal tibiotarsus; MNI: 4 birds
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation			bird – miscellaneous	5			small fragments of bird bone, all burnt black to grey/white
F22	108	L Rom	loose cremation			mammal	22		cut	fragments of medium-sized mammal ribs – sheep/goat?
F22	102	L Rom	loose cremation	1	1	pig	1	subad	cut	intermediate phalange, FLV, copper stained, lightly burnt

F31	69	L Rom	disturbed cremation	1	1	sheep/ goat	1	juv		unfused vertebrae
L4	19	E Rom	layer	5	9	mammal	5		butchered	large mammal (?cattle) scapula and shaft fragments
L10	26	Roman	hexagon layer	5	4	sheep/goat	2	adult		teeth
L10	26	Roman	hexagon layer			mammal	3		butchered	jaw fragments, prob sheep/goat; rib fragment
L11	42	E Rom	disturbed	1	5	mammal	1			?cattle fragment

6.8 Other finds

Table 11: brick and tile by context.

teg = *tegula*

imb = *imbrex*

flue = flue tile

bk = brick

peg = peg-tile

CBM = ceramic building material

Context	Finds no	Teg qt	Teg wt (g)	Imb qt	Imb wt (g)	Flue qt	Flue wt (g)	Bk qt	Bk wt (g)	Peg qt	Peg wt (g)	Small CBM qt	Small CBM wt (g)
F4	9	1	575	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
F5	4	1	132	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
F5	22	2	1,105	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
F9	21	1	158	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
F13	16	1	70	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0
F20	29	0	0	0	0			1	97			1	15 ¹
F21	36	1	519	0	0			0	0			0	0
F21	81	1	340	0	0			0	0			0	0
F21	93	1	34	0	0			0	0			0	0
F23	57	1	34	0	0			1	187 ²			0	0
F23	58	2	384	1	22	1	102	2	258			1	10
F23	76	0	0	0	0			2	291			1	3
F25	54	1	124	0	0			0	0			1	12
F29	91	1	38	0	0			0	0			0	0
F30	64	0	0	0	0			1	427			0	0
F32	66	0	0	0	0			0	0			1	1
F34	86	0	0	1	169 ³			1	433 ⁴			0	0
L1	01	1	209	0	0			0	0	1	28	0	0
L1	01	0	0	0	0			1	621	0	0	0	0
L3	27	0	0	0	0			2	371	0	0	0	0
L3	27	2	74	0	0			1	178	1	18	4	35
L3	27	3	99	0	0			0	0			0	0
L3	28	4	204	0	0			1	141			2	20
L3	46	0	0	0	0			0	0			1	11
L3	56	13	582	0	0			1	96			13	135
L3	71	2	231 ⁵	1	121			0	0			0	0

¹ undifferentiated small CBM bits have generally been discarded

² vitrified

³ buff tile (from Kent)

⁴ floor brick? - 128 x 62 x 30mm, as seen in floor at North Station Road (CAT Report 163)

⁵ one is vitrified

Context	Finds no	Teg qt	Teg wt (g)	lmb qt	lmb wt (g)	Flue qt	Flue wt (g)	Bk qt	Bk wt (g)	Peg qt	Peg wt (g)	Small CBM qt	Small CBM wt (g)
L5	24	0	0	0	0			1	470	0	0	0	0
L5	31	1	170	0	0			3	6,892 ⁶			0	0
L7	53	3	241	0	0			0	0			1	8
L9	32	1	402	0	0			0	0			1	13
L10	26	4	132	0	0			3	243	0	0	7	40
L10	26	1	200	0	0			4	469	0	0	1	16
L11	41	1	184	1	58			1	45			2	29
L11	45	1	62	0	0			0	0			1	5
L11	67	0	0	0	0			1	452			0	0
U/S	01	2	181	0	0			1	855	0	0	0	0
U/S	52	1	62	0	0			0	0			4	56
totals		40	1,865	3	201			28	8,956	2	46	42	409

Table 12: stone by context.

D = discarded

m = mortar adhering

t = *tessera*

Context	Finds no	Septaria qt	Septaria wt (g)	Tufa qt	Tufa wt (g)	Other qt	Other wt (g)	Comment
L3	71					1	36	pale brown mortar. D
L3	27					1	79	pale brown mortar. D
L3	62					1	45	pale brown mortar. D
L11	41					6	494	very pale brown mortar samples (1 kept, 159g)
L11	41					1	11	<i>opus signinum</i> sample
L11	67	1	69			0	0	D
L10	26	0	0			1	373	burnt sandstone lump
F5	4	0	0			2	731	mortar samples from wall. 1 (587g) kept
	58	1	15			0	0	t?
F6	13	0	0	2	5,500	0	0	trimmed tufa blocks
F6	109	0	0	2	8,000	0	0	trimmed tufa blocks
F6	110	0	0	2	7,500	0	0	trimmed tufa blocks
F6	77	0	0	0	0	5	10,000	sample of pebbly mortar lumps from wall
F11	78	0	0	0	0	15	9,000	sample of pebbly

⁶ this huge brick has a burnt surface where a fire has been set on its surface (cremation?)

Context	Finds no	Septaria qt	Septaria wt (g)	Tufa qt	Tufa wt (g)	Other qt	Other wt (g)	Comment
								mortar lumps from wall
F22	62	1	2	0	0	0	0	small t
F23	48	0	0	0	0	6	183	tufa lumps; 1 kept (83g)
F23	57	2	46	0	0	0	0	D
F23	76	6	1,801	8	2,252	1	555	septaria: 2 kept, 576g). Are these burnt?: tufa, tufa chips, two burnt?, and one from a trimmed block. 3 pieces (1,066g) kept: sandstone, block, possibly burnt
F23	76	0	0	0	0	1	78	orange sandy mortar
F23	76	0	0	0	0	1	22	rough, pale yellowy brown painted wall-plaster
F25	54	0	0	0	0	2	517	mortar samples from base of wall; 1 (212g) kept
F25	55	0	0	0	0	1	4,000	dressed Ragstone? block
F30	64	0	0	1	31	0	0	
L3	27	2	211	0	0	0	0	m
L3	27	0	0	2	730	0	0	
L10	26	1	45	2	38	0	0	tufa: 2 pieces; 1 kept (21g)
F13	17	0	0	61	52	10	8	⁷
F22	108	0	0	13	52	5	4	⁸
totals		14	2,189	93	24,155	60	5,367	

Table 13: daub by context.

⁷ includes one piece of plain white painted plaster

⁸ includes one small piece of painted wall-plaster

Context	Finds no	Qt	Wt (in g)
F20	29	1	115

7 Discussion⁹

The condition of the site

The first point to make about this site is that it is clearly not undisturbed. First, the temple-tomb walls were robbed down to foundation level, and the foundations left quite flat on top. In Colchester, most stone robbing took place in medieval times, but in this case the foundations were left looking quite tidy, and blocks of septaria had been left *in situ*. Perhaps this robbing episode is more recent than medieval. Second, there are modern iron fragments in some of the otherwise Roman contexts. Whereas the iron nail in L4 may be intrusive, it is more difficult to explain away the modern iron fragments in burials F22 and F23. It is unfortunate that F22 contained a fascinating group of material including hawk bones, a handle from a *pyxis* lid, and copper-alloy small finds; the presence of a fragment of modern iron sheet indicates that this burial has been disturbed. F23 also had a larger cut than burials F3 or F13. It contained burnt fragments of tufa which must be original, but very little cremated bone (only 27g). Whatever was removed from F23 may have included the larger part or all of a cinerary pot or urn. The burnt tufa fragments are interesting in this respect because they are likely to have been in this burial cut from the outset, so the intrusion was either limited to the removal of a few objects, or the material pulled out of the hole was tipped back more or less into the same spot.

Is there an obvious context for this disturbance? Of course, there is a tradition of Grammar School masters and boys excavating in the school grounds, particularly A F Hall in the 1930s, and later M Corbishley in the 1970s (Hull 1958, 259; author's recollection). However, it is extremely unlikely that Hall would have missed the masonry walls. The school moved to its present site in 1853, and additions to the building stock are recorded in 1910, 1928, and 1937 (*VCH* 9, 354). It is possible that the temple-tomb was discovered at one of those foundation dates, when builders were clearing the ground, and its remains were levelled off and tidied away. It is more difficult to be sure when the burials were disturbed. It may have been the builders at the time, or perhaps it was the work of John Taylor who was recovering Roman burial pots from his estate at West Lodge (200m to the west of the Grammar School) from 1848 onwards (*CAR* 9, 259). Whatever and whenever the disturbance, all or most of the cremation burials give the appearance of having been disturbed in some way, particularly F22 and F23 which have slightly larger cuts than the others. During this disturbance, unknown items may have been removed. This may explain the very fragmentary appearance of urns in some burials and their complete absence in others.

Temple-tomb and comparisons

There is one almost exact parallel for the hexagon-in-a-square pattern of the CRGS temple-tomb. This is the temple at Mordelles in France. The exterior width across the outer wall is 10m compared with 9.2m at the Grammar School site, and the hexagon is 4m in diameter as opposed to 5.2m at the Grammar School site. At Mordelles, the interior hexagon is much more slightly built and may not have supported the type of tower which is assumed to have existed at the Grammar School site (see Peter Froste's reconstruction on front cover; Fauduet 1993, 52). Though there are no parallels for the hexagon-in-a-square in Britain, there is a much larger hexagonal-shaped temple (9m in external diameter) at Collyweston in Northamptonshire (Lewis 1966, 188). Neither of these examples (Mordelles and Collyweston) has associated burials, so the comparison is in relation to plan-form (hexagon), rather than function (tomb).

⁹ HB would like to thank N Crummy for making available her discussion of the hawk bones from *The Colchester Archaeologist* 19

Burial context

Despite reservations about the integrity of the burials, some general points remain valid, and add to our knowledge of Roman burial practice in Colchester. First, the general points. The temple-tomb occupied a roadside location which would have been clearly visible to a traveller coming along the road from London. If the temple-tomb did indeed incorporate a tower, then it would have been an even more imposing sight. This traveller would have passed the tombstones of Longinus and Facilis before coming to the CRGS temple-tomb, which must have occupied a more prestigious site since it was not merely on the roadside but at a principal crossroads. For that reason, it is tempting to assume that the person commemorated here (if indeed it was just one) may have been of higher status than Longinus or Facilis. On leaving the CRGS temple-tomb, the traveller would have passed along the road to the Balcerne Gate and seen the 'Colchester sphinx' tomb, 100m closer to the Roman town.

Burial contents – the hawk connection

The contents of the burials is tabulated above (Table 1). However, the most interesting group is from F22, ie a handle from a bone *pyxis*, copper-alloy toggles or catches from a garment of some kind, and the bones of one adult hawk, probably a sparrowhawk, and the bones of at least four other juvenile raptors. The hawk bones are most interesting, but present a challenge of interpretation. Were these deliberately placed in the grave because of the occupation or favourite pastime of the buried person, or are they non-specific, and more connected with burial ritual? That is, do these bones represent hunting, or ritual? The following text is provided by Nina Crummy.

Hunting on foot or horseback was a favourite pastime for the wealthy in the Roman period, as well as an important way of varying the diet. The emperor Hadrian prided himself on being a hunter of big game, and mock hunts using a wide range of animals were set up in amphitheatre arenas as a spectator sport. There were also professional wildfowlers, who hunted birds with nets and liming twigs. Images of huntsmen, often carrying hares or wild fowls were used on mosaics and intaglios, and Bonus Eventus, the Roman god of good fortune, can appear on intaglios set into finger rings as a huntsman.

Among all these images of hunting, there is very little evidence for falconry, and even a scene showing wildfowlers on the famous 'Little Hunt' mosaic in the 4th-century Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina, Sicily, is ambiguous. Set among designs showing the hunting of boars, foxes, stags and hares, the panel shows two fowlers with bundles of limed twigs on their backs staring up into a tree. One has a bird perched on his shoulder, the other holds a bird in his hand. The perching bird is probably a raptor of some kind, while the one being carried is dove-like and is more likely to have been captured.

Apart from the eagle of Jupiter, also used to represent Roman imperial power, other raptors are not common in Roman art, but there is a bronze hawk from Colchester in the British Museum (Green 1976, 217 no. 60). It may have been a votive offering associated with the cult of Isis – the falcon represents her son (the sky-god Horus) in Egyptian mythology and the hieroglyph for 'god' was a falcon on its perch (NLEM, 21). There is evidence for the worship of Isis in London and elsewhere in Britain, and it is quite likely that followers of the cult also lived and worshipped in Colchester (Henig 1977, 359). With so little evidence for falconry apparent in the Roman world, the sparrowhawk and juvenile raptor bones in the CRGS cremation seem just as likely to have been used as part of the burial rite rather than included among the grave goods of a falconer. The ritual sacrifice of birds of prey and carrion-eaters, all non-food birds, occurs at several places in Britain. As early as the 4th century BC, raven bones were among the items placed in special deposits at Danebury, Hampshire (Cunliffe 1984, 12). The clearest example from the Roman period are the sixteen bird burials found in a votive shaft at the temple at Jordan Hill, Dorset (Ross 1967, 266-7; Merrifield 1987, 41-2). The birds were buzzards, crows, ravens and starlings, and each had been buried with a coin between two layers of tiles, with each double tile layer separated by a layer of ash. At Colchester, a pit on the Sheepen site contained the remains of several non-food birds, among them a raptor and carrion-eaters, as well as a puppy, an assemblage strongly suggestive of ritual sacrifice (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 354). Dogs were often used as ritual offerings as they were thought to be able to act as guides to the dead on the journey to the underworld (Jenkins 1957, 64-5; Merrifield 1987, 46-7; Green 1997, 176-8).

8 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2005.96

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11 Glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CBM	ceramic building material
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
CRGS	Colchester Royal Grammar School
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record (maintained by Essex County Historic Environment Team)
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>imbrex</i>	type of Roman roof tile
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from the 20th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman lime mortar coating crushed tile or brick
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1900
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410 approximately
septaria	local stone
SF	small find
<i>tegula</i>	type of Roman roof tile
tufa	lightweight and easily worked stone from unidentified British source
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester Museums
U/S	unstratified, ie little or no context

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12 Appendices Appendix 1

Table 14: site context data.

SF = small find, SS = sample, edm = digital plot by edm only.

Context	Drawing no	Description	Sealed/cut by	Seals/cuts	Find no	finds type	finds dates	context date
F1	3, 14, 16, 17, 18	metalled road surface ('Gosbecks road')	topsoil	L1				Roman
F2	3, 15, 22	ditch	topsoil	L1	2	pot	post-Roman	post- medieval
F2	3	ditch	topsoil	L1	59	pot	post-Roman	post- medieval
F2	3	ditch	topsoil	L1	70	SF 7. copper-alloy pin	post-Roman	post- medieval
F2	3	ditch	topsoil	L1	3	pot, oyster		post- medieval
F3	7	disturbed urned cremation			6	SS 6. soil sample of all fill		late Roman
F3	7	disturbed urned cremation			7	cremated bone		late Roman
F3	7	disturbed urned cremation			8	pot sherds		late Roman
F3	7	disturbed urned cremation			10	urn (complete?)		late Roman
F3	7	disturbed urned cremation			12	animal bone		late Roman
F4	7	pot scatter			9	pot, glass		late Roman
F5	1, 2, 11	foundation of E wall of temple-tomb	F2		4	mortar, tile		late Roman
F5	1, 2, 11	foundation of E wall of temple-tomb	F2		5	SF 1. copper-alloy coin of Antonia, issued by Claudius	AD 41-54	late Roman
F6	1, 23	foundation of N wall of temple-tomb			13	tufa		late Roman
F6	1, 23	foundation of N wall of temple-tomb			77	mortar sample from wall		late Roman
F7	1	foundation of W wall of temple-tomb						late Roman
F8	7	urned cremation			14	urn		late Roman
F8	7	urned cremation			15	SS 3. cremated bone		late Roman
F9	1, 11, 22	foundation of S wall of temple-tomb	L1					late Roman
F10	5	area of burning (pyre site?)			25	SS 1. 3 bags, bulk sample of burnt material		mid Roman
F11	1, 22, 23	foundation of hexagon wall	L1		63	pot		late Roman
F11	1, 22, 23	foundation of hexagon wall	L1		78	mortar sample from wall		late Roman
F11	1, 22, 23	foundation of hexagon wall	L1		79	pot from wall		late Roman
F12	5	area of burning – pyre site (previously L5)	F6					mid Roman

Context	Drawing no	Description	Sealed/cut by	Seals/cuts	Findings no	finds type	finds dates	context date
F13	5	urned cremation	F11		16	urn		late Roman
F13	5	urned cremation	F11		17	SS 4. cremated bone		late Roman
F14	6	post-hole	L5					early-mid Roman
F15	6	post-hole	L5					early-mid Roman
F16	6	post-hole	L5					early-mid Roman
F17	23	pipe trench	L1		75	SF 9. copper-alloy disc fragments		modern
F18	23	cut for wall						early Roman
F19	-	cut for hexagon wall foundation F11						Roman
F20	23	pit		L6	29	bone, pot, oyster shell		late? Roman
F20	23	pit		L6	50	bone, pot		Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	36	pot, tile, bone		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	37	pot, bone		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	38	charcoal sample		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	81	pot, brick, bone		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	89	pot		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	91	pot, tile, iron object		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	92	pot, bone		early Roman
F21	1, 3, 4, 6, 20	ditch	L5?	L6	93	pot, bone		early Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	62	general finds		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	96	SF 11. copper-alloy object (1 on plan)		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	97	SF 12. copper-alloy object (2 on plan)		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	98	SF 13. copper-alloy object (3 on plan)		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	99	SF 14. iron object (4 on plan)		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	100	SF 15. copper-alloy object (6 on plan)		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	105	SF 16. copper-alloy object		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	106	SF 17. hobnails		late Roman
F22	9, 10	loose cremation	L3	L4	108	SS 2. four bags from fill		late Roman
F23	22	pit	L17, L3	L11	48	pot, presumably		late Roman
F23	22	pit	L17, L3	L11	57	pot, presumably		late Roman
F23	22	pit	L17, L3	L11	76	pot, brick, tile, animal bone, mortar, septaria, cremated bone (presumably human)		late Roman
F24	22	cut			60	pot, presumably		early Roman
F25	8	base of foundation F6			49	SF 8. 2 copper-alloy fragments		late Roman
F25	8	base of foundation F6			54	pot, presumably		late Roman
F25	8	base of foundation F6			55	pot, presumably		late Roman

Context	Drawing no	Description	Sealed/cut by	Seals/cuts	Findings no	findings type	findings dates	context date
F26	6	pit		L4	51	pot, presumably		Roman
F27	2	structure cut by hexagon, or loose rubble?	F11					mid Roman
F28	2, 6	post-hole	L3	L5				Roman
F29	2	pot scatter — disturbed cremation?		L14, L11	61	Pot		Roman
F30	edm	post-hole/pit	F2	L15	64	pot, presumably		Roman
F31	edm	disturbed cremation			68	pot (crushed cremation)		late Roman
F31	edm	disturbed cremation			69	human bone from cremation		late Roman
F32	2	amphora sherd pot scatter			66	pot		Roman
F33	3	metalled road surface ('London road')		L16, L17	82	SF 5. copper-alloy ring		early Roman
F33	3	metalled road surface ('London road')		L16, L17	83	SF 4. copper-alloy object		early Roman
F33	3	metalled road surface ('London road')		L16, L17	85	animal bone		early Roman
F34	3, 4, 12, 13, 18, 20	roadside ditch			86	pot, brick, tile, bone		early Roman
F34	3, 4, 12, 13, 18, 20	roadside ditch			87	Pot		early Roman
F35	3, 4, 20	roadside ditch			88	pot		early Roman
F35	3, 4, 20	roadside ditch			90	pot, bone		early Roman
F36	21	ditch	L17, L19, L34					early Roman?
L1	13-18	part of metalled road F1			1	pot, brick, tile, animal bone		early Roman
L2	11, 13-18	topsoil						post-medieval
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	18	pot		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	27	pot, bone		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	28	pot, bone		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	33	pot		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	39	pot		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	40	pot		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	43	pot, presumably		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	46	pot, presumably		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	56	pot, presumably		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	71	pot, tile		early Roman
L3	11, 18, 22-23	highest layer cut by temple-tomb	F2, F6, F11	L4	72	pot, iron nail		early Roman
L4	2, 6, 18, 23	layer	L3		19	cremated bone, pot, glass		early Roman
L4	2, 6, 18, 23	layer	L3		34	bone, pot		early Roman
L4	2, 6, 18, 23	layer	L3		65	pot		early Roman
L5	2, 6	area of burning — pyre site	L3		24	pot, bone, tile		mid Roman

Context	Drawing no	Description	Sealed/cut by	Seals/cuts	Finds no	finds type	finds dates	context date
L5	2, 6	area of burning – pyre site	L3		31	pot, tile		mid Roman
L5	2, 6	area of burning – pyre site	L3		80	pot		mid Roman
L6	6	layer	L5	L7?				Roman
L7	6	layer	L5, L6		53	pot, presumably		Roman
L8	23	layer	L5					early Roman
L9	23	layer	L5					early Roman
L9	23	layer	L5		32	pot, tile		early Roman
L9	23	layer	L5		35	SF 10. copper-alloy small fragment		early Roman
L10		layer in centre of hexagon	L3, F2, L10	L4	26	pot, bone, oyster		Roman
L11	22	disturbed cover loam	L3, L10, F23	L10	41	pot, tile, plaster		early Roman
L11	22	disturbed cover loam	L3, L10, F23	L10	42	bone		early Roman
L11	22	disturbed cover loam	L3, L10, F23	L10	44	pot		early Roman
L11	22	disturbed cover loam	L3, L10, F23	L10	45	pot, presumably		early Roman
L11	22	disturbed cover loam	L3, L10, F23	L10	67	pot, tile		early Roman
L12	11, 22	dump/accumulation	topsoil	L11	21	glass, tile, bone, pot		Roman?
L13	23	disturbed cover loam	L4, L11		47	prehistoric pot		
L14	2	layer	F11?, L3?	F27, L15	73	pot, tile, iron nail		Roman
L15	2	layer	L14, L5		74	SF 6. copper-alloy object		
L16	2	= F34						
L17	3, 12-17, 19, 21	clean ground under road metalling	F1, F33		84	pot		
L18	20, 21	sand/gravel spread		L19				
L19	20, 21	layer	L18					
u/s	11	SF 2. lamp						
L4/L5	20	pot						
'around F9'	21	Roman pot and glass, tile, animal bone						
'around F5'	22	animal bone, pot, tile						
U/S	23	glass, Roman and post-Roman pot, animal bone, tile						
U/S	95	SF 3. copper-alloy needle						

Appendix 2

Table 15: the human skeletal remains summary table.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Feature type	Feature date	Human/ animal	Inclusions	Bone state	MNI	Preservation	Age	Sex	Pathologies	Total weight (including inclusions)
1	F3	6	Disturbed urned cremation	late Roman	Human	-	Fully oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	71
2	F3	7	Disturbed urned cremation	late Roman	Human	-	Fully oxidised	1	-	YOUNG ADULT (20-35yrs)	-	Spinal pathology	698
3	F8	15	Urned cremation	late Roman	Human	unburnt animal bone (<1g)	Incompletely oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	Spinal pathology	314
4	F13	17	Urned cremation	late Roman	Human	unburnt animal bone (8g)	Fully oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	67
5	F20	29	Pit	?late Roman	Animal (5g)	-	Fully oxidised	-	-	-	-	-	
6	F22	94	Loose cremation	late Roman	Human	cremated animal bone (14g)	Human bone: fully oxidised; animal bone: incompletely oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	43
7	F22	102	Loose cremation	late Roman	Animal	-	Unburnt	-	-	-	-	-	-

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Feature type	Feature date	Human/ animal	Inclusions	Bone state	MNI	Preservation	Age	Sex	Pathologies	Total weight (including inclusions)
8	F22	108	Loose cremation	late Roman	Human	cremated animal bone (26g); 1 fragment melted glass, 1 twisted tapering nail shank (copper alloy); 1 T-shaped object fragment (copper alloy); 1 iron piece of wire? Fragment with circular section; dens axis encrusted with iron corrosion material	Human bone: fully oxidised; animal bone: incompletely oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	276
9	F23	76	Pit	late Roman	Human	-	Fully oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	27
10	F31	68	Disturbed cremation	late Roman	Human	-	Incompletely oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	Spinal pathology	304
11	F31	69	Disturbed cremation	late Roman	Human	Unburnt animal bone (1g)	Incompletely oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	Spinal pathology	140
12	L3	27	Highest layer cut by temple- tomb	early Roman	Unidentified bone	-	Fully oxidised	1	-	-	-	-	7
13	L3	56	Highest layer cut by temple- tomb	early Roman	Human	-	Not cremated	2	< 25% of bone elements present; none/minimal fragmentation and bone cortex damage	FOETAL/PERINATAL	-	-	13

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Feature type	Feature date	Human/ animal	Inclusions	Bone state	MNI	Preservation	Age	Sex	Pathologies	Total weight (including inclusions)
14	L4	19	Layer	early Roman	Unidentified bone	Cremated animal bone (8g)	Unidentified bone: fully oxidised (>600°). Animal bone: incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)	1	-	-	-	-	2
15	L10	26	Layer in centre of hexagon	Roman	Human	Unburnt animal bone (3g)	Fully oxidised	1	-	YOUNG ADULT (20yrs-35yrs)	-	-	292
16	L11	41	Disturbed cover loam	early Roman	Unidentified bone	-	Fully oxidised	1	-	-	-	-	1
17	L11	42	Disturbed cover loam	early Roman	Human	Unburnt animal bone (3g)	Fully oxidised	1	-	ADULT (>20yrs)	-	-	114
18	U/S	103	Unstratified	-	Human	-	Not cremated	2	< 25% of bone elements present; none/minimal fragmentation and bone cortex damage	FOETAL/PERINATAL	-	-	7

Table 16: context description (size¹⁰, type of bone¹¹, degree of oxidisation¹², MNI¹³, skeletal areas represented¹⁴, age at death, sex, pathologies, inclusions).

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Description
1	F3	6	Small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull, axial skeleton and upper limbs.
2	F3	7	Medium/large assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one young adult individual (20-35years). The identified portion of bone includes elements from all skeletal areas. Spinal pathology. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone.
3	F8	15	Small/medium assemblage of incompletely oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements from all skeletal areas. Spinal pathology.
4	F13	17	Small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull and axial skeleton. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone.
5	F20	29	Small assemblage of fully oxidised animal bone.
6	F22	94	Small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull and axial skeleton. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone.
7	F22	102	Very small assemblage of animal bone (unburnt) exhibiting extensive green staining.
8	F22	108	Small/medium assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of axial skeleton. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone, melted glass, one copper-alloy object.
9	F23	76	Small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of axial skeleton, upper and lower limbs.
10	F31	68	Small/medium assemblage of incompletely oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull and axial skeleton. Spinal pathology.
11	F31	69	Small/medium assemblage of incompletely oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull, axial skeleton and lower limbs. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone. Spinal pathology.
12	L3	27	Very small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. None of the bone fragments could be identified.
13	L3	56	Small assemblage of unburnt human bone from a minimum of 2 individuals of foetal/perinatal age.
14	L4	19	Small assemblage of incompletely oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. None of the bone fragments could be identified.
15	L10	26	Small/medium assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements from all skeletal areas. Non-specific infection. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone.
16	L11	41	Very small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. Small assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual.
17	L11	42	Small/medium assemblage of fully oxidised human bone from a minimum of one adult individual. The identified portion of bone includes elements of skull and lower limbs. Inclusions: unburnt animal bone.
18	U/S	103	Small assemblage of unburnt human bone from a minimum of 2 individuals of foetal/perinatal age.

¹⁰ size categories: 0-9g: very small; 10-99g: small; 100-499g: small/medium; 500-999g: medium/large; 1000-2999g: large; >3000g: very large

¹¹ type of bone categories: human/animal

¹² degree of oxidisation categories: unburnt, charred, incompletely oxidised, fully oxidised

¹³ MNI: Minimum Number of Individuals

¹⁴ skeletal areas: skull, axial skeleton, upper limbs, lower limbs

Table 17: bone fragmentation by bone catalogue number.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no ¹⁵	2mm (extracted weight) (g)	%	Residue (g)	%	% of bone in the residue (visual estimate)	5 mm (g)	%	10 mm (g)	%	Max fragment size (mm)	Total (g)
1	F3	6	7	9.9	2	2.8	60	46	64.8	16	22.5	33	71
2	F3	7	11	1.5	25	3.6	60	78	11.2	584	83.7	69	698
3	F8	15	16	5.1	18	5.7	80	72	22.9	208	66.2	57	314
4	F13	17	2	3.4	1	1.7	90	16	27.1	40	67.8	70	59
5	F20	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	F22	94	0	0	1	3.4	90	6	20.6	22	75.9	55	29
7	F22	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	F22	108	21	8.4	5	2.0	50	116	46.4	108	43.2	48	250
9	F23	76	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.7	26	96.3	70	27
10	F31	68	36	11.8	9	3	60	72	23.7	187	61.5	59	304
11	F31	69	5	3.6	1	0.7	60	47	33.8	86	61.9	44	139
12	L3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100.0	29	7
13	L3	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	L4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100.0	22	2
15	L10	26	4	1.4	0	0	0	25	8.7	259	89.9	64	288
16	L11	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	26	1
17	L11	42	2	1.8	2	1.8	80	16	14.4	91	82.0	55	111
18	U/S	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 18: bone fragmentation by bone catalogue number.

¹⁵ Finds nos 29 and 102, all animal bone; finds nos 56 and 103, unburnt human bone

Bone catal no	Context	Findings no	2mm (extracted weight) (g)	%	Residue (g)	%	% of bone in the residue (visual estimate)	5 mm (g)	%	10 mm (g)	%	Max fragment size (mm)	Total (g)
1	F3	6, 7	18	2.3	27	3.5	60	124	16.1	600	78.1	69	769
2	F8	15	16	5.1	18	5.7	80	72	22.9	208	66.2	57	314
3	F13	17	2	3.4	1	1.7	90	16	27.1	40	67.8	70	59
4	F20	(29)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	F22	94, (102), 108	21	7.5	6	2.2	70	122	43.7	130	46.6	55	279
6	F23	76	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.7	26	96.3	70	27
7	F31	68, 69	41	9.2	10	2.3	60	119	26.9	273	61.6	59	443
8	L3	27, (56)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100.0	29	7
9	L4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100.0	22	2
10	L10	26	4	1.4	0	0	0	25	8.7	259	89.9	64	288
11	L11	41, 42	2	1.8	2	1.8	80	16	14.2	92	82.2	55	112
12	U/S	(103)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 19: bone colour¹⁶.

Bone catal no	Context	Findings no	Colour (visual estimate of % affected)	Degree of oxidation and estimated temperature
1	F3	6	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (< 5%) patches on cortical surface of long bones.	Fully oxidised (>600 °)
2	F3	7	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (20%) cancellous bone of vertebral bodies, medullary cavity of long bones and diploë.	Fully oxidised (>600 °)
3	F8	15	Buff/white (50%) skull. Blue/grey (50%) vertebral bodies, cancellous bone of the pelvis, upper limbs and calcaneus.	Incompletely oxidised (up to 600 °)
4	F13	17	Predominant colour: buff/white. Black/grey (10%) ribs.	Fully oxidised (>600 °). Localised areas charred only (approx 300 °).

¹⁶ Colour categories and corresponding estimated temperature: BROWN/ORANGE: unburnt; BLACK: charred (approx 300 °); BLUE/GREY: incompletely oxidised (up to 600 °); BUFF/WHITE; fully oxidised (> 600 °)

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Colour (visual estimate of % affected)	Degree of oxidation and estimated temperature
5	F20	29	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey patina (<5%) on cortical surface of long bones.	Animal bone: fully oxidised (>600°)
6	F22	94	Human bone: predominant colour: buff/white. Animal bone: predominant colour buff/white; brown/orange (40%)	Human bone: fully oxidised (>600°) Animal bone: unburnt to incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)
7	F22	102	No fissuring, cracking or warping. Extensive green staining from contact with copper-alloy object.	Unburnt
8	F22	108	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (< 5%) medullary cavity of long bones. Some black grey fragments in the animal bone. Animal bone: predominant colour: brown/orange with white patina (unburnt); black/grey (30%); buff/white (10%)	Human bone: fully oxidised (>600°) Animal bone: unburnt to incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)
9	F23	76	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (<5%) cancellous bone of vertebral bodies, medullary cavity of long bones.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
10	F31	68	Buff/white (50%) mandible and cortical bone. Blue/grey (50%) cancellous bone and shielded areas (acetabulum and vertebral bodies).	Incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)
11	F31	69	Predominant colour: black/grey (cancellous bone, articular surfaces, cortical bone). Buff/white (40%) patches of cortical surface of long bones.	Incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)
12	L3	27	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (< 5%) medullary cavity of long bones and diploë.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
13	L3	56	Brown/orange, no fissuring, cracking or warping.	Unburnt
14	L4	19	Unidentified bone: buff/white (50%). Blue/grey (50%). Animal bone: buff/white (50%); black (50%)	Unidentified bone: fully oxidised (>600°). Animal bone: incompletely oxidised (up to 600°)
15	L10	26	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (< 5%) medullary cavity of long bones.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
16	L11	41	Predominant colour: buff/white.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
17	L11	42	Predominant colour: buff/white. Blue/grey (< 5%) medullary cavity of long bones and diploë.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
18	U/S	103	Brown/orange, no fissuring or cracking.	Unburnt

Table 20: identified skeletal elements.
PEPI = proximal epiphysis, DEPI = distal epiphysis.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Skull	Axial skeleton	Upper limbs	Lower limbs	Unclassifiable
1	F3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 dental root of mandibular premolar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of 1 vertebral body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of radius PEPI 		
2	F3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of zygomatic part of parietal part of L, R mandible including 2 dental sockets part of L condyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of sciatic notch R ilium body R acetabulum R auricular surface part of L auricular surface 6 cervical vertebra bodies 4 thoracic vertebra bodies 3 lumbar vertebra body 11+ vertebral body fragments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of acromion 1 metacarpal M1/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of tibia PEPI part of femur PEPI part of talus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-bone fragments
3	F8	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of parietal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of ilium body part of acromion process of scapula inferior part of glenoid part of 3 vertebral bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of L radius DEPI part of humerus PEPI, DEPI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of femur PEPI part of L calcaneus R navicular part of talus 	
4	F13	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of ethmoid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 rib fragments 			
5	F20	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
6	F22	94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of temporal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 rib fragments 1 vertebral spinous process 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small fragments
7	F22	102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
8	F22	108		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dens axis 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-bone fragments and small fragments from axial skeleton
9	F23	76		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of 3 vertebral bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of radius M1/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tibia M1/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 fragment long bone

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Skull	Axial skeleton	Upper limbs	Lower limbs	Unclassifiable
10	F31	68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of R, L mandibular ramus and body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of acetabulum part of 2 vertebral bodies part of sciatic notch ilium part of L acetabulum part of L ischium 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long bones and small fragments
11	F31	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of maxilla part of mandibular ramus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 vertebral spinous process part of ilium body 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> femur M1/3 	
12	L3	27					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-bone fragments
13	L3	56	-	-	-	-	-
14	L4	19					
15	L10	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of occipital part of R condyle part of R mandibular ramus part of anterior part of mandible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of 1 vertebral bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L humerus M1/3, D1/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> femur M1/3 	
16	L11	41					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 fragment long bone
17	L11	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of occipital part of I zygomatic process 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fibula M1/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-bone fragments
18	U/S	103	-	-	-	-	-

Table 21: weight (g) of identified bone by bone catalogue number.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	SKULL (g)	AXIAL SKELETON (g)	UPPER LIMBS (g)	LOWER LIMBS (g)	Total identified (g)	% identified	Total weight (g)
1	F3	6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0	2	2.8	71
2	F3	7	112	165	7	10	294	42.1	698
3	F8	15	3	33	14	36	86	27.4	314
4	F13	17	0	1	0	0	1	1.7	59
5	F20	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	F22	94	4	1	0	0	5	17.2	29
7	F22	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	F22	108	0	0.9	0	0	0.9	0.3	250
9	F23	76	0	11	2	11	24	88.9	27
10	F31	68	10	43	0	0	53	17.4	304
11	F31	69	3	4	0	7	14	10	139
12	L3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
13	L3	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	L4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
15	L10	26	24	4	21	5	54	18.7	288
16	L11	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	L11	42	16	0	0	2	18	16.2	111
18	U/S	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 22: weight (g) of identified bone by bone catalogue number.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	SKULL (g)	AXIAL SKELETON (g)	UPPER LIMBS (g)	LOWER LIMBS (g)	Total identified (g)	% Identified	Total weight (g)
1	F3	6, 7	112.6	165.7	7.7	10	296	38.5	769
2	F8	15	3.0	33.0	14.0	36	86	27.4	314
3	F13	17	0	1.0	0	0	1	1.7	59
4	F20	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	F22	94, 102, 108	4.0	1.9	0	0	5.9	2.1	279
6	F23	76	0	11.0	2.0	11	24	88.9	27
7	F31	68, 69	13.0	47.0	0	7	67	15.1	443
8	L3	27, 56	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
9	L4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	L10	26	24.0	4.0	21.0	5	54	18.7	288
11	L11	41, 42	16.0	0	0	2	18	16.1	112
12	U/S	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 23: bone anatomical distribution by spit.

Bone catal no	Context	Finds no	Spit 1	Spit 2	Spit 3	Spit 4	Notes
7	F22	108	Limbs	Skull and thorax	Skull and limbs	skull and limbs	4 bags not numbered. No anatomical order.
11	F31	68	skull and long bones	spine, pelvis and long bones			Possible anatomical order.

Table 24: subadult age at death comparison table¹⁷.

0 = open; 1 = initial fusion; 2 = fused; CTEXT = context; S = sacrum;
prox = proximal; epi = epiphysis; finds numbers in brackets.

Context	Epiphyseal union	Dental development	Metric development	Estimated age at death ¹⁸	Age class
L3 (56)	-	-	R, L femur (72mm)	37.3 weeks \pm 2.08	FOETAL/PERINATAL
L3 (56)	-	-	L femur (58mm)	32.7 weeks \pm 2.08	FOETAL/PERINATAL
U/S (103)	-	-	R tibia (62mm) R humerus (62mm)	37.5 weeks \pm 2.12 (tibia) 37.1 weeks \pm 2.33 (humerus)	FOETAL/PERINATAL
U/S (103)	-	-	R tibia (51mm)	32.9 weeks \pm 2.12	FOETAL/PERINATAL

¹⁷ stages of fusion from Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994; Brickley & McKinley 2004

¹⁸ according to Scheuer's linear regression equation from Scheuer & Black 2000

Table 25: subadult metric recording¹⁹.
* = eroded; finds numbers in brackets.

CONTEXT	1LA	1LB	1RA	1RB	2LA	2LB	2RA	2RB	3A	3B	4LA	4LB	4RA	4RB
L3 (56)														
U/S (103)														

CONTEXT	5A	5B	6LA	6LB	6RA	6RB	7LA	7LB	7LBC	7RA	7RB	7RC	8LA	8LB	8LBC	8RA	8RB	8RC
L3 (56)																		
U/S (103)																		

CONTEXT	9LA	9LB	9RA	9RB	10LA	10LB	10LC	10RA	10RB	10RC	11LA	11LB	11RA	11RB	12LA	12LB	12RA	12RB	13L	13R
L3 (56)																				
U/S (103)																				

CONTEXT	14LA	14LB	14LC	14LD	14RA	14RB	14RC	15LA	15LB	15RA	15RB	16LA	16LB	16RA	16RB
L3 (56)	-	13	4												
U/S (103)	62	5	13												

CONTEXT	17LA	17LB	17LC	17LD*	17RA	17RB	17RC	18LA	18LB	18LC*	18RA	18RB	18RC*	19LA	19LB	19RA	19RB
L3 (56)	72	19	7	17	72	20	7										
L3 (56)	58	15	5	14													
U/S (103)																	
U/S (103)											51	5					

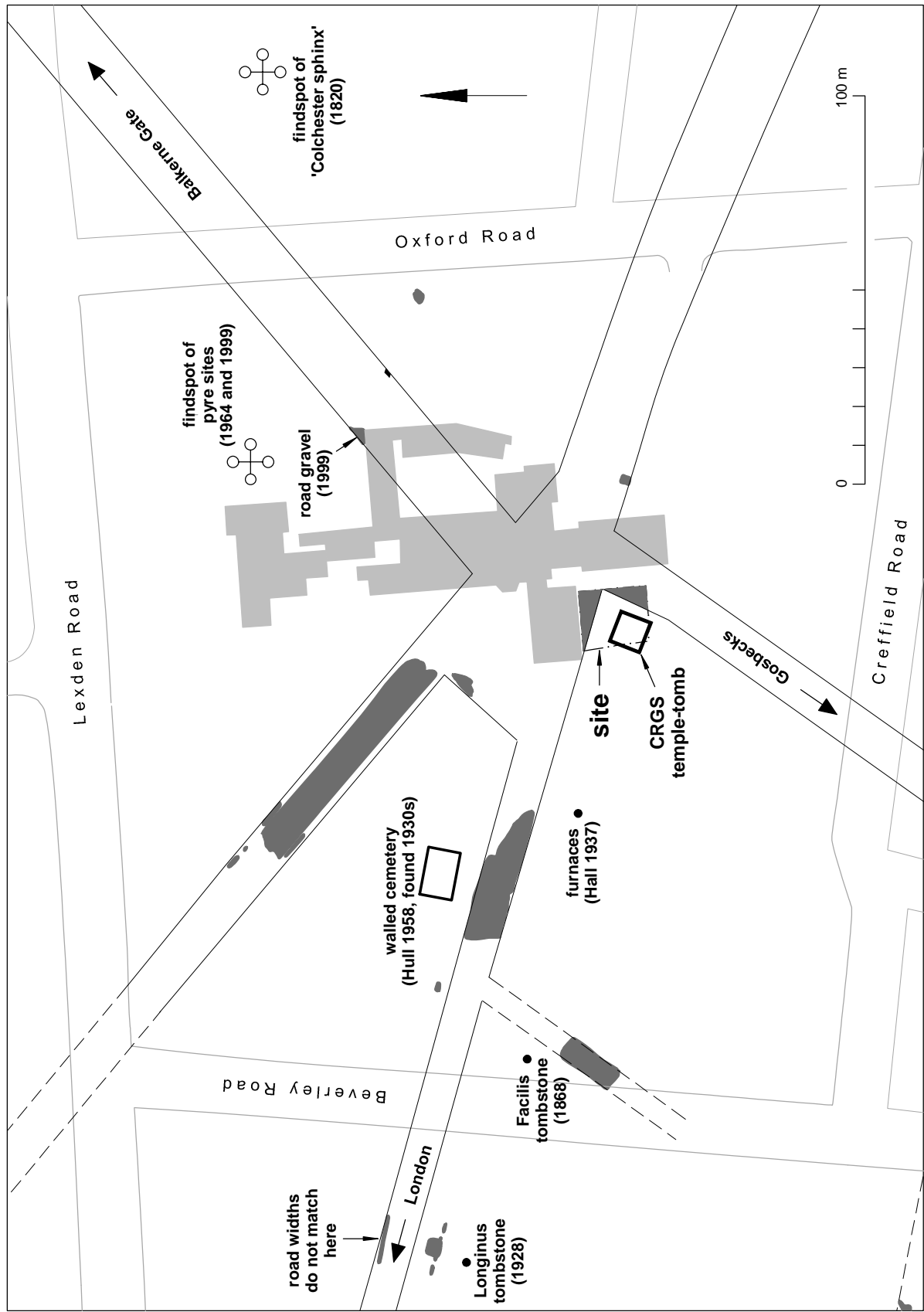
¹⁹ Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994

Table 26: juvenile skeletal inventory. (Finds numbers in brackets.)

	SIDE/BONE ELEMENT/BONE SECTION	L3 (56)	U/S (103)	MNI
SKULL	Left FRONTAL			
	Left orbital roof			
	Left frontal sinus			
	Right FRONTAL			
	Right orbital roof			
	Right frontal sinus			
	LEFT PARIETAL			
	RIGHT PARIETAL			
	LEFT TEMPORAL			
	Left petrous temporal			
	Left TMJ			
	RIGHT TEMPORAL			
	Right petrous temporal			
	Right TMJ			
	LEFT MAXILLA			
	OCCIPITAL			
	RIGHT MAXILLA			
	Left maxillary sinus			
	Right maxillary sinus			
	LEFT NASAL			
	RIGHT NASAL			
	LEFT ZYGOMATIC			
	RIGHT ZYGOMATIC			
	LEFT LACRIMAL			
	RIGHT LACRIMAL			
	LEFT PALATINE			
	RIGHT PALATINE			
	LEFT MANDIBLE			
	Left condyle			
	RIGHT MANDIBLE			
	Right condyle			
	LEFT PARS LATERALIS			
	RIGHT PARS LATERALIS			
	PARS BASILARIS			
	ETHMOID			
	SPENOID			
	FONTANELLE			
	HYOID			
	Ear bones* (n.6)			
SHOULDER	LEFT CLAVICLE medial end			
	LEFT CLAVICLE acromial end			
	RIGHT CLAVICLE medial end			
	RIGHT CLAVICLE acromial end			
	LEFT SCAPULA			
	LEFT ACROMION			
	LEFT GLENOID			
	RIGHT SCAPULA			
	RIGHT ACROMION			
	RIGHT GLENOID			
	STERNUM Manubrium			
	STERNUM BODY			
	STERNUM (n. sternebrae)			
PELVIS	LEFT ILIUM			
	LEFT AURICULAR			
	LEFT ACETABULUM			
	LEFT PUBIS			
	LEFT ISCHIUM			
	RIGHT ILIUM			
	RIGHT AURICULAR			
	RIGHT ACETABULUM			
	RIGHT PUBIS			
	RIGHT ISCHIUM			

	SIDE/BONE ELEMENT/BONE SECTION	L3 (56)	U/S (103)	MNI
SACRUM	SACRUM			
	SACRUM (N. BODIES)			
	SACRUM (N. RIGHT ARCHES)			
	SACRUM (N. LEFT ARCHES)			
	Coccyx			
UPPER LIMBS	LEFT HUMERUS PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT HUMERUS PROXIMAL 1/3			
	LEFT HUMERUS MIDDLE 1/3	1		1
	LEFT HUMERUS DISTAL 1/3	1		1
	LEFT HUMERUS DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT HUMERUS PROX EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT HUMERUS PROXIMAL 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT HUMERUS MIDDLE 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT HUMERUS DISTAL 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT HUMERUS DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT RADIUS PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT RADIUS PROXIMAL 1/3			
	LEFT RADIUS MIDDLE 1/3			
	LEFT RADIUS DISTAL 1/3			
	LEFT RADIUS DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT RADIUS PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT RADIUS PROXIMAL 1/3			
	RIGHT RADIUS MIDDLE 1/3			
	RIGHT RADIUS DISTAL 1/3			
	RIGHT RADIUS DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT ULNA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT ULNA PROXIMAL 1/3			
	LEFT ULNA MIDDLE 1/3			
	LEFT ULNA DISTAL 1/3			
	LEFT ULNA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT ULNA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT ULNA PROXIMAL 1/3			
	RIGHT ULNA MIDDLE 1/3			
	RIGHT ULNA DISTAL 1/3			
	RIGHT ULNA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
LOWER LIMBS	LEFT FEMUR PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT FEMUR PROXIMAL 1/3	2		2
	LEFT FEMUR MIDDLE 1/3	2		2
	LEFT FEMUR DISTAL 1/3	2		2
	LEFT FEMUR DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT FEMUR PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT FEMUR PROXIMAL 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT FEMUR MIDDLE 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT FEMUR DISTAL 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT FEMUR DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT PATELLA			
	RIGHT PATELLA			
	LEFT TIBIA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT TIBIA PROXIMAL 1/3			
	LEFT TIBIA MIDDLE 1/3			
	LEFT TIBIA DISTAL 1/3			
	LEFT TIBIA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT TIBIA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT TIBIA PROXIMAL 1/3		2	2
	RIGHT TIBIA MIDDLE 1/3		2	2
	RIGHT TIBIA DISTAL 1/3		2	2
	RIGHT TIBIA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT FIBULA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	LEFT FIBULA PROXIMAL 1/3			
	LEFT FIBULA MIDDLE 1/3			
	LEFT FIBULA DISTAL 1/3			
	LEFT FIBULA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT FIBULA PROXIMAL EPIPHYSIS			
	RIGHT FIBULA PROXIMAL 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT FIBULA MIDDLE 1/3		1	1
	RIGHT FIBULA DISTAL 1/3			
	RIGHT FIBULA DISTAL EPIPHYSIS			

	SIDE/BONE ELEMENT/BONE SECTION	L3 (56)	U/S (103)	MNI
HANDS	CARPALS (n. 7)			
	METACARPALS (n. 10)			
	HAND PHALANGES			
FEET	TARSALS (n. 7)			
	METATARSALS (n.?/ 10)		1	1
	FEET PHALANGES			
RIBS	LEFT RIBS			
	RIGHT RIBS			
	Unsidled rib fragments			
VERTEBRAE	ATLAS			
	AXIS			
	CERVICAL (N. BODIES)			
	CERVICAL (N. RIGHT ARCHES)			
	CERVICAL (N. LEFT ARCHES)			
	THORACIC (N. BODIES)			
	THORACIC (N. RIGHT ARCHES)			
	THORACIC (N. LEFT ARCHES)			
	LUMBAR (N. BODIES)			
	LUMBAR (N. RIGHT ARCHES)			
	LUMBAR (N. LEFT ARCHES)			
OTHER UNFUSED BONE ELEMENTS PRESENT				



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to Roman roads and funerary monuments.
(Grammar School buildings are shown as light tone, and Roman road metalling is shown as dark tone.)

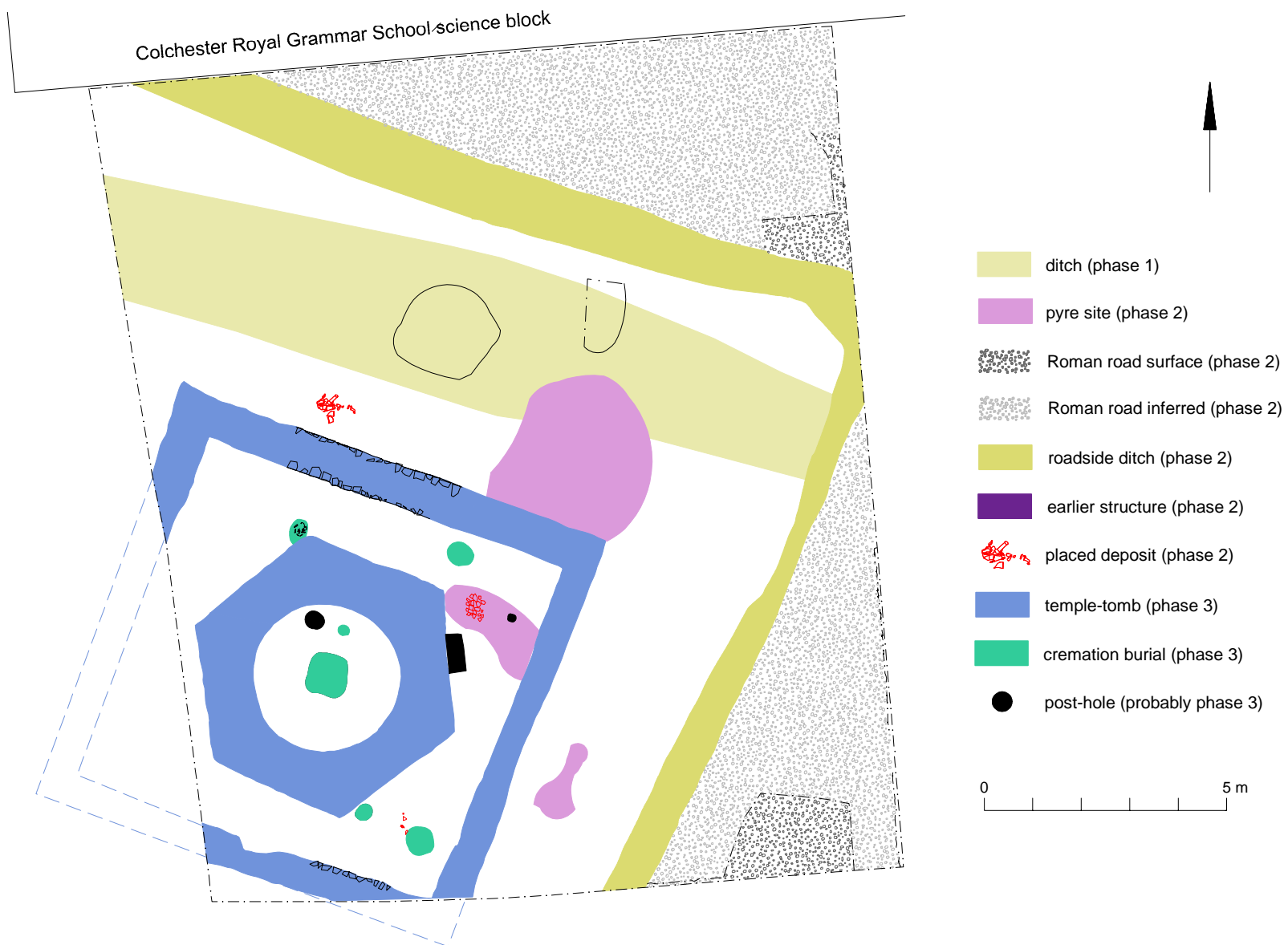


Fig 3 Site interpretation.

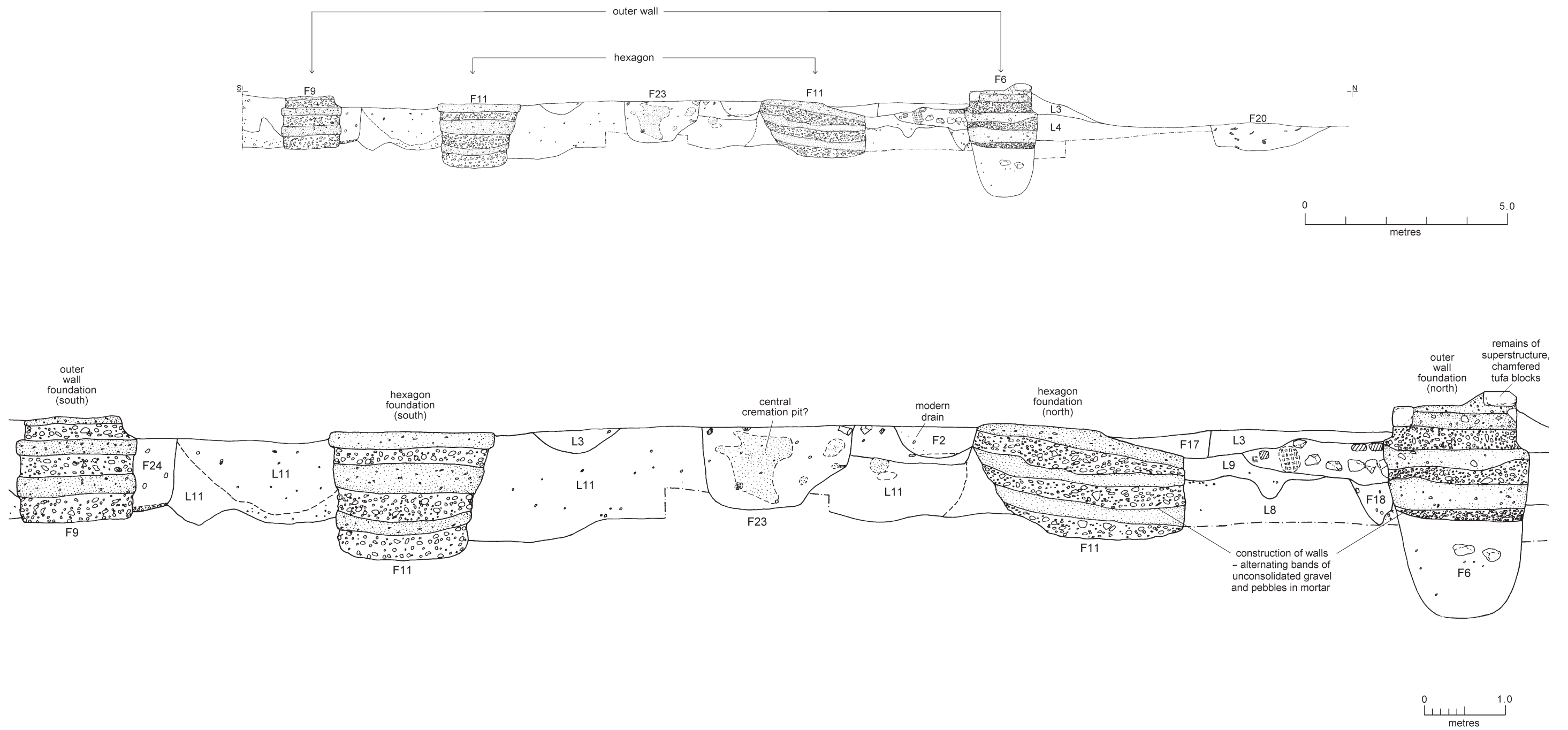


Fig 4 North-south section through site, with detail of temple-tomb below.

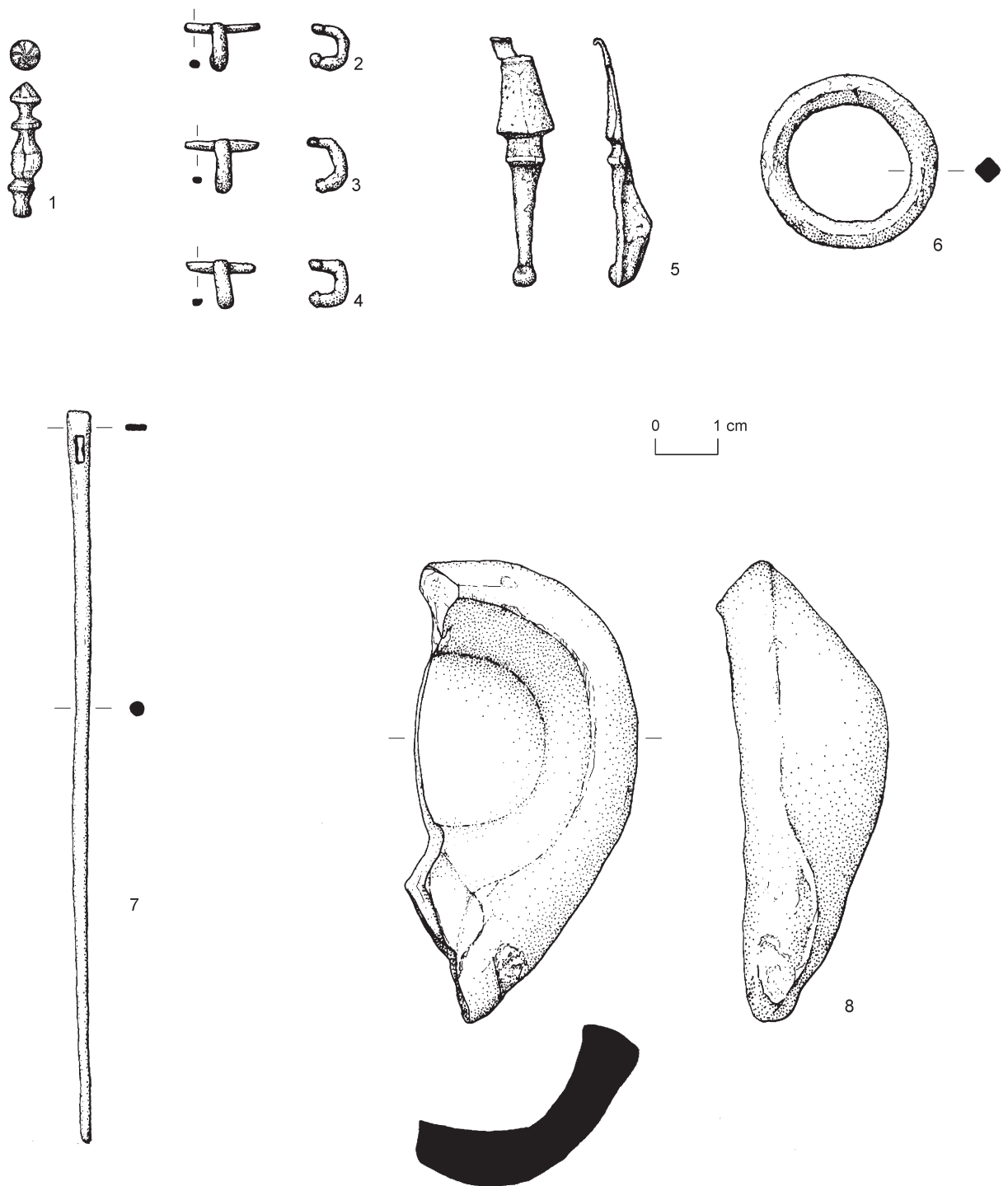


Fig 5 Small finds.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

Site address: Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9875 2480	Site code: Museum accession code 2005.96
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August-September 2005	Size of area investigated: 15m x 18m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 11705, 11853-11855, 11857
Final report: CAT Report 345 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>A Roman temple-tomb was constructed in the 3rd century AD at the crossroads of two major routes into Roman Colchester, in an area where Roman cemeteries, monumental tombstones and pyre sites are known from previous investigations. Prior to the construction of the temple-tomb, a major ditch crossed the site in the 1st century AD, after which the site was used for the cremation of human remains in the 2nd century AD.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: July 2006