

**An archaeological evaluation
for a new car park on the Abbey Field,
south of Circular Road North,
Colchester, Essex
March 2006**

**report prepared by
Ben Holloway**

**commissioned by
Atkins Defence**

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1 Summary

Three evaluation trenches were excavated on an area of land adjacent to the Abbey Field athletics track, south of Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex. A total of 60m of trenching was opened to evaluate the archaeological potential of the area prior to the construction of a new car park adjacent to the athletics track. During the evaluation, fifteen features were identified, seven of which were modern and likely to be of military origin. The remaining eight archaeological features consisted of six linear features including a continuation of trackway ditch JSF19 (first identified as part of the Alienated Land excavations on Area J South in 2004), and two features of natural origin.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out at the Abbey Field athletics track during groundworks for a new car park, on the 6th March 2006.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by RPS Planning Transport and Environment on behalf of RMPA Services and Atkins Defence. The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) under RPS project management. The project was monitored by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO) and RPS.

The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS in association with CAT, dated September 2005, and agreed by the CBCAO. All fieldwork was done in accordance with a research design prepared by RPS in 2004 (RPS 2004) and a specification agreed with the CBCAO. This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). Other sources used are *Management of archaeological projects*, 2nd edition (MAP 2), *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).

The new car park at the Abbey Field athletics track is centred on National Grid Reference or NGR TL 9931 2427, to the west of the athletics track (garrison building CGG04). This site is located immediately adjacent to Circular Road North, on the western edge of the Abbey Field.

The site is located on the north side of a dry valley which slopes down from north to south to a plateau where the military hospital was formerly situated. The base of the valley is respected by the line of the Circular Road South running east-west. Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development. This information will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development. This evaluation has the following objectives:

- to establish the presence/absence of human burials,
- to establish whether the site is rural or domestic in character,
- to establish whether there are any buildings or other structures on site (in the form of post-holes, gullies, etc).

4 Archaeological background

The Abbey Field has traditionally been used for Army training, with the Cavalry Barracks and Le Cateau Barracks to the west of Circular Road North operative since the 19th century. The evaluation area lies within the north-eastern corner of the Abbey Field. No features are shown in the evaluation area on early maps pre-dating the garrison. Map evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 17th century. The Le Cateau Barracks were built in the early 1860s. The OS 1st edition 1:10,560 map of 1874-76 shows that, after the construction of barrack blocks to the west, the evaluation area continued to be open, albeit within the Abbey Field, and was used as the drill ground of the Army. The historic maps from 1876 to the present day show no structures within the area of the evaluation. There have been no previous archaeological finds within the site (the Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER held by the ECC and the UAD held by Colchester Museums of Colchester Borough Council). However, the archaeological context of the location is now relatively well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000 (CAT Report 54; CAT Report 138).

There is some evidence for prehistoric activity within the area: Middle Bronze Age vessels, probably burial urns, were found on the north-western boundary of the Garrison Urban Village (GUV) redevelopment Area J1 in 2004-5 (UAD event no 1247). Several Bronze Age to Early Iron Age features were also excavated close to the earlier finds in 2005 during the Urban Village archaeological excavations for Taylor Woodrow at the former Le Cateau Barracks, adjacent to Le Cateau Road (Area J1 North; CAT report in prep). In addition, Bronze Age pits were found in 2004 in Areas C1 and C2 of the same project, to the west and south of Flagstaff House respectively (CAT Report 271). No traces of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* landscape (the Catuvellaunian royal estate of Camulodunum) have been identified within the area.

Roman Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Britain, because the town started off as a coming together of two different populations, ie the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.

The archaeological context of the north-western area of the Abbey Field itself with regard to further cemetery areas is reasonably well understood. At least 28 Roman burials were found during construction of the athletics ground and sports pitches to the south in 1925 (Hull 1958; UAD event no 1099; TL 9940 2430). Trial-trenching and excavation for the all-weather hockey pitch (to the north of the athletics track) by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremations, some only 300mm below existing ground (CAT Report 97; TL 9954 2441). A north-south ditch-defined track was also plotted, extending approximately through the middle of this distribution. Further concentrations of Roman burials (a mixture of inhumations and cremations) have been excavated in 2004 and 2005 in Urban Village Area J1 North (360 burials) and Area C2 (66 burials); see Figure 2.

A Roman circus was identified during the archaeological investigations managed by RPS and conducted by CAT in 2004-5 in Urban Village Areas C1, C2 and J1 (Fig 2). In addition, the work by CAT which was managed by RPS and funded by the Time Team has confirmed the southern wall line of the chariot-racing arena running through the northern part of the Abbey Field (CAT report in prep). In particular, a trench intersecting the walls was investigated approximately 10m to the north of the proposed seating stand on the current site (Fig 1). The circus was orientated east-west and ran from the garden

of the Sergeants' Mess north of Le Cateau Road to terminate in the grounds of Flagstaff House to the east. The double-walled form (ground-fast elements of the stand) of the approximately 450m-long building is now reasonably well understood. The starting gates appear to have been located at the western end of the structure with the semi-circular end at the east end. CAT also located the probable line of the central barrier ('spina'), at the northernmost point of the Abbey Field, in September 2005. The southern walls close to the proposed structure appear to have been robbed out, although it is possible that segments of the lower courses of foundation survive locally. The circus is unique in Britain, and as such is of national importance.

Although the Area J1 investigations identified a dense area of burials at the northern end of the site, only five cremations were found during the excavation conducted in the paddocks opposite the current site (Area J1 South). The excavation is, however, significant in this context, since a 20m-wide ditch-defined trackway/droveway with some surviving gravel metalling ran north-south through the area. This is apparently the line of a route which connected Area J1 North (with 360 adjacent burials) and continued on to the Lexden area where further burials and cemetery structures have been found next to it. The line of the route probably continues across the road into the area of the new car-park. Human burials appear to have been located in clusters on the east side of the track. The eastern flanking ditch of the track also contains apparently cremated horse remains, providing a (ritual) link with the circus. The western flanking ditch produced a hoard of 41 silver Roman coins and part of an inscription.

5 The evaluation trenches

5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

Three trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision (Trench or T1-T3). All trenches were 1.6m wide. Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for the evaluation trenches (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology in section 8. In addition to the evaluation trenching, a geophysical survey was undertaken by Dr Tim Dennis of the University of Essex. The results are shown in Figure 6 and are described in section 7.

Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
N: 224285 599305 S: 224262 599324	30m	28.44	27.79
N: 224305 599316 S: 224287 599331	20m	28.26	27.53
N: 224319 599304 S: 224311 599311	10m	28.60	27.95

5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence

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

5.3 Trench 1: summary (Figs 1, 3-4)

Trench 1 was located in the south-west edge of the evaluation area (Fig 1). Datable archaeological features identified in Trench 1 consisted of linear ditch features (F2, F6,

F8, F10). Ditches F2 and F10 are of a type that is seen widely across the garrison area and appear to represent field boundary systems from the Iron Age or more likely the Roman period. F8 represents a large deep ditch which follows the alignment of a trackway ditch identified in the Alienated Land excavation in Area J South in 2004. The remaining linear feature (F6) contained tile/brick flecks. It appears to be a post-medieval ditch and shares a common alignment with F15 in Trench 3 and with a previously identified boundary ditch in Area J South. The remaining features identified within the evaluation trench consisted of modern pits and service trenches (F5, F7, F9) and natural pit (F3 and F4). Modern features were left unexcavated due to ordnance risk.

Table 2: Trench 1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
L1	Topsoil	peg-tile fragments (not retained)	modern
L2	Subsoil	post-medieval pot, peg-tile, Roman tile	post-Roman
L3	Natural	none recovered	-
F1	Modern disturbance	none recovered	modern
F2	Ditch	none recovered	Roman
F3	Natural	none recovered	-
F4	Natural	none recovered	-
F5	Concrete pad	none recovered	modern
F6	Ditch	none recovered	Roman
F7	Pit	brick fragments, modern pot	modern
F8	Ditch	pot, tile	Roman
F9	Service trench	none recovered	modern
F10	Ditch	tile fragments	Roman

Trench 2: summary (Figs 1, 3-4)

Trench 2 was located on the west edge of the evaluation area (Fig 1). A single archaeological feature was contained within Trench 2, ie a ditch (F11) in the north half of the trench. The ditch appears to be a continuation of ditch F8 (Trench 1), which is itself a continuation of the trackway ditch identified in the Area J South excavation area. As had been seen in the excavated section in Area J South, there were also concentrations of cremated animal bone scattered throughout the upper to middle fills of the ditch (Fig 5). The remaining features identified in Trench 2 were modern pits (F12, F13, F14), all containing little in the way of finds or associated material. However, the backfill did contain coal and brick fragments, suggesting that the features are of modern origin and as such are likely to be associated with military activity.

Table 3: Trench 2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
L1	Topsoil	peg-tile fragments (not retained)	modern
L2	Subsoil	post-medieval pot, peg-tile, Roman tile	post-Roman
L3	Natural	none recovered	-
F1	Modern disturbance	none recovered	modern
F11	Ditch	pot, tile, animal bone	Roman
F12	Pit	coal, brick flecks	modern
F13	Pit	coal, brick flecks	modern
F14	Pit	coal, brick flecks	modern

Trench 3: summary (Figs 1, 3-4)

Trench 3 was located in the north-west corner of the evaluation area (Fig 1). Two archaeological features were identified in Trench 3. A ditch at the northern end of the trench (F15) and an area of compacted gravel surfacing (L4) were found to the east of the ditch. The ditch appears to align with ditch F6 in Trench 1 and may well be a continuation of this post-medieval field boundary. The compacted surface is cut by the ditch and is associated with surfacing from the trackway bounded by F11 or more likely a repair where the track has over time and through extensive use become eroded.

Table 4: Trench 3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
L1	Topsoil	peg-tile fragments (not retained)	modern
L2	Subsoil	Roman pot and building material	post-Roman
L3	Natural	none recovered	-
F1	Modern disturbance	none recovered	modern
F15	Ditch	pot, animal bone tile	Roman

6 Geophysical survey

by T J Dennis (Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, University of Essex)

Description of procedure

A Geoscan FM18 gradiometer was used to survey five 30 x 30m blocks on the site, using a grid baseline parallel to and 10m from the wire fence on the south-west side of the running track. Its north-westerly end was 100m from a reference point at the south-easternmost post of an entrance gateway to the running track. This alignment was not ideal, as the gradiometer is best used on a north-south or east-west orientation. The traverse method was zig-zag, keeping the instrument at the same orientation and position relative to the operator throughout. Traverses were spaced at 1m intervals, with 4 samples per metre in the traverse direction. The instrument was operated on its 0.1 nT sensitivity range; deviations from zero output represent distortions in the local gradient of the earth's magnetic field rather than absolute changes. The site itself is slightly undulating, with a surface of mown grass. At its south-eastern end it slopes to the levelled surface of an open-access football pitch. At the Circular Road North end there are a number of manhole covers, indicating likely service-pipe runs.

Post-processing reassembles the zig-zag data into unidirectional sequences, and corrects for the systematic direction-dependent mean level offsets that typically occur. Signals are referenced to the local mean level of the raw data. On the output images, mid grey represents zero, black a positive magnetic gradient anomaly, and white negative (Fig 6).

Results

It was clear during the survey that the site contains many sources of high-amplitude magnetic anomalies. These are most likely from ferrous materials, in particular cast iron or steel pipelines which produce a characteristic pattern of high-amplitude alternately positive and negative anomalies. The images are presented in high and low gain versions; the low gain picture (Fig 6A) identifies the pipeline runs in particular, as well as lines of point anomalies parallel to the long axis of the survey at its north-western end. These are likely to represent modern features. The high gain image (Fig 6B) has had overload-level anomalies clipped, so they appear as grey. A wire fence bordering the garrison building labelled CGG01 causes the 'glow' at the lower left corner. An

alignment can be detected running north-south from the bellmouth onto Circular Road North. The third spatially lowpass filtered image (Fig 6C) uses higher gain, and identifies this more clearly.

There is an overall high concentration of point anomalies, both negative, positive and bipolar. Bipolar anomalies are almost certainly due to ferrous debris, but the others can be caused by such features as burial pits containing organic debris or brick and tile fragments, which can acquire a relatively strong field of their own aligned to the earth's field at the position where firing took place.

7 The finds

General

The finds are listed in Table 6 (Appendix), which gives descriptions for stratified finds; summaries of the Roman pottery and other material follow below.

The Roman pottery

comments by Stephen Benfield

In total, 132 grams of Roman pottery were collected from the evaluation. The material came from two contexts, F8 and F11, although these two features have been interpreted as two sections through the same large trackway ditch. The assemblage from F11 contained fourteen sherds of grey ware (Fabric GX) including the rim profile of a CAM 268 jar datable to the mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century, and three sherds of black-burnished ware (Fabric GB), all of which came from a single CAM 37b bowl datable to the late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century. Material from F8 consists of a single sherd of Romanising coarse ware (RCW) datable to the 1st century, possibly pre-Flavian.

The fact that the material is from the same feature (although observed in different trenches) would suggest that the ditch is at least 2nd century in date. This is supported by a very abraded sherd from F8, indicating that the sherd may have been residual in the ground at the time that the ditch was dug, before eventually working its way into the ditch fill as the feature silted. (Fabric descriptions are after *CAR 10*; CAM form numbers are after Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958.)

Prehistoric pottery

In addition to the Roman pottery, a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from F8 (residual in a later Roman context). The pottery is a thick, heavily flint-tempered hand-made coarse ware body sherd, with traces of fine mica visible on the surface and in cross-section. This is representative of local manufacture and is a common trait in prehistoric pottery produced in East Anglia. This type of heavily flint-tempered pottery with few sand inclusions is most common in the later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods, and this indicates a date for the sherd of c 1000 BC-400 BC (Gibson & Woods 1997).

Cremated bone

A total of 128g of cremated bone was recovered from a single context (F11). The material was scattered throughout the middle fill of the ditch in a slightly ashy matrix. As with the material identified during the course of the Area J South excavation (JSF19), the bone was a mixture of animal and human bone. The material consisted of mainly long bones, all of which were highly fragmentary. The scattered nature of the material within the ditch fill as opposed to placed deposits may indicate that the collected remnants of burial pyres were being disposed of in the ditch. This would also explain the mixing of human and animal bone, as any offerings placed on the pyre would also have been gathered as the pyre debris was removed for disposal.

Other finds

Examples of Roman building material were also recovered. This consisted of fragments of CBM weighing a total of 128g. The material was residual in the fills of ditches F11 and F15, and is likely to have derived from a Roman building in the near vicinity. It may possibly be associated with the Roman circus to the north-east of the evaluation area. In addition to Roman material, fragments of modern brick and peg-tile were observed but not retained. This material is most likely to be associated with modern activity carried out in the area of the evaluation by the military.

8 Discussion

Relatively few features were identified during the evaluation. Of the fifteen recorded features, only six were archaeological. The Roman features are all ditches. These are of two types. The first, F2 and F10 (within Trench 1) conform to a type seen widely across the garrison during the archaeological work of recent years, that is, a comparatively shallow feature with a V-shaped profile and containing silty mid-brown fill often with little in the way of datable material. These ditches are interpreted as field boundary ditches that relate to the division of land into agricultural packages initially in the Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum and then often re-used and adjusted to define the Roman agricultural landscape. In some instances, these field boundaries continued in general use in to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

The second type was in the form of a large, deep ditch F8 and F11 (excavated in both Trenches 1 and 2). The alignment of these features indicates that they are in fact the same feature (Fig 3) and are a continuation of a trackway ditch JSF19, first identified in the Alienated Land excavations of 2004-5 (specifically in Area J South; Fig 2). This ditch can also be seen in the geophysics plot (Fig 6). The ditch defined in the evaluation trenches corresponds with the eastern ditch of the Area J South trackway. Pottery dates the features to the mid 2nd to mid/late 3rd century and this fits with material from the previous excavation (also dating to the 2nd/3rd centuries). A fragment of compacted gravel surface (L4) was identified to the west of the ditch F11 in Trench 3. As has been seen in previous excavations, gravel surfacing was present and may represent the surface of the track or roadway. However, the area of gravel was small and irregular and as such is more likely to represent areas of heavy use that have become eroded and have subsequently been consolidated and repaired.

Post-Roman features consist of two linear features F6 (in Trench 1) and F15 (located in Trench 3). As has been seen with the Roman ditches in Trenches 1 and 2 (F8 and F11), these seem to be different sections of the same feature, and, as with F8 and F11, appear to correspond with a linear feature in excavation Area J South (JSF7), a post-medieval field boundary. The ditch is aligned north-south and cuts across the trackway defined by the ditch F8/F11. This shows re-organisation and realignment of the agricultural landscape in the post-medieval period.

Modern features consisted of four pits F7, F12, F13 and F14 (within Trenches 1 and 2), modern disturbance caused by temporary buildings F1 and F5 (observed in all evaluation trenches), and a modern service trench F9 (located in Trench 1). All of the modern features are associated with the past and on-going military presence in the Abbey Field area. The disturbance F1 and F5 consisted of drainage runs and concrete footing pads. These are the remains of a now-demolished temporary structure possibly associated with the remaining garrison building CGG01 (Fig 1); these were high in the topsoil (L1) and were recorded and removed by machine as the trenches were opened. The four pits were partially excavated and recorded to establish a date. Once a modern date had been established, work was halted to minimise EOD risks. The position of the service trench was recorded and the feature was CAT-scanned to establish the nature of the service (electric), then left unexcavated to minimise any potential risks.

The remaining features identified in the evaluation consisted of two natural pits F3 and F4. The irregular cuts and leached-out fills suggest that they are natural in origin

and are likely to be either tree bowls where a tree has fallen or been removed or a glacial feature. The rounded shape suggests the former.

Table 5: summary of all features.

- (1) number of each context type
 (2) that number as a percentage of all contexts
 (3) that number as a percentage of cuts only (ie discounting layers).

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric features	Roman features	Anglo-Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	4	0	6	0	7	0	2
(2) as % of all contexts	20	0	30	0	40	0	10
(3) as % of all cuts	-	0	40	0	50	0	10

9 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by RMPA Services and Atkins Defence. The project consultants were RPS Planning Transport and Environment. The project was monitored by Martin Winter, the CBCAO. RPS provided EOD cover. The fieldwork was supervised by Ben Holloway assisted by Chris Lister and undertaken by Catriona Bell, Lawrence Driver and Emma Sanford.

10 References

- | | | |
|----------------|------|--|
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| CAT Report 271 | | An archaeological evaluation at area C1 and C2 of the Garrison urban village, unpublished CAT archive report, by Kate Orr, 2004 |
| CM | 2002 | <i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> |

CM	2003	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums</i>
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
EAA 8	2000	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 8 , ed by N Brown & J Glazebrook
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
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Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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>
MAP 2	1991	<i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , 2nd edition (English Heritage)
Masefield, R	2002	<i>The New Garrison composite environmental statement</i>
RPS	2002	<i>Colchester Garrison PFI Health and Safety plan</i>
RPS	2004	<i>Research design for archaeological investigations for the alienated land, Colchester Garrison</i>

11 Glossary and abbreviations

Anglo-Saxon	the period from c AD 410 to AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	c 2000 BC-700 BC
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	ceramic building material
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Iron Age	7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Late Iron Age	c 200 BC-AD 43
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th century until the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and to the end of the 19th century
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
RPS	RPS Planning Transport and Environment
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester Museums

12 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2006.27.

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Date: 20.03.06

Adams c:/reports06/abbey field car park/report358.doc

Appendix

Table 6: finds list.

Finds bag no	Context	Description	Weight (g)
1	F8	Roman pot	12
1	F8	Prehistoric pot	18
2	F11	Roman pot	120
2	F11	Animal bone	28
2	F11	Cremated animal bone	198
3	F15	CBM	128

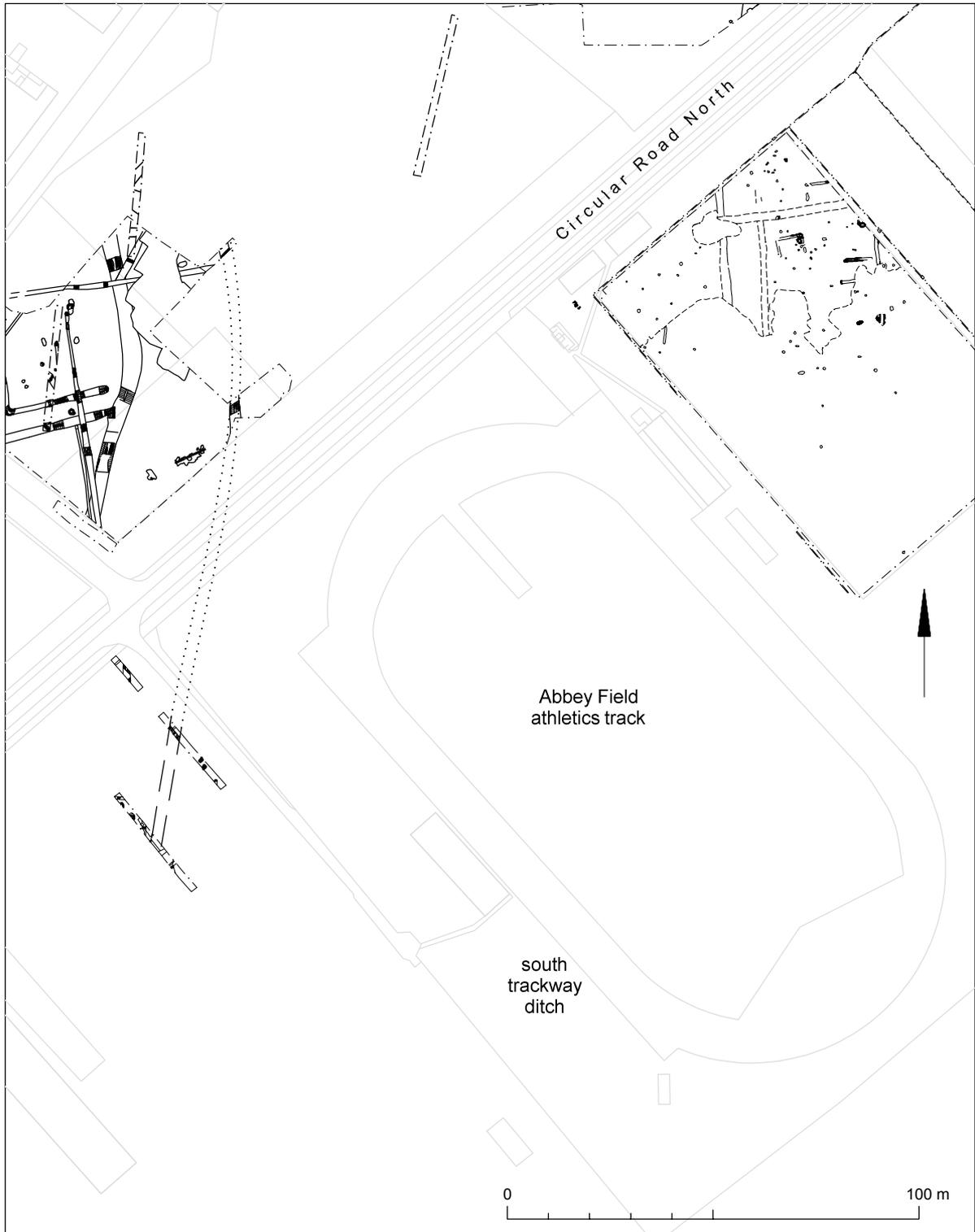


Fig 1 Location of the evaluation area.

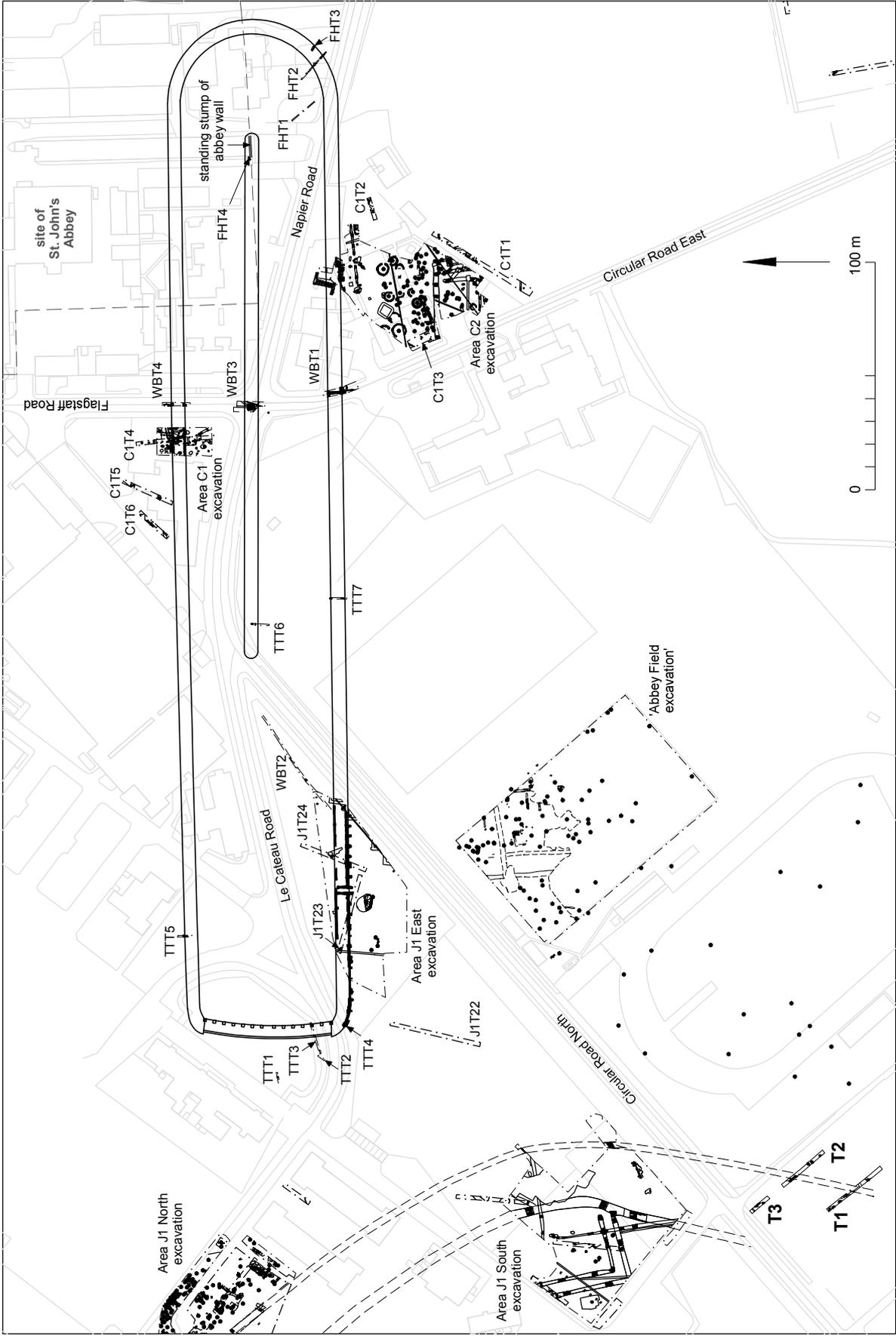


Fig 2 The evaluation area in relation to recent excavation work. (Trench codes used here refer to field work 04/05 reported on in CAT in prep.)

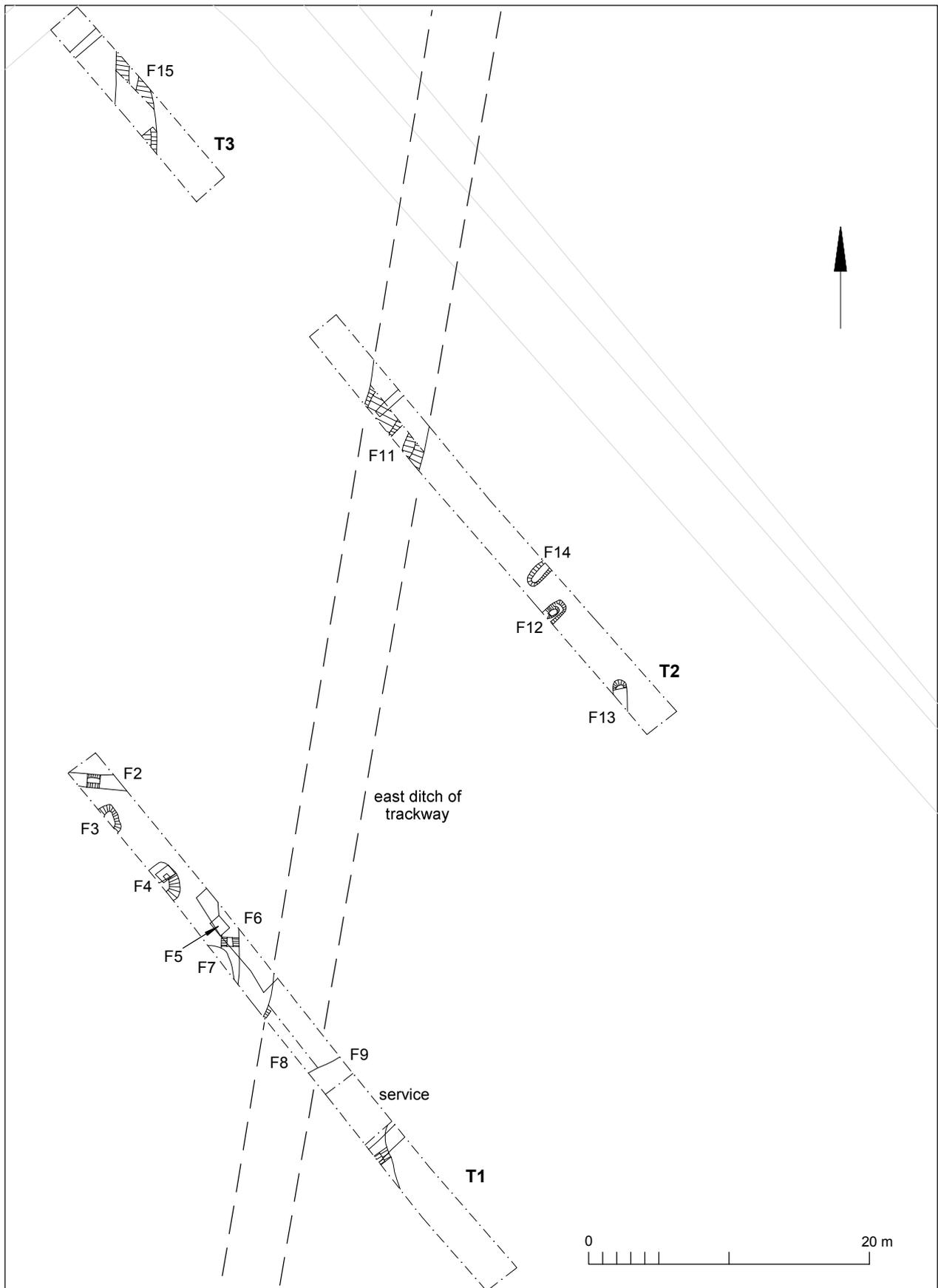


Fig 3 Trench plans.

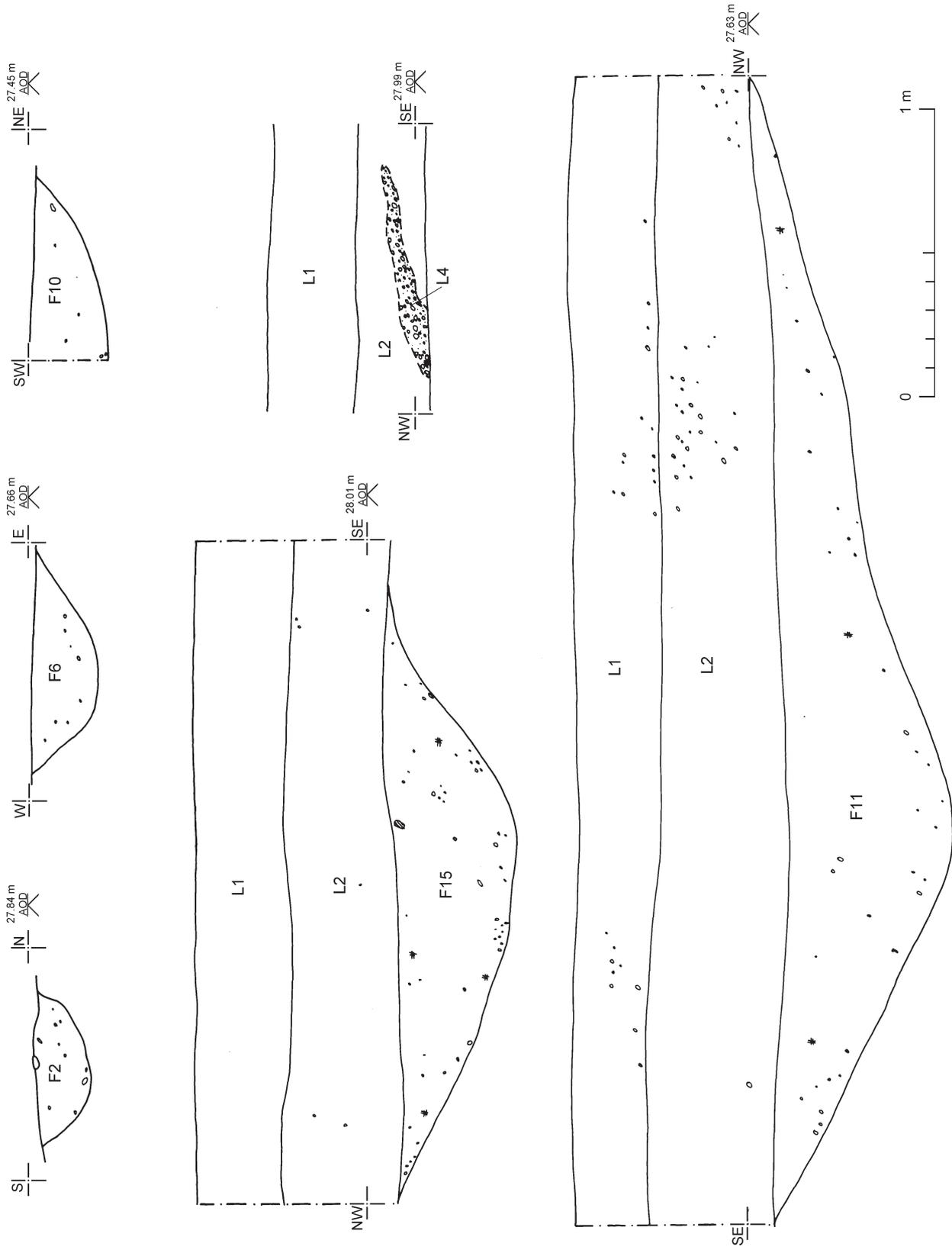


Fig 4 Sections.

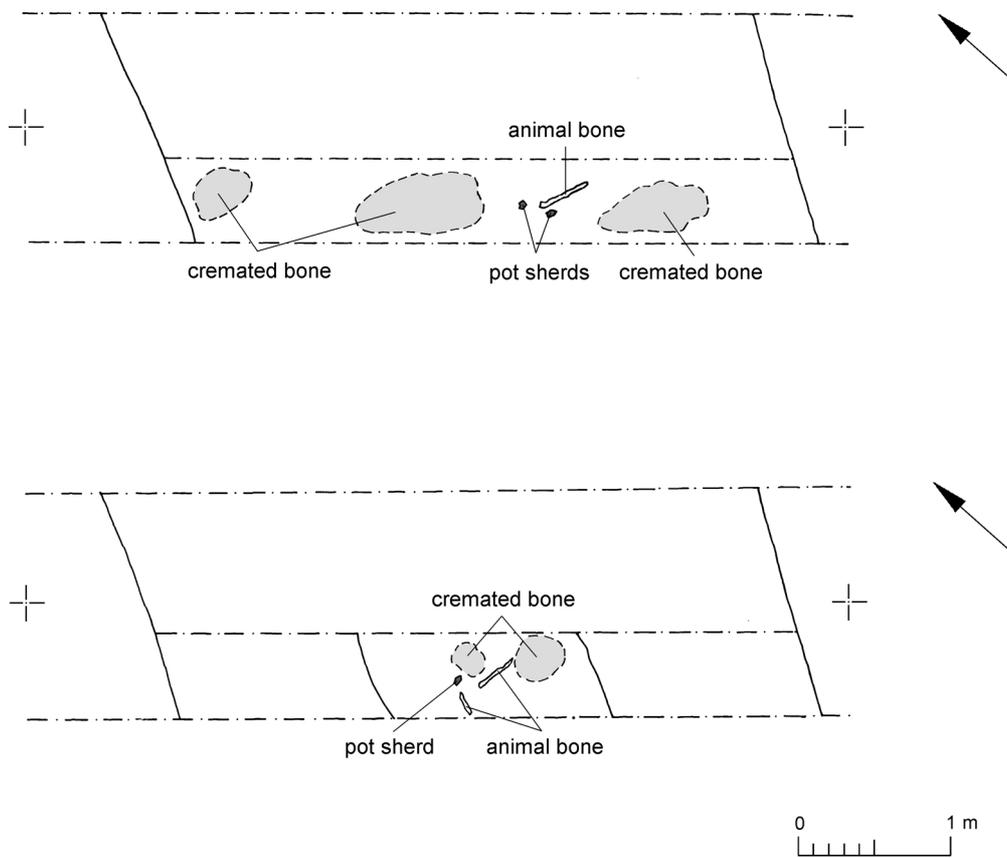


Fig 5 Plan and overlay of F11 within Trench 2.

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

Summary sheet

Site address: the Abbey Field, south of Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9931 2427 (centre)	Site code: Museum accession code 2006.26
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: March 2006	Size of area investigated: 60m of trenching
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos:
Final report: CAT Report 358 and summary in EAH	
Periods represented: Roman trackway and field boundary ditches, post-medieval boundary ditches, modern disturbance and service trench	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Three evaluation trenches were excavated on an area of land adjacent to the Abbey Field athletics track, south of Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex. A total of 60m of trenching was opened to evaluate the archaeological potential of the area prior to the construction of a new car park adjacent to the athletics track. During the evaluation, fifteen features were identified, seven of which were modern and likely to be of military origin. The remaining eight archaeological features consisted of six linear features which included a continuation of trackway ditch JSF19 (first identified as part of the Alienated Land excavations on Area J South in 2004) and two features of natural origin.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports:	
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: March 2006