

**An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching  
at Area C1X and Area C2X of the  
Garrison Urban Village,  
Colchester, Essex  
May 2004**

**report prepared by  
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## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims and objectives	2
4	Archaeological background	2
5	The trial-trenching	3
6	The finds	8
7	Discussion	9
8	Conclusions	12
9	Acknowledgements	12
10	References	12
11	Glossary and abbreviations	13
12	Archive deposition	14
13	Appendix - Table 10: finds list	16

## **List of figures**

- Fig 1 Location of trenches.
- Fig 2 Plan of Area C2X.
- Fig 3 Plan of Area C1X.
- Fig 4 Trench 1: section and plan.
- Fig 5 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 6 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 7 Trench 2 and Trench 3: sections and plans.
- Fig 8 Trench 4 and Trench 6: sections and plans.

## 1 Summary

*This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of the planned urban village at Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow for residential development.*

*Three trenches were excavated in each area totalling 178m of trenching. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11), and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.*

*In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent the remains of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity here in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins are thought to be part of a dispersed coin hoard.*

*In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this site is well within the area of the Roman cemetery to the south of the walled town. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.*

*Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.*

*The full report, including specialist reports on the finds, will be incorporated in the archive report on the ensuing excavations at Area C1X and Area C2X.*

## 2 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

**2.1** The proposed development of the alienated land at Colchester Garrison involves the redevelopment, primarily for residential use, of areas of the present Colchester Garrison and adjacent farmland formerly owned by the MoD. The construction of the new Garrison over the next four years will allow a phased decanting of the existing Garrison personnel into the new Garrison, thus facilitating phased release of areas of the former Garrison for redevelopment. In response to the proposed development and redevelopment, further archaeological evaluation by means of trial-trenching is required in order to complete the partial evaluation of the alienated land conducted for *The new Garrison composite environmental statement* (Masfield 2002). No trial-trenching was conducted within Area C1X/Area C2X during the large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 of the Garrison PFI site. The requirement for a minimum 3% trial-trenching was agreed between Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), RPS (the project archaeological consultants), and the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT, the archaeological contractors).

**2.2** The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Taylor Woodrow and was carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.

**2.3** The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS in association with CAT, dated April 2004, and agreed by CBCAO (RPS 2004b). The WSI was produced in accordance with a research design prepared by RPS in 2004 (RPS 2004a). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1999), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1999).

- 2.4** Area C1X is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9960 2460. Area C2X is centred on NGR TL 9975 2447. Area C1X occupies a 0.32ha triangular piece of land within the angle of Flagstaff Road and Circular Road North, to the west of Flagstaff House. Area C2X occupies a 0.68ha triangular area in the angle of Napier Road and Circular Road East, to the south of Flagstaff House.
- 2.5** Most of Area C1X was previously occupied by the Civil Service Club buildings which have now been demolished. Within Area C2X, various structures with shallow pad foundations have been demolished as well as two World War 2 air-raid bunkers; a watching brief was carried out by CAT on this work in May 2004 (report in prep). The rest of Area C2X consists of part of the cricket pitch, tarmac and grassed areas and one remaining World War 2 bunker.
- 2.6** Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam.

### **3 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.
- 3.2** This information will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.
- 3.3** The results of previous excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester in conjunction with similar work elsewhere in England, especially the south-east, enable the following issues to be identified as research priorities for the Colchester Garrison Urban Village site (RPS 2004b):
- the identification of cemetery areas and family plots within them
  - the origin and development of cemeteries and cemetery areas especially in relation to fields and other parcels of land
  - the date and nature of the transition from the rite of cremation to that of inhumation
  - the extent to which different populations and social groupings within them can be distinguished through their funerary remains
  - the characterisation of the population of Colchester and social groupings within it through the study of human remains
  - grave goods as expressions of religious beliefs and superstition, and
  - buildings, tombs and other structures (funerary and otherwise) within cemetery areas.

### **4 Archaeological background**

- 4.1** Area C1X and Area C2X are located within the area of an extra-mural Roman cemetery associated with the walled Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis* to the north (RPS 2004a; RPS 2004b; CAT Report 97). There are also records of Anglo-Saxon burials in areas close to Mersea Road in the north-west area of Meeanee Barracks according to the Colchester Garrison PFI desk-based assessment (CAT Report 97). Trial-trenching by CAT in 2002 within Meeanee Barracks, on the east side of Mersea Road, uncovered a single burial which could date to either of these periods (CAT Report 206).

Discoveries made in the 20th century, immediately adjacent to Area C1X and Area C2X, comprise a lead coffin found in Mersea Road opposite the Officers' Mess in 1937 (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432) and two Roman cremations found in the bank of Mersea Road (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432). Recorded burials to the south-east comprise several Roman cremations found north of the TA Centre during air-raid shelter construction in 1939 (Hull no 131, UAD

event no 1070, NGR TL 999 242), whilst an inhumation grave was found nearby (Hull no 161, UAD event no 1090, NGR TL 9985 2415). An archaeological evaluation was conducted by CAT at the TA Centre in 1996 and Roman roofing tile was recovered but no certain Roman features (UAD event no 3593, NGR TL 9982 2415; fieldwork notes for CAT project reference 10/96).

There are no recorded burials to the immediate east of Area C2X but there are records of two burials within Area C2X itself. These burials within Area C2X comprise a Roman urn, presumably from a cremation, found in 1934, south-east of the Garrison Post Office (Hull no 129, UAD event 1069, NGR TL 9969 2443) and inhumations with beakers and flagons, found in 1939, north of the ATS quarters (Hull no 130, UAD event no 1071, NGR TL 997 245). Another Roman burial was found nearby in 1947 south of Napier Road (Hull no 59, UAD event no 1034, NGR TL 9987 2447).

- 4.2** At least 28 Roman burials were found slightly further afield within the area of the Abbey Field sports ground (300m to the south-west) in 1925 (Hull no 200, UAD event no 1099, NGR TL 9940 2430).

Trial-trenching and excavation of this site by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremations, some only 300mm below existing ground (CAT Report 138; CAT Report 54; NGR TL 9954 2441). The records state that a large number of pots, presumably from cremations, were found during levelling in 1922 for the 'Abbey Field football ground' (Hull 1958, 255; UAD event no 1110). The grid reference was given as TL 9985 2425 by the UAD whilst further Roman burials from the 'Garrison football field' were recorded by the UAD at TL 9985 2432 (Hull no 199, UAD event no 1098, EHCR no 13231), a grid reference which suggests that they were within the area of the current football pitch south of Area C2X. However, P Crummy (pers comm) is certain that these burial records are in fact part of the Abbey Field burial ground 300m to the west and that therefore the grid references are incorrect. The records show that Roman burials south of the Roman town wall are found over a very wide area, which includes Area C1X and Area C2X; however, the density of burials varies greatly. Some plots may have been specifically designated as intensive burial plots (such as the sports pitch area at the northern extent of Abbey Field), whilst areas between designated plots may contain a significantly lower density of burials.

- 4.3** Map evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 17th and 18th centuries. The triangular plots were defined by at least 1876 with the areas shown as open ground with trees on the OS 1st Edition of 1874-1876, and 2nd Edition OS of 1893-c 1904. Both areas appear to contain single structures by 1921 but were still largely open ground. An MoD map of 1949 shows the area now heavily built over with two structures covering the central and western part of Area C1X and four structures dominating Area C2X but the remainder of the areas is shown as open (CAT Report 97).

- 4.4** Area C1X and Area C2X, as with other locations to the south of the Roman town wall, have a higher potential to contain human burials of Roman or Anglo-Saxon date than the contemporary agricultural landscape further to the south. The most informative excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester by CAT to date have been at Butt Road (CAR 9), Abbey Field (CAT Report 138), Turner Rise (Shimmin forthcoming), and Handford House (CAT report in prep). Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Roman Britain, because the town began with the converging of two different populations, ie the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.

- 4.5** The rest of the Colchester Garrison land was subject to a large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 (CAT Reports 184, 197, 203, 205, 206, 207).

## 5 The trial-trenching

### 5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

Three trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area C1X (Trenches 4-6 or T4-T6) and three in Area C2X (Trenches 1-3 or T1-T3). All trenches were 1.6m wide unless otherwise stated. Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology in section 7.

**Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.**

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
T1	NE: 599735.25; 224458.24 SW: 599708.94; 224415.08	50m (+ extra 12m double width)	34.12 34.10	33.60 33.45
T2	W: 599741.34; 224483.19 E: 599750.80; 224486.13	10m	34.32 34.34	33.37 33.26
T3	NW: 599686.24; 224468.54 SE: 599690.61; 224459.34	10m x 3.7m	34.34 34.27	33.50 33.60
T4	N: 599642.64; 224587.45 S: 599645.69; 224553.56	34m (+ extra 10m double width)	34.10 34.16	33.25 34.45
T5	N: 599626.32; 224539.18 S: 599616.68; 224571.75	23.5m	34.10 34.31	33.23 33.30
T6	NE: 599612.80; 224586.07 SW: 599601.52; 224573.75	16.5m	34.25 34.40	33.37 33.50

### 5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence

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

#### 5.2.1 Area C2X

##### Trench 1: summary (Figs 1-2, 4-6)

This trench was excavated on the northern side of the cricket pitch. The majority of datable features were Roman in date and included four single urned cremation burials (CF30, CF31, CF33, CF38); one Roman lead coffin (CF43); a possible robbed-out Roman mausoleum (CF34); and three Roman wall lines (CF44, CF57, CF46/CF54/CF55). Most of the remains were clustered in the northern half of the trench. The majority of Roman features were found at a shallow depth; for example, CF34 was only 200mm below the current ground-level. This feature and the cremation burials were not cut into the natural ground but into the yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil above (CL11) which in turn contained Roman pottery.

**Table 2: Trench 1 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF30	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- or 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF31	Urned cremation burial	mid 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF33	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF34	Spread of ceramic building material (CBM), sandstone, limestone and septaria	1st- to 4th-century pottery, Roman CBM	Roman

	Deep circular robber trench (possible mausoleum)		
CF37	Pottery spread – no cut	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF38	Urned cremation burial	Roman pottery	Roman
CF42	Natural feature	no finds	-
CF43	Oval cut containing lead coffin liner with Fe nails	late 2nd- to mid 3rd-century pottery lead coffin liner	late Roman
CF44	Bottom of a stone wall foundation next to CF37, probably associated with the cemetery	mid 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF45	Narrow linear feature	1 piece of Roman grey ware pottery	Roman?
CF46	Loose Roman tile chippings – floor or wall foundation, seen in NW-facing section – continuation of CF55	-	Roman
CF53	Ditch with a post-hole (CF56)	1st- to 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF54	Possible robbed-out wall	-	Roman robbing of a Roman wall?
CF55	Loose mortar and Roman tile chippings, floor or wall foundation, seen in SE-facing section – continuation of F46	-	Roman
CF56	Post-hole within F53	-	Roman
CF57	Loose Roman tile chippings in both sections of trench – floor or wall foundation	-	Roman
CL10	Turf and topsoil	Roman roof tile	post-Roman
CL11	Subsoil – relict ploughsoil?	Roman tile and 1st- to ?early 4th-century pottery	Roman
CL12	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL13	Layer of crushed brick fragments and limetone with mortar, robbed floor within robber trench CF34	Roman pottery	Roman

### Trench 2: summary (Figs 1-2, 7)

This trench was excavated in a grassed area, between a bunker and the cricket pavilion. It contained two ditches (CF36 and CF39), the former definitely Roman and the latter undated but likely to be contemporary. Two modern military trenches were left unexcavated (CF40 and CF41). A thicker accumulation of subsoil was observed in this trench (600mm of CL8).

**Table 3: Trench 2 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF36	Ditch containing brick and tile	Roman brick and tile	Roman
CF39	Ditch	no finds	Roman?
CF40	Military trench	modern Army crockery	modern
CF41	Military trench	peg-tile	modern
CL7	Topsoil	-	modern
CL8	Subsoil	-	undated
CL9	Natural sand and gravel	-	-

### Trench 3: summary (Figs 1-2, 7)

Trench 3 was located in a grassed area next to Circular Road East. The main archaeological features were one Roman cremation burial (CF24), one partially complete Roman inhumation burial (the upper body having been removed by later truncation) with the skull placed under the lower legs (CF27), one possible small grave for a child but without any bone (CF32), and one indeterminate Roman feature (CF25) which is either a rubbish-pit or a cremation burial.

**Table 4: Trench 3 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF24	Un-urned cremation burial	jar dated 1st- to early 2nd century (a probable accessory vessel); coin dated AD 270	Roman
CF25	Base of a rubbish- pit or cremation burial	fragments from at least 8 vessels dated 1st-early 4th century, but mainly 2nd century	?early Roman
CF26	Pipe trench?	-	modern
CF27	Adult inhumation – Grave 1	small quantity of Roman pottery – late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	later Roman
CF28	Slot	-	undated
CF29	Service trench? truncating CF27	peg-tile and slate	modern
CF32	Possible child's inhumation but with no bone surviving	3 late Roman Fe nails Roman pottery of 1st to late 3rd century	late Roman
CL4	Turf and topsoil	-	?modern
CL5	Subsoil	-	post-Roman
CL6	Natural cover loam grading into orangey brown sand	-	-

### 5.2.2 Area C1X

#### Trench 4: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8)

Trench 4 was excavated in a grassed area to the east of the recently demolished Civil Service Club. Most of the significant archaeological remains were concentrated in the centre of the trench. These included three pits containing Bronze Age pottery (CF10, CF11, CF15), one ditch which may be contemporary with them (CF12), a robbed Roman wall (CF7), and a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman material (CF6). All archaeological features were cut into natural (CL3) except CF5/CF7 and CF6. Two silver Roman coins were found on the spoil heap (see section 6.4). There is a strong possibility that they derive not from disturbed burials but from a disturbed or wholly dispersed hoard, which was deposited in the early 5th century.

**Table 5: Trench 4 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1	Shallow pit	-	undated
CF2	Shallow pit	1 fragment of Roman pottery	Roman?
CF3	Narrow land drain	-	modern
CF4	Small pit	Roman brick	Roman?
CF5	Surface spread of mortar from robbed wall CF7	-	Roman
CF6	Demolished wall – CBM, ragstone and mortar, 300mm below ground-level	coin found on surface dated AD 270-73, Roman pottery and tile	Roman or post-Roman?



CF7	Robbed wall with mortar spread to the north (CF5)	pottery dated late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	Roman wall robbed in post-Roman period?
CF8	Straight-sided pit cutting CF5, CF9 and CL2	-	medieval or later
CF9	Straight-sided pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF10	Small pit	3 ?Bronze Age pot fragments and flint	Bronze Age
CF11	Pit with several fills	1 possible Beaker sherd and 7 other flint-tempered prehistoric sherds, plus flint flakes	?Early Bronze Age
CF12	Shallow ditch	1 flint	Bronze Age?
CF13	Small pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF14	pit	1 piece of Roman pottery	undated
CF15	Small pit	3 fragments of Beaker?	?Early Bronze Age
CF16	slot	tile	undated
CF17	Irregular-shaped pit	tile, 2 large pieces of ragstone and 1 piece Roman pottery	undated
CF18	Pit or tree throw	2 flints from the top 50mm	natural?
CF19	Pit	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman?
CF20	Small deep pit	slate and tile	modern?
CF21	Small pit	-	undated
CF22	Small deep pit	-	undated
CF23	Small shallow pit	1 possible flint	undated
CL1	Turf and topsoil	Roman tile and peg-tile	modern
CL2	Subsoil	19th- and 20th-century pot, peg-tile; Roman tile, Roman	post-medieval to modern
CL3	Natural sand and gravel	-	-

#### Trench 5: summary (Figs 1, 3)

Trench 5 was situated to the west of Trench 4. Most of the trench was in the area previously occupied by the Civil Service Club buildings. The ground in the southern half of the trench had been seriously disturbed down to 800mm depth by the construction of the buildings' slab foundations and the removal of the foundations (by 'probing') by the demolition crew. The northern half of the trench was relatively undisturbed apart from a shallow metal pipe (CF63). The only archaeological features were a Roman rubbish-pit or ditch (CF47) and an undated but possibly post-medieval ditch (CF52).

**Table 6: Trench 5 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF47	Rubbish-pit or ditch with animal bone and oyster shells	pottery dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Roman furniture nail	Roman
CF52	Pit or ditch heavily disturbed by modern activity – continuation of CF51?	-	undated
CF59	Disturbance to CF52 from 'probing' activity	-	modern
CF63	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble – demolition of previous building	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil	-	undated
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

### Trench 6: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8)

Trench 6 was excavated along the western edge of Area C1X, to the west of the demolished Civil Service Club. Modern pipes and drains had caused disturbance; nevertheless there were some archaeological features surviving. These included a slightly hollowed cobbled surface or track (CF60) and a shallow spread or dump of ragstone and Roman pottery (CF50) which sealed a pit (CF51).

**Table 7: Trench 6 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF48	Ditch	concrete	modern
CF49	Darker fill covering CF60	-	undated
CF50	Shallow spread or dump of ragstone, Roman tile and Roman pottery	large quantity of pottery dating from 1st to 4th century including <i>tazza</i> , samian and amphora fragments	Roman
CF51	Wide ditch – field boundary or furrow?	post-medieval pottery	post-medieval
CF58	Pit with animal bone, sealed by CF50	-	Roman
CF60	Hollowed cobbled surface, path	-	undated
CF61	Metal pipe	-	modern
CF62	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble from recent demolition	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil	-	post-medieval
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

## 6 The finds

### 6.1 General

The finds are listed in Table 10 (Appendix) which gives descriptions and approximate dates for stratified finds. Summaries of the prehistoric and Roman pottery and the small finds are given here. (The full archive report on the ensuing excavations at Area C1 and Area C2 will contain reports on the environmental remains, human and animal bone, lithics and fuller reports on the pottery.)

### 6.2 The prehistoric pottery

Within Trench 4, three pits produced sherds of what appear to be Beaker pottery of Early Bronze Age date. One of these pits also produced sherds of flint-tempered pottery of uncertain prehistoric date.

### 6.3 The Roman pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*

6.8kg of Roman pottery was collected from the evaluation. The assemblage was dominated by Colchester products of the 2nd to mid to late 3rd centuries (eg Colchester colour-coat and black-burnished ware category 2), and the samian is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Of note is a handle from a CAM 176 (ovoid storage jar with four handles), in black sand fabric probably of Italian origin. There was no Roman pottery that need be pre-Flavian (pre-AD 69) in date. There were almost no pottery types which appear at Colchester from the mid 3rd century onwards, ie no Nene Valley, Hadham or Oxford

wares; however, the broad-rimmed jar (CAM 279c) dates from the mid 3rd century onwards. Therefore almost all of the pottery could be accommodated between a date range of the 2nd to mid 3rd century. (Fabric descriptions are after *CAR 10*; CAM form numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958.)

### 6.3 The small finds by Nina Crummy

**Table 8: catalogue of small finds.**

SF	Find no	Feature or Layer	Trench	Material	Identification	Functional category	Date
4	37	U/S spoilheap	T4	silver	antoninianus, Postumus	-	AD 259-68
6	43	CF24	T3	CuA	antoninianus, Claudius II, commemorative	-	AD 270
2	13	CL1	T4	CuA	antoninianus, Tetricus (II?), barbarous	-	AD 270-3
1	5	U/S metal-detecting	T4	silver	<i>siliqua</i> , Honorius	-	AD 393-423
10	113	U/S spoilheap	-	lead	token	-	Roman
11	117	CF47	T5	CuA	furniture nail	11	Roman
8	-	CF43/Grave 2	T1	lead	coffin liner, with bead-and-reel moulding along the edge of the lid	14	late Roman
7	105	CF43/Grave 2	T1	lead	fragment of the bead-and-reel moulding from the coffin liner lid	14	-
9	112	U/S	T1	lead	disc, probably a weight	6	-
5	38	U/S	T4	lead	offcut?	15	-
-	58	CF32	T3	iron	3 nails, 1 shank fragment	11/14	late Roman
3	36	U/S	T4	iron	machine part (but just possibly a brooch spring and pin fragment)	11 or 1	modern or LIA/Roman

Note: the functional category number codes refer to *CAR 2*.

## 7 Discussion

### 7.1 General discussion

#### Area C2X

#### 7.1.1 Trench 1

Four cremation burials of simple single urned type were recorded. None were complete, the tops having been removed by ploughing or levelling of the cricket pitch in the past. These features were encountered just below topsoil (CL10) and were all cut into CL11, a Roman layer occurring above the natural. Consequently, seeing the burials before they were clipped by the machine bucket was problematic. These cremation burials cluster in the northern half of the trench, apart from CF30 which appears to be rather more isolated, at the southern end of the trench.

In the centre of the trench, a feature (CF34) which appeared to be a spread of Roman tile and stone rubble, was encountered 200mm below current ground-level. On excavation it was found to comprise demolition debris sealing a circular robber trench which is 1.65m deep. A layer of crushed brick fragments, limestone and mortar (CL13) within the upper fill of the robber trench may derive from a floor. Given its location, the feature is interpreted as having been a mausoleum. Two possible wall lines appearing in

the sections of the trench (CF46/CF55 and CF57) may have formed part of a square enclosure around the mausoleum.

Grave 2 (CF43), which featured a lead coffin liner, lies alongside CF34; however, their relationship is unclear. The lead coffin liner was left *in situ* for possible later retrieval but it probably contains an inhumation. The length of the coffin liner could not be established; however, its width (320mm) suggests that a child was interred in it. Large Fe nails surrounding the coffin liner indicate the presence of an outer wooden coffin. An upright piece of Roman brick at the top of the cut may have formed part of a grave marker (Fig 6).

The base of a narrow stone wall foundation at the northern end of the trench (CF44) may have demarcated a plot within the cemetery. The smashed Roman pot (CF37) next to it could derive from a cremation burial although no cremated bone was associated with it.

#### **7.1.2 Trench 2**

Two ditches with similar fills (CF36 and CF39) were identified. Ditch CF36 was aligned north to south and contained Roman ceramic building material. Ditch CF39 was aligned north-west to south-east, and it is undated but likely to be contemporary. Without further excavation it is not possible to assign a function to these ditches; however, they may be associated with the cemetery. Two modern military trenches were left unexcavated (CF40 and CF41).

#### **7.1.3 Trench 3**

Most features were cut into natural cover loam (CL6). The cremation burial (CF24) appears to be un-urned as the bone was concentrated away from a small jar. The jar may have been an accessory vessel containing food or drink. On the southern side of the trench, a flexed inhumation burial was recorded, with the skeleton positioned on its side with the head placed under the lower legs (CF27, Grave 1). Analysis of the bone should provide us with the age and sex of the individual and possibly the cause of death. The top of the skeleton was truncated by a modern service trench (CF29). The practice of decapitating the head of the deceased post-mortem using a scalpel has been identified at other Roman cemeteries in Britain, for example at the 4th-century Roman inhumation cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester (CAR 9; Clarke 1979) and also in Colchester (CAR 6, 378).

A small semi-rectangular cut containing Fe nails but no bone may represent a small grave for a child (CF32). During excavations carried out by CAT in 2003 in the Garrison PFI site, several such graves were recorded, where the acidity of the sand had caused the bone to disintegrate and only the coffin nails survived (Brooks forthcoming). Juvenile human bone would be less likely to survive than adult bone, which would explain why the bone from the inhumation in Grave 1 survived while the bone from CF32 did not.

The base of a cut feature containing sherds from at least eight Roman vessels may prove to be a cremation burial once the bone has been analysed (CF25). However, the animal bone and the variety of pots suggest that the feature may have been a rubbish-pit, possibly used by the people visiting the cemetery.

### **Area CX1**

#### **7.1.4 Trench 4**

Most of the significant archaeological remains were concentrated in the centre of the trench. These included three pits (CF10, CF11, CF15) containing flints and possible Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery, none of which material has yet been reported on by specialists. These findings are consistent with what has been found in the area previously. A Neolithic or Bronze Age Beaker has been found along Flagstaff Road; in St John's Abbey grounds, late Bronze Age pottery from pits and a flaked Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint blade were recorded during excavations by CAT in 1972; and a Bronze Age burial urn has been found on Abbey Field (CAT Report 97, 7). The ditch CF12 may be contemporary with the pits. Clearly the landscape here was being utilised in the Bronze Age, but whether for settlement, agriculture or burial remains to be determined.

A robbed Roman wall (CF5/CF7) on an east to west alignment was the only definite Roman structure from this trench. However, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material was recorded on the same alignment to the south (CF6). Pits of uncertain date may also date to the Roman period.

Further excavation may lead to the recovery of further silver coins if a coin hoard was deposited here.

#### 7.1.5 Trench 5

The ground of the southern half of the trench had been seriously disturbed down to 800mm depth. Shallower features such as those found in Trenches 4 and 6 will have been lost here, but features cut into natural were shown to have survived (CF47 and CF52).

#### 7.1.6 Trench 6

Modern pipes and drains had caused disturbance; nevertheless, some archaeological features survived. A slightly hollowed cobbled surface following a north-west to south-east alignment was observed (CF60). This feature is as yet undated but appeared to be a path or track. To the south, a shallow spread or dump of ragstone and Roman pottery (CF50) sealed a Roman pit (CF51). Taken with the features in Trenches 4 and 5, this is good evidence of Roman activity in this area, although the nature of such activity is not determined.

**Table 9: number of features per trench.**

	Bronze Age	Roman	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Undated	Natural
T1		13					1
T2		2			2		
T3		4			2	1	
T4	4	4	4		2	7	2 (inc 1 without feature no)
T5		1			2	1	1 (without feature no)
T6		2		1	3	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

## 7.2 Distribution of archaeological remains

Prehistoric features were confined to Area C1X. These consisted of ephemeral Bronze Age features that may extend further, judging by previous discoveries in the area. No evidence of Iron Age activity was recorded from either Area C1X or Area C2X. This indicates that both areas lie outside the area of the *oppidum*.

Roman remains were encountered in both areas. Area C2X forms part of the southern extra-mural Roman cemetery and features high- and low-status burials. Area C1X does not appear to be part of the cemetery; however, structural remains, building material, pits and ditches indicate that it was being utilised in some manner in the Roman period. The lack of burials within Area C1X in comparison with Area C2X suggests that the cemetery had focal burial sites with gaps between the groupings. It would appear that the southern boundary of this southern cemetery falls somewhere within the modern cricket pitch, as during subsequent evaluation by CAT in 2004 in the football pitch to the south, no Roman burials have been recorded.

## 8 Conclusions

The evaluation of the 1ha site consisted of 178m of trial-trenching and 57 features were recorded during the work. Prehistoric features were confined to Area C1X and consisted of ephemeral Bronze Age pits and a possible ditch. No evidence of Iron Age activity was recorded from either area.

Roman remains were encountered in both Area C1X and Area C2X. The cremations and inhumations from Area C2X show that it forms part of the southern extra-mural Roman cemetery of the town. It seems that individuals of both low and high status were buried here. Area C1X does not appear to be part of the cemetery; however, structural remains, building material, pits and ditches indicate that it was being utilised in some manner in the Roman period. Two unstratified silver Roman coins from Area C1X may be part of a dispersed early 5th-century coin hoard.

The evidence from the evaluation indicates that the area was not used for any other purpose other than agriculture in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Modern features mainly relate to the site's use as part of the garrison and include military trenches, services and pits.

## 9 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by Taylor Woodrow. The project consultants were RPS. The project was monitored by CBCAO. RPS provided EOD cover.

The fieldwork was supervised by Kate Orr and carried out by Mariusz Gorniak, Brian Hurrell, Nigel Rayner and Dave Ross.

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## 11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (c 2000 BC-700 BC)
CAR	Colchester Archaeological Report
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	ceramic building material
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
CuA	copper-alloy

cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EHCR	Essex Heritage Conservation Record, held by Essex County Council
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Fe	iron
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
LIA	Late Iron Age (c 200 BC-AD 43)
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th and 20th centuries
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>opus signinum</i>	type of Roman mortar made of crushed tiles, often used as base for floors
pit	a hole dug principally for the disposal of rubbish
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and to the end of the 19th century
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning, Transport & Environment
Anglo-Saxon	the period from c AD 430 to AD 1066
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
SF	small find
<i>tegula</i>	Roman roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	red baked clay cube from Roman floor
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester Museums

## 12 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2004.296.

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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 21.06.04

Adams c:/reports04/GUV Area C/final/report271final.doc

## Appendix

Table 10: finds list.

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
1	CF1	C1X	T4	Mortar, septaria, Roman tile
2	U/S	C1X	T4	Pottery and tile
3	CF2	C1X	T4	Pottery, tile, Fe nail
4	CL2	C1X	T4	Roman tile, peg-tile, china
5	U/S	C1X	T4	Silver Roman coin (SF1)
6	CF7	C1X	T4	Pottery and tile
7	CF8	C1X	T4	Pottery, tile, bone
8	CF9	C1X	T4	Tile, <i>opus signinum</i>
9	CL1	C1X	T4	Roman tile, peg-tile
10	CL2	C1X	T4	Roman tile and peg-tile
11	CL2	C1X	T4	Human bone (from CF27)
12	CF25	C1X	T4	Roman pottery and tile, septaria and uncremated bone
13	CF6	C1X	T4	CuA coin (SF2)
14	CF10	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pot fragments
15	CF10	C1X	T4	stones
16	CF10	C1X	T4	flints
17	CF11	C1X	T4	flints
18	CF11	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pottery including one sherd of Beaker?
19	CF11	C1X	T4	stones
20	CF12	C1X	T4	flint
21	CF13	C1X	T4	Roman tile and peg-tile
22	CF4	C1X	T4	Roman brick
23	CF16	C1X	T4	Tile, flint
24	CF15	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pottery – Beaker?
25	CF15	C1X	T4	flint
26	CF14	C1X	T4	Pottery and bone
27	CF18	C1X	T4	Flint core? and flake
28	CF17	C1X	T4	Roman tile and Roman pottery
29	CF23	C1X	T4	Small flint
30	CF23	C1X	T4	Flint flake
31	CF20	C1X	T4	Slate, tile fragments
32	CF12	C1X	T4	Pottery
33	CF19	C1X	T4	Flint and stone
34	CF6	C1X	T4	Roman tile, ragstone, animal bone
35	CF6	C1X	T4	1 fragment of pottery
36	U/S	C1X	T4	Fe object – modern or LIA/Roman (SF3)
37	U/S	C1X	T4	Silver Roman coin (SF4)
38	U/S	C1X	T4	Lead offcut (SF5)
39	CF24	C2X	T3	Fragmented Roman pot
40	CF24	C2X	T3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
41	CF24	C2X	T3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
42	CF24	C2X	T4	Fe nail
43	CF24	C2X	T3	CuA coin (SF6)
44	CF25	C2X	T3	Fe nail
45	CF25	C2X	T3	Uncremated bone including animal bone
46	CF25	C2X	T3	Glass fragment
47	CF25	C2X	T3	Pottery and tile fragments
48	CF25	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
49	CF25	C2X	T4	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
50	CF29	C2X	T3	Pot, tile, slate
51	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman pot – part of a cremation urn
52	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman <i>tegula</i>
53	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman tile, <i>tessera</i> and pot

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
54	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
55	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
56	CF30	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
57	CF28	C2X	T3	Pot
58	CF32	C2X	T3	3 x Fe nails
59	CF32	C2X	T3	Roman pot
60	CF32	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
61	CF32	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
62	CF29	C2X	T3	Human bone remains (to west of grave F27, Grave 1)
63	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman pot + tile (possibly from CF37)
64	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman tile
65	CL10	C2X	T1	Roman tile
66	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman pot, tile and bone (near F38)
67	CF27	C2X	T3	Human bone fragments (found during cleaning)
68	CF27	C2X	T3	Human bone fragments (upper leg)
69	N/A			
70	CF27	C2X	T3	Knuckle bone, found in pelvic area
71	CF27	C2X	T3	Pot and tile
72	CF33	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
73	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
74	CF36	C2X	T2	Roman pottery and tile
75	CF41	C2X	T2	Peg-tile fragments
76	CF37	C2X	T1	Fragmented Roman grey ware urn
77	CF27	C2X	T3	Human skull (Grave 1)
78	CF27	C2X	T3	Left human leg (Grave 1)
79	CF27	C2X	T3	Right human leg (Grave 1)
80	CF27	C2X	T3	Human pelvis (Grave 1)
81	CF27	C2X	T3	Roman pot and tile (Grave 1)
82	CF27	C2X	T3	Human lower left arm (Grave 1)
83	CF27	C2X	T3	Human right arm (Grave 1)
84	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman pottery
85	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
86	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
87	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
88	CF43	C2X	T1	Roman pot and tile
89	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
90	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
91	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman pottery
92	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman tile, <i>opus signinum</i> fragments and animal bone
93	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
94	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
95	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman pottery (inc some loose cremation urn sherds)
96	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
97	CF45	C2X	T1	Pottery fragments
98	CL13	C2X	T1	Roman pottery and <i>opus signinum</i> fragments
99	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail A (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
100	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail B (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
101	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail C (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
102	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail D (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
103	CF44	C2X	T1	Roman pottery, tile and a lump of ragstone
104	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail E (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
105	CF43	C2X	T1	Lead moulding from coffin (SF7) (Grave 2)
106	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail F (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
107	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds
108	CF43	C2X	T1	Lead coffin (left <i>in situ</i> ) (SF8) (Grave 2)
109	CF30	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
110	CF30	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
111	CF30	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
112	U/S	C1X	-	Lead weight (SF9) (found on the spoil heap)
113	U/S	C1X	-	Lead token (SF10) (found on the spoil heap)
114	CF53	C2X	T1	Roman pottery, CBM and Fe nails
115	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds
116	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds (part of cremation urn (85))
117	CF47	C1X	T5	CuA furniture nail (SF11)
118	CF58	C1X	T6	Bone
119	CL15	C1X	T5/T6	Pottery fragments
120	CF50	C1X	T6	Roman pottery, tile and bone
121	CF47	C1X	T5	Roman tile, pottery, oyster shells and animal bone
122	CF47	C1X	T5	Roman pottery, tile and charcoal lumps
123	CL15	C1X	T6	Roman pottery and tile
124	CF51	C1X	T6	Post-medieval? pottery, tile and bone
125	CL15	C1X	T6	Pottery and bone
126	CF60	C1X	T6	Bone and CBM fragments

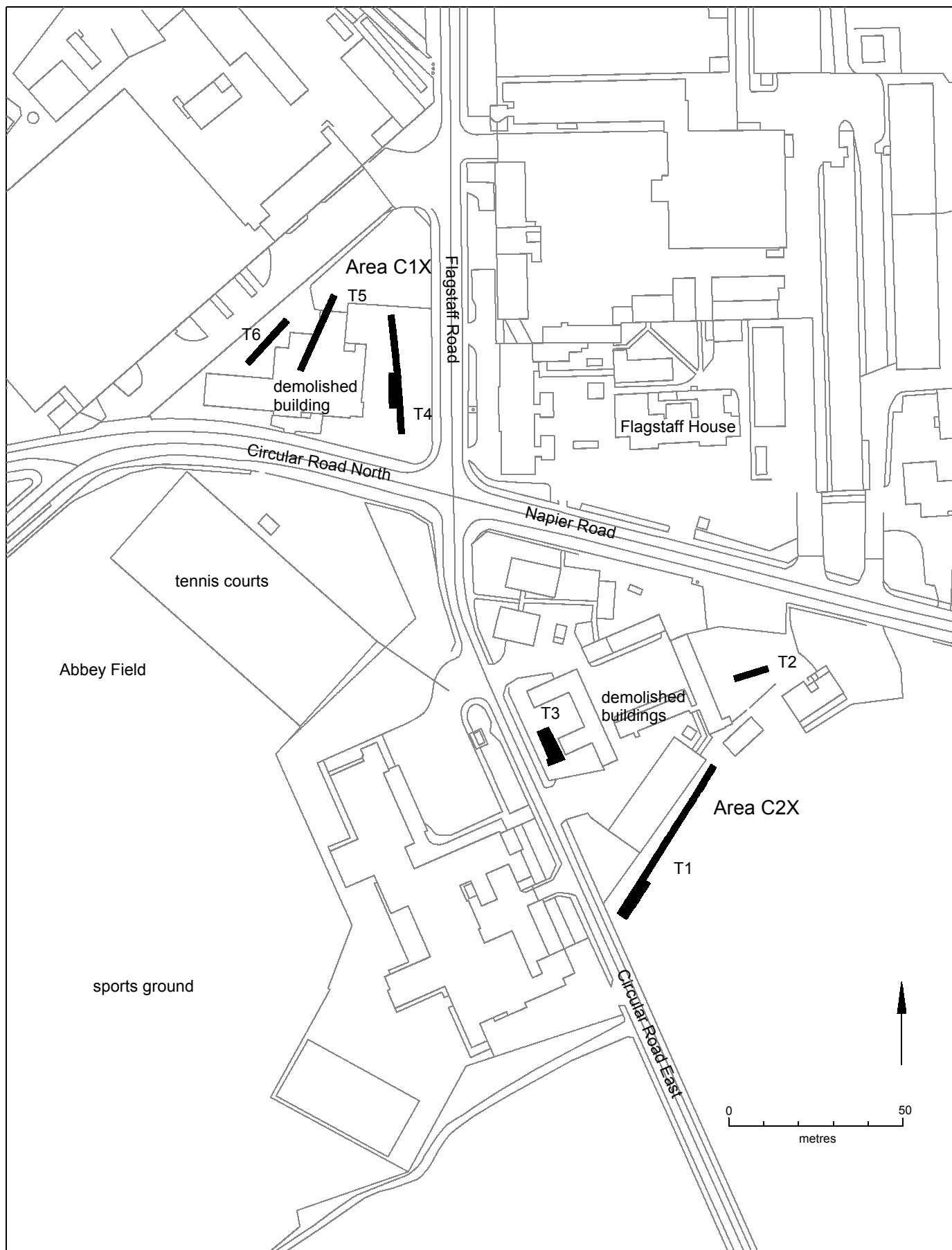


Fig 1 Location of trenches.

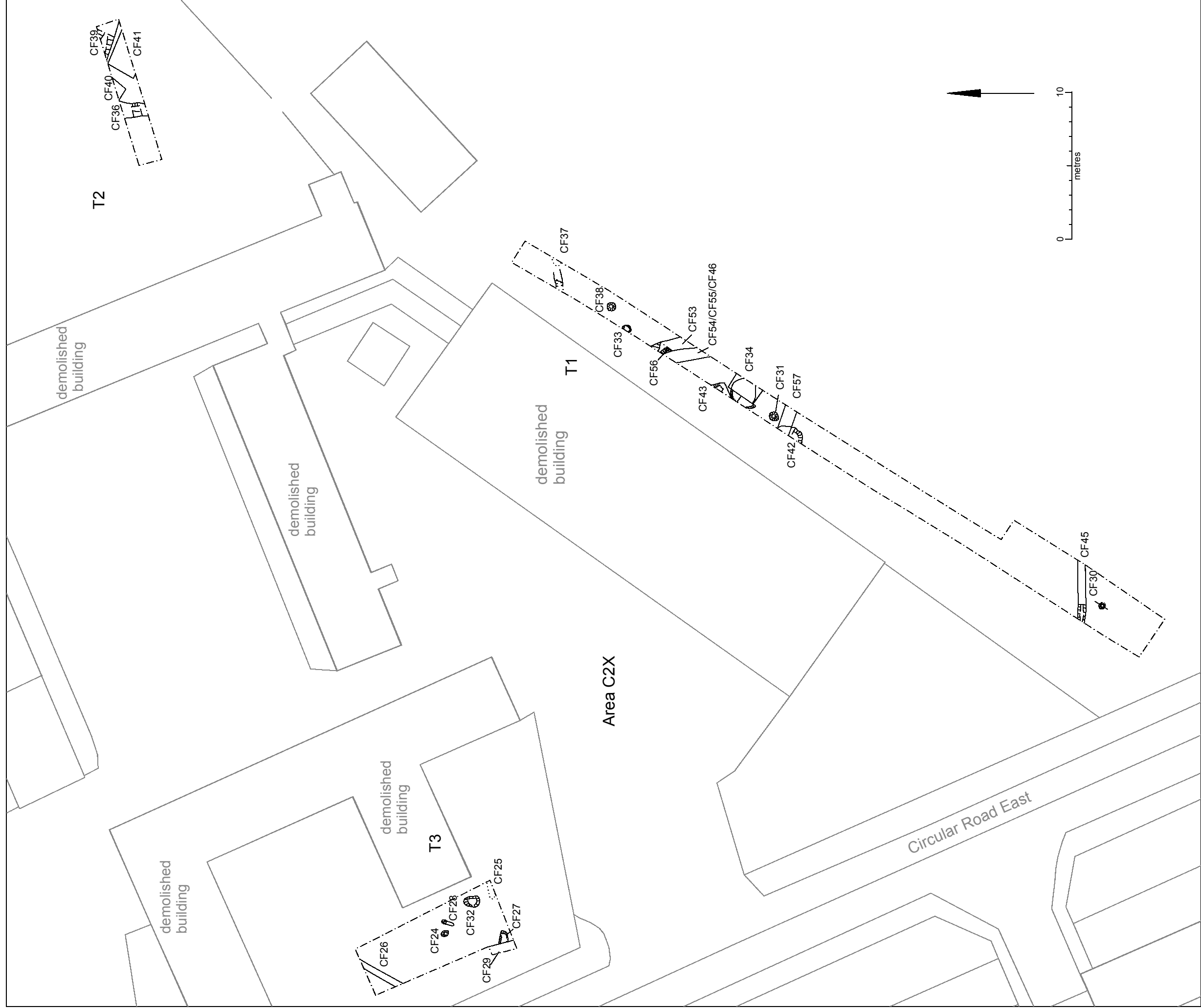


Fig 2 Plan of Area C2X.

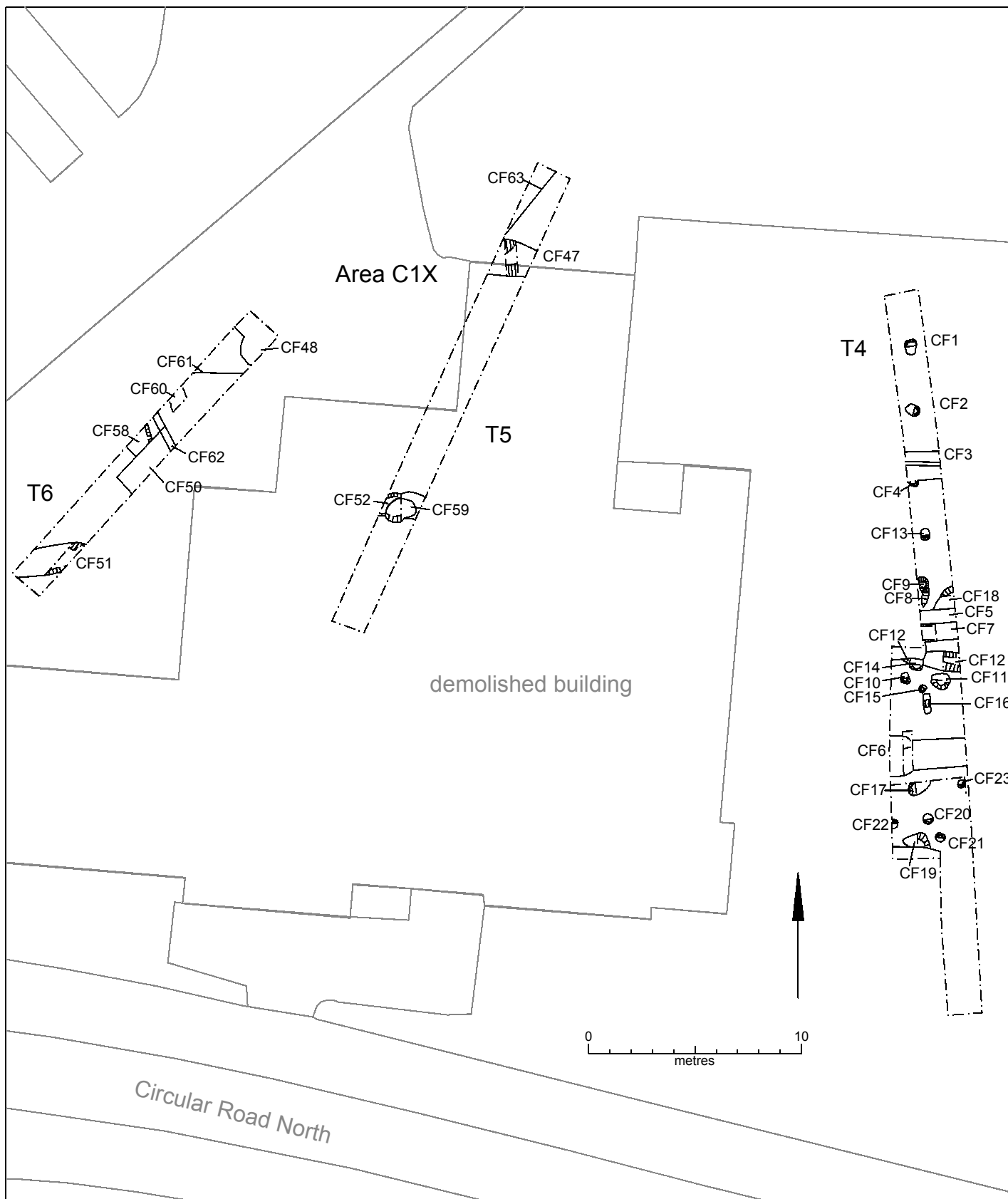
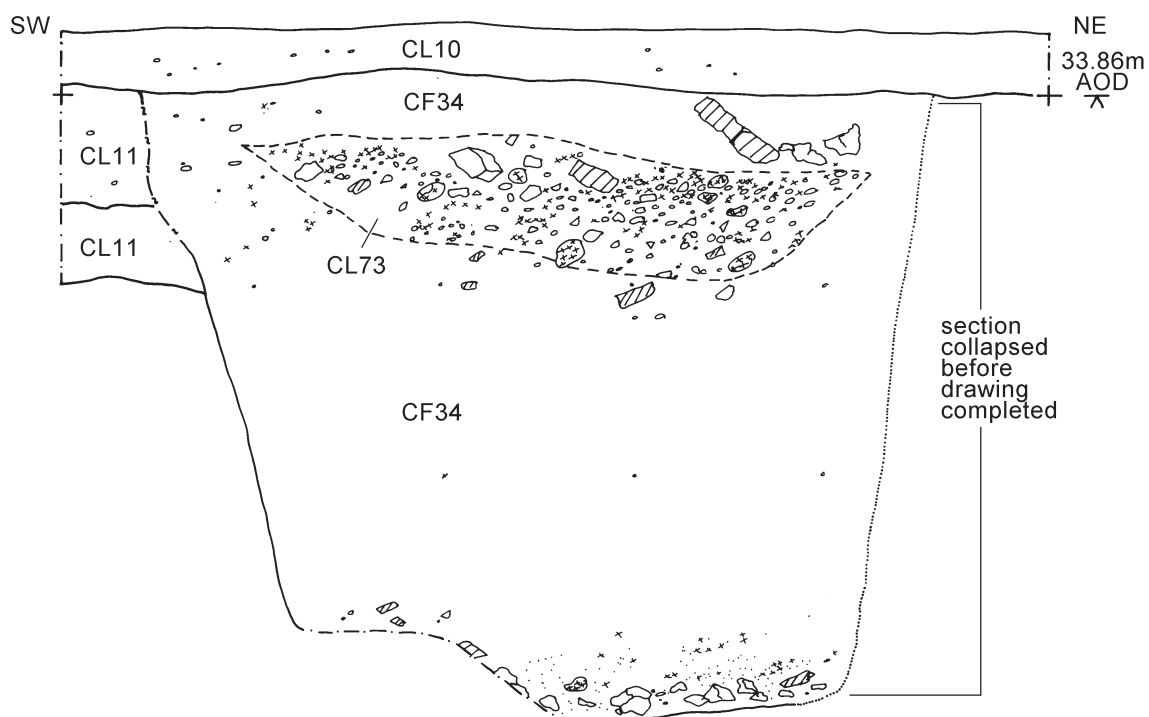


Fig 3 Plan of Area C1X.

section of CF34, T1



plan of CF34, T1

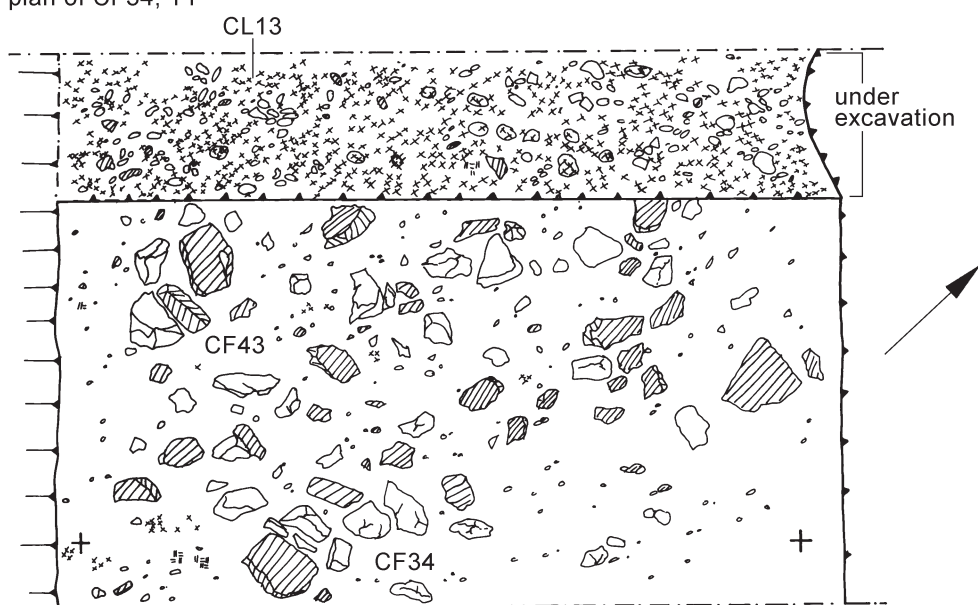


Fig 4 Trench 1 section and plan. At scale 1:20.



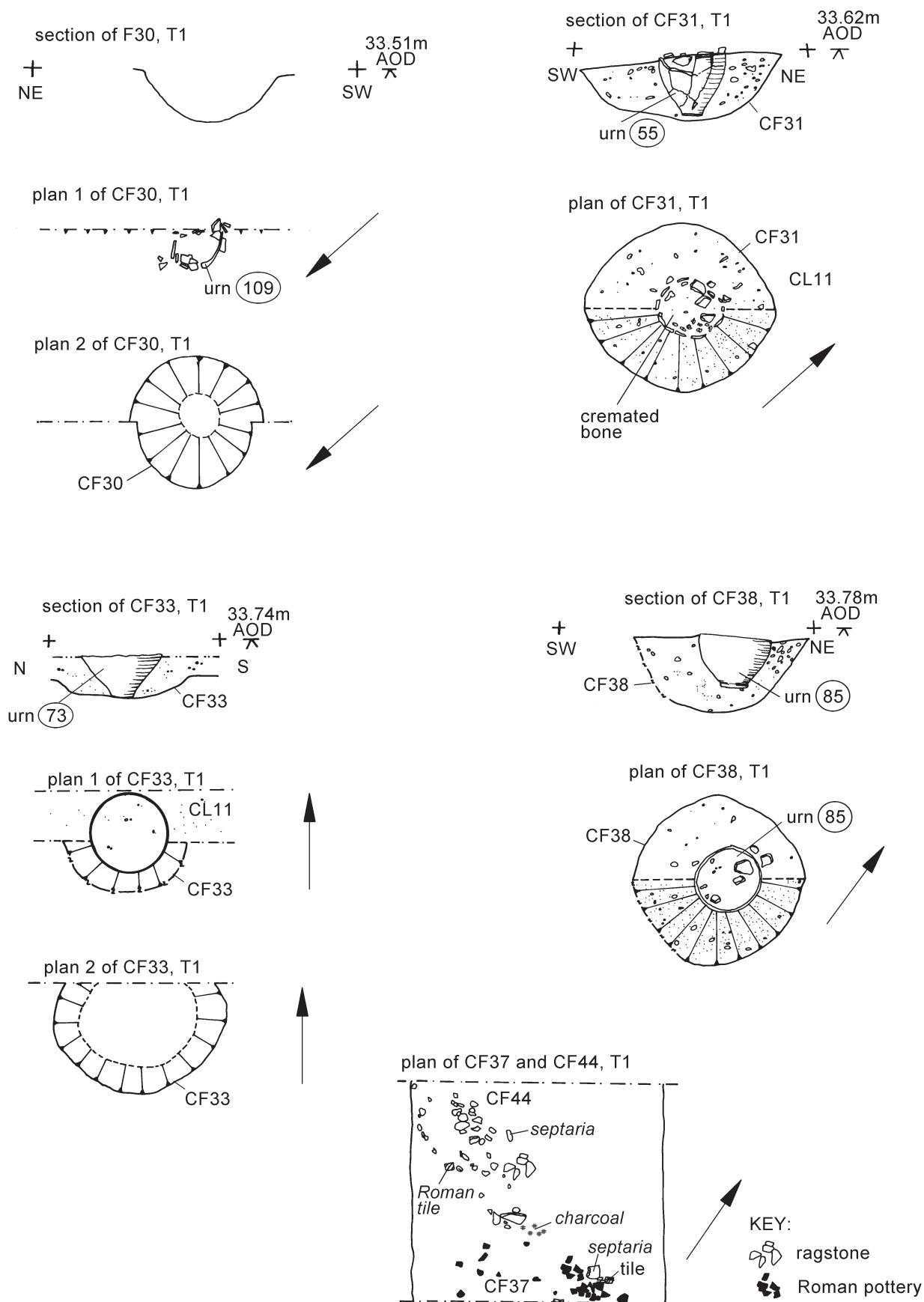


Fig 5 Trench 1 sections and plans. All at scale 1:20, except the plan of CF37 and CF44 which is at scale 1:40.

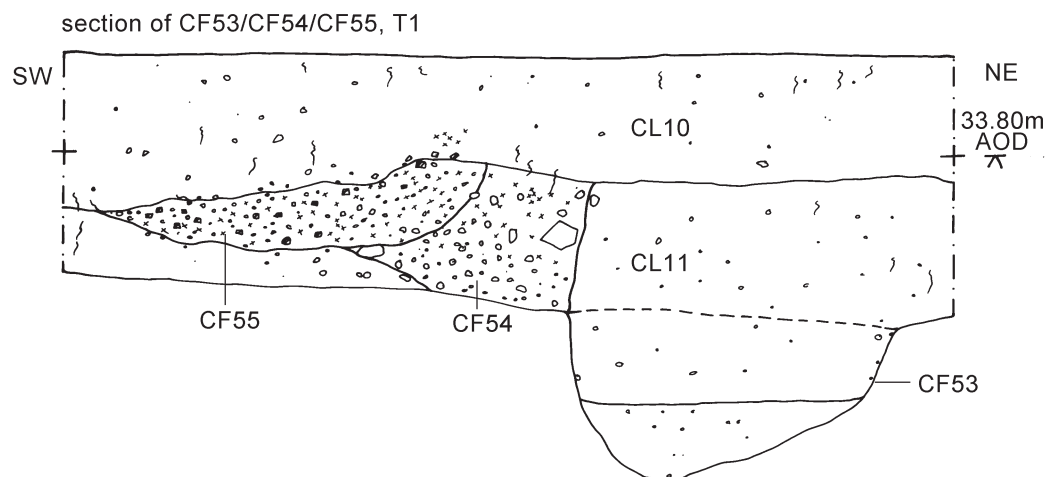
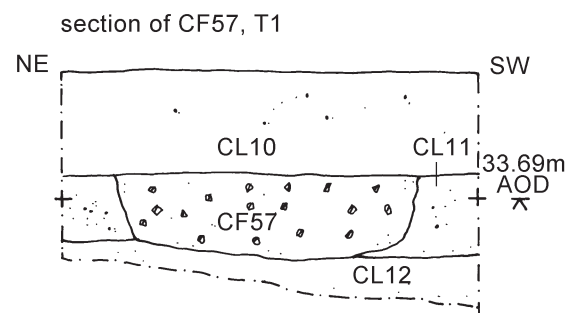
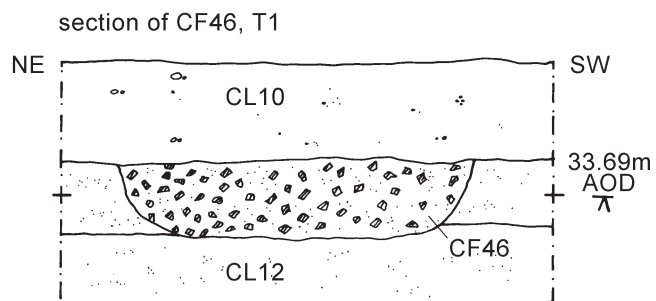
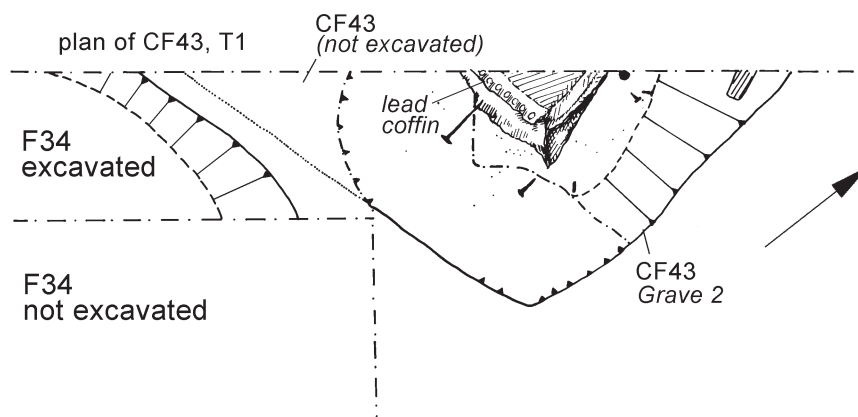
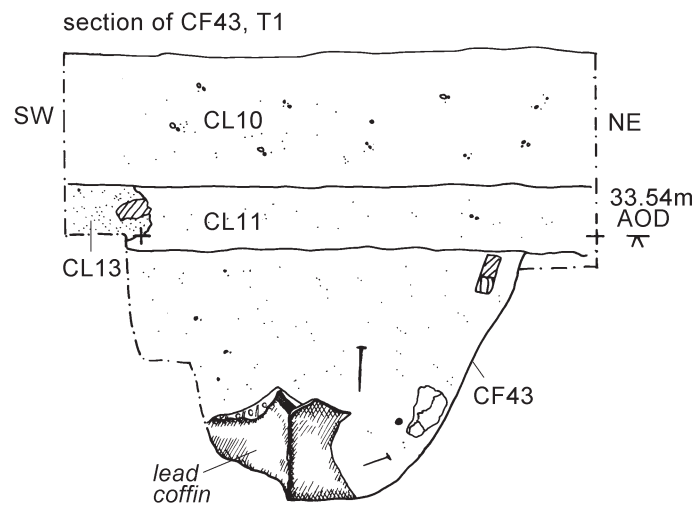


Fig 6 Trench 1 sections and plans. All at scale 1:20.

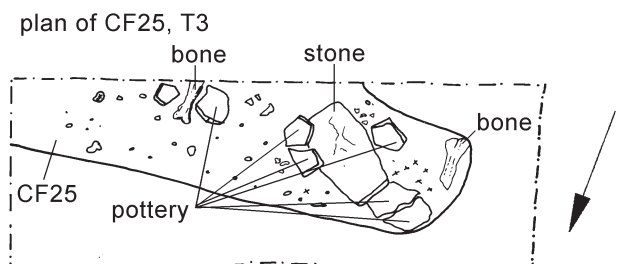
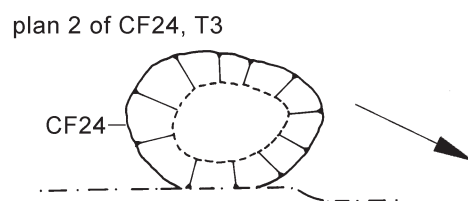
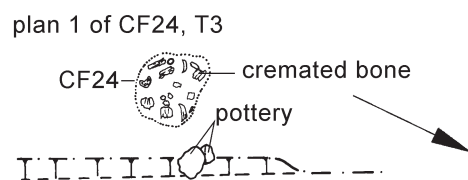
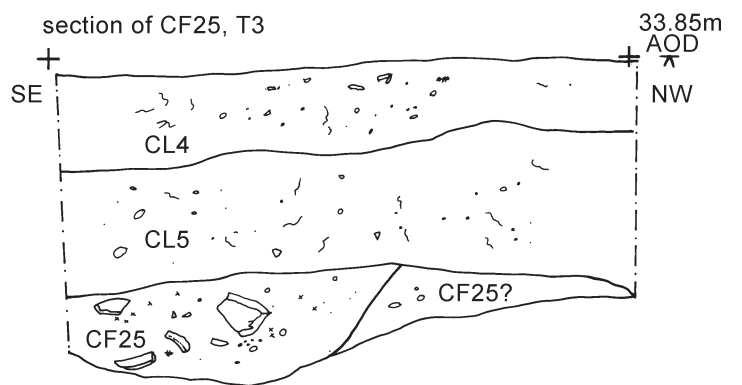
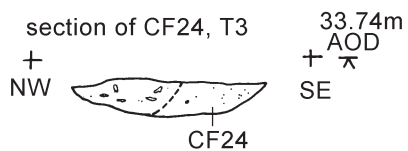
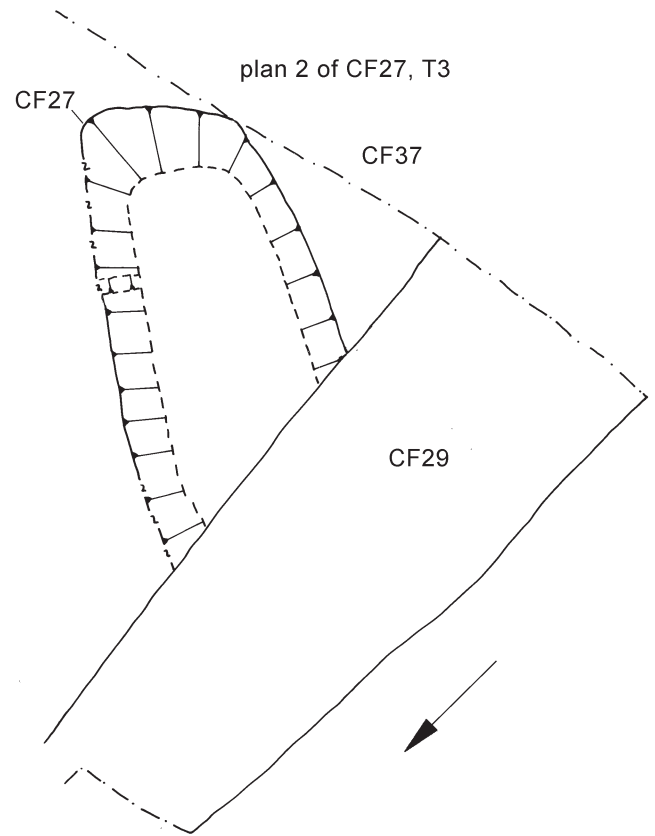
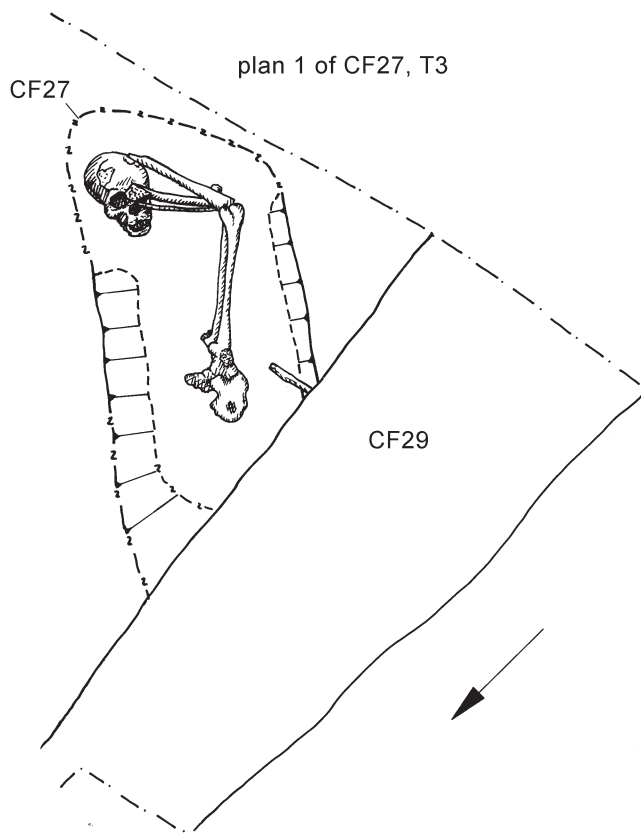
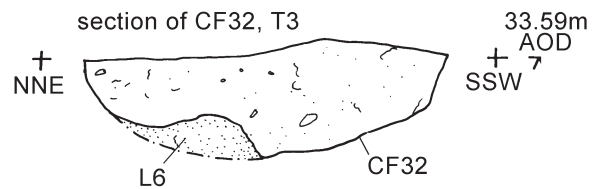
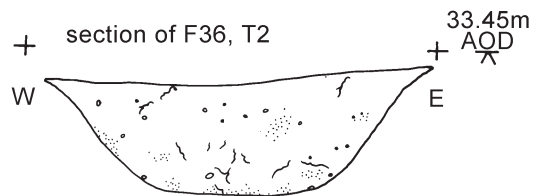


Fig 7 Trench 2 and trench 3 sections and plans. All at scale 1:20.

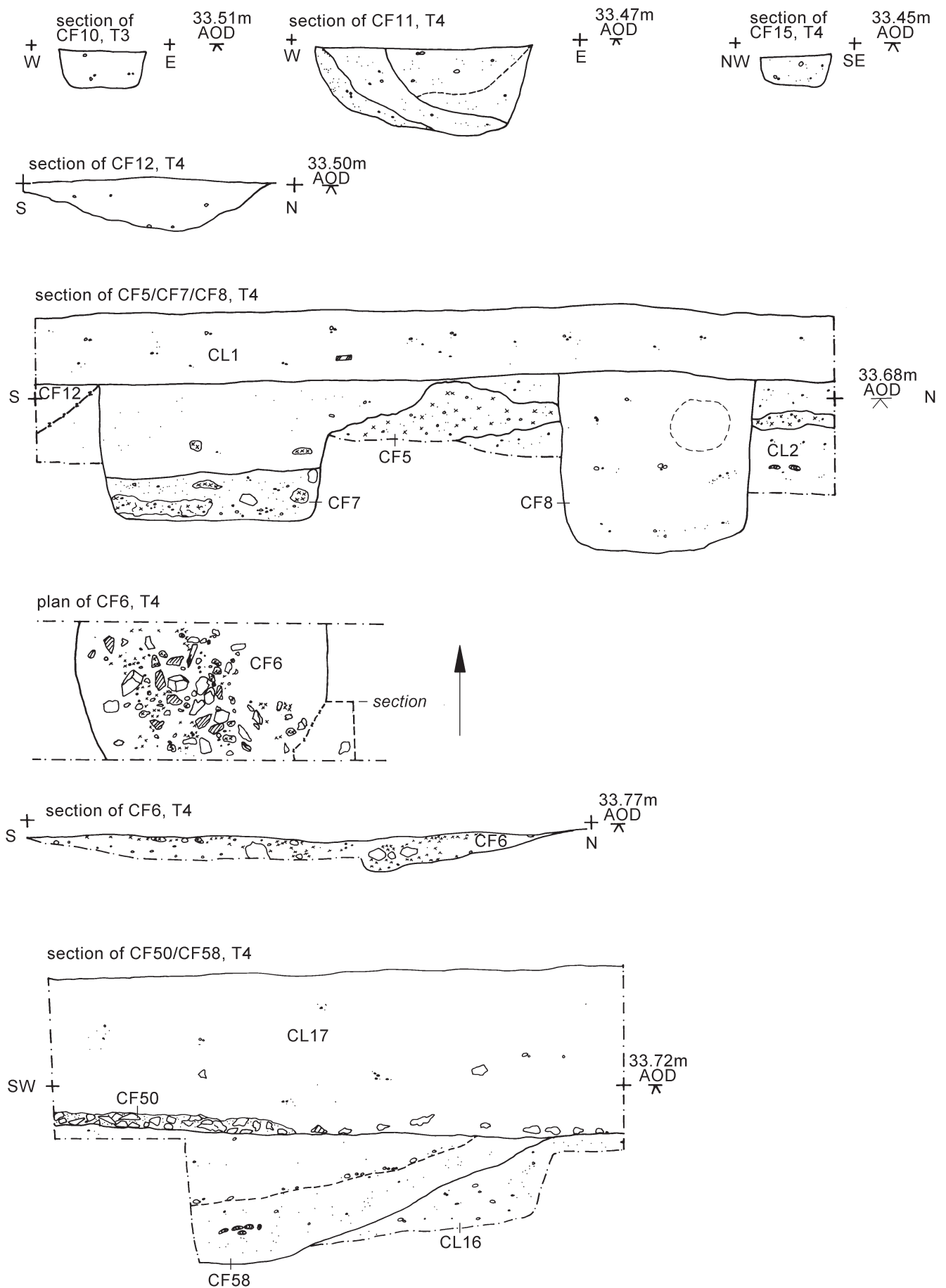


Fig 8 Trench 4 and Trench 6 sections and plans. All at scale 1:20, except the plan of CF6 which is at scale 1:40.

# Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

## Summary sheet

<b>Site name/address:</b> Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> Area C1X, TL 9960 2460 (c) Area C2X, TL 9975 2447 (c)	<b>Site code:</b> 2004.296
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th-24th May 2004	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1ha
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 271	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Bronze Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of the planned urban village at Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow in for residential development.</i></p> <p><i>Three trenches were excavated in each area totalling 178m of trenching. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11,) and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent the remains of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity here in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins may be part of a dispersed coin hoard.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this site is well within the area of the Roman cemetery to the south of the walled town. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.</i></p> <p><i>The full report, including specialist reports on the finds, will be incorporated in the archive report on the ensuing excavations at Area C1X and Area C2X.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 97	
<b>Author of summary:</b> K Orr	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2004

# **i n t e r i m   r e p o r t**

## **An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex May 2004**

**report prepared by  
Kate Orr**

**commissioned by  
RPS Planning, Transport & Environment  
on behalf of  
Taylor Woodrow**

CAT project ref.: 04/4D  
Colchester Museums accession code: 2004.296  
NGR: Area C1X, TL 9960 2460 (c); Area C2X, TL 9975 2447 (c)



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**CAT Report 271**  
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## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims and objectives	2
4	Archaeological background	2
5	The trial-trenching	3
6	The finds	8
7	Discussion	
8	Conclusions	
9	Acknowledgements	
10	References	
11	Glossary and abbreviations	
12	Archive deposition	
13	Appendix:	

## **List of figures**

- Fig 1 Location of trenches.
- Fig 2 Plan of Area C2X.
- Fig 3 Plan of Area C1X.
- Fig 4 Trench 1: section and plan.
- Fig 5 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 6 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 7 Trench 2 and Trench 3: sections and plans.
- Fig 8 Trench 4 and Trench 6: sections and plans.

## 1 Summary

*This is the interim report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of the planned urban village at Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow in for residential development.*

*Three trenches were excavated in each area. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11,) and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.*

*In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent the remains of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a collapsed wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity here in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins are thought to be part of a dispersed coin hoard.*

*In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this area was well within the Roman cemetery to the south of the walled town. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.*

*Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.*

## 2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 The proposed development of the alienated land at Colchester Garrison involves the redevelopment, primarily for residential use, of areas of the present Colchester Garrison and adjacent farmland formerly owned by the MoD. The construction of the new Garrison over the next four years will allow a phased decanting of the existing Garrison personnel into the new Garrison, thus facilitating phased release of areas of the former Garrison for redevelopment. In response to the proposed development and redevelopment, further archaeological evaluation by means of trial-trenching is required in order to complete the partial evaluation of the alienated land conducted for 'the New Garrison Composite Environmental Statement' (?? 2002). No trial-trenching was conducted within Area C1X/Area C2X during the large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 of the Garrison PFI site. The requirement for a minimum 3% trial-trenching was agreed between Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), RPS (the project archaeological consultants), and the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT, the archaeological contractors).
- 2.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Taylor Woodrow and was carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.
- 2.3 The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS in association with CAT, dated April 2004, and agreed by CBCAO (RPS 2004b). The WSI was produced in accordance with a research design prepared by RPS in 2004 (RPS 2004a).

*This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1999), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1999).*



- 2.4** Area C1X is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9960 2460. Area C2X is centred on NGR TL 9975 2447. Area C1X occupies a 0.32ha triangular piece of land within the angle of Flagstaff Road and Circular Road North, to the west of Flagstaff House. Area C2X occupies a 0.68ha triangular area in the angle of Napier Road and Circular Road East, to the south of Flagstaff House.
- 2.5** Most of Area C1X was previously occupied by the Civil Club buildings which have now been demolished. Within Area C2X, various structures with shallow pad foundations have been demolished as well as two World War 2 air-raid bunkers; a watching brief was carried out by CAT on this work in May 2004 (report in prep). The rest of Area C2X consists of part of the cricket pitch, tarmac and grassed areas and one remaining World War 2 bunker.
- 2.6** Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam.

### **3 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, interpretation??, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.
- 3.2** This information will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.
- 3.3** The results of previous excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester in conjunction with similar work elsewhere in England, especially the south-east, enable the following issues to be identified as research priorities for the Colchester Garrison Urban Village site (RPS 2004b):
- the identification of cemetery areas and family plots within them
  - the origin and development of cemeteries and cemetery areas especially in relation to fields and other parcels of land
  - the date and nature of the transition from the rite of cremation to that of inhumation
  - the extent to which different populations and social groupings within them can be distinguished through their funerary remains
  - the characterisation of the population of Colchester and social groupings within it through the study of human remains
  - grave goods as expressions of religious beliefs and superstition, and
  - buildings, tombs and other structures (funerary and otherwise) within cemetery areas.

### **4 Archaeological background**

- 4.1** [Based on WSI, RPS 2004b, CAT Report 97??] Area C1X and Area C2X are located within the area of an extra-mural Roman cemetery associated with the walled Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis* to the north. There are also records of Saxon burials in areas close to Mersea Road in the north-west area of Meeanee Barracks according to the Colchester Garrison PFI desk-based assessment (CAT Report 97). Trial-trenching by CAT in 2002 within Meeanee Barracks, on the east side of Mersea Road, uncovered a single burial which could date to either of these periods (CAT ref??).
- Discoveries made in the 20th century, immediately adjacent to Area C1X and Area C2X, comprise a lead coffin found in Mersea Road opposite the Officers' Mess in 1937 (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, TL 994 2432) and two Roman cremations found in the bank of Mersea Road (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, [NGR??] TL 994 2432).

Recorded burials to the south-east comprise several Roman cremations found north of the TA Centre during air-raid shelter construction in 1939 (Hull no 131, UAD event no 1070, TL 999 242), whilst an inhumation grave was found nearby (Hull no 161, UAD event no 1090, TL 9985 2415). An archaeological evaluation was conducted by CAT at the TA Centre in 1996 and Roman roofing tile was recovered but no certain Roman features (UAD event no 3593, TL 9982 2415; CAT ref??).

There are no recorded burials to the immediate east of Area C2X but there are records of two burials within Area C2X itself. These burials within Area C2X comprise a Roman urn, presumably from a cremation, found in 1934, south-east of the Garrison Post Office (Hull no 129, UAD event 1069, TL 9969 2443) and inhumations with beakers and flagons, found in 1939, north of the ATS quarters (Hull no 130, UAD event no 1071, TL 997 245). Another Roman burial was found nearby in 1947 south of Napier Road (Hull no 59, UAD event no 1034, TL 9987 2447).

- 4.2** At least 28 Roman burials were found slightly further afield within the area of the Abbey Field sports ground (300m to the south-west) in 1925 (Hull no 200, UAD event no 1099, TL 9940 2430).

Trial-trenching and excavation of this site by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremations, some only 300mm below existing ground (CAT Report 138; CAT Report 54??; TL 9954 2441). The records state that an immense number of pots, presumably from cremations, were found during levelling in 1922 for the Abbey Field football ground (Hull 1958, 255; UAD event no 1110). The grid reference was given as TL 9985 2425 by the UAD whilst further Roman burials from the 'Garrison football field' were recorded by the UAD at TL 9985 2432 (Hull no 199, UAD event no 1098, EHCR no 13231), a grid reference which suggests that they were within Area E (ref??; the football pitch). However, P Crummy (pers comm) is certain that these burial records, located by grid reference as being within Area E, are in fact part of the burial ground 300m to the west and that therefore the grid references are incorrect. The records show that Roman burials south of the Roman town wall are found over a very wide area, which includes Area C1X and Area C2X; however, the density of burials varies greatly. Some plots may have been specifically designated as intensive burial plots (such as the sports pitch area at the northern extent of Abbey Field), whilst areas between designated plots may contain a significantly lower density of burials.

- 4.3** Map evidence suggests that this area was farmland in 17th and 18th centuries. The triangular plots were defined by at least 1876 with the areas shown as open ground with trees on the OS 1st Edition of 1874-1876, and 2nd Edition OS of 1893-c 1904. Both areas appear to contain single structures by 1921 but were still largely open ground. An MoD map of 1949 shows the area now heavily built over with two structures covering the central and western part of Area C1X and four structures dominating Area C2X but the remainder of the areas is shown as open (CAT Report 97).

- 4.4** Area C1X and Area C2X, as with other locations to the south of the Roman town wall, have a higher potential to contain human burials of Roman or Saxon date than the contemporary agricultural landscape further to the south. The most informative excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester by CAT to date have been at Butt Road (CAR 9), Abbey Field (CAT Report 138), Turner Rise (Shimmin forthcoming), and Handford House (CAT report in prep). Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Roman Britain, because the town began with the converging of two different populations, ie the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.

- 4.5** The rest of the Colchester Garrison land was subject to a large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 (CAT Reports 184, 197, 203, 205, 206, 207).

## 5 The trial-trenching

### 5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-3??)

Three trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area C1X (Trenches 4-6 [or T4-T6]) and three in Area C2X (Trenches 1-3 [or T1-T3]). All trenches were 1.6m wide unless otherwise stated. Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology in section 7.

**Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil. [data to add]**

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
T1	NE: 599735.25; 224458.24 SW: 599708.94; 224415.08	50m (+ extra 12m double width)		
T2	W: 599741.34; 224483.19 E: 599750.80; 224486.13	10m		
T3	NW: 599686.24; 224468.54 SE: 599690.61; 224459.34	10m x 3.7m		
T4	N: 599642.64; 224587.45 S: 599645.69; 224553.56	40m		
T5	N: 599626.32; 224539.18 S: 599616.68; 224571.75	23.5m		
T6	NE: 599612.80; 224586.07 SW: 599601.52; 224573.75	16.5m		

### 5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 2-??)

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

#### 5.2.1 Area C2X, Trench 1: summary (Figs 1-2, 4-6??)

This trench was excavated on the northern side of the cricket pitch. The majority of datable features were Roman in date and included four Roman cremation burials (CF30, CF31, CF33, CF38); one Roman lead coffin (CF43); a probable robbed-out Roman mausoleum (CF34); and three Roman wall lines (CF44, CF57, CF46/CF54/CF55). Most of the remains were clustered in the northern half of the trench. The majority of Roman features were found at a shallow depth; for example, CF34 was only 300mm below the current ground-level. This feature and the cremation burials were not cut into the natural ground but into the yellowish sandy silt subsoil above (CL11) which in turn contained Roman pottery.

**Table 2: Trench 1 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF30	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- or 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF31	Urned cremation burial	mid 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF33	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF34	Spread of collapsed building	1st- to 4th-century pottery, Roman	Roman

	material (CBM), sandstone, limestone and septaria Deep circular robber trench (possible mausoleum)	CBM	
CF37	Pottery spread – no cut	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF38	Urned cremation burial	Roman pottery	Roman
CF42	Natural feature	no finds	-
CF43	Oval cut containing lead coffin liner with Fe nails	late 2nd- to mid 3rd-century pottery lead coffin liner	late Roman
CF44	Bottom of a stone wall foundation next to CF37, probably associated with the cemetery	mid 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF45	Narrow linear feature	1 piece of Roman grey ware pottery	Roman?
CF46	Loose Roman tile chippings - floor or wall foundation, seen in NW-facing section - continuation of CF55	-	Roman
CF53	Ditch with a post-hole (CF56)	1st- to 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF54	Possible robbed out wall	-	Roman robbing of a Roman wall?
CF55	Loose mortar and Roman tile chippings, floor or wall foundation, seen in SE-facing section - continuation of F46	-	Roman
CF56	Post-hole within F53	-	Roman
CF57	Loose Roman tile chippings in both sections of trench - floor or wall foundation	-	Roman
CL10	Turf and topsoil	Roman roof tile	post-Roman
CL11	Subsoil – relict ploughsoil?	Roman tile and 1st- to ?early 4th-century pottery	Roman
CL12	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL13	Layer of crushed brick fragments and limestone with mortar, robbed floor within robber trench CF34	Roman pottery	Roman

### 5.2.2 Area C2X, Trench 2: summary (Figs 1-2, 7??)

This trench was excavated in a grassed area, between a bunker and the cricket pavilion. It contained two ditches (CF36 and CF39), the former definitely Roman and the latter undated but likely to be contemporary. Two modern military trenches were left unexcavated (CF40 and CF41). A thicker accumulation of subsoil was observed in this trench (600mm of CL8).

**Table 3: Trench 2 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF36	Ditch containing brick and tile	Roman brick and tile	Roman
CF39	Ditch	no finds	Roman?
CF40	Military trench	modern Army crockery	modern
CF41	Military trench	peg-tile	modern
CL7	Topsoil	-	modern
CL8	Subsoil	-	undated
CL9	Natural sand and gravel	-	-

### 5.2.3 Area C2X, Trench 3: summary (Figs 1-2, 7??)

Trench 3 was located in a grassed area next to Circular Road East. The main archaeological features were one Roman cremation burial (CF24), one partially complete Roman inhumation burial with the skull placed under the lower legs (CF27), one possible small grave for a child but without any bone (CF32), and one probable Roman rubbish-pit (CF25) perhaps associated with the cemetery.

**Table 4: Trench 3 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF24	Un-urned cremation burial	jar dated 1st- to early 2nd century (a probable accessory vessel); coin dated AD 270	Roman
CF25	Base of a rubbish-pit?	fragments from at least 8 vessels dated 1st-early 4th century, but mainly 2nd century	?early Roman
CF26	Pipe trench?	-	modern
CF27	Adult inhumation – Grave 1	small quantity of Roman pottery – late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	later Roman
CF28	Slot	-	undated
CF29	Service trench? truncating CF27	peg-tile and slate	modern
CF32	Possible child's inhumation but with no bone surviving	3?? late Roman Fe nails. Roman pottery 1st-late 3rd century	late Roman
CL4	Turf and topsoil	-	?modern
CL5	Subsoil	-	post-Roman
CL6	Natural cover loam grading into orangey brown sand	-	-

### 5.2.4 Area C1X, Trench 4: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8??)

Trench 4 was excavated in a grassed area to the east of the recently demolished Civil Club. Most of the significant archaeological remains were concentrated in the centre of the trench. These included three pits containing Bronze Age pottery (CF10, CF11, CF15), one ditch which may be contemporary with them (CF12), a robbed Roman wall (CF7), and a Roman or later collapsed wall (CF6). All archaeological features were cut into natural (CL3) except CF5/CF7 and CF6. Two silver Roman coins were found on the spoil heap (see section 6.4). There is a strong possibility that they derive not from disturbed burials but from a disturbed or wholly dispersed hoard, which was deposited in the 5th century.

**Table 5: Trench 4 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1	Shallow pit	-	?
CF2	Shallow pit	1 fragment of Roman pottery	Roman?
CF3	Narrow land drain	-	modern
CF4	Small pit	Roman brick	Roman?
CF5	Surface spread of mortar from robbed wall CF7	-	Roman
CF6	Collapsed wall -	coin found on surface dated AD	Roman or post-

	CBM, ragstone and mortar - 300mm below ground-level	270-73, Roman pottery and tile	Roman?
CF7	Robbed wall with mortar spread to the north (CF5)	pottery dated late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	Roman wall robbed in post-Roman period?
CF8	Straight-sided pit cutting CF5, CF9 and CL2	-	medieval or later
CF9	Straight-sided pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF10	Small pit	3 ?Bronze Age pot fragments and flint	Bronze Age
CF11	Pit with several fills	1 possible Beaker sherd and 7 other flint-tempered prehistoric sherds, plus flint flakes	?Early Bronze Age
CF12	Shallow ditch	1 flint	Bronze Age?
CF13	Small pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF14	pit	1 piece of Roman pottery	undated
CF15	Small pit	3 fragments of Beaker?	?Early Bronze Age
CF16	slot	tile	undated
CF17	Irregular-shaped pit	tile, 2 large pieces of ragstone and 1 piece Roman pottery	undated
CF18	Pit or tree throw	2 flints from the top 50mm	natural?
CF19	Pit	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman?
CF20	Small deep pit	slate and tile	modern?
CF21	Small pit	-	undated
CF22	Small deep pit	-	undated
CF23	Small shallow pit	1 possible flint	undated
CL1	Turf and topsoil	Roman tile and peg-tile	modern
CL2	Subsoil	19th- and 20th-century pot, peg-tile; Roman tile, Roman	post-medieval-modern
CL3	Natural sand and gravel	-	-

#### 5.2.5 Area C1X, Trench 5: summary (Figs 1, 3??)

Trench 5 was situated to the west of Trench 4. The southern half of the trench was in the area previously occupied by the Civil Club. This area had been seriously disturbed down to 800mm depth by the removal of foundations ('probing') by the demolition crew. The northern half of the trench was relatively undisturbed apart from a shallow metal pipe (CF63). The only archaeological features were a Roman rubbish-pit or ditch (CF47) and an undated but possibly post-medieval ditch (CF52).

**Table 6: Trench 5 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF47	Rubbish-pit or ditch with animal bone and oyster shells	pottery dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Roman furniture nail	Roman
CF52	Pit or ditch heavily disturbed by modern activity – continuation of CF51?	-	undated
CF59	Disturbance to CF52 from 'probing' activity	-	modern

CF63	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble- demolition of previous building	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil		undated
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

### 5.2.6 Area C1X, Trench 6: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8??)

Trench 6 was excavated along the western edge of Area C1X, to the west of the demolished Civil Club. Modern pipes and drains had caused disturbance; nevertheless there were some archaeological features surviving. These included a slightly hollowed cobbled surface or track (CF60) and a shallow spread or dump of ragstone and Roman pottery (CF50) which sealed a pit (CF51).

**Table 6: Trench 6 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF48	Ditch	concrete	modern
CF49	Darker fill covering CF60	-	?
CF50	Shallow spread or dump of ragstone, Roman tile and Roman pottery	large quantity of pottery dating from 1st to 4th century including <i>tazza</i> , samian and amphora fragments	Roman
CF51	Wide ditch – field boundary or furrow?	post- medieval pottery	post-medieval
CF58	Pit with animal bone, sealed by CF50	-	Roman
CF60	Hollowed cobbled surface, path	-	?
CF61	Metal pipe	-	modern
CF62	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble from recent demolition	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil	-	post-medieval
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

## 6 The finds

### 6.1 General

The finds are listed in Table 8 (Appendix) which gives descriptions and approximate dates for stratified finds. Summaries of the prehistoric and Roman pottery and the small finds are given here. The full report will contain reports on the environmental remains, human and animal bone, lithics and fuller reports on the pottery.

### 6.2 The prehistoric pottery

Within Trench 4, three pits produced sherds of what appear to be Beaker pottery of Early Bronze Age date. One of these pits also produced sherds of flint-tempered pottery of uncertain prehistoric date.

### 6.3 The Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

6.8kg of Roman pottery was collected from the evaluation. The assemblage was dominated by Colchester products of the 2nd to mid to late 3rd centuries (eg Colchester colour-coat and black-burnished ware category 2), and the samian is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Of note is a handle from a CAM 176 (ovoid storage jar with four handles), in black sand fabric probably of Italian origin. There was no Roman pottery that need be pre-Flavian (pre AD 69) in date. There were almost no pottery types which appear at Colchester from the mid 3rd century onwards, ie no Nene Valley, Hadham or Oxford wares; however, the broad-rimmed jar (CAM 279c) dates from the mid 3rd century onwards. Therefore almost all of the pottery could be accommodated between a date range of the 2nd to mid 3rd century. (Fabric descriptions are after *CAR 10*; CAM form numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958).

### 6.3 The small finds

by Nina Crummy

**Table 7: catalogue of small finds.**

SF	Find no	Feature or Layer	Trench	Material	Identification	Functional category	Date
4	37	u/s spoilheap	T4	silver	antoninianus, Postumus	-	AD 259-68
6	43	CF24	T3	CuA	antoninianus, Claudius II, commemorative	-	AD 270
2	13	CL1	T4	CuA	antoninianus, Tetricus (II?), barbarous	-	AD 270-3
1	5	u/s metal-detecting	T4	silver	<i>siliqua</i> , Honorius	-	AD 393-423
10	113	u/s spoilheap	-	lead	token	-	Roman
11	117	CF47	T5	CuA	furniture nail	11	Roman
8	-	CF43/ Grave 2	T1	lead	coffin liner, with bead-and-reel moulding along the edge of the lid	14	late Roman
7	105	CF43/ Grave 2	T1	lead	fragment of the bead-and-reel moulding from the coffin liner lid	14	-
9	112	u/s	T1	lead	disc, probably a weight	6	-
5	38	u/s	T4	lead	offcut?	15	-
-	58	CF32	T3	iron	4 nails, 1 shank fragment	11/14	late Roman
3	36	u/s	T4	iron	machine part (but just possibly a brooch spring and pin fragment)	11 or 1	modern or LIA/ Roman

Note: the functional category number codes refer to *CAR 2*.

## 7 Discussion

[to come]

## 8 Conclusions [to be rewritten by KO]

In total 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features) including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were



Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11) and there were a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.

In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent part of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a collapsed wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins are considered to be part of a dispersed coin hoard.

Trenches in Area C2X showed clear evidence that this area was well within the Roman cemetery. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.

Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.

## 9 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by Taylor Woodrow. The project consultants were RPS. The project was monitored by CBCAO. RPS provided EOD cover.

The fieldwork was supervised by Kate Orr and carried out by Mariusz Gorniak, Brian Hurrell, Nigel Rayner and Dave Ross.

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- |                |         |  |
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## 11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (c 2000 BC-700 BC)
CAR	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report</i>
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	collapsed building material
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
CuA	copper-alloy
cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EHCR	Essex Heritage Conservation Record, held by Essex County Council
EIA	Early Iron Age (c 700 BC-400 BC)

EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Fe	iron
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
<i>imbrex</i>	Roman curved roof-tile
LIA	Late Iron Age (c 200 BC-AD 43)
MBA	Middle Bronze Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age ( <i>circa</i> 400 BC-200 BC)
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th and 20th centuries
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>opus signinum</i>	type of Roman mortar made of crushed tiles, often used for base for floors
pit	a hole dug principally for the disposal of rubbish
pm	post-medieval (after Henry VIII and up to Victorian)
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
quern	grinding-stone to convert grain to flour
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 430
RPS	
Saxon	the period from c AD 430 to AD 1066
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
<i>tegula</i>	Roman roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	red baked clay cube from Roman floor
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester Museums

## 12 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2004.296.

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### Distribution list:

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**Appendix**  
**Table 8: finds list.**

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
1	CF1	C1X	4	Mortar, septaria, Roman tile
2	U/S	C1X	4	Pottery and tile
3	CF2	C1X	4	Pottery, tile, Fe nail
4	CL2	C1X	4	Roman tile, peg tile, china
5	U/S	C1X	4	Silver Roman coin (SF1)
6	CF7	C1X	4	Pottery and tile
7	CF8	C1X	4	Pottery, tile, bone
8	CF9	C1X	4	Tile, opus signinum
9	CL1	C1X	4	Roman tile, peg tile
10	CL2	C1X	4	Roman tile and peg tile
11	CL2	C1X	4	Human bone (from CF27)
12	CF25	C1X	4	Roman pottery and tile, septaria and uncremated bone
13	CF6	C1X	4	Cu alloy coin (SF2)
14	CF10	C1X	4	Bronze Age pot fragments
15	CF10	C1X	4	stones
16	CF10	C1X	4	flints
17	CF11	C1X	4	flints
18	CF11	C1X	4	Bronze Age pottery inc. one sherd of Beaker?
19	CF11	C1X	4	stones
20	CF12	C1X	4	flint
21	CF13	C1X	4	Roman tile and peg tile
22	CF4	C1X	4	Roman brick
23	CF16	C1X	4	Tile, flint
24	CF15	C1X	4	Bronze Age pottery – Beaker?
25	CF15	C1X	4	flint
26	CF14	C1X	4	Pottery and bone
27	CF18	C1X	4	Flint core? And flake
28	CF17	C1X	4	Roman tile and Roman pottery
29	CF23	C1X	4	Small flint
30	CF23	C1X	4	Flint flake
31	CF20	C1X	4	Slate, tile fragments
32	CF12	C1X	4	pottery
33	CF19	C1X	4	Flint and stone
34	CF6	C1X	4	Roman tile, ragstone, animal bone
35	CF6	C1X	4	1 fragment of pottery
36	U/S	C1X	4	Fe object – modern or LIA/Roman (SF3)
37	U/S	C1X	4	Silver Roman coin (SF4)
38	U/S	C1X	4	Lead offcut. (SF5)
39	CF24	C2X	3	Fragmented Roman pot
40	CF24	C2X	3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
41	CF24	C2X	3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
42	CF24	C2X	4	Fe nail
43	CF24	C2X	3	Cu alloy coin (SF6)
44	CF25	C2X	3	Fe nail
45	CF25	C2X	3	Uncremated bone including animal bone
46	CF25	C2X	3	Glass fragment
47	CF25	C2X	3	Pottery and tile fragments
48	CF25	C2X	3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
49	CF25	C2X	4	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
50	CF29	C2X	3	Pot, tile, slate
51	CF33	C2X	1	Roman pot – part of a cremation urn
52	CL11	C2X	1	Roman tegula

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
53	CL11	C2X	1	Roman tile, tessera and pot
54	CF33	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn fragments
55	CF31	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn fragments
56	CF30	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn fragments
57	CF28	C2X	3	Pot
58	CF32	C2X	3	3x Fe nails
59	CF32	C2X	3	Roman pot
60	CF32	C2X	3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
61	CF32	C2X	3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
62	CF29	C2X	3	Human bone remains (to west of grave F27, G1)
63	CL11	C2X	1	Roman pot + tile (poss from CF37)
64	CF33	C2X	1	Roman tile
65	CL10	C2X	1	Roman tile
66	CL11	C2X	1	Roman pot, tile and bone (near F38)
67	CF27	C2X	3	Human bone fragments (found during cleaning)
68	CF27	C2X	3	Human bone fragments (upper leg)
69	N/A			
70	CF27	C2X	3	Knuckle bone, found in pelvic area
71	CF27	C2X	3	Pot and tile
72	CF33	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
73	CF33	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn
74	CF36	C2X	2	Roman pottery and tile
75	CF41	C2X	2	Peg tile fragments
76	CF37	C2X	1	Fragmented Roman grey ware urn
77	CF27	C2X	3	Human skull (Grave 1)
78	CF27	C2X	3	Left human leg (G1)
79	CF27	C2X	3	Right human leg (G1)
80	CF27	C2X	3	Human pelvis (G1)
81	CF27	C2X	3	Roman pot and tile (G1)
82	CF27	C2X	3	Human lower left arm (G1)
83	CF27	C2X	3	Human right arm (G1)
84	CF38	C2X	1	Roman pottery
85	CF38	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn
86	CF38	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
87	CF38	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
88	CF43	C2X	1	Roman pot and tile
89	CF31	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
90	CF31	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
91	CF31	C2X	1	Roman pottery
92	CF34	C2X	1	Roman tile, opus signinum fragments and animal bone
93	CF38	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
94	CF31	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn
95	CF31	C2X	1	Roman pottery (incl some loose cremation urn sherds)
96	CF31	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
97	CF45	C2X	1	Pottery fragments
98	CL13	C2X	1	Roman pottery and opus signinum fragments
99	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail A (left in situ) (Grave2)
100	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail B (left in situ) (G2)
101	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail C (left in situ) (G2)
102	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail D (left in situ) (G2)
103	CF44	C2X	1	Roman pottery, tile and a lump of ragstone
104	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail E (left in situ) (G2)
105	CF43	C2X	1	Lead boss (SF7) (G2)
106	CF43	C2X	1	Coffin nail F (left in situ) (G2)

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
107	CF34	C2X	1	Roman pottery sherds
108	CF43	C2X	1	Lead coffin (left in situ) (SF8) (G2)
109	CF30	C2X	1	Roman cremation urn
110	CF30	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
111	CF30	C2X	1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
112	U/S	C1X	-	Lead weight (SF9) (found on the spoil heap)
113	U/S	C1X	-	Lead token? (SF10) (found on the spoil heap)
114	CF53	C2X	1	Roman pottery, CBM and FE nails
115	CF34	C2X	1	Roman pottery sherds
116	CF38	C2X	1	Roman pottery sherds (part of cremation urn (85))
117	CF47	C1X	5	Cu Alloy pin (SF11)
118	CF58	C1X	6	Bone
119	CL15	C1X	5/6	Pottery fragments
120	CF50	C1X	6	Roman pottery, tile and bone
121	CF47	C1X	5	Roman tile, pottery, oyster shell and animal bone
122	CF47	C1X	5	Roman pottery, tile and charcoal lumps
123	CL15	C1X	6	Roman pottery and tile
124	CF51	C1X	6	Post Med? pottery, tile and bone
125	CL15	C1X	6	Pottery and bone
126	CF60	C1X	6	Bone and CBM fragments

# Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site name/address:</b> Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> Area C1X, TL 9960 2460 (c) Area C2X, TL 9975 2447 (c)	<b>Site code:</b> 2004.296
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 13th-24th May 2004	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1ha
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 271 and summary in EAH	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Bronze Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>This is the interim report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of [the planned urban village at] Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow in for residential development.</i></p> <p><i>Three trenches were excavated in each area. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11,) and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent [the remains of] a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a collapsed wall using or re-using Roman building material, [and] Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity [here] in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins are thought to be part of a dispersed coin hoard.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this area was well within the?? Roman cemetery [here??]. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 97, ??	
<b>Author of summary:</b> K Orr	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2004



# **i n t e r i m   r e p o r t**

## **An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex May 2004**

**report prepared by  
Kate Orr**

**commissioned by  
RPS Planning, Transport & Environment  
on behalf of  
Taylor Woodrow**

CAT project ref.: 04/4D  
Colchester Museums accession code: 2004.296  
NGR: Area C1X, TL 9960 2460 (c); Area C2X, TL 9975 2447 (c)



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**CAT Report 271**  
June 2004

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**CAT Report 271**  
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## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims and objectives	2
4	Archaeological background	2
5	The trial-trenching	3
6	The finds	8
7	Discussion	9
8	Conclusions	12
9	Acknowledgements	12
10	References	12
11	Glossary and abbreviations	13
12	Archive deposition	14
13	Appendix - Table 10: finds list	16

## **List of figures**

- Fig 1 Location of trenches.
- Fig 2 Plan of Area C2X.
- Fig 3 Plan of Area C1X.
- Fig 4 Trench 1: section and plan.
- Fig 5 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 6 Trench 1: sections and plan.
- Fig 7 Trench 2 and Trench 3: sections and plans.
- Fig 8 Trench 4 and Trench 6: sections and plans.

## 1 Summary

*This is the interim report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of the planned urban village at Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow for residential development.*

*Three trenches were excavated in each area totalling 178m of trenching. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11), and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.*

*In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent the remains of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity here in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins are thought to be part of a dispersed coin hoard.*

*In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this site is well within the area of the Roman cemetery to the south of the walled town. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.*

*Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.*

## 2 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

- 2.1 The proposed development of the alienated land at Colchester Garrison involves the redevelopment, primarily for residential use, of areas of the present Colchester Garrison and adjacent farmland formerly owned by the MoD. The construction of the new Garrison over the next four years will allow a phased decanting of the existing Garrison personnel into the new Garrison, thus facilitating phased release of areas of the former Garrison for redevelopment. In response to the proposed development and redevelopment, further archaeological evaluation by means of trial-trenching is required in order to complete the partial evaluation of the alienated land conducted for *The new Garrison composite environmental statement* (Masfield 2002). No trial-trenching was conducted within Area C1X/Area C2X during the large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 of the Garrison PFI site. The requirement for a minimum 3% trial-trenching was agreed between Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), RPS (the project archaeological consultants), and the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT, the archaeological contractors).
- 2.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Taylor Woodrow and was carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.
- 2.3 The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS in association with CAT, dated April 2004, and agreed by CBCAO (RPS 2004b). The WSI was produced in accordance with a research design prepared by RPS in 2004 (RPS 2004a). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1999), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1999).

- 2.4** Area C1X is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9960 2460. Area C2X is centred on NGR TL 9975 2447. Area C1X occupies a 0.32ha triangular piece of land within the angle of Flagstaff Road and Circular Road North, to the west of Flagstaff House. Area C2X occupies a 0.68ha triangular area in the angle of Napier Road and Circular Road East, to the south of Flagstaff House.
- 2.5** Most of Area C1X was previously occupied by the Civil Service Club buildings which have now been demolished. Within Area C2X, various structures with shallow pad foundations have been demolished as well as two World War 2 air-raid bunkers; a watching brief was carried out by CAT on this work in May 2004 (report in prep). The rest of Area C2X consists of part of the cricket pitch, tarmac and grassed areas and one remaining World War 2 bunker.
- 2.6** Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam.

### **3 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.
- 3.2** This information will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.
- 3.3** The results of previous excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester in conjunction with similar work elsewhere in England, especially the south-east, enable the following issues to be identified as research priorities for the Colchester Garrison Urban Village site (RPS 2004b):
- the identification of cemetery areas and family plots within them
  - the origin and development of cemeteries and cemetery areas especially in relation to fields and other parcels of land
  - the date and nature of the transition from the rite of cremation to that of inhumation
  - the extent to which different populations and social groupings within them can be distinguished through their funerary remains
  - the characterisation of the population of Colchester and social groupings within it through the study of human remains
  - grave goods as expressions of religious beliefs and superstition, and
  - buildings, tombs and other structures (funerary and otherwise) within cemetery areas.

### **4 Archaeological background**

- 4.1** Area C1X and Area C2X are located within the area of an extra-mural Roman cemetery associated with the walled Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis* to the north (RPS 2004a; RPS 2004b; CAT Report 97). There are also records of Anglo-Saxon burials in areas close to Mersea Road in the north-west area of Meeanee Barracks according to the Colchester Garrison PFI desk-based assessment (CAT Report 97). Trial-trenching by CAT in 2002 within Meeanee Barracks, on the east side of Mersea Road, uncovered a single burial which could date to either of these periods (CAT Report 206).

Discoveries made in the 20th century, immediately adjacent to Area C1X and Area C2X, comprise a lead coffin found in Mersea Road opposite the Officers' Mess in 1937 (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432) and two Roman cremations found in the bank of Mersea Road (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432). Recorded burials to the south-east comprise several Roman cremations found north of the TA Centre during air-raid shelter construction in 1939 (Hull no 131, UAD

event no 1070, NGR TL 999 242), whilst an inhumation grave was found nearby (Hull no 161, UAD event no 1090, NGR TL 9985 2415). An archaeological evaluation was conducted by CAT at the TA Centre in 1996 and Roman roofing tile was recovered but no certain Roman features (UAD event no 3593, NGR TL 9982 2415; fieldwork notes for CAT project reference 10/96).

There are no recorded burials to the immediate east of Area C2X but there are records of two burials within Area C2X itself. These burials within Area C2X comprise a Roman urn, presumably from a cremation, found in 1934, south-east of the Garrison Post Office (Hull no 129, UAD event 1069, NGR TL 9969 2443) and inhumations with beakers and flagons, found in 1939, north of the ATS quarters (Hull no 130, UAD event no 1071, NGR TL 997 245). Another Roman burial was found nearby in 1947 south of Napier Road (Hull no 59, UAD event no 1034, NGR TL 9987 2447).

- 4.2** At least 28 Roman burials were found slightly further afield within the area of the Abbey Field sports ground (300m to the south-west) in 1925 (Hull no 200, UAD event no 1099, NGR TL 9940 2430).

Trial-trenching and excavation of this site by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremations, some only 300mm below existing ground (CAT Report 138; CAT Report 54; NGR TL 9954 2441). The records state that a large number of pots, presumably from cremations, were found during levelling in 1922 for the 'Abbey Field football ground' (Hull 1958, 255; UAD event no 1110). The grid reference was given as TL 9985 2425 by the UAD whilst further Roman burials from the 'Garrison football field' were recorded by the UAD at TL 9985 2432 (Hull no 199, UAD event no 1098, EHCR no 13231), a grid reference which suggests that they were within the area of the current football pitch south of Area C2X. However, P Crummy (pers comm) is certain that these burial records are in fact part of the Abbey Field burial ground 300m to the west and that therefore the grid references are incorrect. The records show that Roman burials south of the Roman town wall are found over a very wide area, which includes Area C1X and Area C2X; however, the density of burials varies greatly. Some plots may have been specifically designated as intensive burial plots (such as the sports pitch area at the northern extent of Abbey Field), whilst areas between designated plots may contain a significantly lower density of burials.

- 4.3** Map evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 17th and 18th centuries. The triangular plots were defined by at least 1876 with the areas shown as open ground with trees on the OS 1st Edition of 1874-1876, and 2nd Edition OS of 1893-c 1904. Both areas appear to contain single structures by 1921 but were still largely open ground. An MoD map of 1949 shows the area now heavily built over with two structures covering the central and western part of Area C1X and four structures dominating Area C2X but the remainder of the areas is shown as open (CAT Report 97).
- 4.4** Area C1X and Area C2X, as with other locations to the south of the Roman town wall, have a higher potential to contain human burials of Roman or Anglo-Saxon date than the contemporary agricultural landscape further to the south. The most informative excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester by CAT to date have been at Butt Road (CAR 9), Abbey Field (CAT Report 138), Turner Rise (Shimmin forthcoming), and Handford House (CAT report in prep). Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Roman Britain, because the town began with the converging of two different populations, ie the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.
- 4.5** The rest of the Colchester Garrison land was subject to a large-scale evaluation carried out by CAT in 2002 (CAT Reports 184, 197, 203, 205, 206, 207).

## 5 The trial-trenching

### 5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

Three trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area C1X (Trenches 4-6 or T4-T6) and three in Area C2X (Trenches 1-3 or T1-T3). All trenches were 1.6m wide unless otherwise stated. Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology in section 7.

**Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.**

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
T1	NE: 599735.25; 224458.24 SW: 599708.94; 224415.08	50m (+ extra 12m double width)	34.12 34.10	33.60 33.45
T2	W: 599741.34; 224483.19 E: 599750.80; 224486.13	10m	34.32 34.34	33.37 33.26
T3	NW: 599686.24; 224468.54 SE: 599690.61; 224459.34	10m x 3.7m	34.34 34.27	33.50 33.60
T4	N: 599642.64; 224587.45 S: 599645.69; 224553.56	34m (+ extra 10m double width)	34.10 34.16	33.25 34.45
T5	N: 599626.32; 224539.18 S: 599616.68; 224571.75	23.5m	34.10 34.31	33.23 33.30
T6	NE: 599612.80; 224586.07 SW: 599601.52; 224573.75	16.5m	34.25 34.40	33.37 33.50

### 5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence

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

#### 5.2.1 Area C2X

##### Trench 1: summary (Figs 1-2, 4-6)

This trench was excavated on the northern side of the cricket pitch. The majority of datable features were Roman in date and included four single urned cremation burials (CF30, CF31, CF33, CF38); one Roman lead coffin (CF43); a possible robbed-out Roman mausoleum (CF34); and three Roman wall lines (CF44, CF57, CF46/CF54/CF55). Most of the remains were clustered in the northern half of the trench. The majority of Roman features were found at a shallow depth; for example, CF34 was only 200mm below the current ground-level. This feature and the cremation burials were not cut into the natural ground but into the yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil above (CL11) which in turn contained Roman pottery.

**Table 2: Trench 1 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF30	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- or 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF31	Urned cremation burial	mid 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF33	Urned cremation burial	late 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF34	Spread of ceramic building material (CBM), sandstone, limestone and septaria	1st- to 4th-century pottery, Roman CBM	Roman

	Deep circular robber trench (possible mausoleum)		
CF37	Pottery spread – no cut	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF38	Urned cremation burial	Roman pottery	Roman
CF42	Natural feature	no finds	-
CF43	Oval cut containing lead coffin liner with Fe nails	late 2nd- to mid 3rd-century pottery lead coffin liner	late Roman
CF44	Bottom of a stone wall foundation next to CF37, probably associated with the cemetery	mid 3rd- to 4th-century pottery	Roman
CF45	Narrow linear feature	1 piece of Roman grey ware pottery	Roman?
CF46	Loose Roman tile chippings – floor or wall foundation, seen in NW-facing section – continuation of CF55	-	Roman
CF53	Ditch with a post-hole (CF56)	1st- to 3rd-century pottery	Roman
CF54	Possible robbed-out wall	-	Roman robbing of a Roman wall?
CF55	Loose mortar and Roman tile chippings, floor or wall foundation, seen in SE-facing section – continuation of F46	-	Roman
CF56	Post-hole within F53	-	Roman
CF57	Loose Roman tile chippings in both sections of trench – floor or wall foundation	-	Roman
CL10	Turf and topsoil	Roman roof tile	post-Roman
CL11	Subsoil – relict ploughsoil?	Roman tile and 1st- to ?early 4th-century pottery	Roman
CL12	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL13	Layer of crushed brick fragments and limestone with mortar, robbed floor within robber trench CF34	Roman pottery	Roman

### Trench 2: summary (Figs 1-2, 7)

This trench was excavated in a grassed area, between a bunker and the cricket pavilion. It contained two ditches (CF36 and CF39), the former definitely Roman and the latter undated but likely to be contemporary. Two modern military trenches were left unexcavated (CF40 and CF41). A thicker accumulation of subsoil was observed in this trench (600mm of CL8).

**Table 3: Trench 2 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF36	Ditch containing brick and tile	Roman brick and tile	Roman
CF39	Ditch	no finds	Roman?
CF40	Military trench	modern Army crockery	modern
CF41	Military trench	peg-tile	modern
CL7	Topsoil	-	modern
CL8	Subsoil	-	undated
CL9	Natural sand and gravel	-	-



### Trench 3: summary (Figs 1-2, 7)

Trench 3 was located in a grassed area next to Circular Road East. The main archaeological features were one Roman cremation burial (CF24), one partially complete Roman inhumation burial (the upper body having been removed by later truncation) with the skull placed under the lower legs (CF27), one possible small grave for a child but without any bone (CF32), and one indeterminate Roman feature (CF25) which is either a rubbish-pit or a cremation burial.

**Table 4: Trench 3 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF24	Un-urned cremation burial	jar dated 1st- to early 2nd century (a probable accessory vessel); coin dated AD 270	Roman
CF25	Base of a rubbish- pit or cremation burial	fragments from at least 8 vessels dated 1st-early 4th century, but mainly 2nd century	?early Roman
CF26	Pipe trench?	-	modern
CF27	Adult inhumation – Grave 1	small quantity of Roman pottery – late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	later Roman
CF28	Slot	-	undated
CF29	Service trench? truncating CF27	peg-tile and slate	modern
CF32	Possible child's inhumation but with no bone surviving	3 late Roman Fe nails Roman pottery of 1st to late 3rd century	late Roman
CL4	Turf and topsoil	-	?modern
CL5	Subsoil	-	post-Roman
CL6	Natural cover loam grading into orangey brown sand	-	-

### 5.2.2 Area C1X

#### Trench 4: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8)

Trench 4 was excavated in a grassed area to the east of the recently demolished Civil Service Club. Most of the significant archaeological remains were concentrated in the centre of the trench. These included three pits containing Bronze Age pottery (CF10, CF11, CF15), one ditch which may be contemporary with them (CF12), a robbed Roman wall (CF7), and a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman material (CF6). All archaeological features were cut into natural (CL3) except CF5/CF7 and CF6. Two silver Roman coins were found on the spoil heap (see section 6.4). There is a strong possibility that they derive not from disturbed burials but from a disturbed or wholly dispersed hoard, which was deposited in the early 5th century.

**Table 5: Trench 4 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1	Shallow pit	-	undated
CF2	Shallow pit	1 fragment of Roman pottery	Roman?
CF3	Narrow land drain	-	modern
CF4	Small pit	Roman brick	Roman?
CF5	Surface spread of mortar from robbed wall CF7	-	Roman
CF6	Demolished wall – CBM, ragstone and mortar, 300mm below ground-level	coin found on surface dated AD 270-73, Roman pottery and tile	Roman or post-Roman?

CF7	Robbed wall with mortar spread to the north (CF5)	pottery dated late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century	Roman wall robbed in post-Roman period?
CF8	Straight-sided pit cutting CF5, CF9 and CL2	-	medieval or later
CF9	Straight-sided pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF10	Small pit	3 ?Bronze Age pot fragments and flint	Bronze Age
CF11	Pit with several fills	1 possible Beaker sherd and 7 other flint-tempered prehistoric sherds, plus flint flakes	?Early Bronze Age
CF12	Shallow ditch	1 flint	Bronze Age?
CF13	Small pit	peg-tile	medieval or later
CF14	pit	1 piece of Roman pottery	undated
CF15	Small pit	3 fragments of Beaker?	?Early Bronze Age
CF16	slot	tile	undated
CF17	Irregular-shaped pit	tile, 2 large pieces of ragstone and 1 piece Roman pottery	undated
CF18	Pit or tree throw	2 flints from the top 50mm	natural?
CF19	Pit	1st- to late 3rd-century pottery	Roman?
CF20	Small deep pit	slate and tile	modern?
CF21	Small pit	-	undated
CF22	Small deep pit	-	undated
CF23	Small shallow pit	1 possible flint	undated
CL1	Turf and topsoil	Roman tile and peg-tile	modern
CL2	Subsoil	19th- and 20th-century pot, peg-tile; Roman tile, Roman	post-medieval to modern
CL3	Natural sand and gravel	-	-

#### Trench 5: summary (Figs 1, 3)

Trench 5 was situated to the west of Trench 4. Most of the trench was in the area previously occupied by the Civil Service Club buildings. The ground in the southern half of the trench had been seriously disturbed down to 800mm depth by the construction of the buildings' slab foundations and the removal of the foundations (by 'probing') by the demolition crew. The northern half of the trench was relatively undisturbed apart from a shallow metal pipe (CF63). The only archaeological features were a Roman rubbish-pit or ditch (CF47) and an undated but possibly post-medieval ditch (CF52).

**Table 6: Trench 5 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF47	Rubbish-pit or ditch with animal bone and oyster shells	pottery dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Roman furniture nail	Roman
CF52	Pit or ditch heavily disturbed by modern activity – continuation of CF51?	-	undated
CF59	Disturbance to CF52 from 'probing' activity	-	modern
CF63	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble – demolition of previous building	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil	-	undated
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

### Trench 6: summary (Figs 1, 3, 8)

Trench 6 was excavated along the western edge of Area C1X, to the west of the demolished Civil Service Club. Modern pipes and drains had caused disturbance; nevertheless there were some archaeological features surviving. These included a slightly hollowed cobbled surface or track (CF60) and a shallow spread or dump of ragstone and Roman pottery (CF50) which sealed a pit (CF51).

**Table 7: Trench 6 – archaeology.**

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF48	Ditch	concrete	modern
CF49	Darker fill covering CF60	-	undated
CF50	Shallow spread or dump of ragstone, Roman tile and Roman pottery	large quantity of pottery dating from 1st to 4th century including <i>tazza</i> , samian and amphora fragments	Roman
CF51	Wide ditch – field boundary or furrow?	post-medieval pottery	post-medieval
CF58	Pit with animal bone, sealed by CF50	-	Roman
CF60	Hollowed cobbled surface, path	-	undated
CF61	Metal pipe	-	modern
CF62	Metal pipe	-	modern
CL14	Modern rubble from recent demolition	-	modern
CL15	Subsoil	-	post-medieval
CL16	Natural sand and gravel	-	-
CL17	Topsoil	-	modern

## 6 The finds

### 6.1 General

The finds are listed in Table 10 (Appendix) which gives descriptions and approximate dates for stratified finds. Summaries of the prehistoric and Roman pottery and the small finds are given here. The full report will contain reports on the environmental remains, human and animal bone, lithics and fuller reports on the pottery.

### 6.2 The prehistoric pottery

Within Trench 4, three pits produced sherds of what appear to be Beaker pottery of Early Bronze Age date. One of these pits also produced sherds of flint-tempered pottery of uncertain prehistoric date.

### 6.3 The Roman pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*

6.8kg of Roman pottery was collected from the evaluation. The assemblage was dominated by Colchester products of the 2nd to mid to late 3rd centuries (eg Colchester colour-coat and black-burnished ware category 2), and the samian is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Of note is a handle from a CAM 176 (ovoid storage jar with four handles), in black sand fabric probably of Italian origin. There was no Roman pottery that need be pre-Flavian (pre-AD 69) in date. There were almost no pottery types which appear at Colchester from the mid 3rd century onwards, ie no Nene Valley, Hadham or Oxford

wares; however, the broad-rimmed jar (CAM 279c) dates from the mid 3rd century onwards. Therefore almost all of the pottery could be accommodated between a date range of the 2nd to mid 3rd century. (Fabric descriptions are after *CAR 10*; CAM form numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958.)

### 6.3 The small finds by Nina Crummy

**Table 8: catalogue of small finds.**

SF	Find no	Feature or Layer	Trench	Material	Identification	Functional category	Date
4	37	U/S spoilheap	T4	silver	antoninianus, Postumus	-	AD 259-68
6	43	CF24	T3	CuA	antoninianus, Claudius II, commemorative	-	AD 270
2	13	CL1	T4	CuA	antoninianus, Tetricus (II?), barbarous	-	AD 270-3
1	5	U/S metal-detecting	T4	silver	<i>siliqua</i> , Honorius	-	AD 393-423
10	113	U/S spoilheap	-	lead	token	-	Roman
11	117	CF47	T5	CuA	furniture nail	11	Roman
8	-	CF43/ Grave 2	T1	lead	coffin liner, with bead-and-reel moulding along the edge of the lid	14	late Roman
7	105	CF43/ Grave 2	T1	lead	fragment of the bead-and-reel moulding from the coffin liner lid	14	-
9	112	U/S	T1	lead	disc, probably a weight	6	-
5	38	U/S	T4	lead	offcut?	15	-
-	58	CF32	T3	iron	3 nails, 1 shank fragment	11/14	late Roman
3	36	U/S	T4	iron	machine part (but just possibly a brooch spring and pin fragment)	11 or 1	modern or LIA/ Roman

Note: the functional category number codes refer to *CAR 2*.

## 7 Discussion

### 7.1 General discussion

#### Area C2X

#### 7.1.1 Trench 1

Four cremation burials of simple single urned type were recorded. None were complete, the tops having been removed by ploughing or levelling of the cricket pitch in the past. These features were encountered just below topsoil (CL10) and were all cut into CL11, a Roman layer occurring above the natural. Consequently, seeing the burials before they were clipped by the machine bucket was problematic. These cremation burials cluster in the northern half of the trench, apart from CF30 which appears to be rather more isolated, at the southern end of the trench.

In the centre of the trench, a feature (CF34) which appeared to be a spread of Roman tile and stone rubble, was encountered 200mm below current ground-level. On excavation it was found to comprise demolition debris sealing a circular robber trench which is 1.65m deep. A layer of crushed brick fragments, limestone and mortar (CL13) within the upper fill of the robber trench may derive from a floor. Given its location, the feature is interpreted as having been a mausoleum. Two possible wall lines appearing in

the sections of the trench (CF46/CF55 and CF57) may have formed part of a square enclosure around the mausoleum.

Grave 2 (CF43), which featured a lead coffin liner, lies alongside CF34; however, their relationship is unclear. The lead coffin liner was left *in situ* for possible later retrieval but it probably contains an inhumation. The length of the coffin liner could not be established; however, its width (320mm) suggests that a child was interred in it. Large Fe nails surrounding the coffin liner indicate the presence of an outer wooden coffin. An upright piece of Roman brick at the top of the cut may have formed part of a grave marker (Fig 6).

The base of a narrow stone wall foundation at the northern end of the trench (CF44) may have demarcated a plot within the cemetery. The smashed Roman pot (CF37) next to it could derive from a cremation burial although no cremated bone was associated with it.

#### **7.1.2 Trench 2**

Two ditches with similar fills (CF36 and CF39) were identified. Ditch CF36 was aligned north to south and contained Roman ceramic building material. Ditch CF39 was aligned north-west to south-east, and it is undated but likely to be contemporary. Without further excavation it is not possible to assign a function to these ditches; however, they may be associated with the cemetery. Two modern military trenches were left unexcavated (CF40 and CF41).

#### **7.1.3 Trench 3**

Most features were cut into natural cover loam (CL6). The cremation burial (CF24) appears to be un-urned as the bone was concentrated away from a small jar. The jar may have been an accessory vessel containing food or drink. On the southern side of the trench, a flexed inhumation burial was recorded, with the skeleton positioned on its side with the head placed under the lower legs (CF27, Grave 1). Analysis of the bone should provide us with the age and sex of the individual and possibly the cause of death. The top of the skeleton was truncated by a modern service trench (CF29). The practice of decapitating the head of the deceased post-mortem using a scalpel has been identified at other Roman cemeteries in Britain, for example at the 4th-century Roman inhumation cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester (CAR 9; Clarke 1979) and also in Colchester (CAR 6, 378).

A small semi-rectangular cut containing Fe nails but no bone may represent a small grave for a child (CF32). During excavations carried out by CAT in 2003 in the Garrison PFI site, several such graves were recorded, where the acidity of the sand had caused the bone to disintegrate and only the coffin nails survived (Brooks forthcoming). Juvenile human bone would be less likely to survive than adult bone, which would explain why the bone from the inhumation in Grave 1 survived while the bone from CF32 did not.

The base of a cut feature containing sherds from at least eight Roman vessels may prove to be a cremation burial once the bone has been analysed (CF25). However, the animal bone and the variety of pots suggest that the feature may have been a rubbish-pit, possibly used by the people visiting the cemetery.

### **Area CX1**

#### **7.1.4 Trench 4**

Most of the significant archaeological remains were concentrated in the centre of the trench. These included three pits (CF10, CF11, CF15) containing flints and possible Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery, none of which material has yet been reported on by specialists. These findings are consistent with what has been found in the area previously. A Neolithic or Bronze Age Beaker has been found along Flagstaff Road; in St John's Abbey grounds, late Bronze Age pottery from pits and a flaked Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint blade were recorded during excavations by CAT in 1972; and a Bronze Age burial urn has been found on Abbey Field (CAT Report 97, 7). The ditch CF12 may be contemporary with the pits. Clearly the landscape here was being utilised in the Bronze Age, but whether for settlement, agriculture or burial remains to be determined.

A robbed Roman wall (CF5/CF7) on an east to west alignment was the only definite Roman structure from this trench. However, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material was recorded on the same alignment to the south (CF6). Pits of uncertain date may also date to the Roman period.

Further excavation may lead to the recovery of further silver coins if a coin hoard was deposited here.

#### 7.1.5 Trench 5

The ground of the southern half of the trench had been seriously disturbed down to 800mm depth. Shallower features such as those found in Trenches 4 and 6 will have been lost here, but features cut into natural were shown to have survived (CF47 and CF52) .

#### 7.1.6 Trench 6

Modern pipes and drains had caused disturbance; nevertheless, some archaeological features survived. A slightly hollowed cobbled surface following a north-west to south-east alignment was observed (CF60). This feature is as yet undated but appeared to be a path or track. To the south, a shallow spread or dump of ragstone and Roman pottery (CF50) sealed a Roman pit (CF51). Taken with the features in Trenches 4 and 5, this is good evidence of Roman activity in this area, although the nature of such activity is not determined.

**Table 9: number of features per trench.**

	Bronze Age	Roman	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Undated	Natural
T1		13					1
T2		2			2		
T3		4			2	1	
T4	4	4	4		2	7	2 (inc 1 without feature no)
T5		1			2	1	1 (without feature no)
T6		2		1	3	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

## 7.2 Distribution of archaeological remains

Prehistoric features were confined to Area C1X. These consisted of ephemeral Bronze Age features that may extend further, judging by previous discoveries in the area. No evidence of Iron Age activity was recorded from either Area C1X or Area C2X. This indicates that both areas lie outside the area of the *oppidum*.

Roman remains were encountered in both areas. Area C2X forms part of the southern extra-mural Roman cemetery and features high- and low-status burials. Area C1X does not appear to be part of the cemetery; however, structural remains, building material, pits and ditches indicate that it was being utilised in some manner in the Roman period. The lack of burials within Area C1X in comparison with Area C2X suggests that the cemetery had focal burial sites with gaps between the groupings. It would appear that the southern boundary of this southern cemetery falls somewhere within the modern cricket pitch, as during subsequent evaluation by CAT in 2004 in the football pitch to the south, no Roman burials have been recorded.

## 8 Conclusions

The evaluation of the 1ha site consisted of 178m of trial-trenching and 57 features were recorded during the work. Prehistoric features were confined to Area C1X and consisted of ephemeral Bronze Age pits and a possible ditch. No evidence of Iron Age activity was recorded from either area.

Roman remains were encountered in both Area C1X and Area C2X. The cremations and inhumations from Area C2X show that it forms part of the southern extra-mural Roman cemetery of the town. It seems that individuals of both low and high status were buried here. Area C1X does not appear to be part of the cemetery; however, structural remains, building material, pits and ditches indicate that it was being utilised in some manner in the Roman period. Two unstratified silver Roman coins from Area C1X may be part of a dispersed early 5th-century coin hoard.

The evidence from the evaluation indicates that the area was not used for any other purpose other than agriculture in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Modern features mainly relate to the site's use as part of the garrison and include military trenches, services and pits.

## 9 Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was supervised by Kate Orr and carried out by Mariusz Gorniak, Brian Hurrell, Nigel Rayner and Dave Ross.

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Colchester Museums (Colchester Borough Council)	1999	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums</i>
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL, <b>14</b>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
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Masefield, R	2002	<i>The new Garrison composite environmental statement</i>
RPS	2002	<i>Colchester Garrison PFI Health and Safety plan</i>
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## 11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (c 2000 BC-700 BC)
CAR	Colchester Archaeological Report
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	ceramic building material
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
CuA	copper-alloy



cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EHCR	Essex Heritage Conservation Record, held by Essex County Council
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Fe	iron
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
LIA	Late Iron Age (c 200 BC-AD 43)
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th and 20th centuries
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>opus signinum</i>	type of Roman mortar made of crushed tiles, often used as base for floors
pit	a hole dug principally for the disposal of rubbish
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and to the end of the 19th century
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning, Transport & Environment
Anglo-Saxon	the period from c AD 430 to AD 1066
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
SF	small find
<i>tegula</i>	Roman roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	red baked clay cube from Roman floor
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester Museums

## 12 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2004.296.

## Ó Colchester Archaeological Trust 2004

### Distribution list:

John Philips of Taylor Woodrow  
Rob Masfield of RPS  
Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council  
Essex Heritage Conservation Record



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*Checked by:* Philip Crummy  
*Date:* 03.06.04

*Adams c:/reports04/GUV Area C/interim/report271.doc*

## Appendix

Table 10: finds list.

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
1	CF1	C1X	T4	Mortar, septaria, Roman tile
2	U/S	C1X	T4	Pottery and tile
3	CF2	C1X	T4	Pottery, tile, Fe nail
4	CL2	C1X	T4	Roman tile, peg-tile, china
5	U/S	C1X	T4	Silver Roman coin (SF1)
6	CF7	C1X	T4	Pottery and tile
7	CF8	C1X	T4	Pottery, tile, bone
8	CF9	C1X	T4	Tile, <i>opus signinum</i>
9	CL1	C1X	T4	Roman tile, peg-tile
10	CL2	C1X	T4	Roman tile and peg-tile
11	CL2	C1X	T4	Human bone (from CF27)
12	CF25	C1X	T4	Roman pottery and tile, septaria and uncremated bone
13	CF6	C1X	T4	CuA coin (SF2)
14	CF10	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pot fragments
15	CF10	C1X	T4	stones
16	CF10	C1X	T4	flints
17	CF11	C1X	T4	flints
18	CF11	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pottery including one sherd of Beaker?
19	CF11	C1X	T4	stones
20	CF12	C1X	T4	flint
21	CF13	C1X	T4	Roman tile and peg-tile
22	CF4	C1X	T4	Roman brick
23	CF16	C1X	T4	Tile, flint
24	CF15	C1X	T4	Bronze Age pottery – Beaker?
25	CF15	C1X	T4	flint
26	CF14	C1X	T4	Pottery and bone
27	CF18	C1X	T4	Flint core? and flake
28	CF17	C1X	T4	Roman tile and Roman pottery
29	CF23	C1X	T4	Small flint
30	CF23	C1X	T4	Flint flake
31	CF20	C1X	T4	Slate, tile fragments
32	CF12	C1X	T4	Pottery
33	CF19	C1X	T4	Flint and stone
34	CF6	C1X	T4	Roman tile, ragstone, animal bone
35	CF6	C1X	T4	1 fragment of pottery
36	U/S	C1X	T4	Fe object – modern or LIA/Roman (SF3)
37	U/S	C1X	T4	Silver Roman coin (SF4)
38	U/S	C1X	T4	Lead offcut (SF5)
39	CF24	C2X	T3	Fragmented Roman pot
40	CF24	C2X	T3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
41	CF24	C2X	T3	Soil sample – contains cremated bone
42	CF24	C2X	T4	Fe nail
43	CF24	C2X	T3	CuA coin (SF6)
44	CF25	C2X	T3	Fe nail
45	CF25	C2X	T3	Uncremated bone including animal bone
46	CF25	C2X	T3	Glass fragment
47	CF25	C2X	T3	Pottery and tile fragments
48	CF25	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
49	CF25	C2X	T4	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
50	CF29	C2X	T3	Pot, tile, slate
51	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman pot – part of a cremation urn
52	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman <i>tegula</i>
53	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman tile, <i>tessera</i> and pot

Finds bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Detail
54	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
55	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
56	CF30	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn fragments
57	CF28	C2X	T3	Pot
58	CF32	C2X	T3	3 x Fe nails
59	CF32	C2X	T3	Roman pot
60	CF32	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
61	CF32	C2X	T3	Soil sample with possible cremated bone
62	CF29	C2X	T3	Human bone remains (to west of grave F27, Grave 1)
63	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman pot + tile (possibly from CF37)
64	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman tile
65	CL10	C2X	T1	Roman tile
66	CL11	C2X	T1	Roman pot, tile and bone (near F38)
67	CF27	C2X	T3	Human bone fragments (found during cleaning)
68	CF27	C2X	T3	Human bone fragments (upper leg)
69	N/A			
70	CF27	C2X	T3	Knuckle bone, found in pelvic area
71	CF27	C2X	T3	Pot and tile
72	CF33	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
73	CF33	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
74	CF36	C2X	T2	Roman pottery and tile
75	CF41	C2X	T2	Peg-tile fragments
76	CF37	C2X	T1	Fragmented Roman grey ware urn
77	CF27	C2X	T3	Human skull (Grave 1)
78	CF27	C2X	T3	Left human leg (Grave 1)
79	CF27	C2X	T3	Right human leg (Grave 1)
80	CF27	C2X	T3	Human pelvis (Grave 1)
81	CF27	C2X	T3	Roman pot and tile (Grave 1)
82	CF27	C2X	T3	Human lower left arm (Grave 1)
83	CF27	C2X	T3	Human right arm (Grave 1)
84	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman pottery
85	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
86	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
87	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain some cremated bone
88	CF43	C2X	T1	Roman pot and tile
89	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
90	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
91	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman pottery
92	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman tile, <i>opus signinum</i> fragments and animal bone
93	CF38	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
94	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn
95	CF31	C2X	T1	Roman pottery (inc some loose cremation urn sherds)
96	CF31	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
97	CF45	C2X	T1	Pottery fragments
98	CL13	C2X	T1	Roman pottery and <i>opus signinum</i> fragments
99	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail A (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
100	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail B (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
101	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail C (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
102	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail D (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
103	CF44	C2X	T1	Roman pottery, tile and a lump of ragstone
104	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail E (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
105	CF43	C2X	T1	Lead moulding from coffin (SF7) (Grave 2)
106	CF43	C2X	T1	Coffin nail F (left <i>in situ</i> ) (Grave 2)
107	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds
108	CF43	C2X	T1	Lead coffin (left <i>in situ</i> ) (SF8) (Grave 2)
109	CF30	C2X	T1	Roman cremation urn

<b>Finds bag no</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Detail</b>
110	CF30	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
111	CF30	C2X	T1	Soil sample – may contain cremated bone
112	U/S	C1X	-	Lead weight (SF9) (found on the spoil heap)
113	U/S	C1X	-	Lead token (SF10) (found on the spoil heap)
114	CF53	C2X	T1	Roman pottery, CBM and Fe nails
115	CF34	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds
116	CF38	C2X	T1	Roman pottery sherds (part of cremation urn (85)
117	CF47	C1X	T5	CuA furniture nail (SF11)
118	CF58	C1X	T6	Bone
119	CL15	C1X	T5/T6	Pottery fragments
120	CF50	C1X	T6	Roman pottery, tile and bone
121	CF47	C1X	T5	Roman tile, pottery, oyster shells and animal bone
122	CF47	C1X	T5	Roman pottery, tile and charcoal lumps
123	CL15	C1X	T6	Roman pottery and tile
124	CF51	C1X	T6	Post-medieval? pottery, tile and bone
125	CL15	C1X	T6	Pottery and bone
126	CF60	C1X	T6	Bone and CBM fragments

# Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site name/address:</b> Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> Area C1X, TL 9960 2460 (c) Area C2X, TL 9975 2447 (c)	<b>Site code:</b> 2004.296
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th-24th May 2004	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1ha
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b>
<b>Interim report:</b> CAT Report 271	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Bronze Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>This is the interim report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of Area C1X and Area C2X of the planned urban village at Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. This work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow in for residential development.</i></p> <p><i>Three trenches were excavated in each area totalling 178m of trenching. In total, 57 features were excavated or exposed (plus four natural features), including remains of regional archaeological significance. Nearly half of the features (26) were Roman in date. The next largest group of features were modern (11,) and there was a large proportion of undated features (11). There were four probable Bronze Age features, four probable medieval features and one post-medieval feature.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C1X, a cluster of Bronze Age features, consisting of three pits and a possible Bronze Age ditch, may represent the remains of a settlement or could be associated with a burial site. A robbed Roman wall, a Roman or later demolished wall using or re-using Roman building material, and Roman pits, ditches and spreads of Roman material indicate activity here in this period which has yet to be understood fully. Two unstratified silver Roman coins may be part of a dispersed coin hoard.</i></p> <p><i>In Area C2X there was clear evidence that this site is well within the area of the Roman cemetery to the south of the walled town. Cremation and inhumation burials including a lead coffin and a possible mausoleum were investigated. Various Roman walls and ditches are interpreted as being associated with the cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>Outside the previously built-up areas, the disturbance to buried remains has not been severe and therefore the potential for further survival of remains is considered to be high.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 97, ??	
<b>Author of summary:</b> K Orr	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2004

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<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 97, ??	
<b>Author of summary:</b> K Orr	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2004