AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT
29-39 HEAD STREET
COLCHESTER

Site Code HSC 98

National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9936 2508

on behalf of:

LICET DEVELOPMENTS (1) LTD

November 1998

AOC
ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP

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1 SUMMARY

A planning application has been submitted for the redevelopment of the site of the Head Street Post Office (no. 29-39 Head Street) to provide an 8 screen multiplex cinema, a restaurant/bar, retail use and a residential building on the western part of the site.

An archaeological desk-top assessment of the site demonstrated that the site had the potential to contain up to 3.6m - 4m of archaeological deposits at the western end of the site. Research showed that the basements of the building fronting Head Street would have destroyed all archaeological remains. As the exact nature of the archaeological deposits and extent of survival under the different phases of buildings on the site was unknown an archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenches was undertaken.

Five trenches were excavated by the AOC Archaeology Group during September and October 1998. Three trenches were taken down through the complete sequence of archaeological deposits to the underlying glacial (Pleistocene) gravels and sands. The level at which this material was found confirms that the basements of the building fronting Head Street have destroyed all archaeological remains in a swathe 18 - 21.5m back from Head Street.

The glacial gravels and sands were found at a levels of between 32.72 - 31.70m OD, above which were remains of the Roman fort established in c. AD 44. This appeared to demonstrate two phases of construction and demolition prior to the Boudican uprising of AD 60. Evidence of this revolt was seen in the form of burnt structures and surfaces in two trenches. Post-Boudican first and second century construction and occupation in the town was noted, principally in the form of mortar foundations and an apsidal bath relating to a presumed residential structure. The decline of Roman Colchester occurred in the period c.350-410 AD. Evidence from this period was recovered, including a severed human head casually discarded in a pit. Little medieval activity was seen, apart from a few sherds of residual pottery in later contexts. Post-medieval pits and construction was extensive across the site, damaging the upper Roman sequence. The existing ground surface occurs between 34.29 - 33.66m OD.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site Location

The site is located in the town centre of Colchester in the County of Essex. The address is 29-39 Head Street, Colchester, CO1 1AA and the site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9936 2508 (Fig. 1).

Existing buildings on the site form a complex which fronts the western side of Head Street and abuts buildings to the north and south, but is free-standing to the west. There is also a free-standing building in the south-west corner of the site which, along with the lane leading to Church Street forms the western boundary to the site.

The town of Colchester lies on the south bank of the River Colne, which has eroded the Tertiary London Clay and deposited alluvium in the Colne Valley. The site is on a plateau of glacial (Pleistocene) gravel and sand, which constitute the drift geology. In places, cover loam overlies the sand and is believed to have originated as a wind-blown deposit at the end of the last ice-age (Crummy *et al*, 1992). The site is within the 100 foot (30.48m AOD) contour (Crummy, 1984) which can be taken as the height of natural deposits.

2.2 Site Description

The site covers approximately 2600m^2 and is currently occupied by a complex of buildings which, until recently, were used by the Post Office. Those buildings which form the eastern facade along Head Street comprise a mix of Victorian, Georgian and 20th century architecture and include the northern extent of Building 39a. There are 2.40m deep basements beneath the eastern part of the site.

The old Post Office building on Head Street dates to the 19th century and is butted on its south side by the three storey, new Post Office building with Corinthian style pilasters which was built in the 1930's. The bulk of the site is covered by a single-storey industrial building of the same date, steel trussed with roof lights, which was used for delivery vehicles and sorting post. The latest addition to the complex was the structure in the south-west corner with two storeys and a pitched roof, which was built during or after 1984. Although no record has been found of the existing foundations, they are probably strip foundations with perimeter pads for the trusses.

The buildings on the development site form a single mass apart from a separate building in the south-west corner of the site which was used as a Post Office cycle shed. Vehicular access into the north-west corner of the site is currently via a lane leading from Church Street.

The site has recently been surveyed showing that the ground surface slopes down from west to east by approximately 2 - 2.5m, from a maximum height of 34.64m AOD to a minimum of 32.09m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). In addition, the surface of the basement slab is at 30.00m AOD, while the depth of its underside is unknown.

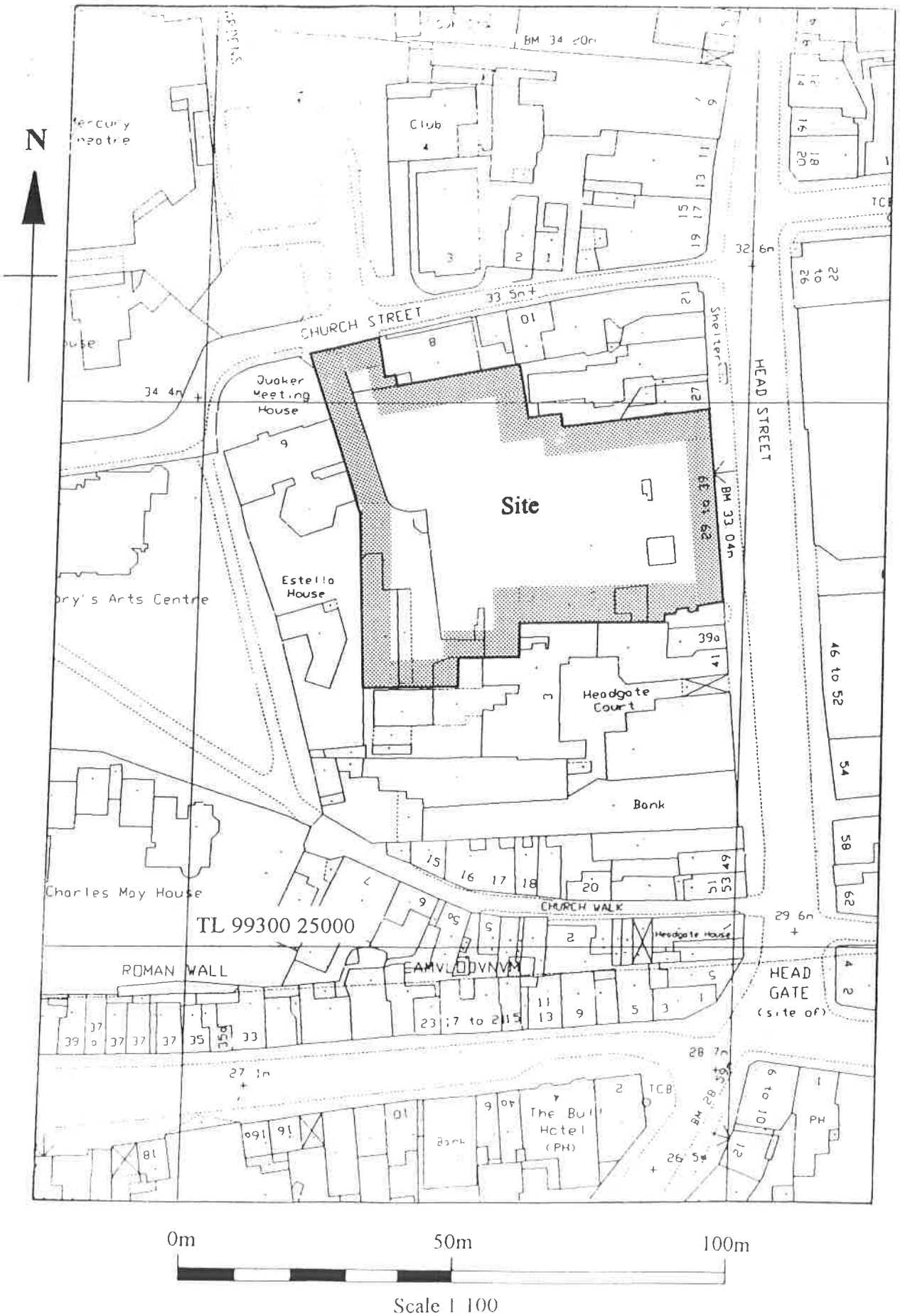

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

2.3 Planning Background

The development site was one of the locations identified for development as a cinema by the Borough Council. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance which covers the centre of Colchester within the city walls. However, the site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The site lies on a street with many surviving medieval buildings. There are several Listed Buildings in the vicinity. Part of a Listed Building lies on the site itself and the separate building in the south-west corner of the site is a Traditional Building of Townscape Value. These two structures will not form part of the cinema complex.

2.4 Proposed Scheme

It is proposed that development of the site will be preceded by demolition of the majority of the existing buildings on the site. The proposed development is not intended to cover the whole site and will occupy approximately 2170m^2. Grading will be undertaken in order to create a surface level with the Head Street frontage across the site. The new development will be a multiplex eight-screen cinema, of which two screens are planned at basement level in the west part of the site. The ground floor will also contain A3 uses fronting onto Head Street. The remaining six screens will be on the first floor.

The Traditional Building of Townscape Value in the south-west of the site, formerly used as a cycle shed, is to be preserved. Access to properties outside the southern limit of the site, via the lane along its west side, will be maintained.

Foundations for the proposed development will depend upon ground conditions. During demolition and construction work, the facades of buildings butted by present structures will be supported and underpinning will take place where necessary.

2.5 Archaeological Background

2.5.1 Introduction

The following section has been taken from the desk-top assessment report (AOC 1998a).

The initial source for the compilation of the following archaeological and historical information was the Essex Sites and Monument Record (SMR) which was searched to a 100m radius of the site. Only the most significant entries are included in the text of this report, for which SMR references are given in brackets.

The character of archaeological remains on the site can be predicted with an unusual degree of confidence due to two archaeological investigations having already taken place on the site.

Other excavations in the vicinity of the site have been summarised in some detail as they give an indication of the type of remains which may be expected on the site under consideration. The Culver Street site was on the opposite side of Head Street to the Post Office and the Balkerne Lane site lay to the north-west. St. Mary's Steps are situated to the west of the site and the Mercury Theatre lies to the north although only the evaluation report, and not the excavation report, for the latter site was available for inspection.

Where necessary, heights have been converted from imperial to metric. All dates are AD.

2.5.2 Prehistoric

In earlier prehistoric times, settlement along river valleys and in the north of East Anglia was preferred due to the lighter soils and less densely wooded nature of the land. During the Late Bronze Age, the agricultural population began to colonise land further south and this trend continued into the Iron Age. During the first century BC, Belgic immigrants moved into Essex and eventually one of their leaders, Cunobelin, made Camulodunum his capital, which was located on the site of modern Colchester (Hawkes & Hull, 1947). One of the two main centres of occupation of the Iron Age *oppidum* was on a spur of land to the north of the site (Crummy, 1977) which was later occupied by the Roman fort.

Excavations at Culver Street on the opposite side of Head Street to the development site uncovered prehistoric remains. In places, the natural sand was sealed by a thin layer of cover loam containing evidence of prehistoric occupation, which may indicate disturbance by ploughing. Work for the Roman fortress had removed much of this deposit and it therefore mainly survived over the north part of the Culver Street site. A pit was dated to the Neolithic period and there was also a scatter of flints and pottery dating from the Neolithic to the Middle Iron Age. However, there was no indication of occupation immediately predating the Roman invasion (Crummy *et al*, 1992).

2.5.3 Roman

In the Roman period, Colchester was known as Camulodunum, a town of some size with a theatre and temple, on the site of the former military fort. A large number of Roman sites have been identified during excavation in the town which illustrate fairly dense development within the town walls. Buildings from the fortress which remained in use probably influenced the street layout of the *colonia*. Head Street is built over a north/south Roman street which probably connected roads approaching Colchester from the south and west with a river crossing to the north of the town, via Head Gate (probably Roman, SMR 13125) and North Gate. This appears to be shown on Stukeley's map drawn in about 1723 which is an early attempt to understand the Roman layout. Crummy (1984) provides a more accurate plan of the Roman street layout based on archaeological evidence.

The development site is situated in Insula 33B. The metalled surface of a street between Insulae 25A and 33A, to the north-west of the development site, was seen in the section of a service trench in 1972 (Crummy, 1977) and during a watching brief in 1979 (SMR 13246 and Crummy *et al*, 1992). The street had an east/west orientation and aligned with the Roman drain at St. Mary's Steps. The street had also been recorded in 1936 in the section of a service trench dug along the west side of Head Street and at the Public Library further east (SMR 13111). The street comprised layers of gravel beneath a mortar or cobbled surface and was about 6m wide.

St. Mary's Steps (SMR 12243 and Crummy *et al*, 1992)
The St. Mary's Steps site lies beyond the church to the north-west of the development site and encountered some 2.50m of archaeological stratigraphy. Archaeological investigations showed how an arch for a Roman drain in the town wall was used as a postern gate from at

least the 15th century until the early 18th century. On the north side of the arch and integral with the Roman wall was a rectangular tower which is still visible today. This tower was probably necessary to guard the weak spot in the defences created by the arched opening. Previous excavations on this site were reinterpreted (SMR 13311).

In the churchyard to the west of the site, Roman foundations and a tessellated pavement were found (SMR 13009 and OS, 1876). More foundations and a tessellated pavement were found in 1893 in Head Gate Court at the back of the King's Head Inn (SMR 13060 and Hull, 1958) to the south of the development site. Traces of a Roman foundation were also found in 1936 opposite the old GPO in Head Street (SMR 13066). A Roman pavement, coins and a lamp were found beneath the former Friend's Meeting House (SMR 13067) to the south-east of the development site.

Excavations at Culver Street 1991-2 and 1984-5 (Crummy *et al*, 1992)
The depth of archaeological deposits at Culver Street totalled approximately 3.6m (Fig. 9). The earliest evidence for Roman activity dated to the military use of Colchester and included a barracks. This may have a bearing on the 29-39 Head Street site as it also lies within the fortress. Streets were shown to be in use before they had been metalled and the north/south street in the centre of the site was identified as the *via principalis*. The main walls of the barracks, on the west side of the *via principalis*, were built of blocks of sandy clay laid on timber ground plates which rested on mortared plinths. Roofs were probably tiled and floors were sand or, in some cases, wooden boards laid directly on earth. Latrines were provided and environmental samples from them indicated the diet of the soldiers. Buildings on the east side of the *via principalis* were constructed of wooden posts in trenches. One of the buildings contained evidence of metal working.

The *colonia* was founded in *c* 49, after which time it appears that the barracks were occupied by civilians while clearance and rebuilding took place on the west of *the via principalis*. The new structures were timber framed. A new east/west street was also built. A wooden drain was built along the west side of the *via principalis*.

The reused barracks were burnt in the Boudican uprising of 60/1. However, the depth of the Boudican destruction debris had preserved the remains of former buildings on the north part of the site, which had been robbed and damaged by later activity elsewhere. Clearance of debris over the rest of the site meant that the original street layout survived, although property boundaries changed.

New construction, carried out after an undetermined delay, was of the stud-and-block type and timber ground plates were supported by gravel-packed pits. Floors were made of sandy clay or loose, gravely mortar. The construction of the town wall probably began *c* 65-80 as a reaction to the Boudican uprising and is one of the earliest Roman defensive walls in Britain. At Culver Street, the wall was in a similar position to the levelled legionary rampart. Some previously developed areas were left open and used for cultivation, particularly those near the wall, and this part of the *colonia* seemed to have had low status. The presence of cultivation was indicated by a layer of well-mixed, dark yellowish-brown sandy loam up to 0.80m deep. Two baby inhumations were found in the cultivated area and others within a buildings of this period.

Between *c* AD 100 and *c* AD 300 more durable houses were built, some with mosaic and tessellated pavements and perhaps a hypocaust, as well as earth floors. Typical construction comprised stone and mortar foundations up to 1.3m deep, which rested on gravel bedding in some instances. These were levelled off with tile and were thought to have supported sun-dried blocks or wattle and daub with a timber frame. Examples of buttressing were also encountered which implied the existence of masonry walls. A baby had been buried in a disused drain between two buildings and two adult inhumations were found beneath a building dated to about AD 225-375. Land in the south-west of the site was cultivated for 100-150 years and that to the east was cultivated for substantially longer.

All the buildings on the site were demolished between *c* AD 275 and AD 325 and not replaced, but used for agriculture instead. This may have represented a decline in the population which was reflected in the pattern of coin loss.

Excavations at Balkerne Lane 1973-6 (Crummy, 1984)
Construction methods for various periods of Roman buildings were similar at both Balkerne Lane and Culver Street. Foundations were not widely used until the 2nd century as walls were initially placed directly on natural sand. As occupation deposits accumulated, it became more awkward to reach natural sand without excavation so foundations were used. The depth of foundations are therefore more likely to represent the accumulation of earlier deposits than the nature of the superstructure. Early foundations comprised packed gravel which was later superseded by mortar and stone. Dwarf walls used in the military period were shuttered rather than trench-built. Most roofs were probably tiled but stake-and-wattle walls encased in daub, which were only found at Balkerne Lane, were less substantial and probably supported thatched roofs.

The archaeological sequence at Balkerne Lane began with the legionary ditch and the construction of flimsy buildings. Prior to this, topsoil had been stripped off much of the site which may have removed earlier remains. The disarticulated skeletal remains of at least six people were found in the ditch and have been interpreted as military executions. Debris derived from iron working was also recovered.

After about fifteen years the legionary ditch was levelled and the associated rampart destroyed. The iron workshops were demolished and new buildings were constructed with only limited reuse of the military structures. This period ended with the Boudican revolt, after which a defensive ditch was cut through the sites of former buildings.

This ditch was backfilled between *c* 125 and *c* 300 and three public buildings, including a monumental arch, were built. Domestic dwellings also went up at this time. The new stone defensive wall included the arch but the ditch had a different alignment to encompass the public buildings. The wall and ditch arrangement in this form did not provide a good defensive strategy and may have been intended to signify status. The street through the Balkerne Gate was sealed in *c* 300 and access was not restored until after 335-7. The closure of the Balkerne Gate probably resulted in the decline of the site as a residential area and the southern end of the site was cultivated at this period.

The remains of about twelve baby burials were found of which only two were thought to be *in situ*, the rest residual. An inhumation within a lead coffin had been removed from its

original location because it was found in a pit, not a grave cut, and the body was not in the usual position.

Mercury Theatre Evaluation Report (Colchester Archaeological Trust)
An evaluation to the top of archaeological deposits, carried out in 1996, encountered significant archaeological deposits at heights of between 33.10m AOD and 33.63m AOD, approximately 0.64-1.03m below local ground surface. Although the entire sequence was not exposed, Roman buildings were seen in all trenches and tessellated floors were found in several locations. Layers of Roman make-up and demolition debris were sealed by post Roman topsoil. This had been cut by later pits and robber trenches.

Previous archaeological work on the site (Dunnett, 1971 and Holbert, 1966) discovered that Roman occupation of the site spanned a period from the 1st to the 4th centuries, which covers military origins and subsequent town houses. The stratigraphic sequence was at least 2m deep. One of the buildings predated the later town defences. Construction methods included the use of mortar dwarf walls and walls of unbaked clay blocks as well as timber ground plates. Later foundations were built of gravel and soft mortar. Floors comprised trampled clay and there was evidence for tiled roofs.

After the Romans withdrew from Britain, the small population within the Roman town walls lived on the lines of Head Street, North Hill and on High Street, where some divisions of property remain the same today as in Roman times (Hull, 1958).

2.5.4 Evidence of Roman Remains on the Development Site

The OS map of 1876 states that Roman coins and Samian Ware were found prior to the construction of the initial Post Office building on Head Street.

1934 Excavation
In 1934, the site of the new Post Office, to the south of the initial Post Office building, was examined prior to development. During excavation of an east-west trench across the centre of the site (SMR 13064) remains of one or more Roman buildings were uncovered. One of these had an apsidal compartment floored with a mosaic of small white tesserae at a maximum height of 32.85m AOD and with plastered walls, half a metre wide, surviving to a maximum height of 33.66m AOD (AOC 1998a, Fig. 10 and Plate 7). The walls were built of septaria in sandy mortar. The internal measurements of the feature were 3.35m by 1.52m and it was interpreted as part of the baths section of the house. A short length of footing led from the apse but there were no traceable remains of the rest of the house. Part of the apsidal wall and much of the floor were later robbed. Deposits above the bath contained a large amount of 1st century pottery and a small, unstratified Roman oil lamp was also found. From 2-2.5m below ground level the pottery was entirely Roman but with 'no stratification worth noting' (Hull, 1935 & 1958). Other finds included painted plaster, roof tiles and slabs of Purbeck marble.

Part of a red tessellated floor was exposed for an area of 2.44m by 3.05m in a second trench, towards the north-west corner of the site, at a height of 33.63m AOD (AOC 1998a, Plate 9). This extended further west and north beneath the old Post Office, while its southern edge was thought to be intact with a recess which may have respected a pilaster. Two slabs of Purbeck marble appeared to have been associated with the floor. The rest of the trench

was disturbed with pottery dating to the entire Roman period recorded from 1.07m below ground level.

A third archaeological trench to the north and west of the cellars was generally disturbed with a patch of Roman stratification containing pottery dating to between the 1st and 3rd century's. Extensive dumps of building materials were also noted, to the west of the cellars along Head Street.

1984 Watching Brief

Construction trenches, dug for the building in the south-west corner of the Post Office complex, revealed Roman features (SMR 13324). These included a north-south 'military plinth' of standard type, areas of tessellated pavement, three robber trenches (including one for the plinth), a foundation sealed by part of a tessellated pavement and an early Roman pit (AOC 1998a, Fig. 10).

Some of the tessellated surfaces may be associated with that found in 1958, on the west edge of the development site at TL 9933 2507 in Mr. Inglis' garden (SMR 13061).

2.5.5 Saxon and Medieval

Myers (1989) writes that there is evidence of some continuity from the Roman period till the 6th century. Both late Roman belt fittings and Romano-Saxon pottery have been found on several sites and 5th and 6th century sunken featured buildings are known from within the town walls. Cemeteries at Mersea Road and Butt Road have post-Roman as well as late Roman burials. An inhumation in the base of the ditch at Balkerne Lane was probably early Anglo-Saxon (Crummy, 1984).

Artefacts dating to the early medieval period have also been found at properties on Head Street in the vicinity of the site. These include a 6th century, bronze brooch fragment found at Luckin-Smiths (SMR 13760) and two annular loom weights from behind Shippey's which probably date to the early Anglo-Saxon period (SMR 13761). A site in the garden of St. Mary's Cottage encountered Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of a lime kiln and associated pottery (SMR 13311). Of the early medieval buildings found so far, stone was the most common building material. Construction in the 15th and 16th centuries was timber-framed with ground plates on low plinths of mortared tile (Crummy, 1984). Work at Kenton's, north of the development site (SMR 132555), revealed a wall and daub floor believed to be of a medieval date.

The development site lay within the parish of St. Mary's Church which is likely to have had Anglo-Saxon origins judging by the type of inhumation burials found just to the south of the present churchyard (SMR 12273). The church building on the present site dates from the late 15th or early 16th century. It was rebuilt in the early 18th century but most of the fabric of the present building dates to 1872 (SMR 12274) and it is currently used as an arts centre.

Archaeological evidence for medieval activity on the site itself is more limited than that for the Roman period. Head Street preserves the line of a Roman street which was also used in the medieval period. Two medieval rubbish pits were dug during the excavations in 1934 in advance of the new Post Office development (Hull, 1935). There were also likely to have

been medieval houses fronting Head Street as maps show houses in this position as early as 1610.

Excavations at Culver Street 1991-2 and 1984-5 (Crummy et al, 1992)
A sunken-floored hut was found on the site of a Roman building, which had been filled with a deposit containing 7th century artefacts. A thin scatter of sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was found over the whole site. Another building with an underfloor space was dated to either the 6th-8th or the 12th century. There was very little evidence for 10th century activity. The earliest subsequent occupation was represented by post-pits which probably dated to the 11th or 12th century. There were robber trenches of a similar date which may have been associated with retrieving material for the construction of Colchester Castle. Pitting was recorded behind the medieval street frontages. Cultivation of the 'dark earth' was carried out from the 11th to the 12th centuries. Head Street was the principal medieval street in the area. A medieval cellar lies under Headgate House, an 18th century building on Head Street which has been demolished. A medieval casting pit and lime kiln were among the medieval features found during the excavations at Culver Street. Oyster shells rather than chalk were used for lime production in Colchester.

2.5.6 Post-Medieval

Cartographic evidence is one of the most useful primary sources for the landscape of the post-medieval period. Speed's map of around 1610 is among the earliest to include the development area, which lies to the north-west of the Head Gate. Although the map represents a bird's eye view and is not to scale, it gives a good impression of the layout of the town, with St. Mary's Church to the south-west and the majority of the town still confined by the city walls. Head Street retains the line of the Roman street and the distinctive dog leg of Church Street to the north of the site is already evident in the early 17th century. Head Street has been developed by this period, with buildings along the east edge of the site, of which 21 Head Street is probably a survival. No buildings are depicted on Church Street and the rest of the site was likely to have been gardens and wasteland. This is supported by archaeological evidence from the excavation on the site in 1934 of a pit containing 17th century pottery (SMR 13065).

During the excavation at Balkerne Lane to the north-west of the development site, fields or allotments of a 17th-18th century date were uncovered. The interpretation of these was supported by cartographic evidence. In the same period, gravel was robbed from the Roman road between London and Colchester. Workmen found a large quantity of post-medieval glass and pottery in a brick-lined pit behind Williams and Glynns Bank on Head Street (SMR 13309). One of the vessels was dated to the 16th century.

Although it was drawn in about 1723, Stukeley's map is a plan of Roman Colchester and therefore discussed in Section 2.5.3 above. Morant was the rector at St. Mary's and his map shows Colchester in the mid 18th century, by which time Church Street had also been developed to possibly include a building in the north-west corner of the site. Another building to the south-west of this appears to lie just outside the development site. Lines drawn on the apparently open area of the rest of the site may represent ditches or boundary walls. Morant's plan depicts St. Mary's Steps to the west of St. Mary's Church, which were altered in 1713-4 but stood on the site of a postern gate in use since at least the 15th century

(Crummy *et al*, 1992). Britton's map of 1805and Cromwell's map of 1825 are very similar to Morant's and do not show any additional development since 1748.

Within the next hundred years, further buildings were constructed on the site and illustrated on Monson's map of 1848. These buildings or their replacements are depicted in more detail on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876 along with the Post Office building fronting Head Street. There is a plaque on the front of this building stating: "This the property of the Post Master General 1873" and a record of conveyance dated 1895. The buildings fronting Head Street are known to be basemented and were recorded by Hull (1935) as having cut away all the ancient strata. The cycle shed is also illustrated for the first time on the OS map of 1876, along with other buildings covering approximately half the site. The rest of the site was either landscaped with gardens or used as yards. Interestingly, a planted area near the western edge of the site had a curved corner which appears to have been incorporated into the 1930's building in this location. The OS map of 1897 shows a similar organisation of the site and specifies the location of the graveyard to the south of St. Mary's Church and to the west of the site.

The Post Office was extended in the 1930's with a two storey building which butted the south face of the existing 19th century building. The bulk of the site, as shown on the current OS map is covered by a single-storey industrial building of the same date, the construction of which involved the demolition of several earlier buildings. The latest addition to the complex was the structure in the south-west corner which was built during or after 1984.

3 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the evaluation were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 1998b) that was submitted to and agreed by the local planning authority prior to commencement of on-site works. These were:

- The principle aim is to determine the significance and degree of preservation of archaeological remains within the application site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of the remains present.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features and to establish the depositional sequence.
- Is there evidence for any prehistoric activity on the site or has it been destroyed by later human activity as shown at Culver Street on the opposite side of Head Street?
- What is the degree of survival of the Roman remains on the site? To what extent has later building on the site, from the medieval period through to 1984, had an effect on them? Significant building remains were exposed during the building of the new Post Office in 1934 and the building in the south-west corner of the site in 1984. However the amount of destruction to these remains from these buildings is unknown.

- The application site lies within the area of the former military fort. The 1984 archaeological watching brief during building of the current structure in the south-west corner of the site recorded a north-south 'military plinth' of standard type. How extensive are the military remains on the site and is it possible to define the use of this part of the fort?

- On the Culver Street site the barrack building was occupied by civilians following the foundation of the *colonia* while to the west of the *via principalis* clearance and rebuilding took place. Does this clearance and rebuilding extend onto the application site or are other military buildings occupied by civilians as the rebuilding took place?

- Does the type of redevelopment of this part of the town following the Boudican uprising mirror that found on the Culver Street site with some open cultivated areas and low status buildings?

- The previous archaeological observations on the application site found remains of well-built structures associated with tessellated pavements. Do these belong to the period of *c.* AD 100 to *c.* AD 300 when more durable houses were found to be built on the Culver Street site?

- Following demolition of the later buildings on the Culver Street site between *c.* AD 275 and AD 325 the site was used for agriculture. Is this the same on this site?

- Remains of the Anglo-Saxon period have been found in Colchester. Was there occupation of this period on the proposed development site and if so, what form did it take?

- Head Street preserves the line of a Roman street which was also used in the medieval period. Two medieval rubbish pits were dug during the excavations in 1934 in advance of the new Post Office development and it is likely that buildings fronted Head Street in the medieval period. Can the date of the establishment of these buildings be defined through the examination of the contents of rubbish pits? Similarly can the contents of the pits be used to determine the use of the buildings?

- To determine the threat posed to any surviving archaeological deposits by the proposed development of the site.

- The results of the evaluation will be used to design suitable mitigation strategies for the effects of the proposed development on the archaeological resource should planning consent be granted.

- The results of the investigations will be made public subject to client confidentiality.

4 STRATEGY

4.1 Research Design

A scheme of investigation was designed by AOC Archaeology (AOC 1998b) and agreed with the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council and the applicant. This involved the opening of five trenches of the following dimensions and aims:

- Trench 1. 5m x 2m in area. Excavation to proceed to depth of 1.00m - 1.20m overall, with sondage of 2m length to full depth of archaeological deposits (c. 4m below existing). The purpose is to establish full depth of archaeological deposits and to establish their differing character throughout the time span of occupation on this site.

- Trench 2. 5m x 2m in area. Excavation overall to depth of c. 1.50m - 1.80m (top c.1.20m removed mechanically due to build up for present building). Sondage of 2m length to full depth of archaeological deposits (c. 4m below existing). The purpose is as for Trench 1 - depth and character of the remains may change east-west across the site.

- Trench 3. 5m x 2m in area. Excavation to proceed to depth of c. 1.50m overall. The purpose is to establish the impact of the present building on the archaeology. Do the bath house remains previously investigated still survive? Is the bath building at the south end of a building or do important remains continue southwards?

- Trench 4. 3m x 2m in area. Excavation to proceed to depth of c. 1.50m overall. The purpose is to check impact of present building on archaeological remains and to ascertain character of latest Roman remains in this area.

- Trench 5. 2m x 2m in area. Depth of excavation c. 1.25m. The purpose is to establish impact of 1984 building. Do building remains investigated at that time still survive?

Excavation of Trenches 1 - 4 was conducted by mechanical excavator to expose the upper archaeological horizons. Any deposits thus exposed were then investigated by hand excavation to determine their date, character and extent. Trench 5 was completely excavated by hand.

Site procedures to be followed were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation. Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

4.2 Methodology

Prior to commencing work a unique code for the project (HSC 98) was established by AOC Archaeology and an accession number (1998.219) was obtained from Colchester Museums.

Five trenches were sited on the proposed development area. Trenches 1-4 were positioned as shown in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Fig. 2), Trench 5 was narrowed in size and repositioned north of the original proposed location, due to the compartmentalised internal

arrangement of the 1984 extension where it was situated. All trenches required breaking out of concrete slabs which was monitored. Break out of slabs in Trenches 1 - 4 was undertaken using a Kubota KH 90 mini excavator with a breaker attachment, while that in Trench 5 was by hand. Subsequent excavation in Trenches 1 - 4 was carried out using the Kubota mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Material was initially removed in spits of approximately 0.10m to the upper surface of archaeological deposits. Further excavation was carried out by hand.

The size and maximum excavated depths of the trenches were as follows:

Trench 1. 5m x 2m x 1.92m deep.
Trench 2. 5m x 2m x 2.75m deep.
Trench 3. 5m x 2m x 2.65m deep.
Trench 4. 3m x 2m x 2.52m deep.
Trench 5. 1.90m x 1.80m x 2.2m deep.

The work was carried out in accordance with the standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and was monitored by Mr. Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer, Colchester Borough Council.

Standard AOC Archaeology techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of written context sheets for each deposit, cut and structural element encountered, with scale plans and/or section drawings recorded where appropriate. Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, using an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 33.04m AOD, marked on the Head Street frontage of the Post office building (Fig. 1). A full photographic record was produced, using black and white and colour film. The trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording and with the approval of Mr Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer, Colchester Borough Council.

5 RESULTS

A phasing structure has been devised, to highlight the separate periods of activity noted within the trenches. The limited nature of the investigations however precludes any detailed discussion of dating, with the result that the phases listed below are intended to act as broad outlines only, for ease of interpretation. The relative position of features within this sequence is given prior to each section of discussion.

Phase I. - Natural (Open Area)
Phase II. - Prehistoric/Early Roman?
Phase III. - Early Roman (Initial Fort Construction)
Phase IV. - Early Roman (Secondary Military Construction/Demolition)
Phase V. - Boudican Destruction.
Phase VI. - Post-Boudican Clearance.
Phase VII - Second-Third Century Occupation.
Phase VIII - Fourth Century Decline and Abandonment.
Phase IX - Medieval.
Phase X. - Post-Medieval.

Trench 1.

Phase I:

The natural glacial (Pleistocene) gravels and sands (1/080) was observed at 32.08m OD, and consisted of firm greyish-yellow sand, containing a small amount of sub-angular stones. This material was observed in a small investigative sondage at the western end of the trench, an area measuring 2m x 2m.

Phase II. (Fig. 3):

Cutting into the surface of the natural sand, was a linear slot (1/075) and three stakeholes (1/076, 1/077, 1/079), apparently forming the remains of a stake/panel fence line (Plate 1). The slot measured 1.10m x 80mm x 50mm deep, and ran in a north-west - south-east direction. Two of the stakeholes (1/076, 1/079) were approximately the same size (70mm x 80mm x 50mm deep) and were placed either side of this slot at roughly half way along its length. The third of the stakeholes, (1/077) was found 0.50m to the north-west of the linear slot and was slightly larger than the others, measuring 100mm diameter x 200mm deep. It is possible that this feature is not structurally related to those described above, as no direct relationship between them exists, bar their relative positions in the stratigraphic sequence. However, as the location of (1/077) occurs on the same alignment as the slot, it seems likely that they represent the remains of the same structure. This alignment is interesting in its own right, occurring as it does at c. 45^0 to the layout of the Roman features associated with both the early fort and the later town grid plan. Although the fence may represent a temporary internal division, the sequential position of the features, and lack of any apparently associated floor layers, suggests a possible pre-Roman date.

Phase III. (Fig. 4):

Above the presumed fence line, was a sequence of layers and cut features measuring 0.55m deep, believed to represent the remains of activity associated with the early Roman fort. The earliest of these deposits was a discreet patch of grey-brown sandy silt (1/071) measuring 0.85m north/south x 0.50m east/west x 50mm deep, overlying the natural sand at 32.13m OD. This layer may represent the remains of the pre-fort palaeo-surface, although the presence of charcoal within its matrix, and the compact nature of the deposit suggests it is more likely to be a trample or formation layer associated with the earliest phase of fort construction. This layer was cut to the west by a higher post-medieval feature, and on its eastern side by what appeared to be the impression of a linear beam slot (1/068), probably running in a north/south alignment. The complete area of this feature was not seen, as it continued beyond the southern limit of excavation. The observed extent measured 0.22m north/south x 0.28m east/west x 0.10m deep and occurred at 32.13m OD.

To the east of (1/068), stratigraphically unrelated to that feature, but directly sealing the slot and two of the stakeholes at 32.12m OD, was a firm, mid grey-yellow sandy clay deposit, (1/073) measuring 1.10m x 1.15m x 40mm deep. The limited observed extent of this layer makes interpretation difficult, although it is likely to represent either part of a collapsed wall, or the remains of a clay floor surface (Plate 2). The lack of any sign of wattles within the matrix of the material indicates the latter alternative to be the most reasonable. Three

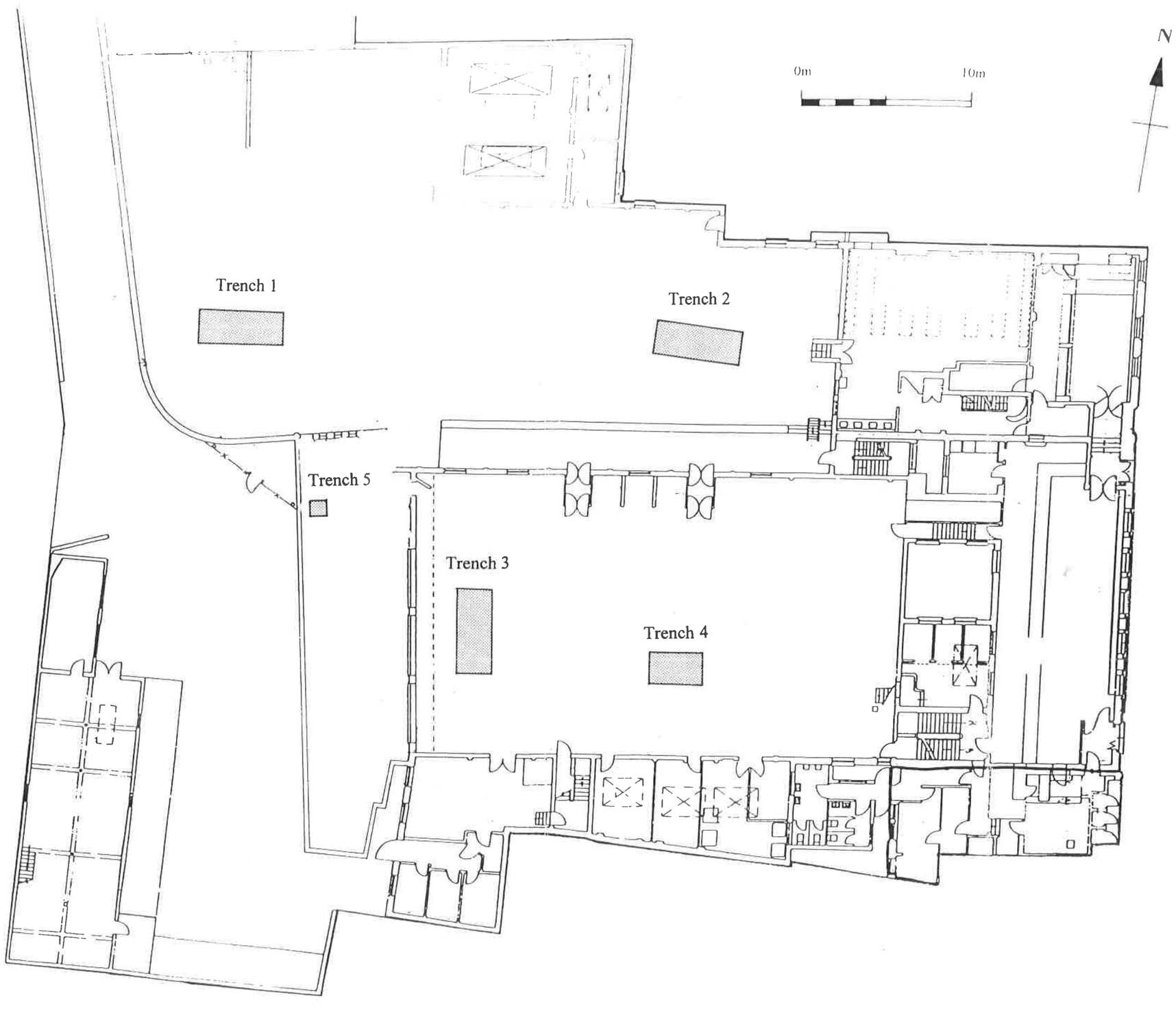

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan.

deposits (1/065, 1/066, 1/070), composed of sand and clay, which appeared to be the remains of further floor surfaces, overlay this layer. These continued to 32.16m OD, with the western extent of (1/066) in particular appearing to respect the position and line of the beam slot (1/068). 1/066 partially overlay the edge of a large square pit (1/060) at its northern extent. It is unclear whether this pit is related to the early features previously discussed, or if it is a stratigraphically unrelated feature which has suffered a collapse of its edges, causing the nearby early material to slump inwards. The fills of this pit (1/072, 1/074) contained a very small quantity of early Roman pottery suggesting it may indeed be part of the early sequence. The small size of the area where these features were found makes further discussion difficult. The supposition here is that the large pit, together with the layers and supposed beam slot, represent part of a very early Roman structure, possibly related to the initial phase of fort construction.

Phase IV.

A sequence of deposits sealing the early material was encountered. Although they appeared similar in character, these were much more extensive in nature, and are interpreted as a second phase of building within the early Roman fort. The initial deposit in this sequence (1/063) appeared to be a consolidation/levelling layer, composed of yellow redeposited natural sand, measuring 1.28m x 0.93m x 50mm thick. This layer sealed the early sequence detailed previously at 32.19m OD. A small stakehole (1/081) cut into the surface of this deposit was seen only in section, measuring 70mm wide x 90mm deep. Stratigraphically separate from (1/063), but possibly related to (1/081), was a small posthole (1/064), cut into the surface of the demolition deposit (1/070) previously detailed at a level of 32.17m OD. This measured 0.30m x 0.35m x 80mm deep and was packed around the exterior with a small clay mound.

Above these features were two compact yellow/brown clay layers (1/058, 1/061), which appeared to be acting as floor surfaces. The lower layer (1/061) showed evidence for having been burned although this was inconclusive. The upper layer (1/058) occurred at a level of 32.25m OD and was a more sandy and mixed deposit - possibly a layer of post-destruction trample rather than an actual floor. A further small stakehole (1/078) was observed cutting into the surface of (1/058) at 32.25m OD. The interior of this feature was devoid of any fill, the post having been removed in antiquity, with the resultant space never having been filled. This fairly rare occurrence may be a sign of rapid deposition of layers above having taken place. These layers (1/056, 1/054, 1/053. 1/050) were composed of a mixture of decayed and eroded mud bricks with ashy, burnt silt, and represented the demolition phase of the building under discussion. The erosion on the mud bricks appeared to have been caused by exposure to the elements for some time, indicating a period of disuse in this part of the city in the early Roman period. The uppermost deposit in this sequence (1/050) was recorded at 32.32m OD. (Fig 6)

A series of thin dumps and spreads (1/043 - 1/047, 1/049), sealed the demolition material to a maximum level of 32.60m OD at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 6). These appeared to have been less rapidly deposited, and most probably accumulated over time through a combination of natural weathering (1/047) and human activity (1/043). Dating evidence from these layers was sparse, although (1/043) contained a small quantity of mid first-century pottery, as did (1/046) and (1/049).

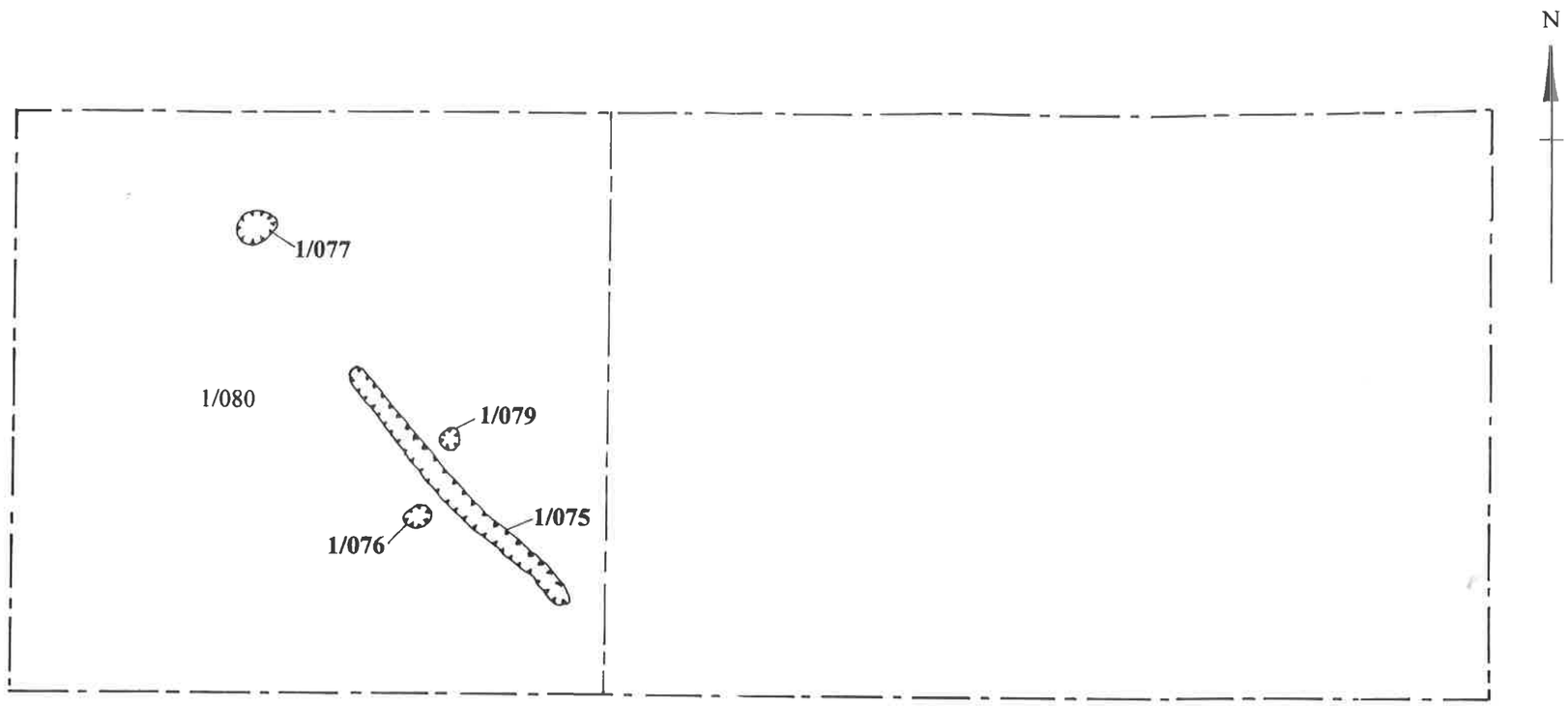

Figure 3. Trench One - Phase II.

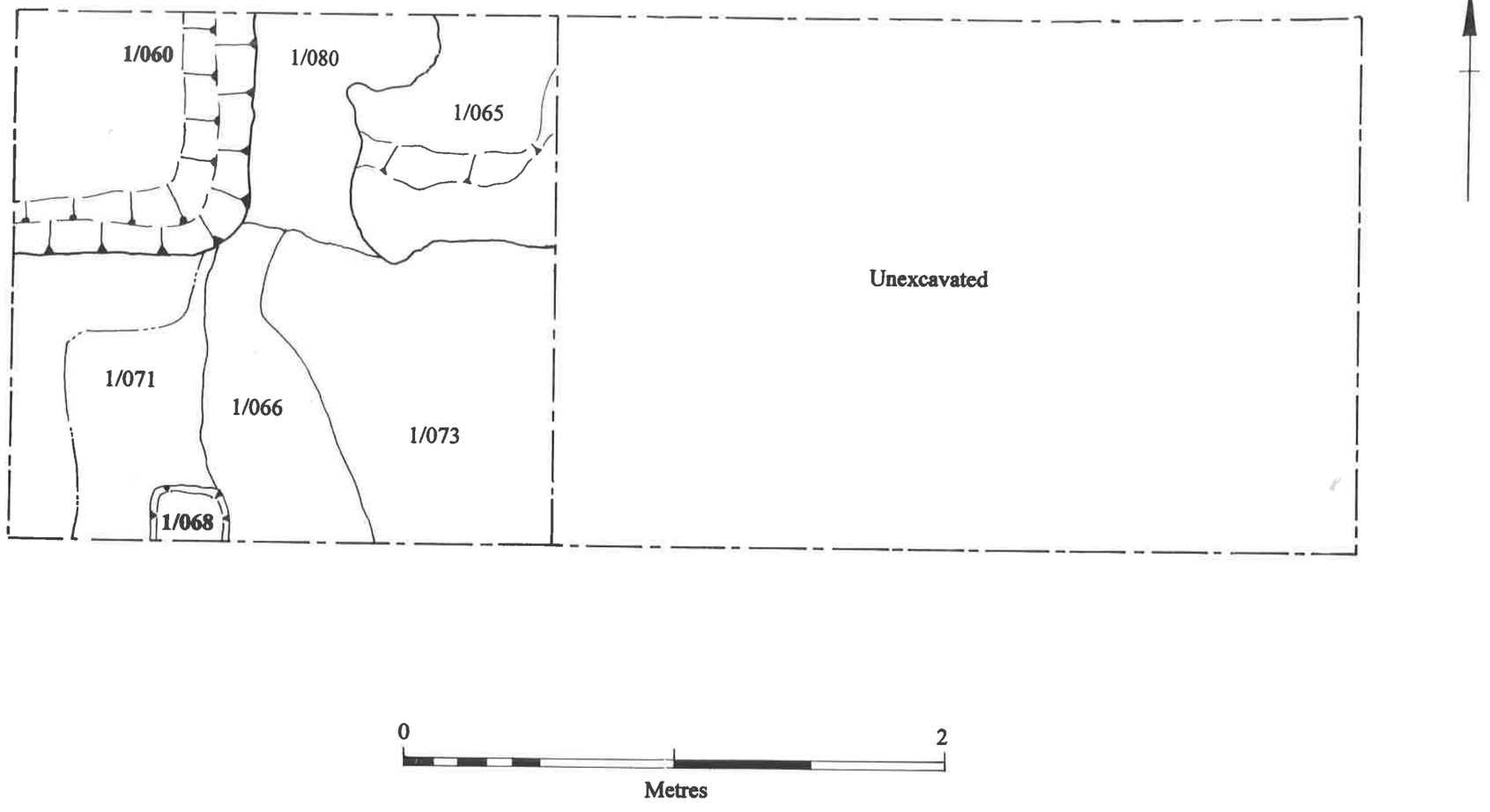

Figure 4. Trench One - Phase III.

Phase V.

Two discreet patches of *in situ* burning (1/040, 1/041) were found on the surface of (1/043) at levels of 32.61 and 32.60m OD respectively. These did not appear to be the remains of burnt structures or of hearths or burning pits, but more as a patchy scorching of the surface of the underlying clay, as if ash had been falling onto the area from a nearby large fire. The main deposit representing the Boudican revolt was the destruction horizon (1/033) - an extensive red fired clay/daub layer measuring 4.20m x 2.00m, but only 30mm deep (Plate 3). With the military buildings in this area of town having been demolished prior to the revolt, this horizon is believed to represent the firing of an exposed clay surface by a large heat source nearby, rather than the destruction of an actual structure itself. This horizon occurred at 32.64m OD.

Phase VI.

A large pit (1/042) was recorded at the west end of the trench, measuring 2.00m x 0.70m x 0.45m deep. It appeared that most of this feature occurred beyond the western limit of excavation, and a further area had been removed by a later intrusion. The surviving fill (1/039) was composed almost exclusively of red/black burnt material including pieces of daub and mortar, associated with clearance following the Boudican revolt.

Phase VII.

The phase VII pit was covered by an isolated deposit of ashy silt (1/034), measuring 1.00m x 0.80m x 0.30m deep, which contained both burnt and unburnt material, together with pottery dated to the mid first century. This deposit appeared to be acting as a levelling dump, consolidating the surface following subsidence of the ground level in this area into the underlying pits (1/042) and (1/060). Sealing the western extent of the trench, at a level of 32.74m OD was a 0.15m deep deposit of clay-silt (1/031) which appeared to be acting as a levelling dump. This deposit contained pottery dated to the mid first century Neronian-Flavian period, suggesting that re-occupation of the town in this area following the revolt was fairly rapid. Two further levelling deposits, (1/030, 1/032) contained similar material, and were probably contemporary with (1/031), and continued to a level of 32.96m OD.

Cutting into the surface of (1/032) was a fairly large rectangular pit (1/038), measuring 2.40m x 0.62m x 0.84m deep. The upper part of the fill of this feature (1/037) was very similar to (1/032) through which the feature was cut, being composed of mottled light brown/dark grey sandy silt. However, pottery from this deposit was dated as being potentially from the slightly later first-second century period.

Above the fill of this pit was a fairly large, vaguely linear cut (1/029), measuring 1.80m x 1.68m x 0.14m deep. The exact function of this feature is unclear, although it possibly acted as a rough boundary ditch. The dark brown silty fill of this feature (1/028) contained a small quantity of pottery dating to the earlier part of the second century, and rose to a maximum level of 32.85m OD. This feature was itself sealed by an extensive yellow-brown mottled clay-silt deposit (1/027), which, barring intrusions, extended throughout the trench area at a height of 33.09m OD. This layer appeared to be the formation/levelling base for a mortar floor, small traces of which remained at the western end of the trench, at a height of 32.92m OD. No further structural evidence was identified in the area to indicate the limits of the

structure, of which this floor appeared to be an internal surface. However, given its small size the trench could have fallen within a room or corridor of a building quite easily, without encountering any sign of walls or other supporting structures. Pottery from this layer provided a similar early second century date to that from (1/028).

(1/027) was sealed at the north and west of the trench by what seemed to be a further levelling deposit (1/024), acting as bedding for a secondary mortar surface at 33.11m OD. This layer was less extensive than the lower and the mortar surface less consolidated. This could have been the result of post-abandonment decay, however it seems more likely that this layer was not a true floor, but rather a make-up deposit for a surface now removed. No dating material was recovered from this layer, although its similarity with (1/027) leads to the conclusion that they may heave been deposited in quick succession.

Phase VIII.

A number of intrusive features were identified cutting into the surface of the horizon formed by (1/024) and (1/027). Two of these, pits (1/011) and (1/017) only contained material from the Roman period, particularly the late second century, and possibly represent the initial phase of abandonment in the Roman town, as the settlement contracted. This interpretation is tentative however, as the large degree of residual material occurring in cut features across the site seriously affects the dating of such contexts (see below). The largest of these pits (1/017) measured 0.98m x 0.80m x 0.25m deep, and was badly truncated by later pitting. The smaller feature continued beyond the limit of excavation in the north-east corner of the trench, and measured 0.86m x 0.50m x 0.33m deep.

Phase X. (Fig. 5).

Extensive post-medieval intrusive activity had largely removed the upper Roman sequence, particularly at the east of the trench, where two very large intercutting pits (1/023, 1/005) removed much of the stratigraphy. In the case of (1/023), this was down to a level of 31.99m OD - beyond the natural sand horizon. At the southern edge of the trench, an east/west running probable boundary ditch (1/015) was seen, measuring 1.32m x 0.62m x 0.30m deep. This feature was itself truncated at the west end, by a large rectangular pit (1/007), which measured 1.33m x 0.83m x 1.10m deep. The fill of this feature (1/006) contained a sizeable quantity of second-third century Roman material, with a very small amount of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM), intermixed within the soil matrix. This bias towards Roman residual material is probably inherent in cut features across the site and is an important consideration when attempting to understand the various different periods of activity within the site area.

All of the intrusive features were sealed by a 0.51m deep deposit of humic clay/silt garden soil (1/003) which covered the entirety of the trench area, and contained a small amount of medieval material, and some post-medieval clay pipe. No evidence for an episode of horizontal truncation associated with the construction of the Post Office building was noted, unlike that recorded in other trenches on site (see below). The garden soil continued to a level of 33.50m OD, where it was covered by a 0.14m deep layer of loose brick rubble hard-core (1/002). The modern concrete surface was recorded as gently sloping from west to east, with a maximum height of 33.78m OD.

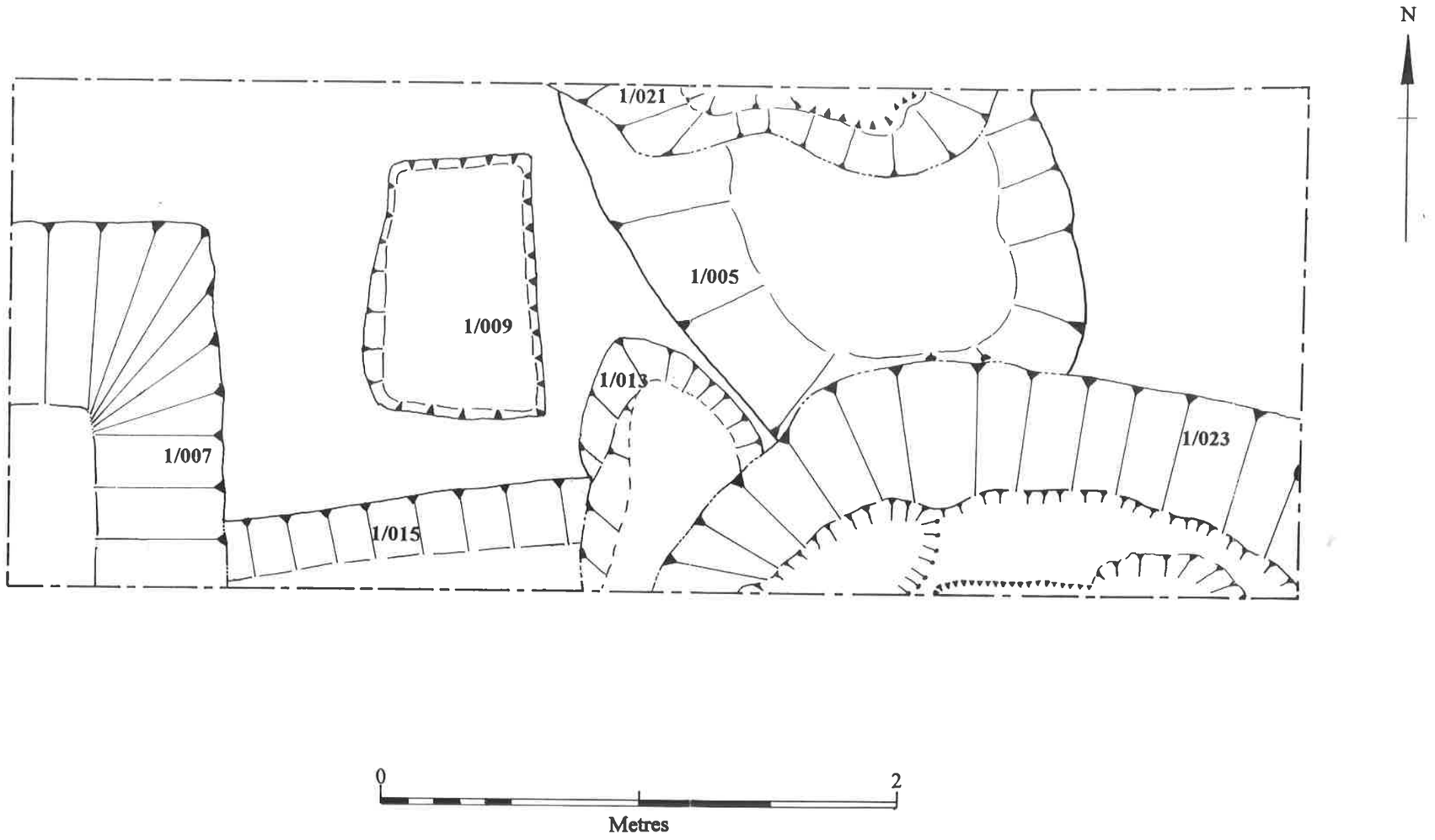

Figure 5. Trench One - Phase X.

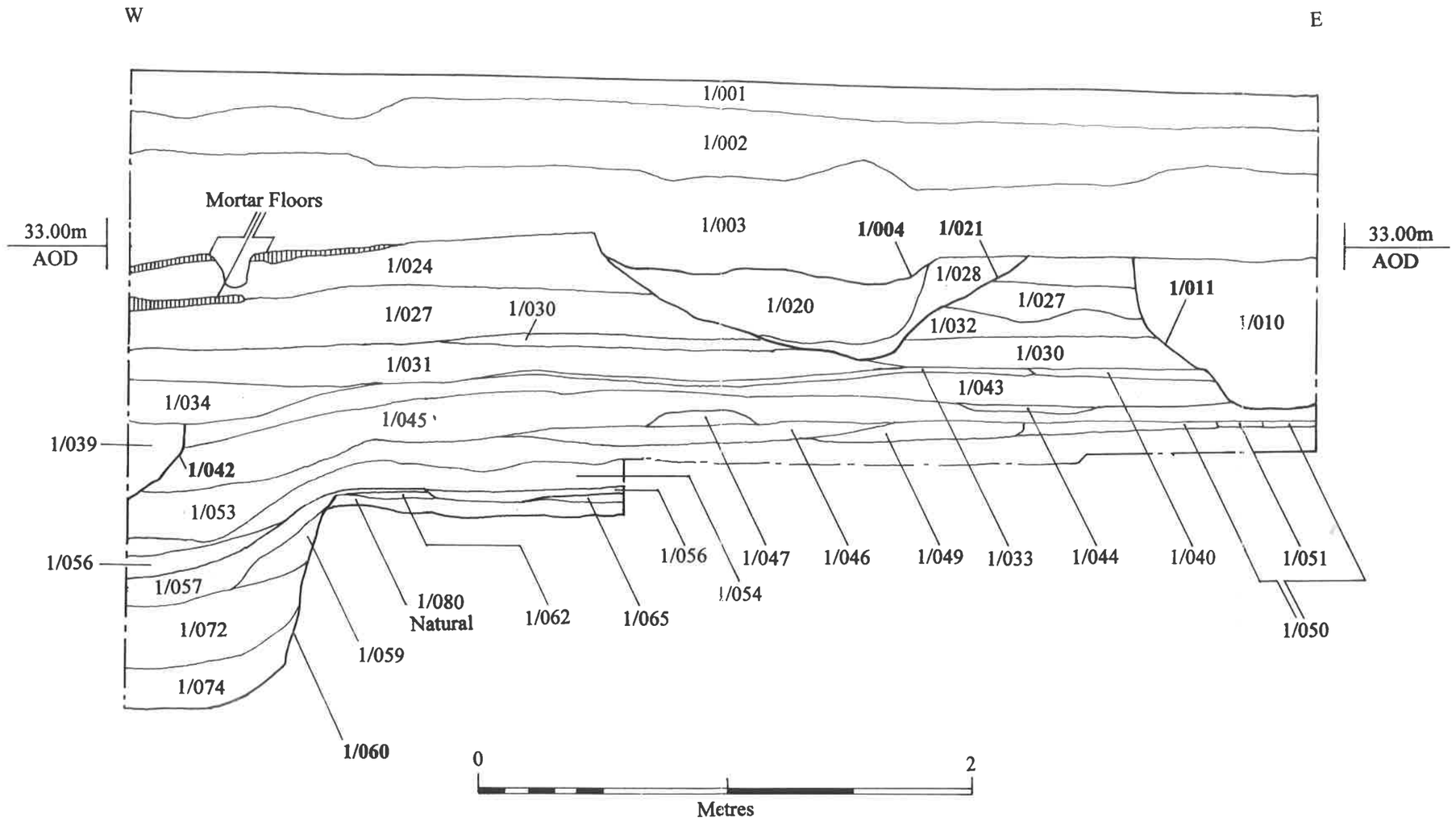

Figure 6. Trench One - South-Facing Section.

Trench 2.

Phase I.

Natural sand (2/080) was observed in a pit section edge only, at approximately 31.70m OD. Full excavation was not continued to the level of this deposit, as the remains encountered were considered to be of a character whereby they would be best addressed under conditions of open-area excavation.

Phase V. (Fig. 7).

A series of deposits were recorded in section and plan, related to the Boudican destruction of the city in AD. 60. These were not removed, but principally consisted of a north/south running daub wall (2/055) which had burnt and collapsed. The wall itself measured 0.64m x 0.56m, and rose to a level of 32.57m OD. The southern and eastern sides of this structure had been removed by later intrusions. However, a large quantity of collapse material remained, represented by numerous tipping deposits and lenses. (2/048, 2/049, 2/051 – 2/054, 2/056, 2/060 – 2/062). In general, these were composed of hard red fired clay dumps, collapsing in layers from west to east. Some lenses (e.g. 2/052) were composed purely of ash and silt – possibly the remains of falling timbers or the wattles within the structure of the wall. These dumps survived to a maximum height of 32.73m OD at the southern edge of the excavated area. No floor surface related to this wall was identified, although the survival of such features cannot be discounted.

Phase VI. (Fig. 10).

A large pit (2/068) with an observed extent of 2.00m x 2.10m x 1.93m deep was found cutting the *in situ* Boudican destruction deposit (2/062) at the eastern end of the trench. Only one true edge of this feature was examined, the remaining sides being beyond the trench limits. The early banded clay/ silt/sand fills of this feature (2/074 - 2/078) contained a large quantity of finds, including pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and metalwork, relating to the early Roman occupation of Camulodunum. Much of this material appeared to have collapsed into the feature from the sides however. The upper fills of this pit (2/057, 2/058, 2/063 - 2/065, 2/070 - 2/073) included material tipping in from surrounding layers. Pottery from these layers provided a broader date range, encompassing the period of the late first-early second century. It seems reasonable to assume that this feature was open and in use for some time, suggesting that clearance and rebuilding in this area of town was not instantaneous.

Towards the western end of the trench, a north/south linear cut (2/035) was observed following the line of the daub wall (2/055), measuring 2.00m x 0.90m x 0.30m deep (Fig. 10). It is unclear what purpose this cut fulfilled, although it seems likely to have been a robber trench of some kind. The fill of this feature (2/033) was composed of a pinkish grey-brown silty sand, suggestive of disturbance and redeposition, and contained charcoal and burnt CBM, as well as bone and pottery dated to the early-mid first century. The robber trench was partially covered by a 0.43m deep deposit of brown silt/sand (2/025), measuring 2.00m x 0.80m, to a maximum height of 32.70m OD. This layer contained pottery spot dated to the mid-late first century, roughly corresponding to the period of clearance and reconstruction of the city following the revolt.

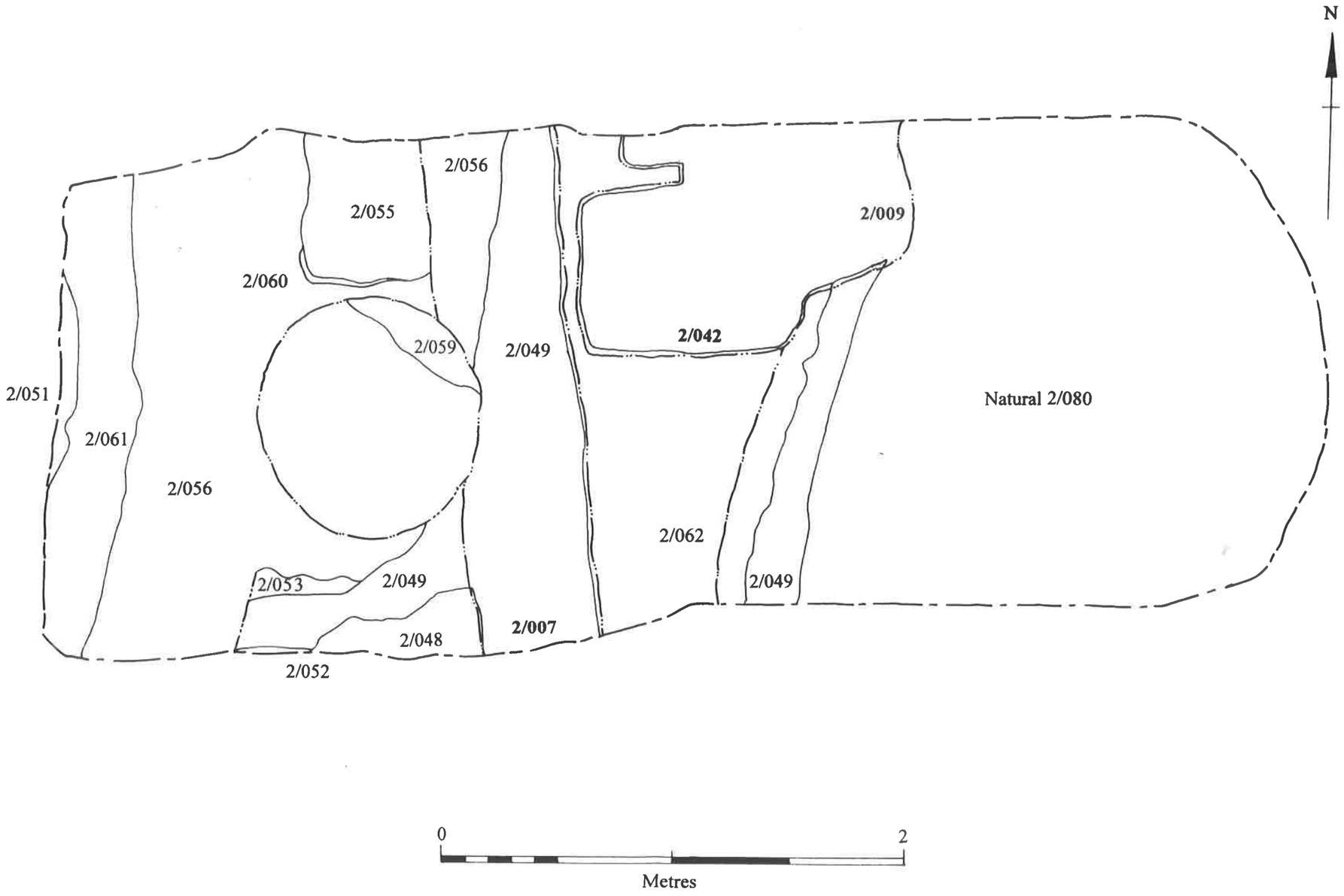

Figure 7. Trench Two - Phase V

Phase VII.

An extensive grey-brown silty sand deposit (2/047 = 2/069) covered the eastern end of the trench, principally in the area of the earlier pit (2/068) of which it was originally thought to be an upper fill. The layer extended over a greater area than the underlying pit however, measuring 2.00m x 2.30m x 0.50m deep approximately. Lenses visible within this material indicated it was laid down gradually over time rather than being an homogenous dump, a supposition which the pottery spot date of the third century seems to support. It may be that this area was constantly subsiding into the underlying pit, and was continuously built up over time.

Sealing (2/047) at the eastern end of the trench was a similar dump of greyish-brown slightly compacted silty sand. This deposit (2/046) measured 1.30m x 0.50m x 0.30m deep and contained frequent pieces of painted plaster, suggesting the layer may be a demolition deposit, although given its similarity with the material below it seems unlikely that they are not related. A 3mm deep silt deposit (2/045) extended over the surface of this layer, to a height of 32.41m OD. This appeared to be the remains of natural silting and erosion processes, indicating this region of site to be external to any structures in the area.

Phase VIII. (Fig. 8).

Lying on the upper surface of (2/045) was a section of fallen mud brick walling measuring 1.14m x 0.62m in plan. This feature comprised a 0.16m deep mud brick core (2/038), above a 30mm thick facing of orange-brown coarse sandy mortar, laid as a key for a thin skim of fine plaster (2/043 / 2/044). The collapse of this segment of walling had preserved the facing layers underneath, allowing traces of a red and white linear design to be seen on fragments of the broken plaster below. The upper surface of the core (2/038) had no facing material preserved, but exhibited showed signs of having been smoothed and eroded, most probably by rain. This was recorded at a level of 32.42m OD.

The west edge of the fallen wall was cut by a large rectangular refuse pit (2/032), measuring 1.60m x 1.24m x 0.74m deep. The southern extent of this feature was not identified, as it was beyond the limit of excavation. The fills of this feature (2/026, 2/027, 2/029, 2/031) comprised grey/ brown silt, clay and sand, and were banded in a similar way to those previously detailed, indicating that this feature was probably in use for some time also. Material recovered from this feature indicated general household waste, including large quantities of pottery, animal bone and metalwork, of a late third-fourth century date. In addition, the complete skeleton of a dog was recovered, together with a concentration of hobnails indicative of a boot or shoe having been discarded.

To the west of (2/032) although stratigraphically unrelated, was a second roughly rectangular pit (2/042) measuring 1.18m x 0.86m x 0.60m deep. The fill of this pit (2/040) was composed of an homogenous brown clay-silt, which contained pottery of a fourth century date, as well as frequent amounts of CBM, glass and bone, suggestive of general refuse clearance. Unlike the other features however, this appears to have occurred in a single episode.

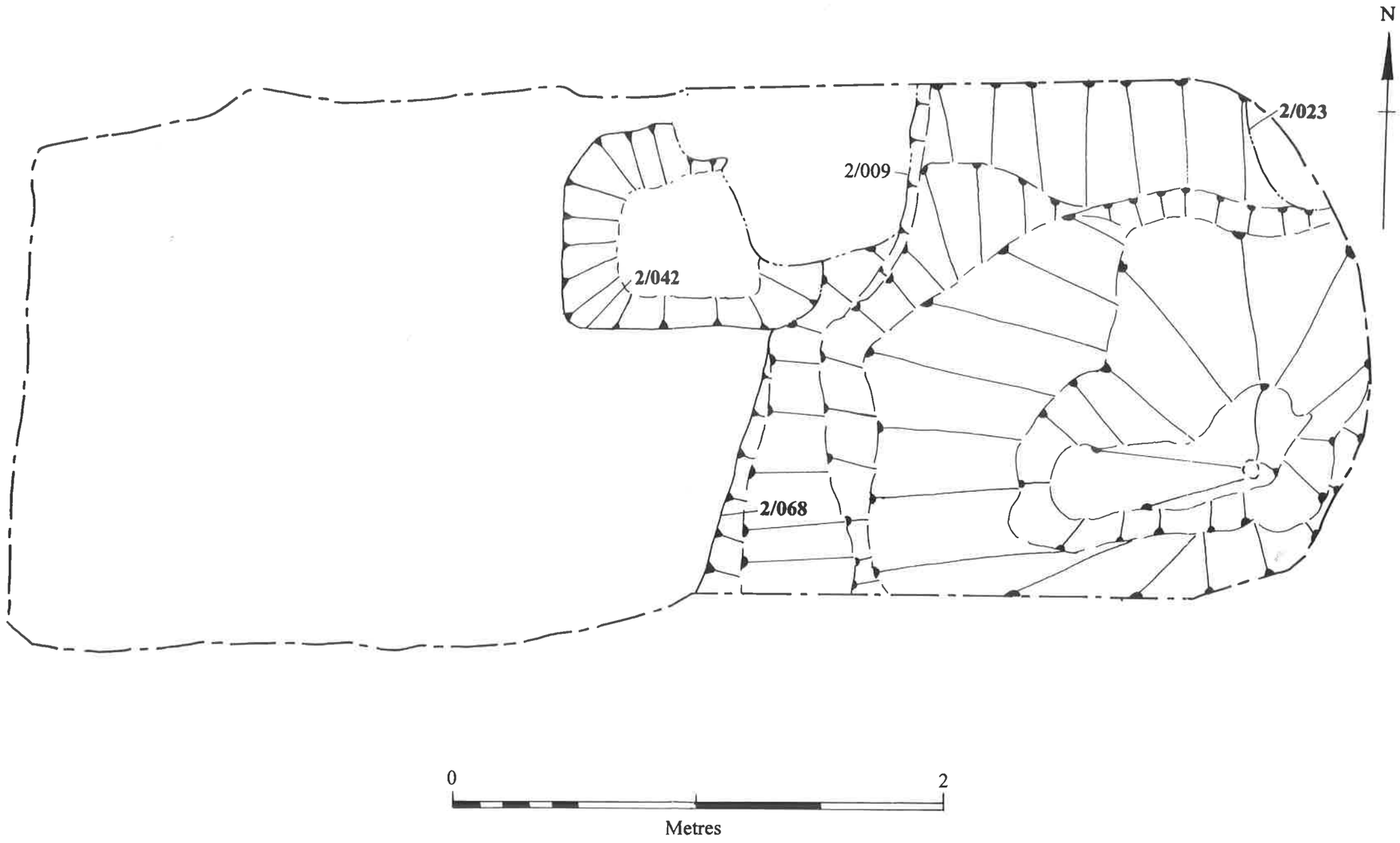

Figure 8. Trench Two - Phase VIII.

A secondary pit was cut directly into the surface of (2/040), and may possibly be a re-cut of that pit, rather than a feature in its own right. This cut (2/039) was roughly square, with rounded corners, and measured 0.86 x 0.84m x 0.29m deep. The fill of this pit (2/036) was composed of similar clay-silt to (2/040), and contained third-fourth century pottery obviously disturbed from the underlying context. The most interesting feature within this pit however, was a severed human head, together with a large amount of ironwork and bone pins. The head, with attached mandible and two upper vertebrae was laying on its right side facing east, and had clearly been deposited prior to decomposition. One of the bone pins was resting on the surface of the skull - possibly an *in situ* hair pin - at 32.44m OD, although the remaining artefacts were jumbled in the base of the pit; there being no suggestion that any ritual depositional process was undertaken. (Plate 4). Analysis of the skull itself suggested it was that of a male aged between 20 - 35 years, with a 40mm x 7mm penetrating wound extending along the left parietal bone. The direction of the wound suggests it was directed from the front and made by a pointed object. No sign of healing was noted around the wound, which was likely to have been fatal. No other human remains were encountered, either in this feature or anywhere else on site. Decapitated burials have been previously recorded within the city walls, although in these cases, the rest of the body was present and the remains were carefully positioned. Burial of human remains within the town walls during the Roman period was not a usual practice, and this find may indicate a significant degree of urban contraction had taken place by the fourth century leaving areas of the town outside the nucleus of settlement during this period. The level of violence associated with the death and burial of the victim is perhaps an indication of social and political tension at this time.

Approximately 0.50m to the west of (2/039) was a circular pit (2/030) with vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 1.00m diameter x 0.20m deep. The regimented shape of this feature suggests it functioned as more that simply a rubbish disposal pit - possibly it was used for storage. However, no real indication of its function was forthcoming. The fill (2/028) contained fourth century pottery, together with material associated with demolition such as broken tile and plaster.

Phase X. (Fig. 9)

Partially truncating the surface of (2/028) were two recent pipe trenches (2/010, 2/014) containing ceramic waste pipes. Although stratigraphically earlier it was clear that these pipes were contemporary with (2/006), an east-west running brick wall measuring 2.00m x 0.50m x 0.46m high, within foundation cut (2/007). This wall was of a similar character to the nineteenth century remains encountered in Trenches 3 and 4, and probably dates from the same period.

Further modern cut features (2/009, 2/016, 2/017, 2/018, 2/019, 2/023) were recorded at the eastern end of the trench. In general, these were fairly small and related to the nineteenth century. The largest of these (2/023) measured 1.2m x 0.30 x 1.50m deep and contained a large amount of residual Roman material within its fill (2/024). This mainly came from the sides, which showed a marked degree of collapse and slumping, similar to that described in (2/068).

Evidence for the prior presence of a topsoil covering in this area was noted through the extensive occurrence of worm burrowing through the archaeological deposits. This covering

Figure 9. Trench Two - Phase X.

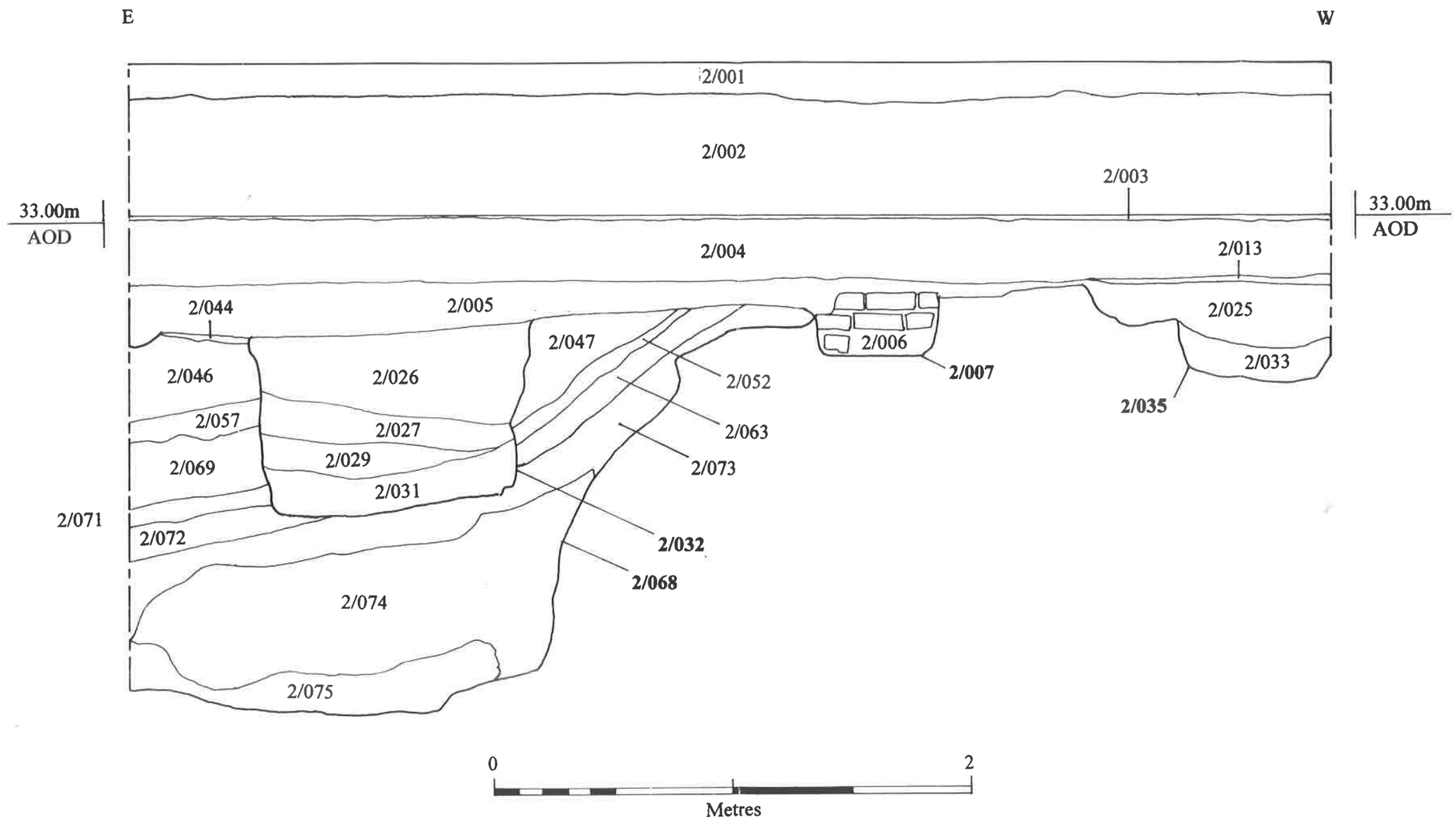

Figure 10. Trench Two - North-Facing Section

was entirely absent within the confines of the trench however, due to an episode of horizontal truncation which had taken place, at a level of approximately 32.70m OD across the entire trench. It is possible that this truncation had removed the later Roman sequence completely, although the total absence of any non-intrusive stratigraphy from this period perhaps suggests that the survival of such material was limited to begin with. It is most likely that this horizontal truncation took place during the construction of the present building on site. This structure was represented by a loose layer of crushed brick (2/004) acting as a hard-core layer for a concrete floor surface (2/003) at 33.01m OD. Sometime after the initial construction, the floor surface had been raised, using a 0.50m deep deposit of very loose demolition rubble (2/002) sealed by a 0.15m deep concrete floor (2/001) - the existing surface of the standing building. This was recorded as level at 33.65m OD.

Trench 3.

Phase I.

Natural sand (3/026) was observed in a pit section edge only, at 32.10m OD. Full excavation was not continued to this deposit for similar reasons to those discussed for Trench 2.

The earliest archaeological deposits in this trench were seen only in sections created by stratigraphically recent intrusions. It is not possible to ascribe any definite phase or function to these features.

Directly overlying the natural sand was a 0.34m deep layer of dark brown humic sandy-clay (3/025). This material was sealed by a firm, yellowish silty-sand (3/024), tipping north/south from 32.70m to 32.52m OD. At the northern extent, the deposit had been horizontally truncated by later activity. However, towards the south it was cut by (3/038), an apparent large pit measuring in excess of 3.14m x 1.78m x 0.30m deep. This feature was filled with a very dark brown humic silty-clay (3/035). The surface of this material was visible in plan towards the south of the trench, at a level of approximately 32.60m OD. 3/035 was itself cut on the eastern side of the trench by a second pit, similarly seen predominantly in section. This feature measured 1.21m x 0.59m x 0.56m deep, and was filled by (3/027), a firm greyish-brown clay-silt

Phase VII. (Fig.11)

Cutting into the sandy deposit (3/024) at the north end of the trench was the apsidal bath structure (3/019), discovered initially during the 1934 excavations. This was found be in a slightly different position to that outlined in the desk-top assessment (AOC 1998a, Fig 10) by approximately 3m to the east. This bath was constructed within a curvilinear cut (3/020), which had been initially lined with tile fragments, and subsequently had a mortar and *septaria* concrete mix poured into place. (Figs. 13 and 14). It is not clear if the interior of the bath was excavated prior to construction of the wall, or if a shuttering technique was employed. On the interior side of the bath was a 20mm thick smooth mortar facing, which was possibly limewashed. At the base of the interior face was seen a decorative band of mosaic, consisting of five rows of tesserae, four white and one red, extending horizontally around the base. No trace of the mosaic floor detailed in the 1934 excavation was seen.

Figure 11. Trench Three - Phase VII.

A modern cut observed in the south-facing section (3/007) extended down within the bath, and it is presumed that the mosaic was robbed at this time. However, it should be noted that the mosaic was recorded as having patches missing in 1934, and it is possible that the area exposed by the current evaluation coincidentally found one of these areas. In general, the structure was found to survive in an excellent condition, to a maximum height of 32.75m OD.

Approximately 2m to the south of the apsidal bath were recorded traces of further structural remains. These consisted principally of a corner wall foundation (3/034), poured into a cut (3/037) which ran 0.90m north/south before turning at 90°, and continuing for a further 0.90m where it entered the eastern trench section. This foundation appeared to be of a similar construction to the bath detailed above, although some larger stones were evident within its matrix. One of these survived *in situ* to a level of 32.73m OD, although the rest of the structure had been horizontally truncated at a height of approximately 32.60m OD. Stratigraphically above this foundation, but most likely part of a contemporary feature, was a hard, dark yellowish-brown gravely sand/clay (3/035). This deposit extended for 2.18m x 0.50m, but only within the area formed by the return angle of (3/034). For this reason, the deposit is thought to be the remains of a floor, although it is again probable that horizontal truncation has removed the original surface.

Phase X. (Figs. 12 and 13)

A 0.24m deep layer of compact, dark-brown silt/clay (3/023) sealed the remains detailed above. This material extended for 4.07m from the south of the trench, but had been removed by later activity towards the north. A small amount of post-medieval pottery was collected from this deposit, although most of the retained material was residual Roman.

At the north-west end of the trench, a pillar of post-medieval stratigraphy survived in an area generally compromised by later intrusions and construction. This consisted of a north/south running brick cellar wall (3/022), measuring 1.53m x 120mm x 0.70m high. The bricks from which the wall was constructed were not frogged, and much of the mortar bonding had dissolved completely, perhaps indicating a seventeenth century date for its construction. Associated with the wall was a thin silty bedding layer (3/013), immediately below a cobbled floor surface (3/012) composed of flints, large pebbles and CBM pieces. This survived at a level of 32.82m OD.

Lying on the surface of the cobbled floor were two layers of refuse deposits (3/010, 3/011), generally consisting of ash and plaster of Paris debris. This material contained a large amount of plaster teeth-moulds, together with nineteenth century pottery, indicating ownership of the property by a dentist – a fact that is not recorded historically.

The upper refuse deposit (3/010) had survived to height of 33.31m OD. At this level it was cut away on the southern edge by the construction cut for a large nineteenth-century cellar (3/014). This cut had horizontally truncated the surviving archaeology in the southern end of the trench, to a level of 32.73m OD. The cellar itself comprised of a large north/south running brick wall (3/016), with two thinner walls (3/015, 3/017) projecting east/west at 90° from the main structure to form what appeared to be a single exterior wall and an internal dividing wall, forming two distinct rooms. The southernmost room contained a cobbled floor surface (3/032) at 32.78m OD, composed of rough flints; water rolled pebbles and CBM.

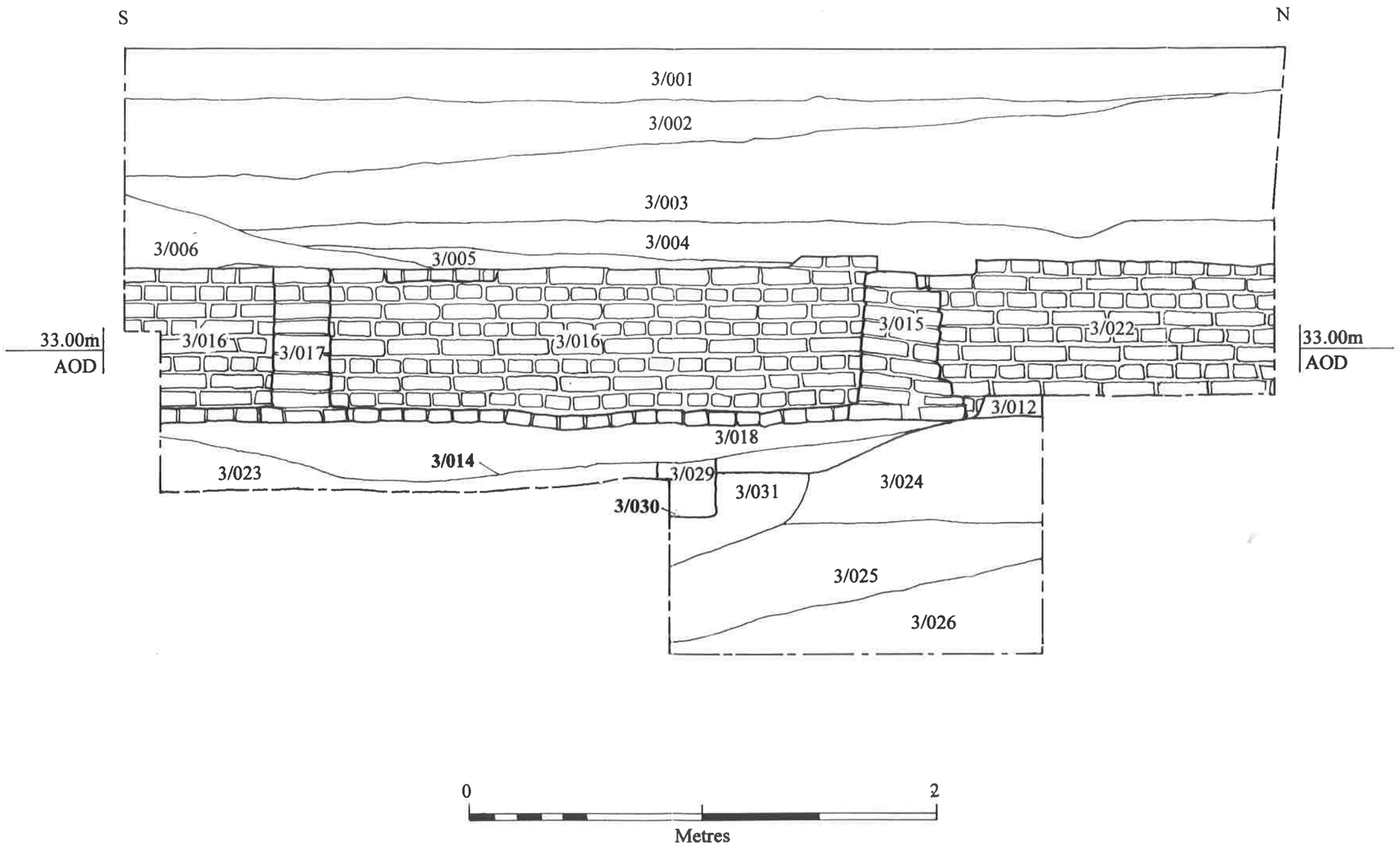

Figure 12. Trench Three - East-Facing Section.

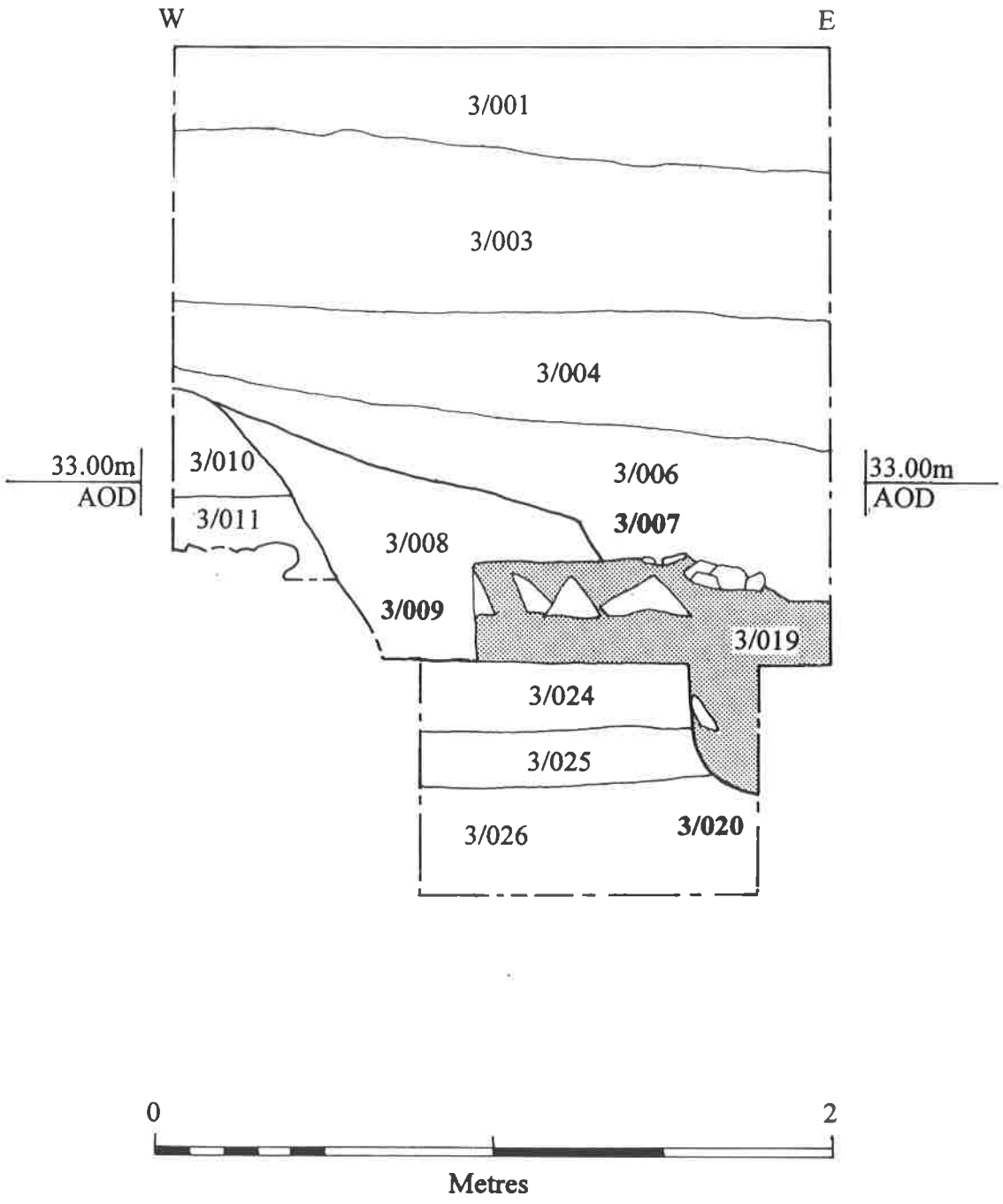

Figure 13. Trench Three - South-Facing Section.
(This section edge was stepped - see north end of Fig. 12 for position).

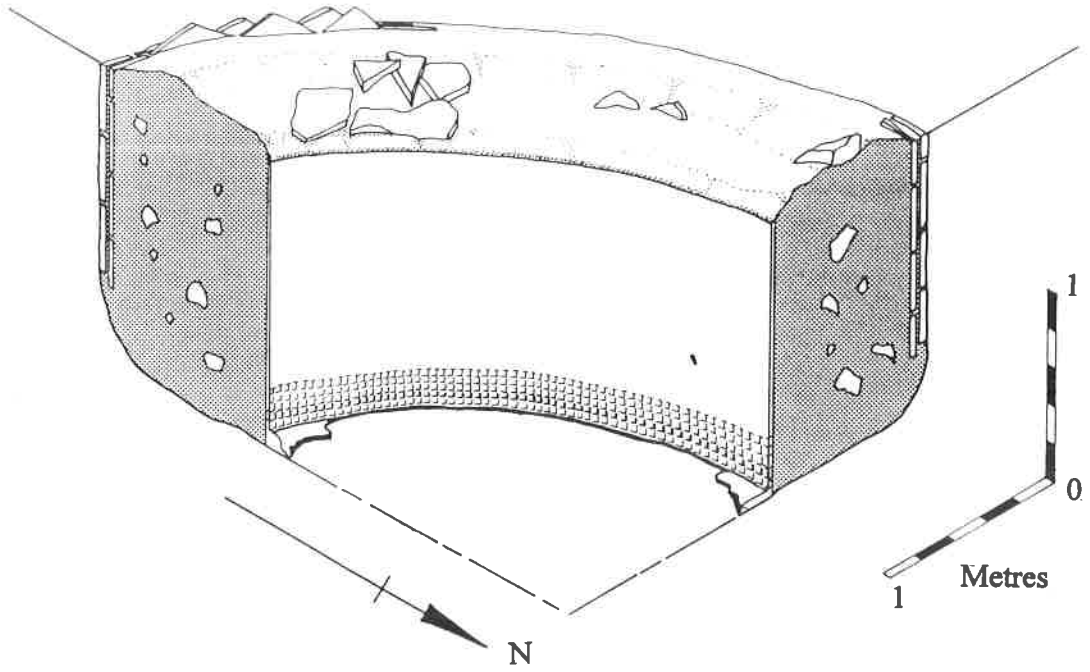

Figure 14. Trench Three - Isometric Cross-Section of Apsidal Bath.

This floor was of a markedly poorer quality to that detailed previously. The main cellar area in the centre of the trench contained no flooring of any kind. The north/south supporting wall of the cellar (3/016) was subsiding badly into the underlying archaeological deposits, accounting for its demolition at a date probably not too far removed from that of its construction. This demolition episode was represented by a 1.84m x 0.72m patch of CBM and mortar rubble (3/021), found sealing the floor and wall to the south of the trench at 33.12m OD.

Re-excavated around the edge of the apsidal bath at the north of the trench, was the course of the 1934 excavation trench (3/009). This was found to have followed the curve of the bath to a depth of 32.37m OD, removing the soft archaeological deposits from the area and as a consequence destroying much of the stratigraphic information that may once have been available. This excavation was however not found to have damaged the structure of the bath itself. The backfill of this cut (3/008) was found to contain material from the periods detailed previously, bar the Roman.

A large oblong test pit measuring 1.61m x 0.94m x 1.68m deep was recorded in the central area of the trench. This was the continuation of a trench-wide horizontal and vertical truncation (3/007), associated with the construction of the modern Post-Office. It is this cut which was recorded as entering the structure of the apsidal bath and possibly robbing the mosaic floor. The backfill of this cut (3/006), including the interior of the bath and test pit was composed of a very loose demolition rubble, mainly it is assumed, refuse from the nineteenth century structures on the site previously. This material acted as a levelling deposit to a height of 33.67m OD, where it was sealed by a series of more compacted layers (3/002, 3/003, 3/004, 3/005), forming the basis for the modern concrete floor (3/001). The upper surface of the modern floor was recorded as level at 34.29m OD.

Trench 4.

Phase I.

Natural sand was observed in pit section edge only, at 31.80m OD. Full excavation was not continued to this deposit due to health and safety concerns, the trench being abandoned at 32.00m OD.

Phase VII.

Investigation ceased on the surface of a firm, yellowish-brown clay/sand deposit (4/024), which extended throughout the excavated area. This material appeared to be acting as a homogenous levelling deposit, although the possibility that features were cut into the surface was noted on site but not followed up. This layer was overlain by an ashy deposit (4/023), which extended 1.30m x 0.71m x 0.21m deep. Pottery from this layer was spot dated to the late first-early second century, indicating in all likelihood that this deposit dates from the post-Boudican revolt occupation.

A series of apparent post-demolition levelling deposits (4/016, 4/020, 4/021, 4/022) sealed the ashy layer (4/023) and underlying (4/024) (Fig. 15). These were composed of clayey silt-sand and contained a well-sorted mix o f pottery, CBM, glass and plaster; spot dated to a

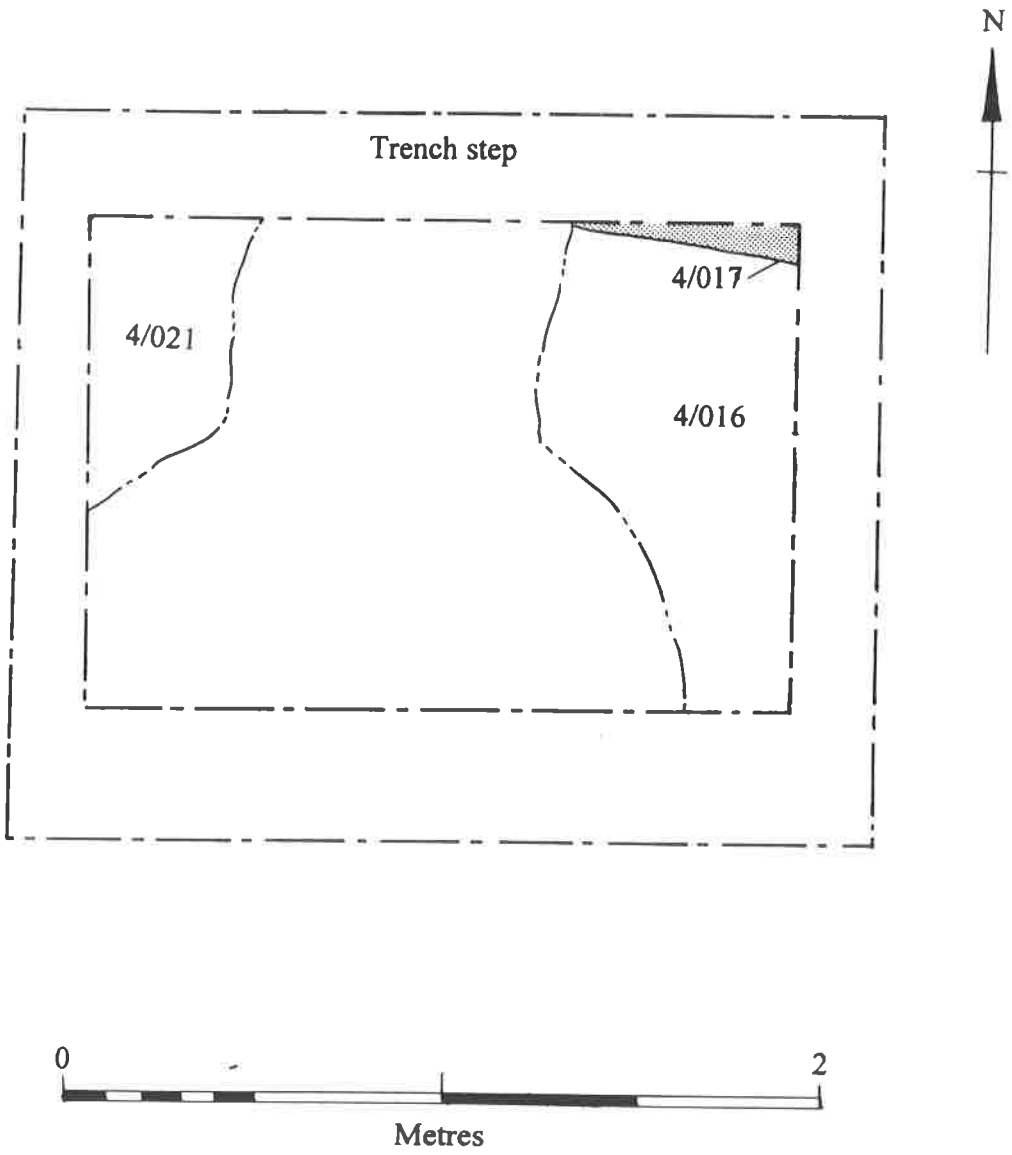

Figure 15. Trench Four - Phase VII.

similar period as (4/023). The uppermost deposit (4/016=4/021), was found to be moderately compacted and relatively level at 32.35m – 32.46m OD. The possibility is that this material may have acted as a floor surface in its own right, although in such a confined area as the trench provided, this is difficult to assert with any degree of authority. This sequence extended across the limits of the excavated area to a maximum height of 32.46m OD, although was cut away in the centre of the trench by the sequentially higher feature (4/009).

Cutting into the uppermost deposit (4/016) in the north-east corner of the trench was a small wall foundation cut (4/019), apparently running in an east/west direction and measuring 0.58m x 0.12m x 80mm deep. This was filled with a thin silty soil layer (4/018), beneath a rough mortared foundation wall, only the very southernmost edge of which was visible within the trench. This foundation (4/017) was constructed of similar lime mortar; *septaria* and fragmented tile to that seen in the structures recorded in Trench 3, and appeared to have been built in the same fashion. The assumption therefore is that the building recorded in Trench 3 to the west extends into this trench also.

Sealing the foundation at 32.44m OD was an 80mm deep, firm silty-clay deposit (4/015) measuring 1.24m x 0.68m. This deposit was cut on the southeastern side by a shallow pit (4/014) filled with an almost identical material (4/013). Pottery from this feature was broadly dated to the early Roman period, although items from the similar overlying layer (4/012) were dated to the second century, suggesting these are residual fragments. The similarity of the deposits discussed here suggests that they form episodes within the same event, possibly levelling compaction prior to the construction of a structure, or more likely, formation layers for a now-removed floor surface.

At the western side of the trench, the sequence detailed above was entirely absent. This was the result of an indistinct intrusive feature (4/011) cutting away the material. This feature measured only 0.66m x 0.32m x 100mm deep, and was filled with a mottled dark brown/yellow silty-sand (4/010), the upper surface of which was recorded at 32.59m OD. The east and south edges of this feature had been destroyed by later intrusions, rendering any attempt at interpretation virtually impossible.

Phase IX? (Fig.17)

Cutting through the centre of the excavated area was a north-south running linear feature (4/009), interpreted as a boundary ditch, which measured 0.84m north/south x 1.02m east/west x 0.58m deep. This was filled with a dark brown sand/silt/clay soil (4/008), containing frequent amounts of charcoal and shell. Most pottery from this deposit was dated to the second-third century, although a single sherd suggestive of a medieval date was recovered.

The southern extent of the ditch was cut away by a large pit (4/007), the full extent of which was not within the confines of the trench sides. The exposed area measured 1.36m x 0.62m. The humic silty-sand fill of this feature (4/006) was not fully removed, excavation ceasing at a depth of 31.67m OD. This pit had been subject to an apparent re-cutting episode (4/005), and backfilled with a virtually identical material. Some pottery from this later fill (4/004) was spot dated to the twelfth-fourteenth centuries, although the majority of the pottery recovered was Roman, indicating a good deal of residual material being present.

Phase X. (Fig. 16)

Sealing the entire trench area at a height of 32.82m was a very compact dark grey/brown layer (4/003) composed of silt, gravel ash and clay. It is most likely that this material dates from the 1934 works on site, during the construction of the present building. A 1.30m deep dump of loose brick and mortar lay directly above. This deposit appeared to be composed largely of the remains of the nineteenth-century buildings previously on the site, and was acting as a deep levelling/hard-core layer for the concrete floor of the standing Post Office. The upper surface of this concrete floor (4/001) was recorded as level at 34.29m OD.

Trench 5.

Phase I.

Natural sand (5/021), identical to that observed elsewhere on site was observed in plan at 32.72m OD.

Phase VII. (Fig. 18)

Cutting into the natural were two intercutting rounded features, interpreted as garden planting tree-pits (5/017, 5/019), neither of which was fully visible within the excavated area. The lower of these (5/019) measured 1.30m x 1.00m and was investigated to a level of 32.16m OD before excavation was abandoned due to health and safety concerns. The yellow-brown, sandy-silt fill of this pit (5/020) contained a small quantity of possibly early Roman material, together with a single piece of local medieval pottery. Recent root action observed within the trench, together with the interpretation of the feature as a tree-pit, leads to the conclusion that this single sherd must be intrusive. However given the small excavation area, the possibility of the observed sequence within this trench being post-Roman despite the lack of any corresponding medieval evidence from higher contexts, cannot be fully discounted at this time.

The upper pit in this area (5/017) measured 0.80 x 0.36m x 0.40m deep. The fill of this feature (5/018) was almost identical to (5/020), and contained a small quantity of Roman grey ware of an indeterminate date.

Sealing the two pits, was a layer of firm olive-brown silt/sand (5/016), extending throughout the trench to a depth of approximately 0.30m (Fig. 19). This material is believed to be a modified garden soil, and probably represents the exterior surface associated with the foundations uncovered in Trenches Three and Four. Pottery recovered from this layer provides a late second – early third century date, reinforcing the view that the major features revealed in the three southern trenches of this evaluation date predominately from the post-Boudican period.

Phase VIII.

Above the garden horizon were three layers of demolition debris (5/008, 5/014, 5/015). The lower of these, (5/015) occurred to a level of 33.16m OD, and contained a significant amount of smashed walling mortar and plaster. (5/014) and (5/008) contained similar

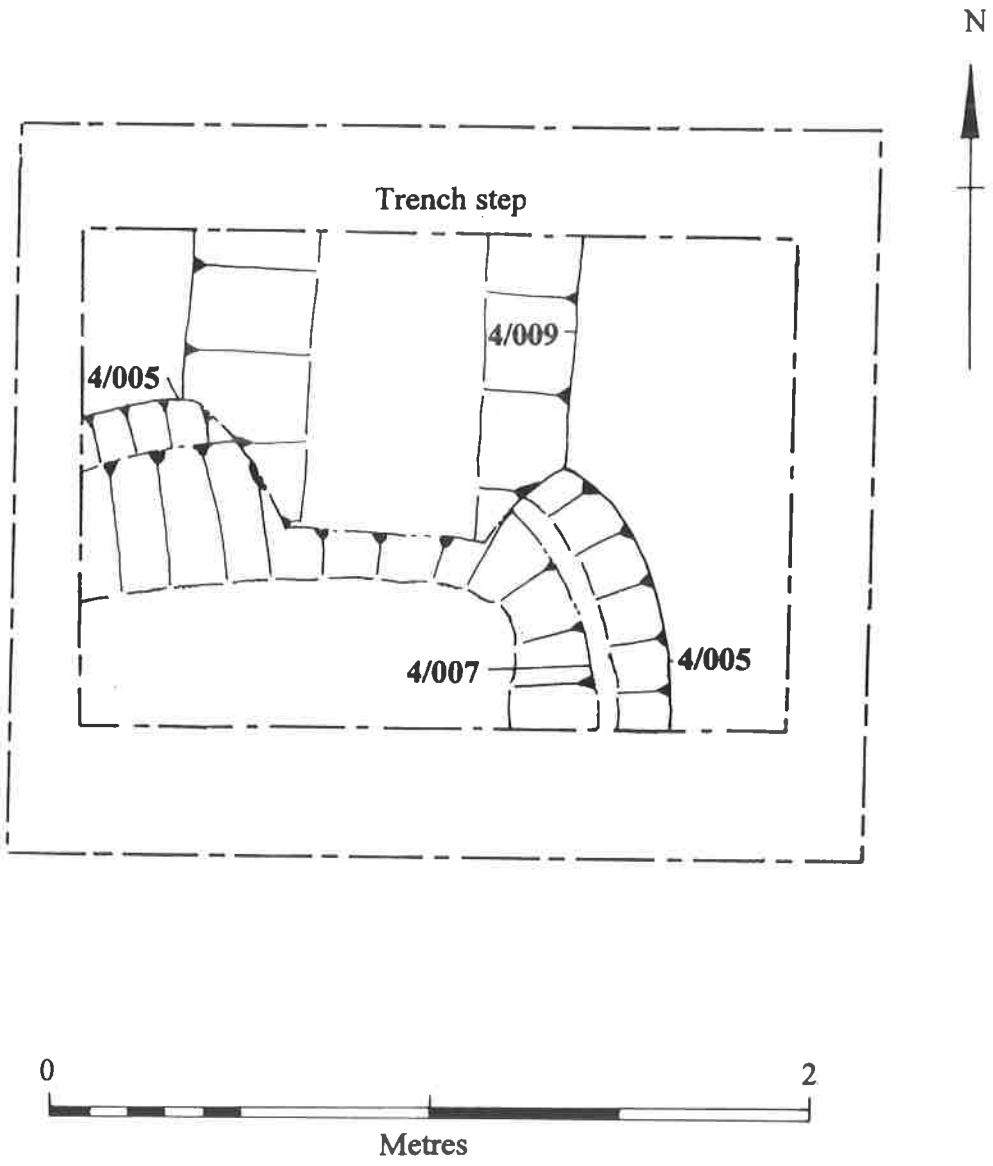

Figure 16. Trench Four - Phase X.

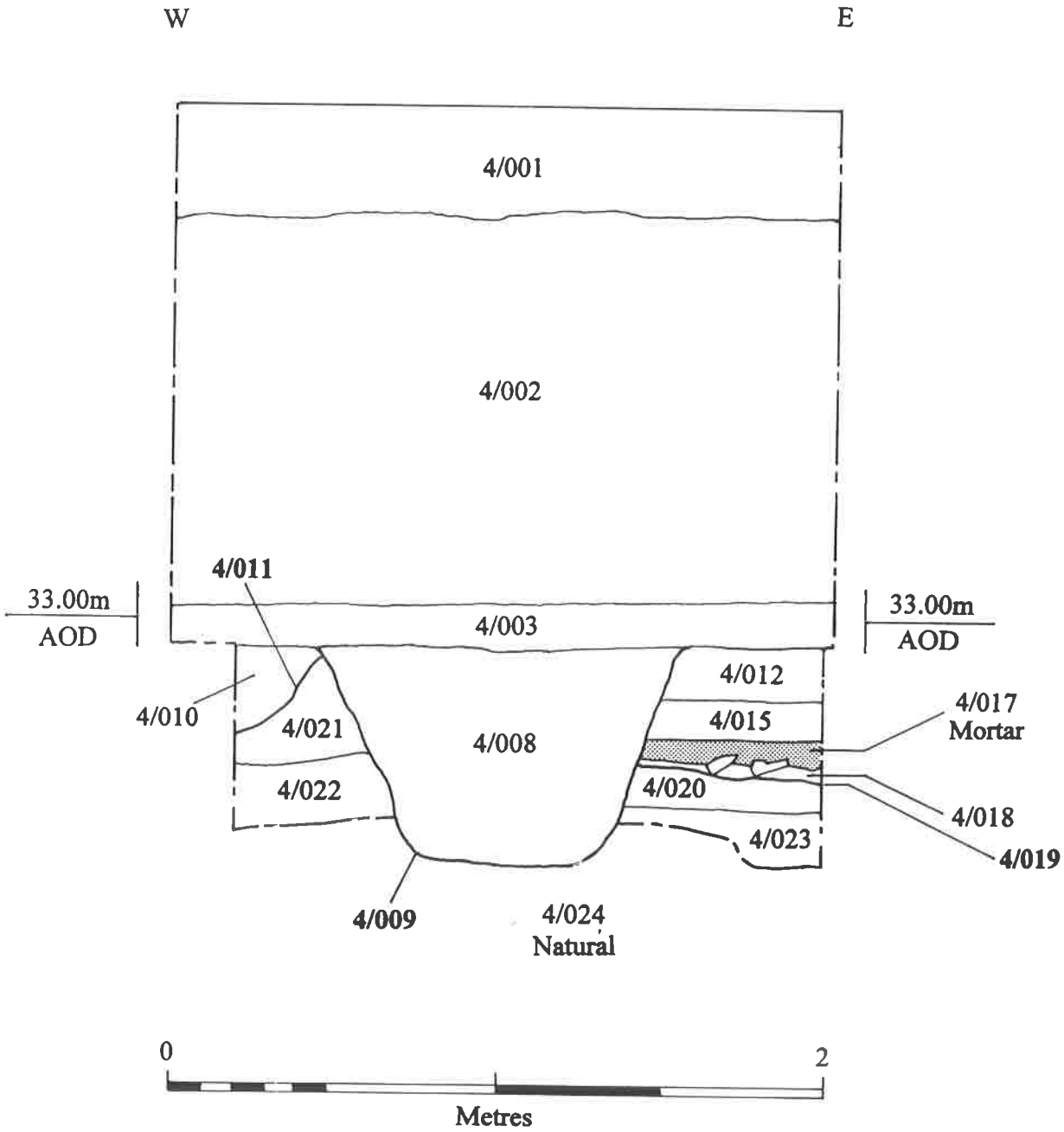

Figure 17. Trench Four - South-Facing Section.

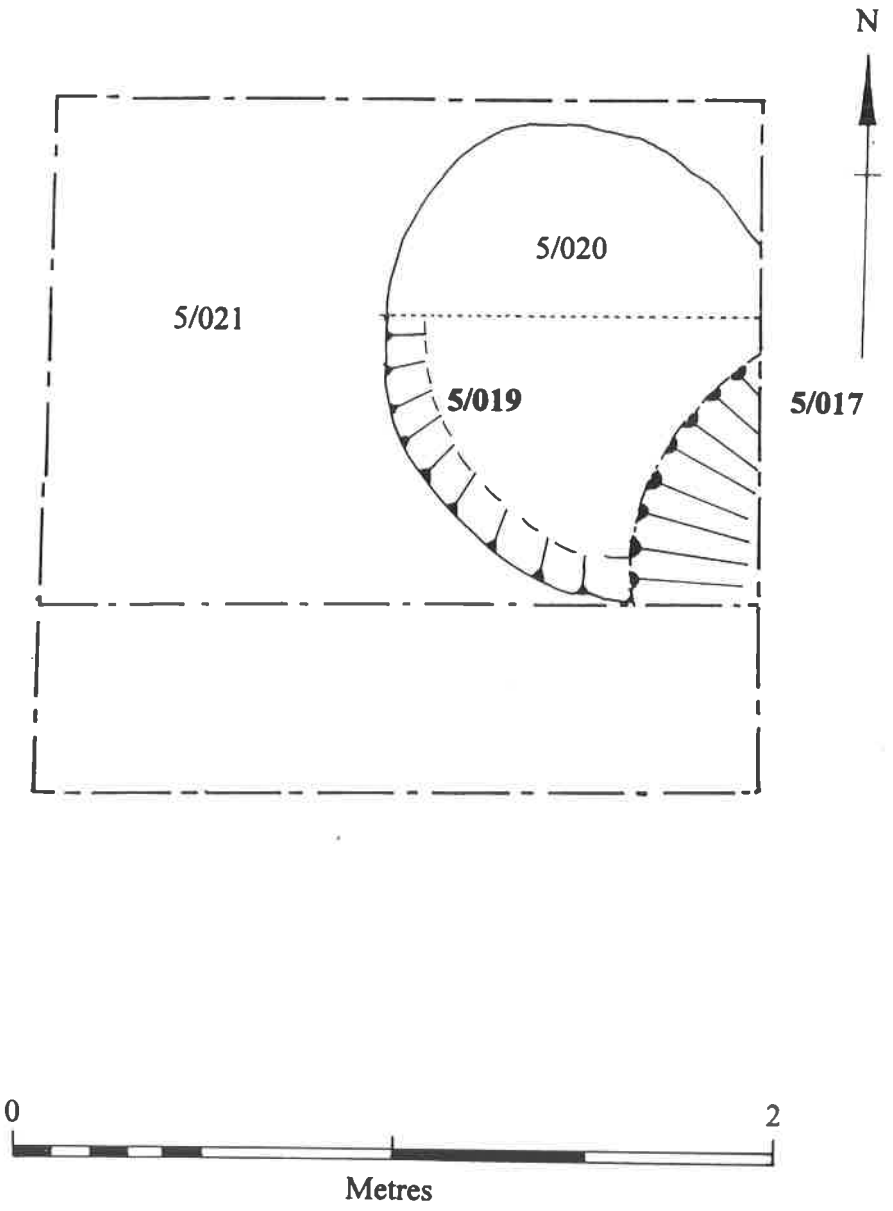

Figure 18. Trench Five - Phase VII.

material in lesser amounts, together with frequent amounts of broken tile and glass, but very little pottery. No material was found to be in situ, leading to the conclusion that these layers form part of a demolition field, such as would occur around a decaying and collapsing building.

Sealing this demolition material were two layers of dark, humic garden soil (5/006, 5/007), itself cut by two pits (5/009, 5/011) filled with the same humic material, to a maximum level of 33.64m OD. Pottery from these contexts dates from the later second-fourth century range, and appears to indicate that this area of site became a fallow open area during this period.

Phase X.

The upper surface of layer (5/006) had been disturbed somewhat during the 1984 construction on the site. A series of very compact hard-core formation deposits (5/002, 5/003, 5/005) and a concrete encased drain run (5/004) represented this construction. (Fig 19). The reinforced concrete floor of the Post Office was 0.40m thick, continuing to form a level surface at 34.32m OD. The lack of any intervening earlier post-medieval activity suggests that horizontally truncating ground clearance occurred in 1984, removing any existing deposits.

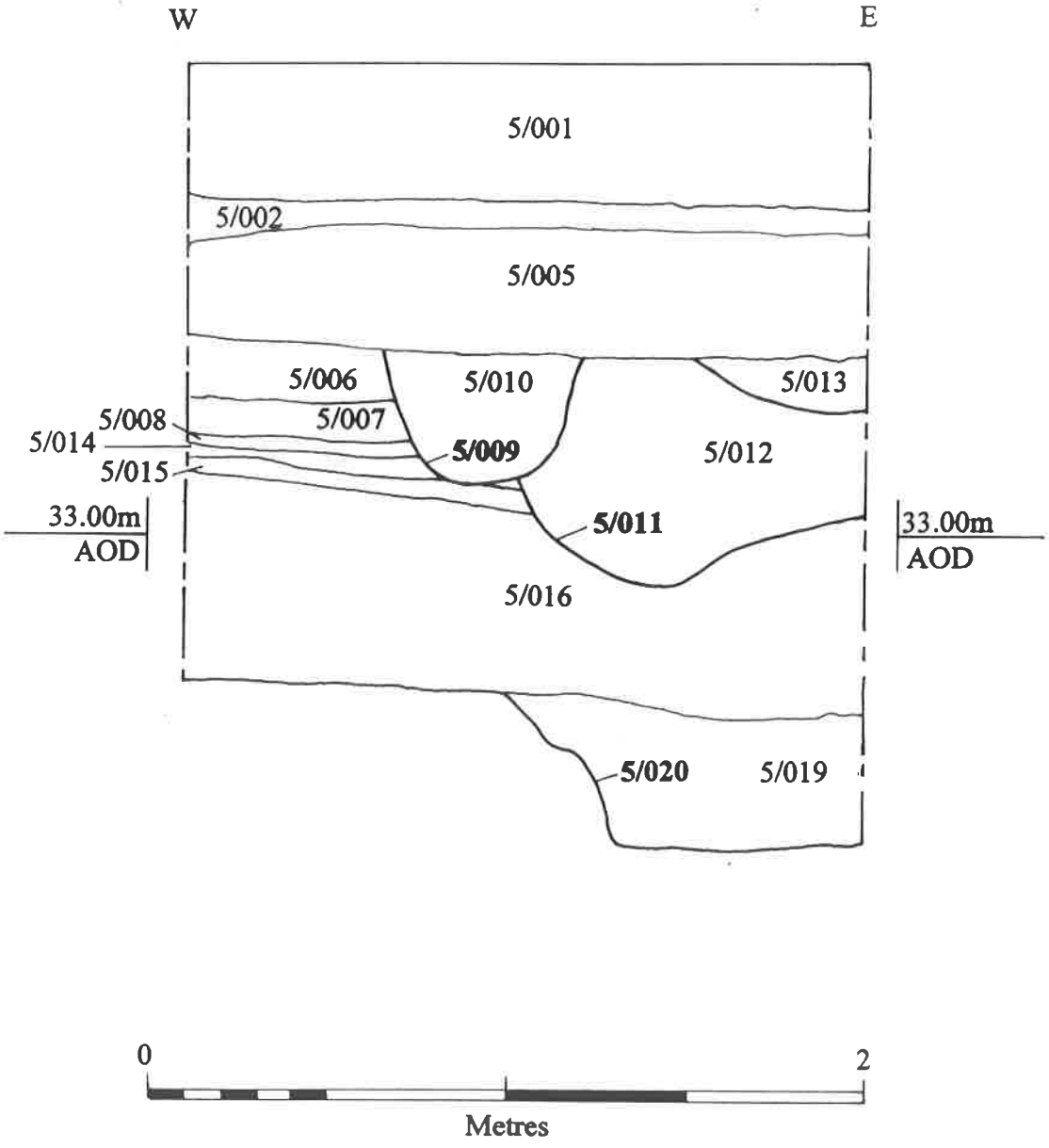

Figure 19. Trench Five - South-Facing Section.

6 CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation has confirmed the presence of well-preserved archaeological remains surviving to the rear of the basements of the building fronting Head Street. Trench 1 has shown evidence for possible prehistoric features, together with the remains of what appears to be at least two phases of construction, associated with the pre-Boudican revolt Roman fort. The Boudican destruction horizon, common throughout Colchester was also identified within this trench in an area presumed to have been an open space at the time. The destruction horizon was considerably more extensive within Trench Two, where a collapsed daub wall was found together with a large amount of other collapse material.

Evidence for the re-occupation of the town after the Boudican revolt was limited in Trenches 1 and 2 by post-medieval pitting, but there were signs of later structural activity in Trench 1, principally represented by a heavily truncated sequence of mortar floors. Trenches 3 and 4 contained the remains of mortared foundations possibly dating from the post-revolt period, although pottery spot dating from these contexts provides inconclusive broad 1st-2nd century dates. It is probable that these mortared foundations, including the apsidal bath, form the remains of a single, fairly large building. Preservation of these foundations was variable, with insubstantial traces existing to the south of the bath, while the bath itself and the small foundation revealed in Trench 4 survived well. This structure is not thought to be a large public building, although the evidence found here together with the remains recorded in the 1984 watching brief, suggests the possibility that it represents a quite sizable private dwelling. Furthermore, evidence for external gardens probably related to this building were noted in Trench 5, indicating not only the survival of remnants of the building itself, but also perhaps the contemporary landscape in which it was situated. The absence of any evidence relating to the early fort or Boudican destruction in Trench 5 is interesting, and may indicate that the area was excavated and leveled in the later Roman period, in preparation for the construction of the large mortar building detailed above. Although the lower deposits in Trenches 3 and 4 were not archaeologically examined, they appeared to show a similar absence of early material comparable to the sequence recorded in Trench 1, supporting this hypothesis.

Little evidence for Medieval activity was noted, although a small amount of pottery sherds were recovered as residual pieces from later features, indicating the probability of limited medieval activity somewhere in the vicinity, but possibly not on the application site area itself. Post-medieval activity was extensive in all trenches, but had not fully destroyed all of the uppermost Roman deposits. Horizontal truncation, associated with eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings had compromised the survival of the archaeology in Trenches 3 and 4, while a similar event, probably undertaken during construction of the existing buildings in 1934 had removed the uppermost sequence in Trench 2. The apparent level of this truncation (c.33.64m OD) roughly corresponds with the level of archaeology recorded during the 1934 excavations and 1984 watching brief, leading to the conclusion that while such features were not present within the trench itself, they would still survive intact elsewhere on site.

The proposed development comprising an 8 screen multiplex cinema will have a substantial impact on the remains through not only the formation of ground floor auditoria involving the excavation of up to 5m depth of material but the necessary levelling for the formation of a ground floor based on the level of Head Street.

The ground floor of the building fronting Head Street is at a level with that of Head Street. The buildings to the rear are at a higher level with a finished ground floor level c. 1.25m above Head Street.

This difference in level across the site presents problems for any coherent redevelopment of the site. While there is no archaeology surviving under the basements to the front of the site c. 1m of stratigraphy exists under the buildings to the rear. For any redevelopment of the site with a level ground floor the majority of these remains will be destroyed.

It is the opinion of the AOC Archaeology Group that the remains are not of national importance and that preservation *in situ* should not be required. A mitigation strategy comprising preservation by record could be established for those remains that will be affected by the proposed development. This could be effected by an open area excavation of the structural remains of importance within the footprint of the new build in accordance with a strategy developed by the applicant and in agreement with the local planning authority.

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Plate 1. Trench One - View from East: East-Facing Section and Phase II Features.

Plate 2. Trench One - View from West: Phase III Features.

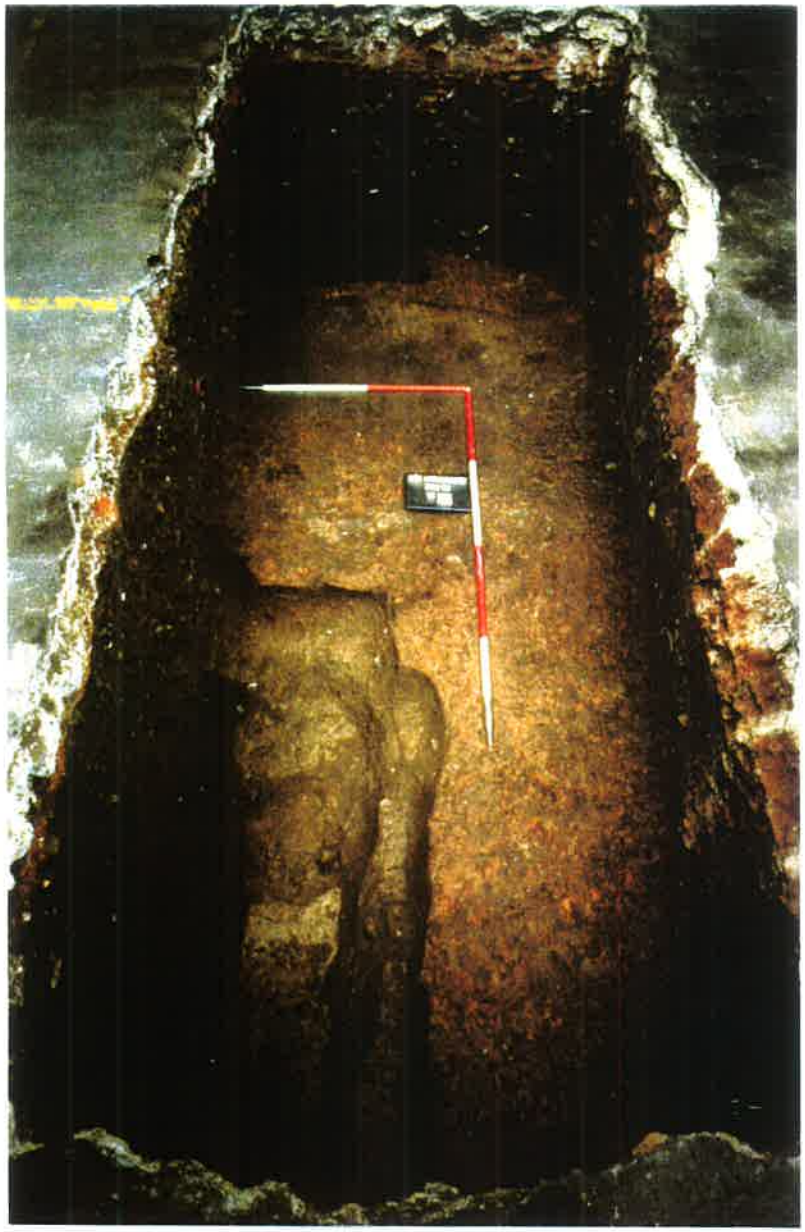

Plate 3.

Trench One - View from East: Phase V Boudican Destruction Horizon.

Plate 4.

Trench Two - View from North: Phase VIII Feature (2/039).
(Note wound on the left side of the skull)

APPENDIX A

List of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
1/001	concrete of extant loading bay	5.00m	2.00m	0.20m	-
1/002	hardcore for extant concrete	5.00m	2.00m	0.14m	-
1/003	'improved' soil - post-medieval	5.00m	2.00m	0.51m	-
1/004	refuse rich fill of narrow pit 1/005	1.15m	1.00m	0.30m	pot, bone, brick, tile
1/005	narrow pit cut, filled by 1/004	1.40m	1.02m	0.20m	-
1/006	post-med fill of large pit 1/007	1.33m	0.83m	1.10m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, other BM, claypipe
1/007	large rectangular pit, filled by 1/006	1.33m	0.83m	1.10m	-
1/008	fill of large rectangular pit 1/009	1.02m	0.62m	0.39m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM
1/009	rectangular cut with vertical sides, fill 1/008	1.02m	0.62m	0.39m	-
1/010	dep - possible fill of an obscure feature 1/011	0.88m	0.66m	0.33m	pot, bone, brick, daub
1/011	possible pit cut (in corner of trench)	0.88m	0.66m	0.33m	-
1/012	fill of 'rather'amorphous pit 1/013	0.89m	0.71m	0.34m	pot, bone, glass, CBM, other BM, claypipe
1/013	cut of 'rather' amorphous pit, ?function	0.89m	0.71m	0.34m	-
1/014	fill of ?linear feature 1/015	1.32m	0.62m	0.30m	pot, bone, CBM
1/015	?linear cut	1.32m	0.62m	0.30m	-
1/016	fill of shallow pit 1/017	0.98m	0.80m	0.25m	pot, bone, CBM
1/017	shallow sub-square pit	0.98m	0.80m	0.25m	-
1/018	BM rich fill of linear feature 1/019	2.86m	0.70m	0.39m	pot, bone, glass, CBM, other BM, claypipe
1/019	linear ?ditch/boundary	2.86m	0.70m	0.39m	-
1/020	post-med. brick rich fill of pit 1/021	1.53m		0.30m	pot, bone, metal, brick
1/021	very irregular pit cut, oval in plan	1.60m	0.40m	0.30m	-
1/022	fill of large pit 1/023 (not fully excavated)	2.58m	0.89m	1.04m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, other BM, claypipe

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
1/023	cut of large pit (not fully excavated)	2.58m	0.89m	1.04m	-
1/024	silty sandy deposit, ?occupational horizon	1.73m	0.76m	0.15m	pot, bone, CBM, other BM, painted plaster
1/025	fill of truncated feature 1/026	0.98m	0.93m	0.10m*	pot, bone, CBM
1/026	heavily truncated feature, unknown use	0.98m	0.93m	0.11m	-
1/027	mottled deposit across entire trench	5.00m	1.48m	0.15m	pot, bone, metal, CBM, other BM
1/028	fill of linear feature 1/029	1.80m	1.68m	0.14m	pot, bone, metal, CBM
1/029	linear feature ?boundary	1.80m	1.68m	0.14m	-
1/030	deposit, possible levelling layer	3.02m	1.35m	0.10m	pot, bone, CBM
1/031	refuse deposit	2.60m	1.43m	0.10m	pot, bone, glass, CBM
1/032	clayey dump, possibly contaminated	2.00m	1.20m		pot, bone
1/033	horizon of burnt debris probably redeposited	4.20m	2.00m	0.03m	pot, bone
1/034	layer possibly deposited into ditch/pit in NW	1.00m	0.80m	0.30m	pot, bone, metal
1/035	fill of non-descript cut 1/036	0.61m	0.22m	0.14m	-
1/036	non descript cut	0.56m*	0.20m*	0.14m	-
1/037	fill of pit cut 1/038	2.30m	0.78m	0.46m	pot, bone, CBM
1/038	cut of post Roman/late Roman pit	2.40m*	0.62m*	0.46m	
1/039	fill of 1/042 containing burnt demolition debris	1.63m		0.40m	pot, bone
1/040	patch of ?in situ burning	1.16m	0.85m	0.01m	-
1/041	thin layer of ashy deposit	2.00m		0.02m	-
1/042	cut for disposal of destruction debris	2.00m*	0.70m	0.45m*	-
1/043	make up layer, top one of a series	4.33m	1.90m	0.25m	pot, bone, CBM, Cu Alloy
1/044	burnt/burning lens, possibly in situ	1.05m	0.80m	0.02m	-
1/045	layer, slumping into negative feature				pot, bone
1/046	mixed layer of occupational activity	2.20m	1.85m	0.05m	pot, bone, CBM
1/047	brick dump	0.75m	0.60m	0.05m	-
1/048	redeposited brick	0.70m	0.36m		
1/049	layer probably same as 1/046	2.15m	1.40m	0.04m	pot, bone

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
1/050	concentration of redeposited brick	1.15m	0.94m	0.06m	
1/051	patch of ashy material	0.40m	0.36m	0.05m	-
1/052	slumping into pit 1/060	0.70m	0.27m	0.10m	
1/053	?redeposited occupational material	3.40m	1.80m	0.05m	pot, bone, metal
1/054	?demoliton layer, relating to the fort	2.00m	1.85m		
1/055	dump deposit				
1/056	silty fill of pit 1/059	1.10m	1.10m	0.17m	pot, bone, metal, Cu Alloy coin
1/057	concentration of silty green sand	0.80m	0.75m	0.08m	pot, bone
1/058	compacted sand clay and brick layer	1.72m	1.10m	0.06m	
1/059	compacted fill of 1/060	0.75m	0.70m		
1/060	square cut pit	0.90m	0.90m	0.83m	-
1/061	"floor" surface	0.82m	0.75m	0.03m	-
1/062	thin, packed clay floor surface	0.60m	0.12m	0.03m	-
1/063	floor make up for 1/061 + 1/062	1.28m	0.93m	0.05m	-
1/064	?probably not a feature	0.75m	0.30m	0.08m	-
1/065	?redeposited dumping	0.93m	0.75m	0.05m	-
1/066	external "damp proof" surface	0.99m	0.56m	0.07m	-
1/067	structural construction cut	0.99m	0.56m	0.07m	-
1/068	impression of timber from structural activity	0.28m	0.22m	0.10m	-
1/069	vertical driven timber, not load bearing	0.06m	0.02m	0.30m	-
1/070	dark layer, containing some burnt bone	1.28m	1.00m	0.04m	
1/071	pre-fort surface	0.85m	0.50m	0.05m	-
1/072	packing within square cut pit 1/060	0.85m	0.60m	0.15m	pot, bone, metal
1/073	clay floor	1.15m	1.10m	0.04m	
1/074	series of lenses in pit 1/060	0.74m	0.60m	0.22m	
1/075	linear cut	1.10m	0.08m	0.05m	-
1/076	round cut	0.70m	0.80m	0.50m	-
1/077	stake hole	0.10m	0.10m	0.20m	-
1/078	oblong stake hole	0.07m	0.04m	0.38m	-
1/079	shallow stake hole	0.06m	0.06m	0.03m	-

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	
1/080	Natural	-	-	-	-
1/081	stake hole	70mm	-	0.09m	-
2/001	concrete: topping and sub-flooring	5.00m	2.00m	0.18m	-
2/002	bedding hardcore for 2/001	5.00m	2.00m	0.48m	-
2/003	earlier floor for present building	5.00m	2.00m	0.10m	-
2/004	hardcore layer for floor 2/003	5.00m	2.00m	0.14m	-
2/005	poss. demolition debris from site of 2/006			0.11m	-
2/006	poss. previous internal wall of present building	2.00m	0.49m	0.46m	-
2/007	footing cut for 2/006	2.00m	0.54m	0.24m	-
2/008	fill of 2/009	0.90	0.73m	0..16m	CBM, other BM
2/009	cut: poss. small soak away	0.90m	0.48m	0.30m	-
2/010	cut for horizontal ceramic pipe. modern	-	0.43m	0.17m	-
2/011	fill of cut 2/009, post destruction of structure	0.90m	0.48m	0.26m	pot, metal, CBM, other BM
2/012	deposit within pipe cut 2/014	0.50m	0.50m	0.17m	pot, bone, CBM
2/013	dep. of burnt rubble related to ceramic pipes?	2.00m	0.90m	0.17m	CBM
2/014	cut for modern ceramic pipe	-	0.50m	0.19m	-
2/015	modern. poss. remnant of brick pillar	0.42m	0.34m	0.18m	CBM, other BM
2/016	modern cut feature	0.40m	0.36m	0.18m	CBM, other BM (not kept)
2/017	cut feature. poss. similar to 2/009	0.63m	0.40m	0.45m	-
2/018	modern service trench cut	0.90m	0.25m	0.12m	-
2/019	?modern service trench cut - only in section	0.57m	cont. in section	0.29m	-
2/020	same as fills 2/011 and 2/021	-	-	-	-
2/021	same as 2/011 and 2/020	-	-	-	-
2/022	modern destruction debris layer	0.63m	0.40m	0.50m	pot, bone, CBM
2/023	?post-medieval pit	1.20m	1.20m	0.44m	-
2/024	fill of poss. pit 2/023	1.20m	1.20m	0.44m	pot, bone, metal, CBM, other BM

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
2/025	layer of dumped material	2.00m	1.00m	0.43m	pot, bone, CBM
2/026	fill of cut 2/032	1.60m	1.24m	0.60m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, other BM
2/027	same as 2/026	-	-	-	(as 2/026)
2/028	fill of pit 2/030, containing Roman material	1.00m	1.00m	0.21m	pot, bone, metal, CBM
2/029	same as 2/026	-	-	-	(as 2/026)
2/030	cut of circular pit filled by 2/028	1.00m	1.00m	0.21m	-
2/031	primary fill of 2/032	1.60m	1.24m	0.13m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, other BM
2/032	?rubbish pit for localised demolition debris	1.60m	1.24m	0.74m	-
2/033	backfill of linear cut 2/035			0.28m	pot, bone, CBM
2/034	not used				
2/035	linear cut beside an earlier collapsed wall	2.00m	0.90m	0.30m	-
2/036	grave fill containing human skull	0.86m	0.84m	0.29m	human skull, pot, iron, CBM, bone
2/037	sub-square cut ?part of earlier building	0.27m	0.20m	0.17m	-
2/038	collapsed part of wall from a Roman building	1.10m	0.62m	0.16m	-
2/039	sub-square pit cut	0.86m	0.84m	0.29m	-
2/040	demolition debris fill of 2/042	1.18m	0.86m	0.41m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, other BM
2/041	coarse plaster from intact collapsed wall	0.95m	0.45m	0.02m	-
2/042	sub-square pit cut	1.18m	0.86m	0.60m	-
2/043	fine plaster (some painted) from fallen wall	0.92m	0.58m	0.01m	CBM
2/044	thin layer - mostly wall plaster	0.40m	0.20m	0.02m	CBM
2/045	thin wash of soil sealed beneath fallen wall	0.95m	0.58m	3mm	-
2/046	fill of pit 2/068	1.30m	0.50m	0.40m	pot, metal, CBM
2/047	dump fill of cut 2/068, part of a sequence	2.20m	2.10m	0.40m	pot, bone, CBM
2/048	dump material, not excavated	0.60m	0.30m	0.20m	
2/049	?collapsed mud brick wall, not excavated	2.20m	0.50m	0.20m	
2/050	burnt deposit, not excavated	-	-	-	

2/051	layer of silt, not excavated				
Context	**Type**	**Length**	**Width**	**Depth**	
2/052	burnt horizon, not excavated	-	-	-	
2/053	silt layer, not excavated	-	-	0.01m	
2/054	burnt mud brick and plaster, not excavated	-	-	0.14m	
2/055	?part of collapsed burnt wall	0.64m	0.53m	-	
2/056	building destruction material, unexcavated	2.20m	1.50m	0.16m	
2/057	dump material	1.10m	-	0.13m	pot, bone, CBM
2/058	tipping dump material	0.80m	0.50m	0.03m	
2/059	?floor, not excavated	-	-	-	
2/060	burnt layer, not excavated	-	-	0.01m	
2/061	building destruction material, not excavated	-	-	0.20m+	
2/062	destruction dump material	2.00m	0.86m	-	
2/063	dump in cut 2/068	2.00m	1.80m	0.10m	pot, bone,CBM
2/064	fill of 2/068			0.20m	pot, bone, CBM, metal, glass
2/065	stakehole	0.07m	0.07m	0.07m	
2/066	fill of 2/067	0.70m	0.62m	0.12m	pot, bone, metal, CBM
2/067	cut	0.70m	0.62m	0.12m	
2/068	pit	2.10m	2.00m	1.93m+	
2/069	fill of 2/068			0.25m	pot, bone CBM
2/070	deposit	0.55m	0.40m	0.12m	pot, bone
2/071	deposit	1.60m	1.60m	0.10m	pot, bone, glass, CBM
2/072	fill of 2/068			0.23m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM
2/073	fill of 2/068				pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM
2/074	fill of 2/068			0.50m	pot, bone, metal, CBM, flint
2/075	fill of 2/068			0.20m	pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM
2/076	not used				
2/077	fill of 2/068, not excavated				
2/078	fill of 2/068, not excavated				
2/079	layer, not excavated				
2/080	natural sand, not excavated				

3/001	Modern concrete floor	5.00m	2.00m	0.24m	
3/002	Modern formation deposit	5.00m	2.00m	0.30m	
3/003	Modern formation deposit	5.00m	2.00m	0.36m	
3/004	Modern formation deposit	5.00m	2.00m	0.30m	
3/005	Modern formation deposit	-	-	0.24m	
3/006	Modern demolition dump	5.00m	2.00m	1.90m	
3/007	Large horizontal truncation cut, inc. test pit	5.00m	2.00m	1.90m	
3/008	1934 excavation backfill	1.10m	0.34m	0.76m	
3/009	1934 excavation cut	1.10m	0.34m	0.76m	
3/010	Dentist's refuse dump	0.76m	0.70m	0.34m	pot
3/011	Dentist's refuse dump	0.76m	0.70m	0.20m	
3/012	Cobbled floor surface	1.16m	0.65m	0.09m	
3/013	Floor bedding layer	1.16m	0.65m	-	
3/014	Wall construction cut	0.62m	0.25m	0.64m	
3/015	Post-medieval brick wall	0.70m	0.37m	0.51m	
3/016	Post-medieval brick wall	3.60m	0.30m	0.73m	
3/017	Post-medieval brick wall	1.98m	0.23m	0.38m	
3/018	Wall foundation bedding	2.80m	1.52m	-	
3/019	Apsidal Roman bath	1.40m	0.43m	0.80m	CBM
3/020	Construction cut for bath	1.40m	0.43m	0.80m	
3/021	Modern demolition deposit	1.84m	0.72m	0.21m	pot
3/022	Post-medieval brick wall	1.53m	0.12m	0.70m	
3/023	Modern levelling layer	4.07m	1.80m	0.24m	pot, CBM
3/024	Deposit - not excavated	0.87m	0.62m	0.17m	
3/025	Deposit - not excavated	1.62m	0.90m	0.34m	
3/026	Natural sand	1.62m	0.90m	>0.30	
3/027	Fill of (3/028) - not excavated	1.21m	0.59m	0.56m	
3/028	Pit cut - not excavated	1.21m	0.59	0.56m	
3/029	Fill of (3/030)	0.22	0.22	0.23	-
3/030	Post hole cut	0.22	0.22	0.23	
3/031	Deposit - not excavated	1.62m	0.53m	0.26m	

3/032	Cobbled floor surface	1.80m	0.50m	0.20m	
3/033	Bedding for floor surface	1.80m	0.50m	0.03m	
3/034	Mortar wall foundation - not excavated	0.90m	0.88m	>0.10m	
3/035	Floor surface	2.22m	0.52m	0.008m	
3/036	Same as 3/031	-	-	-	
3/037	Wall construction cut	0.90m	0.88m	0.08m	
3/038	Pit cut - not excavated	3.14m	1.78m	0.53m	
4/001	Modern concrete floor surface	3.00m	2.00m	0.32m	
4/002	Loose rubble formation deposit	3.00m	2.00m	1.30m	
4/003	Compact modern levelling deposit	3.00m	2.00m	0.10m	
4/004	Fill of (4/005)	1.38m	0.83m	0.51m	pot, CBM, glass, metal, plaster
4/005	Large pit cut	1.38m	0.83m	0.51m	
4/006	Fill of (4/007)	1.36m	0.62m	>0.43m	pot, bone, CBM
4/007	Large pit cut	1.36m	0.62m	>0.43m	
4/008	Fill of (4/009)	1.02m	0.84m	0.58m	pot, bone, CBM, metal
4/009	Ditch cut	1.02m	0.84m	0.58m	
4/010	Fill of (4/011)	0.66m	0.32m	0.10m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM
4/011	Heavily truncated cut	0.66m	0.32m	0.10m	
4/012	Possible levelling deposit	1.28m	0.74m	0.12m	pot, bone, CBM, metal, OBM
4/013	Fill of (4/014)	0.90m	0.68m	0.07m	pot, bone, CBM
4/014	Heavily truncated cut	0.90m	0.68m	0.07m	
4/015	Levelling layer	1.24m	0.68m	0.08m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM
4/016	Levelling deposit - possible floor?	1.30m	0.70m	0.10m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM
4/017	Wall foundation	0.58m	0.10m	0.08m	
4/018	Bedding for wall	0.58m	0.12m	0.08m	
4/019	Wall foundation construction cut	0.58m	0.12m	0.08m	
4/020	Levelling dump	1.30m	0.70m	0.10m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM
4/021	Levelling dump	0.70m	0.39m	0.35m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM, metal

4/022	Levelling dump	0.81m	0.72m	0.20m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM, metal
4/023	Possible demolition deposit	1.30m	0.71m	0.21m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM, metal, glass
4/024	Possible demolition deposit - not excavated	1.90m	1.30m	-	
5/001	Modern concrete floor surface	1.90m	1.80m	0.40m	
5/002	Modern formation deposit	1.90m	1.80m	0.10m	
5/003	Modern formation deposit	1.90m	1.80m	0.10m	
5/004	modern concrete drain - not excavated	1.90m	0.50m	-	
5/005	Modern formation deposit	1.30m	1.90m	0.35m	
5/006	Garden soil layer	1.30m	1.90m	0.20m	pot, bone, CBM, clay pipe
5/007	Garden soil layer	1.30m	1.90m	0.10m	pot, bone, oyster shell
5/008	Demolition spread	1.30m	1.90m	0.05m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM
5/009	Pit cut - poss garden feature?	0.40m	0.40m	0.37m	
5/010	Fill of (5/009)	0.40m	0.40m	0.37m	
5/011	Modern pit cut - poss. garden feature?	0.80m	0.55m	0.63m	
5/012	Fill of (5/011)	0.80m	0.55m	0.63m	pot, bone, CBM
5/013	Modern dump	0.50m	-	0.14m	OBM
5/014	Demolition layer	1.30m	1.90m	0.07m	pot, CBM, oyster shell
5/015	Demolition layer	1.30m	1.90m	0.07m	plaster
5/016	Possible subsoil?	1.30	1.90m	0.58m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM, metal, glass
5/017	Pit cut - poss. garden feature?	0.80m	0.36m	0.40m	
5/018	Fill of (5/017)	0.80m	0.36m	0.40m	pot, CBM, OBM
5/019	Pit cut - poss. garden feature?	1.30m	1.00m	>0.40m	
5/020	Fill of (5/019)	1.30m	1.00m	>0.40m	pot, bone, CBM, OBM, glass
5/021	Natural sand	1.30m	1.90m	>0.40m	

APPENDIX B

Human Bone by T.A. Jackman

Context 2/036

Sex: ?Male

Age: Adult 20-3 5 years (tooth attrition, maxillary sutures)

Bones present: Skull and C I and C2

Preservation: The skull is slightly buckled and fragmented with erosion of the cortical surfaces to the left side of the skull and facial bones especially the mandible and frontal bone. There is post-mortem damage to the facial bones around the nose and other prominent areas such as the zygomatic arch. The vertebrae are in good condition with post-mortem damage to the posterior arch and right transverse process of Cl and to the spinous process and lamina of C2.

Dentition: The number of teeth present are 28/32; calculus moderate; periodontal disease moderate; bite edge to edge. The roots of the teeth at the front and left side of the mandible are discoloured and badly eroded so are the left incisors from the maxilla.

Pathology: There is a wound along the sagittal suture approximately midway which extends posteriorly into the left parietal bone. It measures 4Omm in length and 7mm across the widest part. The left side of the cut is straight whilst the right side is uneven especially along the suture. A fragment of bone has been pushed inwards. The edges of the cut towards the back are partially raised and here the cut has not penetrated the inner table of the skull. Inside the skull vault, the extent of bone fragmentation of the inner table is wider. Injuries of this nature are likely to have been caused by a penetrating blow with a pointed object (Brothwell 1981). The blow probably came from the front, which could explain why it did not penetrate through the skull at the back. The raised edge may have resulted as the instrument was pulled out. The area around the wound shows no sign of healing which indicates that the injury happened at or around the time of death.

Fractures of the skull can result in complications that other fracture sites do not. Any swelling caused by a build up of blood (haematoma) or infiltration of tissues with fluid (oedema) can put pressure on the brain, disrupt the blood supply and damage the brain stem. This pressure could be relieved by the seepage of fluid through the fracture site. If the blow is so severe as to come into direct contact with the brain, then the injury is fatal. (Ortner and Putschar 1985).

To the left of the fracture at a distance of 25mm away, there is a circular depression on the left parietal, 25mm in diameter. The area is distinctive by the presence of porotic bone. This circular depression of porotic hyperostosis is likely to be an inflammatory response to an injury that has healed leaving an area of localised porous bone. However, it has been widely reported that porotic hyperostosis is associated with anaemia and rickets both conditions being associated with a lack of dietary nutrition. The porosity is often more widespread over the skull and in the roofs of the eye orbits which is not the case with this skull.

Bibliography:

Brothwell, D.R. 1981, *Digging up Bones*. BMNH, Oxford University Press.

Ortner, Donald J. and Putschar. Walter G.J. 1985. *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

APPENDIX C

Pottery spot dates

Notes
Identifications by Stephen Benfield (Roman pottery) and Howard Brooks (post-Roman pottery). Roman pottery forms quoted from Camulodunum type series, contained in Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958. Post-Roman pottery fabrics described from Cunningham & Drury 1985. All weights quoted in g. All samian forms are Drag. unless stated otherwise.

Pottery quantities: 1 = 1 sherd, 2 = 2 sherds, VSQ = very small quantity (up to 10 sherds), SQ = small quantity (up to 20 sherds), Q = quantity (up to 50 sherds), LQ = large quantity (up to 100 sherds), VLQ = very large quantity (more than 100 sherds).

Abbreviations
CAM Camulodunum type series form number
PMRE Post-Medieval Red Earthenware
BB Black-Burnished Ware
c-c colour-coat

References
Cunningham, C M, & Drury, P J, 1985 *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*, CBARR 54.

Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R, 1947 *Camulodunum*, RRCSAL 14.

Hull, M R, 1958 *Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL 20.

context 1/003
wt. 330
Roman:
samian: 2 sherds. 27, bowl/dish.
other: Q. Colchester c-c (2nd-3rd cent.), Roman shelly ware jar (4th cent.), Nene Valley c-c (prob. 4th cent.), mica-dusted sherd (early 2nd cent.), other grey ware.
post-Roman:
VSQ. Fabric 20 Medieval Coarse Ware, 12th-14th cent., prob. medieval coarse ware sherds.
spot date: late medieval.

context 1/004
wt. 60
samian: 1 sherd. 27.
other: VSQ. ?flagon sherd, Nene Valley c-c.
spot date: late Roman, 3rd-4th cent.

context 1/006
wt. 500
Roman:

samian: 2 sherds. Ritt.12.
other: Q. BB-type CAM 40B (2nd cent+), Colchester c-c (2nd-3rd cent.), CAM 268 (2nd cent.+), CAM 246, prob. flagon, grey ware jars, storage jars, bowls.
post-Roman:
1 sherd. Fabric 42 Tudor Green, 15th-16th cent.
spot date: post-medieval.

context 1/008
wt. 120
Roman:
samian: 1 sherd. plate/dish.
other: VSQ. BB-type bowl base (2nd cent.+), other grey ware.
post-Roman:
1 sherd: Fabric 21A Colchester Ware, 15th-16th cent.
spot date: post-medieval.

context 1/010
wt. 45
VSQ. ?flagon sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 1/012
wt.140
Roman:
VSQ. ring-necked flagon (2nd cent.), BB1 jar CAM 279 (3rd-4th cent.) micaceous sherd.
post-Roman:
1 sherd. Fabric 42 Southern White Ware, 16th-17th cent.
spot date: post-medieval.

context 1/014
wt. 150
samian: 1 sherd. 30
other: SQ. CAM 108, prob. flagon sherd and other handle, other grey ware sherds.
spot date: Roman ?1st cent.

context 1/016
wt. 80
samian: 1 sherd
other: VSQ. BB-type bowl CAM 40B (2nd cent. +), Colchester c-c (2nd-3rd cent.), mortaria rim and body fragment (prob.1st-2nd cent.).
spot date: 2nd cent.+.

context 1/018
wt. 350
samian: 2 sherds. ?33, 29 or ?37
other: SQ. amphora neck unidentified, amphora sherd (Spanish fabric), CAM 108, BB-type bowl sherds, lattice-decorated sherd (2nd cent.)
spot date: 2nd cent.

context 1/020
wt. 130
Roman:
1 sherd. BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd cent.)
post-Roman:
1 sherd. lid glazed Fabric 40 PMRE, 17th-19th cent.
spot date: post-medieval.

context 1/022
wt. 260
samian: 1 sherd. dish form.
other: SQ. BB-type bead-rim bowl, jar with some shell tempering, grey ware jars.
spot date: 2nd cent.+.

context 1/025
wt. 70
samian: 29, dish/bowl.
other: VSQ. grey ware.
spot date: Roman, ?2nd cent.

context 1/027
wt. 700
samian: VSQ. 27g (stamp), 18/31, 37.
other: Q. amphora Dressel 20, mortaria with gritted rim, pre-Flavian c-c ?local, CAM 244, grey ware jars, storage jars, bowls, lid.
spot date: Flavian-early 2nd cent.

context 1/028
wt. 200
samian: 4 sherds. 18/31, 29, 27.
other: VSQ. amphora Dressel 20, CAM 108, ?flagon, grey ware jars, bowls.
spot date: earlier 2nd cent.

context 1/030
wt. 200
samian: 2 sherds. Ritt.12. 18.
other: VSQ. amphora (Spanish) ?Dressel 20, flagon, grey wares from jars, bowls.
spot date: early Roman, ?Neronian-Flavian.

context 1/031
-Bag:
wt. 900
Q. pre-Flavian c-c ?local, flagon CAM 140, flagon, storage jar CAM 271, mortaria base (buff), grey ware jars, storage jars.
spot date: Neronian-Flavian.
-Bag:
wt. 1200
samian: SQ. 29, 27, 18.

other: amphorae ?Dressel 2-4, mortaria Verulamium region, flagon (white coat), flagon, honey jar, grey ware jars, storage jars.
spot date: Neronian-Flavian
-Bag:
wt. 400
amphora Dressel 20, amphora prob. CAM 186A & CAM 257 shell-tempered, grey ware storage jar.
spot date: mid 1st cent.-Neronian/Flavian
-Bag:
wt. 600
Q. flagon neck, lid, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, prob. 1st cent.

context 1/032
wt. 900
samian: VSQ. Forms 15/17, ?other dish, fragment 29 or?early 37.
other: Q. amphora ?Dressel 2-4, collared flagon CAM 140, handle from second flagon, CAM 108 & CAM 243/244, Gallo-Belgic derivative platter/bowl. Other Roman grey ware bowls, jars, storage jars.
spot date: prob. Neronian-earlier Flavian

context 1/033
wt. 20
samian: 1 sherd. 18 burnt.
other: VSQ. white ware ?flagon sherds, some signs of burning.
spot date: 1st cent.

context 1/034
wt.100
samian: 2 sherds. 29, 27.
other. SQ. ?two flagons, other grey ware.
spot date: mid 1st-Flavian.

context 1/037
wt. 360
SQ. amphora unidentified, ?early c-c imitating ?Drag.33 prob. local, ?lid, grey ware, other grey/red ware.
spot date: 1st-?2nd cent.

context 1/039
wt. 5
1 sherd grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 1/043
wt. 600
samian: 1 sherd. 27.
other: SQ. pre-Flavian c-c CAM 62 ?local, 2 flagons, prob. CAM 243-246 bowl, other grey/red ware jars, storage jars, bowls.

spot date: early Roman, mid 1st-early Flavian.

context 1/045
wt. 260
VSQ. amphora Dressel 20, everted rim beaker, ?flagon.
spot date: early Roman, ?Flavian.

context 1/046
wt. 1100
samian: 1 sherd. 29.
other: Q. mortaria (red fabric ?Neronian), mortaria buff with flange, pre-Flavian c-c roughcast ?local, CAM 108, ?flagon sherds, grey/red ware jars, storage jars, bowls.
spot date: mid 1st-early Flavian.

context 1/049
wt. 1500
Q. amphora Dressel 20 handle and sherds, ?unidentified amphora, pre Flavian c-c local, 1 rim small ?hand-made pot (?triple vase), grey/red ware jars, bowls.
spot date: mid 1st-early Flavian.

unstratified (Trench 2)
wt. 800
samian: 2 sherds. base sherd, Ludowici form plate/dish.
other: Q. Colchester c-c, BB1 dish CAM 39, BB-type CAM 37, roller-stamped sherd, CAM 268, other grey ware.
spot date: 2nd-3rd cent.+.

context 1/050
wt. 350
SQ. ?amphora unidentified, pre-Flavian fine ware ?local, flagon bases and sherds, other grey/red ware sherds.
spot date: early Roman, 1st cent.

context 1/052
wt. 500
samian: 1 sherd. 15/17.
other: VSQ. amphora unidentified, pre-Flavian fine ware local, bowl CAM 243-246 red fabric x2, ?flagon sherd, other grey ware with storage jar.
spot date: early Roman, Claudio-Neronian.

context 1/053
-Bag:
wt. 500
samian: VSQ. 27.
other: Q. mortaria red fabric (?Neronian), other fine buff mortaria sherds, pre-Flavian fine ware, local c-c and ?Lyon, flagon ?CAM 167, CAM 108, other grey/red ware.
spot date: early Roman, mid 1st cent., ?Claudio-Neronian.
-Bag:
wt. 600

VSQ, amphora prob. Dressel 20, other grey ware sherd.
spot date: Roman.
-Bag:
wt. 520
SQ. pre-Flavian fine ware local, flagon sherds (1 from prob. collar/Hofheim type), other grey/red ware and storage jar.
spot date: early Roman, prob. pre-Flavian.

context 1/054
wt. 270
SQ. amphora x2 unidentified, mortaria sherd, prob. flagon sherds, CAM 108, other grey ware.
spot date: ?early Roman, ?1st cent.

context 1/056
wt. 60
VSQ. grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 1/057
wt. 25
samian: VSQ. 27.
other: VSQ. amphora unidentified, ?flagon, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, ?1st cent.

context 1/072
wt. 20
VSQ. amphorae Dressel 20, 3 grey ware sherds.
spot date: Roman, earlier Roman.

context 2/011
wt. 120
SQ. BB-type bead-rim bowl CAM 37, Colchester c-c barbotine, ?Colchester c-c folded form, Nene Valley bowl lid CAM 308, Hadham ware.
spot date: late Roman, 4th cent., ?later 4th cent.

context 2/012
post-Roman: 1 sherd. Colchester Ware Fabric 21A, 15th-16th cent.
spot date: post-Roman.

context 2/022
wt. 30
VSQ. CAM 108.
spot date: Roman, 1st-2nd cent.+.

context 2/025
wt. 900
samian: 1 sherd. 27.

other: SQ. amphora (Spanish fabric) ?Haltern 70/Dressel 20, ?other amphora, mortaria, flagon, ?early local (pre-Flavian) c-c, red fabric bowl ?CAM 243-246, other grey ware.
spot date: early Roman, mid-late 1st cent.

context 2/026
-Bag:
wt. 900
samian: VSQ.37 (2nd cent), dish/bowl.
other: LQ. Colchester c-c bag and folded beakers, some prob. fragments Nene Valley c-c, mortaria hammer-head rim, CAM 268, BB-type CAM 39, CAM 37, CAM 40B, red-painted buff flask CAM 283.
spot date: later Roman, late 2nd-3rd cent.+, prob. 3rd cent.+.
-Bag:
wt. 1000
Q. amphora Dressel 20, Colchester c-c, Nene Valley c-c ?bowl, CAM 282 (part of above), mortaria fragment, white-coated face pot CAM 288, BB-type bead-rim bowl CAM 37 flanged bowl, BB1 flanged bowl CAM 305, shell-tempered jar rim, Hadham sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: late Roman, ?late 3rd-4th cent, prob. 4th-cent.
-Bag:
wt. 1000
samian: VSQ. 38, 36, 18/31, 37.
other: LQ. amphora Dressel 20, BB1 CAM 279, BB-type CAM 39, some Colchester c-c, more Nene Valley c-c, Rhenish ware (Trier fabric), shell-tempered sherd, Hadham ware 2 sherds, other grey ware.
spot date: late Roman, ?late 3rd-4th cent, prob. 4th cent. ?later 4th cent.
-Bag:
wt. 800
samian: VSQ. 38, 36, 18/31 or 31.
other: LQ. Colchester c-c, Nene Valley c-c, BB-type bowl CAM 37, CAM 40B, CAM 304/305, BB1 CAM 39, ?Hadham ware, CAM 268, lamp spout fragment.
spot date: late Roman, ?late 3rd-4th cent., prob. 4th cent.

context 2/027
wt. 1100
samian: VSQ. small fragments.
other: LQ. amphora Dressel 20, Nene Valley c-c, Rhenish ware (Trier), ?unguentaria, BB-type bowls CAM 37 & CAM 40B, poppy-head beaker with dotted panels, mica-dusted ware, flanged grey ware bowl, lid plain, lid hooked rim ?Hadham.
spot date: later Roman, later 3rd or ?4th cent.

context 2/028
wt. 330
samian: 1 sherd. mortarium 43/45
other: Q. BB-type bowl CAM 37, ?BB1 jar lattice-decorated CAM 279, Colchester c-c, Nene Valley c-c, ?Oxford ware white coated.
spot date: prob. 4th cent.

context 2/029
wt. 1100
samian: VSQ sherds. 30, 37 (2nd cent.), other dish/bowl.
other: LQ. BB1 flanged bowl, BB type bowls, BB type dish, Colchester c-c roughcast, CAM 268.
spot date: later Roman, ?3rd cent.

context 2/031
-Bag:
wt. 800
samian: 2 sherds. bowl base, dish.
other: Q. amphora ?Dressel 2-4, Rhenish ware folded beaker (Trier), other ?Rhenish sherd (central France), Colchester c-c bag and folded beakers, Nene Valley c-c sherd, BB1 dish CAM 39, BB-type bowl and CAM 40B, 1 sherd prob. Hadham, other grey ware.
spot date: late 3rd-4th cent.
-Bag:
wt. 900
Q. 1 sherd Nene Valley c-c, BB1 jar CAM 279 and bowl base, other grey ware.
spot date: 3rd-4th cent.
-Bag:
wt. 280
VSQ. BB1 dish CAM 39, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman 2nd-4th cent.

context 2/033
wt. 700
samian: 2 sherds. 29 burnt, 18.
other: SQ. amphora Dressel 20 handle, amphora unidentified, pre-Flavian fine ware Lyon, flagon sherds, ?large Tazza, other grey/red ware sherds.
spot date: early Roman, 1st cent., ?pre-Flavian.

context 2/036
-Bag:
wt. 900
Q. amphora (Spanish fabric) Dressel 20/Haltern 70, Colchester c-c bag and folded beakers, BB-type bead-rim bowls CAM 37, ?BB1 flanged bowl CAM 305, ?Hadham ware hooked lid, mica-dusted sherd, other grey ware including folded form. lamp sherd.
spot date: later Roman, late 3rd-4th cent.
-Bag:
wt. 500
Q. Rhenish ware (Trier fabric) indented beaker and other sherd, Hadham ware sherd, Colchester c-c bag & folded beaker, Nene Valley c-c folded beakers, BB-type bead-rim bowl CAM 37 & CAM 40B, roller-stamped sherd, mica-dusted sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: later Roman, late 3rd-4th cent.
-Bag:
wt. 140
SQ. Nene Valley c-c, mica-dusted sherd, BB-type sherd, ?CAM 268, other grey ware.
spot date: 2nd-3rd cent.+.

context 2/038
wt. 20
VSQ. prob. flagon sherd, white-coated sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, ?late Roman 3rd-4th cent.

context 2/040
wt. 900
samian. 2 sherds. ?30.
other: Q. Rhenish ware (Trier fabric) tall folded beaker, Colchester c-c, Nene Valley c-c folded beaker and lidded bowl, 2 sherds Hadham ware, BB-type bowl CAM 37, other grey ware sherds. Mosaic cube.
spot date: ?late 3rd-4th cent. prob. 4th cent.

context 2/046
wt. 400
samian: 2 sherds. ?37, plain form.
other: Q. amphora unidentified, Colchester c-c bag-shaped roughcast and folded beaker, lattice-decorated jar (2nd cent.), prob. flagon sherds, other buff and grey ware.
spot date: 2nd cent.

context 2/047
wt. 900
samian: VSQ. 37, ?29, 27.
other: Q. Colchester c-c folded beaker, 1 sherd pre-Flavian fine ware local, BB-type bead-rim bowls CAM 37 & CAM 304/305, flagon top CAM 360, CAM 108, other grey wares.
spot date: 3rd cent.

context 2/057
wt. 50
samian: 2 sherds. 36.
other: VSQ. motaria sherd, CAM 108, prob. flagon sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, ?2nd cent.

context 2/063
wt. 500
samian: VSQ. 29, 27.
other: Q. Pre-Flavian fine ware local, Hofheim-type flagon CAM 140, ring-neck flagon CAM 154, mica-dusted bowl/dish, CAM 108, other grey ware, some red ware.
spot date: early Roman, prob. 1st cent. (?early 2nd cent.).

context 2/064
-Bag:
wt. 1100
Q. amphora CAM 186C, amphorae ?Dressel 2-4, sherds, bases and handles from several flagons, mortaria sherd, pre-Flavian fine ware local.
spot date: early Roman, mid 1st-?early Flavian.
-Bag:
wt. 700
samian: 2 sherds. plate/dish, 29.

other: LQ. amphora (Spanish fabric) ?Haltern 70, ?early c-c sherd, mortaria sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, 1st cent., ?mid 1st-early Flavian.
-Bag:
wt. 800
samian: Q. 18, 27g, Ritt.12, 29.
other: amphora ?Dressel 20, amphora unidentified, prob. flagon (burnt), greyware lid, other grey ware.
spot date: early Roman, prob. pre Flavian.

context 2/066
wt. 700
SQ. BB1 dish CAM 39 CAM 304/5, BB-type CAM 40B, Nene Valley c-c, other grey ware.
spot date: later Roman 3rd-4th cent.

context 2/069
wt. 240
samian: VSQ. 38, 29, 27.
other: SQ. CAM 108, other grey ware sherds.
spot date: later 2nd cent.

context 2/070
wt. 30
2 sherds. prob. from flagon.
spot date: Roman.

context 2/071
wt. 125
Q. amphora unidentified, mica-dusted jar, flagon, CAM 108.
spot date: Roman, 1st cent.

context 2/072
-Bag:
wt. 800
VSQ. amphora CAM 186C, flagon handle, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, earlier Roman (?Flavian+).
-Bag:
wt. 500
samian: VSQ. 27, 18.
other: Q. flagon sherds and handles, grey ware jars bowls, lamp fragment, crucible.
spot date: Roman, prob. 1st cent.

context 2/073
wt. 12000
samian: Q. 29, 27 (1 burnt), 18 (1 burnt), 35 (not decorated on rim). Early Lezoux prob. 18 (burnt).
other: VLQ. (VSQ) amphora includes Dressel 20 and ?Gaulish wine amphora with other unidentified and amphora stopper. (VSQ) mortaria 1 rim fragment and 2 sherds, (LQ) pre-Flavian fine ware cups and jars appears to be dominated by, or almost exclusively, local

products. (SQ) Pompeian-Red Ware dish and lid, some other similar unusual pieces (dish and lid), (LQ) flagon sherds with 1 top of ring-neck type, large white ware lid and large lid in ?Verulamium region fabric, 3 sherds terra nigra Eggshell Ware, (VLQ) grey wares includes CAM 108 & CAM 266. Roof finial/chimney fragment and crucible fragments.
spot date: early Roman, mid 1st-Neronian, ?Neronian.

context 2/074
-Bag:
wt. 130
Prob. flagon sherds, grey ware sherds including lid.
spot date: Roman, earlier Roman.
-Bag:
wt. 500
samian: VSQ. 15/17, 27, 29.
other: Q. CAM 108, Verulamium region large sherd, other buff and grey wares.
spot date: earlier Roman, 1st cent.

context 2/075
wt. 15000
samian: VSQ. prob.18, 27 (1 sherd burnt).
other: VLQ. (LQ) amphora Dressel 20, amphora handle ?CAM 184 other unidentified and amphora stopper, (Q) pre-Flavian fine ware mostly jars some cups appears to be almost exclusively local products, (VSQ) Pompeian-Red Ware dishes and lids, (Q) white/pink ware flagons (ring neck) handles other sherds also CAM 243 ?Verulamium ware large lid and miniature pot, (VLQ) grey wares including CAM 108 & CAM 266.
spot date: early Roman, mid 1st-Neronian, ?Neronian.

context 3/023
wt. 5
samian: 1 sherd. 27 (1st cent.)

context 4/004
wt. 200
Roman:
SQ. ?amphora, BB-type bowls and dishes CAM 37 & CAM 40B, mortaria, other grey wares.
post-Roman:
Fabric 20 Medieval Coarse Ware, 12th-14th cent.
spot date: later medieval.

context 4/006
wt. 120
VSQ. CAM 108, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 4/008
wt. 800
samian: 1 sherd. dish/bowl.

other: Q. Colchester c-c, 1 sherd Nene Valley c-c, mica-dusted sherd, BB-type dish/bowl, CAM 108, other grey ware.
spot date: 2nd-3rd cent., ?2nd cent.

context 4/012
wt. 200
samian: 1 sherd. 18/31 or ?18.
other: SQ. BB-type bead-rim bowl CAM 37, ?flagon sherd, shell-tempered sherd, other grey ware.
spot date: 2nd cent.

context 4/013
wt. 60
samian: 1 sherd. not identified.
other: VSQ. mica-dusted embossed sherds CAM 95, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, ?earlier Roman.

context 4/015
wt. 220
samian: 1 sherd. 18.
other: SQ. flagon base, CAM 108, other grey ware sherds.
spot date: Roman 1st cent.-?early 2nd cent.

context 4/016
wt. 370
VSQ. amphora Dressel 20, amphora unidentified, grey ware sherd.
spot date: Roman.

context 4/020
wt. 800
Q. amphora Dressel 20 handle, flagon sherds, CAM 108, other grey ware jars.
spot date: Roman, ?1st cent.

context 4/021
wt. 70
VSQ. amphora unidentified, prob. flagon base, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 4/022
wt. 1000
samian: VSQ. 36.
other: SQ. mortaria, flagon sherds, other grey ware sherds.
spot date: earlier Roman, 1st-2nd cent.

context 4/023
wt. 180
samian: 2 sherds. 37, 15/17.
other: SQ. pre-Flavian fine ware local, prob. flagon sherds, grey ware lid, other grey ware.

spot date: earlier Roman, ?late 1st-early 2nd cent.

context 5/006
wt. 500
VSQ. amphora Dressel 20 base, BB-type bead-rim bowl CAM 37, c-c sherd prob. Colchester, other grey ware.
spot date: 2nd cent.

context 5/007
wt. 230
Q. Colchester c-c, Nene Valley c-c, BB-type bowl CAM 37 & CAM 40B, other grey ware sherds.
spot date: Roman 2nd cent.+, later 2nd-4th cent.

context 5/008
wt. 10
2 sherds. BB-type CAM 40B, other grey ware sherd.
spot date: Roman.

context 5/012
wt. 220
Q. BB-type bowls CAM 37, prob. flagon sherds, CAM 268, other grey ware.
spot date: Roman, 2nd cent.+.

context 5/016
wt. 900
samian: VSQ. 27, 36, ?38.
other: Q. amphora prob. Dressel 20, Colchester c-c roughcast and bag beaker, CAM 268, flagon sherds, BB-type bowl, lattice-decorated jar (2nd cent.), other grey ware. Stone hone.
spot date: later 2nd cent.-?early 3rd cent.

context 5/018
wt. 10
2 sherds. Roman grey ware.
spot date: Roman.

context 5/020
wt. 240
Roman:
samian: 2 sherds. 18/31.
other: SQ. ?amphora, BB-type dish/bowl, ?early (pre-Flavian fine ware) import, other grey ware.
post-Roman:
1 sherd. Colchester Ware Fabric 21A, 15th-16th cent.
spot date: post-Roman.

APPENDIX D

Conservation Assessment of Metal Finds

Summary

The Head Street assemblage was received fresh from excavation and consisted of iron, copper alloy and lead artefacts. The metal finds had been previously packed in a polypropylene container within adequate silica gel. Moisture was evident inside a number of plastic finds bags. The finds were left to air dry for 24 hours before re-packing with fresh silica gel and the individual finds bags sufficiently punctured.

The finds have been radiographed for further identification and to assess the extent of their deterioration. The finds have been assessed and an estimate for conservation prepared. Those finds selected have been listed (see Page 77) and have been highlighted in bold and italic type (see Pages 75-76).

The finds were radiographed in Find number order and have been packed according to their X-ray number. The finds are suitably packed for long term storage if further treatment is not requested (see Page 5 for storage and handling guidelines).

Work requested

Radiography and conservation assessment.

Description

The assemblage consisted of 47 metal items; 10 iron items, 1 lead item and 36 copper alloy items. Some copper alloy items appear to have a dissimilar metal present according to **X-ray No.s** 4426- 4429, i.e. a precious metal such as gold or silver, although similar results are obtained from high tin bronzes. Those items of particular interest are as follows; **Find No.** 12, 14, 17, 21, 66, 70, 76, 77, 87.

The iron items appear to consist mainly of nails and/or shafts. Iron items of interest are as follows; **Find No.** 36, 37, 39.

The lead item remains unidentified.

Condition

The ironwork is typical of iron excavated from damp aerated sites. In some instances the shape is no longer recognisable as a particular object and sand/stones have become incorporated into the corrosion.

The iron mass is likely to be composed of a combination of iron oxides and carbonates The chemical formula of the corrosion product can only be accurately determined by analysis, though it can be assumed that primarily the corrosion product present is possibly iron (III) oxyhydroxide (FeO.OH), the bulk being in the form of brown/yellow geothite. Orange corrosion products evident may be lepidocrocite. A pale buff/yellow powdery

corrosion product is also evident and this may be jarosite, a basic iron (III) sulphate, though this is not certain.

Radiography reveals in general that the iron varies from the objects original surface retained within a thick layer of corrosion products to surviving as a corrosion product with little or no metal remaining. The iron has not suffered any noticeable dramatic post excavation corrosion.

Copper alloy

The blue/green crusted appearance of the copper alloy material is typical of excavated objects. It is usual for copper or copper alloy artefacts to survive burial in oxygenated deposits, whether as metals or as corrosion products.

A crust is formed where the extrusion of dissolved copper is fairly rapid in comparison to compact patinas formed by slow extrusion. The items in the assemblage appear to have rough encrusted surfaces. In some instances the surfaces bare corrosion warts where areas of the surface have corroded faster than others, this is apparent on **X-ray No.s** 4426- 4429.

The emerald green coloration is likely to be due to mainly malachite, copper (II) carbonate, ($CuCo_3.Cu(OH)_2$) though the presence of alloyed metals will have altered the tone of the green coloration. It is possible that the tone of the corrosion product has been lightened by the presence of lead carbonate or tin oxide, or darkened by the presence of sulphides of copper and lead, and/or dulled by arsenical corrosion products.

A slightly more blue/white coloured corrosion product is evident on some of the copper alloy and this may be due to tin oxide corrosion if the alloy happens to be a high tin bronze. It is possible that a there is an underlying layer of copper (I) oxide, cuprite, on some surfaces. This suggests that the copper alloy has not fully corroded and is inherently unstable. The objects do not appear to be effected by chloritic corrosion which would ultimately effect the copper alloys stability.

The chemical formula of the corrosion product can only be accurately determined by analysis. It should be noted here that corrosion products should be taken into consideration when selecting objects for analysis since corrosion products will impair surface analysis.

Lead

Lead is extremely resistant corrosion in calcareous soils. The lead items appear to be covered in a white corrosion crust which is possibly mainly cerussite or hydrocerussite which does not appear to be discoloured by oxides.

The original surface is likely to be retained by a slightly eroded metal surface and covered in a layer of corrosion products, though this can not be certain since x-radiography is of little use as lead absorbs x-rays and does not expose the underlying film.

The weight of the items is an indication that there is still a sufficient amount of lead in the objects, though corrosion can penetrate down into grain boundaries causing the lead to become more brittle than it first appears. The lead item appears to be very brittle and not as heavy as expected suggesting that there is little metal remaining. The object also appears to be bisected by cracks.

List of artefacts

Find No.	Context No.	Description	X-ray No.
1	***1/006***	***Coin***	***4426***
6	1/031	Coin?	4426
11	2/026	Copper alloy object? x 2	4426
12	***2/027***	***Copper alloy disc/ token/ button***	***4426***
14	***1/033***	***Copper alloy fragment***	***4426***
15	4/008	Copper alloy pin	4426
17	***2/029***	***Copper alloy hinge/clasp***	***4426***
18	4/004	Copper alloy folded strip	4426
19	5/018	Copper alloy fragment	4426
21	2/031	Copper alloy fragments x 4	4426
30	2/036	Copper alloy fragments x 2	4426
33	2/036	Iron nail	4426
35	2/036	Iron nail or bolt x 2	4426
36	2/036	Unidentified iron object	4426
37	2/036	Possible iron knife blade	4427
38	2/036	Iron item x 2	4427
39	2/036	Iron item	4427
43	1/043	Copper alloy fragments x 2	4427
52	1/049	Iron nail	4427
53	1/046	Copper alloy fragments	4427
55	1/053	Iron nail	4427
56	1/053	Iron item	4427
57	***2/046***	***Copper alloy square shaped item***	***4427***
58	***2/047***	***Copper alloy fibula?***	***4427***
59	***2/047***	***Coin?***	***4427***
60	2/047	Iron item?	4427
62	***3/023***	***Coin?***	***4428***
63	***1/056***	***Coin?***	***4428***
65	***2/064***	***Button or boss***	***4428***
66	***2/064***	***Button?***	***4428***
67	***2/072***	***Copper alloy item***	***4428***
68	***2/073***	***Copper alloy item?***	***4428***
70	2/073	Copper alloy item?	4428
72	2/073	Copper alloy strap	4428
74	2/073	Copper alloy pin	4428
75	2/073	Copper alloy button or coin	4428
76	***2/073***	***Copper alloy fibula***	***4428***
77	2/073	Copper alloy fragments with possible gold leaf	4428
78	***2/073***	***Copper alloy coin***	***4428***
79	2/073	Copper alloy button/stud	4428
84	2/075	Copper alloy sheet fragments	4428
87	2/056	Copper alloy and iron fragment	4428
88	2/075	Copper alloy fragments x 3	4428
89	***1/US***	***Coin***	***4428***

List of artefacts (continued)

Find No.	Context No.	Description	X-ray
99	2/073	Unidentified lead item	4429
101	2/073	Copper alloy fragments x 6	4429
105	1/072	Copper alloy item	4429

List of x-rays

X-ray No.	Volts KeV	Time Mins	Find No.
4426	85	2.0	1, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 30, 33, 35, 36
4427	90	2.0	37, 38, 39, 43, 52, 53, 55, 56, 59, 60
4428	90	2.0	62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 84,
87, 88,			89
4429	90	2.0	99, 101, 105
	100	3.0	99, 101, 105

Recommended treatment

Sixteen copper alloy items have been selected for investigative cleaning. Investigative cleaning will involve the mechanical removal of the dried soil from the surface of the selected items using an assortment of hand tools, ie. scalpel, pin vice and glass bristle brush. This would be to aid identification of the coins, and to ascertain whether any precious metals are present on the selected copper alloy items.

No further treatment ie. vacuum impregnation with a copper corrosion inhibitor- 3% w/v solution of Benzotriazole in Industrial Methylated Spirit, or lacquering with a 5% Incralac in Toluene solution, will be performed unless otherwise requested. This treatment is not considered necessary if the items are stored appropriately. Further treatment may be necessary if full cleaning for illustration or study is required.

The artefacts which have been selected for investigative cleaning are as follows;
Find No. 1, 12, 14, 17, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 76, 78, 89.

APPENDIX E

SAMPLES

Thirty-three samples were taken during the course of the evaluation. Following an assessment eight were submitted for analysis. The other samples have been retained. The samples analysed are as follows:

Sample	Context	Type
7	1/039	Pit fill comprised of demolition debris
8	1/033	Surface of burnt material
12	2/036	Fill of pit contained human head
17	2/040	Pit fill
25	1/063	Floor make-up level
28	1/065	Dump layer
29	1/066	External surface
30	1/070	?Floor layer

Samples 7 and 8 came from the 'Boudican destruction Horizon' in Trench 1. Sample 12 came form a feature containing a human head with sample 17 from a feature directly below the previous. Samples 25, and 28-30 came from contexts representing either degrading clay floors or collapsed daub walls, from Trench 1. The samples ranged in size from 11 to 50 litres.

METHOD

Samples 12 and 17 were dry-sieved through a 4 mm sieve, and material of an artefactual or ecofactual nature were removed. The remaining samples were processed using a system of flotation and wet-sieving. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in sieves, mesh sizes 1 mm and 0.3 mm, the non floating residue (the retent) was wet sieved through a 1 mm mesh. All flot material greater than 0.3 mm was scanned by a trained technician using a binocular microscope, and any items of archaeological or ecological interest were recorded. All retent material greater than 1 mm was sorted by eye, with then aid of a light assisted magnifier, and again any items of archaeological or ecological interest were recovered.

RESULTS

Comments on the material scanned and sorted are shown below.

Macroscopic plant remains

Carbonised and uncarbonised plant remains were noted in samples 8, 25, 29, and 30. Small amounts of charred cereals were noted in samples 8, 29 and 30. These included wheat and barley. Sample 25 contained charred weed seeds. Sample 8 contained one modern seed. No further work is recommended.

Shell

Oyster shell was recovered from samples 7, 8, 12 and 17. No further work is recommended.

Charcoal

In the interests of avoiding contamination, only charcoal from the > 4 mm fraction of the flots and retents was recovered. Charcoal was present in all the samples, with the exception of sample 12. All the charcoal was fairly fragmentary, with no pieces of roundwood present. It is recommended that only charcoal that may be required for C^{14} be identified to species.

Bone

Mammal bone was recovered from all samples. Sample 12 also contained a small amount of fish bone. The majority of the mammal bone assemblage consists of small fragments, with very few incomplete bones. It is recommended that the mammal bone from samples 12 and 17, are analysed by a specialist for the presence of human bone, if this can be identified.

Worked Stone

Flint was recovered from all samples, with the exception of sample 12. A rapid scan of the assemblage shows it to consist of medium to small fragments. The majority of the pieces have cortex visible, and many show evidence of abrasion damage. Some pieces show signs of patination. Some of the flint has regular edges, and may have been struck. However the majority of the assemblage appears to be chunks. With the exception of one piece from sample 7, which is badly eroded, there are no clearly retouched edges or cores. This flint assemblage is probably natural, although there is the possibility of limited human altered element.

Ceramic Building Material

Small fragments of daub were recovered from samples 7, 8 and 17. Those fragments from sample 7 show signs of burning, and a surface indicating that they were from a fire destroyed clay wall.

Sample 12 produced some fragments of tile.

Pottery

Small sherds of mainly unabraded Roman pottery were recovered from samples 8, 12, 17, 28 and 19. It is recommended that this assemblage be examined by a specialist, and that this material should be integrated into the final pottery report, in the future.

Glass

Sample 12 produced two small sherds of Roman vessel glass. These fragments are too small and undiagnostic to be of any use for further analyses.