

**Stage 1b archaeological evaluation,
Alienated Land Area B1b,
Colchester Garrison,
Colchester, Essex
July-September 2007**

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**on behalf of
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1 Summary

This 5.2ha parcel of land coincides with the southern and western part of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, and with the eastern end of the Roman circus. An archaeological evaluation by 25 trenches uncovered evidence for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Area B1b represents the meeting-point of three zones of Roman extra-mural activity comprising a settlement zone, a public entertainment building in the form of the Roman circus, and a cemetery.

A small number of struck flints indicates a low level of activity here in the prehistoric period.

A large quantity of residual Roman pottery and tile (including tesserae, pila tiles and roofing tiles) is presumably derived from domestic activity and unidentified Roman buildings in this area. Roman pitting (T10, T12, T13) and a ditch (T17) are similarly representative of a settlement zone and add to the 2nd-century domestic pit found during the 2002 evaluation of the site. Pottery and coin finds suggest a later 1st- to 4th-century date for this extra-mural occupation. The information can be added to the results of the Area B1a evaluations undertaken in 2002 and 2007 which identified further Roman pitting, ditches and post-holes and residual domestic finds including a quantity of painted wall-plaster from a nearby building. Two Roman inhumation burials and one cremation burial, the latter within a large quarry-pit (T31) were excavated at the south end of the site. These were probably part of the same general Roman cemetery previously excavated in GAL Area C2, 150m to the WSW, and at Napier Road, immediately to the south-west. Loose finds indicate at least three more burials. Roman quarrying was also evident in the south-east corner of the site.

The predicted position of the east end of the Roman circus coincided with the southern edge of the site, and five trenches were specifically targeted on the circus structure. These confirmed the expected position of the cavea walls, and also exposed the south face of the partially-robbed St John's Abbey precinct wall. One robber trench contained peg-tile, indicating a potentially late date for the end of robbing activity here. A gravel surface was located on the outer side of the circus, matching that previously found on GAL Areas C1 and C2.

Although Anglo-Saxon burials are recorded on the east side of Mersea Road, no Anglo-Saxon material was recovered during this evaluation.

Despite the location of this site in the southern and western part of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, only one building could definitely be associated with the medieval abbey. This was a right-angled wall foundation with a rough cobble surface on its west side and a clay floor on its east side, possibly the south-west corner of a building with an internal clay floor (T18). Given the position of this structure, it must have been part of the monastic buildings. Other possibly medieval structural remains were located to the south in T9, on the western edge of the site, where buildings appear to have linked up with the western precinct wall of the abbey. Another abbey-period structure was a lime-kiln/pit probably contemporary with the rebuilding of the abbey after the major fire of AD 1133. Finds probably from the abbey church include thick glass from a stained-glass window.

Other wall foundations containing peg-tile (T22, T25) may be late medieval (and so associated with the abbey), or post-medieval (and associated with post-Dissolution use of the site and particularly the Lucas mansion).

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

2.1 This is the archive report on a Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on Taylor Wimpey's Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) redevelopment Area B1b, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1).

2.2 The approximately 5.2ha parcel of land is currently under the ownership of MoD/RMPA Services but will shortly be passed to Taylor Wimpey for redevelopment. Most of the area comprises existing administrative buildings, car-parking and vehicular access routes, although the eastern area is rough scrub and trees. Development proposals within Area B1b will comprise demolition of several existing 20th-century structures, construction of new residential units, refurbishment of the original 19th-century structures, the provision of an upgraded access road leading

north from Napier Road through the area, resurfacing of areas of hardstanding (notably the existing car-park in the south-east area), new services, and a rose garden in the eastern area. The site is centred on NGR TL 9974 2463.

- 2.3 Part of the trial-trenching evaluation had previously been undertaken on behalf of RMPA Services in advance of outline planning permission in 2002 (Stage 1a). At this time, 0.14% of the area was sampled, comprising three trenches (50 square metres) at various locations around the Flagstaff House compound (Fig 2; CAT Report 206). Although some Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval features and finds were identified, most of the archaeology from the three trenches was post-medieval and modern in date, and included evidence of occupation and buildings.
- 2.4 The archaeological strategy for the overall project required the level of trenching for full planning permission to be raised to 3% unless otherwise agreed with Colchester Borough Council (CBC). Therefore a further 2.86% trenching was required in this area, equating to 1,057 square metres (660m length of 1.8m-wide trenches). The trenches described here comprise only 502m of 1.8m-wide trenches, since part of the eastern edge of the site lies within the area of the planned rose garden which will have no impact on any surviving archaeology; this area was therefore excluded from the trenching. The information obtained from the combined Stage 1a and 1b evaluations will determine whether further mitigation (excavation, watching brief or avoidance strategies) will be required ahead of or during the construction phase (subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent).
- 2.5 In terms of modern geography, Area B1b is located to the north and east of Flagstaff House. In terms of the historic geography, it lies mainly within the southern and western side of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey (eighteen trenches were located here), and partially on the land to the south of the precinct wall (between the wall and Napier Road: seven trenches were located here: Fig 2). The northern edge of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no 26307), and this evaluation has therefore required Scheduled Ancient Monument consent (seven of the trenches were in the SAM area).
- 2.6 An overall archaeological strategy has been provided for the project by RPS (RPS 2004). This provides an outline framework for the mitigation of the archaeological impacts on the Alienated Land.
- 2.7 A specific archaeological proposal (Written Scheme of Investigation or WSI) for Area B1b has been submitted to and approved by CBC (RPS 2006).
- 2.8 The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey in association with RPS Planning (RPS), between 26th July and 5th September 2007. Post-excavation work was carried out between August and December 2007.
- 2.9 In addition to the *Archaeological strategy* (RPS 2004) and the Area B1b WSI (RPS 2006), all fieldwork and preparation of reports was undertaken in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Figs 1-2)

- 3.1 The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment area has been comprehensively explored in *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site* (CAT Report 97), with archaeological fieldwork ahead of the new garrison development providing an opportunity for detailed archaeological fieldwork including 12km of trial-trenching and three excavations.

- 3.2** The remains of St John's Abbey are the dominant standing archaeological features in the northern area of the overall Taylor Wimpey redevelopment site (Fig 2). Parts of the abbey precinct walls still survive along with the magnificent abbey gatehouse, but the remainder of the abbey does not survive above ground. Unfortunately, due to a lack of early mapping, the medieval layout of the abbey buildings within the precinct is unknown. The eastern and northern parts of the abbey are part of the nationally important SAM. However, the fact that most of the southern part of Area B1b is not scheduled does not detract from the potential importance of any surviving below-ground remains, which could include domestic buildings belonging to the abbey, the abbot's lodgings, guests' lodgings and gardens.
- 3.3** Prior to 2002 there were few archaeological finds within the specific Area B1b site on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD, held by the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service of Colchester Borough Council). However, the archaeological context of the area is now relatively well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000.
- 3.4** Prehistoric: A Neolithic/Early Bronze Age beaker (UAD no 1249) was known prior to 2000 from the vicinity of Flagstaff Road (bordering the western side of Area B1a; Fig 2). This evidence for activity was enhanced by an excavation in Taylor Woodrow Area C1 in 2004 which investigated a cluster of approximately 1m-diameter pits containing pottery of a similar nature, and together these suggest small-scale although potentially intermittent or seasonal occupation (CAT Report 361). Late Bronze Age pottery in 300mm-deep pits and a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint blade were found during excavations on the Inner Relief Road in 1972, where the new road crossed the corner of the abbey precinct (UAD no 3019; CAR 9, 205). In addition, a Late Bronze Age pit was excavated beneath Flagstaff Road during the installation of the storm-water drain by the Anderson Group in January 2006, while several Late Bronze Age settlement-related features were excavated in 2005 during the archaeological excavations for Taylor Woodrow at the northern edge of Area J1 (excavation Area J1 North; CAT Report 412 forthcoming). However, the 2002 evaluation trenches within Area B1b produced no features or finds of prehistoric date. Notably no clear traces of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* landscape (Catuvellaunian royal estate of Camulodunum) have been identified within the area by the investigations.
- 3.5** Roman: The remains of a major Roman road junction is located north-west of the site under Colchester High School, from which point roads radiated out to London and to the Roman site at Gosbecks. It is also possible that a road led eastwards from the junction through what was later the grounds of St John's Abbey. In addition, a wide Roman ditched and metalled road or track found in Taylor Woodrow Area J1 (where it was flanked by over 400 of burials) would appear to link up with this road junction if its line is continued to the north-west, while it also appears to continue southwards into the rural hinterland of the town. The northern area of the abbey was built over a Roman cemetery area. A total of 34 Roman inhumations was found during excavations from 1971 to 1985 in the abbey grounds, to the north and north-east of Area B1b, the shallowest being about 1m below ground-level. Other inhumations have been found within this area since the 19th century, including some interred in lead coffins; however, no burials were known within Area B1b until the find of an inhumation in 2006 (trench FHT2, section 3.7 below). The 2002 evaluation did not identify burials of any period. Figure 2 shows the distribution of Roman burials that have been found in the Taylor Woodrow development areas to date in the vicinity of Area B1b, most notably in Area C2 and the excavation site at Napier Road (CAT Report 412 forthcoming). As noted above, over 400 burials were excavated further to the west within Taylor Woodrow Area J1 (near Butt Road) in 2004 (CAT Report 412 forthcoming).
- 3.6** The south and south-western area of Area B1b is now known to contain nationally important Roman archaeology. A stone-built monumental Roman circus, currently unique to Britain, has been discovered during excavations in GAL Areas C1, C2 and J1 to the north-east of Area J2 in 2004 and 2005, with further wall foundations and a monument base uncovered during service works at Napier Road in 2006 (CAT Report 361; CAT Report 412 forthcoming). English Heritage scheduled the site of the circus in late 2007. The east-west orientated circus was approximately 450m in length and 70m wide with a *spina* (central barrier) and was used for chariot-racing. Elements identified to date include the seating *cavea* with internal and external

- (buttressed) walls, two entrance ways through the southern *cavea*, a racetrack dirt surface, a segment of the semicircular end of the circus, a fragment of the starting gates structures, a monument base on the line of the *spina*, and further elements of the *spina* including its western end and a fragment of a turning-post pillar (*meta*).
- 3.7** The circus extends through the southern area of the Flagstaff House compound to its probable eastern extent to the west of the existing car-park in the south-east corner of the Flagstaff House compound (as shown on Fig 2). The area represents the eastern, approximately 158m of its northern *cavea* walls, probably just over 100m of the *spina* (the precise eastern end of which remains uncertain), and the majority of the semicircular end (the southernmost fragment of the curve was recorded within the Napier Road site to the immediate south). The outer wall foundation is approximately 0.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep with the inner wall foundation less substantial. The circus foundations have largely been robbed out, probably during the medieval period, but, significantly, *in situ* footings and buttress foundations were uncovered in both Area C2 and at the Napier Road site to the south. The unpredictable nature of the survival of footings is, however, highlighted at Area C1 and Flagstaff Road, where they were entirely robbed out, while two narrow trenches dug in the Flagstaff House compound by CAT in 2006 (FHT2 and FHT3) in search of the circus found the foundation of the outer *cavea* wall to have been robbed out there too. The 2006 trenches, with the fragment of the circus curve on the Napier Road site, confirm the degree of curvature of the semicircular end. The 2006 trench FHT2 also located an inhumation burial up against the outer wall. The burial is most likely to be of later Roman date.
- 3.8** It was normal to have a monumental entrance at the apex of the semicircular end of a Roman circus. At present, if this was the case at Colchester, then the arch would have been beneath and possibly also extending to just east of the eastern end of the east-west aligned 19th-century building (to be retained) shown on Figure 2). The outer wall of the circus was apparently pulled down, as represented by rubble spreads exterior to the outer wall, while the inner (podium) wall fell forwards into the track in some areas (eg at Napier Road). This evidence suggests that a seating bank between the walls was still upstanding when the walls fell down. In some areas (eg Areas C1 and C2), a metalled surface representing a track or gravelled area has been identified around the outside of the circus.
- 3.9** Areas J1 and C2, and the sites at Napier Road, Circular Road North and the Abbey Field have all produced evidence showing that some areas around the circus were used as cemeteries. However, significantly, the area to the north of the circus, including Area B1a and in Area B1b, has evidence of extra-mural settlement instead. In the 2002 evaluation of Area B, trench B2 contained two Roman ditches (BF202-BF203) and a Roman pit (BF206), while trench B6 contained a Roman pit (BF605/BF613) containing a substantial assemblage of early-mid 2nd-century pottery. Residual finds from trench B3 included probable Roman briquetage and a coin of Domitian (AD 83-96), while trench B2 produced coins of ?Hadrian (AD 117-18 or 119-38) and ?Trajan (AD 98-117). A Roman model of a 'pipe clay bed with occupant' was previously listed as a find just to the east of Area B1a (UAD no 1122). Further pottery and tile of Roman date has been recovered from the south-eastern part of the Flagstaff House compound (UAD nos 10 and 1157), and during recent service works on Flagstaff Road. The recent Stage 1b evaluation of Area B1a identified further Roman pits within trench B8 with possibly associated post-holes (Fig 21; CAT Report 405; CAT Report 412 forthcoming). Here, in addition to large unabraded sherds of 2nd- to 3rd-century date and 1st- and 4th-century residual finds, 26 fragments of painted wall-plaster combined with the identification of at least two post-holes, suggests timber-framed buildings of some grandeur in the close vicinity.
- 3.10** Anglo-Saxon: An Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery just east of Mersea Road (as suggested by fragmentary remains and grave goods) may encroach into the eastern abbey precinct. Further evidence for the period was identified in 1972 when the remains of the small Anglo-Saxon church of St John were excavated before the construction of the St Botolph's roundabout. A coin of Elthelred was found in 1852 in the vicinity of the northern edge of Area B1b (UAD no 1181), but the only Anglo-Saxon find during the 2002 evaluation comprised a residual Middle Saxon sherd in trench B3. While this could indicate occupation in the vicinity, there is currently no firm evidence for this.

3.11 Medieval: The following text for the medieval period is taken from CAT Report 97 (p 23, here with amendments):

The abbey was built by the Benedictine Order by 1115 but burnt down in 1133. It was rebuilt in the early 13th century. The cruciform-shaped church is thought to have stood in the northern part of the abbey precinct. A foundation was seen during investigations at the north end of the precinct in 1972 and 1986 which might be part of the church. Human remains, certainly medieval burials associated with the abbey, have been recorded several times in this area (CAR 9, 203-221). The church was added to and altered in the 14th and 15th centuries. To the south of the church were the cloister, chapel house and domestic buildings. Some of the domestic buildings were said to have been moved to the south side of the church after 1133 and this has been backed up by archaeological evidence (CAR 1, 28-30) ...

The abbey and St Giles' Church were surrounded by a precinct wall with towers. The wall dates from before the 13th century and was refaced in parts in the 16th century. It was partly demolished during the building of the St Botolph's roundabout in the early 1970s, but it was recorded before its destruction (CAR 9, 219). Surviving stretches (some refaced in brick) can still be seen in various places ...

The surviving abbey gatehouse was built in the 15th century as the main gatehouse, giving access to the town. The upper storey was blown up during the Siege in 1648 and was rebuilt, probably in the 1840s... The building is Grade 1 Listed and is also scheduled. It is possible that there was a second gatehouse, in the Flagstaff House area ...

3.12 The abbey was dissolved in 1538. Part of it, including nearly all of the church, appears to have been demolished shortly afterwards. Other parts are likely to have been incorporated into the mansion which was subsequently built on the site and owned by the Lucas family (although there is no hard evidence that this happened).

3.13 The abbey precinct wall survives along the full length of the eastern side of Area B1b along Mersea Road, as a short section along the western edge against Flagstaff Road, while the southern wall remains as a standing structure along the northern edge of the car-park in the south-east area of Area B1b and as another short segment about 40m to the east. The wall line is thought from cartographic sources to have had a dog-leg form in the western area of Area B1b (see Fig 2) where it does not survive intact. There was little evidence for abbey period archaeology within 2002 trenches B1-B6, although a large group of Colchester-type ware came from trench B1 including cisterns and cooking pots that must have been part of a pre-Dissolution dump of domestic rubbish from the abbey. The Area B1a 2007 trenching (CAT Report 405) did, however, identify a short section of *in situ* wall and a robber trench of probable medieval date possibly both deriving from a single building against the to the northern precinct wall.

3.14 Post-medieval: CAT Report 97 further states (p 24):

... [The abbey] passed through many hands including the Lucas family, was confiscated during the Civil War, and then changed ownership several times until it was bought by the War Office in 1860. Maps from 1610 and 1648 show (possibly) part of the abbey church, other abbey buildings and part of the precinct wall still standing. These maps may not be entirely accurate; however, some abbey buildings may still have been standing at this time but having different uses. Lucas's house is one of these (see section 6.8.6). There also appears on these maps to be buildings to the west of the abbey gatehouse (where Abbey House is now) and to the north of Lucas's house [on Flagstaff Road] ...

3.15 Evidence for post-Dissolution activity at the site of St John's Abbey was located within four trenches within Area B in 2002. A dense area of post-medieval (16th- to 19th-century) pitting was encountered within trench B3 (pits BF304/BF305/BF307/BF310/BF314/BF315/BF317-BF320/BF322/BF325/BF328-BF330/BF333/BF334/BF336-BF339/BF341 and BF342) in the northern part of Area B1b. Similar pitting has been found in Area B1a to the north. Other features included post holes suggesting the presence of building (BF306/26/27/31 and 32) and a dog burial (BF303). Trenches B1-B3 of the 2002 evaluation and trenches 7 and 8 of the 2007 trenching therefore suggest relatively intensive post-Dissolution and more recent activity within the north-west area of B1b and in Area B1a. Most of the features

within trenches B2 and B3 post-date 1648 and the post-holes within trench B3 in particular clearly post-date the Civil War.

- 3.16** Historic maps: Speed's map of Colchester 1610 has little detail and is not to scale but shows the precinct wall with buildings in the south-west area of the compound and a tall church building in the central northern area. The remainder of the area within the Flagstaff compound appears to have been open ground. This situation is consistent with the Siege map of 1648 (which shows 'Lucas House' in the south-west area) and the French map of Colchester 1650 (which also shows a church located south-east of the gatehouse, probably within area B2). Philip Morant's map of Colchester 1748 shows greater detail of ordered orchards within Area B1b although the only buildings are along the dog-leg section of the western precinct wall (no other buildings are shown in the central area of the precinct south of the gatehouse). This situation is confirmed by Thomas Sparrow's map of Colchester 1767, Chapman and Andre's map of the County of Essex – Colchester town centre – 1777, and Cole & Roper's map of Colchester c 1800-1815. These also show a 'mount' in the south-east area of the compound. This appears to correspond with 'The Mount' shown on the modern OS and represented by an earth mound north of the standing section of precinct wall that flanks the northern side of the car park. The most probable explanation is an association with the siege works.
- 3.17** The OS 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1874-1876 shows that after the construction of barrack blocks to the west the area continued to be occupied by gardens prior to a sequence of development of military buildings within the Flagstaff House compound. The map shows the buildings to be retained that flank Flagstaff Road and the two structures that stand on top of the Roman circus.

4 Aims and strategy

- 4.1** The general aim of the evaluation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected area. The over-arching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:
- Inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the construction of Camulodunum (are there further indications of late Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement?)
 - To elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*
 - To address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland
 - To elucidate the relative density of Roman burials and the influence of the recently discovered Roman circus across the northern zone of Colchester Garrison.
- 4.2** Specific aims: The results of previous excavations in this area in conjunction with similar work elsewhere in England, especially the south-east, enable the following issues in relation to the cemeteries to be identified as research priorities for the Garrison Alienated Land:
- To identify, and if necessary excavate, record and remove any human burials;
 - To establish the origin and development of cemeteries and cemetery areas, especially in relation to roads, fields and other parcels of land;
 - To establish the location and nature of cemetery boundaries;
 - To establish the relationship of cemeteries to non-funerary activities such as industrial production (eg tile-kilns such as that found on the site of the NAAFI Club) and settlement (as seen previously in Areas B1a and B1b);
 - To establish the relationship with buildings (notably the Roman circus), tombs and other structures (funerary and otherwise) within cemetery areas;
 - To determine whether the current low density of Roman burials in Area B1b and presence of possible settlement-related features suggest that this area was a suburb/extra-mural settlement area in the Roman period or whether these features relate to activities associated with the circus;
 - To determine whether there was any settlement or burial of Anglo-Saxon date within Area B1b;

- To determine whether the northern area of Area B1b includes part of the main monastic buildings and if there were any other buildings such as workshops/ other domestic activities, physical evidence of gardens, or other evidence for monastic activities;
- To determine the nature of the apparent post-medieval occupation evidence within Area B1b and whether there are any features relating to the Siege of Colchester during the Civil War.

4.3 The additional trenching was positioned in order to provide, in combination with the Stage 1a trenching undertaken in 2002, as even a coverage across the proposal area as possible within the constraints imposed by standing structures and buried services. The trench layout is provided on Figure 2. Notably the proposed rose garden area within the SAM area has been left free of trenching at this stage, since impacts to archaeology are not anticipated here. If impacts are re-identified, following detailed design, then trial-trenching will be required here to establish the likely significance of the impacts on archaeology and to define an appropriate mitigation strategy, if necessary. Similarly the south-western area is free of trenches due to a lack of potential impacts within this area, ie of the site of the Roman circus. The trenches (T9-T33) were also specifically placed to address a series of impacts to known or suspected archaeological remains, as follows:

4.4 T9-T15 (130m linear) were located within the SAM area and therefore required SAM consent. These trenches, combined with T16-T22 (215m linear) in the central area of Area B1b, were designed to establish the presence/absence and extent of any remains of extra-mural Roman settlement and monastic structures that may extend into Area B1b, particularly in areas of potential new-build in the north-east area and beneath the buildings which are to be demolished in the northern and central areas. T17 and T20 were also designed to inform the likely impact of an upgrade of the existing access road through the Flagstaff House compound. T23-T29 were designed to intercept the projected elements of the Roman circus and the area immediately around the circus, and includes: T23 which was designed to intercept the northern wall foundations; T28 and T29 which were designed to intercept the curved eastern end and to evaluate a possible alternative access road route around the eastern end of the circus; and T26 and T27 which were designed to define the *spina* and its probable eastern end point, in addition to the racetrack. In particular, T27 was designed to inform the impact on the circus of an upgrade of the existing access road through the Flagstaff House compound, while T26 and T27 were offset from this access road route line due to the location of extensive services on the actual alignment of the access road; nevertheless they do provide information on the likely depth and character of the archaeology between the services on the route line itself.

T30-T33 were designed to investigate the archaeological potential of the south-east car-park. The development would entail reconstruction of the car-park, and therefore the depth here of any surviving archaeological remains is critical for the formulation of methodologies that facilitate preservation *in situ*, where possible.

5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-20)

The trench numbering in Area B1b follows previous work in Area B undertaken in 2002. The 2002 evaluation used trench numbers B1-B6 (CAT Report 206). Following this, the evaluation in January 2007 in sub-area Area B1a used numbers B7-B8 (CAT Report 405). Continuing this sequence, the Area B1b evaluation described here uses numbers T9-T33.

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

Trench 9: summary (Figs 2-3, 7)

This trench was excavated in an area of grass on the northern edge of Area B1b, and within the St John's Abbey SAM area. The majority of datable features were medieval/post-medieval or modern. They included a modern wall foundation (F121)

and gutter (F120) which are probably associated with the Victorian and later barracks and road layout.

As well as the Victorian activity, there was evidence of earlier structural activity dating to the medieval period. This consisted of two wall foundations (F111 and F119) constructed of re-used Roman material (septaria and Roman tile) with peg-tile used as a levelling course. The two medieval wall foundations were parallel with the western precinct wall, and set back from it by 12m and 14m respectively. They could therefore represent later medieval buildings.

If these buildings were medieval, then, in this location, ie situated on the west side of the precinct and well away from the presumed site of the abbey church, they would appear to be part of an ancillary building associated with the abbey. However, the imprecise nature of the dating of peg-tile (potentially later medieval or post-medieval) means that they could also be post-Dissolution in date or have continued in use into the post-medieval period. In addition, post-medieval cartographic evidence (maps by Speed of 1610 and Morant of 1748) show buildings built along the line of and to the east of the abbey precinct wall which are consistent with the wall foundations found in T9.

A compacted gravel surface (F110) to the west of foundation F111 may represent an associated yard or working surface.

In addition to the foundations, several pits were identified in T9. Two of these pits were located in between wall foundations F111 and F119. F112 produced only Roman finds, including seven sherds spot-dated to the late 3rd century, although these may be residual in a medieval pit. It was cut by a later pit F118 containing 17th- and 18th-century pottery, and is therefore post-medieval in date.

At the western end of the trench, a large pit F109 contained a large quantity of oyster shells interleaved with cessy material. This would appear to represent a midden deposit or a toilet-waste pit. It was cut very close to wall foundation F111 and may be associated with it. Fish and shellfish – particularly oysters, in this case – formed an important element of the medieval monastic diet, and an association with the abbey can be suggested here.

All cut features were sealed by a layer of accumulated material (L9), and in turn by modern topsoil (L8).

Trench 9 – contexts and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F109	Midden	clay tobacco pipe, residual Roman pottery, hobnail	post-medieval
F110	Hard gravel surface	-	medieval/post-
F111	Wall foundation	peg-tile	medieval/post-
F112	Pit	residual Roman tile	Roman or later post-medieval
F118	Pit	Roman pottery and tile peg-tile, 17th- to 18th-century pottery	
F119	Wall foundation	peg-tile, residual Roman tile	late medieval/post-medieval
F120	Brick gutter	(built of 19th-century brick)	modern
F121	Brick gutter	(built of 19th-/20th-century brick and concrete)	modern
L27	Building debris	peg-tile, clay pipe	post-medieval
L28	Accumulation		medieval
L30	Redeposited natural	peg-tile, residual Roman tile	medieval or post-medieval

Trench 10: summary (Figs 2-3, 8)

As with T9, T10 was excavated in a grassed area on the northern edge of Area B1b and within the St John's Abbey SAM area. The trench contained six post-medieval or modern pits (F101-F104, F106, F108) and a single Roman pit (F105) containing 33 pottery sherds with an assemblage date of mid 3rd to 4th century. The central and the western parts of the trench had been truncated by a number of modern

service runs and building foundations. The post-medieval pitting was sealed by a layer of accumulated material (L9), which was in turn sealed by a modern topsoil (L8).

A copper-alloy Roman armlet found residually in F91 may derive from a disturbed Roman burial close by, or may have been a casual loss, as Roman burials are yet to be identified in this area of the site.

Trench 10 – contexts and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F91	Service run	residual Roman pottery of 2nd-3rd century, and copper-alloy armlet	modern
F101	Pit	peg-tile	late medieval+
F102	Post-hole	-	medieval/post-medieval
F103	Post-hole	-	medieval/post-medieval
F104	Pit	19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile	modern
F105	Pit	Roman pottery, tile	Roman
F106	Pit	concrete	modern
F108	Pit	peg-tile (in fill)	late medieval+

Trench 11: summary (Figs 2-3, 8)

T11 was excavated in a grassed area on the northern edge of Area B1b, and within the St John's Abbey SAM area. A single archaeological feature was identified in T11, ie an extensive midden deposit (F126). No edges were visible in the trench, which shows that it extended beyond T11 in all directions. Its fill consisted of interleaved deposits of pottery, a high density of oyster shells, and animal bone. The large volume of finds may suggest an association with the abbey, where food preparation could have been carried out on a large scale.

There are two finds from this context which are worthy of discussion. The first is a jeton of Charles V of France, dated AD 1380-1422. Although a post-medieval date for this feature is possible, because of the presence of peg-tile, this jeton may offer slightly more focussed dating for this midden deposit, while there is no reason why the peg-tile should not be late 14th or early 15th century in date.

The second find is a group of fragments from a briquetage trough. This would originally have been the container in which salt was brought to the abbey, presumably from coastal salt-workings on the nearby Essex coast. Traces of mortar on the surface of the briquetage show that it was later re-used as building material in a nearby abbey building.

Trench 11 – contexts and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F126	Midden deposit	peg-tile, lava quern, jeton of AD 1380-1422, residual Roman pottery and tile	late medieval+

Trench 12: summary (Figs 2-3, 9)

T12 was located in a grassed area on the northern edge of Area B1b, and within the St John's Abbey SAM area.

T12 was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed at its east and west ends by modern service runs (eg F95). Excavated features consisted of the partially-robbed foundation of a stump of wall (F92) and two intercutting pits (F93 and F94).

The two substantial pits (F93 and F94) contained only Roman pottery. They are probably Roman in date, but, given the large volume of residual Roman finds from this site, a medieval date cannot be entirely ruled out. Pit F93 produced fourteen sherds of 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery, while pit F94 produced a large assemblage of 211 sherds (7kg) of late 3rd- to 4th-century pottery.

The curved terminal end of a stone foundation (F92) cut the infilled Roman pits. F92 consisted of septaria lumps in a matrix of dark brown silty loam mixed with yellowish brown sandy lime mortar. It was dated to the medieval period by 13th-

century pottery underneath the wall stump foundation (in the construction cut?). Further, an absence of peg-tile confirms its medieval date, ie possibly pre-14th century. This foundation was probably associated with the abbey.

These features were sealed by accumulation layer L3, and the modern service runs were sealed by hogging L2 and a layer of degrading tarmac (L1) forming the surface of the road.

Trench 12 – contexts and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F92	Wall stump foundation	13th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile	medieval
F93	Pit	Roman pottery of 2nd-3rd century	Roman
F94	Pit	Roman pottery of late 3rd-late 4th century, Roman tile, lava quern fragment	Roman
F95	Service run		modern

Trench 13: summary (Figs 2-3, 10)

T13 was located in an area of tarmac road on the eastern side of Area B1b, within the St John's Abbey SAM area.

Features at the northern end of the trench were truncated by two modern service runs (F85 and F89). T13 contained a complex sequence of pits probably dating from the Roman period up to at least the medieval period, if not the post-medieval period. As far as can be judged, the sequence is probably as follows. In the northern part of trench, two pits (F88 and F84) are considered to be parts of the same large medieval quarry-pit, dated to the 12th or 13th century by pottery. These were sealed by a compacted gravel surface F107. There was no material in F107 which post-dated the 12th century, so this was probably a medieval surface. Furthermore, the fact that the visible fragments of F107 aligned precisely with the centre of St John's Abbey gatehouse (65m to the north) invites speculation that this was an abbey-period roadway running between major abbey buildings. To continue with the pits, the large ?quarry-pit F88/F84 was cut by three later pits (F83, F86, F100). F83 contained peg-tile, and may therefore be later medieval or post-medieval in date. F86 was undated, and F100 contained only Roman material, but the two can be considered as broadly contemporary with F83. F86 was cut by modern pit F87.

The sequence at the south end of the trench was similar, but involved more intercutting pits. At the bottom of the sequence was pit F82. This contained only Roman material, and was therefore probably Roman in date. F82 was cut by pit F81, which was dated to the later medieval or post-medieval period by peg-tile. Stratigraphically earlier than F81 was a series of undated and intercutting pits, ie F98 (cutting F97 and F99) and F97 (cutting F96). The earlier end of this sequence could be either Roman or medieval, but it is not clear which.

Features in the southern half of the trench were sealed by accumulation layer L3. The modern service runs were sealed by hogging L2 and a layer of degrading tarmac (L1) forming the hardtop surface of the roadway.

Trench 13 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F81	Ditch	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile	post-medieval
F82	Pit	Roman brick/tile	?Roman
F83	Pit	peg-tile, 12th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery	post-medieval
F84	?Quarry-pit	13th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery	medieval
F85	Service run	-	modern
F86	Pit	-	?post-medieval
F87	Pit	-	modern
F88	?Quarry-pit	12th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery	medieval
F89	Service run	-	modern
F96	Pit		?medieval
F97	Pit		?post-medieval

F98	Pit		?post-medieval
F99	Pit		?medieval
F100	Pit	Roman brick/tile,	?post-medieval
F107	Gravel surface	12th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery	medieval

Trench 14: summary (Figs 2-3, 10)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct and St John's Abbey SAM area. Along with T13, T15 and T18, this trench was closest to the presumed site of St John's Abbey church (see Fig 2).

Although a quantity of residual medieval pottery was recovered, no remains of the medieval abbey buildings were observed. Instead T14 contained a large number of ditches and pits; these were late medieval (F56, F75), post-medieval (F36, F37, F39, F54, F56, F75), or modern (F38, F40, F90). The later features were probably associated with the post-Dissolution use of the site of the abbey. Also of interest were a series of dumped layers of late medieval or later date comprising L11 and L18-L23. L18-L23 included deposits of peg-tile which thickened to the east end of the trench, and suggest a demolition episode for a building lying to the east of Area B1b. It is notable that L22 is dated to the medieval period.

A feature of particular interest was robber trench F35 at the west end of the trench. This contained post-medieval brick, and may be the robber trench of a wall associated with a post-medieval structure on the site of the abbey. As far as could be established from this narrow trench, it was aligned NNW-SSE and therefore did not align with the long medieval wall F33 in T18 (see below).

A green-glazed medieval floor tile from F40 could be derived from one of the floors of the abbey church or its ancillary buildings.

Trench 14 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F35	Robber trench	post-medieval brick in fill (not retained)	post-medieval
F36	Ditch	post-medieval brick and peg-tile, slate, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	post-medieval
F37	Pit	17th- to 18th-century pottery, and peg-tile, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	post-medieval
F38	Pit		modern
F39	Pit	Roman pottery and tile	post-medieval
F40	Pit	19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile, Tudor brick, medieval glazed floor tile, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	modern
F54	Pit	Tudor brick, residual Roman tile	post-medieval
F55	Pit	13th- to 14th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile	medieval
F56	Pit	peg-tile, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	late medieval +
F75	Ditch	peg-tile, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	late medieval +
F90	Pit	19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	modern
L8	Topsoil		modern
L9	Lower topsoil	worked bone	post-Roman
L11	Silty accumulation		medieval
L18	Accumulation		late medieval+
L19	Dump		late medieval+
L20	Dump		late medieval+
L21	Dump		late medieval+
L22	Dump	13th- to 14th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile	medieval
L23	Dump		medieval/post-medieval

Trench 15: summary (Figs 2-3, 12)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct and St John's Abbey SAM area. Along with T13, T14 and T18, this trench is closest to the presumed site of St John's Abbey.

T15 contained three post-medieval or modern pits (F59, F60, F61). These had lenses of cinders and burnt material, and were certainly Army-related. Modern finds from these contexts were not retained.

Trench 15 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F59	Pit	12th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile	modern
F60	Pit	17th-century or later (probably 19th- to 20th-century) pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile, worked stone	post-medieval
F61	Pit	plastic, etc – not retained	modern

Trench 16: summary (Figs 2, 4, 12)

T16 was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area. The ground in which T16 was dug was heavily disturbed by modern services. A modern brick foundation (F122) extended along the whole length of the trench. A foundation built of septaria, flint and Roman brick (F123) was exposed in section. The absence of peg-tile shows that this could be an abbey-period wall foundation. The location on or close to the projected alignment of the abbey precinct wall (see Fig 2) is unlikely to be coincidental.

Trench 16 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F122	Foundation		modern
F123	Abbey precinct wall	Roman tile	?medieval

Trench 17: summary (Figs 2, 4, 13)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, south of the abbey SAM area. It was dug in three sections, ie T17a to the east, T17c to the west, and T17b between them. The three trench sections will be discussed separately.

T17a was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed by modern service runs (F1, F2) and a modern concrete foundation (F3). This trench revealed a modern compacted gravel surface (F4) at a depth of 0.45m below ground-level, which was cut by two post-medieval or modern pits (F5 and F6).

T17b was also crossed by modern service runs (unnumbered) and by a modern concrete foundation (F72). Archaeological features consisted of an undated post-hole (F71), an undated ditch (F70, the consolidated fill of which suggested that it was ancient, possibly Roman), and the edge of a post-medieval or modern pit or ditch (F74). A gravelled surface (F73) was exposed at a depth of 0.65m below ground-level (above the level of the top of the Roman ditch at 0.8m below ground-level). This was undated, but may be part of the medieval abbey's yards or track network.

The principal discovery in T17c was the northern semicircular portion of F76, representing approximately one-third of what was certainly a lime-kiln/pit. The feature was 4.6m in length by 1.0m in width within the trench, with an estimated full diameter of 4.0m. The edges of the pit sloped steeply to a concave base at a depth of 0.28m from the feature's lip and were burnt red. A large group of associated burnt oyster shells within the backfill probably indicate that the lime-kiln/pit was used to burn shells for lime. A 13th-century pottery sherd in the fill provides dating evidence for its abandonment. A total of 31 residual Roman sherds was also recovered. The absence of peg-tile is consistent with a 13th-century or earlier date for its period of use.

A residual Roman coin, probably a 3rd-century *antoninianus*, was found in its fill.

Trench 17 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F1	Service run		modern
F2	Service run		modern
F3	Foundation		modern
F4	Compacted gravel surface		post-medieval/modern
F5	Pit		post-medieval/modern
F6	Pit		post-medieval/modern
F70	Ditch		?Roman
F71	Post-hole		-
F72	Foundation		modern
F73	Compacted gravel surface		?medieval
F74	Pit or ditch		medieval/post-medieval
F76	Lime-kiln/pit	13th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile, copper-alloy object, copper-alloy coin (3rd-century <i>antoninianus</i>)	medieval
L1	Tarmac hard top		modern
L2	Hogging base for L1		modern
L12	Crush		modern
L13	Topsoil	post-medieval brick, peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile	post-medieval
L3	Soil accumulation	17th- to 18th-century pottery residual medieval and Roman pottery, iron strip	post-medieval

Trench 18: summary (Figs 2, 4, 13)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area. T18, along with T14 and T15 (above) were positioned close to the presumed site of St John's Abbey.

T18 contained an important archaeological sequence, which was associated with an 0.66m-wide wall foundation (F33) built of septaria and re-used Roman tile bonded in pale brown mortar (but, importantly, containing no peg-tile). The foundation was found to comprise up to three courses (to a surviving depth of 0.3m) with the surviving upper course being the lowest course above exterior ground-level (represented by an external surface F42). A length of approximately 7.7m of the wall foundation was exposed in the trench, including a right-angled corner at its southern end where it returned towards the east and continuing in that direction. Its extent to the north could not be determined because it was overlaid by a live modern service. The form of the foundation and a lack of peg-tile would be consistent with a building which was contemporary with the abbey.

A narrow slot (F41) ran around the western edge of the wall foundation. Where excavated, this was approximately 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep. Its sandy fill contained mortar flecks and occasional septaria chippings, indicating that this could have been the western edge of the original construction cut within which the wall foundation was built. If this interpretation is correct, then the 12th-century pottery in its fill is probably good dating evidence for the construction phase of the wall foundation (and superstructure). Alternatively the foundation cut may have been flush with the foundation and the slot around the edge may represent another function such as a bedding trench for planting or a drainage run.

Two surfaces were associated with the wall foundation F33. These were a patch of what appeared to be an 0.1m-thick clay floor (F53) on its eastern edge, and a rough compacted surface F42 on its western side. This rough surface, consisting of small septaria fragments and gravel cobbles, may include debris associated with the construction of the wall foundation and also its superstructure, but was apparently a deliberately-laid external pedestrian surface. There was a gap of approximately 5-7cm between surface F42 and the face of the foundation at two sampled locations. Given that the external surface was flush with the edge of the cut, then there must have been an obstruction within the cut which prevented the surface from butting against the wall itself. A wood-lined drain along the edge of the wall foundation is possible and would explain the void and its juxtaposition with the surfacing.

There were several other features in this trench, located to the south of the building, ie a medieval or post-medieval ditch (F49), a post-medieval pit (F50), a natural feature (F51), and a modern service cut (F34).

The layer associated with the robbing of wall foundation F33 produced a Norwegian stone hone, and a ?medieval iron lift-key from a door latch, which is an interesting domestic detail from one of the abbey buildings.

Trench 18 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F33	Wall foundation	(contained no peg-tile)	medieval
F34	Service cut		modern
F41	Slot/drainage feature	12th-century pottery, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	medieval
F42	Compacted surface	Roman pottery of early 3rd-4th century, Roman tile, copper-alloy object	?medieval (no finds later than Roman)
F43	Pit	peg-tile, slate, residual Roman pottery and tile, copper-alloy object	late medieval +
F49	Ditch	peg-tile	late medieval +
F50	Pit	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile	late medieval +
F51	Natural feature		
F52	Ditch	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery	post-medieval
F53	Internal clay floor?		?medieval
L32	Robbing of wall F33	19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile, hone, lead object, iron fitting	modern

Trench 19: summary (Figs 2, 4, 13)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area. It was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed by modern services, and a large feature could be identified as the construction cut for the modern boiler house standing to the east of the trench position. The only archaeological feature or horizon beyond the modern cut was L31, a post-medieval soil accumulation.

Trench 19 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
L31	Accumulation	peg-tile (in fill)	medieval/post-medieval

Trench 20: summary (Figs 2, 4, 13)

This trench was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area.

T20 was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed by modern services. It contained a 1.0m-wide and 0.34m-deep post-medieval ditch (F79) orientated east-west, and pit F80 containing Roman tile, which was cut by both F79 and the modern service run to its north.

Trench 20 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F79	Ditch	peg-tile, frogged brick, residual Roman pot and tile	post-medieval
F80	Pit	Roman tile	Roman (+)

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

T21 was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area. It contained a modern service cut F7 but was dominated by large

pit F127 over 1.2m deep which contained slate and peg-tile (not retained). It is probable, given the size of the feature that it represents a quarry-pit.

Trench 21 – context data

Context	type	period
F7	Service cut	modern
F127	Quarry-pit	post-medieval

Trench 22: summary (Figs 2, 5, 14)

T22 was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, beyond the abbey SAM area. T22 contained an important post-medieval sequence. The earliest feature was pit F48, which contained slate (not recovered) and peg-tile. Slate is not at all common in Colchester before the Industrial Revolution. However, early medieval slate is known from the town, for instance, on the roof of Colchester Castle. It is possible that slate was used within other high-status buildings at Colchester such as at St John's Abbey. Therefore the presence of slate does not necessarily imply an 18th-century plus date in this context and could date as early as the 13th/14th century, given also the presence of peg-tile. A wall foundation F46 cut pit F48. This was built of peg-tile, septaria and re-used Roman tile. It was 0.3m wide with a buttress (0.30m x 0.55m) on its southern side. The position of this buttress would imply that F46 represents an external wall, with the buttress being on its outside (southern) face. Parallel to F46 and 1.1m to its north was the foundation of a right-angled fragment of similarly-constructed wall (F47). The similarity of construction and parallel layout of these walls indicates that they are contemporary and part of the same structure. Although it is not possible to be certain, the configuration of these walls gives the impression that T22 has cut across the south-western corner of a quadrangular courtyard, with the open courtyard lying north and east of F47 and an internal walkway between F47 and F46. A layer of demolition material L10 lying over F47 gives a post-medieval or later date for a demolition phase associated with this structure. However, given the possibly early date of slate within F48, it is possible that the structures were of late-medieval rather than post-medieval date.

Other features in T22 included a post-medieval ditch F45 and a post-medieval pit F46.

Trench 22 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F44	Ditch		post-medieval
F45	Pit	peg-tile, residual Roman tile, lava quern	post-medieval
F46	Wall foundation		post-medieval
F47	Wall foundation		post-medieval
F48	Pit	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile (slate in fill)	late medieval +
L10	Demolition	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery	post-medieval-modern

Trench 23: summary (Figs 2, 5, 15)

This trench was specifically positioned to intercept the projected lines of the northern walls of the Roman circus. It was also within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area.

T23 contained three post-medieval pits (F67, F68, F69). This trench should have intercepted the inner and outer *cavea* wall foundations of the Roman circus. Unfortunately, the position of the north *cavea* wall coincided with a modern service run, so no trace of the robbed wall was visible at that point, while the position of the south *cavea* wall coincided with a post-medieval pit (F69). It is notable that the pit contained flecks of Roman mortar presumably derived from the former inner *cavea* wall. This cut did not have sides parallel with the east-west wall, as is usually the case with robber trenches, and was much deeper than the known shallow depth of the inner *cavea* wall foundation, so is unlikely to have been a robber trench of that

wall. Fabric 40 pottery from the fill did not appear in Colchester until approximately AD 1550 (CAR 7, 189). The peg-tile would support this date.

Other trenches positioned over the line of the circus walls were T28, and T29 (cavea wall foundations), T26 (*spina*) and T27 (racetrack).

A residual find from F68 was part of a 4th-century lamp. This potentially derives from a disturbed Roman burial, and indicates that there was a Roman burial on or close to this spot.

Trench 23 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F67	Pit	peg-tile, 17th- to 18th-century pottery, residual medieval and Roman pottery and Roman tile	post-medieval
F68	Pit	17th- to 18th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile, Roman pottery lamp	post-medieval
F69	Pit	17th- to 18th-century pottery, peg-tile	post-medieval

Trench 24: summary (Figs 2, 5, 15)

T24 was located in the car-park area north of Napier Road and east of Mersea Road, to the south of St John's Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It contained a natural feature (F31) but no archaeological features.

Trench 24 – context data

Context	type	period
F31	Natural feature	-

Trench 25: summary (Figs 2, 5, 15)

T25 was positioned within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, west of the abbey SAM area. T25 contained a row of features which may represent a structure. From north to south these were a mortared peg-tile and stone plinth (F113), a pit which may mark the former position of a robbed-out plinth (F114), and a pit (F116) containing robbed debris (F115) which may represent the cut of another structure (?plinth). F113 extended beyond the east edge of the trench, and so may alternatively be the end of a longer east-west wall.

Another sequence of archaeological deposits was revealed at the south end of this trench. A drain F117 crossed the trench running north-west/south-east. The base of the drain comprised a limestone slab (0.55m wide and 0.14-0.18m deep), dished in the middle to create the drainage channel. On either side of the 18cm-wide channel, the drain sides were built up with layers of peg-tile, septaria and flint and re-used Roman tile bonded in a yellowish brown lime mortar. F124 was located at the terminus of the drain. This feature may be variously interpreted as a hole eroded by water running out of the end of the drain, or more plausibly as the original sump into which the drain emptied. F124 cut an adjacent gravel surface F125. All of these features contained peg-tile, so they were all probably later medieval or post-medieval in date. However, since sump F124 was cut by the possible robbing pit F116, the drain and its sump (and presumably also the gravel surface) are earlier than the plinths/robbed-out plinths F113-F115.

Trench 25 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F113	Plinth		medieval to post-medieval
F114	?Robbing pit		medieval to post-medieval
F115	Robbing debris		medieval to post-medieval
F116	?robbing pit	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile	medieval to post-medieval
F117	Stone/tile drain	peg-tile in structure	medieval to post-medieval
F124	Pit	peg-tile, residual Roman pottery and tile, quernstone	late medieval/post-medieval
F125	Gravel surface		medieval

Trench 26: summary (Figs 2, 5, 15)

T26 was specifically positioned to intercept the precinct wall of St John's Abbey and the central barrier (*spina*) of the Roman circus.

T26 was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed by modern services. However, two archaeological features could be seen. These were the foundation of St John's Abbey precinct wall (F77), and an undated ditch-like cut (F78) on the east-west line of the circus *spina*. This cut was roughly V-shaped, 1.04m wide and 0.54m deep. Its south side sloped at approximately 30 degrees, and its north side initially sloped almost vertically and then at 45 degrees. This ditch-like cut could have been the *spina* robber trench, but it had a clean fill with none of the usual robbing debris. It is, therefore, possible that this was a drainage channel on the alignment of the approximately 5m-wide *spina*.

F77 comprised the southern face of the foundation of St John's Abbey precinct wall. It was solidly built with Roman brick and tile, septaria chunks and greensand fragments, bonded in a yellow sandy lime mortar. It was 0.45m wide (within the trench) and survived to a depth of 0.3m. Its top was 0.5m below ground-level, and it was sealed by modern layer L33.

Other trenches positioned over the Roman circus were T23, T28 and T29 (*cavea* wall foundations), and T27 (racetrack).

Trench 26 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F77	Foundation of St John's Abbey precinct wall -	-	medieval
F78	?Drainage gully within circus <i>spina</i>	-	?Roman
L33	Layer	-	modern

Trench 27: summary (Figs 2, 5, 16)

T27 was located north of Napier Road, outside both St John's Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It coincided with the racetrack area of the Roman circus immediately east and south-east of the estimated eastern end of the *spina*.

T27 was excavated in two halves, T27a to the north and T27b to the south. One large cut or hollow appeared in both halves of the trench; it was numbered F65 in T27b and F66 in T27a. The hollow F65/F66 was 17.2m wide from north to south and sloped gently down at an angle of approximately 20 degrees within T27a to a full depth of 1.35m. The feature contained no finds later than Roman, comprising seven sherds of pottery and thirteen fragments of Roman tile. A large quantity of large lumps of greensand blocks were found in the top fill of T27a, ie towards the northern end of the trench. These probably derived from collapse and/or robbing of the adjacent *spina*. It is now understood that the superstructure of the circus was probably dismantled and the site levelled to the top of the foundation level in the late Roman period. Such a date for this collapse layer is consistent with this hypothesis, since no post-Roman material was associated with it. If the collapse is of late Roman date, then the implication is that the hollow was created during the circus' period of use or soon after it went out of use, but before the circus' demolition. Recent excavations at the western end of the *spina* (within Circular Road North – CAT report forthcoming) revealed an erosion hollow between approximately 0.5m and 0.8m deep around the southern edge of the curved end of the *spina*. This is interpreted as the result of chariots turning abruptly and eroding the track as they followed the racing line around the turning-posts. Similar erosion is, therefore, likely to have occurred at the eastern end of the *spina*. Although the shallow sides of F65/F66 are typical of such a 'hollow-way', this feature is particularly deep. Nevertheless, the feature's profile is atypical of Roman quarry-pits which have been found elsewhere during the project, and in areas around the circus. For example, quarry-pits in Area J1 (East) and Area J1 (North) were steep-sided and considerably deeper. Indeed, the large pit beyond the east end of the circus in T33 of this evaluation is much more typical of a quarry-pit.

Other trenches positioned over the Roman circus were T23, T28, and T29 (*cavea* wall foundations) and T26 (*spina*).

Trench 27 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F65	?Erosion hollow	Roman tile	Roman
F66	?Erosion hollow	Roman pottery, brick and tile	Roman

Trench 28: summary (Figs 2, 6, 17)

This trench was specifically located to intercept the two lines of the walls of the Roman circus *cavea* at the semicircular end of the circus, adjacent to the presumed location of its monumental arch. It lies within the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, but not within the abbey SAM area.

T28 was dug in ground which was heavily disturbed by modern services. Despite this, it contained a number of significant deposits. These included a compact Roman gravel surface (F57), and a medieval or later robber trench (F62). F57 was cut by a post-Roman pit (F58). The gravel surface was found at a depth of 1.0m below ground-level and extended from flush against the *cavea* wall foundation eastwards to the end of the trench. It resembled other gravel surfaces previously found on the exterior side of the circus (for instance at GAL Areas C1 and C2; CAT Report 361). Cleaning above the gravel surface produced pottery of the late 2nd to 3rd century.

The robber trench F62 was precisely in the position where the outer wall of the circus *cavea* should have stood, and there is no doubt that it is the robber trench of that wall and its foundation. The bulk of recovered finds were of Roman date, but the robbing is dated by a sherd of Fabric 13, probably of 12th-century date. There was one piece of possible peg-tile from this context. It may be intrusive, or it may indicate a later period of robbing.

Other trenches positioned over the site of the Roman circus were T23 and T29 (*cavea* wall foundations), T26 (*spina*) and T27 (racetrack).

Trench 28 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F57	Compacted gravel surface	Roman pottery (late 2nd- late 3rd century) from above the surface	Roman
F58	Pit		post-Roman
F62	Robber trench	?peg-tile, 12th-century pottery, residual Roman pottery and tile	medieval

Trench 29: summary (Figs 2, 6, 17-18)

This trench was specifically located to intercept the two lines of the walls of the Roman circus *cavea* at the curved end of the circus, just to the south of the presumed monumental arch entrance, below a standing 19th-century building (to be retained). It lies outside and to the south of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, and outside the abbey SAM area.

T29 contained a large modern quarry-pit (F25/F63), which had cut through the area where the circus walls originally stood. The quarry-pit was cut by three modern service runs (unnumbered).

A large lump of masonry (F64) was found at the west end of the trench. Rather than being an *in situ* foundation, perhaps for the circus, this is more likely to be a fragment of the robbed-out abbey precinct wall.

A 13th- to 14th-century copper-alloy bar mount from a leather belt was a residual find from F25.

Other trenches positioned over the Roman circus were T23, and T28 (*cavea* wall foundations), T26 (*spina*), and T27 (racetrack).

Trench 29 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F25	Quarry-pit	19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile, clay pipe, residual Roman pottery, SF 21 (modern ceramic wheel) and SF 22 (copper-alloy mount)	modern

F63	Quarry-pit		post-medieval
F64	?Foundation	19th- to 20th-century pottery, residual Roman tile	modern

Trench 30: summary (Figs 2, 6, 18)

T30 was located in the car-park area north of Napier Road and east of Mersea Road, to the south of St Johns' Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It contained a series of modern concrete stanchions (unnumbered) relating to 20th-century military buildings. F128 cut the fill of a large post-medieval quarry-pit (F128) which occupied the entire trench. It was excavated to a depth of 0.30m in the trench bottom (ie to 31.60m), but augur probing showed that it was at least 2m deeper than trench bottom (ie 29.60m). The feature was therefore over 2.3m in depth and appears to be part of the quarry-pit located in T29 to the west and T33 to the south. The quarry-pit fill contained peg-tile and post-medieval pottery. The sloping northern edge of the quarry-pit was found at a depth of 1.06m at the northern end of the trench. Following this edge angle upwards, the pit's northern edge would have fallen between the end of the trench and the abbey precinct wall (which is still standing at this point).

Trench 30 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F128	Quarry-pit	post-medieval pottery, peg-tile (not retained)	post-medieval

Trench 31: summary (Figs 2, 6, 19)

T31 was located in the car-park area north of Napier Road and east of Mersea Road, to the south of St Johns' Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It contained a large quarry-pit (F28), with a Roman cremation burial (F32) cut into its lower fill at a depth of 1.64m below ground-level. This finding confirms the Roman date of the quarry-pit itself.

Other excavated remains were modern and of no archaeological significance; these included two modern service runs (F29 and F30) and two unnumbered modern service runs.

Quarry-pit F28 was exposed throughout T31 below modern service runs and surfacing and was clearly a large feature extending beyond the trench edges. Intrusive peg-tile and post-medieval pottery were recovered in very low density, but the bulk of the finds were residual Roman, including 151 sherds of late Roman pottery (1.85kg), a 2nd-century Roman coin, a copper-alloy fragment and a number of nails. Simple discarding of rubbish cannot be ruled out, but the presence of Roman inhumation burials in T33 (20m to the south) suggests that the nails found in T31 could derive from the Roman burials within the quarry-pit, and include both nails from the wooden coffins and hobnails from Roman shoes. Another (residual) Roman find was a coin of Pertinax, dated AD 193. The quarry-pit did not extend as far south as T33, as far north as T32 or as far east as T32, and so must have been approximately 25m in diameter.

The cremation burial was left *in situ*. Pottery fragments from cleaning around the burial suggests that it is dated to the 3rd or 4th century AD. The date corresponds with the Area C2 burial ground and with the group of seven burials found within the Napier Road excavations of 2006 (CAT report forthcoming). Cremated bone was visible in the pot. It is anticipated that this burial will be lifted and examined at a later date.

Trench 31 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F28	Quarry-pit	intrusive peg-tile and post-medieval pottery, Roman pottery and tile, Roman metal small finds including copper-alloy coin (Pertinax AD 193), and Roman nails and hobnails	Roman

F29	Service run		modern
F30	Service run		modern
F32	Cremation burial	Roman pottery of late 3rd/4th century	Roman

Trench 32: summary (Figs 2, 6)

T32 was located in the car-park area north of Napier Road and east of Mersea Road, to the south of St Johns' Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It contained a post-medieval or later land drain (F13), five modern concrete stanchions (F8-F12) of a former military building, and a modern road surface (in section, F14). None of these contexts produced finds, and none of the contexts are of archaeological significance.

Trench 32 – context and finds data

Context	type	period
F8-F12	Stanchion	modern
F13	Land drain	post-medieval/modern
F14	Road	modern

Trench 33: summary (Figs 2, 6, 19)

T33 was the southernmost trench in Area B1b. It was located in the car-park area north of Napier Road and east of Mersea Road, to the south of St Johns' Abbey precinct and the abbey SAM area. It was dug in two parts, T33a being its western and T33b its eastern part.

T33 contained seven modern features, ie six concrete stanchions (F20-F23, F26-F27) similar to those within T32, and a modern service run (F15).

Significant archaeological remains included a quarry-pit (F24) and three possible grave cuts (F16, F17, F19).

Although there were no post-Roman finds from the quarry-pit, its proximity and similarity of its fill to the post-medieval quarry-pit in T30, which extended south of T30 towards T33, suggests that it is part of the same quarry-pit and thus of post-medieval rather than Roman date. Furthermore, the scale of the quarry-pit and the proximity to T30 and the post-medieval quarry-pit in T29 suggests the likelihood that these quarry-pits are one and the same feature with an estimated diameter of approximately 40m. This scale of post-medieval quarrying is consistent with the quarry-pits located in Area J1 in 2004 and 2005 via archaeological trenching and mitigation works (CAT report forthcoming).

At the east end of T33, other significant archaeological remains included three grave cuts (F16, F17, F19), and a gravel patch or ?post-pad (F18). The two intercutting graves F16 and F17 were both aligned WSW-ESE. Bones and iron (?coffin) nails were visible at the excavated level; they were left *in situ*. Another potential grave cut (F19), which ran parallel to the ?grave cuts F16/F17, also showed iron nails at the excavated level (possibly coffin nails).

F17 appeared to be rather long, and so may actually be two separate grave cuts.

A small patch of compacted gravel surface (F18) overlapped the edge of ?grave cut F17. It may have had a structural function, such as a post-pad, or it may be a remnant from a larger area of now-missing surfacing. All three ?grave cuts F16/F17 and F19 cut pale brown natural clay (L6).

Trench 33 – context and finds data

Context	type	dated finds	period
F15	Service run		modern
F16-F17	?Grave cuts		Roman
F18	Gravel patch or ?post-pad		Roman
F19	?Grave cut		Roman
F20-F23	Stanchion		modern
F24	Quarry-pit	Roman pottery (1st-3rd century), Roman brick/tile	Roman or post-medieval?
F26-F27	Stanchions		modern
L6	Natural clay		-

6 Finds (Fig 20)

6.1 The small finds, bulk metalwork and slag

by Nina Crummy

Coins and jeton

The Roman coins range in date from the late 2nd century to the late 3rd century, but only the earliest is stratified in a Roman context. The late medieval jeton would have been used for reckoning accounts, but some were fraudulently passed off as coinage.

SF 39. (2) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Silver coin. Pertinax, *denarius*, reverse VICTO AV G, as RIC 434 but VICTO not VICTOR (see note, *RIC*, p 89). AD 193. Diameter 19 mm. Weight 3.18 g.

SF 27. (60) F76. Lime-kiln/pit. Medieval or post-medieval. Copper-alloy coin. Illegible late 3rd-century radiate *antoninianus*. Diameter 14 mm. Weight 0.94 g.

SF 21. (16) F42. Compacted surface. Medieval? Copper-alloy/base silver coin, illegible and in fragments, but probably a 3rd-century *antoninianus*. Approximate diameter 18 mm.

SF 35. (108) F126. Midden. Medieval. Copper-alloy jeton of Charles VI of France, 1380-1422 (as Mitchiner 1988, 175-8). Diameter 28 mm. Weight 3.53 g.

General small finds – Roman

Other than a late Roman lamp and armlet, both possibly from disturbed burials, the Roman small finds cannot be closely dated.

Fig 20, 1. SF 28. (85) F91. Modern service run. Complete copper-alloy child-sized armlet. The terminals, which overlap slightly, are in the form of flat snake's heads and diagonal grooves run back from them for some distance along the D-section hoop. Diameter 41 mm, thickness 2 mm, height 2.5 mm.

SF 38. (7) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Small copper-alloy sheet fragment. 10 by 9 mm.

Fig 20, 2. SF 29. (55) F68. Pit. Post-medieval. Fragment of a closed lamp in a hard oxidised fabric. The discus has a double rosette of raised lines. The upper part of the handle is missing. There is a raised concentric band within the footring. Diameter 44 mm, surviving length 46 mm, height 26 mm. This lamp can be grouped with three early 4th-century 'rosette' lamps from the foundations of the Butt Road Roman church (*CAR 2*, 80, nos 2109-2111).

SF 30. (1) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Five fragments of iron sheet. Maximum dimensions 38 by 11 mm, 25 by 20 mm, 29 by 11 mm, 20 by 13 mm, 17 by 12 mm.

SF 33. (6) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. a) Two thick iron fragments, probably part of the same block but not joining. Maximum dimensions 34 by 25, 16 mm thick; 37 by 20 mm, 16 mm thick. b) Narrow slightly curved strip fragment. Length 48 mm, width 10 mm.

SF 31. (1) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Fourteen(?) hobnails. Length of best preserved 14 mm.

SF 32. (6) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Ten iron hobnails. Length of the best preserved 21 mm.

SF 36. (107) F109. Midden. Medieval. Iron hobnail. Length 16 mm.

(1) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Four small amorphous iron fragments. 40 by 20 mm, 22 by 21 mm, 23 by 23 mm, 24 by 16 mm.

(1) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Three fragments of vitrified clay. Weight 17 g.

(6) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. a) Iron slag. Weight 107 g. b) Fragment of vitrified clay. Weight 5 g.

SF 44. (42) F60. Pit. ?Roman fragment of a limestone paving slab or block. Length 131 mm, width (incomplete) 91 mm, thickness 26 mm.

Medieval and post-medieval

The medieval and later items include an iron lift-key and a Norwegian ragstone hone, both typical of late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval assemblages, and a late medieval strap-mount. A number of Mayen lava quernstone fragments may be either Roman or medieval, the trade with Germany in these stones operating within each period, but are included here as they derive from post-Roman contexts. A deposit of medieval briquetage sherds from F126 points to coastal-made salt being traded inland in the vessels in which it was produced. Many have mortar on the outer face, suggesting that they were used as building material.

Fig 20, 3. (3) F25. Quarry-pit. Post-medieval. Copper-alloy bar mount from a leather strap. The central ridge is hollow-backed, the side flanges are ribbed. One of the terminal rivets remains. Length 23 mm, width 6 mm. Mounts of this type date from the 13th to later 14th century and appear on contemporary effigies and sculptures on the belts of knights and on bridle straps (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 207-215).

SF 22. (21) F43. Pit. Post-medieval. Fragment of copper-alloy sheet. 15 by 14 mm.

SF 26. (61) F76. Lime-kiln/pit. Medieval or post-medieval. Copper-alloy boss, in fragments. The centre is only slightly domed. Diameter 35 mm.

SF 34. (37) L9 (above F57). Lower topsoil. Post-Roman. Fragment sawn from an antler beam. The rough outer surface has been removed by a series of short knife strokes. Length 61 mm, maximum diameter 52 mm.

(5) F24. Quarry-pit. Post-medieval. Amorphous fragment. 15 by 23 mm.

SF 43 (10) F33. Partially robbed wall foundation. Medieval? Iron lift-key with rolled over suspension terminal and short rounded bit. Length 108 mm.

(36) F37. Pit. Post-medieval? Convex iron stud head, with only a short part of the shank remaining. Diameter 24 mm, length 11 mm.

(14) F42. Compacted surface. Medieval? Iron sheet fragment. 26 by 26 mm.

(49) F75 Sx 1. Ditch. Medieval or post-medieval. Iron split-spike loop. Length 46 mm.

SF 25. (8) L3. Soil accumulation. Post-medieval. Bent iron strap fragment with nail hole for attachment. Length 55 mm, width 27 mm.

SF 23. (9) F53. Clay floor? Medieval? Lead drip. 8 by 25 by 7 mm.

SF 45. (104) F126. Midden. Medieval. Two offcuts of lead sheet. Maximum dimensions 43 by 32 mm, 66 by 17 mm.

(102) F126. Midden. Medieval. Thirteen fragments and five small chips of a rectangular trough of briquetage. The fabric consists of coastal alluvium mixed with chopped vegetable matter, fired to a red-brown. One sherd is a knife-trimmed rim. Total weight 712 g.

SF 24. (13) F33. Partially robbed wall foundation. Medieval? Norwegian ragstone hone, slightly tapering in both width and thickness. The lower, narrower, end is broken. Maximum dimensions: length 94 mm, width 39 mm, thickness 16 mm.

SF 18. (100) F124. Pit. Medieval. Fragment from the rim of a large lava quernstone with traces of tooling on the worn upper surface. The underside is quite regular but rough. Maximum thickness 112 mm. Weight 2.04 g.

SF 20. (24) F45. Pit. Post-medieval. Fragment from the rim of a lava quernstone, with diagonal dressing on the grinding surface and vertical dressing on the edge. Maximum dimensions 77 by 48 mm, 22 mm thick.

SF 46. (103) F126. Midden. Medieval. Abraded fragment of lava quernstone, with no worked surface remaining. Maximum dimensions 60 by 43 by 34 mm.

SF 42. (72) F94. Pit. Medieval. Abraded fragment of lava quernstone, with no worked surface remaining. Maximum dimensions 35 by 23 by 17 mm.

Modern and unstratified

SF 40. (3) F25. Quarry-pit. Post-medieval. Ceramic insulator from a high-voltage electrical structure, possibly a pylon. 20th century. Diameter 38 mm, height 21 mm.

(83). Unstratified. Amorphous iron lump, possibly slag. 39 by 30 by 27 mm.

Iron nails

Nails have a round flat or slightly convex head unless otherwise specified. Those described as complete may lack the last few millimetres of the shank (see Table 1).

Table 1: iron nails.

Trench	Context	Finds no	Type	Description	Dimensions (in mm)
T9	F109	107	Midden. Medieval to post-medieval	1, incomplete; 4 shank fragments	28; 26, 25, 22, 20
T10	F105	80	Pit. Roman	4, complete; 2 shank fragments	59, 54, 52, 45; 29, 20
T11	F126	102	Midden. Late medieval or post-medieval	1, complete	33
T12	F93	69	Pit. ?Roman	1, complete; 1, incomplete	60; 30
T12	F94	72	Pit. ?Roman	5 complete; 1 clenched shank fragment	65, 60, 45 x 3; 43
T13	-	83	Unstratified	1, complete (clenched); 1, incomplete	85; 44
T13	F81	64	Ditch. Medieval	2 complete; 1 shank fragment	80, 60; 68
T14	F75	49	Ditch. Medieval or post-medieval	2 complete; 1, incomplete	77, 38; 29
T14	L22	74	Dump. Medieval	2, complete	50; 60
T17c	F76	76	Lime-kiln/pit. Medieval	1, complete	63
T17c	L13	63	Topsoil. Post-medieval	2, complete	59, 46
T18	F33	10	Partially robbed wall foundation. Medieval	1, complete	62
T14	F37	36	Pit. Post-medieval	1, complete. clenched	40
T18	F42	14	Surface. Medieval	1, incomplete; 1 shank fragment	51, 35
T18	L3	8	Accumulation. Post-medieval	2, incomplete	61, 43
T23	F67	52	Pit. Post-medieval	2, complete (one clenched); 1 incomplete	60, 40; 37
T25	L29	91	Accumulation. Medieval or post-medieval	shank fragment	40
T31	F28	1	Quarry-pit. Roman	3, complete; 2, incomplete; 7 shank fragments	50, 34 (clenched), 41; 31, 11; 44, x 2, 34, 29, 25 x 3 (one clenched)

6.2 The Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

In total, the evaluation produced just over 22 kg (2,2082g) of Roman pottery. This is a large assemblage in comparison to other evaluations for the Alienated Land project. The pottery was recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10*, in which all the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 2). Where appropriate in Table 2, reference has been made to the corresponding fabric types described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels were catalogued where possible using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996. The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each finds number. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric, and the identifiable pottery forms present in each fabric type. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot date was recorded for each finds number.

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR 10*).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
AA	amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphora	
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 3
AU	amphoras, miscellaneous, including examples possibly from the Brockley Hill/Verulamium region	
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
MV	Central Gaulish plain samian – Les Matres-de-Veyre	LMV SA
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
BX	decorated samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish decorated samian	LEZ SA 2
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	COL CC2
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish'-type, fine colour-coated wares	
NO	other fabrics	
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LVN CC
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	
LR	Cologne (lower Rhineland) ware	KOL CC
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated wares	OXF RS
MQ	white-slipped fine wares and parchment wares	
MR	brown colour-coated ware, including Drag from 38 bowls	
TE	Nene Valley, white fabric with black grits, unslipped or with reddish wash	LVN WH
TY	mortaria, other British (not Colchester or Verulamium)	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	COL WH (Colchester mortaria only)
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares	

Roman pottery discussion (Table 3)

Much of the Roman pottery is residual in later-dated features. Therefore, in addition to the catalogue of the pottery below, apart from comments on pottery associated with specific Roman features, only broad comments on the overall assemblage are made. None of the pottery has been illustrated.

There is a broad range of pottery. As well as local wares, the pottery types include both imports and regional imports. As well as coarse wares and storage jars, the assemblage includes fine wares, mortaria and amphoras. Viewed as a single assemblage, the date range of the pottery types spans the whole of the Roman period of the 1st-4th centuries. However, there is little or no pottery that can be specifically dated to the early Roman, pre-Flavian period or to the late 4th century.

The earliest closely-dated pottery is two sherds from decorated samian bowls of form Dr 29, from F68 (finds no 55) in T23 and from Roman quarry-pit F28 (finds no 1) in T31. These are probably pre-Flavian, but were current until c AD 85 (Webster 1996, 40). Also some of the plain South Gaulish samian from F68, based on the fabric, might be of Claudio-Neronian date. However, apart from this small quantity of samian, the earliest pottery can only be broadly dated as 1st century or 1st-early 2nd century and no specific pre-Flavian forms or fabrics are recorded.

The latest-dated pottery consists of sherds from the Nene Valley, Hadham and Oxford potteries. There are 37 sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA), nine sherds of oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH), and three sherds of Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware (Fabric MP). Nene Valley colour-coated ware began to appear in Colchester from the early-mid 3rd century (CAR 10, 279) and oxidised Hadham ware appeared from the mid 3rd century, but is more typical of the 4th century (CAR 10, 297). Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware began to appear at Colchester in small quantities around the beginning of the 4th century, but is typically late 4th century as the majority is recovered from post-Roman contexts (CAR 10, 304).

Ten contexts are dated as Roman, or probably Roman: F28, F32, F57, F66, F70, F82, F93, F94, F105 and L6. No pottery was recovered from F70 (a ditch in T17), from F82 (a pit in T13), or from L6 (a clay floor in T33).

F32 is an urned cremation burial in T1. This cremation was recorded, but was left *in situ*. However, a small quantity of pottery (finds no 4) was recovered while cleaning this feature which includes two grey ware sherds from a Cam 268 jar. These two grey ware sherds are almost certainly from the cremation urn itself, and the jar form can be dated to the early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.

F57 is a gravel surface in T28. About 0.5 kg (44 sherds) of pottery is associated with this surface (finds no 36). This pottery includes black-burnished wares (Fabrics GA and GB) dating from after the early 2nd century, Central Gaulish samian of mid-late 2nd-century date, a local colour-coat beaker of form Cam 392, dated mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, and a roller-stamped grey ware sherd that, while not closely datable, is possibly of 3rd-century date. The closely-datable pottery from this feature suggests a date of the late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. However, it should be noted that if the single sherd from a Cam 279 jar (Fabric GB) is the later version of the form, that is, Cam 279C, then it would date from the early 3rd century (not before c AD 220) to the 4th century.

F66 in T27 is an erosion hollow. Apart from four sherds of grey ware (Fabric GX) which can only be dated as Roman, there is one sherd of 2nd-century Central Gaulish samian from this feature (finds no 41).

F28, in T31, is a quarry-pit. There is a considerable quantity of pottery, about 1.8 kg (150 sherds) from this feature (finds nos 1 and 6). The closely-dated pottery spans the whole of the Roman period. The earliest-dated pottery is a sherd from a South Gaulish decorated samian bowl of form Dr 29, which can be dated to the Claudio-Neronian/early Flavian period (finds no 1). Late Roman pottery is represented from both finds numbers. The latest-dated pottery is six sherds of Hadham Oxidised ware which can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century, but is more typical of 4th-century contexts (CAR 10, 297). There are also several sherds from the Nene Valley potteries. These are a sherd from a mortarium (Fabric TE) and seven sherds of colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) dated early-mid 3rd to 4th century. From finds number 1 there is a sherd from a BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1 (Fabric GA) flanged bowl of form Cam 305A, dated from the third quarter of the 3rd century to the 4th century.

F82, F93, F94 and F105 are Roman pits. As has been previously stated, no pottery was recovered from pit F82 (T13).

A small quantity of pottery (fourteen sherds) from the pit F93 (T12) included a sherd of BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (Fabric GB), that can be dated to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century (finds no 69).

There is a large quantity of pottery (about 7 kg) from the pit F94 (T12, finds nos 71 and 72). The latest pottery from this feature can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century, and some sherds are probably of 4th- or late 4th-century date. Residual sherds include samian, local colour-coat wares (Fabric CB and CZ), and BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (Fabric GB) of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Of the late-dated Roman pottery, the finds number 71 sherds include one of colour-coated ware from the Nene Valley (Fabric EA) which can be dated to the early-mid 3rd to 4th century. The larger quantity of pottery from finds number 72 (over 6 kg) includes a number of late Roman pottery fabrics and form types. There are sherds from the Nene Valley potteries, one sherd of mortarium (Fabric TE) and ten sherds of colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) dating from the early-mid 3rd to 4th century. The colour-coat sherds are from forms Cam 395 and Cam 407, of which Cam 395 can be more closely dated to the mid 3rd century(?) to 4th century (*CAR 10*, 392). There is also one sherd of Hadham Oxidised ware (Fabric CH) and two sherds of Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware (Fabric MP). The Hadham ware sherd can be dated as mid-late 3rd-4th century, and is more typical of the 4th century (*CAR 10*, 297). The Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware, although it is recorded in small quantities from the early-mid 3rd century at Colchester, is most common as residual sherds from post-Roman contexts (*CAR 10*, 304), indicating that, at Colchester, the majority is of late 4th-century date. The flanged bowl form Cam 305B, dating from the third quarter of the 3rd century to the 4th century, is recorded in Fabric KX. There are also sherds from a Cam 39 dish in BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1 (Fabric GA), a form which dates from the early Antonine period to the 4th century. Of note are two sherds from a flanged mortarium in Fabric TZ which has a prominent bead rim and flange type. This is comparable with several associated with kiln 25 at Colchester, which are described as a late type (Hull 1963, 155, fig 89, nos 16-20). Other pottery from the assemblage associated with kiln 25 includes the forms Cam 305, dated to the third quarter of the 3rd century to the 4th century, and a Cam 395 pentice-moulded beaker, dated mid 3rd century(?) to 4th century, but usually dated as 4th century (*CAR 10*, 486).

The pit F105 in T10 contained a small quantity of pottery (finds no 80), among which are thirteen sherds, representing a partial pot, from a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker of form Cam 407. This beaker can be dated, at Colchester, to the second quarter of the 3rd century(?) to 4th century (*CAR 10*, 486-7).

Some of the Roman pottery from one of the pits dated to the post-medieval period, F68 in T23, is of specific interest. As well as containing possible pre-Flavian samian (see above), there are a few body sherds that are probably from a Brockley Hill/Verulamium region copy of a Gauloise 4 amphora (Fabric AU; both finds no 55). These amphora have been discussed by Symonds, the largest number being recorded from London (Symonds 2003, 54-5). At Colchester, an example was recovered in 2003 from a burial (F204) at the Handford House site (CAT Report 323 forthcoming) and others have been recognised among the illustrations in *CAR 10* (fig 3.19, nos 18-21).

Table 3: the Roman pottery.

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
T9	F109	107	10	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, straight-sided bowl with groove below plain rim and groove lower on body wall, Roman.		Roman
T9	F112	110	50	Fabric CZ, 2 sherds, Cam ?407, ?late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, one sherd with red ?paint residue on interior surface, sherds include Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, Roman.		?late 3rd century
T9	F118	109	141	Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, mid-late 3rd-4th/4th century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, Cam 408-410, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman.		mid-late 3rd- 4th/4th century
T10	F91	79	47	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, closed form (no interior slip), possibly a sherd from an inkwell (Ritterling 13), 2nd century; Fabric CZ or Fabric CL(NO), 1 sherd, fine sherd with metallic gloss slip, ?3rd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, Roman.		early ?2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T10	F105	80	1,168	Fabric EA, 13 sherds, partial pot, Cam 407, mid 3rd-4th century; Fabric GX, 11 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 8 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 39, mid 2nd-3rd century.		mid 3rd-4th century
T11	F126	101	24	Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century
T11	F126	101	3	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman
T11	F126	102	50	Fabric CB, 1 sherd, early 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T11	F126	103	35	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman
T12	F92	70	159	Fabric BA(CG), Dr 38, early 2nd-2nd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, mid-late 3rd to 4th century; Fabric ?FJ, sandy white ware handle sherd from a flagon or similar vessel, Verulamium region or possible Rhineland origin; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman.	contained post- Roman pottery	mid-late 3rd to 4th century
T12	F93	69	180	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 10 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T12	F94	71	326	Fabric CZ, 3 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 15 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century, Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, Roman ?1st-2nd/3rd century.		Roman, early- mid 3rd to 4th century
T12	F94	71	636	Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 8 sherds, Roman, Fabric HZ, 4 sherds, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century
T12	F94	72	3,240	Fabric AA, 3 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, burnt, mid-late 3rd-4th/4th century; Fabric CZ, 10 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric EA, 7 sherds, Cam 395, ?mid 3rd-4th century, Cam		late 3rd-4th/late 4th century

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
				407, mid 3rd-4th century, Cam 408-410, early-mid 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 6 sherds, Cam 39, mid 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 50 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century, also includes a sherd from a roller-stamped pot, 3rd century; Fabric HZ, 22 sherds, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric KX, Cam 305B mid-late 3rd to 4th century; Fabric MP, 2 sherds, late 3rd-4th/late 4th century; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, brown paint on cream background; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, form type recorded in Hull 1963, fig 89 nos 16-20, ?4th century.		
T12	F94	72	1,168	Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric HZ, 11 sherds, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 305B, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd.		late 3rd-4th century
T12	F94	72	384	Fabric AJ, 3 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 45, late 2nd to early-mid 3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 8 sherds, Roman.		early-mid 3rd to 4th century
T12	F94	72	1,209	Fabric BA(OG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric BA(EG), 2 sherds, Dr 45, late 2nd to early-mid 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 4 sherds, Cam 407, painted body sherd, red fabric, grey slipped surface with white painted decoration of leaves, rare, similar to CAR 10, fig 5.35 no 165, dated early-mid to late 3rd century; Fabric DJ 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 2 sherds, Cam 408-10, early-mid 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 4 sherds, Cam 124, Hadrianic/Antonine to early-mid 4th century; Fabric GB, 9 sherds, Cam 40B (2 pots), Cam 278, both form types dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 305B, late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 38 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 10 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, Fabric TE, 1 sherd, mid 3rd-4th century.		late 3rd-4th century
T12	F94	72	36	Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century
T13	F81	64	405	Fabric CB, 2 sherds, Cam 391, early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 6 sherds, 5 sherds dated 1st-2nd/3rd century, 1 sherd, sandy fabric; burnt; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 37B, early to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 23 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early to mid-late 3rd century
T13	F81	64	39	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century
T13	F83	66	90	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century
T13	F84	67	18	Fabric GX, 2 sherds, one from a lid, Roman.		Roman
T13	F84	96	327	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, also sherds from a bowl; Fabric GX, 14 sherds, includes a beaker, possibly form Cam 108 dated 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T13	F84	96	27	Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
T13	F88	68	57	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279C, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 278, probably mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century also includes sherds from a bowl; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman.		early-mid 3rd to 4th century
T13	F88	82	83	Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.	contained post-Roman pottery	Roman, ?early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T13	F107	81	4	Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century		early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
T13	U/S	83	2,716	Fabric AA, 2 sherds, from 2 different amphoras, 1st to early-mid 2nd century; Fabric AJ, 3 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 27, 1st century; Fabric BX(SG) 1 sherd, Dr 37, Flavian; Fabric BX(CG) 1 sherd, Dr 37, 2nd century; Fabric CB, 2 sherds, early 2nd to early/mid 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 14 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EZ(LR), 1 sherd, late 1st/early 2nd-2nd century; Fabric GB, 11 sherds, Cam 37A (2 vessels), early 2nd-early 3rd century, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 152 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century, cam 227, Neronian-early 2nd century; Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century; Cam 299, early Antonine-4th century; Fabric HZ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric MP, 1 sherd, late 3rd-4th/late 4th century; Fabric MR, 1 sherd, Dr 38, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		late 3rd-4th/late 4th century
T13	U/S	83	36	Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century
T14	F36	17	140	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 33, stamped MV+TVLLI , (MUXTULLI) probably Muxtullus, see CAR 10 , 134, stamp S712, dated c AD 140-160; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 9 sherds, Cam 307, late 2nd/early 3rd century-4th century; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 278, early 2nd-3rd century.		late 2nd/early 3rd-?4th century
T14	F37	18	18	Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman.		Roman
T14	F39	20	12	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman
T14	F40	45	61	Fabric BA(?CG), 1 sherd, Dr 33, 2nd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, includes form Cam 218 dated 1st-early 2nd century, overall pottery dated Roman.		Roman, 2nd century
T14	F40	46	20	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman.		2nd century
T14	F55	32	57	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman;		Roman
T14	F56	44	45	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Cam ?299, early Antonine-4th century.		early Antonine-4th century
T14	F75	49	62	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, folded ?beaker in sandy fabric, possibly white slipped but abraded, Roman; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.	from Sx 1	1st-2nd/3rd century
T14	F75	50	15	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, partly oxidised or scorched surface, Roman.		Roman

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
T14	F75	51	281	Fabric AA, 1 sherd, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37B, early to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, Roman.	from Sx 2	early to mid-late 3rd century
T14	F90	73	35	Fabric BX(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 37, 2nd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, small flat-rimmed bowl, Cam ?243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		2nd century
T14	L22	74	91	Fabric BA(?CG), 3 sherds, ?2nd century; Fabric BX(CG), 1 sherd, ?Dr 37, 2nd century; Fabric BX(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 37, early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century; Fabric TZ or TY, 1 sherd, Roman.		early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
T15	F59	43	141	Fabric BA(CG), Dr 33, 2nd century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman, Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T15	F60	042	1,520	Fabric GB, 6 sherds, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; GX, 2 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric HZ, 7 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, Cam 497 variant, mid-late 2nd to ?3rd century.	contained post-Roman pottery	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T17	F76	76	169	Fabric BA(CG), 2 sherds, 2nd century; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 33, early-id 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric EA, 2 sherds, Cam 408-410, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 39, mid 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 25 sherds, Roman.	contained post-Roman pottery	early-mid 3rd to 4th century
T17	L13	63	194	Fabric ?AJ, 2 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(EG) 1 sherd, Dr 38, mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, includes lid sherd, Roman.		mid-late 2nd to ?mid 3rd century
T18	F33	10	5	Fabric CB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman;		early 2nd to mid 3rd century
T18	F41	11	21	Fabric CH, 1 sherd, Dr 38, mid-late 3rd to 4th century/4th century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman.		mid-late 3rd to 4th century/4th century
T18	F42	14	1,111	Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 303, early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman.		early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century
T18	F43	15	6	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Cam ?299, Roman, ?early Antonine-4th century.		?early Antonine-4th century
T18	F43	22	30	Fabric ?AA, 1 sherd, ?1st-early 2nd century.		?1st-early 2nd century
T18	F43	22	130	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, base sherd from large vessel, Roman	note: original record is T33, F22	Roman
T18	F50	29	100	Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam ?37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.		early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
T18	F52	30	23	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman.		Roman
T18	L3	8	275	Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 303, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century (pot rim is similar to CAR 10, fig 6.34 no 39); Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century
T18	L3	12	28	Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 4 sherds Cam 278, mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T20	F79	57	3	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman
T22	F48	25	105	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 37, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T22	F48	27	41	Fabric BA(MV), 1 sherd, Dr 18/31 c AD 100-120; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 38, early/mid 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.	from Sx 2	early/mid 2nd to mid 3rd century
T22	L3	26	37	Fabric GB, 1 sherd, bowl, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.	cleaning over layer	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T22	L10	39	37	Fabric CL(NO), 1 sherd, ?3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.		early-mid 2nd/3rd or early 4th century
T23	F67	52	591	Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 31, mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 2 sherds, Cam 392, mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd century, Cam 407 mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, Fabric DZ, 1 sherd; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 37?A, ?early 2nd-early 3rd century, Cam 37B, late 2nd/early 3rd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 26 sherds, Cam 268 early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		mid-late 3rd century
T23	F68	55	628	Fabric AA, 1 sherd, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric ?AU, 3 sherds from a large vessel in red-brown very sandy fabric with cream surface or slip, possibly a Gaulish type amphora, copies of Gauloise 4 amphora forms from the Brockley Hill/Verulamium potteries have been discussed by Symonds, the largest number of these pots being recorded from London (Symonds 2003, 54-5) and an example was recovered from the 2003 excavations at Handford House, Colchester, from burial F204 (CAT Report 323 forthcoming); Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, small thick handle sherd and body sherd, both in sandy fabric, possibly Verulamium region products?, 1st-mid 2nd/?3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, spout from a mortaria of form Cam 195?, also part of a mortarium of form Cam 497 variant dated mid-late 2nd/?3rd century.		mid-late 2nd to 3rd century
T23	F68	55	180	Fabric BA(SG), 3 sherds, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric BX(SG), Dr 29, pre-Flavian, Dr 30, 1st century, rim sherd with repair hole.		1st century, possibly Neronian
T23	F68	55	383	Fabric AA, 1 sherd, ?1st-mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 9 sherds, 1st century; Fabric		early-mid 3rd-

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
				BX(SG), 2 sherds, Dr 29, Claudio-Neronian/early Flavian, Dr 30, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 7 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd-4th/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 80 small sherds, Roman; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Cam 122 or 123, Flavian-2nd century.		4th century
T23	F68	55	5	Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, 1st century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		Roman
T25	F116	92	70	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century, Cam 278 early 2nd to late mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T25	F117	97	58	Fabric GB sherd, Cam 37B, 3 sherds, early to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.		early to mid-late 3rd century
T25	F124	98	176	Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, bead rim bowl with groove around body, 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37?B, late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 10 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century; cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.		?late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century
T25	L29	91	12	Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T27	F66	41	17	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman.		Roman, ?2nd century
T27	F66	54	26	Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman.		Roman
T28	F62	33	164	Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1s-early 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 39, mid 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman.		mid 2nd-4th century
T28	F62	34	406	Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 16 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century, Cam 280-281, mid-late 2nd-4th century; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century, Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 37/38, early 2nd-mid 3rd century		mid-late 2nd-4th century
T28	F57	36	502	Fabric AA, 2 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 31, mid-late 2nd century; Fabric CZ, 4 sherds, Cam 392, mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 30 sherds, roller stamped sherd, 3rd century; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd; Fabric TY 1 sherd.	note: original label is T14, F37	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T28	F57	36	8	Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman.	cleaning over feature, note: original label T14, F37	Roman
T30	F25	3	37	Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, ?Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd-4th century.		early/mid 2nd-late 3rd-4th century
T31	F28	1	459	Fabric AA, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 4 sherds, Cam 392, late 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam		late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

Trench	context number or unstratified (U/S)	finds number	weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	comments	Roman pottery spot date
				305A, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, Cam 37B, late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 10 sherds, Roman.		
T31	F28	1	278	Fabric CH, 1 sherd from a flagon neck, mid-late 3rd to 4th century/4th century; Fabric CZ, 4 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 14 sherds, Cam 266, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 280-281, mid-late 2nd-4th century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd /3rd century, Fabric TE, 1 sherd, mid 3rd-4th century; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Roman.		mid-late 3rd to 4th century/4th century
T31	F28	1	4	Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century
T31	F28	1	149	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, burnt, 2nd century; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric CB, 1 sherd, early 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, mid-late 3rd to 4th/4th century; Fabric CZ, 6 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric EA, 2 sherds, early-mid 3rd-4th/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 28 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.		mid-late 3rd to 4th/4th century
T31	F28	6	18	Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, mid-late 3rd to 4th/4th century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 304 or 305A, late 2nd-4th century; Fabric GX, 13 sherds, Roman.		mid-late 3rd to 4th/4th century
T31	F28	6	249	Fabric CH, 2 sherds, late 3rd-4th/4th century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 4 sherds, mid-late 3rd to 4th/4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 30 sherds, Roman; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, Roman.		late 3rd-4th/4th century
T31	F32	4	143	Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 305A, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278, 3rd century; Fabric GX 15 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.	cut quarry-pit F28	late 3rd-4th century
T33	F24	5	38	Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century
Total			22,082			

6.3 The post-Roman pottery

by H Brooks

Description of pottery

Total number of sherds 201, total weight 1,883g. All fabric descriptions are after *CAR 7*. Fabrics present are: Fabric 13 (early medieval sandy ware); Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 22 (Heddingham ware); Fabric 36 (London-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 42 (Border ware); Fabric 45f (Westerwald stoneware); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone); and Fabric 51b (flowerpot).

This is an interesting group of material. Out of the total of 201 sherds, medieval sherds (120) were much more common than post-medieval sherds (81). Similarly, out of a total weight of 1,883g, 1780g was medieval (94% of total sherd weight). The commonest fabrics were Fabric 13 (44% of total sherd weight), followed by Fabric 20 (11% of total sherd weight). There was also a higher proportion of Heddingham ware than in a normal Colchester assemblage. Also, the presence of London-type ware is unusual. These two factors indicate the presence of a high-status site, exactly what would be expected here on an abbey site.

The distribution of medieval pottery is also instructive here. The bulk of the medieval pottery came from T13, T14 and T15, which are the closest trenches to the presumed site of the abbey church. Further, approximately one-third of all medieval pottery came from T14 (albeit mainly from residual contexts).

The post-medieval wares are not particularly worthy of comment, except to say that it is quite unusual not to find Fabric 46 tin-glazed earthenwares. Fabric 40 PMRE was by far the commonest post-medieval fabric (859g out of 1,003g).

Medieval fabrics

T9

F118, finds number 109

1 sherd Fabric 13, 4g.

T12

F92, finds number 70

5 sherds Fabric 13, 57g. One sherd is Fabric 13s (shelly), another is a B2A rim form, later 12th century. 4 sherds Fabric 20, 126g. Includes a B2a rim with vertical thumb-strip. Later 12th-early 13th century.

F92, finds number 70

13 sherds Fabric 13, 125g, includes a flat-topped rim sherd, probably late 12th-early 13th century.

T13

F83, finds number 66

12 sherds Fabric 13, 159g. Fragments of cooking pot in overfired Fabric 13, 12th century.

F84, finds number 96

1 sherd Fabric 13, 13g. flat-topped rim, 13th century.

F88, finds number 82

1 sherd Fabric 20, 7g. 13th century.

F88, finds number 68

2 sherds Fabric 13, 13g, 12th century.

F107, finds number 81

1 sherd Fabric 13, 4g. 1 sherd Fabric 20, 66g, from robust, slashed handle from ?jug, 12th century.

T14

F36, finds number 17

2 sherds Fabric 13, 16g, 12th century.

F37, finds number 18

7 sherds Fabric 21, 111g, 1 sherd Fabric 21a, 9g. Colchester type is white slip under green glaze, probably in imitation of London or ?Hedingham ware, 6 sherds Fabric 22, 146g. Hedingham inc a flat-topped upright jug rim. 1 sherd London type ware Fabric 36. London type has red painted slip decoration under green glaze, 10g.

F40, finds number 46

4 sherds Fabric 13, 44g, 12th century.

F40, finds number 45

1 sherd Fabric 13, 24g, 2 sherds Fabric 22. Hedingham is speckled green glaze over pale fine, orange body, 33g, 2 sherd London-type ware Fabric 36. London-type is ?jug base and body sherd, 24g. There is a Fabric 51b flowerpot from this context – probably intrusive.

F55, finds number 32

2 sherds Fabric 13, 19g, 4 sherd Fabric 21a, 166g. Colchester type ware – this is very sandy – Fabric ?21. Includes a slashed handle with flat-topped ?jug rim, 1 sherds Fabric 22, 4g, 5 sherd London-type ware Fabric 36, 58g. London-type ware: sherds from body of early rounded jug, late 12th century. Pale greenish glaze over partial white slip, with red slip bands running around girth and at right-angles down body.

F75, finds number 50

3 sherds Fabric 13, 51g. 12th century.

F75, finds number 51

3 sherds Fabric 13, 45g. 12th century.

F75 Sx 1, finds number 49

1 sherds Fabric 13, 4g. 12th century.

L22, finds number 74

1 sherd Fabric 13, 4g. 1 sherd Hedingham ware Fabric 22, 3g (13th or 14th century).

T15

F59, finds number 43

1 sherds Fabric 13, 19g. 12th century.

F60, finds number 42,

4 sherds Fabric 13, 144g. Includes a very heavy base of unknown use. Also Fabric 40 (PMRE) from this context. 1 sherd Fabric 21a Colchester-type ware, 58g.

T17

F76, finds number 76

1 sherd Fabric 20, 12g, 13th century.

T18

F41, finds number 11, 1 sherd Fabric 13, 9g, 12th century.

L3, finds number 8

1 sherd Fabric 13, 10g (residual here).

L3, finds number 12

2 sherds Fabric 20, 19g. Two residual sherds, probably Fabric 20, but not a positive identification.

T20

L14, finds number 59

1 sherd Fabric 21a, 4g. Green glaze over white slip, early Fabric 21a. 13th-14th century?

L14, finds number 59

1 sherd Fabric 21a, 78g. Robust ?jug handle, unglazed. 15th-16th century.

T23

F67, finds number 52

1 sherd Fabric 13, 4g, 12th century.

T28

F62, finds number 34

1 sherd Fabric 13, 43g. Thick base sherd, 12th century.

T29

F25, finds number 3

1 sherd Fabric 20, 12g, residual in this context.

T31

F28, finds number 6

3 sherds Fabric 13, 10g, residual here.

Post-medieval fabrics

T10

F104, finds number 78

2 small sherds Fabric 48d, 1g.

T14

F37, finds number 36

1 sherd internally glazed rim of bowl or dish, Fabric 40, 8g.

F40, finds number 45

1 sherd Fabric 51a (this might be intrusive in an earlier group of sherds), 10g.

F90, finds number 73

1 sherd Fabric 51a, 24g.

T15

F60, finds number 42

1 sherd Fabric 40 unglazed. Possibly a Fabric 51b flowerpot (*CAR 7*, fig 149.181), 62g.

T18

F33, finds number 10

4 sherds Fabric 40, 29g, 2 sherds Fabric 42.

F33, finds number 14,

1 sherd Fabric 48d, 13g, 19th-20th century.

L3, finds number 8

2 sherds Fabric 40, large bowl base, internally glazed with pale green glaze over white slip.
Plus a large ?bowl/pancheon rim, 521g. Group date 18th-19th century?

T23

F67, finds number 52

1 sherd Fabric 40, 56g. Jug handle in 'standard' fabric, mid 16th-18th century.

F68, finds number 55

1 sherd Fabric 40, 4g.

F69, finds number 56

3 sherds Fabric 40, 43g.

T25

L29, finds number 86

1 sherd Fabric 48d, 9g.

T25

L29, finds number 87

1 sherd PMRE Fabric 40bl, 2g, 17th century.

T28

F64, finds number 40

1 sherd Fabric 51a, 3g.

T29

F25, finds number 3

3 sherds Fabric 40, 68g. 2 sherds Fabric 45f, Westerwald ware, 5g, 17th or early 18th century. 2 sherds Fabric 48d, 23g.

T31

F28, finds number 6

3 sherds Fabric 740 (PMRE), 60g.

6.4 The glazed tile

by Nina Crummy

The fragment of tile from the Roman quarry-pit F28 must be intrusive as it dates to the medieval period. Also medieval is a fragment of green glazed floor tile from ditch F40. It cannot be closely dated but is likely to be 14th to 15th century.

(1) F28. Quarry-pit. Roman. Fragment of tile slipped and glazed on one surface to a grey-white colour. This may alternatively be a patch of vitrification, although the rest of the sherd shows no sign of having been exposed to high temperatures. The fabric contains very fine grit and occasional small pieces of flint grit. Both surfaces are reduced, and the core is also reduced. The thickness of the tile suggests that the sherd comes from a medieval peg-tile. Maximum surviving dimensions 26 by 23 mm, 14 mm thick.

(19) F40. Ditch. Medieval? Fragment of floor tile with the upper surface glazed green, by adding copper to a basic lead glaze, on the upper surface. There is a splash of plain lead glaze on the underside. The fabric is reduced and contains occasional flint grit. Maximum surviving dimensions 71 by 67 mm, 24 mm thick.

6.5 The clay tobacco pipe

by Nina Crummy

Only undatable plain stem fragments were recovered, although the variety of stem-bore diameters suggests that they were deposited over a wide period. The fragment from the medieval midden F109 suggests that that feature was still in use in the post-medieval period.

(3) F25. Quarry-pit. Post-medieval. Stem fragment. Length 21 mm, bore diameter 3.4 mm.

(109) F109. Midden. Medieval. Stem fragment. Length 49 mm, bore diameter 1.5 mm.

(39) L10. Demolition. Post-medieval to modern. Stem fragment. Length 45 mm, bore diameter 2.1 mm.

(88) L27. Building debris. Modern. Stem fragment. Length 29 mm, bore diameter 2.5 mm.

(86) L29. Accumulation. Medieval to post-medieval. Stem fragment. Length 58 mm, bore diameter 2 mm.

(87) L29. Accumulation. Medieval to post-medieval. Stem fragment. Length 27 mm, bore diameter 1.8 mm.

(91) L29. Accumulation. Medieval to post-medieval. Two stem fragments. a) Length 37 mm, bore diameter 2.5 mm. b) Length 48 mm, bore diameter 2.8 mm.

6.6 Other ceramic finds

by H Brooks

This section consists of the catalogue and Table 4.

Catalogue

F24

finds number 5

1 peg-tile fragment, 8g. D

1 *tegula* flat fragment, 12g

1 Roman brick fragment, 109g

1 *imbrex* fragment, 25g

F25

finds number 3

1 glazed floor tile fragment in post-medieval Fabric 40, 67g

4 peg-tile fragments, 216g. D (1 kept, 93)

6 *tegula* flat fragments, 588g

F28

finds number 1
2 peg-tile fragments, 56g. (including 1 glazed piece)
45 undated brick/tile scraps, 526g. D
4 *tegula* flange fragments, 905g
29 *tegula* flat fragments, 2,010g
7 Roman brick fragments, 1,190g
8 *imbrex* fragments, 360g

finds number 6
21 *tegula* flat fragments, 1,551g
1 box tile fragment, 22g
1 ?*tessera*, 25g.
9 undated brick/tile scraps, 101g. D

F33

finds number 10
2 peg-tile fragments, 88g. D (1 kept, circular peg hole, 48g)
1 Roman brick fragment, 1,280g

F36

finds number 17
28 peg-tile fragments, 1,295g. D (2 kept, 324, 1 with circular peg hole)
8 undated brick/tile scraps, 72g. D
1 post-medieval brick fragment, 102g
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 274g
19 *tegula* flat fragments, 370g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 30g

F37

finds number 18
6 *tegula* flat fragments, 207g
1 box tile fragment, 114g

finds number 36
1 peg-tile fragment, 20g
4 *tegula* flange fragments, 874g
6 *tegula* flat fragments, 711g
2 *imbrex* fragments, 276g
7 *tesserae*, 146g

F39

finds number 20
4 *tegula* flat fragments, 665g

finds number 47
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 33g

F40

finds number 19
5 peg-tile fragments, 770g. D (3 have circular peg holes. 1 kept 123g)
1 Tudor brick fragment, 144g. D
1 post-medieval brick fragment, 356g. D
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 556g

finds number 45
1 peg-tile fragment, 74g (circular peg hole)

finds number 46
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 32g

F41

finds number 11
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 28g

F42

finds number 14

4 *tegula* flat fragments, 379g
1 Roman brick fragment, 297g

F43

finds number 15
15 peg-tile fragments, 1,731g. D (1 kept, 240g, circular peg hole)
2 undated brick/tile scraps, 21g. D
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 226g
2 Roman brick fragments, 458g

finds number 22
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 304g
1 Roman brick fragment, 158g

F45

finds number 23
1 peg-tile fragment, 71g
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 545g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 155g

F48

finds number 27
1 *imbrex* fragment, 71g
2 box tile fragments, 182g

F49

finds number 28
2 peg-tile fragments, 135g. D

F50

finds number 29
1 peg-tile fragments, 16g
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 244g

F52

finds number 30
3 peg-tile fragments, 127g. D

F54

finds number 31
1 Tudor brick fragment, 110g

finds number 48
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 100g

F55

finds number 32
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 179g
1 box tile fragment, 10g

F56

finds number 44
2 peg-tile fragments, 34g
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 30g

F59

finds number 43
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 228g
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 802g
2 Roman brick fragments, 550g
3 box tile fragments, 321g

F60

finds number 42
3 *tegula* flange fragments, 1,097g
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 631g
3 Roman brick fragments, 1,990g

2 *imbrex* fragments, 184g
6 box tile fragments, 1,121g

F62

finds number 33
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 222g

finds number 34
1 peg-tile fragment, 18g
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 450g
4 *tegula* flat fragments, 1,027g

finds number 35
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 244g
2 Roman brick fragments, 46g

F64

finds number 40
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 26g

F66

finds number 4
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 283g
8 *tegula* flat fragments, 995g
1 Roman brick fragment, 340g

finds number 54
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 30g
2 Roman brick fragments, 234g

F67

finds number 52
1 peg-tile fragment, 50g. D
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 141g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 54g
2 *tesserae*, 34g

F68

finds number 55
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 121g

F69

finds number 56
1 peg-tile fragment, 205g

F75

finds number 49
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 85g
1 peg-tile fragment, 15g

finds number 50
1 post-medieval brick fragment, 37g
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 175g

finds number 51
2 *tegula* flange fragments, 405g
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 464g
2 *imbrex* fragments, 297g

F76

finds number 76
1 chimney pot fragment in medieval Fabric 13 or 20. Diameter approx 10-12cm, in line with Mile End products (Drury & Petchey 1975, figs 61-64), and CAR 7, fig 66.60, 66.70).
4 *tegula* flange fragments, 520g
13 *tegula* flat fragments, 739g
3 Roman brick fragments, 427g
2 *imbrex* fragments, 130g
1 box tile fragment, 203g

F79

finds number 57

- 1 peg-tile fragment, 98g (circular peg hole)
- 2 post-medieval brick fragments, 439g (frogged brick – post-1850). 1 D (190g)
- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 281g
- 1 Roman brick fragment, 109g
- 1 *imbrex* fragment, 151g

F80

finds number 58

- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 65g

F81

finds number 64

- 14 peg-tile fragments, 223g. D (1 kept, circular peg hole, 47g)
- 2 undated brick/tile scraps, 37g. D
- 2 *tegula* flat fragments, 107g
- 1 Roman brick fragment, 110g

F82

finds number 65

- 2 *imbrex* fragments, 115g

F83

finds number 66

- 1 peg-tile fragment, 27g
- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 69g

F84

finds number 96

- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 75g
- ?Roman brick fragments, 1,238g
- 3 *imbrex* fragments, 229g

F88

finds number 68

- 4 ?*tegula* flat fragments, 215g
- 1 box tile fragment, 44g
- 1 undated brick/tile scrap, 8g. D

finds number 82

- 1 *tegula* flange fragment, 206g
- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 113g

F90

finds number 73

- 6 peg-tile fragments, 162g. D
- 2 undated brick/tile scrap, 30g. D
- 2 *tegula* flat fragments, 36g
- 1 box tile fragment, 130g

F91

finds number 79

- 1 *tegula* flange fragment, 26g
- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 108g

F92

finds number 70

- 1 *tegula* flat fragment, 24g
- 1 *imbrex* fragment, 107g

F94

finds number 71

- 1 *tegula* flange fragment, 411g
- 3 *tegula* flat fragments, 1,744g
- 1 Roman brick fragment, 1,095g

finds number 72
9 *tegula* flange fragments, 2,667g
49 *tegula* flat fragments, 7,467g
5 Roman brick fragments, 1,167g
3 *imbrex* fragments, 204g
2 box tile fragments, 261g
1 undated brick/tile scrap, 34g. D

F100

finds number 75
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 244g
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 45g

F101

finds number 77
1 peg-tile fragment, 10g
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 93g

F104

finds number 78
1 peg-tile fragment, 35g

F105

finds number 80
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 255g
6 *tegula* flat fragments, 293g

F107

finds number 81
2 *tegula* flat fragments, 109g

F111

finds number 105
1 peg-tile fragment, 64g. D (10mm thick)

F112

finds number 110
4 *tegula* flat fragments, 323g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 55g

F116

finds number 2
1 peg-tile fragment, 99g, 13mm thick, circular peg hole 13mm diameter. D
3 undated brick/tile scraps, 54g. D
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 104g
1 Roman brick fragment, 51g

finds number 93
3 peg-tile fragments, 165g. D (1 kept, with circular peg hole 14mm diameter)
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 283g
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 33g

F118

finds number 109
1 peg-tile fragments, 18g
1 post-medieval brick fragment, 49g
1 glazed ridge tile? in post-medieval Fabric 40, 129g
1 *tessera*, 18g
1 ?*tessera*, 18g

F119

finds number 106
1 peg-tile fragment, 25g, 10mm thick. Kept for sample

F123

finds number 89
3 Roman brick fragments, 1,203g

F124

finds number 98
8 peg-tile fragments, 561g. D (2, kept for sample, 326g)
3 undated brick/tile scraps, 18g. D
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 326g
3 Roman brick fragments, 1,192g
2 *imbrex* fragments, 306g

F126

finds number 101
1 peg-tile fragment, 20g
1 Roman brick fragment, 44g

finds number 102
1 peg-tile fragments, 6g
1 *tegula* flat fragments, 214g

finds number 103
8 peg-tile fragments, 165g. D (2 kept, 65g)
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 36g

L10

Finds number 39
4 peg-tile fragments, 194g. D (1 kept with circular peg hole, 57g)

L13

finds number 63
1 peg-tile fragments, 26g. D
1 post-medieval brick fragment, 150g. D
10 *tegula* flat fragments, 848g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 65g

L14

finds number 59
1 peg-tile fragment, 46g

L22

finds number 74
1 *tegula* flat fragment, 99g
1 undated brick/tile scrap, 10g. D

L25

finds number 91
33 peg-tile fragments, 1,383g. D (3 kept, circular peg holes, 221g)
11 *tegula* flat fragments, 511g
1 *imbrex* fragment, 74g

L27

Finds number 88
2 peg-tile fragments, 96g. D, with circular peg hole

L29

finds number 86
15 peg-tile fragments, 1,062g. D (1 kept, 315g, 2 circular peg holes)
1 *tegula* flange fragment, 828g
1 Roman brick fragment, 101g

finds number 87
1 peg-tile fragments, 148g. D (re-used – mortared)
1 undated brick/tile scrap, 8g

L30

finds number 8
peg-tile fragments, 376g. D (1 kept, 115g square peg hole)
3 *tegula* flat fragments, 152g
1 box tile fragment, 484g

Table 4: summary of brick and tile types by trench (weights in g).

Trench	<i>Tegula</i>		<i>Imbrex</i>		Roman brick		Box tile		<i>Tesserae</i>		Peg-tile		Post-medieval brick	
	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt	Qty	Wt
T9	7	475	1	55	1	44	1	484	2	36	12	579		
T10	23	1,286	1	74	6	2,262					35	1,428		
T11	9	250			5	1,348					10	951	1	49
T12	60	12,313	4	311	5	603	2	261						
T13	14	1,183	5	344	5	2,540	1	44			15	250		
T14	61	5,303			3	1,203	3	254	7	146	44	2,370		
T15	8	2,758	2	184	3	427	9	1,442						
T16					23	2,193							5	749
T17	27	2,107	3	195	1	109	1	203			1	26		
T18	12	1,181									23	2,097		
T20	2	346	1	151							1	98	1	150
T22	2	545	2	226	5	1,344	2	182			5	265		
T23	2	262	1	54	3	574			2	34	3	301	2	439
T25	7	1,574	2	306	2	460					28	2,035		
T27	10	1,308												
T28	11	1,943			8	1,299					1	18		
T29	7	614									4	216		
T31	55	4,478	9	385			1	22	1	25	3	64		

6.7 The faunal remains analysis report

by Julie Curl (NAU Archaeology)

Introduction

A total of 9.793kg of bone, consisting of 726 pieces, was produced from 32 features and four layers. The bulk of the assemblage was derived from cattle, pigs and sheep. Wild species are represented by deer, hare, goose, mallard and curlew, suggesting hunting to supplement the diet. A single human bone was also recorded.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present and the amount of material that could produce measurable, ageable bone; bone was scanned to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications was recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context and counts taken for the number of bones for each species identified. Due to the small size of the assemblage, measurements were not taken as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. All information was input directly into an Excel database for analysis. The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included as a table with this report.

The assemblage

A total of 9.793kg of bone, consisting of 726 pieces, was produced from 32 features and four layers. Material was derived from a variety of contexts including ditch, quarry-pit and drain fills. The largest quantity, 35.6%, was produced from medieval/post-medieval middens in T9 and T11. Just under 35% was yielded from pit fills; the remaining 29.6% was recovered from the other fills, with the smallest amount, 0.024kg, being retrieved from a drain fill (see Table 5).

Table 5: weights of faunal remains recovered from each context type.

Context	Total weight (kg) for each fill type
Accumulation layer	0.273
Ditch	0.753
Drain	0.024
Dump	0.009
Lime-kiln/pit	0.255
Middens	3.452
Midden pit	0.485
Post-hole/pit	0.003
Pit	3.417
?Pit/ditch	0.049
Quarry-pit	0.444
Robber trench	0.105
Service run	0.049
Surface	0.256
Topsoil	0.031
Wall foundation	0.188
Total assemblage weight	9.793

The assemblage is in a reasonable condition, although fragmentary; the relatively high fragmentation resulted in just 43.7 % of the bone being identifiable to species. The remains in the robber trench F62 were particularly worn and showed eroded surfaces that may have been subject to acidic soil conditions or were simply residual finds. Canid gnawing was observed on the articular end of a cattle scapula in F126, T11 (103), apart from this bone, canid activity in this assemblage was low.

Species, butchering and uses

Of the 726 elements, 317 were identifiable to a species (43.7%), while the remaining 409 pieces (56.3%) were too fragmentary to identify further than from 'medium-sized mammal' (pig, small deer or sheep) or 'large mammal' (cattle, large deer or equid).

Both in terms of the number of elements identified to a species and the MNI (minimum number of individuals), the pig is the most common species in this assemblage, representing 25% of the overall assemblage and 57% of the identifiable remains. Largely, this is due to a relatively large collection of pig remains recovered from the medieval/post-medieval midden in T11.

Evidence of butchering was frequent throughout the assemblage, with chops and cuts to dismember the animals, and fine cuts around foot bones and jaws from skinning. The medieval pit fills in T12, features F92 (70), F94 (72) and F94 (94) produced numerous sections of ribs (probably cattle) that had been chopped and cut into small sections with an average length of 5-6cm; these rib sections are probably the remains of sections of rib used for soups and broths, with the ribs chopped into sections to release the nutritious marrow. It is interesting that the pigs (a sub-adult and neonatals) from F126 were not butchered and these unbutchered remains may suggest diseased pigs.

Pig

The majority of a sub-adult pig skeleton was recovered from F126, T11 (101); comprising a skull with third molars in wear, mandibles, unfused femurs, humerus, pelvis, radius, ulna, vertebrae and ribs. This individual died at around 24 months of age. This pig did show enamel hypoplasia, suggesting an animal that had a difficult start in life and had undergone some form of stress during development (Teegen 2002). In addition to this young adult pig, there are nine neonatal bones, comprising humeri, three femurs, tibia, ulna and a scapula, representing at least two individual

neonatal piglets. There is no sign of any butchering on any of the bones. It is possible that the neonatals belonged to the young pig and that she died before or during farrowing.

More neonate pig bones were produced from the medieval/post-medieval accumulation layer L31; a total of 18 neonatal bones were found in this layer that gave a MNI of 2. The presence and number of neonatals at this site would suggest that pigs were bred here during the medieval to post-medieval period.

A pig calcaeneus in F94, T12 (72) showed excessive butchering, with deep knife cuts all around the shaft of the bone; the excessive butchering would suggest a novice.

Cattle

Cattle were the second most frequently identified species, representing nearly 15% of the overall assemblage, again with most in the medieval/post-medieval periods. The elements present and evidence of butchering observed indicate food waste; horn-cores were noted in F126 and F42, but these show no signs of being used for horn-working. A cattle pelvis in F90, T14 (73) exhibited a pathological condition. The acetabular notch had been bridge by an additional growth of bone, this ossification may have occurred following an injury to the muscle (Manchester & Roberts 1997), possibly either from birthing difficulties or strain from use as a draught animal.

Sheep/goat

Sheep/goat were poorly represented, accounting for just over 2% of the overall assemblage and roughly evenly distributed throughout periods. A sheep/goat talus in F28, T31, (1) showed cut marks from skinning. Excessive butchering was seen with several deep knife cuts on a lamb femur from the medieval/post-medieval ditch fill F36, T14 (17), suggesting a less experienced butcher.

Wild mammals

Red deer was recorded from the medieval pit fill F88, T13 (68), this calcaeneus showed knife cuts and had been chopped, demonstrating that the deer had at least been skinned, if not eaten. Two bones from an adult hare were found in the post-medieval pit fill F68 (55), with evidence of butchering observed on the tibia, attesting to this animal being used for food.

Bird bones

Only four fills produced remains of bird and these were only single elements in each context. A goose bone came from the medieval quarry-pit F55, T14 (32) that may have belonged to a butchered Greylag or domestic bird. A smaller, ?Brent goose radius was recovered from the medieval/post-medieval accumulation L31, T19 (90); the radius had been cut, attesting to the butchering of this wild species of goose. A cut tarsometatarsus from a Mallard was found in the modern accumulation L29, T25 (91). A humerus from a Curlew was produced from the Roman quarry-pit F28, T31 (1); a deep cut mark was noted on this bone, clearly showing the butchering of this bird. The Curlew is a large wader that frequents estuaries, coastal areas, moors and farmland, and, weighing up to 1kg, it would have been a worthwhile catch for meat.

Human skeletal remains

One human bone, a humerus, was recorded in F66, T15 (42); this bone is from an adult, but it is very worn and eroded compared to the animal bone, suggesting that it was redeposited.

Conclusions and comparisons with other assemblages

The bulk of the faunal assemblage is derived from butchering and food waste, with some preparation butchering, such as skinning, being evident, which may have all been done at one location; overall suggesting domestic activity. It would appear that the bulk of the meat in the diet at this site in both the Roman and medieval/post-medieval periods came from cattle and pigs, while sheep may have been of lesser importance. The butchered wild species clearly show that some hunting took place,

although it did not contribute a great deal to the diet at this site. The only birds present are wetland species, indicating hunting at nearby wetland areas.

Young adult pigs, recovered with neonatals and no signs of butchering were found at Fleggburgh, Norfolk (Curl 2007). It is possible that the young mothers died prior to birth due to disease or even during birth as a result of complications. Death of the mother very soon after birth is possible and the newborn piglets may have died from starvation soon after. The lack of butchering is interesting, if the pig died during birthing and with no apparent signs of disease, one would assume that the meat would not be wasted, although caution may have been shown, especially in times when there was a plentiful supply of food. It is most likely, therefore, that the pig may have shown some external signs of an infection or ill-health; pigs, as with cattle and sheep, are susceptible to many diseases. The pig buried in this assemblage did show enamel hypoplasia, suggesting an animal that had at least suffered a difficult start in life.

6.8 The decorative stone

by Will Clarke

T13, finds no 83 (U/S)

Fragment of red granite

Texture: medium grained

Composition: predominantly pink-red feldspar, with glassy quartz and clusters of white feldspar, and black biotite mica

Shaping: The fragmentary remains of this piece display no original edges, although one polished surface with saw-marks is partially preserved

Maximum dimensions 46 by 28 mm, 21 mm thick

Provenance: unknown

Date: likely to be post-medieval.

Discussion

Finds of ornamental stone consisting of red granite are of particular interest when recovered from the Garrison close to the *in situ* remains of the Roman circus, because of their potential to derive from this structure. One of the most distinctive elements of circus architecture was an obelisk carved out of red granite erected on the *spina* of a circus (Humphrey 1986). The stone of choice for circus obelisks in Rome and in the Provinces was a red Egyptian granite, known in antiquity as *lapis pyrrhopoecilos* (meaning red spotted stone) or *syenites* (Pliny *Natural History*, 36,13 (63)). Finds of Aswan granite are, to my knowledge, unprecedented from Roman Britain to date.

Provisional non-destructive analysis of the red granite fragment from T13, recovered unstratified 95m north of the circus, suggests that the characteristics displayed by its colour and composition are not dissimilar to red granite from Aswan, but its texture differs. The sample, for example, displays medium grain size, while the texture of Aswan granite tends to be either very fine or more characteristically coarse (Gnoli 1988, 145-7; Borghini 1989, 225-6). In terms of its working, the fragmented state of the sample provides one surface that has been polished, and this surface displays a series of fine parallel saw-marks. This type of evidence is not untypical on Roman hard stones such as porphyry and granite despite being subsequently polished. Saw-marks characteristic of Roman worked stone, however, tend to be linear, while those on the sample exhibit curvature. This type of evidence would normally place the working of this stone in a much later period. That said, if the sample was indeed found to be cut from Aswan granite, these saw-marks would, rather than indicating a later date for its working, have the potential also to support an Egyptian provenance. This is because obelisks transported from Roman Egypt to be erected on circus monuments in Rome and around the empire were not cut from the quarries of Aswan granite during the Roman period, but taken as *spolia* from earlier Pharaonic monuments. Worked granite objects dating to the earlier Dynastic period are known to exhibit curved saw-marks as, for example, on the sarcophagus of Khufu and Khafre carved out of Aswan granite and dating to the 4th Dynasty (Stocks

2003). Hence, evidence for curved saw-marks on this sample did not unequivocally rule out a context of Roman date if this red granite has an Aswan provenance. To investigate this further and determine the provenance of the sample from T13 based on petrological study, a series of close-up digital images of its texture was sent to the Italian laboratories of IUAV (*Istituto Universitario di Architettura*) in Venice. The Director of Petrology at IUAV, Professor Lorenzo Lazzarini, kindly examined the images, and was able to establish that the petrological make-up of the red granite variety from the sample did not match red granite from Aswan or any other granite sources in Egypt. Furthermore, the sample could not be matched by IUAV to other sources of granite used in antiquity around the Mediterranean. Without this granite sample having an Aswan provenance, saw-marks exhibiting curvature on its polished surface must then point to a much later date. This most likely post-dates the medieval period, despite being recovered close to the remains of St John's Abbey, and probably points to a post-medieval date. Sources of granite in the post-medieval period are numerous and potentially world-wide.

6.9 The other stone

by Dr Keith Oak (Havering Sixth Form College)

Discussion

Specimens are listed in Table 6 below. Most of the stone appears to be part of the greensand assemblage of rocks from Kent. In Kent, these range from shelly limestones to sandy limestones to calcareous sandstones and glauconitic sandstones. Sometimes these can be nodular and can be called Kentish Rag. The specimens described here are mainly calcareous sandstones with some glauconite (a conspicuous green mineral), with some being sandy limestones. These would be used as building material for structural and/or decorative purposes. They have been imported to Colchester during the Roman and post-Roman periods. These specimens could be re-used Roman material, or have been imported at the time of the building of the abbey.

There are a few specimens of chalk or muddy chalk (marl), which is found at depth around Colchester. So these specimens could be local, but are more likely to come from south Essex, Kent, or even Norfolk. If used, then it would be for lime or cement and certainly not as a structural rock.

There are also some micaceous sandstones which are more unusual and are probably not from the same source as the Kent greensand specimens. The mica makes these rocks 'flaggy', so they could have been used as flagstones or for structural/decorative purposes. The fine grain allows for detailed carving.

Table 6: list of other stone.

Finds, context, and trench number	Dimensions	Description	Stone name	Possible provenance
1: F28, T31 (specimen 1/2 from this context)	90mm x 50mm x 25mm	medium sand 250µm: greyish orange 10YR 6/6: fossil shell fragments: calcareous	Medium sandstone	Possibly Kent
1: F28, T31 (specimen 2/2 from this context):	50mm x 42mm x 30mm	fine grained: calcareous: Very pale orange 10YR 8/2	Marl (muddy chalk)	South Essex or Kent. Not used for building, but could be used for cement
3: F25, T30	25mm x 60mm x 30mm	fine sand-187µm: very pale orange 10YR8/2: calcareous	Fine sandy limestone	Possibly Kent

14: F42, T18	96mm x 38mm x 35mm	medium/coarse sand 500µm: Mottled pale yellowish grey 5YR 8/1: calcareous Some glauconite	Medium calcareous sandstone (greensand)	Kent
34: F62, T28	115mm x 80mm x 4mm	medium/coarse sand 500µm: Pale yellowish brown 10YR 6/2: Contains some glauconite	Coarse glauconitic sandstone (greensand?)	Kent. Possibly been dressed?
41: F66, T26 (specimen 1/2 from this context)	166mm x 92mm x 11mm	medium sand 375 µm: Yellowish Grey 5Y8/1: Fossil bivalves, possibly Trigonia: vague layering: some glauconite: calcareous	Calcareous glauconitic sandstone (greensand?)	Kent
41: F66, T26 (specimen 2/2 from this context)	58mm x 40mm x 30mm	medium sand 375 µm: moderate yellowish brown 10YR 5/4: calcareous	Calcareous sandstone	Possibly Kent
49: F75, T14	83mm 60mm 22mm	fine sand 187 µm Pale Yellowish Brown 10YR 6/2, one area of Moderate Orange Pink 5YR 8/4 Faint Laminations micaceous Slightly calcareous	Fine micaceous sandstone	Not local. Unsure but probably not the same as all the other Kent rock (could be part of a flagstone)
54: F66, T26	68mm x 40mm x 18mm	coarse sand 500µm: Yellowish grey (5Y 8/1) with patches of greyish orange (10YR 7/4): Slightly calcareous	Coarse calcareous sandstone	Kent?
72: F94, T12	6.2cm x 4.3cm x 2.1cm	medium sand: Light Olive Grey SY 6/1: Slight layering: calcareous	Medium calcareous sandstone	Kent?
80: F105, T10	98mm x 42mm x 14mm	fine sand, 187 µm: Yellowish Dark Orange: Finely laminated: Micaceous	Fine micaceous sandstone	Not local; unsure but probably not the same as all the other Kentish rock (could be part of a flagstone)
91: (L29, T25 (specimen 1/2 from this context)	42mm x 28mm x 18mm	very fine chalk calcareous Very pale orange 10YR 8/2	Chalk	South Essex or Kent; could be used for cement
91: L29, T25 (specimen 2/2 from this context)	31mm x 28mm x 22mm	fine sand with small pebbles 8mm Calcareous Shell fragments Dark yellowish orange 10YR 6/6	Looks like mortar	Mortar? – inclusions could be local
109: T9, F118	80mm x 75mm x 40mm	fine sand 187µm Greyish orange 10YR 7/4 Laminated micaceous	Fine micaceous sandstone	

6.10 The flints

by Hazel Martingell

Discussion

A total of three flints was studied. One piece (F28) was a burnt natural flint. From context L10 in T22, two flints were recovered; one was a flake-blade in a dark grey flint, not typical of any period. The other flake, with retouch and a polished edge, is quite unusual. It is made on light grey flint, and the deep positive and negative bulbs suggest an Iron Age date.

Catalogue

T31, F28	1 burnt natural piece
T22, L10	1 flake-blade, secondary 1 flake, tertiary with one polished edge and an area of retouch on distal edge; deep positive and negative bulbs; thin section.

6.11 The post-Roman glass

by H Brooks

I am grateful to David Andrews of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team for advice on the post-Roman window glass.

T14

F40, finds number 19

Nine sherds of thick (2.5mm-3mm) and now clouded window glass (114.7g). Given the proximity of the abbey church, which will probably have been within 50 m of this trench, there can be no doubt that this glass is from the abbey windows. Four pieces have grozed edges. Three of those are fragments of rectangular pieces 35mm-45mm wide (ie approximating to 1.25 to 1.5 inches) and wide, and broken off at 60mm long (2.5 inches). All pieces are apparently colourless, apart from one piece with a curved, grozed edge which is coloured blue. One piece has surface painting, in the form of thin lines which probably represent tendrils. Date, 14th-15th century.

T23

F67, finds number 52

Two pieces of 'old' window glass (3.1g). Approximately 1.5mm thick. Probably clear glass, but now opaque, and the original colour is difficult to make out. This is probably from a post-medieval structure on this site. The Lucas mansion?

F68, finds number 55

Three pieces. Two are good-quality green glass, slightly onion-weathering (2.6g). Probably post-medieval and contemporary with this feature. One piece is thin glass from a small vessel (0.1g). This is probably Roman.

T29

F62, finds number 34

Good-quality clear glass sherd with both sides slightly frosted (4.2g). This is either modern, or more likely Roman and residual in this context.

T30

F25, finds number 3

One Victorian or later brown glass ?beer-bottle sherd (3.6g). This is probably contemporary with the date of this feature (post-medieval quarry-pit).

One delicate pale blue or lilac coloured sherd (0.1g). Almost certainly Roman, and residual here. Must be derived from Roman levels in this area, and from the fact that Roman burials were found in T31 and T33 (within a few metres of this spot), it seems very likely that this derives from a disturbed Roman burial.

6.12 Charred plant macrofossils and other plant remains

by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

An evaluation revealed a number of features of mostly post-Roman date, including a lime-kiln/pit (F76) and a stone-lined drain (F117). Samples for the evaluation of the preservation and content of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from both of the above features (samples 1 and 2 respectively).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 7. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots, seeds, moss fronds and leaf fragments, were present in both assemblages.

Results

Both assemblages were extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments. Other plant macrofossils were extremely scarce, comprising a small number of root/stem fragments within sample 1 and a single indeterminate cereal grain from sample 2. The latter sample also contained a moderate to high density of black porous and tarry residues, all of which had the appearance of industrial waste, possibly derived from the combustion of coal at a very high temperature. Other remains occurred very infrequently, although fragments of bone, fish bone and marine mollusc shell were recorded. The white mineral concretions within sample 1 were probable residues from the lime-kiln/pit.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, neither assemblage contains sufficient material to enable the conclusive interpretation of the features from which the samples were taken. The condition of some remains appears to be indicative of high temperature combustion, and while this may be understandable for the sample from the lime-kiln/pit, the origin of the intensely burnt material within the ditch fill is less clear. However, both assemblages indicate that plant macrofossils do survive within the archaeological deposits at Area B1b and it is, therefore, recommended that additional samples should be taken from all well-sealed and dated deposits which are encountered during any further excavations in this area. No further analysis of the current assemblages is required.

Table 7: charred plant macrofossils and other plant remains.

Sample No.	1	2
Finds No.	62	94
Context No.	F76	F117
Context type	Lime kiln	Drain
Plant macrofossils		
Cereal indet. (grain)		x
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx
Charred root/stem	x	
Other materials		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xxx
Black tarry material	x	xxx
Bone		x
Fish bone		x
Marine mollusc shell	x	
Small coal frags.	x	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bone		x
White mineral concretion	xx	
Sample volume (litres)	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%

Key to table

x = 1-10 specimens

xx = 10-50 specimens

xxx = 50-100 specimens

7 Discussion (Fig 21)

Pre-Roman

Three prehistoric flints were recovered from Area B1b. There were no prehistoric sherds. This would indicate low levels of pre-Roman activity on this site.

Roman

Area B1b is now known to be the extraordinary meeting-point of three significant extra-mural activities from approximately 300m to the south of the Roman town wall. These comprise a settlement zone in the northern area, the eastern end of the recently-discovered public entertainment building (Roman circus) in the south-western area, and part of the southern cemeteries within the south-east corner of Area B1b.

Roman extra-mural settlement

Roman pottery (22kg) and brick or tile (57kg) were very common residual finds from Area B1b. This clearly indicates a high level of Roman activity here. The pottery and brick/tile is presumably derived from domestic activity and Roman buildings in this area. Unfortunately, it is not possible to be more specific because no Roman structures (other than the circus; see below) were apparent among the excavated remains. The domestic site appears to be focussed on the group of trenches to the north of the Roman circus with specifically Roman pits within T10, T12 and T13. Further domestic pits were identified and sampled during the 2002 evaluation within trench B2 and trench B6. A possible Roman ditch from T17 can be added to the two Roman ditches within trench B2 of the 2002 evaluation (in Area B1a). Large quantities of Roman pottery were also recovered from pits and post-holes in the adjacent 2007 evaluation site of Area B1a where painted wall-plaster suggested a nearby building of some grandeur. Quarry-pit or large pit F94 in T12 produced an average sherd weight of 28.1g (259 sherds weighing 7kg) while quarry-pit F28 of T31 in the south-east part of Area B1b produced an average sherd weight of 12.15g (151 sherds). This tends to suggest that the settlement was indeed focussed north of the Roman circus in the area around T12 with that in the area around T31 being peripheral (as can be expected in an area associated with burials at the east end of the circus). Although no buildings of Roman date were identified, the large quantity of brick and tile recovered, ie 37 pieces of *imbrex* and 315 *tegula* fragments from roofing, 19 flue tile fragments from hypocausts, 49 brick fragments, and twelve *tesserae* from floors, confirm that town-type or 'villa' buildings were located in this area. The suggested area of this 'settlement zone' is shown on Figure 21.

Roman burials and quarries

Roman cemetery areas can be more closely identified. Two inhumation burials were excavated in T33 and one cremation burial in T31 deep within a then partially infilled quarry-pit, at the south end of Area B1b and south of the later abbey precinct wall. These were probably part of the Roman cemetery excavated in GAL Area C2 (approx 66 burials) in 2004 (150m WSW of this site; CAT Report 361) and at Napier Road in 2006 (seven burials; CAT report forthcoming).

Apart from those burials, three more at least can be inferred from finds probably derived from disturbed Roman burials, ie a copper-alloy armlet in T10, a pottery lamp in T23, and a glass fragment in T30. The potential burials in T30 and perhaps T23 can be included as part of the same burial area just mentioned, with the additional information that the possible T23 burial must have been close to the north *cavea* wall of the circus. The outlier is the find in T10 on the north edge of Area B1b which may simply reflect a casual loss.

The Roman circus

The predicted position of the east end of the Roman circus coincided with the southern edge of Area B1b, and five trenches were specifically targeted on the circus structure. Modern and post-medieval intrusions in T23 had cut away the *cavea* wall/foundations. T26 had two targets – the circus *spina*, and the St John's Abbey precinct wall. The *in situ* foundations of the precinct wall were located, rather than the circus *spina*, although an undated ditch-like feature on the alignment of the

spina may well have been a drainage-related circus feature. T27 was positioned in the circus racetrack area. Greensand blocks were found lying within a wide feature. These must be the robbed or collapsed remains of the eastern end of the *spina* of the circus, which lay only 2m north-west of the north end of T27. As indicated above, the hollow was quite possibly caused by chariot erosion as they turned sharply around the eastern turning-posts.

T28 intercepted the curved east end of the circus, and revealed the robber trench of the outer *cavea* wall/foundation. This contained peg-tile, which must be intrusive here, as this robbing is securely dated to the 12th or 13th century elsewhere.

T28 also exposed a well-laid gravel surface on the outer side, in this case at the north-east end of the circus. This gravel surface matches similar gravel surfaces found on the outer side of the circus on GAL Areas C1 and C2 (CAT Report 361). Cleaning above the gravel surface produced pottery of the late 2nd to 3rd century, but the initial use of the surface will pre-date these finds.

A find of great interest was a small piece of red granite which was found residually in T13, in St John's Abbey grounds. In view of the likelihood that an obelisk stood on the central point of the circus *spina*, there was the potential that this was a fragment of such an obelisk, and one which was likely to have been imported from Egypt. Disappointingly, it seems that this must be a later (?post-medieval) piece, and, given its location close to the presumed site of the abbey church, it is presumably a fragment from an internal architectural detail of the abbey church, perhaps a tomb.

Anglo-Saxon

In view of the fact that Anglo-Saxon burials are recorded as having been found on the east side of Mersea Road (CAR 1, fig 2), it is surprising that no Anglo-Saxon material was recovered from this evaluation.

Medieval

The southern face of the abbey precinct wall foundation was exposed in T26. It was solidly built with Roman brick and tile, septaria chunks and greensand fragments bonded in a yellow sandy lime mortar.

Features contemporary with the abbey

Area B1b coincides with the southern and western part of St John's Abbey precinct, but not really with the presumed site of the abbey church, which should lie further east in GAL Area B2. Therefore the expectation was that the remains of buildings ancillary to the abbey might be found. Despite this, only one structure was found which could definitely be associated with the medieval abbey. This was the right-angle of wall with a rough stone surface on its west side and a clay floor on its east side. This looked like the south-west corner of a building with an internal clay floor, on the same alignment as the western precinct wall. Given the position of this structure, it must have been part of the monastic buildings.

The backfilling of the lime-kiln/pit in T17c is dated to the 13th century. It may be inferred, therefore, that its period of use was contemporary with the rebuilding of the abbey after the major fire of AD 1133, and that it was used to produce lime mortar at that time. Seven other similar pits of a similar date to this example are known elsewhere in Colchester (CAR 3, 86-7; CAR 6, 123, 138-9, 220-21).

The two trenches which produced large amounts of kitchen waste, ie the middens, are T9 and T11. These were probably the result of the disposal of food waste from the abbey kitchens. The deposits are dated by a token of AD 1380-1422 and also by peg-tile. As they are so close together, it would be expected that they are contemporary and were from the later period of abbey use.

Finds from the abbey church include thick window glass from T14. This trench was probably within 50m of the presumed site of the abbey church, and the glass is almost certainly from the abbey church windows. Four pieces have grozed edges, showing that they formed part of panels in a stained-glass window. One piece has surface painting, possibly tendrils. This glass is probably of 14th- or 15th-century date, and so would be contemporary with a repair of or an addition to the original

abbey structure. Various fragments of glazed medieval floor tiles are probably derived from abbey complex buildings.

Another possible association with the abbey is indicated by the distribution of fragments of lava quern. These were traded into Britain in both the Roman and the medieval period, so fragments can date to either period. It is quite possible that all these fragments are Roman (and residual), but all the findspots (T11, T12, T22 and T25) are inside the abbey precinct wall, and an association with ancillary abbey structures, probably kitchens, can be suggested.

There are other foundations which may or may not have been part of the abbey complex. These contained peg-tile, ie in T25 and T9. Unfortunately, peg-tile can occur in both medieval and post-medieval contexts and therefore it is not clear whether these wall foundations are late medieval (and so associated with the abbey), or post-medieval (and associated with post-Dissolution use of the site).

A worn and almost certainly redeposited human bone from T15 may be derived from the medieval abbey cemetery.

Post-Dissolution

The wall foundations in T25 and T9 which contained peg-tile may be part of the post-Dissolution buildings on this site. The major known structure of this period was the Lucas mansion, and these might represent walls which were associated with it. Another wall foundation of certain post-medieval date was found in T22. Again, this may have been part of the Lucas mansion or its ancillary buildings. Two pieces of window glass from T23 may also be fragments from the windows of the Lucas mansion.

8 Acknowledgements

The Trust and RPS would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for commissioning and funding the work.

The project was managed by B Holloway, and the site work was carried out by L Driver, D Goodman, M Górniak, B Hurrell, M Kaminska, C Lister, A Nelson, H Powys, N Rayner, R Rolfe, D Ross, and P Spencer, and with digital survey carried out by C Lister.

The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Martin Winter of CBC, and for RPS by Rob Masefield.

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	post-Roman, AD 410 to c AD 1066
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	2,500 BC to c 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CM	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHES	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HSR	human skeletal remains
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
jeton	medieval or later trade token
medieval	c AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	c 1800 to the present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

Neolithic	the New Stone Age, ie the period of the first farmers c 4,000 BC to c 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	c AD 1500 to AD 1800
prehistoric belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (before the Romans)	
RRCSAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
residual	an early find in a late context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning (project consultants)
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, under accession code 2007.127.

12 Context and trench reconciliation list

Context no	Description	Trench	Period
F1	service run	T17	modern
F2	service run	T17	modern
F3	foundation	T17	modern
F4	compacted gravel surface	T17	post-medieval/modern
F5	pit	T17	post-medieval/modern
F6	pit	T17	post-medieval/modern
F7	service cut	T21	modern
F8	stanchion	T32	modern
F9	stanchion	T32	modern
F10	stanchion	T32	modern
F11	stanchion	T32	modern
F12	stanchion	T32	modern
F13	land drain	T32	post-medieval/modern
F14	road	T32	modern
F15	service run	T33	modern
F16	?grave cut	T33	Roman
F17	?grave cut	T33	Roman
F18	gravel ?post-pad	T33	Roman
F19	?grave cut	T33	Roman
F20	stanchion	T33	modern
F21	stanchion	T33	modern
F22	stanchion	T33	modern
F23	stanchion	T33	modern
F24	quarry-pit	T33	post-medieval
F25	quarry-pit	T29	modern
F26	stanchion	T33	modern
F27	stanchion	T33	modern
F28	quarry-pit	T31	Roman
F29	service run	T31	modern
F30	service run	T31	modern
F31	natural feature	T24	-
F32	cremation burial	T31	Roman
F33	wall foundation	T18	modern
F34	service cut	T18	modern
F35	robber trench	T14	medieval/post-medieval
F36	ditch	T14	post-medieval
F37	pit	T14	post-medieval
F38	pit	T14	modern
F39	pit	T14	post-medieval
F40	pit	T14	modern

Context no	Description	Trench	Period
F41	ditch	T18	medieval
F42	compacted surface	T18	no finds later than Roman.
F43	pit	T18	late medieval/post-medieval
F44	ditch	T22	post-medieval
F45	pit	T22	post-medieval
F46	wall foundation	T22	post-medieval
F47	wall foundation	T22	post-medieval
F48	pit	T22	late medieval/post-medieval
F49	ditch	T18	late medieval/post-medieval
F50	pit	T18	late medieval/post-medieval
F51	natural feature	T18	-
F52	ditch	T18	post-medieval
F53	clay floor?	T18	?medieval
F54	pit	T14	post-medieval
F55	pit	T14	medieval
F56	pit	T14	late medieval/post-medieval
F57	compacted gravel surface	T28	Roman
F58	pit	T28	post-Roman
F59	pit	T15	(modern) – no finds later than medieval
F60	pit	T15	post-medieval
F61	pit	T15	modern
F62	robber trench	T28	medieval/post-medieval
F63	quarry-pit	T29	post-medieval
F64	?foundation	T29	modern
F65	quarry-pit	T27	post-Roman
F66	quarry-pit	T27	Roman, medieval, or later
F67	pit	T23	post-medieval
F68	pit	T23	post-medieval
F69	robber trench	T23	post-medieval
F70	ditch	T17	Roman?
F71	post-hole	T17	?
F72	foundation	T17	modern
F73	compacted gravel surface	T17	?medieval
F74	pit or ditch	T17	medieval/post-medieval
F75	ditch	T14	late medieval/post-medieval
F76	lime-kiln/pit	T17	medieval
F77	wall	T26	medieval
F78	robber trench of circus <i>?spina</i>	T26	post-Roman
F79	ditch	T20	medieval to post-medieval
F80	pit	T20	medieval to post-medieval
F81	ditch	T13	post-medieval
F82	pit	T13	(post-medieval) – no finds later than Roman
F83	pit	T13	medieval
F84	pit	T13	medieval
F85	service run	T13	modern
F86	pit	T13	Roman-medieval
F87	pit	T13	modern
F88	pit or quarry-pit	T13	medieval
F89	service run	T13	modern
F90	pit	T14	modern
F91	service run	T10	modern
F92	pit	T12	medieval
F93	pit	T12	?Roman
F94	pit	T12	medieval
F95	service run	T12	modern
F96	pit	T13	post-medieval
F97	pit	T13	post-medieval
F98	pit	T13	post-medieval
F99	pit	T13	post-medieval
F100	pit	T13	post-medieval
F101	small pit or post-hole	T10	medieval to post-medieval
F102	post-hole	T10	medieval to post-medieval

Context no	Description	Trench	Period
F103	post-hole	T10	medieval to post-medieval
F104	pit	T10	modern
F105	pit	T10	Roman or medieval
F106	pit	T10	modern
F107	metalled surface	T13	medieval
F108	pit	T10	medieval
F109	midden	T9	post-medieval
F110	metalled surface	T9	medieval
F111	wall foundation	T9	medieval
F112	midden pit	T9	medieval
F113	plinth	T25	medieval to post-medieval
F114	?robbing pit	T25	medieval to post-medieval
F115	robbing	T25	medieval to post-medieval
F116	pit	T25	medieval to post-medieval
F117	drain	T25	medieval – post-medieval
F118	pit	T9	post-medieval
F119	wall foundation	T9	medieval/post-medieval
F120	brick gutter	T9	modern
F121	brick gutter	T9	modern
F122	foundation	T16	modern
F123	abbey wall	T16	medieval
F124	pit	T25	late medieval/post-medieval
F125	metalled surface	T25	medieval
F126	midden	T11	late medieval/post-medieval
L1	tarmac hard top	T17	modern
L2	hogging base for L1	T17	
L3	soil accumulation	T17, T21	post-medieval
L4	natural	T21	
L5	concrete slab	various trenches	
L6	clay floor	T33	?Roman
L7	demolition/robbing	T18	post-medieval
L8	topsoil	T14, T15	modern
L9	lower topsoil	T14	post-Roman
L10	demolition	T22	post-medieval to modern
L11	silty accumulation	T14	medieval
L12	crush	T17	modern
L13	topsoil	T17	post-medieval
L14	accumulation	T23	late medieval/post-medieval
L15	concrete	T26	modern
L16	topsoil	T13	modern
L17	natural	T13	
L18	accumulation	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L19	dump	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L20	dump	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L21	dump	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L22	dump	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L23	dump	T14	medieval/post-medieval
L24	lower topsoil	T10	
L25	construction waste	T10	modern
L26	dump/accumulation	T13	medieval
L27	building debris	T9	post-medieval
L28	accumulation	T9	medieval
L29	accumulation	T25	modern
L30	redeposited natural	T9	medieval/post-medieval
L31	accumulation	T19	medieval/post-medieval
L32	robbing of wall F33	T18	
L33	layer sealing wall F77	T26	modern

Distribution list:

Taylor Wimpey
RPS Planning
Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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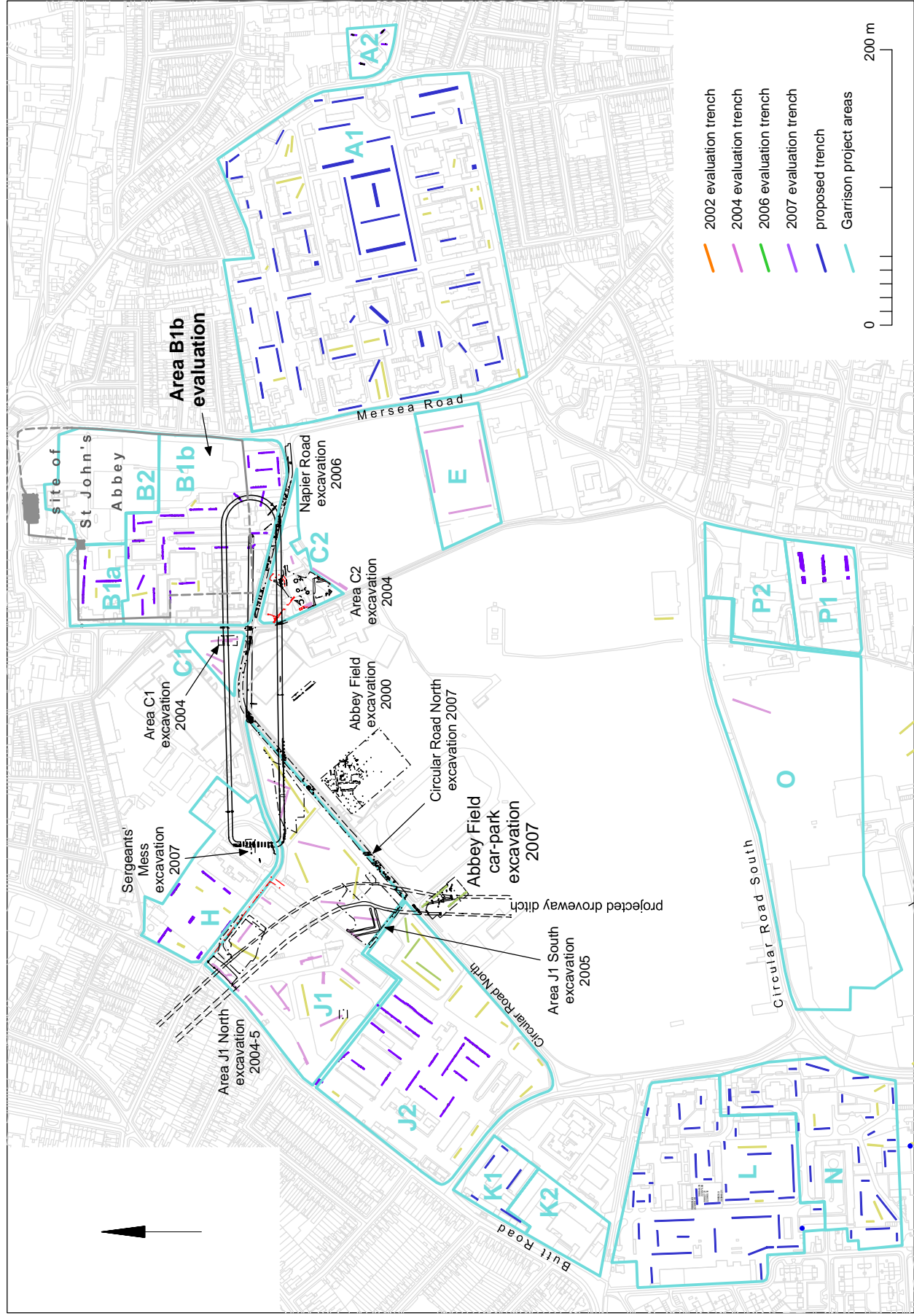
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email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 04.01.08

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Fig 1 Site location.

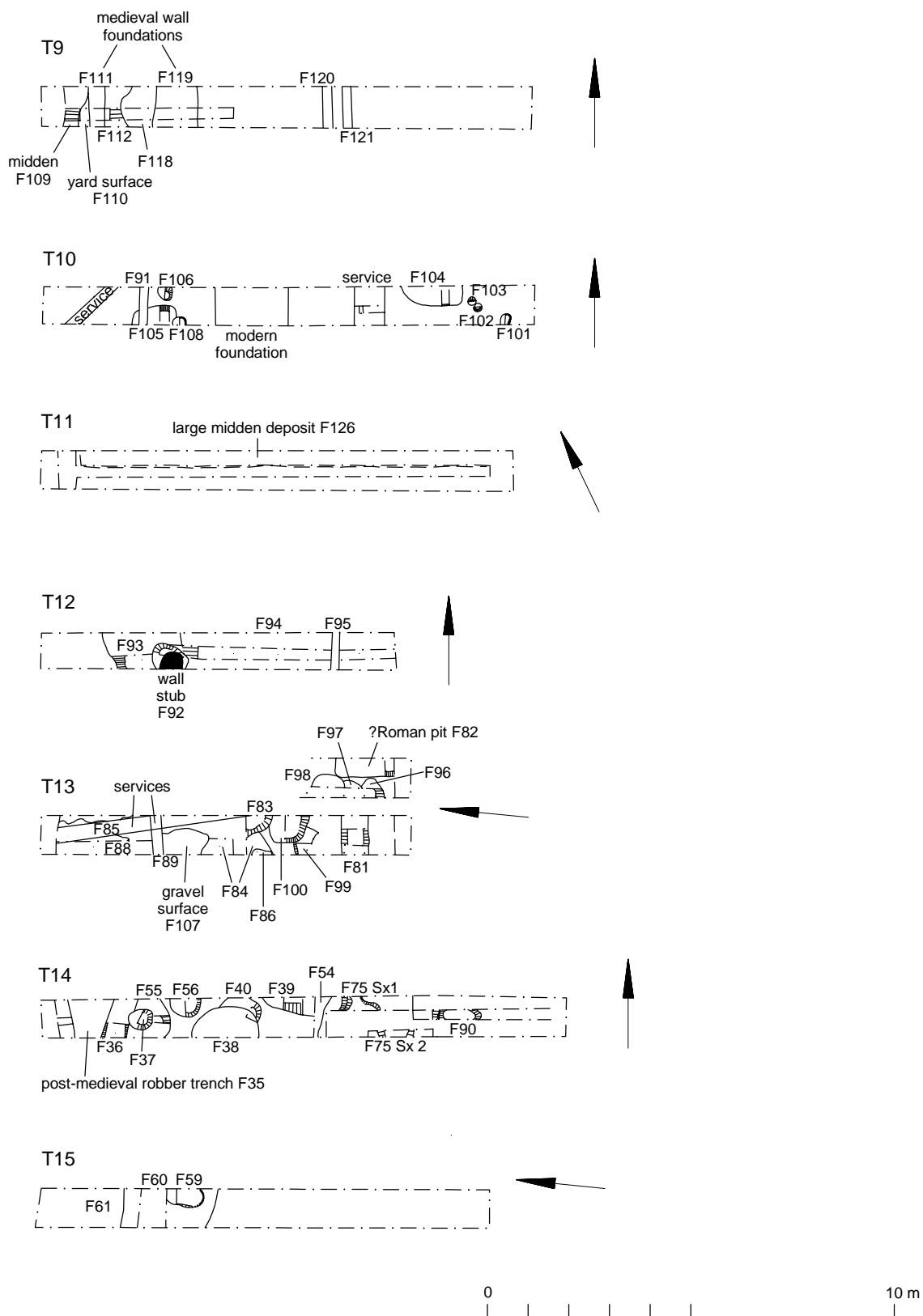


Fig 3 T9-T15: plans.

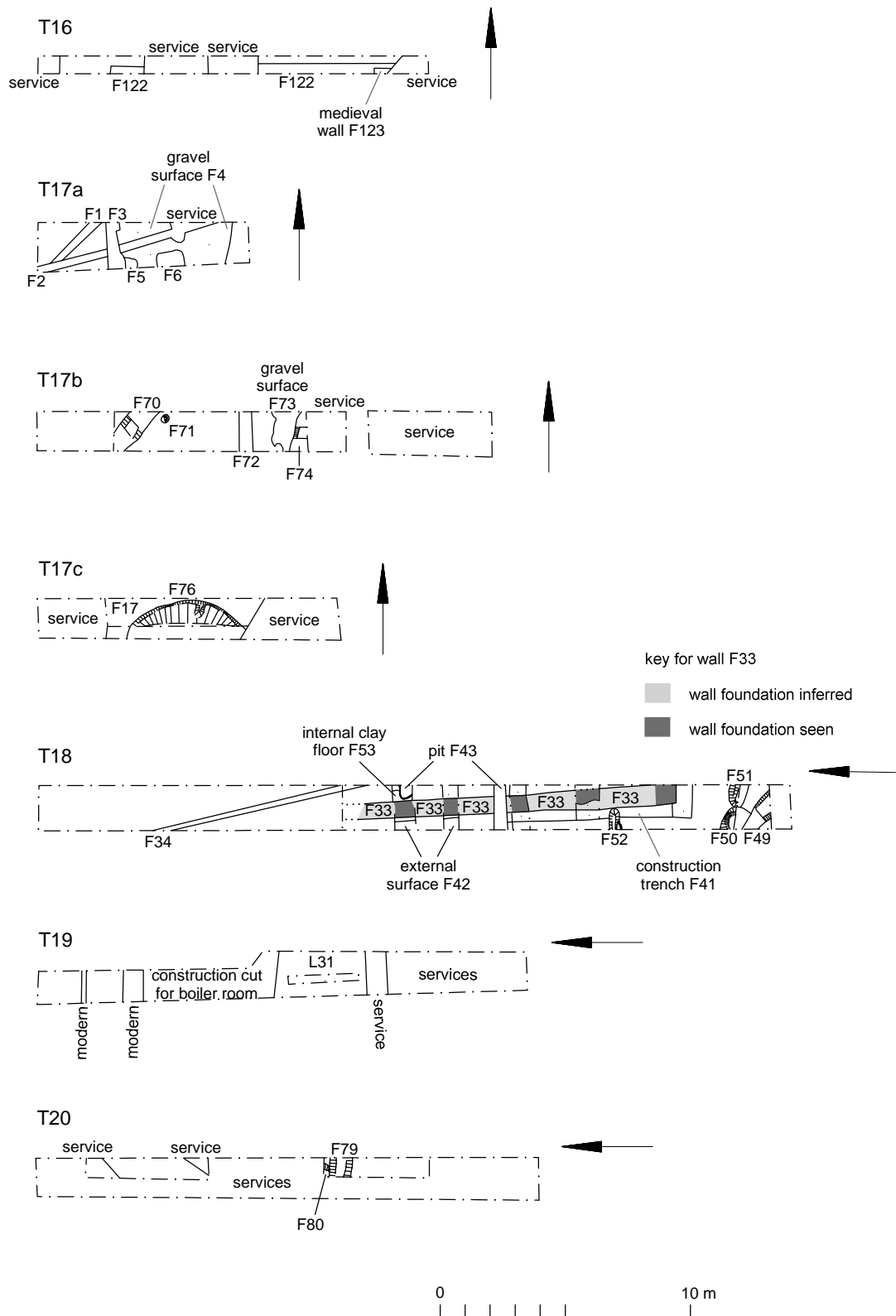


Fig 4 T16-T20: plans.

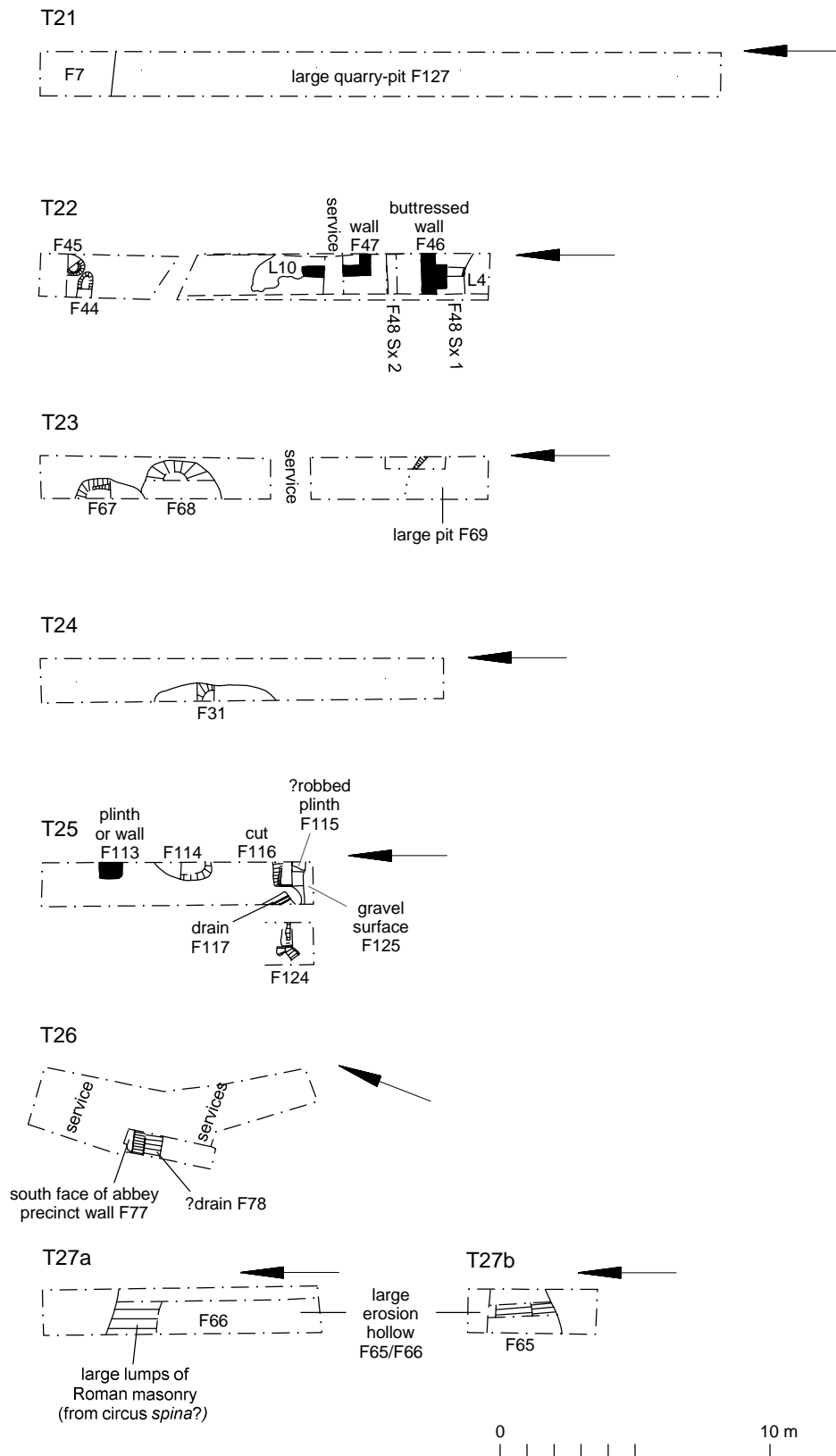


Fig 5 T21-T27: plans.

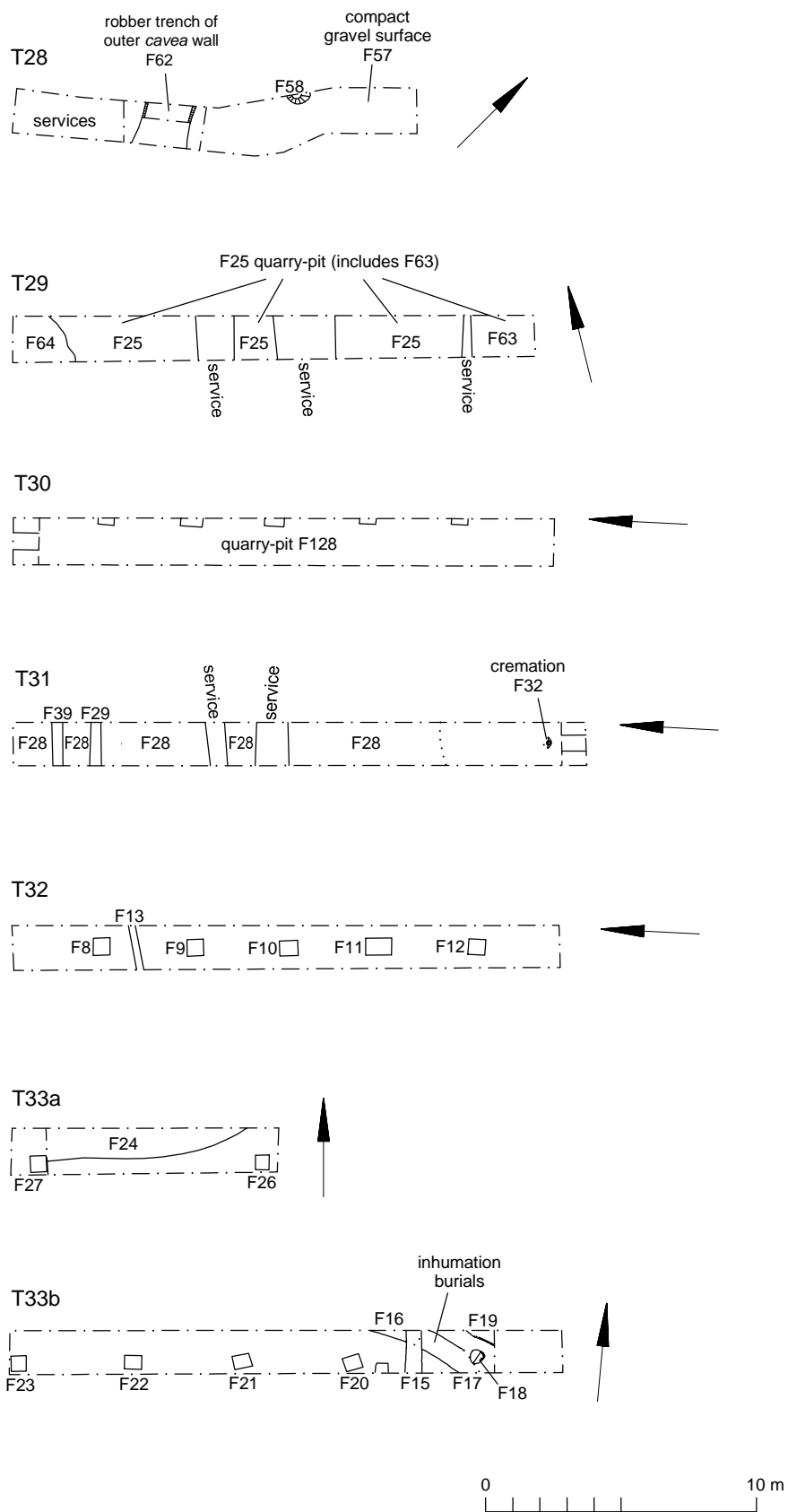


Fig 6 T28-T33: plans.

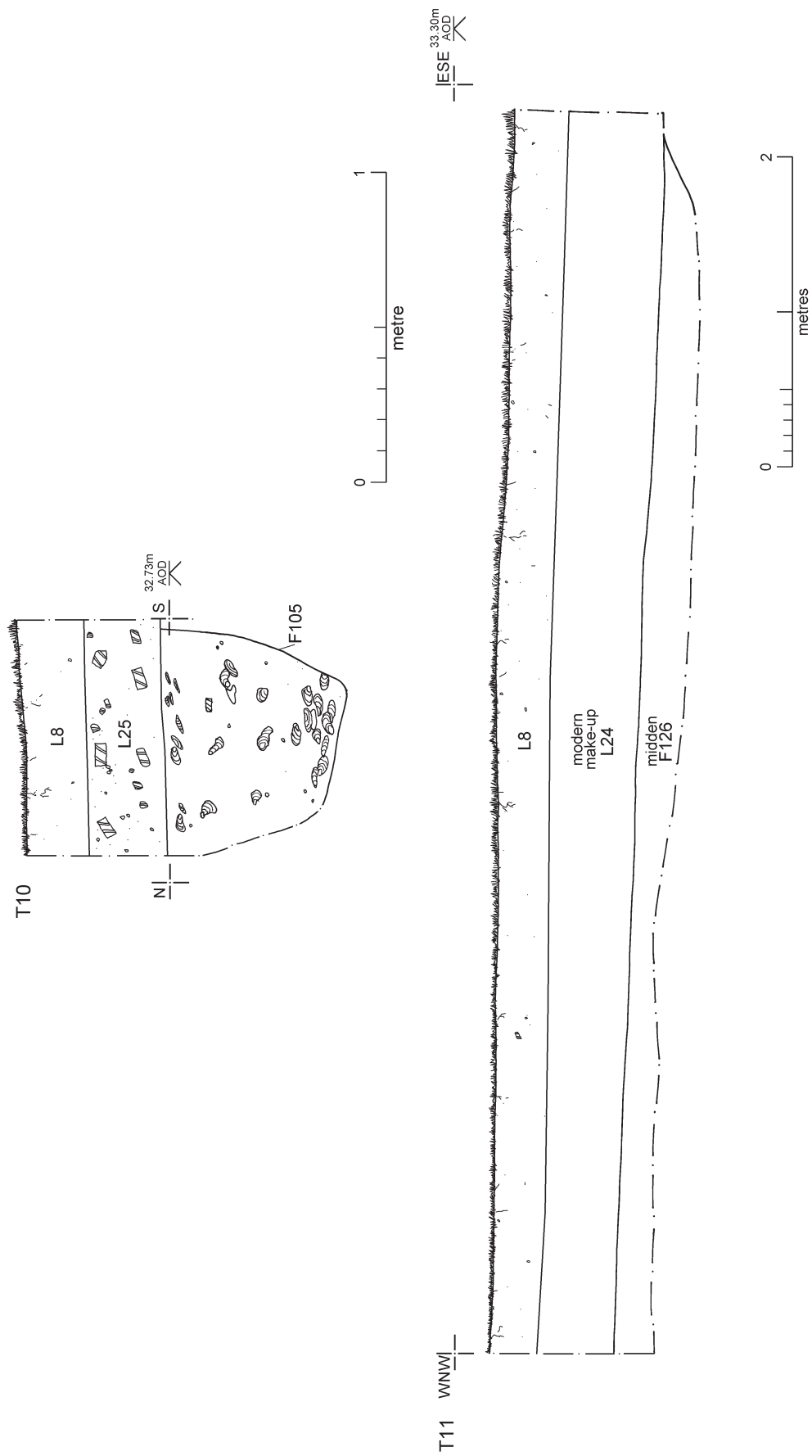


Fig 8 T10-T11: sections.

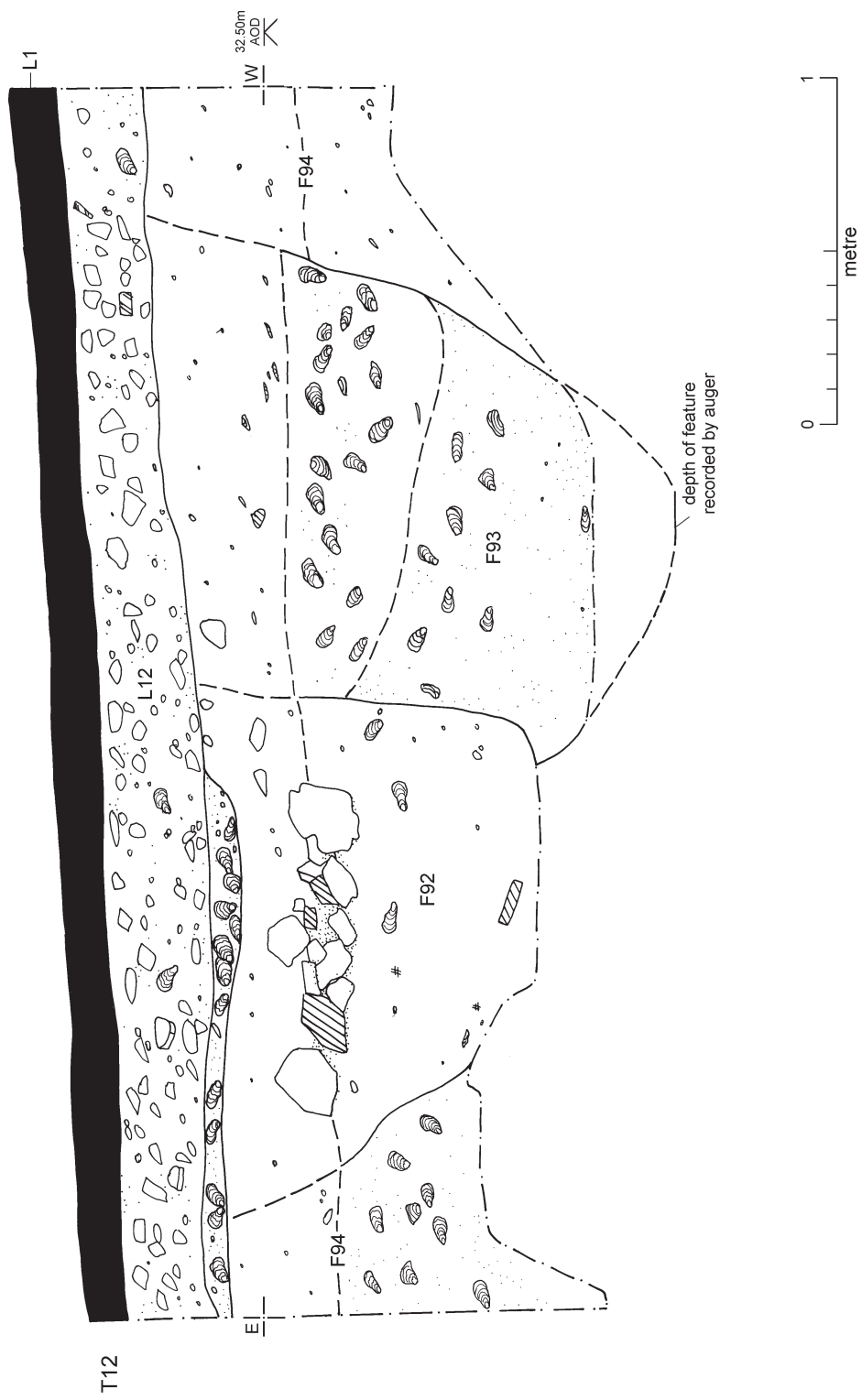


Fig 9 T12: section.

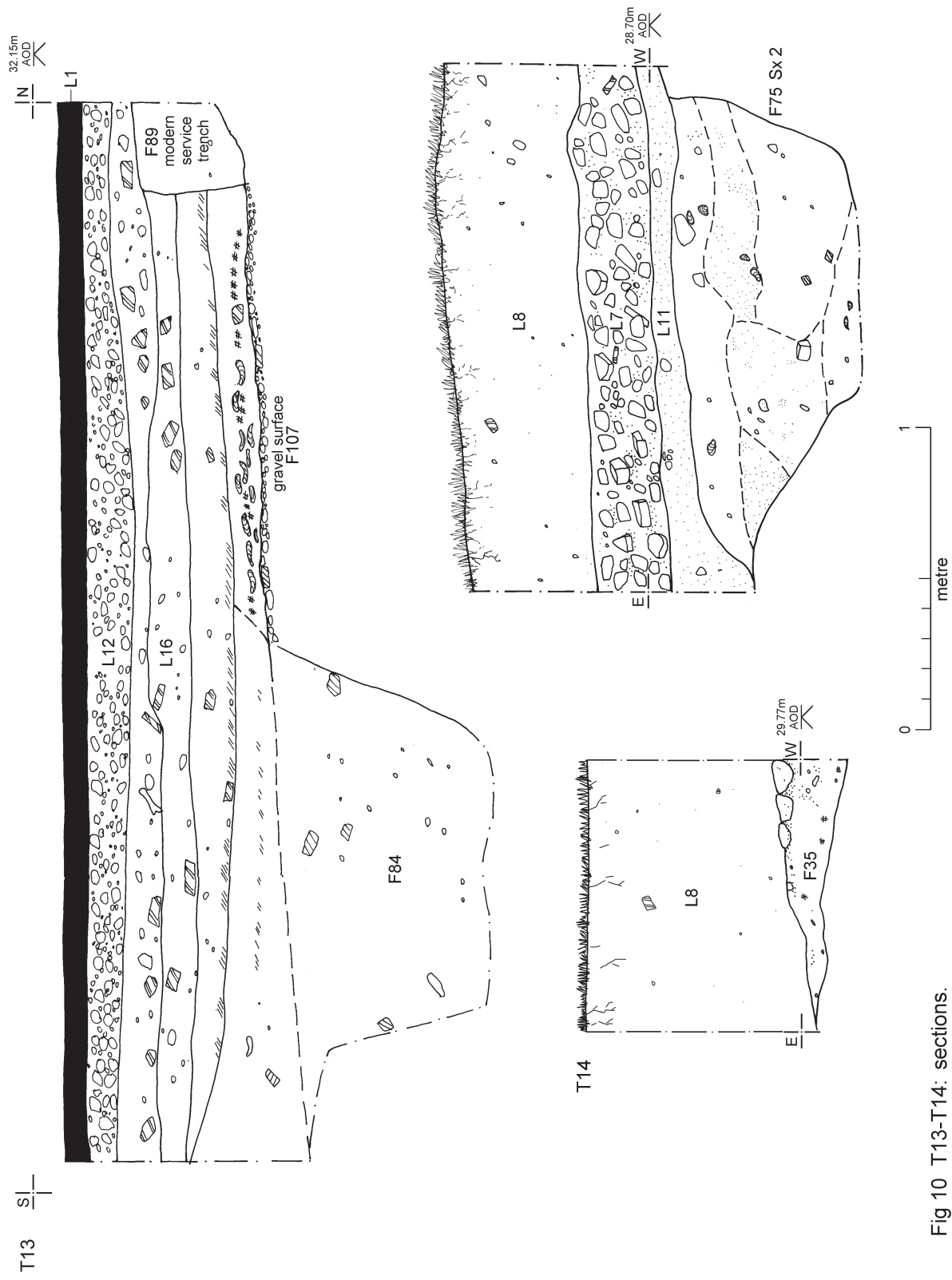


Fig 10 T13-T14: sections.

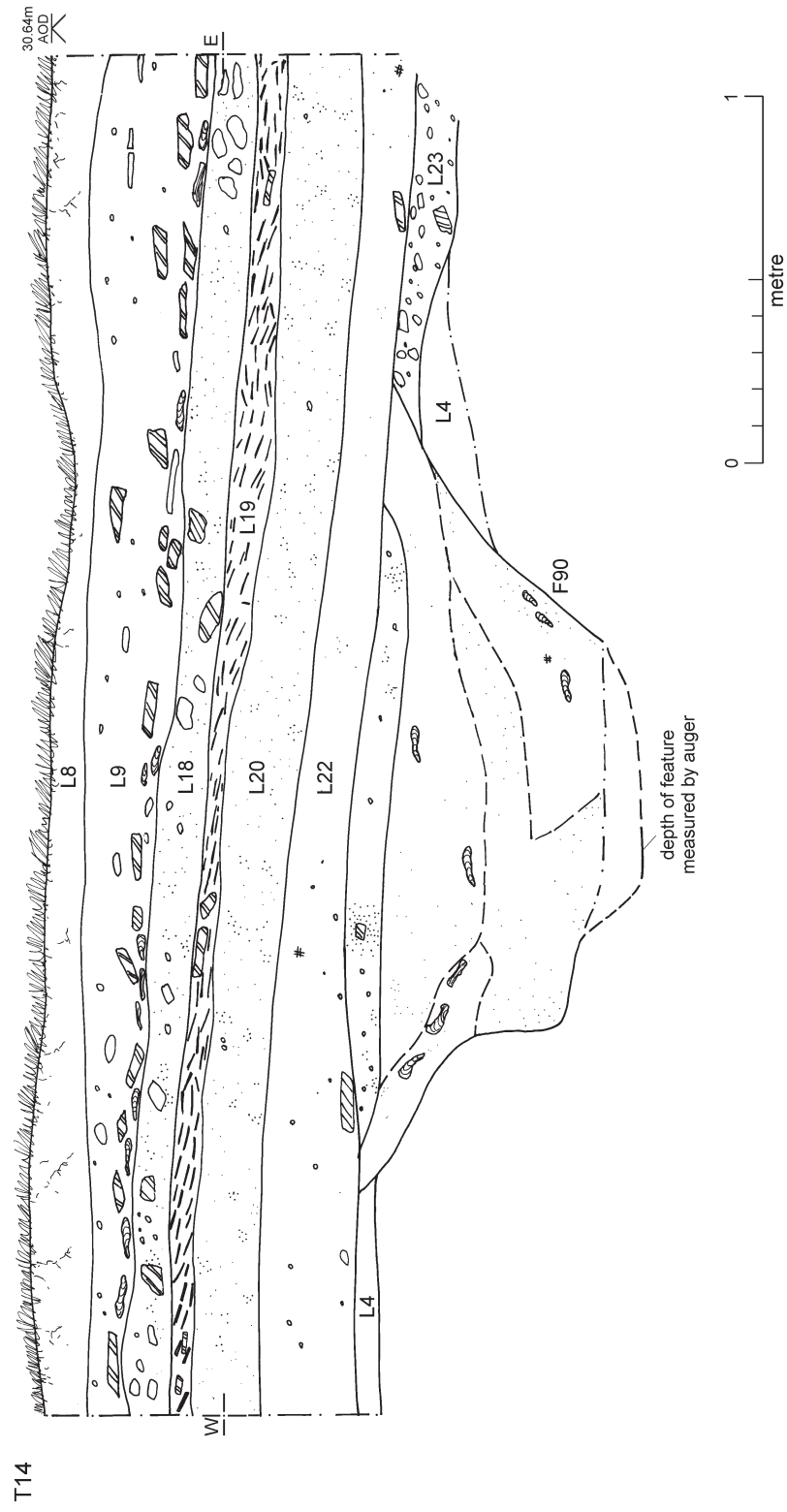


Fig 11 T14: section.

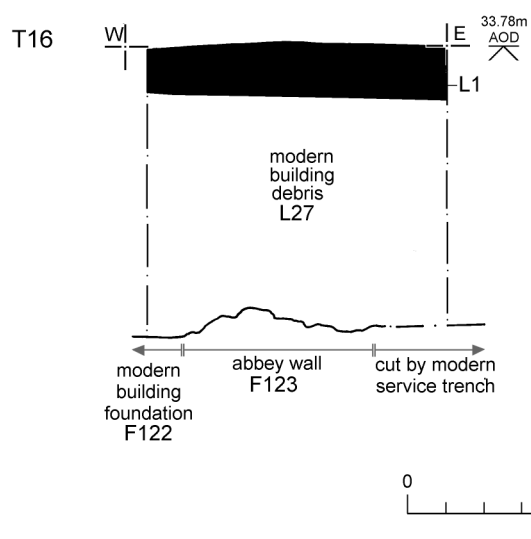
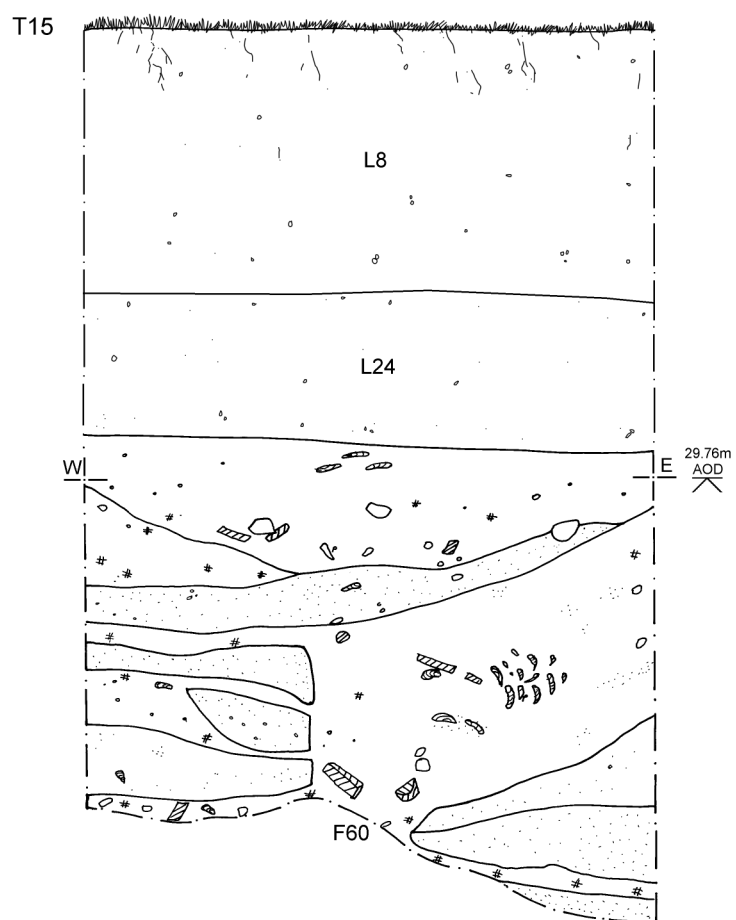


Fig 12 T15-T16: sections.

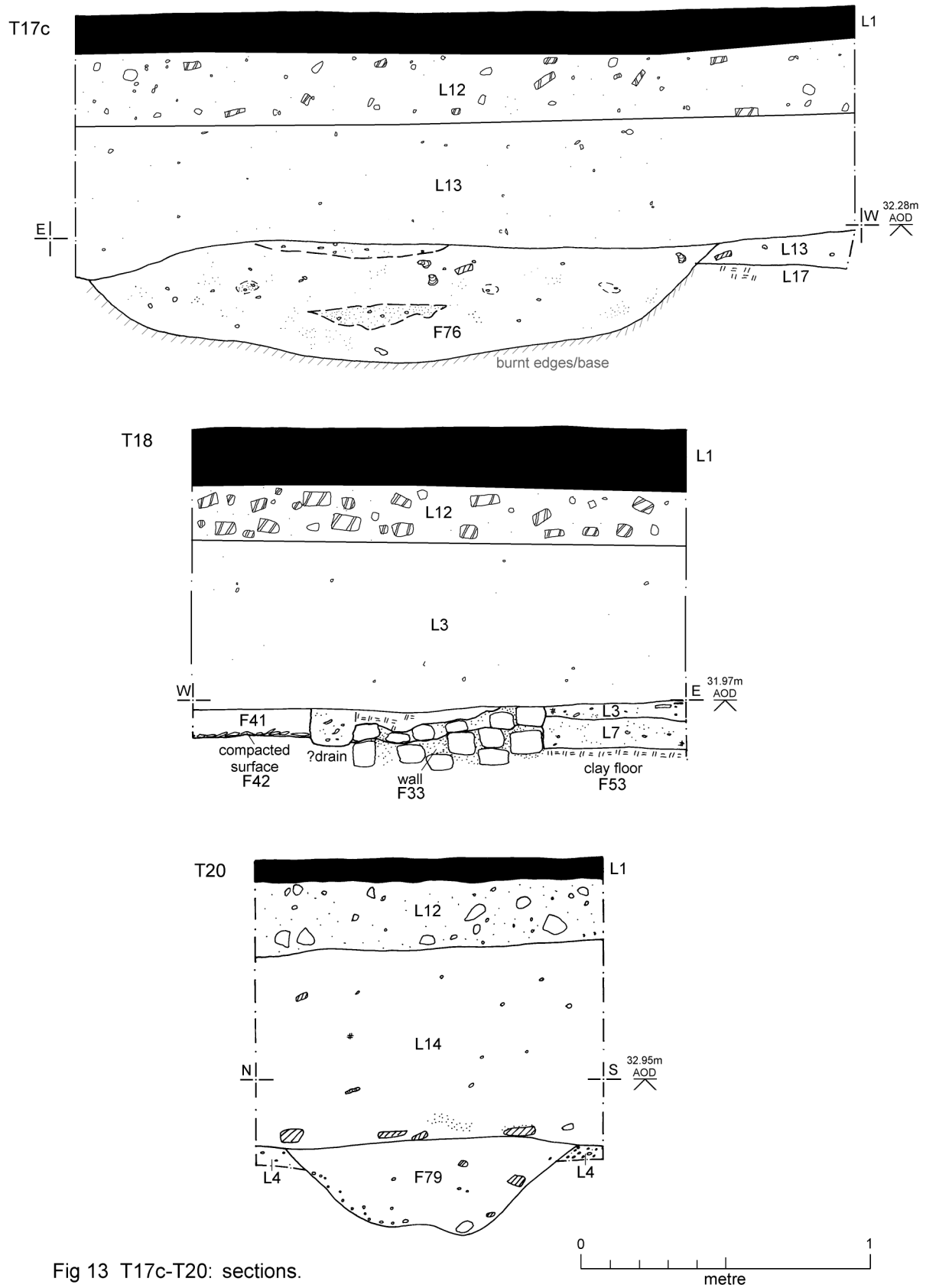


Fig 13 T17c-T20: sections.

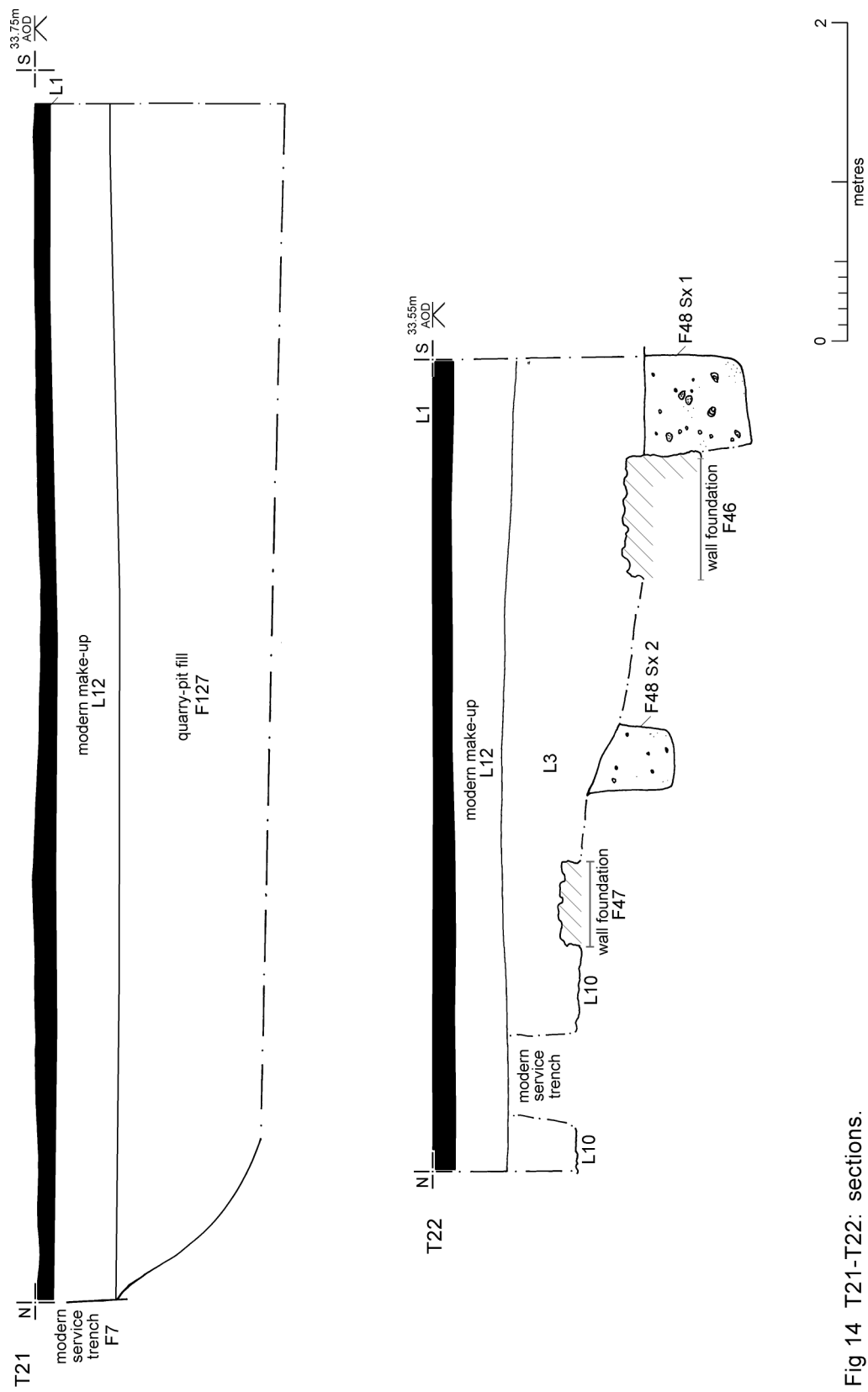


Fig 14 T21-T22: sections.

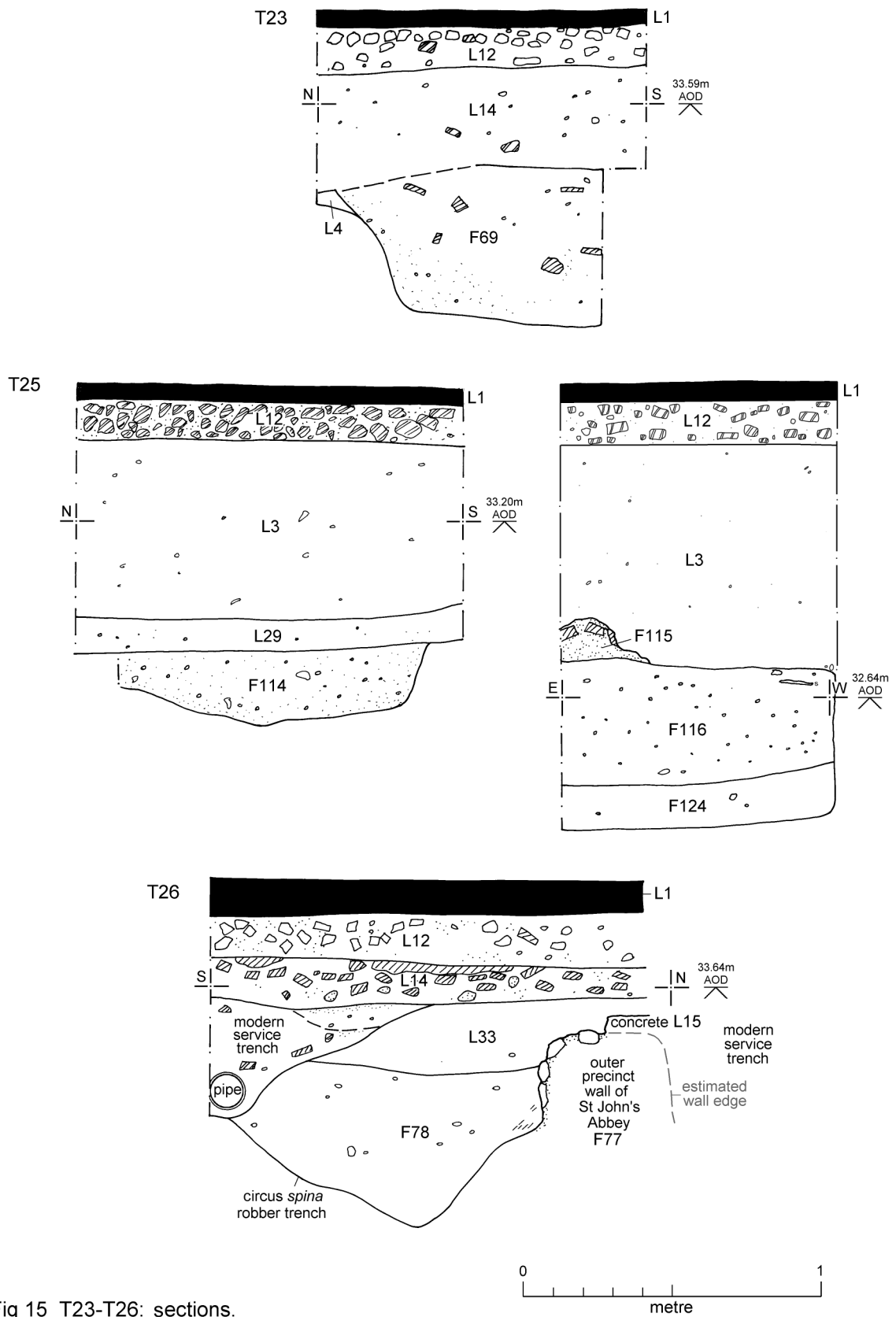


Fig 15 T23-T26: sections.

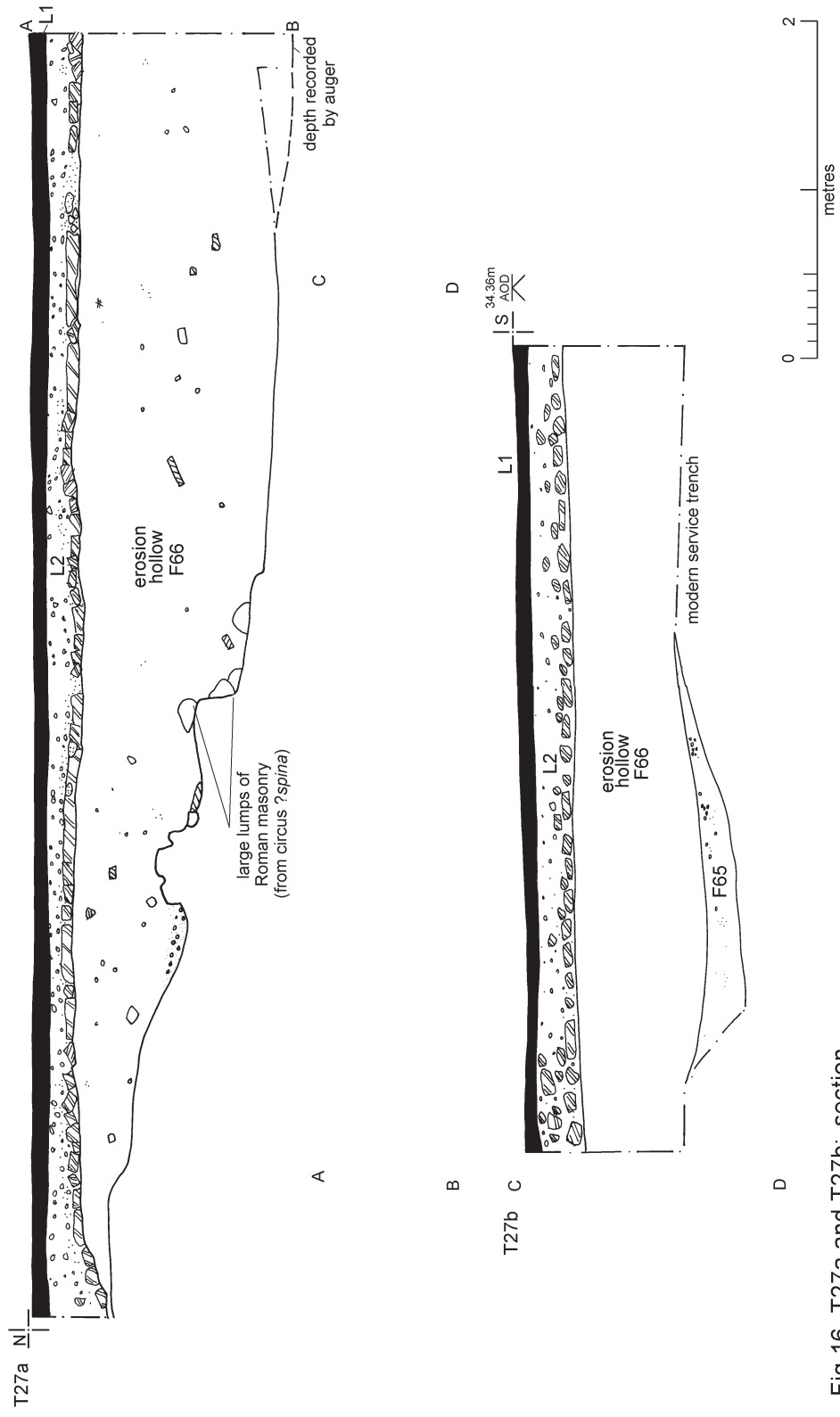


Fig 16 T27a and T27b: section.

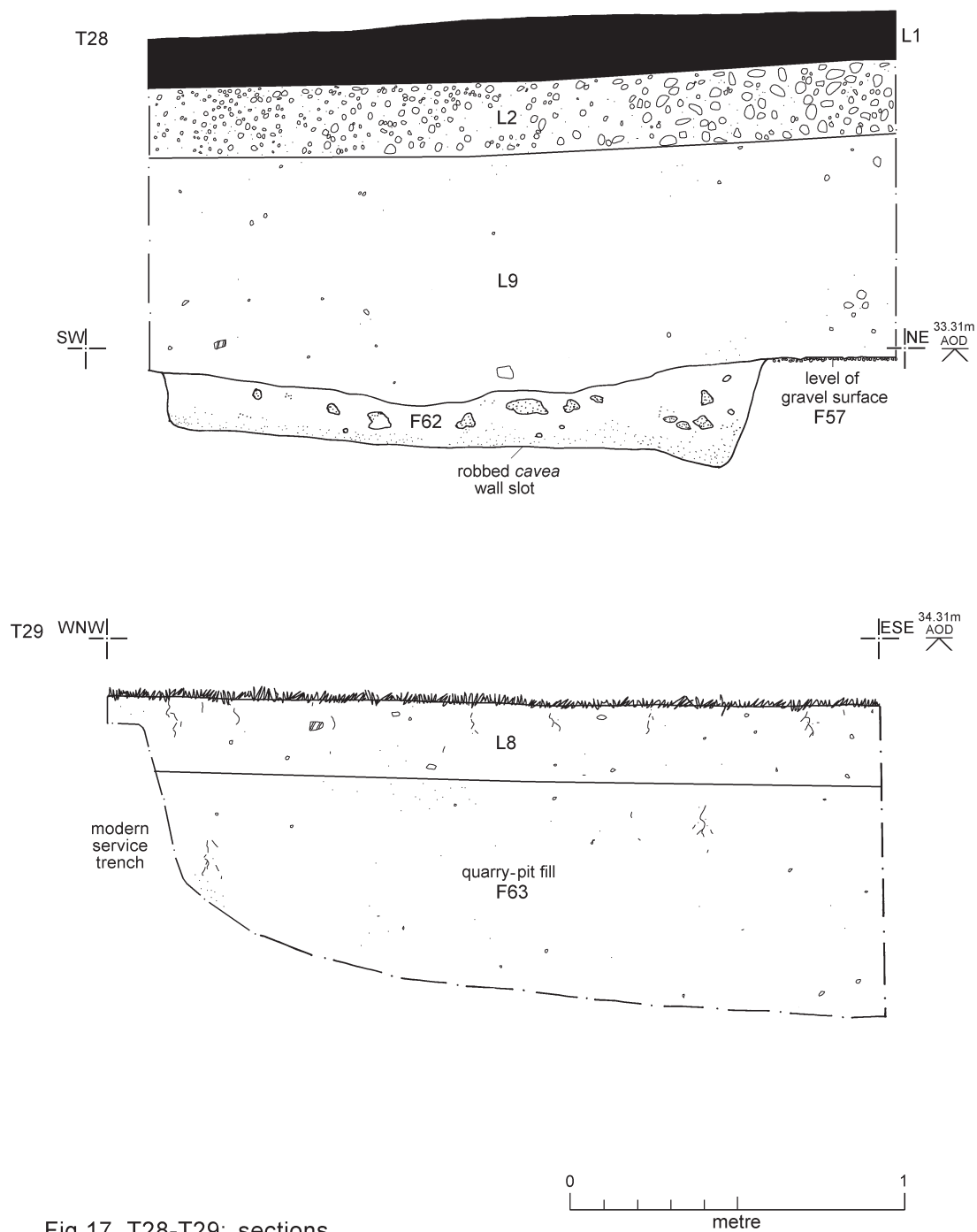


Fig 17 T28-T29: sections.

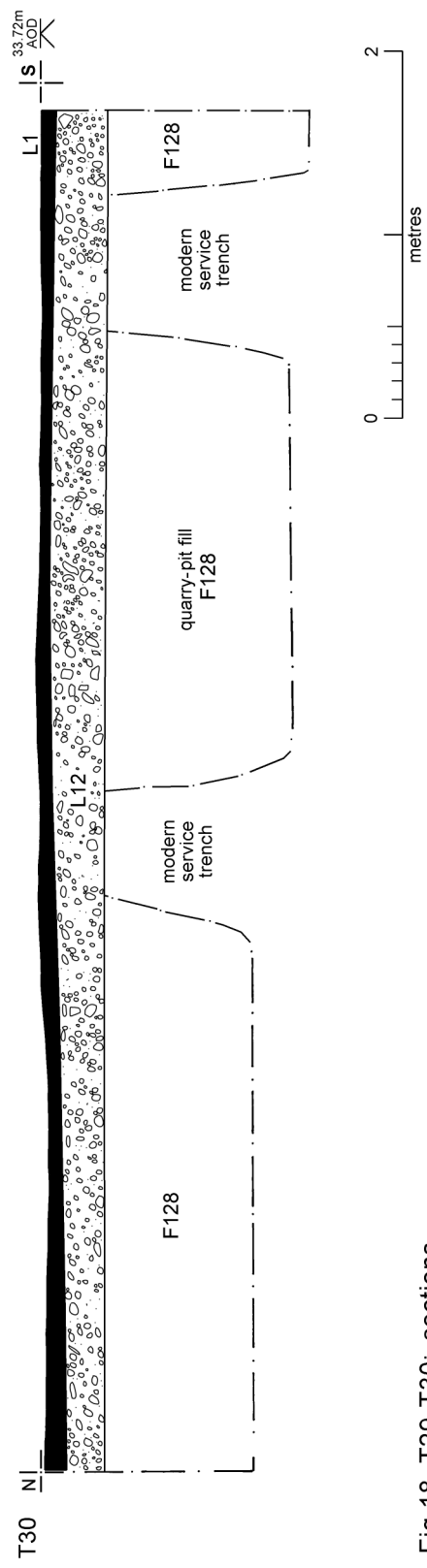
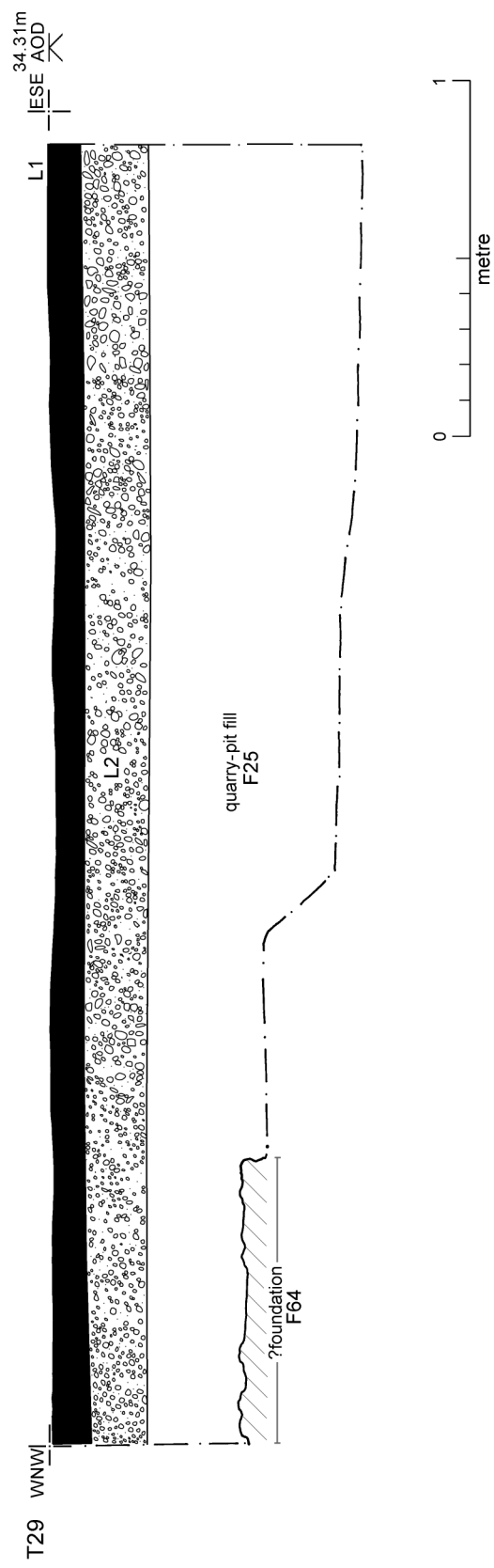


Fig 18 T29-T30: sections.

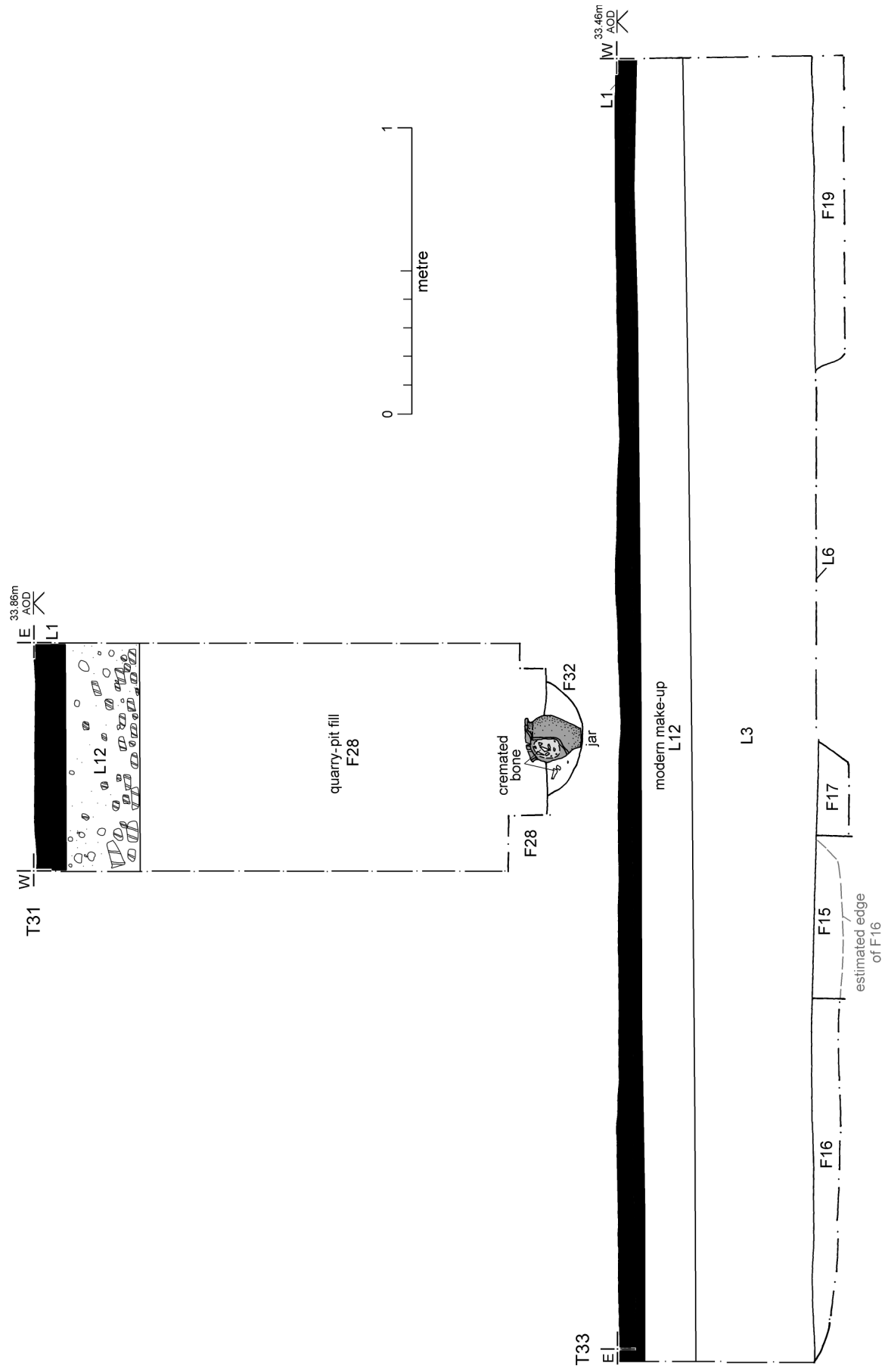


Fig 19 T31 and T33: sections.

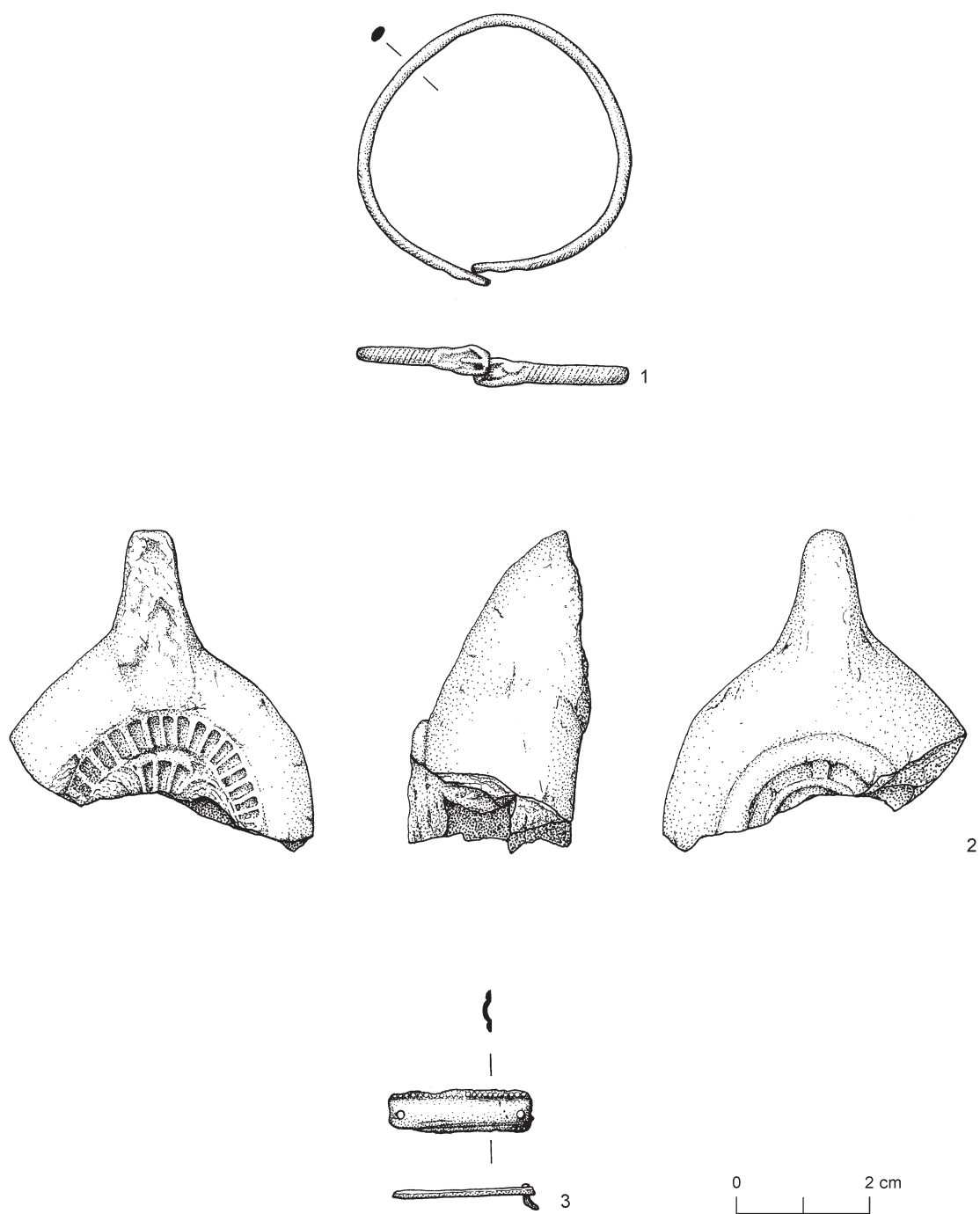
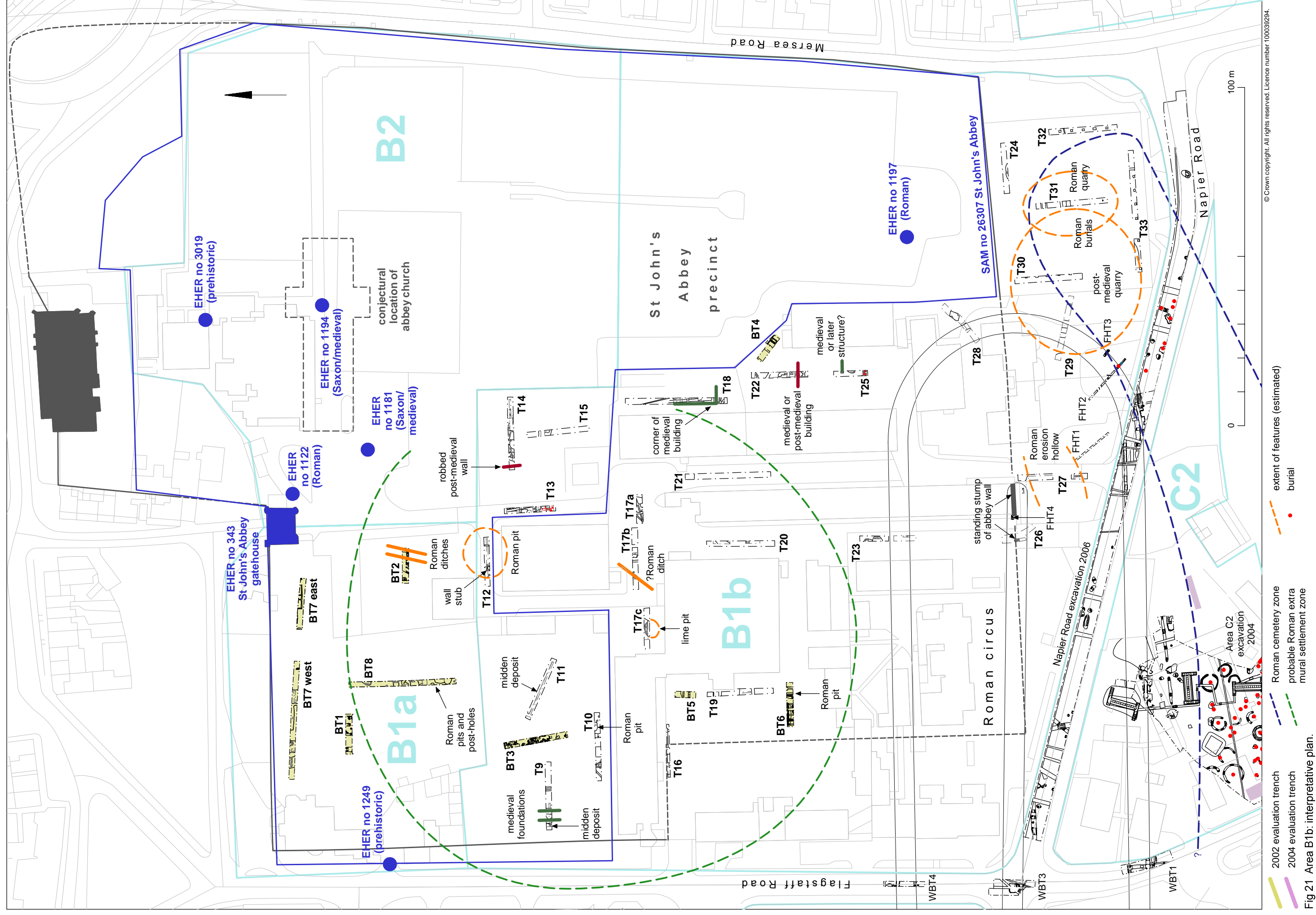


Fig 20 Small finds.



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Alienated Land Area B1b, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9974 2463 (c)	Site code: COLEM 2006.127
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: CAT
Date of work: July-September 2007	Size of area investigated: Nineteen trenches in a site of 5.2ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Unknown	Related EHER UAD nos: 10, 1122, 1157, 1181, 1249, 3019
Final report: CAT Report 438 and summary in EAH	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>This 5.2ha parcel of land coincides with the southern and western part of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, and with the eastern end of the Roman circus. An archaeological evaluation by 25 trenches uncovered evidence for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Area B1b represents the meeting-point of three zones of Roman extra-mural activity comprising a settlement zone, a public entertainment building in the form of the Roman circus, and a cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>A small number of struck flints indicates a low level of activity here in the prehistoric period.</i></p> <p><i>A large quantity of residual Roman pottery and tile (including tesserae, pila tiles and roofing tiles) is presumably derived from domestic activity and unidentified Roman buildings in this area. Roman pitting (T10, T12, T13) and a ditch (T17) are similarly representative of a settlement zone and add to the 2nd-century domestic pit found during the 2002 evaluation of the site. Pottery and coin finds suggest a later 1st- to 4th-century date for this extra-mural occupation. The information can be added to the results of the Area B1a evaluations undertaken in 2002 and 2007 which identified further Roman pitting, ditches and post-holes and residual domestic finds including a quantity of painted wall-plaster from a nearby building. Two Roman inhumation burials and one cremation burial, the latter within a large quarry-pit (T31) were excavated at the south end of the site. These were probably part of the same general Roman cemetery previously excavated in GAL Area C2, 150m to the WSW, and at Napier Road, immediately to the south-west. Loose finds indicate at least three more burials. Roman quarrying was also evident in the south-east corner of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The predicted position of the east end of the Roman circus coincided with the southern edge of the site, and five trenches were specifically targeted on the circus structure. These confirmed the expected position of the cavea walls, and also exposed the south face of the partially-robbed St John's Abbey precinct wall. One robber trench contained peg-tile, indicating a potentially late date for the end of robbing activity here. A gravel surface was located on the outer side of the circus, matching that previously found on GAL Areas C1 and C2.</i></p> <p><i>Although Anglo-Saxon burials are recorded on the east side of Mersea Road, no Anglo-Saxon material was recovered during this evaluation.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the location of this site in the southern and western part of the walled precinct of St John's Abbey, only one building could definitely be associated with the medieval abbey. This was a right-angled wall foundation with a rough cobble surface on its west side and a clay floor on its east side, possibly the south-west corner of a building with an internal clay floor (T18). Given the position of this structure, it must have been part of the monastic buildings. Other possibly medieval structural remains were located to the south in T9, on the western edge of the site, where buildings appear to have linked up with the western precinct wall of the abbey. Another abbey-period structure was a lime-kiln/pit probably contemporary with the rebuilding of the abbey after the major fire of AD 1133. Finds probably from the abbey church include thick glass from a stained-glass window.</i></p> <p><i>Other wall foundations containing peg-tile (T22, T25) may be late medieval (and so associated with the abbey), or post-medieval (and associated with post-Dissolution use of the site and particularly the Lucas mansion).</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 206	
Author of summary: H Brooks and B Holloway	Date of summary: January 2008