

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

**report prepared by
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation at Area E of the planned urban village at the Garrison, Colchester, Essex was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow for residential development.

Four trenches were excavated with a total of 213m of trenching. Within the evaluation trenches, 25 features were recorded. All of these features were Roman, except for modern disturbance and a post-medieval ditch which is interpreted as possibly being part of the remains of the 1648 siegeworks. The Roman activity was concentrated in Trench E1 and Trench E2 and included demolition material and the robbed-out wall lines of a building surrounded by a large enclosure ditch. Large amounts of demolition material and pottery were also recovered from this ditch, dating it to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. Outside the enclosure ditch, in Trench E1 and Trench E4, a number of smaller ditches were recorded which are interpreted as having been boundary ditches forming part of a field system associated with the enclosure and the structure within it. Some of the Roman pottery retrieved during the evaluation may represent disturbed burials.

2 Introduction (Fig 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 the former Garrison areas. In response to the proposed development and redevelopment, a programme of further archaeological evaluation by means of trial-trenching is now required. This work was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in 2004 on Areas C, O and E as a continuation of the partial evaluation of alienated land conducted by CAT in 2002 for *The new garrison composite environmental statement* (Masfield 2002) and based on information produced by the 2002 evaluation and presented in CAT Reports 197, 203, 205, 207, and particularly CAT Report 206 (CAT Reports 271 and 272).

Area E is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9986 2427, and is located on the west side of Mersea Road and the east side of Circular Road East to the east of Abbey Field (Fig 1). The site is currently used as a sports pitch. Area E is a more or less flat piece of land, with a terrace along the northern side separating the cricket pitch to the north of Area E from the sports pitch of Area E. The drop is about 0.5m and suggests that Area E has been subject to some levelling. Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam.

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.

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* (2002), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1999).

It should be noted that Area E will be marked on archive records as Area EX in order to differentiate it from Area E of the new garrison project.

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 The archaeological and historical setting of the proposed development has already been comprehensively explored in the desk-based assessment or DBA (CAT Report 97), and is only summarised here (ie the *oppidum* and cropmark sites), followed by information on the Roman burials, cartographic evidence and some recent work. This section is also based on CAT Report 206, RPS 2004a and RPS 2004b.

Much of the land to the south and west of the modern town centre falls within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The surviving above-ground remains of the *oppidum* consist of some of the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system which surrounded it. Centres of occupation, trackways, boundary ditches and roads have been identified from cropmarks. The Garrison PFI site occupies the eastern edge of the *oppidum* which is defined by the Berechurch Dyke; this crosses the extreme south-east of the PFI site. Area E lies within the pre-Roman *oppidum*.

As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two main centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km west of the Garrison PFI site), which was a late Iron Age rural farmstead (possibly the home of Cunobelin), and at Sheepen (2km to the north of the Garrison PFI site), which was an industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the *oppidum*. Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were a number of smaller sites, industrial or domestic, that await discovery within the *oppidum*. One such site has been recorded at Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Shimmin 1998). The cropmarks within the Garrison PFI site may represent the trackways and field boundary ditches that are associated with such sites.

A large number of cropmarks have been recorded over the southern part of the Garrison PFI site. Geophysical survey has partially confirmed and also added to the pattern of these cropmark features (CAT Report 184). Interpretation based on limited excavation (Brooks forthcoming) would indicate that these are late prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date and represent the trackways, paddocks and field boundaries of a rural landscape. Overlapping of the cropmarks suggests that multiple phases of activity are represented.

- 4.2** In addition to the pre- and early Roman activity relating to occupation and agriculture that is associated with the *oppidum*, the land immediately to the south of the walled town includes part of the area of its Roman southern extra-mural cemetery and therefore Area E has some potential to contain burials of a Roman date (CAT Report 271).

Roman burials were recorded within the area of the Garrison PFI site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. One of these discoveries comprised three burials, including 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 were also found in the bank of Mersea Road (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432). Roman graves have been recorded to the south-east of Area E (the southern part of Abbey Field: Hull no 200, UAD event no 1099). The burials in Abbey Field were previously noted by Hull during hut-building activities 'to the north of the military hospital' in 1939 (Hull nos 133 & 133, UAD event no 1073, EHCR nos 11893-11894, NGR TL 9960 2395). These recorded burials of the Roman southern extra-mural cemetery have been found over a wide area and the density of the burial appears to vary greatly. It would seem that areas of this cemetery were designated as intensive burial plots (such as the site of the sports pitch at the north end of Abbey Field), while other areas of the cemetery to the south contain far less dense distribution of burial groups (CAT Report 54; CAT Report 97; CAT Report 138). Roman burials have also been found during the current programme of evaluation in Area C1 and C2, in May 2004 (CAT Report 271).

There are also records of an Anglo-Saxon burial in the vicinity of Area E close to Mersea Road and of another one in the north-west area of Meeanee Barracks in 1938 (UAD event 935, TL 9993 2473; CAT Report 97).

- 4.3** Cartographic evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 18th century (Chapman and André map of 1777). The site of the T A Centre to the immediate south was used by the military from at least 1876, with Area E shown as open ground on the OS 1st Edition of 1874-1876 and the 2nd Edition of 1893-1904. Area E is labelled as being part of the Garrison cricket ground by 1921. The six World War Two air-raid shelters are shown on MoD maps of 1949 (CAT Report 97). The remainder of the area is shown as open ground, probably already with its current use as a sports pitch.
- 4.4** A series of trial-trenches was excavated in 2002 within the area of the new garrison (Areas A and V), located to the north, east and south of Area E (CAT Report 206). In Area A (within Meeanee Barracks), a single burial was recorded although it was not possible to precisely date the remains as either Roman or Anglo-Saxon. Trial-trenching in 2002 at the southern extent of Abbey Field (Area V) to the south-west of Area E showed that the area had been heavily disturbed by modern services and no significant archaeological remains were recorded (CAT Report 206).

5 The trial-trenching

5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-5)

Four trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area E (Trenches E1-E4 or TE1-TE4). All the trenches were 1.6m wide. 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
TE1	W: 599831.66, 224304.14 E: 599885.55, 224314.76	55m	34.12 34.10	33.60 33.45
TE2	N: 599908.73, 224316.85 S: 599971.15, 224267.37	50m	34.32 34.34	33.37 33.26
TE3	E: 599898.80, 224245.51 W: 599845.52, 224234.85	54m	34.34 34.27	33.50 33.60
TE4	N: 599804.43, 224285.02 S: 599814.55, 224231.51	54m	34.10 34.16	33.25 34.45

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.

Trench E1: summary (Figs 1-3)

This trench was excavated on the north side of Area E. Evidence of significant terracing of the sports pitch was observed in Trench E1: the topsoil EL1 was the thickness of the turf while the depth of subsoil to natural was just 200mm. This suggests that a large amount of topsoil and subsoil material has been removed. The datable features are all Roman and include two boundary ditches (EF1 & EF2) and the return of an enclosure ditch (EF9 & EF10). The Roman features were spread throughout the trench, with two modern service-pipes at the eastern end.

Table 2: Trench E1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
EF1	Ditch	Pottery	Roman
EF2	Ditch	-	-
EF3	Post-hole	-	-
EF9/EF10	Enclosure ditch	Pottery, Purbeck marble	Roman
EF15	Modern disturbance	-	modern
EL1	Turf/topsoil	-	modern
EL2	Subsoil	Pottery, tesserae, Fe nails	Roman

Trench E2: summary (Figs 1-2, 4)

This trench was located in the easternmost part of Area E adjacent to Mersea Road, between the air-raid shelters and the sports pitch. As in Trench E1, evidence of significant terracing was observed, with the depth of topsoil and subsoil increasing towards the southernmost end of the trench. The bulk of the archaeological features recorded during the evaluation were within this trench. As in Trench E1, the datable features are all Roman and include more of the enclosure ditch recorded in Trench E1 (EF13 & EF22) and the remains of a structure within the enclosure. Evidence of at least two phases of the building was recorded, in the form of post-holes (EF19, EF20, EF21) sealed by robber trenches (EF4 & EF7) and demolition material (EL4). The remains of a clay floor and a metallised surface associated with the structure were also recorded. Pottery from the fill of the enclosure ditch and the demolition layer indicate a 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century date for the structure and enclosure. Some oystershells were observed in the section of enclosure ditch EF13 and this may represent domestic debris. As well as the structural remains, two smaller ditches were recorded in this trench (EF23 & EF24). These appear to be boundary ditches similar to those in Trench E1 and are likely to have formed part of a Roman field system. The archaeological features were spread throughout the trench, with a modern service in the centre; this service extends east towards the six air-raid shelters on Mersea Road and likely to be associated with them.

Table 3: Trench E2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
EF4	Robber trench	Tile, animal bone, box flue tile	Roman
EF5	Metalled surface	<i>Tesserae</i>	Roman
EF6	Modern disturbance	-	modern
EF7	Robber trench	Tile, pottery	Roman
EF8	Stake hole	-	
EF13	Enclosure ditch	Pottery, tile, animal bone, box flue tile, <i>opus signinum</i>	Roman
EF19	Post-hole	-	Roman
EF20	Post-hole	-	-
EF21	Post-hole	-	-
EF22	Enclosure ditch	Pottery, tile	Roman
EF23	Ditch	Pottery	Roman
EF24	Ditch	Pottery, burnt flint, <i>tesserae</i>	Roman
EL1	Turf/topsoil	-	modern
EL2	Subsoil	Pottery, tile	Roman
EL3	Clay floor	-	-
EL4	Building demolition	Tile, pottery	Roman
EL6	Crushed asphalt/clinker	-	modern

Trench E3: summary (Figs 1-2, 5)

Trench E3 was located along the southern edge of the sports pitch adjacent to the T A Centre. Further evidence of substantial terracing of the sports pitch was observed, with the depth of topsoil and subsoil (1m-1.10m) being far greater than in any of the other trenches. Only two archaeological features were recorded in Trench E3, a ditch (EF12) and a pit (EF25). The ditch appears to be another boundary ditch and is likely to be associated with the other ditches recorded during the evaluation (EF1, EF2, EF24) and which together appear to belong to a field system. A large amount of modern disturbance was observed throughout the trench in the form of drains and water-pipes. These may have been associated with the military buildings on the site of the T A Centre to the immediate south of the trench.

Table 4: Trench E3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
EF12	Ditch	Fe nails, pottery	Roman
EF17	Modern disturbance	-	modern
EF25	Pit	Pottery	Roman
EL1	Turf/topsoil	-	modern
EL2	Subsoil	Pottery	Roman
EL6	Crushed asphalt/clinker	-	modern

Trench E4: summary (Figs 1-2, 5)

Trench E4 was excavated in a grassed area to the west of the sports pitch. As in the other three evaluation trenches, evidence of considerable terracing was observed, with the depth of topsoil and subsoil decreasing towards the northern end of the trench. Very few archaeological features were recorded in this trench. The three datable features are a large post-medieval ditch at the southern end of the trench, possibly representing part of the 1648 siegeworks, and a small Roman pit and a post-hole packed with septaria at the north end. No evidence of any modern disturbance was observed in this trench.

Table 5: Trench E4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
EF11	Ditch	Pottery, peg-tile, brick	post-medieval
EF14	Pit	Pottery	Roman
EF16	Pit	Tile	Roman
EL1	Turf/topsoil	-	modern
EL2	Subsoil	Pottery	Roman
EL6	Crushed asphalt/clinker	-	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, Roman and post-medieval pottery and the small finds are given here.

6.2 The pottery

6.2.1 The prehistoric pottery

Within Trenches E1 and E2, three sherds of flint-tempered pottery were recovered from EF10 (Trench E1) and EF13 (Trench E2) of uncertain prehistoric date. Although the heavy flint temper in the fabric suggests a Bronze Age date, the pottery comes from the enclosure ditch which dates to the 2nd to 3rd century AD, suggesting that the pot sherds are residual.

6.2.2 The Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

A total of 21.5kg of Roman pottery was collected from the evaluation. Overall, almost all of the datable Roman pottery fits within a date range of early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. There are a few sherds in fabrics and of vessel forms which could date from the 1st to early 2nd century or are probably of 1st-century date. Roman wares and identifiable forms of the mid 3rd century onwards are essentially absent. A few of the vessels may come from disturbed Roman burials.

Early Roman pottery is represented by a few sherds in wares and forms of 1st- and 1st- to early 2nd-century date. There are a few examples of vessel forms Cam 218 (bowl) and possibly Cam 266 (jar) both in Fabric GX (CAR 10), and both are dated 1st-early 2nd century. From the Brockley Hill/Verulamium region potteries, products of which date to the 1st-earlier 2nd century at Colchester, there is a sherd from a mortarium (Fabric TD, CAR 10) and a possible sherd from the same source in white ware (Fabric FJ, CAR 10). There are also few sherds of amphora (fabric group AA, ie amphora other than Dressel 20, CAR 10) which are probably of 1st- to early 2nd-century date. Amongst these, and of particular note, are two sherds from two different amphora which appear to be in Italian (Campanian) black sand fabric (context EF9 find no E4 & EL2 find no E36) which are probably of 1st-century date. The early Roman pottery constitutes only a small part of the assemblage and no early (1st-century) fine wares are present.

All of the samian forms are of 2nd- to early 3rd-century date, primarily from Central Gaul, and the dish forms are almost entirely of Dragendorf types 18/31 (earlier 2nd century) and 31 (later 2nd-early 3rd century). The other fine wares present are dominated by local late Colchester colour-coat wares (Fabrics CB & CZ, CAR 10) dating to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, with one or two sherds of imported Cologne (lower Rhineland) colour-coat ware (Fabric EZ, CAR 10) which appears at Colchester from the early 2nd century (CAR 10, p 229). Black-burnished wares are almost entirely of category 2 (BB2 of Fabric GB, CAR 10) dating to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, and bead-rim bowl forms Cam 37A (early 2nd-early 3rd century) and Cam 37B (late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century) are both present. There are no examples of the later black-burnished ware forms which begin to appear in black-burnished ware category 1

(BB1 of Fabric GA, **CAR 10**) or in local grey ware copies (Fabric KX, **CAR 10**) from the mid 3rd century onwards (pottery forms Cam 305, Cam 279C). Amongst the local grey wares (Fabric GX, **CAR 10**), the most common form of jar present is Cam 268 (dating from the mid 2nd-3rd/early 4th century), and bowl forms are represented by form Cam 299 (dated mid 2nd-3rd/4th century). Later regional imported wares, which begin to appear in Colchester from the mid 3rd century onwards, are completely or almost absent. No Nene Valley colour-coat wares, which are the main colour-coat wares found in Colchester from the mid 3rd century, are present. Red colour-coat products from the Oxford potteries (later 4th century at Colchester) and late shell-tempered ware forms (later 4th century) are also absent. There is a single sherd (from context EL3, find no E20) which is possibly from the Hadham kilns (Fabric CH, **CAR 10**), the products of which are primarily 4th century at Colchester, though they begin to appear from the later 3rd century onwards (**CAR 10**, p 297).

Of note are a few vessels which by their completeness suggest that they probably represent grave goods from disturbed burials. These are: a samian dish of form Walters 79 (Fabric BA, **CAR 10**, possibly from East Gaul (EG), dated c AD 160-earlier 3rd century) from context EF22 (find no E32), of which about two-thirds of the vessel is present in two large joining sherds; most of a broken grey ware jar from the same context; and the intact lower third of a grey ware jar from context EF22 (find no E42). (Cam form numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958.)

6.2.3 The post-medieval pottery

by Howard Brooks

A total of 225g of post-medieval pottery was collected from the evaluation. The five sherds of pottery were all Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE), and included a base and rim sherd. The pottery can be broadly assigned to the 16th-17th centuries and the rim sherd is of an early type and is more specifically datable to the 16th-17th centuries. Fabric descriptions are after **CAR 7**.

6.3 The small finds

by Nina Crummy

Table 6: catalogue of small finds.

SF	Find no	Feature or Layer	Trench	Material	Identification	Date
1	E31	EF13	E2	bone	Bone needle/pin fragment, possibly the end of the handle of a bone spoon	Roman
2	E9	EF13	E2	CuA	CuA cleat or double-pointed hook	uncertain
3	E39	EF24	E2	Fe	Fe nail with round-section shank and head	modern
4	E46	EF22	E2	stone	Hone stone	Roman
5	E40	EF10	E1	stone	Purbeck marble facing stone?	Roman

7 Discussion

In all four of the evaluation trenches, evidence of significant terracing across Area E was observed. In Trench E1, on the northern edge of the evaluation area, the topsoil (EL1) was the thickness of the turf while the depth of subsoil (EL2) to the natural was just 200mm, suggesting that a large amount of topsoil and subsoil material has been removed from the north end of the sports pitch. In Trenches E2 and E4, the depth of topsoil and subsoil increased towards the south of the trenches. In Trench E3, on the southern edge of the site, the depth of the topsoil and subsoil is far greater than in any of

the other trenches (1m-1.10m). This may indicate that the soil was moved from north to south as the area was levelled to create the playing surface of the sports pitch.

Most of the archaeological features recorded in the evaluation trenches are of a Roman date, and most of these were concentrated in Trenches E1 and E2, although Roman features were recorded in Trenches E3 and E4. In Trenches E1-E3, a series of ditches of similar size and fill material were recorded (EF1, EF2, EF12, EF23, EF24; Fig 2). These ditches are of a type widely observed across the Garrison site, and they have been interpreted as being boundaries to field systems associated with the Iron Age *oppidum* and the subsequent Roman occupation. The pottery recovered from EF1, EF12 and EF23 suggest a Roman date, indicating that they were part of a Roman field system rather than an Iron Age one. As well as the field boundary ditches, three large sections of ditch were recorded in Trenches E1 and E2. These ditches (EF9/EF10, EF13, EF22) appear to be part of a rectangular enclosure, the northern return of which was recorded in Trench E1. Within the enclosure, the remains of a structure were recorded, for which there is evidence of at least two phases of construction. The first phase of building is represented by a line of post-holes (EF19, EF20, EF21). These post-holes are sealed by robber trenches EF4 and EF7. This suggests that a semi-permanent structure was later replaced by a presumably clay-block building with a rubble foundation. Associated with the building, the remains of a clay floor (EL5) were recorded to the west of the robbed wall line EF4 and also the fragmented remains of a metallised surface (EF5) which could indicate a yard area to the east of the building. The clay floor was sealed by building demolition material EL4. Within the demolition, a large amount of roof tile was recorded, as well as large amounts of box flue tile, which is associated with hypocausts. This and a number of *tessera* cubes may be indicative of the status of the building. However, the roof and box flue tile that was recovered from the demolition (EL4) and from the fill of the enclosure ditches (EF13 & EF22) was very clean. This could be interpreted as being evidence for tile production on or close by the site rather than the material just being demolition debris, although there were no 'wasters' among the finds. Pottery from the demolition material (EL4) and from the fills of the enclosure ditches (EF13 & EF22) is dated to the mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd centuries, indicating the probable date for the enclosure and the structure. The eastern edge of the enclosure was not defined during the evaluation but is likely to have been truncated during the construction of the six air-raid shelters to the east of Area E.

No evidence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was encountered in any of the four evaluation trenches. However, a single post-medieval feature (EF11) was recorded at the south end of Trench E4. This is a large ditch on an east-west alignment. The fill of this ditch contained brick, peg-tile and post-medieval pottery. The pottery has been dated to the 16th-17th centuries. The ditch may be part of the ditch ('lager') which connected most of the various Parliamentary forts and gun emplacements which surrounded Colchester during the siege of 1648.

The siege map of 1648 shows siegeworks to the south of St John's abbey extending east-west through the northern end of the Garrison PFI site (CAT Report 97; CAT siege leaflet 1998). It is possible that this post-medieval ditch is a surviving fragment of the siegeworks. Little visible evidence of the siege survives. The locations that are suggested on the 1648 siege map are unreliable, due mainly to the fact that the siegeworks are not planned to scale but drawn to emphasise their positions. During excavations and geophysical surveys that have been conducted in other parts of the town, traces of the siegeworks which surrounded Colchester in 1648 have been observed. At Sheepen to the north-east of the Garrison area, excavations in the 1930s and a geophysics survey in 1998 identified a small fort (fort X on the modern plan of the siege, in CAT siege leaflet 1998). During further investigations at Mile End to the north of the Garrison area, ahead of redevelopment of the ASDA site, a series of post-medieval ditch features was identified (Shimmin forthcoming). These ditches were interpreted as being fragments of the outworks of Colonel Fothergall's fort of 1648. The observations that have been made at these other sites in the town, in conjunction with the ditch recorded in the evaluation at Area E, allow the locations of the fortifications

from the siege to be identified on the ground in relation to the locations that are suggested in the siege map of 1648.

During the evaluation, modern services were recorded in Trenches E1 and E3. These services consisted of drain-pipes, water-pipes and water-storage tanks. All of the drains and water-pipes were aligned north-south, and it is probable that these modern features were associated with the military buildings which stood on the site of the T A Centre (CAT Report 97).

Table 7: number of features per trench.

	Bronze Age	Roman	medieval	post-medieval	modern	undated	natural
TE1	-	3	-		2	1	1
TE2	-	11	-		1	2	-
TE3	-	4	-		7		-
TE4	-	4	-	1	-		-
Total	-	22	-	1	10	3	1

8 Conclusions

The evaluation carried out in Area E consisted of 213m of trial-trenching in which 25 archaeological features were recorded. No features of prehistoric or Iron Age date were observed, nor was any evidence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity found on the site. Roman remains were recorded in all four of the evaluation trenches.

Most of the evidence for Roman activity in Area E consisted of ditches, features and structural remains in the form of post-holes and robber trenches. In Trenches E1 and E2, an enclosure surrounded by a large ditch (EF9/EF10, EF13, EF22) was recorded. Within the enclosure, the remains of a building were recorded in the form of robber trenches and demolition material. The demolition layer contained large amounts of box flue tile and pottery which give a date range of mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. As well as the enclosure ditch, a number of other smaller ditches were recorded. These ditches are of a type that has been previously observed across the Garrison area, and form the boundaries of the original Iron Age and later Roman field systems. The pottery which was recovered from the enclosure ditches and the boundary ditches is of a similar date range, so it might be argued that the enclosed building is associated with the field system, and may represent a small domestic site within the *oppidum* similar to the one recorded at Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Shimmin 1998). The presence of box flue tile, *tessera* cubes and roof tiles is typically associated with the site of a Roman villa, whilst the association with domestic debris, including large quantities of pottery and oystershells, appears to confirm that it was a domestic site.

No Roman burials were recorded during the evaluation at Area E. However, some of the Roman pottery which was recovered from the enclosure ditch (EF22) included substantial parts of two grey ware jars and two-thirds of a samian platter. It is likely that this pottery represents disturbed grave goods which would indicate that there are burials in the locality, although the presence of a domestic site would appear to contradict concurrent use of the area as a cemetery (Area E is close to the part of the area of the Roman southern extra-mural cemetery; CAT Report 271).

A single post-medieval feature was recorded during the evaluation work, consisting of an east-west-aligned ditch containing pottery which is datable to the 16th-17th centuries. It is possible that the feature is associated with the Civil War siege works of 1648, which are shown on the siege map as extending south of St John's abbey close to Area E (CAT Report 97; CAT siege leaflet 1998). Modern disturbance observed during the evaluation consisted of water- and drain-pipes that are most likely to have been associated with the military buildings which stood on the site of the T A Centre.

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 Ben Holloway and carried out by Mariusz Gorniak, Chris Lister, Nigel Rayner and Dave Ross.

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- | | |
|--------------------|--|
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| CAT Report 54 | An archaeological evaluation at the Garrison sports ground, Circular Road North, Colchester, by Howard Brooks, unpublished CAT archive report, 2000 |
| CAT Report 97 | An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site, by Kate Orr, unpublished CAT archive report, 2000 |
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CAT Report 271		An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Area C1X and Area C2X of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex, by Kate Orr, unpublished CAT archive report, 2004
CAT Report 272		An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Area O of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex, by Ben Holloway, unpublished CAT archive report, 2004
CAT siege leaflet	1998	<i>The Siege of Colchester 1648</i> , produced by the Colchester Archaeological Trust
Colchester Museums (Colchester Borough Council)	2002	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
Colchester Museums (Colchester Borough Council)	2002	<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, 14
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Masefield, R	2002	<i>The new garrison composite environmental statement</i>
RPS	2004a	<i>Research design for archaeological investigations for the alienated land, Colchester Garrison</i>
RPS	2004b	<i>WSI for archaeological evaluation and excavation of the alienated land, Colchester Garrison – Areas C1 and C2</i>
Shimmin, D	1998	'A late Iron Age and Roman occupation site at Kirkee McMunn Barracks, Colchester', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , 29 , 260-69
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11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
box flue tile	hollow tile associated with hypocausts (under-floor heating systems)
Bronze Age	c 2000 BC-700 BC
CAR	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report</i>
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
CuA	copper-alloy
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

Iron Age	7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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>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: 18.06.04

Adams c:/reports04/GUV Area E/report274.doc

13 Appendix

Table 8: finds list.

Find bag no	Context	Area	Trench	Description	Weight (g)
6	EF13	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	40
6	EF13	E	E2	Fe nails	51
6	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	75
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1200
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1184
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	46
10	EF14	E	E4	Roman pot	100
32	EF22	E	E2	Roman pot	936
36	EL2	E	E2	Roman pot	155
41	EF23	E	E2	Roman pot	260
34	EF4	E	E2	Roman pot	10
35	EF5	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	37
34	EF4	E	E2	Tile	267
14	EF4	E	E2	Tile	2000
10	EF4	E	E2	Tile	1700
14	EF4	E	E2	Roman pot	5
13	EL2	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	35
19	EL2	E	E2	Fe nails	21
13	EL2	E	E2	Roman pot	53
32	EF22	E	E2	Tile	116
10	EF14	E	E4	Tile	64
35	EF5	E	E2	Roman pot	25
19	EL2	E	E2	Roman pot	30
32	EF22	E	E2	Flint flake	9
6	EF13	E	E2	Prehistoric pot	10
6	EF13	E	E2	Fe nails	66
12	EF16	E	E4	Tile	133
6	EF13	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	39
12	EF16	E	E4	Animal bone	80
13	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	44
12	EF12	E	E4	Fe nail	15
43	EF25	E	E3	Box flue tile	717
43	EF25	E	E3	Roman pot	555
4	EF10	E	E1	Roman pot	363
4	EF10	E	E1	Tile	381
4	EF10	E	E1	Box flue tile	80
1	EF1	E	E1	Roman pot	305
37	EF24	E	E2	Tile	1795
37	EF24	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	15
37	EF24	E	E2	Roman pot	858
37	EF24	E	E2	Burnt flint	47
7	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1269
7	EF13	E	E2	Tile	1882
30	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	767
30	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	60
30	EF13	E	E2	Tile	33
30	EF13	E	E2	Fe nails	29
30	EF13	E	E2	Prehistoric pot	4
7	EF13	E	E2	Tile	2100
7	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	74
7	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	310
7	EF13	E	E2	Box flue tile	298
37	EF24	E	E2	Tile	2700
37	EF24	E	E2	Roman pot	130
18	EF4	E	E2	Tile	1250

18	EF4	E	E2	Animal bone	17
18	EF4	E	E2	Box flue tile	239
40	EF10	E	E1	Purbeck marble	150
15	EF7	E	E2	Tile	255
15	EF7	E	E2	Roman pot	42
42	EF22	E	E2	Roman pot	251
8	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	2050
8	EF13	E	E2	Tile	516
8	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	246
43	EF25	E	E2	Roman pot	447
2	EF10	E	E1	Roman pot	114
20	EL3	E	E2	Roman pot	7
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1158
6	EF13	E	E2	Tile	163
16	EL4	E	E2	Tile	1983
16	EL4	E	E2	Roman pot	288
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1804
30	EF13	E	E2	Tile	1327
30	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	591
30	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	566
30	EF13	E	E2	Box flue tile	62
30	EF13	E	E2	<i>Opus signinum</i>	19
30	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	578
30	EF13	E	E2	Animal bone	83
30	EF13	E	E2	Tile	93
6	EF13	E	E2	Burnt flint	64
16	EL4	E	E2	Prehistoric pot	9
16	EL4	E	E2	Roman pot	2151
6	EF13	E	E2	Tile	3000
6	EF13	E	E2	Box flue tile	1215
6	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1292
7	EF13	E	E2	Roman pot	1269
6	EF13	E	E2	<i>Tesserae</i>	36
8	EF13	E	E2	Tile	2000
16	EL4	E	E2	Tile	6000
16	EL4	E	E2	Box flue tile	970
3	EF10	E	E1	Roman pot	83
3	EF10	E	E1	Bone	12
3	EF10	E	E1	Tile	557
3	EF10	E	E1	Box flue tile	235
5	EF12	E	E2	Roman pot	27
32	EF22	E	E2	Tile	921
32	EF22	E	E2	Roman pot	688
32	EF22	E	E2	Tile	225
32	EF22	E	E2	Roman pot	1418
11	EF11	E	E4	Post-medieval brick	715
11	EF11	E	E4	Peg-tile	81
11	EF11	E	E4	Post-medieval pot	228

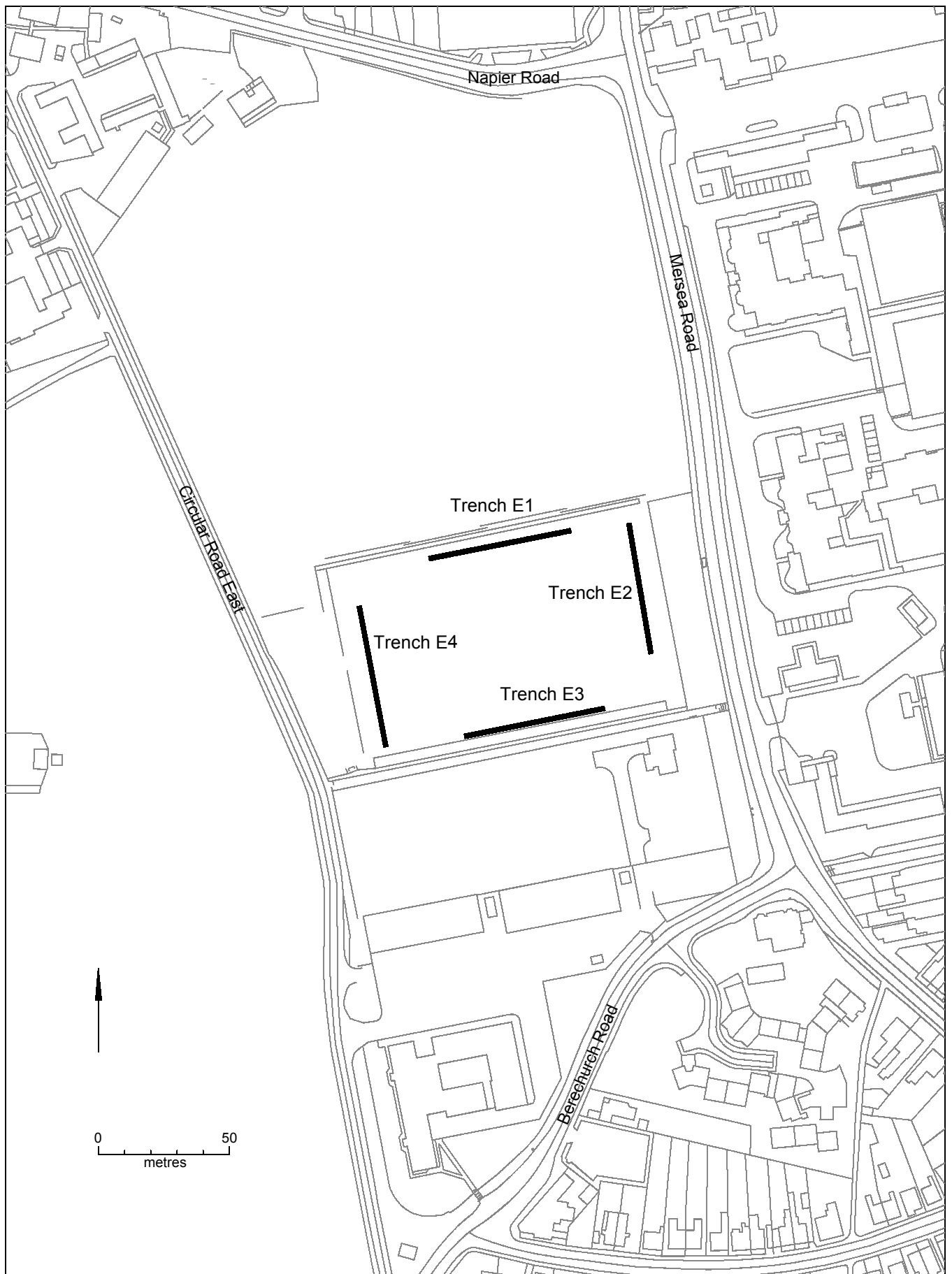


Fig 1 Trench location plan.

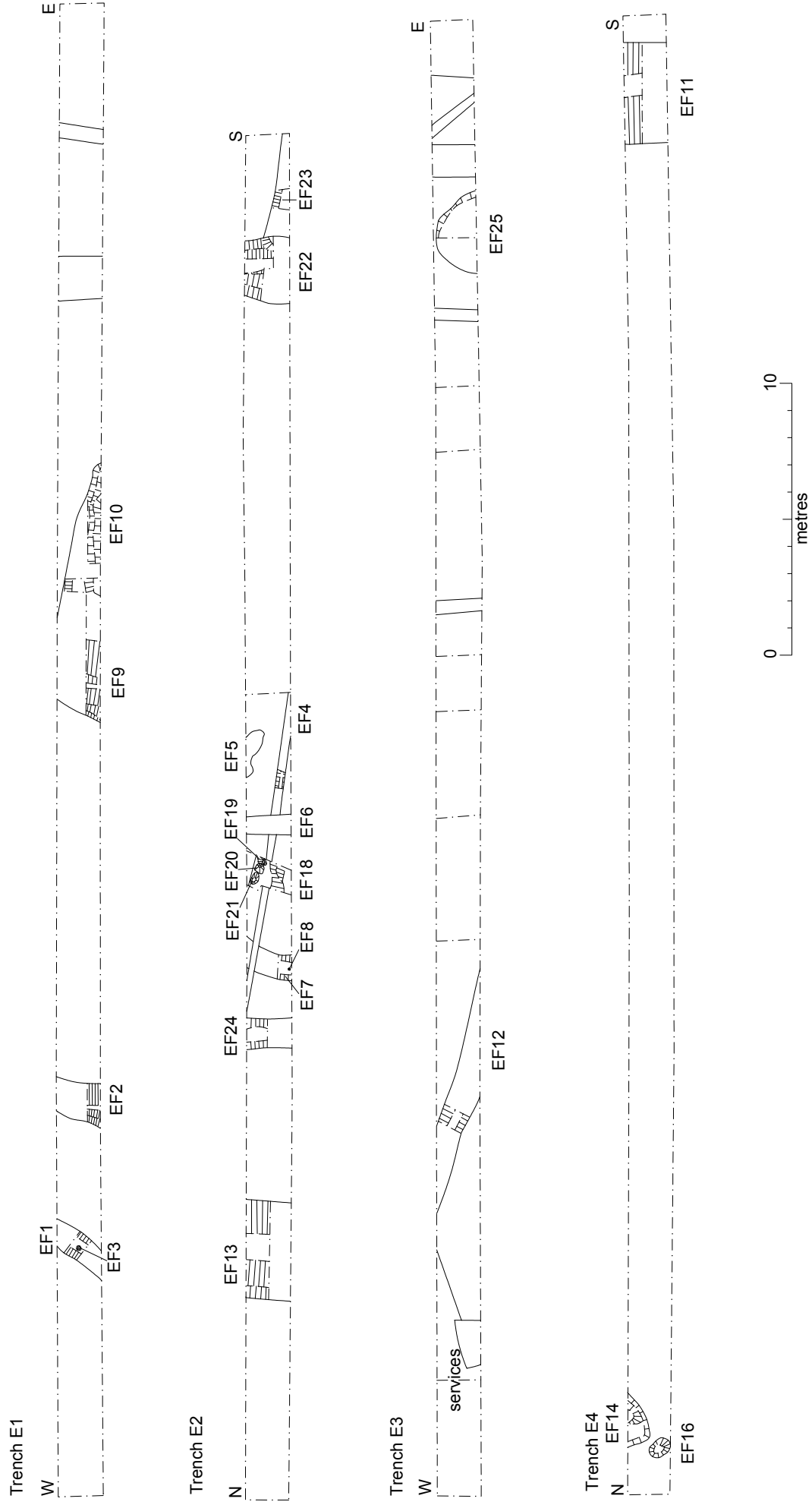
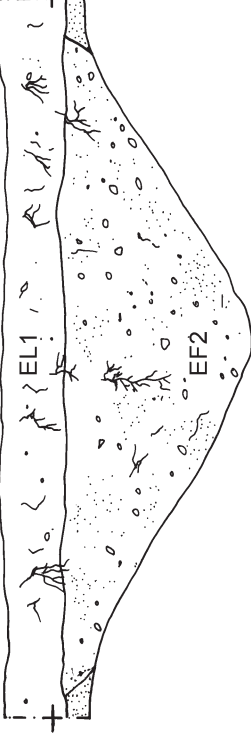


Fig 2 Trenches E1-E4: plans.

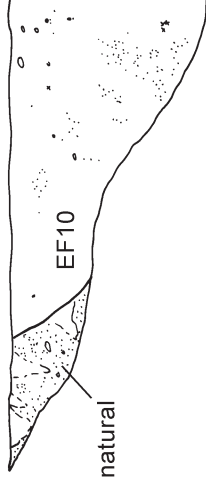
+ 32.27m
AOD
+ W
E



E + 32.23m
AOD
W + N

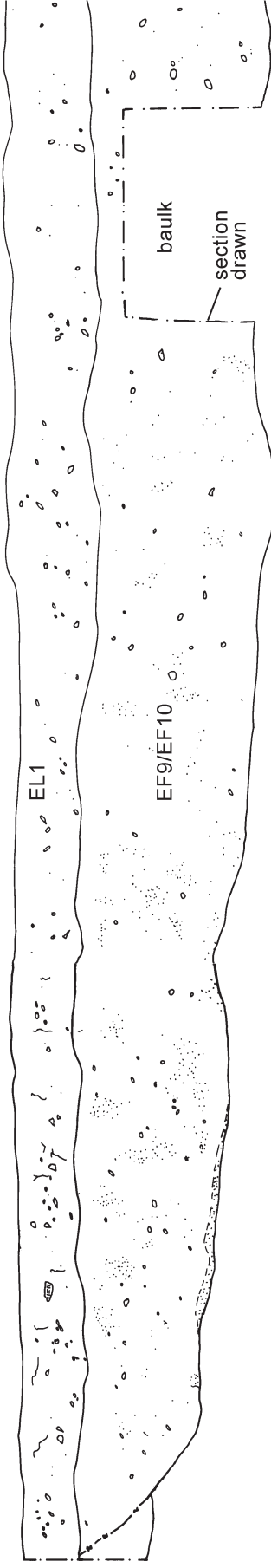


section of edge of baulk

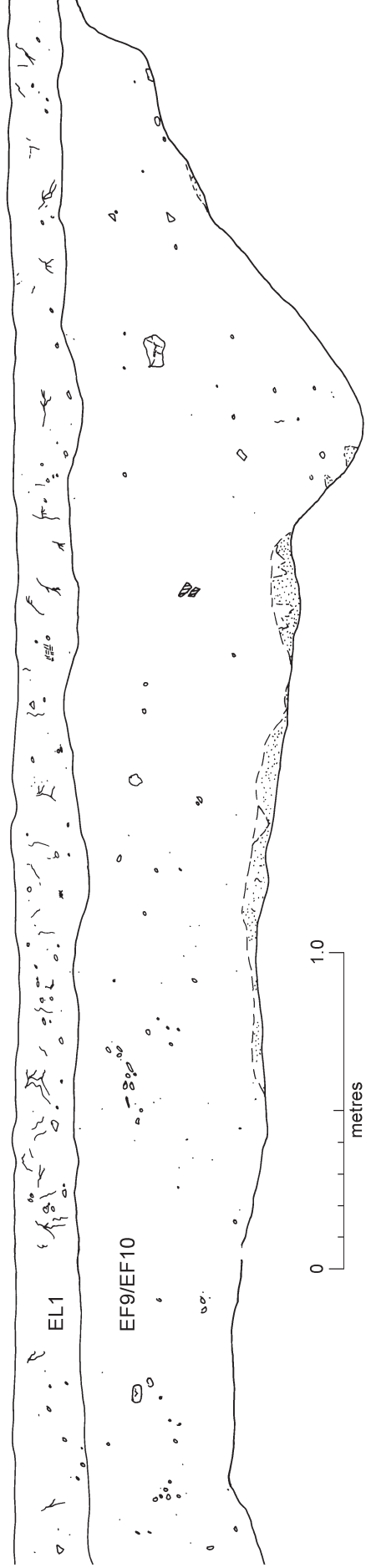


+ 32.19m
AOD
+ S

+ E



+ 32.43m
AOD
W +



0 1.0
metres

Fig 3 Trench E1: sections.

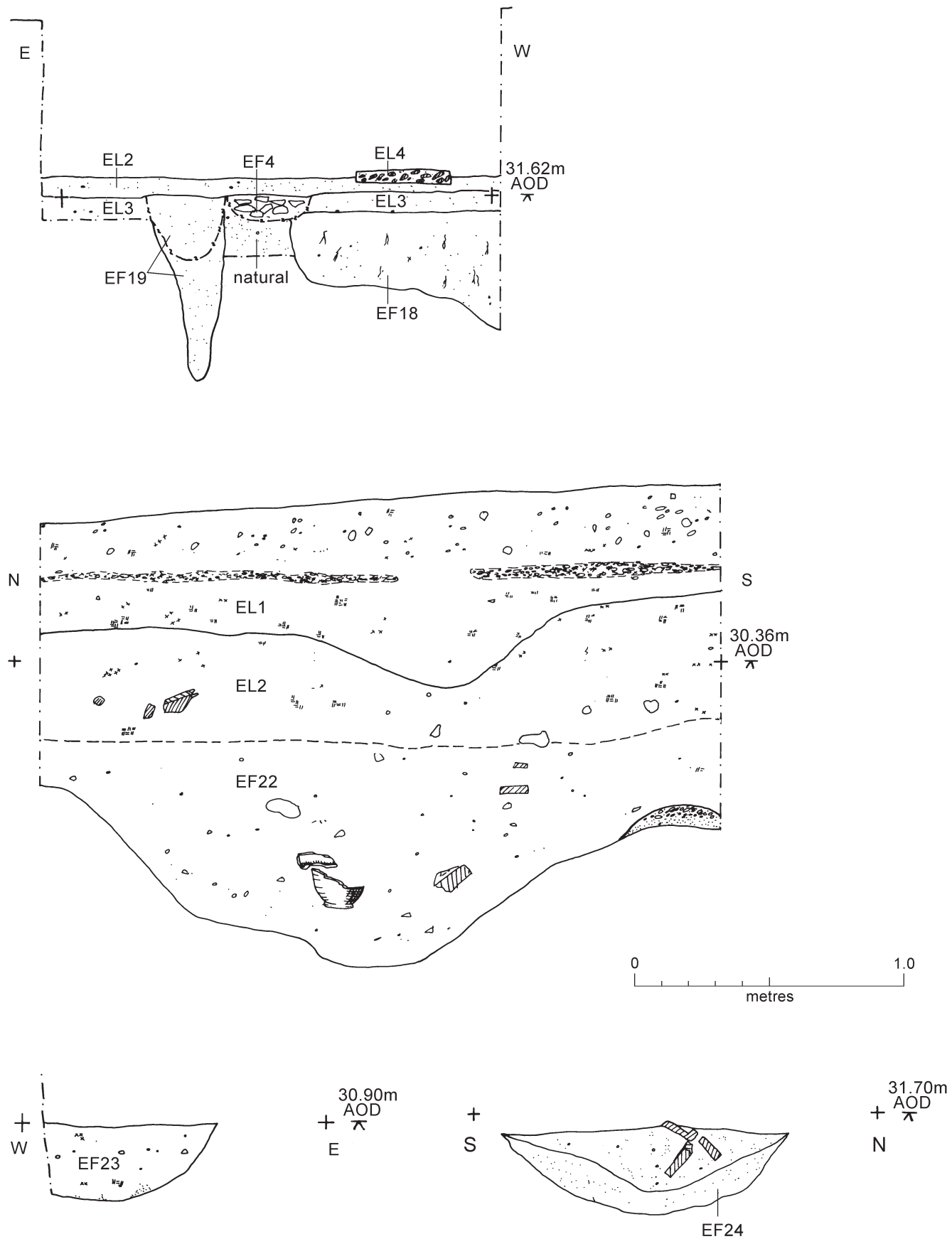


Fig 4 Trench E2: sections.

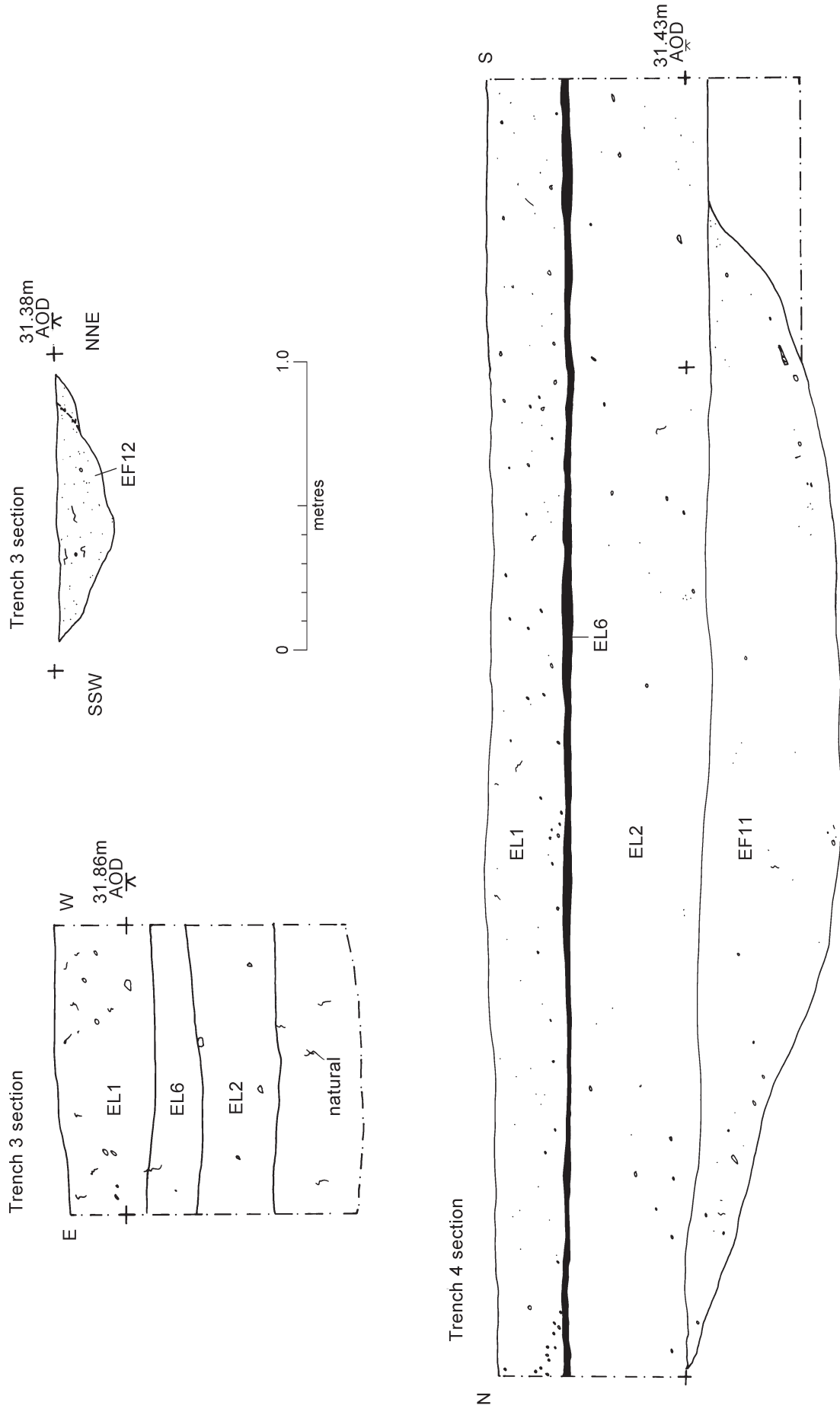


Fig 5 Trenches E3 and E4: sections.

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site name/address: Area E of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9986 2427	Museum accession code: 2004.296
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2004	Size of area investigated: 213m of trenching
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHCR nos:
Interim report: CAT Report 274	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation at Area E of the planned urban village at the Garrison, Colchester, Essex was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation of areas of alienated land, acquired by Taylor Woodrow for residential development.</i></p> <p><i>Four trenches were excavated with a total of 213m of trenching. Within the evaluation trenches, 25 features were recorded. All of these features were Roman, except for modern disturbance and a post-medieval ditch which is interpreted as possibly being part of the remains of the 1648 siegeworks. The Roman activity was concentrated in Trench E1 and Trench E2 and included demolition material and the robbed-out wall lines of a building surrounded by a large enclosure ditch. Large amounts of demolition material and pottery were also recovered from this ditch, dating it to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. Outside the enclosure ditch, in Trench E1 and Trench E4, a number of smaller ditches were recorded which are interpreted as having been boundary ditches forming part of a field system associated with the enclosure and the structure within it. Some of the Roman pottery retrieved during the evaluation may represent disturbed burials.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 97 and 206	
Author of summary: B Holloway	Date of summary: June 2004