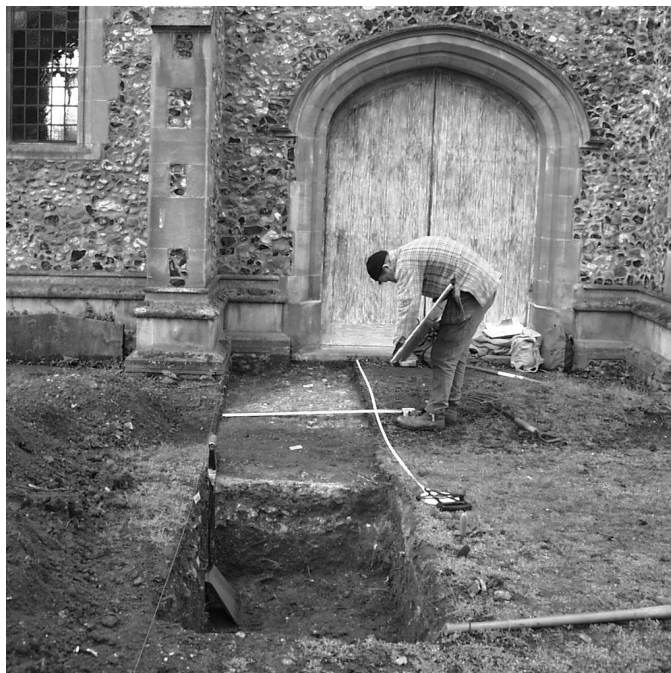


# A report on an archaeological evaluation at the church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex

March-April 2000



on behalf of  
the Parish Council of St Peter ad Vincula



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**CAT Report 76**

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# **A report on an archaeological evaluation at the church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex**

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## **1 Summary**

*It is proposed to build an extension on the north face of St Peter's church, outside the north door. A 10m-long evaluation trench was excavated north-south through the middle of the proposed site. Grave cuts were located at between 700mm and 400mm below present churchyard level. These were sealed by a blanket of disturbed soil. The foundations of the north aisle wall were found to be modern masonry over a concrete foundation. There was a considerable amount of residual Roman material from the evaluation.*

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 At the request of the Parish Council of St Peter ad Vincula, an evaluation trench (Trench 1) was cut north-south along the centre line of the proposed extension on the north side of St Peter's church (Figs 1, 2).
- 2.2 The work was carried out between 30th March and 19th April 2000 by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). Post-excavation work took place between late April and 7th June 2000.
- 2.3 Faculty for the proposed development work was granted by the Bishop of Chelmsford.
- 2.4 As a condition of the faculty, all archaeological work had to be carried out according to a brief from the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor or DAA (David Andrews). A specification based on that brief was agreed with the Essex County Heritage Advice Management and Promotion Section (HAMP) and the DAA.

### 3 Archaeological background

There are a few records of prehistoric settlement at Coggeshall, mainly stray finds spanning the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods. A possible prehistoric focus of occupation was revealed by an evaluation at Barnatt's Yard (ESMR 17580), where a number of features of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date were found. Bronze Age features were also found during excavations at the site of the new St Peter's School in 1984-5<sup>1</sup>. This work also revealed a substantial Roman enclosure whose north and south sides were postulated to pass south of St Peter's church and along East Street respectively. No buildings were discovered, but a large amount of building debris led to suggestions that a large Roman structure might be located approximately 100m south of St Peter's church. Roman finds of building material have been reported previously from this same area<sup>2</sup>.

Excavations in 1989-93 on 'The Lawns' site west of St Peter's School and due south of the church revealed evidence of a robbed-out Roman masonry structure, and the high number of box flue-tiles suggests that it was (or included) a bath-house with hypocausts<sup>3</sup>.

Saxon Coggeshall is poorly understood, although finds of Saxon pottery did come from the ditch fills at The Lawns<sup>4</sup> and a Saxon finger-ring was found in 1851 (ESMR 8735).

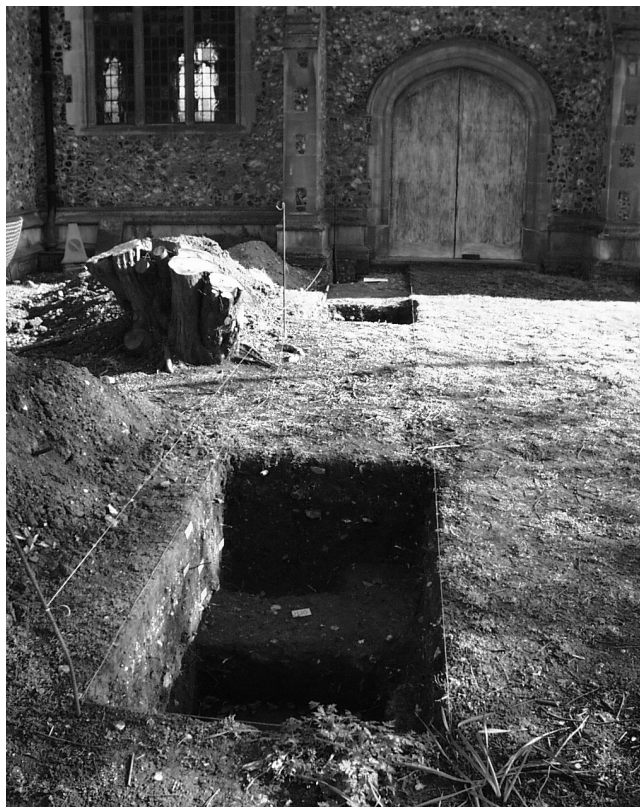
The record of a priest at the time of the Domesday Survey indicates that there was a church in Coggeshall at that time. Its precise location is unknown, but it was probably on the site of the later medieval church of St Peter's. Repair work at St Peter's church in the 19th century revealed evidence of at least one phase of building before the existing 15th-century structure, and it is at least theoretically possible that one of these phases represents the early Saxo-Norman church.

The church site can be assumed to date from the 12th century, if not earlier. The present structure, built between 1404 and 1426 in the Perpendicular style, is one of very few with the dedication of St Peter ad Vincula. The early medieval settlement was probably focused around the church, and in the later medieval period the focus shifted downslope to the area of the market place just north of Stane Street. This movement may have coincided with the granting of a market charter in the year 1256<sup>5</sup>.

The church was bombed in WWII and was rebuilt by Dykes Bower. Previous investigations had suggested that the church wall was underpinned in places<sup>6</sup>.

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1 Clarke 1988  
2 VCH 1963, 89  
3 Isserlin 1995  
4 Isserlin 1995  
5 Essex County Council Planning 1999, 9  
6 brief, section 4.2



**Fig a Location shot of evaluation trenches with north door of St Peter's church.**

## **4 Aim**

The aim of the work described here was to establish the depth and condition of any surviving archaeological remains (eg the structural remains of earlier buildings) and any grave cuts.

## **5 The evaluation (Figs 2-7)**

### **5.1 General**

The trench (Trench 1 or T1) was hand-dug. The presence of a drain cut (Feature 01 or F01) and a large tree root meant that the 10m-long trench had to be dug in three sections, which will be described separately below: Trench 1A (against the face of the church); Trench 1B (centre of trench); and Trench 1C (north end of trench). The position of the three sections is shown on Figure 2 (A, B, C).



**Fig b Trench 1A showing modern concrete wall foundation.**

## **5.2 Trench 1A (Figs b, 3-4)**

- 5.2.1 This section of trench measured 1m wide (E-W) and 1m long (N-S), and was cut 1.45 m deep against the face of the church. The top horizon was a thin band of topsoil (Layer 04 or L04), which peeled off to reveal a thin band of sand (L09) lying over a stone surface (F03). This stone surface consisted of a yellow mortar base, with medium flints and occasional tile and beige brick fragments set in it. The stone surface was cut by a modern drain (F01), and by a shallow cut F06 against the face of the buttress.
- 5.2.2 The brief required a view of the footings of the church; therefore an L-shaped cut was made through F03 in the angle of buttress and church wall by enlarging F06, the cut which had previously been made through the surface. It was expected that F03 would seal undisturbed graveyard soil, or the underpinning which was reported to have taken place under parts of the church wall to repair the WWII bomb damage<sup>7</sup>. In fact, F03 sealed a foundation trench F08, which contained a completely rebuilt church wall F09 and was backfilled with the brick rubble (L14). The details are as follows. The cut for the new foundation was not bottomed at 1.60m below the north door doorstep level (hereafter abbreviated to DL). The outer (ie north) edge of the trench was beyond Trench 1A (T1A) limits, but part of the sloping lower edge of the cut F08 was seen between 0.9m and 1.3m below DL, before it plunged down vertically, cutting through clay

<sup>7</sup>

brief, section 4.2

L15. Set in F08 was the newly-built church wall F09, unquestionably the rebuild after the WWII damage. This was concrete from below 1.6m up to 0.7m below DL. Above that level the structural parts seen were two ashlar slabs approximately 320mm (1 foot) deep, the lower one being chamfered to bring the outer edge flush with the masonry above and the top one being the doorstep. On the east edge of the trench, the church wall had been rebuilt in the same character as the old church wall - essentially a flint rubble in mortar with ashlar dressings. The lower edge of this work was at 0.75m below DL, with two post-medieval bricks included in the fabric where they would be below a ground level defined by the laying of stone surface F03 above the rubble infill (L14) of the foundation cut (F08) at 180mm (6 inches) below DL.

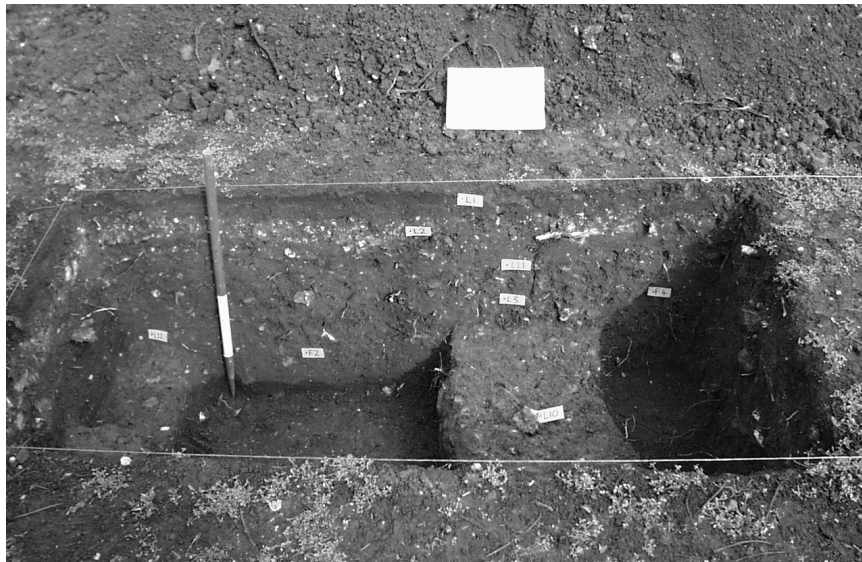
- 5.2.3 The finds from L14 (the fill of the footings trench) give an indication of the fabric of the old church. The bulk of L14 consisted of small pieces of mortar and stone which were not kept, but one huge chunk of mortar rubble with stones was kept as a sample. There were also fragments of fresh-looking and apparently fairly new unglazed ceramic floor tiles, and pinkish-buff and pale brown pammet fragments. Although Roman tile with mortar adhering shows that Roman material was built into the old church, no pieces were recovered from this context. There were other Roman fragments: a *tegula* flange; a piece of pinkish mortar in the Roman *opus signinum* fashion, which is presumably Roman; and a Roman greyware sherd which must be derived from Roman occupation close to this site.

### 5.3 Trench 1B (Figs 5-6)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1B (T1B) measured 1.65 m long (N-S) by 1.1 m wide, and was generally 0.7m deep, but 0.85m deep into cut F05.
- 5.3.2 The upper deposits of this trench were modern topsoil (L04) sealing dumps of mortary brick debris L06 and L05, the latter two probably dating to the post-WWII reconstruction. Removal of L05 revealed a brick-filled cut F07 and a bricky layer L07. The removal of the above deposits lowered the trench by 200mm on the north edge and approximately 750mm on the south. Sealed by L07 was a thick disturbed grey soily layer L08 with mortar flecks and occasional stones, up to 1.15m deep at the north end of the trench. No cut lines were visible in this horizon, so it had either been disturbed or was perhaps redeposited. It sealed L13, a clay layer (possible natural ground), and into L13 was cut a vertical-edged feature F05. There was naturally a supposition that this was a grave cut, since it was aligned perfectly east-west with the church, but the fill had to be lowered by 300mm to confirm this. At the reduced level, a human femur was observed *in situ*, and an iron coffin handle. Neither was disturbed any further, and excavation ceased at this level.



- 5.3.3 Finds from this trench were not especially datable. From the disturbed horizon were two tiny fragments of old window glass, presumably derived ultimately from the bombed church, and seven tile fragments from the grave cut F05 (three medieval or later peg-tile and four Roman tile fragments).



**Fig c Trench 1C: general shot.**

#### **5.4 Trench 1C (Figs c, 5, 7)**

- 5.4.1 Trench 1C (T1C) was 1.9m long and generally 0.6m deep, but 0.8m deep into cut F02. The top layer was topsoil L01 which was equivalent to L04 in T1A and T1B. This sealed L2, a mortary debris layer equivalent to L05 in T1B. There were several tree roots growing through this horizon. L02 sealed L11, a greyish brown loam with clay patches which is exactly equivalent to L08 in T1B. L11 sealed a grave cut F02, which was cut into L12 and L03 (redeposited clay). L10 was also cut by an undefined cut F04, which was too obliquely aligned to be a grave cut. As with F05 in T1B, F02 was only lowered sufficiently to confirm that it was a grave cut, and no further excavation was carried out.
- 5.4.2 The finds in T1C reflected the mixture seen elsewhere on the site - ie material from the bombed church, post-medieval debris, and much residual Roman material. The modern granular brick fragment from L03 is particularly important: for modern material to be incorporated into it (trodden in?), L03 must have been the ground level at one time (otherwise how could it find its way down through L11?). This confirms that there was a large hole here, either a bomb crater or a hole created by digging away bomb-damaged material. By implication, L11 and also L08 in T1B must be material redeposited over the

hole to restore old ground level. The church debris consists of flint and mortar lumps, floor-tile fragments and old window glass. The stoneware Fabric 45 sherd from the grave cut F02 and the peg-tile from the same context date the grave to post-medieval and perhaps to the 17th to 18th centuries.

However, the most notable group of finds from this trench is the Roman material. Over twenty sherds of Roman pottery, over 2kg of Roman brick or tile, oyster shells and a Roman combed flue-tile cut down into a *tessera* must imply that a Roman site lies close to the church.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Finds listing

Weights are grammes. Those finds marked with this symbol → are presumably debris from the bombed church. The information on Roman pottery is repeated in the separate table on Roman pottery (below section 6.2). Medieval and later pottery codes are after Cunningham 1985 and Cotter forthcoming.

Finds bag	Context	Quantity	Wt	Description	Date
	u/s	3	1350	Plain red unglazed floor tiles, 25mm thick - not heavily worn.	post-medieval
	u/s	1	250	Plain grey unglazed floor tile, 25mm thick - not very worn.	post-medieval
	u/s	1	160	Pink fabric pammet 35mm thick, occasional brick grog piece, and occasional stones up to 5mm.	medieval or post-medieval
01	L01	1	225	Roman <i>tegula</i> fragment.	Roman
02	L03	1	5	1 samian sherd - Dragendorff form 27, profile indicates 2nd-century date.	100-150/160 AD
02	L03	5	55	Small- to medium-sized coarse greyware sherds, some slightly abraded: one lid fragment, one jar base.	Roman
02	L03	1	225	Modern granular brick fragment.	20th century
02	L03	1	10	Oyster shell.	??
02	L03	2	60	Flint lumps, no mortar, not struck. →	post-medieval, from church
02	L03	1	15	White mortar lump. →	post-medieval, from church
02	L03	1	15	Fabric 45 stoneware.	17th-18th century
02	L03	1	170	Very worn floor tile - orangey brown fabric with grog inclusions up to 5mm across, mortar adhering underneath; 23mm thick. →	post-medieval, from church
02	L03	1	115	Uneven tile; between 21 and 25mm thick. →	undated
02	L03	1	60	Glazed floor tile - pale honey glaze over cream slip, dull orange fabric with dull grey core, white flint inclusions up to 2mm; 23mm thick. →	post-medieval
02	L03	1	1	Tiny glass fragment; 1.8mm thick.	?
04	L08	3	2	Glass fragments (look Victorian).	19th century?
05	F02	3	745	Roman brick fragments.	Roman
05	F02	1	80	Roman <i>tegula</i> flange.	Roman
05	F02	4	450	Roman tile fragments probably <i>tegula</i> flats; 17-23mm thick.	Roman
05	F02	6	600	Roman <i>imbrex</i> fragments, 1 overburnt.	Roman
05	F02	9	325	Buff or buff/pink Roman tile fragments; up to 22m thick.	Roman
05	F02	5	140	Tiles.	probably Roman
05	F02	2	35	Oyster shells.	Roman??
05	F02	3	20	<i>Opus signinum</i> type mortar fragments.	Roman??
05	F02	1	25	Peg-tile; 11mm thick.	medieval or later
05	F02	1	10	Flue-tile fragment cut down into a <i>tessera</i> , though without mortar.	Roman
05	F02	1	10	Fabric 45 stoneware sherd.	17th-18th century
05	F02	1	1	Tiny old glass fragment.	post-medieval
05	F02	1	5	1 small body sherd from bowl with chamfered base, possibly black-burnished ware type 2 (BB2).	early-mid 2nd-3rd century
05	F02	1	1	1 small coarse oxidised sherd.	Roman
05	F02	1	5	1 sherd from a flanged bowl or dish in fine greyware, rouletted on surface.	late 1st -earlier 2nd century

Finds bag	Context	Quantity	Wt	Description	Date
05	F02	18	120	Body sherds in coarse greyware, small to medium size, some slightly abraded.	Roman
06	L04	2	80	Scraps of post-medieval brick.	post-medieval
06	L04	1	20	Peg-tile fragment.	post-medieval
08	L09	1	90	Piece of very modern brick (rather granular fabric).	late 20th century
09	F04	1	5	1 rim sherd in coarse greyware from a bowl, form CAM 243-244/246.	1st-early 2nd century
09	F04	4	15	4 other coarse greyware sherds.	Roman
09	F04	1	2	Sandy medieval greyware sherd - Fabric 20.	12th-13th century
09	F04	3	475	Brick fragments - dull orange fabric; 35mm thick (almost certainly Roman).	Roman
09	F04	1	60	Flat tile fragment from Roman <i>tegula</i> ; 20mm thick.	Roman
09	F04	1	2	Piece of old window glass, very opaque; 1.5mm thick. →	post-medieval
10	F05	1	60	Sliver of limestone with pale brown mortar adhering. →	post-medieval, from church
10	F05	1	85	Peg-tile lump with pale brown mortar adhering. →	post-medieval, from church
10	F05	3	90	Peg-tile fragments.	medieval/post-medieval
10	F05	1	20	Flat thick tile; 17mm thick (probably Roman <i>tegula</i> ).	Roman
10	F05	3	30	Tile chips - more orangey fabric than local peg-tile, probably Roman.	Roman
11	L08	1	130	Fragment of Roman <i>imbrex</i> tile.	Roman
11	L08	1	60	Flat tile piece.	undated
11	L08	1	2	Coarse greyware jar rim fragment.	Roman
12	F03	1	70	Peg-tile.	medieval/post-medieval
12	F03	1	135	Post-medieval brick fragments, buff with red grogs; 63mm thick.	post-medieval
12	F03	1	140	Undifferentiated brick fragment.	post-medieval?
13	F06	1	120	Roman <i>imbrex</i> tile fragment with mortar on all surfaces.	Roman
13	F06	1	170	Tarmac fragment.	modern
13	F06	1	15	Iron nail, round head 9mm diameter; 686mm long, 4mm square cross-section - possibly from a coffin, though maybe too long?	post-medieval
14	L14	4	105	Slivers of very recent granular-cored brick.	later 20th century
14	L14	1	15	Piece of not-so-old shoe leather.	modern
14	L14	2	50	Slate. →	medieval or post-medieval
14	L14	1	125	<i>Opus signinum</i> mortar mixture.	Roman, presumably
14	L14	1	140	<i>Tegula</i> flange fragment.	Roman
14	L14	1	450	Flint fragment with mortar adhering. →	medieval, from church
14	L14	1	2000	Enormous chunk of mortared flints. →	medieval, from church
14	L14	1	5	Coarse greyware body sherd.	Roman
14	L14	2	690	Ceramic unglazed floor tiles, not heavily worn so presumably not of any great antiquity; 24mm thick. →	post-medieval, from church
14	L14	1	305	Pinkish-buff pammet with heavily marbled core - fragments and streaks of reddish brick-coloured clay; 50mm thick. →	post-medieval
14	L14	1	240	Pale brown pammet with occasional red brick grog up to 3mm across (much cleaner core than the other pammet from this context). →	post-medieval

## 6.2 The Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield (CAT)

There are 34 sherds of Roman pottery from the evaluation weighing a total of 217 grams, and all are residual in later contexts. Almost all of the pottery consists of small- to medium-sized body sherds, some of which are slightly abraded, in coarse greyware, probably mostly from jars, and can only be dated as Roman. Amongst the coarse greyware the only form which can be recognised is a rim sherd from a CAM 243-244/246 bowl dated 1st-early 2nd century, though there is also a fragment from a lid, and one small sherd is possibly from a black-burnished ware type 2 (BB2) bowl which can be broadly dated to the early-mid 2nd-3rd century<sup>8</sup>. In fine greyware there is an abraded sherd from a flanged bowl or dish which shows faint traces of rouletting on the upper surface of the flange/rim and which is probably of the late 1st-earlier 2nd century. Fine wares are limited to one samian sherd from a Dragendorff form 27 cup, the flattened profile of which indicates a date in the early-mid 2nd century.

While the small amount of Roman pottery prevents any detailed discussion, it clearly indicates Roman occupation either on the site or close by, and it can be noted that of the few datable pieces most fall entirely within the earlier Roman period of the 1st-2nd century.

**Table: Roman pottery by context (weight in grammes).**

F/L	find no	quantity	wt	comments
L03	2	6	60	1 samian sherd - Dragendorff form 27, profile indicates 2nd-century date, 100-150/60 AD (5 grams). 5 small- to medium-sized coarse greyware sherds, some slightly abraded: one lid fragment, one jar base (55 grams).
L08	11	1	2	Coarse greyware jar rim fragment.
L14	14	1	5	Coarse greyware body sherd.
F02	5	21	130	1 small body sherd from bowl with chamfered base, possibly black- burnished ware type 2 (BB2), early-mid 2nd-3rd century (5 grams). 1 small coarse oxidised sherd (1 gram). 1 sherd from a flanged bowl or dish in fine greyware, rouletted on surface, late 1st-earlier 2nd century (5 grams). Body sherds in coarse greyware, small to medium size, some slightly abraded.
F04	9	5	20	1 rim sherd in coarse greyware from a bowl, form CAM 243-244/246, 1st- early 2nd century. 4 other coarse greyware sherds.
<b>totals</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>217</b>	

Note: the information in this table is repeated in the Finds listing above.

<sup>8</sup> CAM form numbers refer to the Camulodunum (Colchester) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958)

## 7 Discussion and interpretation

### Roman activity

This evaluation yielded a little over 11kg of finds, split as follows:

Date	Number of pieces	Weight (g)
medieval or post-medieval	42	7217
Roman	82	4008
undated	3	26

The high number of Roman finds indicates that a Roman occupation site lies nearby. Whereas it is conceivable that Roman brick and tile was transported from a distance to be incorporated into the fabric of the medieval church (and indeed one mortared *imbrex* showed that this did happen), the pottery and oyster shell imply that a Roman occupation site must be located close to the church. Roman building debris from this evaluation implies that the nearby occupation site includes buildings with tiled roofs (*tegula* and *imbrex* pieces) and possibly a tessellated floor (one flue-tile cut down into a *tessera*). Previous writers on Coggleshall<sup>9</sup> have speculated that a substantial Roman building is located approximately 100m south of St Peter's church. The Roman evidence from this evaluation certainly confirms the existence of Roman buildings in the proximity of the church. However, there is an interesting difference in the dating. As noted by Stephen Benfield (section 6.2 above), the St Peter's church pottery dates to the 1st and early 2nd centuries. This is a period noticeably absent from the excavated material south of the church at The Lawns and other adjacent sites (Fig 1, sites CG8 and CG11; in Isserlin 1995). It seems more likely that the lack of early Roman material, as explained by Isserlin, is simply because there was no opportunity to examine the early deposits at those sites (Isserlin 1995, 100). The Roman material from this evaluation therefore bridges a gap in the Roman chronology of Coggleshall, though without any corresponding stratigraphy.

### Medieval

There was very little evidence for medieval activity. A single sherd of Fabric 20 medieval grey sandy ware would not support an argument for intense medieval activity in the area of the church.

### Bomb damage

A principal feature of the site was the extent of the WWII bomb damage. The depth of soil disturbed at the time of the bombing is neatly demonstrated by the depth at which recent brickwork was found in the evaluation, and can be simplified as:

- 400mm below modern ground at the north end of the evaluation
- 700mm in the centre of the trench, and
- over 1.45m at the face of the church wall.

At a simple level, one could argue that this decreasing depth of disturbance the further one moves away from the wall is evidence that there was a wide crater around the impact site, within which the soil was at least lifted by the explosion if not actually blown away. The process of clearing up afterwards would have allowed modern debris to find its way below ground, after which the crater was filled up. That there was large-scale moving of soil after the bombing is evident from the fact that the crater is no longer visible, from the evidence of this evaluation that at least the north wall of the north aisle is completely rebuilt over a concrete footing, and also from the report of debris being buried in a large hole close to the church <sup>10</sup>.

## **Burials**

Two grave cuts were found by the evaluation. These line up precisely with existing surface vaults north of the church. Internal evidence from the limited amount of material excavated at those points indicates a date of the 17th or 18th centuries for those grave cuts. That is not inconsistent with the dating of the vaults. There was a quantity of loose human bone from the evaluation, which was reburied in T1B. There was no evidence for undisturbed earlier (ie pre-17th-/18th-century) graves.

## **The church fabric**

None of the original fabric of the church was seen. Those pieces recovered from the debris (especially from the rubble infill around the wall rebuild) show a similar construction to the surviving parts of the church, ie flint in mortar rubble with ashlar dressings, and occasional pieces of medieval and Roman brick and tile.

# **8 Acknowledgements**

Site work was supervised by Howard Brooks, and carried out by Colin Austin, Alec Wade and Graham Burges. Original figures by AW; report text and figures by HB; Roman pottery report by Stephen Benfield. Thanks to Graham Burges and to the Parish Council of St Peter ad Vincula, who commissioned the work, for access and assistance.

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<sup>9</sup> Clarke 1988; Isserlin 1995  
<sup>10</sup> brief, section 4.2

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## 10 Glossary

BRNTM	Braintree Museum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HAMP	Essex County Heritage Advice Management and Promotion Section
<i>imbrex</i>	Roman curved roof-tile to bridge gap between <i>tegulae</i>
intrusive	early material out of place in a later context (eg a Coca-Cola bottle in a Roman pit)
lens	a thin layer, often lens-shaped in section
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman pink mortar
pammet	floor brick
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Victorian
residual	an earlier object out of place in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	period from AD 43 to around AD 430
Saxon	after Roman and up to AD 1066
septaria	local mudstone used as building stone by Romans
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
<i>tegula</i>	Roman flat and flanged roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	Roman floor cube (plain mosaic)
truncated	chopped away



u/s unstratified (no context)

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper archive is held at Colchester Archaeological Trust, 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex C03 3NF, but will be permanently deposited at Braintree Museum, under accession code BRNTM 2000.1.

## 12 Site data

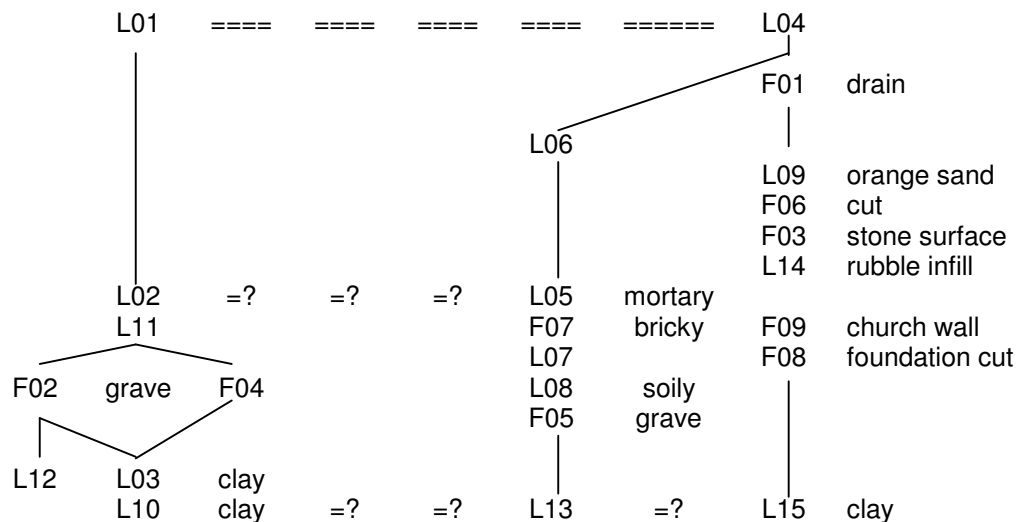
### 12.1 Site context list

Context	Description	Cuts/seals	Context date
F1	Drain	-	20th century
F2	Grave	L2	post-medieval
F3	Stone surface	L14	
F4	Cut?	L3	
F5	Grave	-	post-medieval
F6	Cut	F3	
F7	Drain	L7, L8	post-WWII
F8	Foundation cut	L15	post-WWII
L1	Topsoil	L2	post-WWII
L2	Dumped debris	L11	post-WWII
L3	Graveyard soil?	-	
L4	Topsoil	L5-L6, L9	post-WWII
L5	Dumped debris	L7, F7	post-WWII
L6	Dumped deposit	L5	post-WWII
L7	Dumped deposit	L8	post-WWII
L8	Redeposited clay layer	F5	post-WWII
L9	Sand deposit	F3	post-WWII
L10	Clay loam layer		post-WWII
L11	Redeposited clay layer	F2, F4, L3, L12	post-WWII
L12	Redeposited clay layer	-	
L13	Redeposited boulder clay		
L14	Rubble fill of cut F08	L15	
L15	Redeposited clay layer		

## 12.2 Soil descriptions

Cont	Description
F1	-
F2	Dark grey loamy clay.
F3	Pale cream-coloured mortar with flints, tile and beige brick fragments.
F4	Dark grey clay loam.
F5	Crumbly, gravelly, gritty loam.
F6	Loose brownish grey loam with mortar crumbs, much root activity.
F7	Brick rubble in topsoil matrix.
F8	Fill = L14.
L1	Topsoil.
L2	Mortary dumped layer.
L3	Redeposited stiff boulder clay.
L4	Topsoil.
L5	Mortary dumped layer.
L6	Mortar fragments in topsoil matrix.
L7	Mortar and brick fragments in topsoil matrix.
L8	Mid to dark greyish brown loam, rare lumps of brown clay, chalk flecks, occasional stones and tile fragments.
L9	Cleanish orange sand.
L10	Dark grey boulder clay.
L11	Mid to dark greyish brown loam, rare lumps of brown clay, chalk flecks, occasional stones and tile fragments.
L12	Dark grey clay loam with rare/occasional tile fragments and rare/occasional small sub-angular rounded stones.
L13	Dark grey boulder clay.
L14	Grey and pale cream mortar matrix with rubble.
L15	Friable brown loam with occasional medium pebble and chalk fragment.

## 12.3 Site matrix



*Howard Brooks*  
*7th June 2000*

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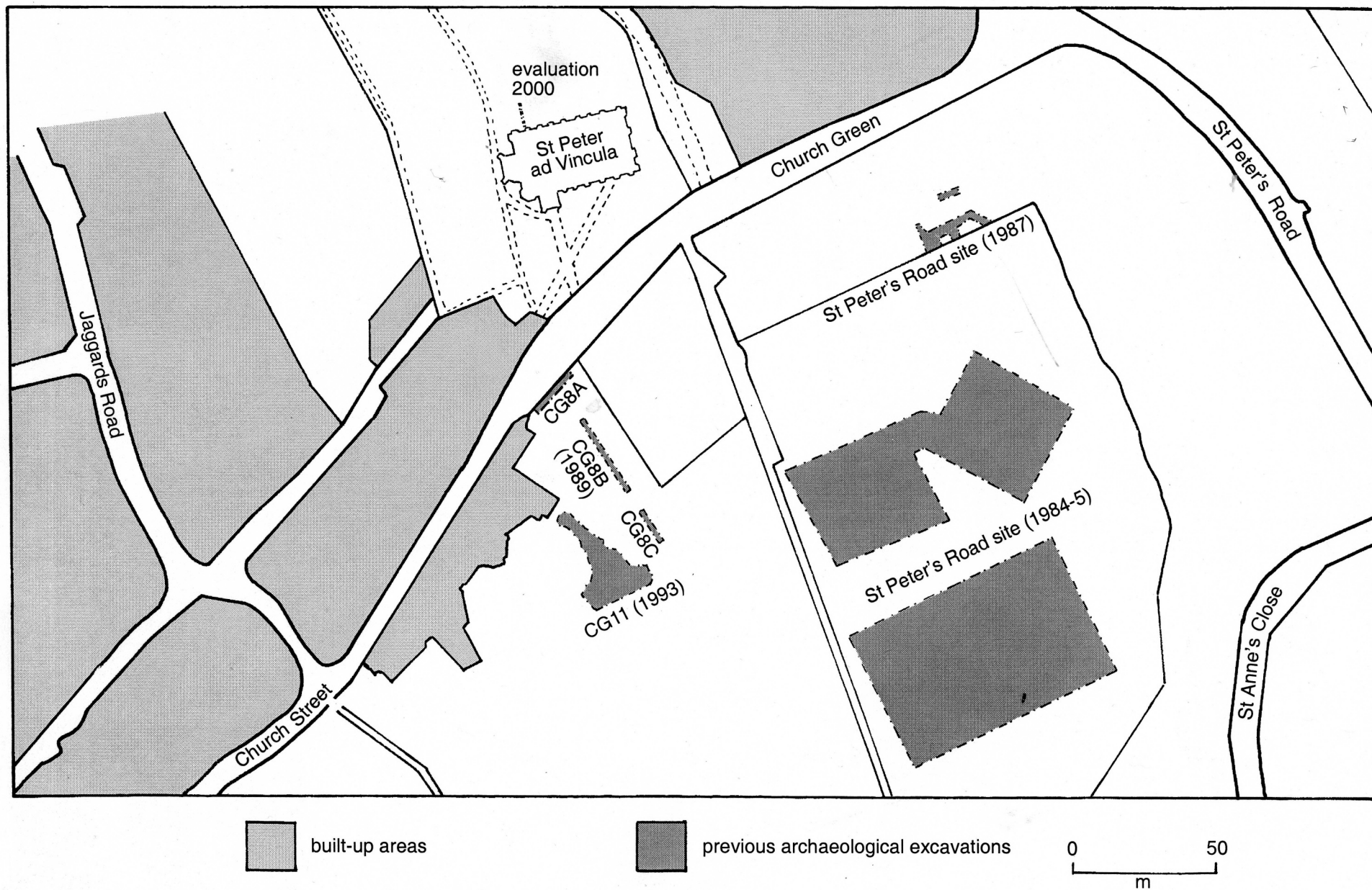
**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

12 Lexden Road,  
Colchester,  
Essex C03 3NF

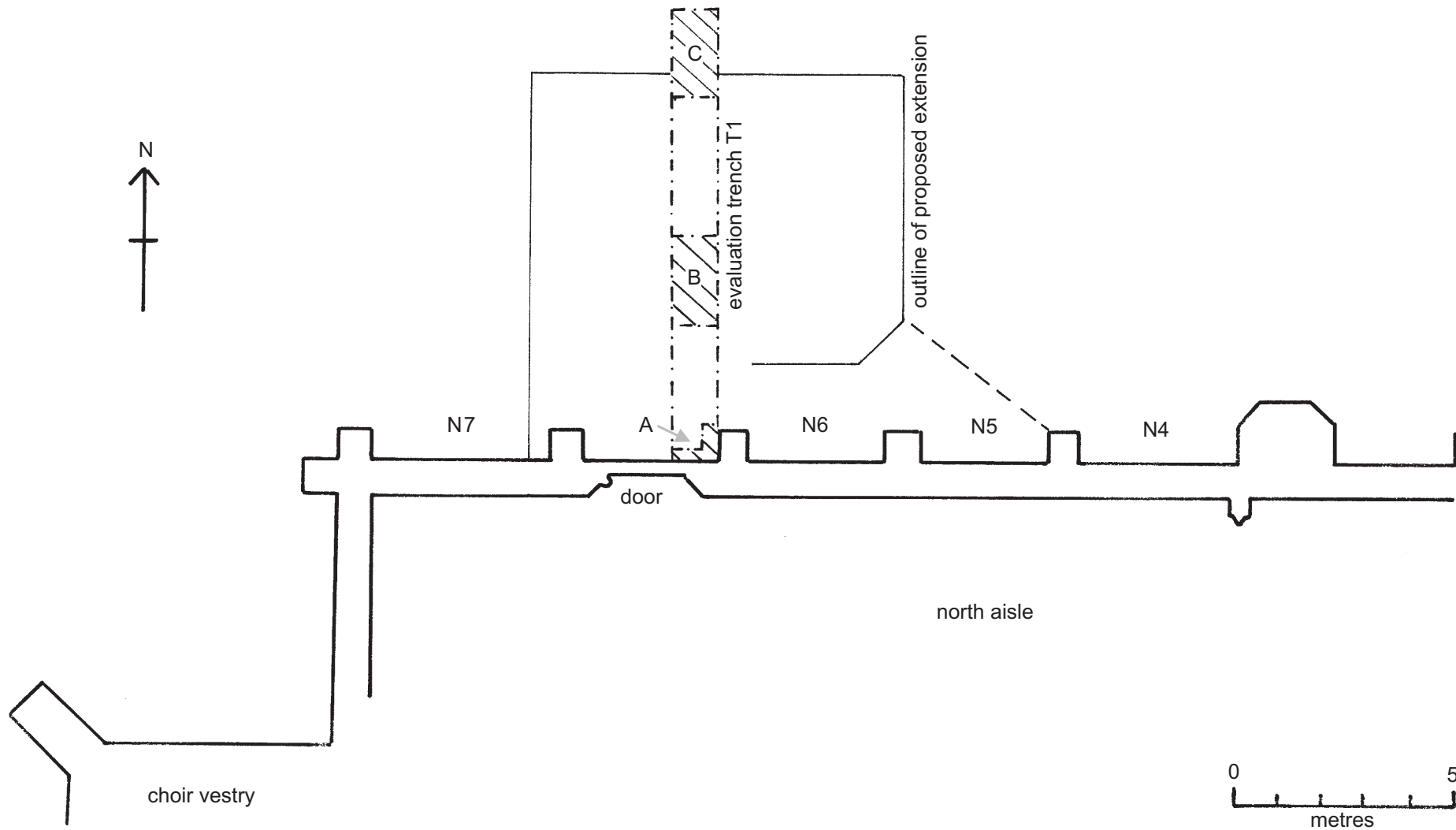
*tel.:* (01206) 500124

*tel/fax:* (01206) 541051

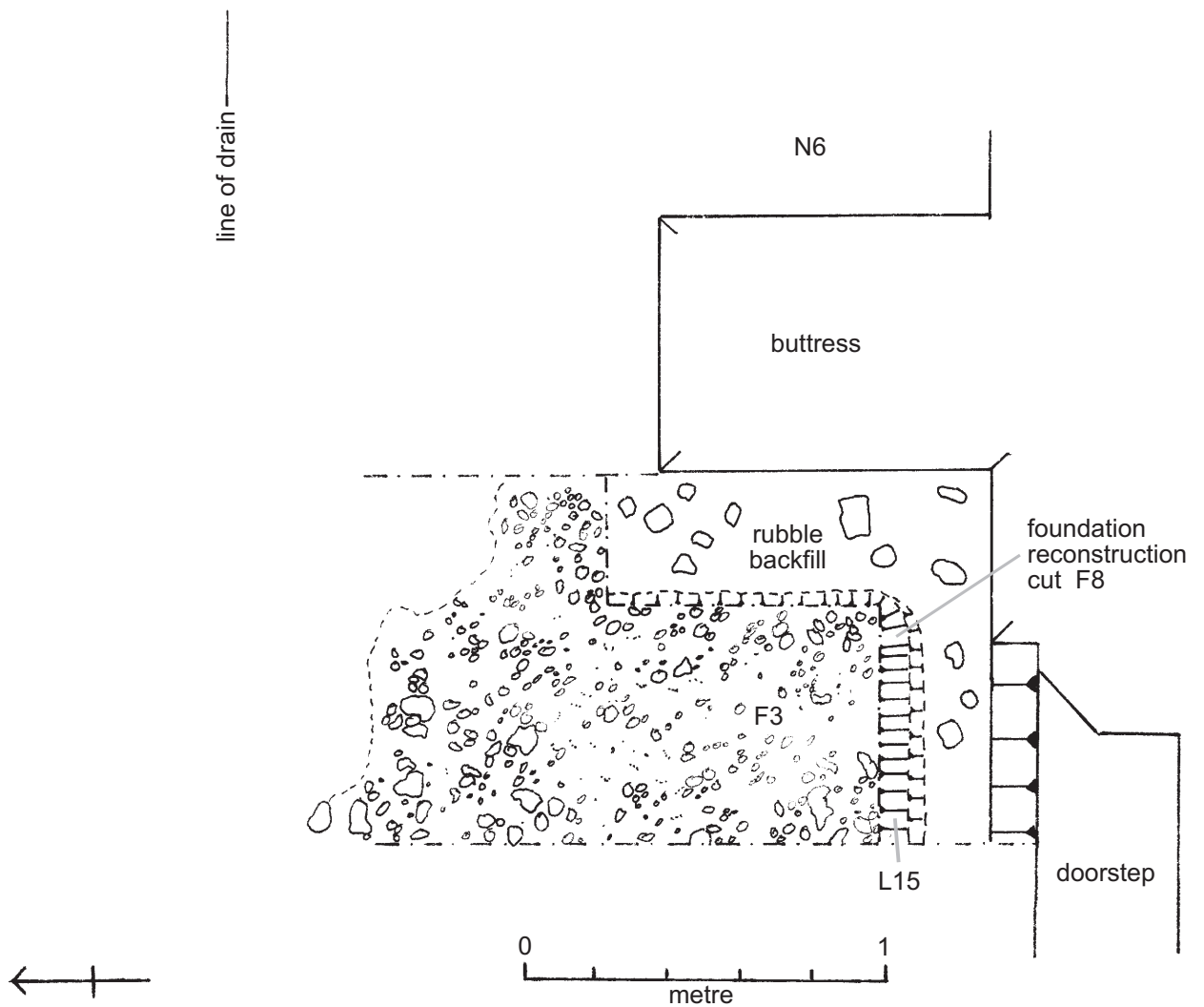
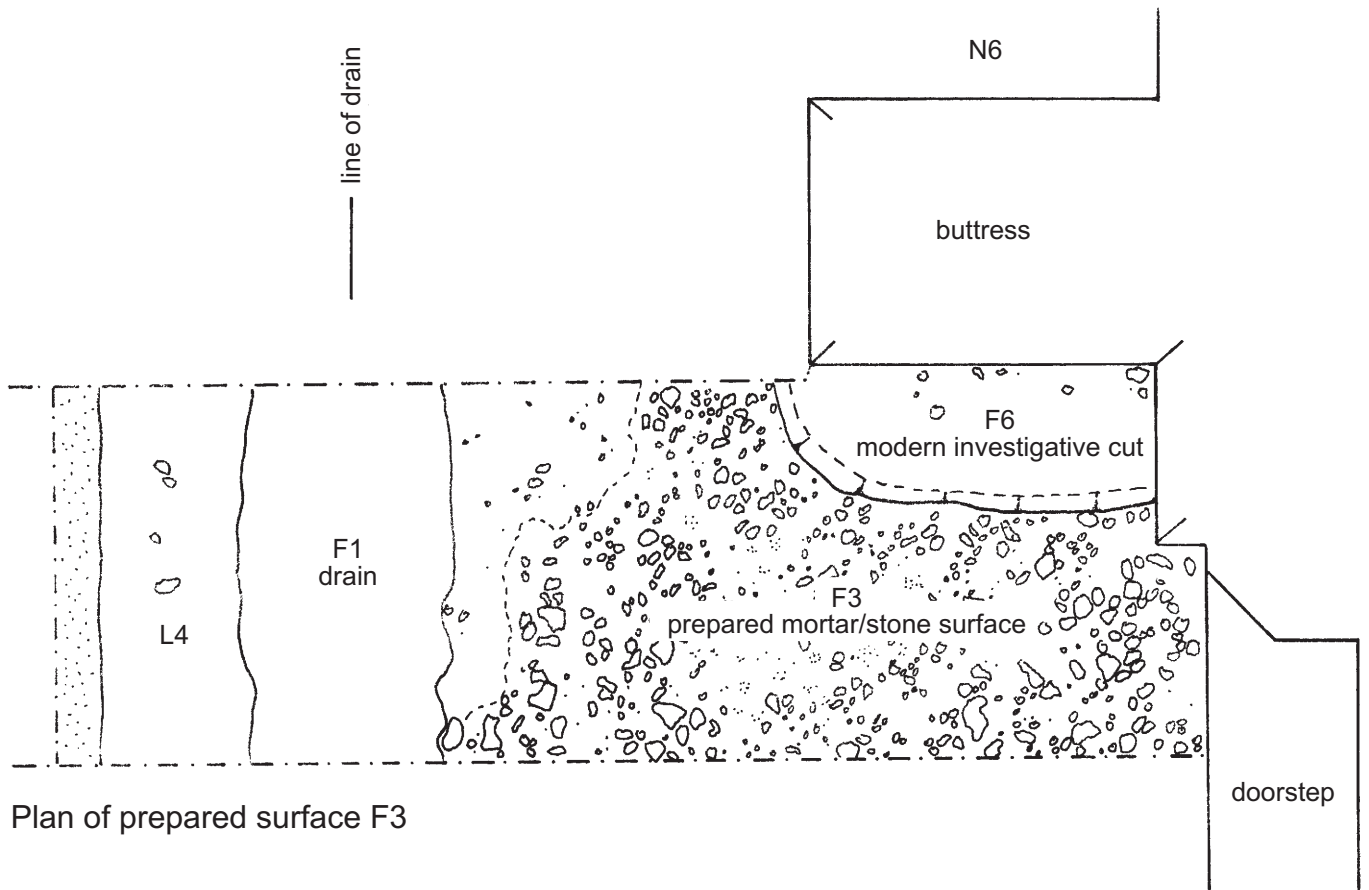
*email:* [archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk](mailto:archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk)



**Fig 1 Site location with previous archaeological excavations near St Peter's church.** © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 10039294.



**Fig 2 Evaluation trench T1 location with bay numbers 4-7.**  
 (Co-ordinates: north-west trench corner TL 85333 23032; south-west TL 85335 23022.)



**Fig 3 Trench 1A: south end of trench showing stone surface and (below) trench cut through it.**

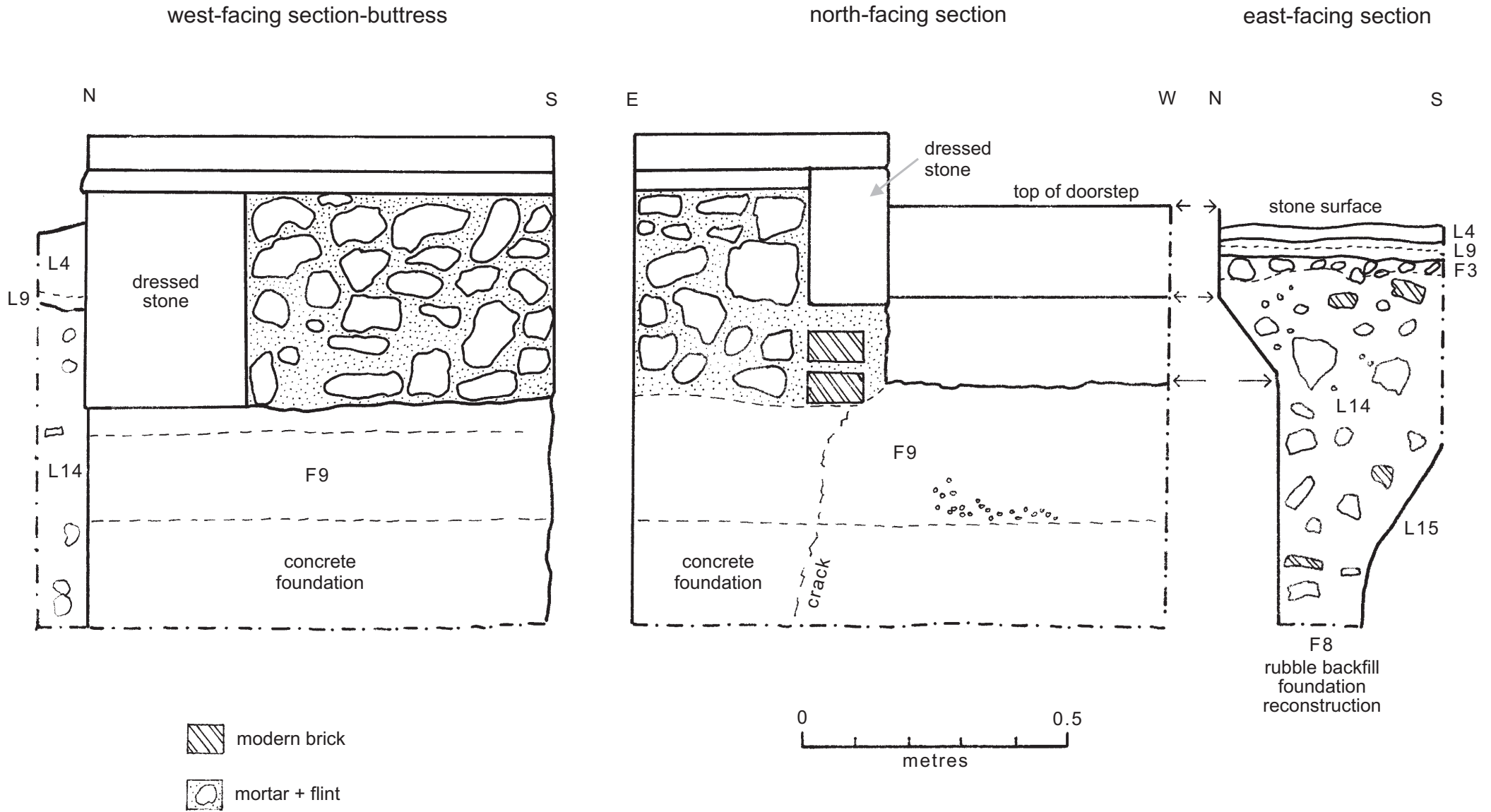
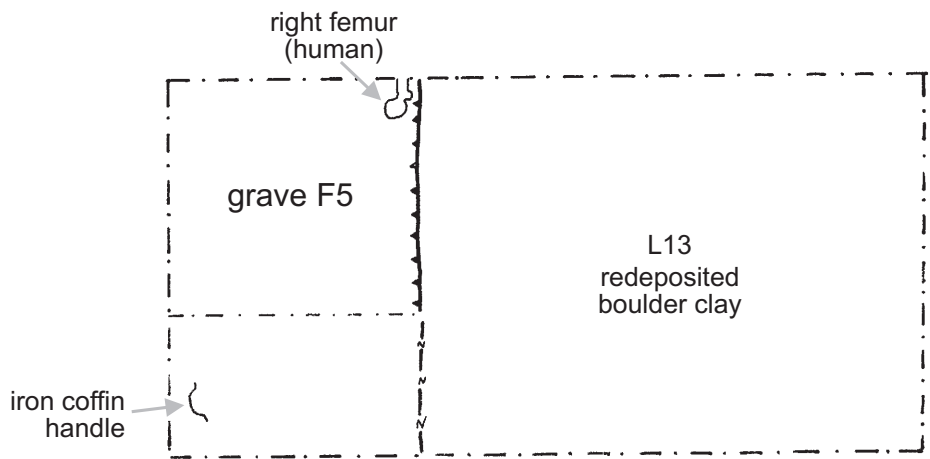
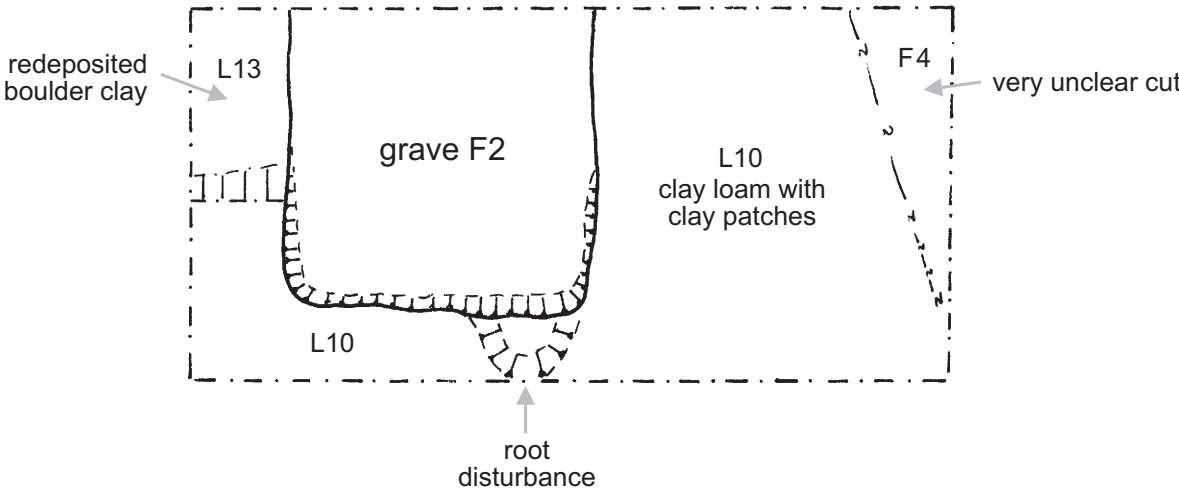


Fig 4 Sections of Trench 1A (buttress on east side of north aisle door).



Plan of grave F5, Trench 1B

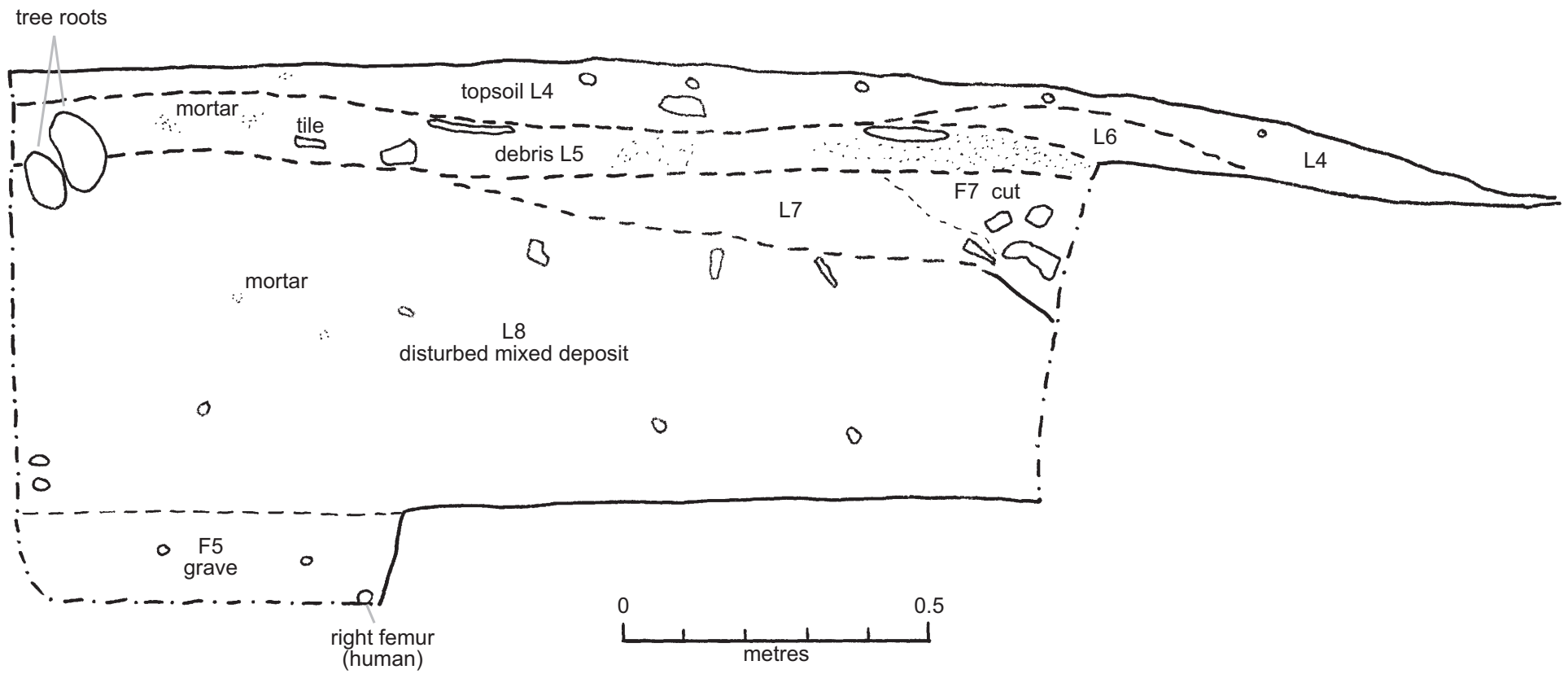


Plan of grave F2, Trench 1C



Fig 5 Plan of graves F2 and F5: Trenches 1B and 1C.





**Fig 6 West-facing section: Trench 1B.**

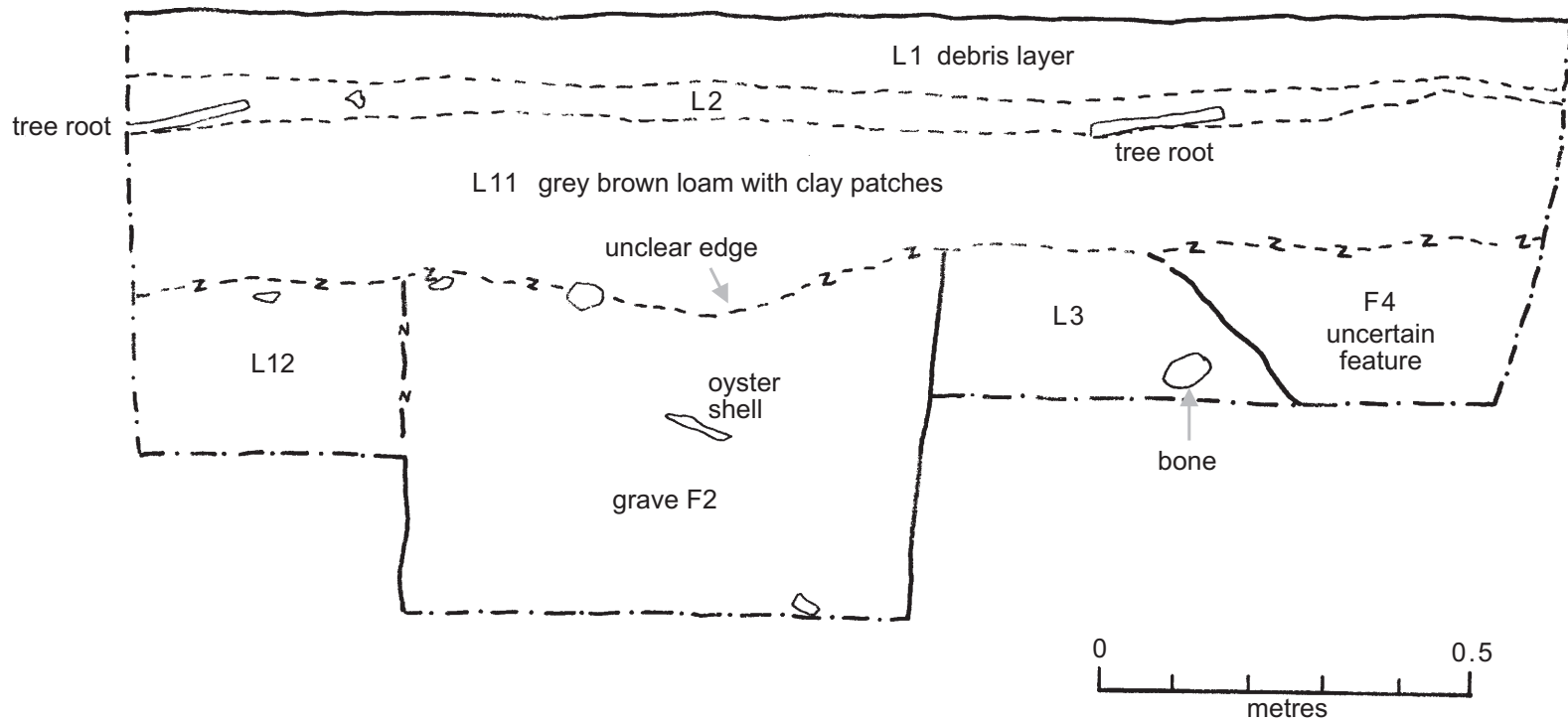


Fig 7 West-facing section of Trench 1C.