

**An archaeological evaluation at  
Clarendon House, 2-5 Parkway, Chelmsford,  
Essex, May 2005**



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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at the site of Clarendon House in Chelmsford in May 2005. Altogether eight evaluation trenches were machine excavated and examined archaeologically. They were evenly spread across the site but paid particular attention to the projected line of Roman defences.*

*The evaluation confirmed the survival of Roman layers (probably of 2nd-century date) and linear features in the eastern part of the site which may be part of the line of the western defensive ditch. The site had been heavily disturbed by former petrol tanks and a 1970s' building (now demolished).*

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Clarendon House, 2-5 Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex.
- 2.2 The evaluation was prompted by Chelmsford Borough Council who granted permission for a planning application (CHL/0834/01) for the construction of a five-storey office development with surface and basement car parking. One of the conditions was archaeological investigation of the site.
- 2.3 The work was commissioned by Andrew Martin Associates Ltd, on behalf of Turnstone Estates Ltd.
- 2.4 The proposed development site is located on the site of the former Clarendon House at the north end of New London Road at its junction with Parkway. It covers an area of 0.235 hectares and is centred on NGR TL 7075 0640.
- 2.5 The site is currently open and is used for car parking. It was previously occupied by Clarendon House, a 1970s' building which is now demolished. Prior to the construction of Clarendon House, the site was used as a petrol station, and petrol tanks and pumps were located within the north-east corner of the development area (removed in 1996).
- 2.6 The general underlying geology of the Chelmsford area is brickearth covering sand and gravel. The modern ground surface is fairly flat, having been artificially raised. The height OD varies from 24.77m to 25.30m. Natural deposits seem to be located between 1.8m and 3m below current ground-level. A trial-trench excavated by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust in the south-eastern corner of the site in 1996 revealed that, prior to the artificial levelling of the ground, it sloped down and rose again from east to west (Langton 1996, 11).
- 2.7 The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 9th and 18th May 2005. All fieldwork was done in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by CAT (Holloway 2005) which followed a brief which was supplied by Essex County Council (ECC) Historic Environment Management (HEM) group. The project was monitored by Pat Connell of the ECC HEM group.
- 2.8 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002), *Guidelines for the deposition of archaeological archives with Chelmsford Museum* (Chelmsford Museum 1997), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). Other sources are *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

### **3 Archaeological background**

- 3.1** The development site lies immediately outside the Roman town of Caesaromagus. The town developed from a short-lived fort established to the south of the river crossing, in the Moulsham Street area of Chelmsford. It dated from the 1st century AD, after the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1. The line of Moulsham Street approximately coincides with the line of the main Roman road from London to Colchester, along which a civilian settlement developed. Caesaromagus was extensively re-planned around AD 120-150. The mid and later Roman town was enclosed by earthwork defences and included the *mansio* or official posting station and associated bath-house. The line of western defences of the Roman town were predicted to run across the east side of the Clarendon House site (Drury 1988; Fig 2). Excavations at 59-63 Moulsham Street (Drury 1988) suggest that the defences consisted of a series of ditches. Two parallel ditches were found, 5m and 4m wide, and 2.5m and 2.1m deep respectively. The second outer ditch may have been short-lived and even unfinished. On the northern side of the ditches was an internal earthen rampart. Material recorded under the rampart suggests a construction date of c AD 160-175. Material in the ditch fill indicates a levelling date of c AD 200-202. Observation of the defences at other points in Chelmsford has revealed only a single ditch (Drury 1975; Drury 1988).
- 3.2** A limited archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the Clarendon House site in April 1996 by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (Langton 1996). This consisted of one trial-trench and a programme of monitoring when the disused petrol tanks were removed. Heavy disturbance and ground contamination precluded any positive results from the watching brief phase. However, the trial-trench revealed up to 1.20m of undisturbed archaeological deposits (above natural layer, 1.4-1.5m below present ground-level) which the Cotswold Archaeological Trust report considers to be the fill of the Roman defensive ditch (Langton 1996). Only limited excavation of the sequence took place but the archaeological potential of the site must be considered to be high (EHER no 16824).
- 3.3** In addition to the demonstrated Roman archaeology, deposits relating to the Dominican friary founded in 1277 and partially excavated prior to the construction of the Parkway may also survive within the development site. The southern precinct of the friary lies just beyond the northern limit of the site. Human remains were recorded on the line of Parkway when the subway (just north of the site) was built (S Gibson pers comm, after Langton 1996; EHER nos 5872-5877).

### **4 Aim**

The aim of the fieldwork was to establish and record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by the development.

### **5 Methods** (Figs 1-2)

- 5.1** A series of eight trenches (Trench or T2-T9), each 1.7m wide, was excavated by machine, approximating to 124m of trenching. This equated to 10% of the site. A toothless ditching bucket was used, except in areas of hard concrete where a narrower bucket with teeth was needed. This work was carried out under archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned to achieve an even spread across the site, with attention paid to the projected line of Roman defences. Three trenches (T2-T4) were located to intercept the defensive ditch.
- 5.2** The site had to be evaluated one area at a time, and fencing was erected in order to maintain space for cars to park during the evaluation. There were limitations as to which features could be sampled by hand as all trenches were dug to below 2m below ground-level. Therefore most modern or post-medieval features were recorded from the top of

the trench, but, where Roman features were encountered, the trench was stepped out to allow CAT personnel to enter the trench.

- 5.3 Liaison was maintained with the ECC HEM group monitoring officer (Patrick Connell) to maintain an appropriate strategy to investigate deposits on the site. The trench plan was slightly modified when Roman strata were recorded in the south-eastern part of the site, in order to obtain more conclusive data about the possible line of Roman defences.
- 5.4 All exposed subsoil features, archaeological deposits or negative features were manually cleaned (where safe to do so), photographed and drawn in section and plan and examined in sufficient detail to allow their nature, date and importance to be assessed
- 5.5 Individual records of features were entered on CAT pro-forma recording sheets. Section drawings of layers were made at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 (depending on the archaeological importance of the context). Plans of the archaeological remains were made at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20.
- 5.6 Finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned find numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked with site code number, and bagged according to context. Roman and medieval pottery was examined by CAT archaeologists Stephen Benfield and Howard Brooks respectively.
- 5.7 Colour photographs of the main features, sections, the general site and the site environs were taken with a digital camera.
- 5.8 Metal detecting of the spoil heap was conducted for T2 and T7 (trenches with archaeologically important layers).

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Trench dimensions and heights OD

**Table 1: evaluation trench co-ordinates, and heights above OD for modern ground-level and the base of each trench.**

trench no	trench length in m	OD level (in m) on ground-level	OD level (in m) at base
T1	not dug	-	-
T2	17.5	25.13 (SE)	22.76 (SE)
		25.11 (NW)	22.93 (NW)
T3	8.5	24.75 (SE)	21.95 (central)
		25.03 (NW)	22.51 (NW)
T4	12.9	24.83 (NNW)	22.91 (central)
		24.6 (SSE)	
T5	6.2	23.99 (NNW)	21.58 (NNW)
		23.7 (SSE)	21.44 (SSE)
T6	16.5	24.86 (SW)	22.47 (SW)
		24.92 (NE)	22.82 (NE)
T7	20.4	24.94 (SW)	22.81 (SW)
		25.09 (SE)	22.46 (SE)
T8	13.4	25.05 (SW)	23.03 (SW)
		25.12 (SE)	22.74 (SE)
T9	18.7	24.89 (NE)	22.48 (central)
		24.99 (NW)	

**6.2 Trench 2: summary** (Figs 2, 3 and 5)

The trench was placed in the south-eastern part of the site, to intercept the line of the Roman defences. It was dug to between 2m and 2.9m depth. 1m of concrete and gravel forming the car-park surface and sub-base was removed. This overlaid a late post-medieval or modern layer of brown silt containing unfrogged brick rubble and peg-tile (Layer or L4). Brick foundations from previous buildings were observed within L4. This layer sealed Roman deposits, the top of which were at between 1.6m and 2m below ground-level. These Roman deposits consisted of a moist sandy clay with charcoal flecks and were originally thought to be fill of the defensive ditch, and hence were given a feature number (Feature or F1). Further excavation, including a lengthening of the south-eastern end of the trench, did not reveal any definite edges to F1, merely different coloured fills/layers (F1a-F1d).

F1 was found to extend across the whole of the length of the trench; therefore if it is a feature (eg one of the Roman defensive ditches), it is at least 17.5m wide. Most of its fill contained Roman pottery and there was also a small amount of animal bone, Roman tile fragments and part of a copper-alloy brooch (see section 14.3)]. The two slots dug at either end of the trench did not encounter natural ground. The depth of F1 was gauged by augering two test-holes. Auger hole 1 (in the centre of the trench) bored through 800mm of F1 material, with charcoal and pottery fragments, before reaching natural brickearth at approximately 3.1m below ground-level (22.01m OD). Auger hole 2 (at the south-eastern end of the trench) went through 400mm of F1 material, with one fragment of Roman pottery. Natural brickearth was encountered approximately 2.9m below ground-level (22.21m OD). Though dating is difficult, the overall impression is that the pottery recovered from F1 could date to the 2nd century, after c AD 120, which would accord with the date of the redevelopment of Roman Caesaromagus.

In the north-western end of the trench, a substantial concrete foundation was encountered which is likely to be the corner of the now-demolished Clarendon House.

**Table 2: Trench 2 data.**

feature /layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F1a	darkish brown sandy clay, slightly silty with flecks of charcoal	Roman pottery, tile and animal bone	2nd century
F1b	light brown sandy clay		2nd century
F1c	light brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks	Roman pottery	2nd century
F1d	darker brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Roman pottery, tile and animal bone	2nd century
F2	straight-sided pit cutting F1, filled by dark grey-brown sandy silt; SE end of trench	animal bone, brick and tile	modern
F3	brick foundations within L4, orientated NE-SW		modern
L1	car-park surface of concrete and asphalt		present day
L2	600mm thick sub-base of rounded stones/ gravel		present day

L3	thin concrete slab underneath L2		modern
L4	1m-thick layer of greyish brown sandy silt sealing F1	peg-tile and unfrogged brick, slate, concrete	late post-medieval or modern
L6	natural brickearth reached in auger holes	22.01m and 22.21m OD	

**6.3 Trench 3: summary** (Figs 2-3)

This small 2.8m-deep trench was positioned in the eastern part of the site, where the remains of the Roman defences were anticipated. A thick concrete slab with concrete and brick rubble sub-base (1.2m thick) was removed, exposing a 1.6-1.7m-thick layer of medium dark brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks (L5). The peg-tile and one 16th- to 17th-century piece of pottery in L5 give it a likely post-medieval date, and its homogeneous appearance suggests that it is a layer that has accumulated over time. At the base of the trench, a clean light brown silty sand was exposed which may be natural brickearth (L6). At the north-western end of the trench, 2.4m below ground-level, a solid concrete base was encountered (F6). Above F6, in the north-east-facing section of the trench, was a pit filled with sand and frogged bricks (F5). F6 may be the base for another petrol tank, and F5 the material used to backfill the hole after its removal. There was no smell of petrol, however. At the base of the trench, a large pit or ditch containing peg-tile (F4) cut the possible natural.

T3 was dug in an area where Roman deposits/features were expected. None were encountered in this trench unless what was considered to be natural ground (L6) is in fact a Roman layer.

**Table 3: Trench 3 data.**

feature/layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F4	Ditch or pit at base of trench, filled by dark brown silty sand – cut what appeared to be natural ground	Peg-tile	post-medieval?
F5	Pit filled with sand and bricks – backfill of removed petrol tank?	Frogged bricks	modern
F6	Concrete base at bottom of trench – possible base of petrol tank		modern
L5	Medium dark brown sandy silt with charcoal, sealed F4	Peg-tile	post-medieval?
L6?	Clean, light brown silty sand, possibly natural		
L7	Concrete slab with concrete, sand and brick rubble underneath – car-park surface		present day

**6.4 Trench 4: summary (Fig 3)**

T4 was located in the eastern part of the site. Its depth was between 2.8m and 3m. The trench consisted almost entirely of modern backfill which took the form of brown sandy silt with brick and concrete rubble (L8a), and a thick layer of greenish yellow sand (L8b). The petrol tanks were removed from this area in 1996 and the smell of petrol was apparent while the trench was being dug. A brick footing (F8) and concrete pile (F17) were left *in situ* in the centre of the trench at 1.7m below ground-level. Another brick footing was left *in situ* in the south-south-eastern end of the trench (F7). At the north-north-western end of the trench, what appeared to be natural sand and gravel appeared at 3m below ground-level (L9). This had been blackened through contamination.

**Table 4: Trench 4 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F7	Brick footing at SSE end of trench		modern
F8	Brick footings in centre of trench		modern
F17	Concrete pile in centre of trench		modern
L8a	Dark brown silty sand with brick and concrete rubble – backfill of removed petrol tank		modern – 1996
L8b	Greenish yellow sand – backfill of removed petrol tank		modern – 1996
L9	Natural sand and gravel, contaminated		

**6.5 Trench 5: summary (Fig 3)**

This small trench was dug at the northern side of the site, to a depth of 2.3m. A thick concrete slab and underlying brick rubble was removed, exposing a thin layer of yellow silty clay with charcoal flecks (L11). A brick foundation had been cut into L7 and L11. L11 sealed a layer of grey brown silty clay which extended nearly to the base of the trench (L10). L10 appeared similar to Roman levels found in T2; however, the occasional peg-tile and medieval tile in its fill gives it a medieval or later date. It is possibly the same accumulation layer as L5 in T3. Natural brickearth (L6) was encountered at 2.2m, rising up to 1.8m below ground-level to the north-west. The south-eastern half of the trench was dominated by a large pit (F9) which was cut from high up and contained brick and concrete rubble. This is likely to be another backfilled petrol tank, although there was no smell of petrol.

**Table 5: Trench 5 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F9	Large pit, filled by very dark brown silty sand with small pieces of charcoal and brick and concrete rubble		modern
L6	Natural brickearth		
L7	Thick concrete slab overlying brick rubble		present day
L10	Grey brown silty clay – accumulation layer?	Peg-tile, early medieval tile, animal bone	medieval or post-medieval
L11	Yellow silty clay, 200-300mm thick		post-medieval?



**6.6 Trench 6: summary (Figs 4 & 5)**

This trench was between 2.4m and 3m deep and was mostly made up of modern material. A thick layer of solid concrete and concrete rubble (L7) overlaid a thick rubble layer (L12) made up of silty clay, frogged bricks and reinforced concrete. Between approximately 1.6m and 2.2m below ground-level, a layer of brown sandy clay containing occasional peg-tile was exposed (L13). This appeared similar to L10 in T5 and is likely to be a medieval or post-medieval accumulation layer. Concrete piles from the previous 1970s' building had been drilled into L13. L13 was removed and the trench excavated down to what appeared to be natural brickearth (L6).

There were three features within T6 which were sealed by L13 and cut into what appeared to be natural ground. F14 was a pit in the north-west corner containing peg-tile and charcoal. Further along the trench a large pit or wide ditch of uncertain edges was recorded (F15). There is the possibility that F15 consisted of more than one feature, but the depth of the trench prohibited hand-cleaning. F15 contained occasional peg-tile and animal bone and had a similar appearance to F4 in T3. At the south-east end of the trench, a linear feature was observed (F16). It continued beyond the south-east end of the trench, but it was not possible to extend the trench due to the presence of parked cars. The feature appeared to be earlier than the other features in the trench, and it was investigated further by taking a scoop out of the fill with the machine bucket. A 500mm-deep scoop was taken out with the machine, and, at 21.46m OD, the feature had still not been bottomed. The upper fill was darker than the lower fill which consisted of grey silty material, possibly water-deposited. The upcast from the feature was examined for finds; degraded animal bone, one piece of Roman brick, daub and a burnt piece of burnt slate or coal were retrieved. There were no later finds and, as all the later layers and features on this site contained peg-tile and there was none from F16, it is interpreted as being Roman. It may possibly part of the defensive ditch, or alternatively a natural depression that was filled in over time.

**Table 6: Trench 6 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F14	Pit filled by dark brown sandy clay, charcoal	Peg-tile	medieval or post-medieval
F15	Wide cut feature or more than one, filled by dark brown sandy clay, some charcoal	Peg-tile and animal bone	medieval or post-medieval
F16	Linear feature filled by very dark brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks	Degraded animal bone, daub, tile, burnt slate or coal x 1	Roman
L6?	Possible natural brickearth	-	-
L7	Concrete surface		present day
L12	Medium brown silty clay with stone and pockets of sand; frogged bricks and reinforced concrete rubble		modern
L13	Brown sandy clay – accumulation layer	Peg-tile	medieval or post-medieval

**6.7 Trench 7: summary (Figs 4 & 5)**

T7 was located in the centre of the site. The central length of trench was not excavated due to the presence of an immovable 800mm-thick block of concrete (F18). Only the north-west and south-east ends of the trench were dug (to 2.7m depth). Up to 1.5m of

modern concrete and tarmac was removed (L7), exposing a 900mm-thick layer of dark sandy clay containing modern material (L15). At the extreme south-east end of the trench, this layer contained much peg-tile and modern brick and concrete. Here it was given a separate feature number (F20). Natural brickearth was recorded at 2.5m below ground-level, sealed by L15. At the south-east end of the trench, a modern concrete foundation (F21, probably part of the same foundation found in T2) was encountered.

Two early features were recorded at the south-eastern end of the trench. F12 was a linear feature with a clayey fill, running north-east to south-west. A small slot was taken out of the edge of it by hand, but this did not produce any finds. The width of the linear remains undetermined because it ran underneath the concrete slab F18. Parallel to F12 was a second linear (F13), whose width was also undetermined as it ran under the baulk of the trench. The trench could not be lengthened due to the presence of parked cars. F13 was not excavated, but it contained charcoal and had a similar fill to F12 but a shade darker. Finds of two sherds of 16th- to 17th-century pottery, animal bone and tile fragments were retrieved through hand-cleaning. These finds are poorly stratified as they come from the upper fill, and therefore may be intrusive from L15 above. F13 lines up with F16 in T6 and may well be a continuation of it. It cannot be ruled out that F12 and F13/F16 are Roman ditches, perhaps part of the town defences.

**Table 7: Trench 7 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F12	Linear feature, filled by medium brown sandy clay		Roman?
F13	Linear feature, very dark brown sandy clay with charcoal	2 x 16th- to 17th-century pottery sherds, tile fragments, animal bone fragments	Roman?
F18	Large slab of concrete, left <i>in situ</i>		modern
F19	Brick soakaway, left <i>in situ</i>		modern
F20	Layer of peg-tile and sand and a layer of old type of concrete, under L7		modern
F21	Concrete foundation under F20, left <i>in situ</i>		modern
L6	Natural brickearth		
L7	Concrete slab surface and concrete rubble sub-base		present day
L15	Dark brown sandy clay with modern brick		modern

#### 6.8 Trench 8: summary (Fig 4)

T8 was located in the southern part of the site, alongside the existing office building (Fenton House). Its depth was between 2.1m and 2.3m. 1.2m of modern tarmac, gravel sub-base and brick and concrete rubble was removed (L2, L7, L12). Two brick foundations/walls were seen within L12. A thick layer (L14) with peg-tile, one sherd of Roman pottery, six sherds of 19th- or 20th-century pottery, mortar in places and some animal bone was recorded underneath the modern deposits. This is likely to be a post-medieval accumulation layer and it resembled L5 in T3, L10 in T5, and L13 in T6. The 19th- or 20th-century material in L14 may be intrusive. The layer extended almost to the base of the trench and sealed natural brickearth (L6). At the north-west end of the trench, natural brickearth rose up to 1.4m below ground-level. Within the natural were several ephemeral charcoally patches which were not assigned feature numbers.

**Table 8: Trench 8 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
L2	Modern gravel sub-base to concrete car-park surface		present day
L6	Natural brickearth		
L7	Concrete car-park surface		present day
L14	Dark brown slightly sandy clay, becoming lighter brown further down, charcoal flecks – accumulation?	Peg-tile, Fe lump, animal bone, 19th- to 20th-century pottery and 20th-century brick	medieval, post-medieval or modern

**6.9 Trench 9: summary (Fig 4)**

T9 was located in the western part of the site and was dug to between 2.25m and 3m depth. The concrete surface with concrete and brick rubble sub-base was up to 1m thick. This had been laid over a dark clayey silt layer containing modern brick and concrete rubble, china and an *in situ* brick footing (L12). This trench had a similar profile to T6 and featured two concrete piles and a concrete block which had been left in place from the previous building. Modern disturbance continued to a depth of 2m below ground-level, at which point a less disturbed layer consisting of grey brown silty clay was encountered (L13). This layer contained occasional peg-tile and overlaid natural brickearth (L6). L13 appeared to be the same post-medieval accumulation layer that was observed in T3, T5, T6 and T8. The natural dipped slightly at the south-west end of the trench to 3m below ground-level.

F11, a rubbish-pit of irregular shape, was sealed by L13. It contained a large amount of large fragments of post-medieval red earthenware pottery as well as oyster shell, animal bone, peg-tile and charcoal.

**Table 9: Trench 9 data.**

feature/ layer no	type/provenance	finds	phase
F11	Rubbish-pit filled by charcoally medium brown slightly sandy clay	oyster, animal bone, peg-tile, 16th- to 17th-century pottery	16th to 17th century
L6	Natural brickearth		
L7	Concrete surface and concrete and brick rubble sub-base		present day
L12	Brown silty clay with brick and concrete rubble	china	modern
L13	Grey brown silty clay – accumulation layer	occasional peg-tile	post-medieval?

## 7 Finds list

Table 10: finds list.

find no	context	description	comments	date
1	F1a – T2	Roman grey ware sherds (Fabrics GX and HZ)	upper fill (1.8-1.9m below ground-level), SE end of feature	Roman, 1st to 2nd/3rd century
2	U/S – T2	Peg-tile fragments and 'Tudor' bricks	recorded on spoil heap	post-medieval
3	F4 – T3	Peg-tile fragments	upper fill	medieval to post-medieval
4	L5 – T3	Peg-tile fragment and pottery sherd		16th- to 17th-century pottery
5	F1a – T2	Roman sherds (Fabrics GX and HZ)	middle fill (2.1m below ground-level), SE end of feature	Roman, ?1st to 2nd and 1st to 2nd/3rd century
6	F1a – T2	Roman sherds (Fabrics GX and DJ)	upper fill, 1.8m below ground-level), SE end of feature	1st-2nd/3rd century
7	L10 – T5	Peg-tile fragments, tile, animal bone fragment	1.5m below ground-level	(one piece of tile could be early medieval)
8	F1a or b – T2	Roman pottery (Fabric GB or KX)	upper or middle fill, NW end of feature	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
9	F11 – T9	Brick, peg-tile and pottery		post-medieval (16th- to 17th-century pottery)
10 (Small Find 1)	F1 – T2	Fragment of a copper-alloy brooch – very corroded	SE end of feature	AD 50-70, or slightly later
11	F1d – T2	Pottery sherds, tile fragments, animal bone fragment	upper fill?, SE end of feature	?1st- to 2nd- and 1st- to 3rd-century pottery
12	F1a – T2	Pottery sherds (Fabrics BX and GX); brick fragment	from slot dug at the SE end of feature	1st- to 2nd-century pottery; brick fragment is post-medieval – intrusive?
13	F1a – T2	Animal bone fragment	middle fill? from slot dug at the NW end of feature	undated
14	F1a – T2	Pottery sherd	lower fill – from auger hole 2, at the SE end of feature (2.3m below ground-level)	Roman
15	F13 – T7	Pottery sherds, tile fragments, animal bone fragments	upper fill (?) – poor stratification	16th- to 17th-century pottery fragments
16	F14 – T6	Peg-tile fragment	upper fill	medieval or post-medieval
17	L14 – T8	Animal bone fragment, peg-tile fragment, pottery fragment and brick fragments, iron objects – nails(?)		post-medieval peg-tile; 20th-century brick and pottery may be residual

find no	context	description	comments	date
18	L14 – T8	Animal bone, mortar, peg-tile		medieval or post-medieval
19	F16 – T6	Degraded animal bone, daub, burnt shale or coal, Roman brick fragments	from the scoop taken out by the machine	Roman

## 8 Discussion

The evaluation has shown that evidence survives in the eastern part of the site for Roman activity (probably 2nd century), with deposits starting at between 21.86m and 23.1m OD. F1 in T2 is probably the same deposit/feature that the Cotswold Archaeological Trust recorded in their adjacent evaluation trench in 1996 (Langton 1996) and interpreted to be part of the line of the western defensive ditch. However, it does not have definite edges and therefore may equally be a Roman layer rather than a cut feature. F12 and F13 in T7 and F16 in T6 may well be Roman ditches, but their precise function is unclear. F16 appeared to have held water before silting up or being backfilled. Only an excavation could verify the character and exact date of these features.

Apart from in T2, T6 and T7, no Roman features or deposits were encountered, nor any Roman pottery (except one sherd). Elsewhere, there did not seem to be any intervening layers between natural brickearth and medieval/post-medieval accumulation layers. This suggests that further back from the Roman road and outside the Roman defences, the site was not used or occupied, except perhaps for agriculture. The site could provide information on the creation and development of a Roman 'small town', which is one of the research topics highlighted in the *Eastern Counties research frameworks* (EAA 3, 37).

Evidence for occupation in the post-medieval period on the site took the form of a 16th- or 17th- century rubbish-pit (F11 in T9) and a two or three other pits and ditches (F14 and F15 in T6 and F4 in T3); these were not excavated but their fills contained peg-tile.

No medieval pottery came from the evaluation trenches, and nor was there any evidence for the Dominican friary.

In each trench, at least 1m of modern concrete, rubble or gravel was dug through. In most trenches, there was at least 2m of modern debris. In T4 and T9, modern material was still being encountered at 3m below ground-level. Concrete foundations and piles from the former Clarendon House building were encountered in several trenches. They had obviously not been removed at the time of demolition. There was also much disturbance from petrol tanks in T3, T4 and T5.

Although much of the site had been heavily disturbed, natural ground was reached in all but one of the trenches (T4). This indicates that disturbance has not been total and that, if further archaeological remains are present on the site, they may still partially survive, underneath modern deposits.

## 9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE 2005.017.

## 10 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Andrew Martin Associates Ltd for commissioning the work and Turnstone Estates Ltd for funding the work.

The fieldwork was carried out by Mariusz I Gorniak and Kate Orr.

## 11 Abbreviations

BAR	British Archaeological Report
CAR	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report</i>
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, ECC
HEM	Historic Environment Management group, ECC
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
NGR	National Grid Reference
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

## 12 References

- |                                     |      |   |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|
| CAR 5                               | 1988 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by N Crummy  |
| CAR 7                               | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter  |
| CAR 10                              | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1986</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom  |
| Colchester Museums                  | 2002 | <i>Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>   |
| Chelmsford Museum                   | 1997 | <i>Guidelines for deposition of of archaeological archives with Chelmsford Museum</i>   |
| Connell, P                          | 2005 | <i>Specification for the archaeological investigation Phase 1 Clarendon House, New London Road, Chelmsford</i> (Essex County Council)   |
| Cunningham, C M                     | 1985 | 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , by C M Cunningham and P J Drury, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 5 and CBA Research Report 54, 1-16 |
| Cunningham, C M, & Drury, P J (eds) | 1985 | <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 5 and CBA Research Report 54   |
| Drury, P J                          | 1975 | 'Roman Chelmsford – Caesaromagus', in <i>The 'small towns' of Roman Britain</i> , ed by W Rodwell & T Rowley, BAR, 15, 159-73   |
| Drury, P J                          | 1988 | <i>The mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus</i> , CBA, Research Report, 66  |
| EAA 3                               | 1997 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 3, ed by J Glazebrook   |

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EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> , by D Gurney
Going, C J	1987	<i>The mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesarmagus: the Roman pottery</i> , Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report <b>3.2</b> and CBA Research Report <b>62</b>
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R Holloway, B	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , RRCSAL, <b>14</b>
	2005	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Clarendon House, New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, Colchester</i> (unpublished CAT WSI)
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, <b>20</b>
IFA	1999	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
IFA	2001	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Langton, B	1996	<i>Clarendon House, 2-6 Parkway, Chelmsford. Archaeological watching brief and evaluation</i> , Cotswold Archaeological Trust Report 96370
MAP 2	1991	<i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , 2nd edition (English Heritage)
Medlycott, M	1998	<i>Chelmsford historic towns project assessment report</i> , Essex County Council

### 13 Glossary

context	either a feature, layer or a complex of layers/features
Fe	iron
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appear c 1200 and continue to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
Roman	period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Romano-British	a cultural fusion between the indigenous late Iron Age traditions with Roman culture, occurring from 1st to early 5th century AD
U/S	unstratified (without a clear archaeological context)

**Distribution list:**

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Date: 20.06.05

*Adams c:/reports05/report325.doc*



## Appendices

### 14.1: the Roman pottery

by S Benfield of CAT

#### Introduction

The pottery was recorded using the form and fabric classifications devised for Roman pottery from Colchester. This follows the fabric types devised for *CAR 10* and pottery form types of the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). It should be noted that Roman pottery from Chelmsford has been separately classified by Chris Going (1987) with a fabric and from series devised for the town, and which is now also used in classifications of Roman pottery from other sites in Essex. Despite the different classifications, there is a great deal of overlap between the pottery fabric and form types themselves described in the two classification systems. In the case of this site, given such a small quantity of pottery, with a limited number of fabric types and few identifiable form types, the Colchester classification was used for convenience of processing.

There is only a small quantity of Roman pottery from the site, a total of 35 sherds weighing 453 g. This came from several contexts (F1, F12, F14, F15) though almost all of the pottery came from just one feature (F1) from which 30 sherds weighing 432 g were recovered. Overall the pottery is dominated by grey ware body sherds and heavily-tempered sherds from large storage jars which, with complete confidence, can only be dated as Roman. Only three specific pot forms could be recognised among the sherds; these are a Cam 278 jar (from F1), a Dragendorf form 29 decorated bowl (from F1), and a Cam 39 dish (from L14).

**Table 11: Roman pottery fabrics from features by weight.**

Fabrics:

BX decorated samian forms – BX (SG) South Gaul

DJ coarse oxidised and related wares

GB BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2

GX other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares

HZ large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares

KX black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware.

Feature	fabrics weight (in g)						total weight (in g)
	BX (SG)	DJ	GB	GX	HZ	KX	
F1	4	58	8	209	168		447
L14						6	6

#### Roman pottery quantification

Pottery fabric codes (after *CAR 10*):

BX decorated samian forms – BX (SG) South Gaul

DJ coarse oxidised and related wares

GB BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2

GX other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares

HZ large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares

KX black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware

Pottery form types of the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958), with probably equivalent Chelmsford Roman pottery form types (Going 1987) in brackets.

**Table 12: the Roman pottery by fabric and form.**

trench	feature	find no	fill location	fabric code (CAR 10)	additional fabric detail	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments	date
T2	F1a	1	upper	GX	thick sandy grey ware	jar	1	35		Roman
T2	F1a	1	upper	GX		jar/bowl	1	3.9		Roman
T2	F1a	1	upper	GX		jar/bowl	5	4.5	small sherds from one pot	Roman
T2	F1a	1	upper	GX	oxidised red surfaces, grey core with ?dung temper, quite micaceous	jar/bowl	1	8.6		Roman, probably 1st-2nd century
T2	F1a	1	upper	HZ		jar	1	11.5	moderately heavily-tempered sherd, probably from a storage jar	Roman 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	F1a	5	middle	GX	finely micaceous, sandy some dark organic temper	jar/bowl	1	32.4	base sherd	Roman
T2	F1a	5	middle	GX	finely micaceous, sandy some dark organic temper	jar/bowl	1	13.5	sherd	Roman
T2	F1a	5	middle	GX	some organic temper	jar/bowl	1	18.9		Roman ?1st-2nd century
T2	F1a	5	middle	GX	sandy oxidised		1	1.5		Roman
T2	F1a	5	middle	HZ	thick sandy grey cored sherd	large storage jar	1	32.4		Roman 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	F1a	5	middle	HZ	some organic & ?grog temper	storage jar	1	20.3		Roman 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	F1a	5	middle	HZ	reddish fabric, single flint fragment	storage jar	1	7.2		Roman 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	F1a	6	upper	DJ	cream surface pink fabric	large flagon	1	58.5	base of neck sherd, probably large flagon though amphora cannot be excluded	1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	F1a	6	upper	GX		jar/ bowl	1	6.2		Roman

trench	feature	find no	fill location	fabric code (CAR 10)	additional fabric detail	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments	date
T2	F1a or F1b	8	upper/middle	GB	reddish fabric dark surface	probably Cam 278 jar (Going G9)	1	7.9	lattice decorated body sherd in grey ware or BB2 type, not KX but poss local grey ware BB2 type	probably early 2nd-3rd century
T2	F1a or 1b	8	upper/middle	GX	thick sandy grey ware	jar	1	12.4		Roman
T2	F1a or F1b	8	upper/middle	GX	sandy grey ware	jar/bowl	1	3		Roman
T2	F1d	11	upper	GX	thick sherds		3	31		Roman
T2	F1d	11	upper	GX			2	10	2 joining sherds in sandy grey ware	Roman
T2	F1d	11	upper	GX			1	1.9	small sherd in sandy grey ware	Roman
T2	F1d	11	upper	GX			1	15	worn sherd in sandy grey ware	Roman ?1st-2nd century
T2	F1d	11	upper	HZ			2	97	sherds from two large storage jars	1st-3rd
T2	F1a	12		BX (SG)		Dr 29	1	3.7	rim fragment only	pre c AD 80
T2	F1a	12		GX	fine dark surface, brownish fabric	everted rim small jar or beaker	1	2.7		1st-2nd century
T2	F1a	12		GX			1	3.3	sherd	Roman
T2	F1a	14		GX			1	4.6		Roman
T8	L14	17		GB or KX	red oxidised surface, grey core	Cam 39 or 40A (Going B3)	1	5.5	oxidised surface, BB2 or coarse ware BB2 type pot	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

**Table 13: other finds.**

Trench	Feature	find no	fill location	find type	additional fabric detail	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments	date
T2	F1a	1	upper	pre-historic pot	hand-made sherd, flint-tempered		1.8		pre-historic, possibly Bronze Age

Trench	Feature	find no	fill location	find type	additional fabric detail	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments	date
T2	F1a	5	middle	Roman tile		3	164.0		Roman
T2	F1a	1	upper	Roman tile		4	93.8	4 fragments, red tile	Roman

### Discussion

The small quantity of pottery and the limited range of pottery fabrics and form types make any comment on the Roman pottery rather tentative. Only the pottery from F1 can really be commented on, apart from two individual sherds, although the pottery can be viewed overall.

Of the pottery from F1, many of the grey ware sherds (Fabric GX) are relatively soft and are tempered with organic material (showing as dark marks in the broken sherd edges). These grey wares can probably be dated to the earlier Roman period (1st-2nd century). The coarse oxidised wares (Fabric DJ) are also probably of earlier Roman date as are the sherds from heavily-tempered pots (Fabric HZ). A sherd from a Dragendorf form 29 samian bowl should be dated to before c AD 80-90. The sherd from a black-burnished ware (Fabric GB) jar, form Cam 278, can be dated to after c AD 120 and before the mid-late 2nd century. Though dating is difficult, and perhaps not very meaningful here, the overall impression is that all together the pottery recovered from F1 could date to the 2nd century after c AD 120.

Of pottery from L14, a rim sherd from a grey ware dish, probably of form Cam 39, could date to any point in the Roman period after c AD 120. However, it can be said, with reservations, that overall there is no pottery amongst this small assemblage which is clearly or necessarily of late Roman, ie 3rd- to 4th-century, date.

## 14.2: the post-Roman pottery, brick and tile

by Howard Brooks of CAT

### Introduction

This is the report on 789g of post-Roman pottery, and 4.5kg of other material (principally tile and brick) from the evaluation at Clarendon House.

### Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and CAR 7): Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware); Fabric 41 or 42 (Tudor Green or Border ware); and Fabric 51b (flowerpot). Pottery weights are listed below in Table 14. Full details in archive.

**Table 14: quantities and weights of pottery fabric types, per bag and context.**

find no	trench	context	fabrics						pottery date by century
			40		41/42		51b		
			quant	wt	quant	wt	quant	wt	
4	T3	L5	2	21					16th-17th
9	T9	F11	19	754	1	1			16th-17th
15	T7	F13	2	8					16th-17th
17	T8	L14					1	5	19th-20th
		<b>totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	

**Table 15: quantities and weights of other find types, per bag and context.**

find no	trench	context	quant	weight	comments	date
2	T2	U/S	1	76	peg-tile fragment, 13mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
2	T2	U/S	2	696	brick fragments, generally in 'Tudor' tradition; 1 is 65mm thick with creased arris, the other 58mm thick	probably 17th century
2	T2	U/S	1	305	curious ceramic fragment, concave surface, 32mm thick; not a regular brick – is it a badly-fired floor brick?	post-medieval?
3	T3	F3	1	233	peg-tile fragment, 13mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
4	T3	L5	1	360	peg-tile fragment with circular peg holes, 12mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
4	T3	L5	2	36	brick/tile fragments	
4	T3	L5	1	161	lump of tar with small stones embedded in surface.	
7	T5	L10	3	143	peg-tile fragments, 10-15mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
7	T5	L10	3	23	brick/tile scraps	
7	T5	L10	1	43	thick tile: 21mm thick, not Roman	possibly early medieval ?
9	T9	F11	1	873	porous, vesicular brick lump; no surfaces, but surely post-medieval	post-medieval
9	T9	F11	3	408	peg-tile fragments, 11-13mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
9	T9	F11	1	13	brick scrap	
12	T2	F1	1	316	brick fragment, hefty piece	post-medieval
16	T8	F14	4	43	peg-tile fragments	medieval or post-medieval
16	T8	F14	1	1	brick/tile fragments	
17	T8	L14	6	349	peg-tile fragments, 13mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
17	T8	L14	1	33	very modern-looking brick fragment	modern – 20th century
18	T8	L14	3	274	peg-tile fragments, one with circular peg hole, 10-14mm thick	medieval or post-medieval
18	T8	L14	1	3	tile scrap	
19	T6	F16	1	118	Roman brick fragment	Roman
19	T6	F16	4	22	daub lumps	?
19	T6	F16	1	8	piece of burnt material – ?shale, ?coal	?
		<b>totals</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4,537</b>		

### Discussion

This is a relatively small pottery group, so detailed comment is not worthwhile. The group contains a mixture of unglazed and glazed sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (PMRE). The fabric is fine, and therefore more likely to be early (16th-early 17th century) than late (17th-18th century) in the PMRE sequence. There is also a single sherd of 19th- to 20th-century flower pot (Fabric 51b), and a single small white

ware sherd. It is genuinely difficult to assign such a small sherd to its correct fabric type, but its appearance alongside Fabric 40 means that it is more likely to be Fabric 41 (Tudor Green) or Fabric 42 (Border ware) than one of the earlier Surrey-Hampshire white wares (Fabric 23).

Identifiable forms include the frilled foot of a possible chafing dish, and a wide-mouthed jug. Otherwise, there is nothing in the assemblage which is particularly noteworthy; for instance, there are no sooted sherds which might indicate a nearby kitchen.

### **14.3: the copper-alloy brooch**

*by Nina Crummy*

Small Find 1. (10), T2. The lower part of a bow brooch with the catchplate intact. The fragment has not been conserved. The bow is of simple D-shaped section, broken just above the top of the catchplate, and curves gently to a blunt foot. The catchplate appears to be solid. Length 29 mm. This is probably from a Colchester B derivative brooch, dated AD 50-70, or from a related hybrid, but may alternatively be from a slightly later T-shaped brooch. The metal is well-preserved and full identification should be possible after conservation.

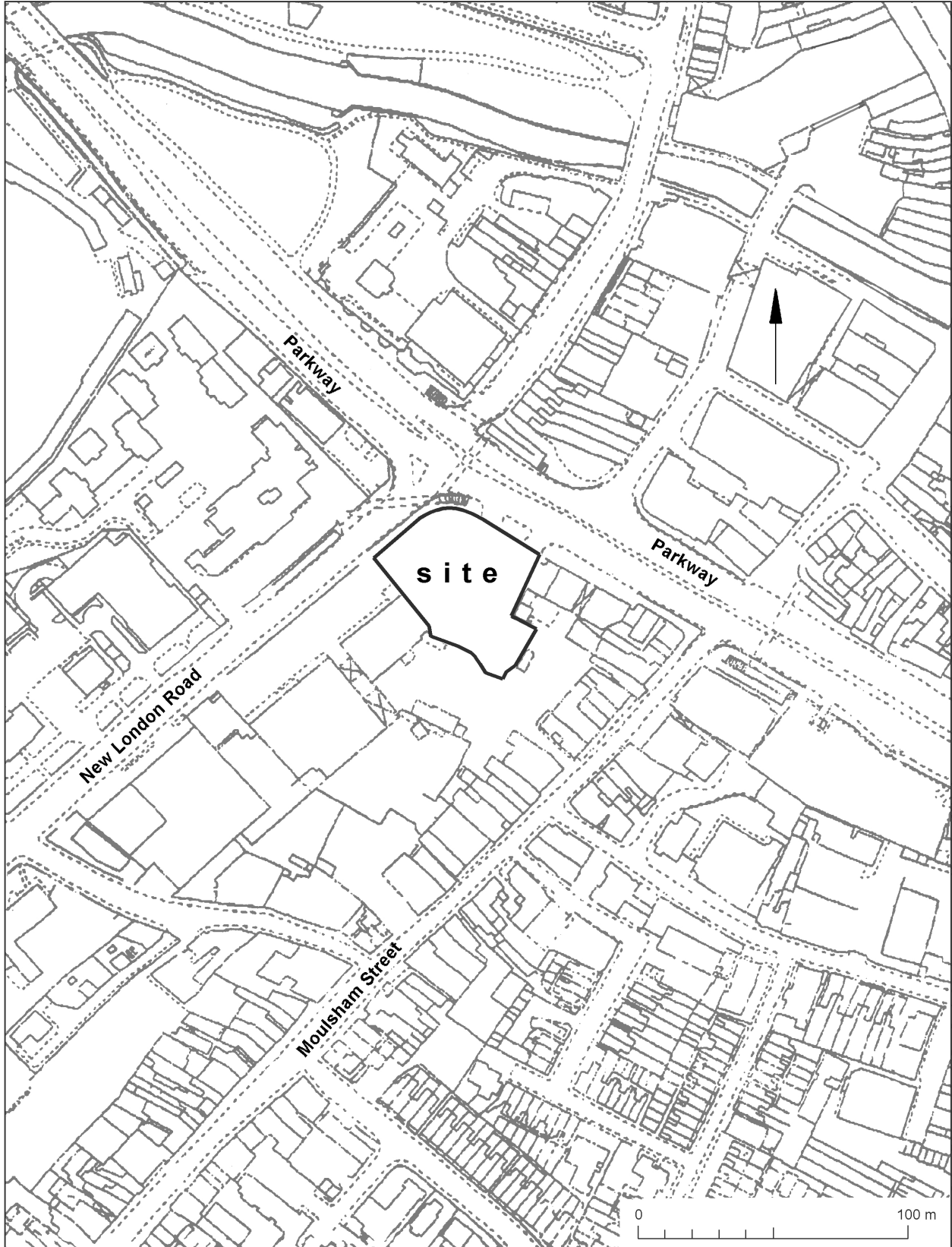


Fig 1 Site location.

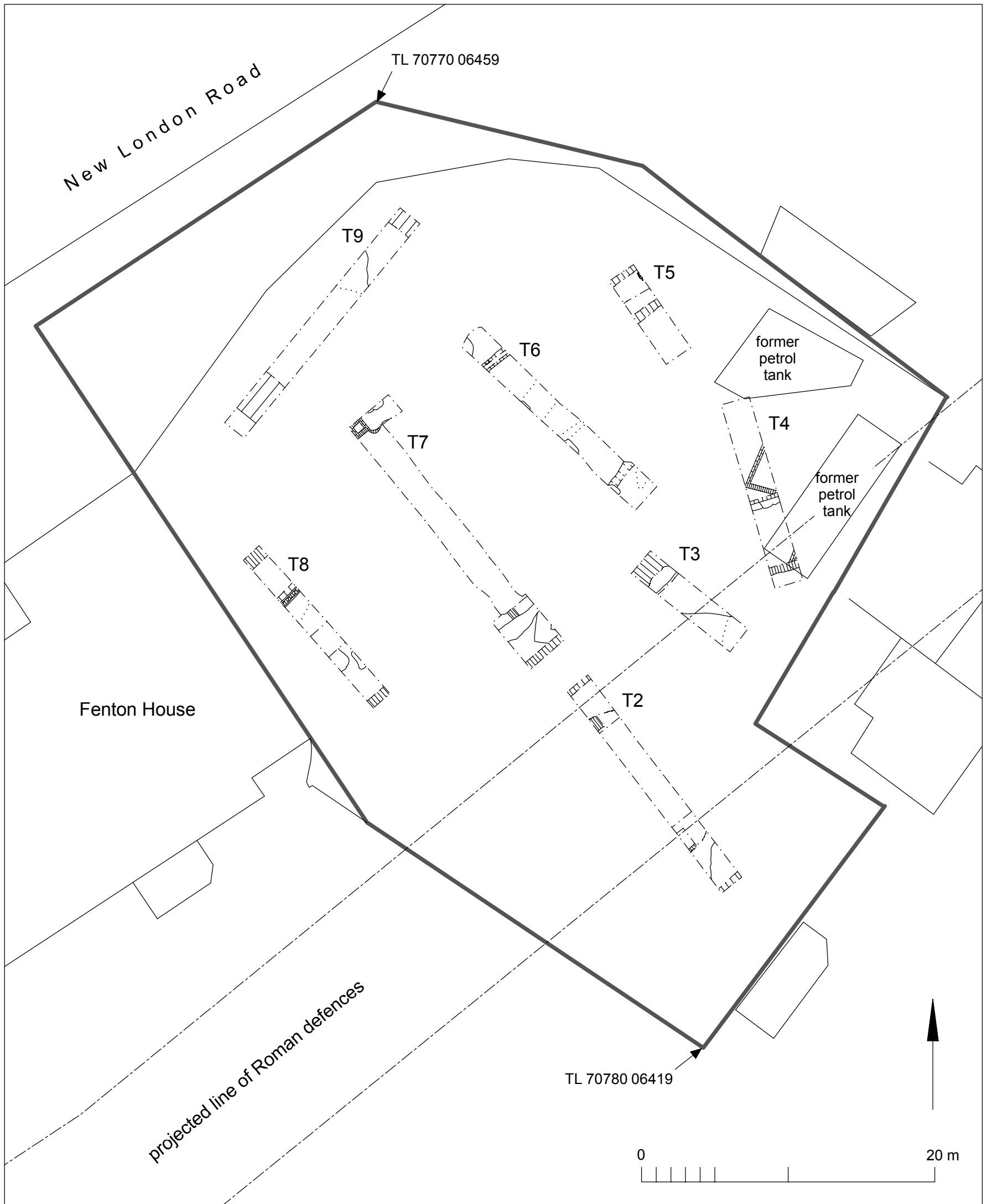


Fig 2 Plan of site.



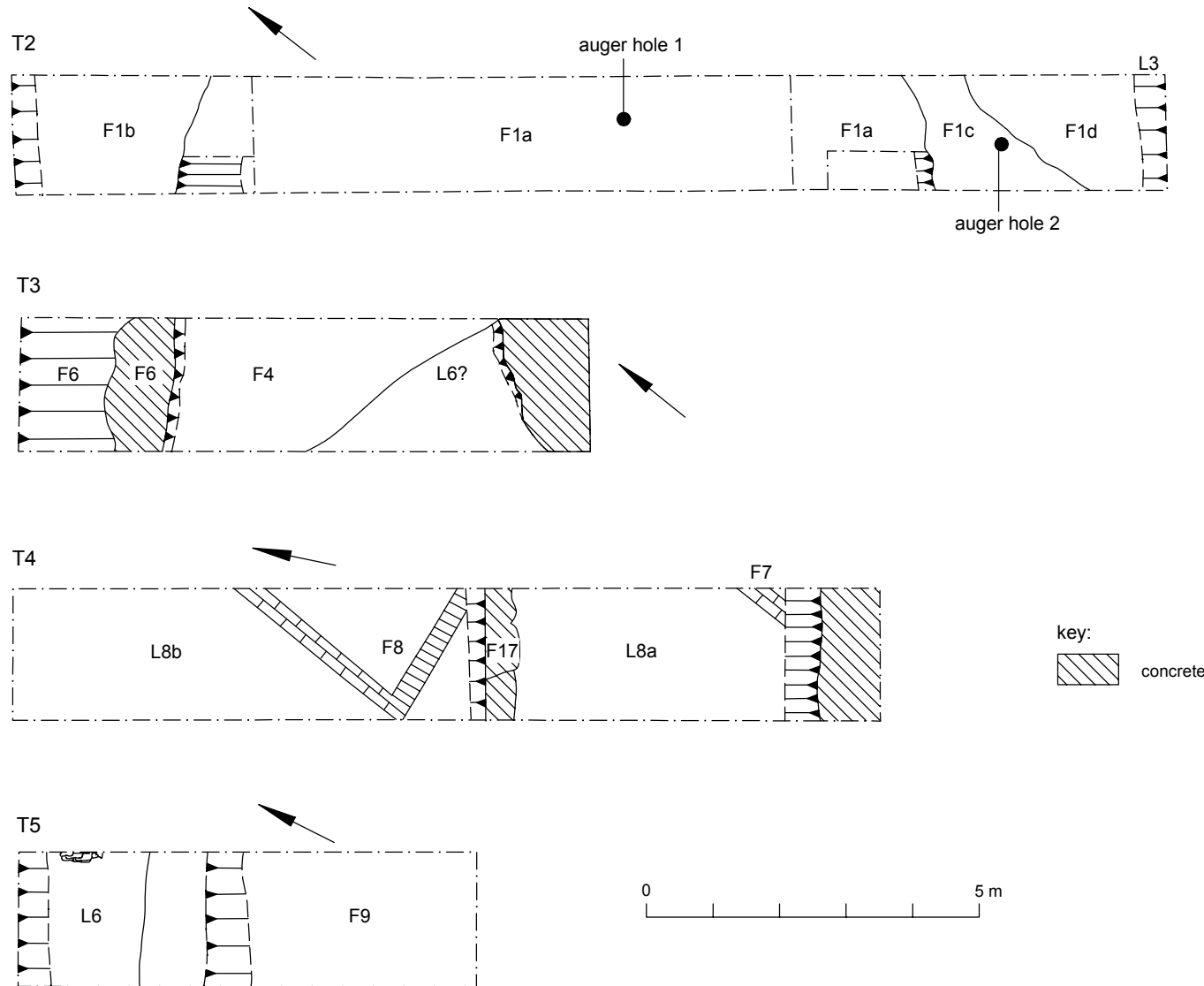


Fig 3 Trenches 2-5: plans.

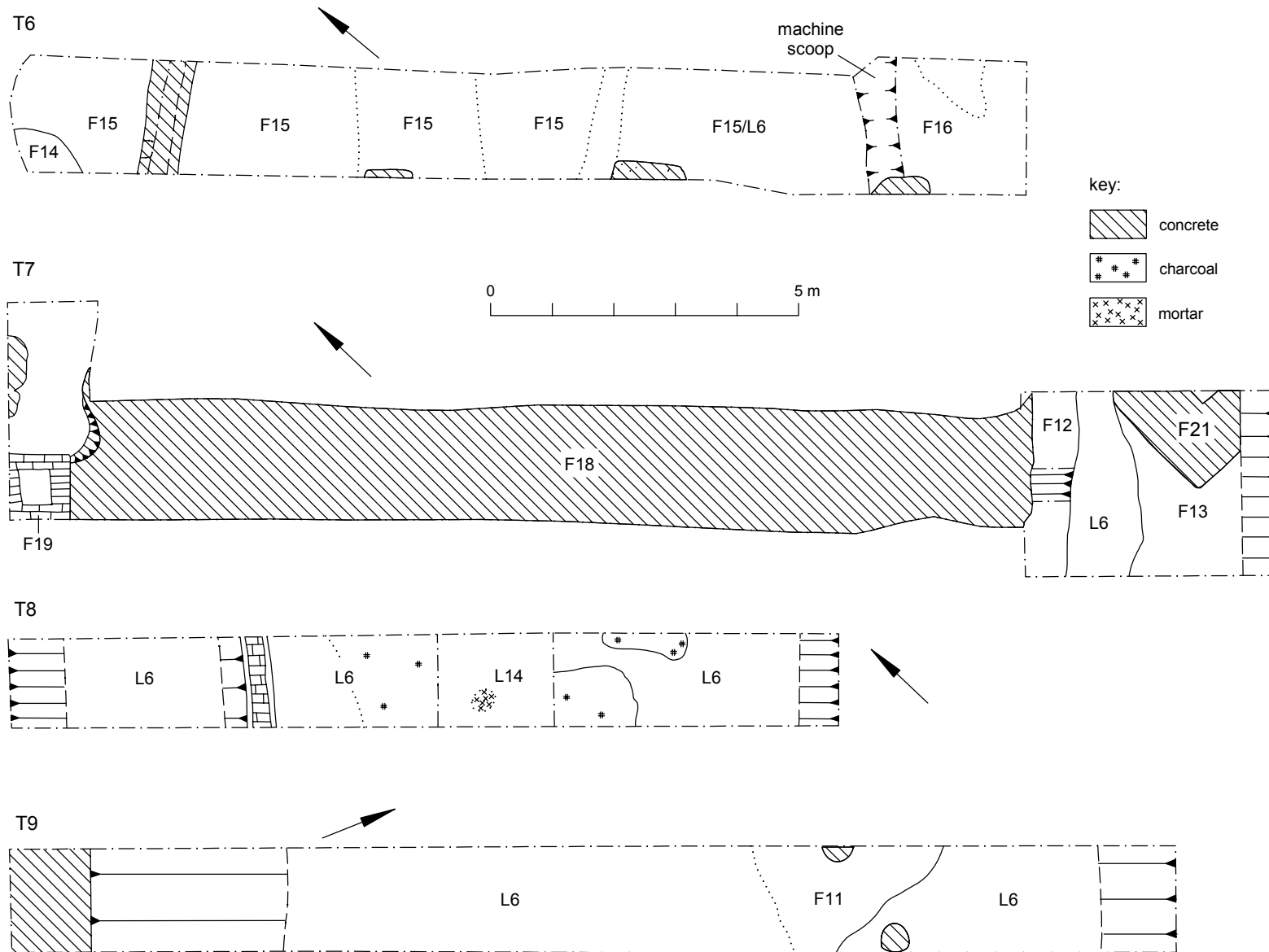
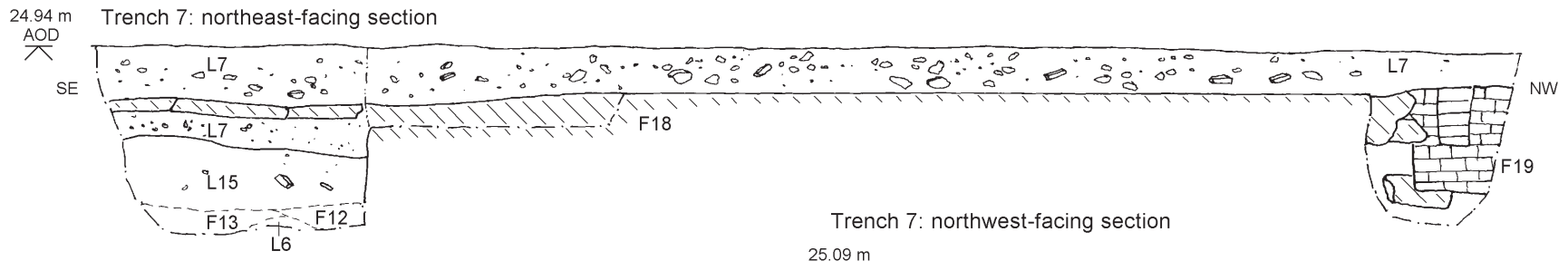
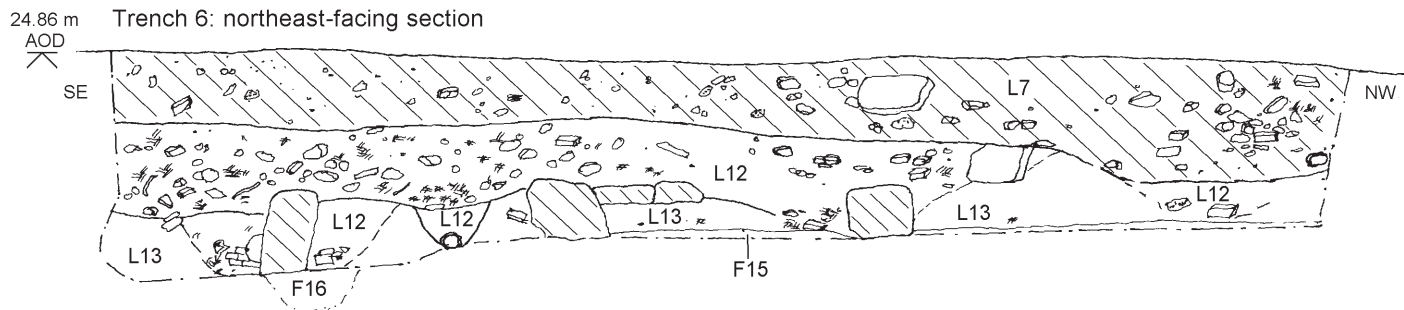
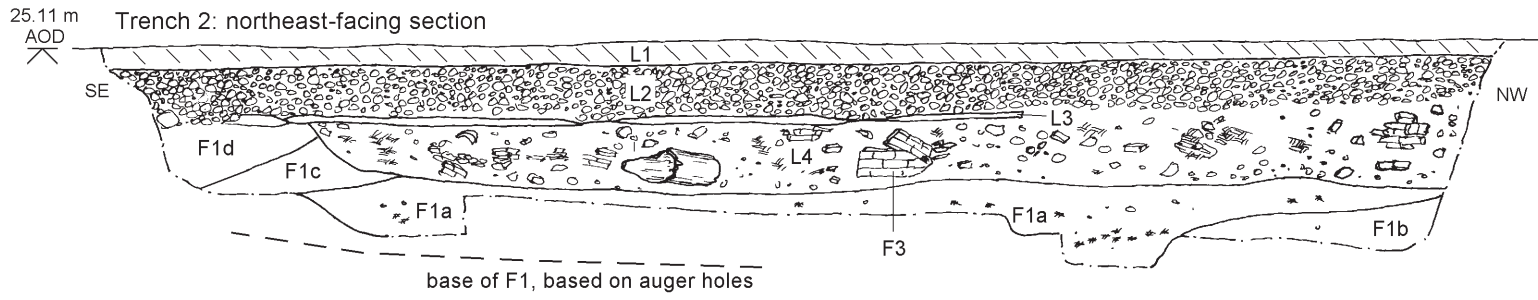


Fig 4 Trenches 6-9: plans.



Trench 7: northwest-facing section

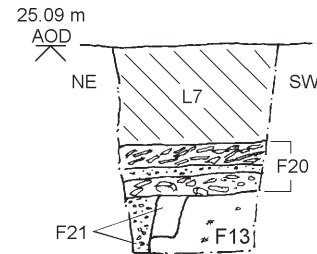


Fig 5 Sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

**Summary sheet**

<b>Site address:</b> Clarendon House, 2-5 Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex.	
<b>Parish:</b> Chelmsford	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 7075 0640 (c)	<b>Site code:</b> ECC site code CF47
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 9th-18th May 2005	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.235 hectares (whole site) – 10% of it covered by evaluation trenches
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Chelmsford Museum (accession code CHMRE 2005.017)	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Possibly	<b>Related EHER nos:</b> 16824, 5872-5877
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 325 and summary in EAH	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at the site of Clarendon House in Chelmsford in May 2005. Altogether eight evaluation trenches were machine excavated and examined archaeologically. They were evenly spread across the site but paid particular attention to the projected line of Roman defences.</i>  <i>The evaluation confirmed the survival of Roman layers (probably of 2nd-century date) and linear features in the eastern part of the site which may be part of the line of the western defensive ditch. The site had been heavily disturbed by former petrol tanks and a 1970s' building (now demolished).</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> Clarendon House, 2-5 Parkway, Chelmsford. Archaeological watching brief and evaluation, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Report 96370 (Langton 1996)	
<b>Author of summary:</b> M I Gorniak	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2005