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**Phase 2 of an archaeological evaluation
at Colchester Institute,
Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex
August 2006**

**report prepared by
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1 Summary

Nine evaluation trenches were excavated in the staff car-parks and in between buildings at the Colchester Institute in August 2006. Three trenches were archaeologically blank, but the rest revealed a network of Late Iron Age to 1st-century AD features typical of activity on the Sheepen site including pits and ditches, a possible burial, a likely floor and wall to a building, a trackway and a possible continuation of the Sheepen underground aqueduct. Parts of the slope had been cut into to create a more level surface for car-parking. This recent activity had removed all archaeological deposits within one trench and some post-Roman layers within other trenches, but generally the archaeology survived well on the site. In some places, further to the east, archaeological features were buried under more than a metre of hillwash.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

- 2.1 This is the report on the second phase of archaeological evaluation carried out at the Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex. A planning application for the construction of new college buildings and two multi-storey car-parks is to be submitted to Colchester Borough Council. The Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO) requested an archaeological evaluation of the application site prior to the determination of any planning application. The phase 1 evaluation was carried out in April 2006 of the staff and student car-parks on the eastern side of the site, and this is the report for phase 2.
- 2.2 The western side of the evaluation site is within the scheduled ancient monument of Sheepen (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 46).
- 2.3 The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 11th and 29th August 2006. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of the Colchester Institute.
- 2.4 The 7 hectare Institute site is situated to the north of Colchester town centre and is centred on National Grid Reference TL 989 256. It is bounded by Sheepen Road to the north, allotment gardens and the Colchester retail park to the east, and footpaths to the south. Trenches were dug within three tarmac car-parks, and within grassed areas in between Institute buildings. The site occupies the lower reaches of the Colne valley. Ground-level varies from 8m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the central part of the site, rising to 11m on the western side. The drift geology of the area is glacial sands and gravels.
- 2.5 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification written by CAT and agreed with CBCAO, the Colchester Institute and their archaeological consultants CgMs Consulting Ltd. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practices of 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). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE 2006), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

- 3.1 The site lies on the eastern side of the site of the important Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement at Sheepen (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 46). Extensive excavations there in the 1930s and smaller-scale work in 1970 produced evidence of industrial and trading activity and a religious complex (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Crummy 1980; Niblett 1985; CAR 11).

- 3.2** To the west of the current site, evidence has been found of workshops which were engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leather-working (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985; *CAR 11*, 130-36). A Roman timber-lined well was recorded in the 1930s, in an area which is now within the grounds of the Colchester Institute (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 53).
- An evaluation in 2000, carried out before the new catering block was constructed, revealed pits and deposits which appeared to be associated with the main period of activity at the Sheepen site, ie c AD 5-60 (CAT Report 103). A watching brief carried out at the Colchester Institute in 2001 produced an assemblage of Roman 1st-century AD amphoras and mostly 1st-century AD pottery. Several pits were recorded, one of which was datable to the early Roman period. A short stretch of mortared Roman tiles, presumed to be a wall or foundation to a Roman building, was found by the contractors after the watching brief had finished (CAT Report 131).
- A late 1st-century temple was excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee in 1935 on the site of St Helena School, to the north of the current site (Hull 1958, 224-34). The remains of the outer *temenos* wall of the temple precinct lie under Sheepen Road. This is one of four Roman temples known in the area of the river flood plain, forming elements of a religious sanctuary (to the north-west of the Institute; Crummy 1980, 248-56).
- 3.3** An evaluation carried out in April 2006 in the staff and student car-parks of the Institute produced evidence from the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Cut features were identified, principally quarry-pits and ditches dating from the Late Iron Age to the 1st century and the later Roman period. A spread of Roman pottery and building material indicate the site of a Roman building nearby, although no structural features were observed. Some of the features were within the date range of the pre-conquest phase of the Sheepen site (c AD 5-43) and could be considered to have been part of the pre-Roman site (CAT Report 368).
- 3.4** A detailed archaeological background to the site can be found in the desk-based assessment of the site, which was carried out by CgMs Consulting Ltd (Chadwick & Dicks 2006).

4 Aim

The evaluation was designed to locate, identify and assess the quality and extent of surviving archaeological remains prior to a decision being taken on the preservation or otherwise of deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The trenches were dug using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket down to natural sand and gravel or the first archaeological horizon. Archaeological features were subsequently excavated by hand.
- 5.2** Potential archaeological deposits which were exposed were cleaned by hand. Individual records of layers were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.3** Section drawings were made at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Plans were made at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.4** Finds and small finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned finds numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.5** Colour photographs of the trenches and features were taken with a digital camera.
- 5.6** A metal detector was used to check spoil heaps.

6 Results

6.1 Evaluation trenches (Fig 3)

The evaluation consisted of nine trenches totalling 190.4 square metres (Trenches or T1a, T1b, T3, T4, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10). T1 was divided into two trenches to avoid underground cables and a gas pipe. T2 and T5 were not dug due to the presence of

underground cables and earth rods. A detailed list of contexts can be found in section 13 (Table 4). (In the following report, F = feature and L = layer.)

6.2 Trench 1a (Fig 4)

3m x 3m. 800mm deep. Located in a grassed area to west of A block.

Ground-level at western end of trench 8.12m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 8m AOD.

No features of archaeological interest were observed in this trench. Beneath the turf and topsoil, the soil profile consisted of undisturbed layers of light brown silt (L18) becoming sandier lower down (L19) and merging with natural sand (L4) at 750mm below ground-level.

6.3 Trench 1b (Fig 4)

4m x 4m. 800mm deep. Located in a grassed area to west of A block.

Ground-level at western end of trench 8.2m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 8.1m AOD.

No features of archaeological interest were observed in this trench. Underneath the turf and topsoil, the soil profile consisted of undisturbed layers of light brown silt (L18) becoming sandier lower down (L19) and merging with natural sand (L4) at 750mm below ground-level.

6.4 Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 6)

10m x 1.8m. Over 1m deep. Located in a grassed area to the south of G block.

Ground-level at western end of trench 8.21m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 8.18m AOD.

More than 1m of topsoil and subsoil (L11, L15, L22) was removed to expose a dirty silty clay layer (L21) which is possibly re-worked cover loam. Into this layer were cut two features, the main one being a wide ditch (F16) aligned north north-west to south-south-east. Although some peg-tile and post-medieval pottery were collected from the upper fill of F16, this may be contamination from the layer above. The date of the Roman pottery makes it likely that this ditch was filled in before AD 69.

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F16	7.28m	6.63m	Wide ditch on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment	1st century AD (pre-Flavian?)
F22	7.28m	not excavated	Small cut feature (not excavated)	Roman?

6.5 Trench 4 (Figs 4 and 6)

4m x 4m. 1.4m deep. Located in a grassed area to the north-east of H block.

Ground-level 8.6m AOD.

An electricity cable and a waste pipe were exposed in the western side of the trench, which left just over half the trench available for excavation. 1.4m of topsoil and dry silty material, probably hillwash (L11-L14), was removed to expose a large pit (F17). The slot excavated through part of F17 revealed distinctly different fills; the lower fill with a high concentration of charcoal and containing Late Iron Age pottery, and the upper fill with less charcoal and containing 1st-century AD pottery. The charcoal-rich fill also contained some cremated animal bone. The presence of oyster shell in the outer fill suggests a rubbish-pit. Although the fills were different, it does not necessarily mean that they represent two phases of infilling (see section 7.3). Like F16 in T3, the pottery evidence suggests that this pit (whatever its purpose) was filled in during the 1st century AD. F17 was not bottomed due to safety restrictions.

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F17	7.30m	6.75m at least (feature not bottomed)	Charcoal-filled pit	1st century AD

6.6 Trench 6 (Figs 4 and 7 and Plate 1)

16m x 1.8m. Between 800mm and 1m deep. Located in a grassed area between H block and the car-park.

Ground-level at northern end of trench 9.86m.

Ground-level at southern end of trench 10.00m.

Archaeological layers and features were recorded from 400mm below ground-level, after the removal of topsoil (L11) and post-medieval subsoil (L16). In the centre of the trench, machining exposed a 5m-wide gravelled surface (F19). The definite edges to the gravel make it likely that it was a trackway. The trackway was aligned NNW to SSE and was also picked up in T7 and T8 (F24 and L10 respectively). When observed in section, F19 was seen to have been resurfaced. The evidence for this resurfacing was a compact layer of gravel (F19c) overlaid by a soil make-up layer (F19b) with a re-metalling layer of gravel over this (F19a). Pre-Flavian pottery was present in the make-up layer, giving a date for the trackway's period of use. The trackway was flanked by two ditches, F18 on its north side and F20 to the south. Both ditches are thought to be contemporary with the trackway as they contained pre-Flavian pottery. Ditch F18 appeared to have been cut through an earlier, shallower ditch (F25).

At the southern end of the trench, the first archaeological layer to be exposed was a light grey brown sandy clay with charcoal flecking (L23). On removal by machine, L23 was found to seal features F20, F21 and F23. F20 was the southern trackway ditch and was intersected by another ditch (F21). Excavation of the intersection of the two features showed that F20 was cut by F21, although both features were filled in probably before c AD 69. A sondage was dug by hand through what was at first thought to be a layer at the southern end of T6, to test the depth of natural. This sondage revealed a pit (F23) with three fills (L24, L25, L26) containing 1st-century AD pottery and a Roman copper-alloy fitting likely to derive from a military uniform.

None of the features in T6, except possibly F18, were cut into natural ground. Ditch F20, ditch F21 and pit F23 were cut through archaeological deposits which may represent previous occupation (L27, L28, L29, L30, L31). There was no dating evidence from these earlier deposits. However, their presence, combined with the intercutting of certain features, demonstrates more than one phase of activity in this area.

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F18	8.93m	8.39m	Ditch on the northern side of F19	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F19	9.42m	8.57m	Metalled trackway on a NNW-SSE alignment	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F20	9.05m	8.60m	Ditch on southern side of F19	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F21	9.08m	8.44m	Ditch cutting F20	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F23	9.32m	8.36m	Pit with three fills	1st century
F25	8.93m	8.60m	Shallow ditch, possibly cut by F18	Roman



Plate 1 Metalled trackway F19, T6, view west.

6.7 Trench 7 (Figs 5 and 8)

15m x 1.8m. Between 600mm and 1m deep. Located in a car-park by blocks F and H.

Ground-level at western end of trench 10.94m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 10.27m AOD.

The car-park had been cut into an east-facing slope. The surface and sub-base of the car-park (L1 and L2 respectively) were lying directly on top of a Roman subsoil (L6), the intervening post-Roman topsoil layer probably having been removed during the creation of the car-park. Once L6 had been stripped away, several archaeological features were revealed. At the western end of the trench were several indistinct charcoally patches. On cleaning, two of them proved to be linear (F7 and F8). F8 was a narrow (850mm-wide) feature on a NNW to SSE alignment. A section dug across F8 showed it to be 250mm deep and with the charcoal mainly confined to the upper fill. To its east it cut F7/F11, and to its west it cut a clean yellow silty clay layer, 300mm thick (L7). L7 resembled a floor and was lying on natural sand (L4). To the east of F8 was second narrow linear feature (F7). This followed a roughly north-south alignment but was not observed in T8. A few centimetres below the surface of F7 was a compact layer of small to medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones (F11). The layer was only one stone thick. The stones, although resembling a metalled surface, were not worn, and neither did they extend to the east. To the west, F11 was cut by F8. The charcoal suggests a cobbled hearth; however, the stones themselves did not show any signs of being burnt. One interpretation of F11 is that it was a stone plinth/ground beam for a timber wall. This is consistent with the probable floor (L7) to the west, although it is unclear how F8 relates to this structure. F11 was not built onto natural sand and it may in fact be the upper fill of a deeper feature. Unfortunately there was no time to investigate further. Two other charcoal patches (F12 and F13) were observed to the east of F7/F11 but were not fully excavated.

The eastern half of the trench was originally thought to be archaeologically blank, with L6 sealing what appeared to be natural gravel at about 1m below ground-level. However, after the metalled trackway (F19) had been exposed in T6, the 'natural' was reinterpreted as a continuation of the metalling and was given a feature number (F24). There were no clear edges to the gravel; it petered out at approximately 2m from the eastern end of the trench.

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F7/F11	10.35m	10m at least (not bottomed)	Narrow charcoally linear feature with gravel lense - possible wall plinth? - containing samian pottery	Roman, probably 1st century
F8	10.37m	10.12m	Charcoally linear, containing samian pottery	Roman, 1st century (probably pre-Flavian)
F12	10.10m	10.03m at least (not bottomed)	Irregular charcoally patch, may be part of F13	Roman, 1st century, (possibly pre-Flavian)
F13	10.10m	not excavated	Irregular charcoally patch	Roman, 1st century?
F24	9.25m	not excavated	Gravel layer - possible continuation of F19 in T6	Roman?

6.8 Trench 8 (Figs 5 and 8)

10m x 1.8m. Between 400mm and 600mm deep. Located in a car-park by blocks F and H.

Ground-level at northern end of trench 10.11m AOD.

Ground-level at southern end of trench 10.50m AOD.

The trench was located on a north-facing slope. The car-park surface and sub-base (L1 and L2 respectively) overlaid Roman strata. At the southern end of the trench, the subsoil (L10) was similar to L6 in T7 but here consisted of bands of gravel. It sealed a yellow brown silty layer (L9) which may be cover loam. L10 may well be a continuation of the metalled trackway in T6 (F19). Cut into L9 and sealed by L10 was a narrow shallow gully (F14) with Late Iron Age pottery in its fill.

Evident at the northern end of the trench, directly below the hardcore for the car-park, was a large pit (F10). The pit was at least 2m deep but was not bottomed due to safety restrictions. This is likely to have been a rubbish-pit, dug some time before AD 69. One find of particular interest from its fill was a copper-alloy bell (SF 9). It is unclear whether F10 cut L10 or was sealed by it. F10 either cut or was cut by another feature (F15) which was observed at the north-eastern edge of the trench but not excavated.

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F10	10.19m	8.17m at least (feature not bottomed)	Deep rubbish-pit with several fills and tip lines, containing Roman tile, animal bone, glass, oyster shell, copper-alloy finds, iron nails and burnt flint	Roman 1st century - pre-Flavian pottery from the lower fill and probable pre-Flavian from upper and middle fills
F14	9.87m	9.75m	Small gully with Late Iron Age pottery	Late Iron Age
F15	9.87m	not excavated	Pit or ditch - no finds	Roman?
L10	10.35m	9.87m	Gravel layer - possible continuation of F19 in T6 - no finds	Roman?

6.9 Trench 9 (Fig 5)

7m x 1.8m. 1m deep. Located in a car-park by block E.

Ground-level at western end of trench 9.8m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 9.5m AOD.

No features were observed in this trench. Below tarmac and hardcore (L1 and L2 respectively), the profile was entirely made up of yellow orange sand. It was not clear where modern hogging stopped and natural sand began, but it became more gravelly at 1m below ground-level. This trench was positioned in an area where the slope had been scarped to form a level area for the car-park. This recent activity had evidently removed any topsoil plus the archaeological deposits below.

6.10 Trench 10 (Figs 5 and 9 and Plate 2)

25m x 1.8m. Between 350mm and 900mm deep. Located in a car-park by R block.

Ground-level at western end of trench 10.95m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench 9.30m AOD.

This car-park slopes down towards the east. Removal of the tarmac and sub-base (L1 and L2 respectively) exposed a light brown silty layer (L3) with charcoal flecks and Roman pottery. L3 became lighter in colour further down. Two Roman features had been cut through L3. At the eastern end of the trench, a sub-square or sub-rectangular pit (F1) was revealed immediately below L2. The western edge of F1 was machined away making the exact dimensions difficult to determine. The section suggested that the feature was 2.7m long but in plan it appeared smaller. At its deepest point, the pit was 600mm deep and had an uneven base. The fill of F1 contained some charcoal flecks, fragments of an early Roman lamp, an iron knife and 1st-century (pre-Flavian) pottery. The small finds are of the type usually associated with Roman burials, and this is one possible interpretation of the feature. However, in the absence of any bone, its function remains uncertain.

The western half of the trench featured a substantial ditch (F6), 2.5m wide and at least 1.2m deep, but not bottomed. The ditch followed a north-east to south-west alignment and had several different fills. The lower layers were made up of sandy silt of various hues (f-j) interleaved with sloping humic layers. These are remnants of turf lines showing that the ditch had been infilled but had settled and dished over time. Above this, a layer of compacted gravel and pea grit (d) may have been a deliberate effort to level out the backfilled ditch. The burnt daub layers above the gravel (a-e) may be Boudican burnt material (AD 60/61). Through these upper layers of F6 had been cut a shallow ditch (F2). F6 and F2 were sealed by L3 whereas F1 was cutting L3, suggesting that F1 is later than F2 and F6. However, the finds from all three features are 1st century AD.

At the extreme western end of the trench was a square pit/trench (F5), cut from high up and filled by mixed material. Diagonal tip lines indicated a deliberately backfilled trench. A slot was dug through this feature which proved to be nearly 1.5m deep. Roman material mixed with 19th- and 20th-century pottery gives a modern date for the trench. It had a small square projection to the east which also appeared to be modern. Comparison with 1930s' excavation plans of the Sheepen site show that this area has been excavated before, and F5 may correspond with a feature in site D1 shown on plate CIX (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate CIX).

Feature	Height of top of feature AOD	Height of bottom of feature AOD	Description	Date
F1	9.63m	8.83m	Sub-square or sub-rectangular pit, possibly a burial, but no bone; early Roman lamp and 1st-century (pre-Flavian) pottery	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F5	10.60m	9.12m	Excavation trench containing Roman and 19th- to 20th-century material	1930s

F6	9.80m	8.43 at least (not bottomed)	Wide and deep ditch - possible underground aqueduct; contained pre-Flavian pottery, brick, tile, daub, animal bone, burnt stone and flint	1st century (pre-Flavian)
F2	9.59m	9.11m	Ditch cutting west side of F6; 1st-century pottery	1st century



Plate 2 Ditch F6, T10, view west.

7 Finds

7.1 Finds list

Post-Roman pottery was identified by Howard Brooks of CAT using fabrics following CAR 7.

Table 1: list of finds by finds number. (SF = small finds.)

Finds no	Context	Description	Date	Weight (in g)
1	F1, T10	SF 1 - miniature lamp	Roman, probably pre-Boudican	
2	F1, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	1,144.0
2	F1, T10	Iron nail SF 14 - iron nail or terminal fragment	Roman	
3	F1, T10	SF 3 - iron knife Iron nail	Roman	
4	F2, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	44.0
4	F2, T10	2 pieces of burnt stone		43.0
4	F2, T10	Pottery		
4	F2, T10	Iron-smithing slag	Roman	29.0
5	F6, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	387.0
5	F6, T10	1 piece of Roman brick	Roman	25.0
5	F6, T10	Structural clay fragments (daub)	Roman	203.0
5	F6, T10	Iron-smithing slag	Roman	39.0

5	F6, T10	4 pieces of burnt stone		85.0
6	F6, T10	SF 2 - corroded copper-alloy fragment, probably from a stud	Roman	
7	F6, T10	SF 3 - scraps of copper alloy, possibly from studs or a seal box	Roman	
8	F6, T10	Smithing slag	Roman	15.0
8	F6, T10	3 iron nails	Roman	
9	F5, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	358.0
9	F5, T10	2 pieces of Roman tile	Roman	57.0
9	F5, T10	daub		?
9	F5, T10	Animal bone		21.0
9	F5, T10	3 sherds of ironstone pottery (Fabric 48d)	19th-20th century	16.0
9	F5, T10	2 pieces of glass	Roman	4.0
10	F5, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	632.0
10	F5, T10	Iron object, nail head?		6.0
10	F5, T10	1 peg-tile, 1 piece of Roman brick	Roman	81.0
11	F5, T10	SF4 - copper-alloy hairpin	Roman, later 1st or 2nd century	
12	F5, T10	SF 5 - copper-alloy coin or stud head	3rd or 4th century if a coin	
13	F2, T10	4 pieces of animal bone (various sizes)		28.0
14	F8, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	563.0
14	F8, T7	1 piece of glass	Roman	1.0
15	F7, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	169.0
15	F7, T7	Iron nail	Roman	
16	F7, T7	9 small pieces of animal bone		3.0
17	L6, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	199.0
17	L6, T7	1 piece of Roman brick	Roman	46.0
17	L6, T7	2 Iron nail shanks	Roman	
17	L6, T7	small animal bone fragments		2.0
19	L6, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	969.0
19	L6, T7	1 piece of <i>imbrex</i> , 1 piece of Roman brick	Roman	186.0
20	L6, T7	SF 6 - copper-alloy coin, stud head or fragment of sheet metal		
21	F10, T8	Roman pottery	Roman	976.0
21	F10, T8	2 pieces of Roman tile	Roman	355.0
21	F10, T8	SF 15 - 3 fragments of iron sheet	Roman	
21	F10, T8	4 iron nail shaft fragments		
22	F10, T8	Animal bone		
23	F10, T8	2 pieces of glass	Roman	1.0
24	L6, T7	SF8 - lead object	Roman?	
25	F6, T10	1 animal tooth, 5 animal bone fragments		2.0
26	F6, T10	Roman pottery	Roman	213.0
26	F6, T10	Assorted animal bone (small fragments)		120.0
26	F6, T10	Burnt flint		2.0
28	F6, T10	1 piece of Roman <i>tegula</i>	Roman	550.0
29	F12, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	74.0
29	F12, T7	Piece of animal bone		1.1
29	F12, T7	1 piece of Roman tile	Roman	108.0
30	F10, T8, middle/lower fill	Roman pottery	Roman	486.0
30	F10, T8 middle/lower fill	5 pieces of Roman tile/brick	Roman	1,599.0
30	F10, T8 middle/lower fill	Large animal bones (thigh/leg), 2 large animal teeth		362.0
30	F10, T8	SF 13 - iron strip fragment	Roman	

30	F10, T8 middle/ lower fill	Tile fragment	Roman	36.0
30	F10, T8	1 oyster shell and fragments	Roman	18.0
31	F10, T8	Roman pottery	Roman	406.0
31	F10, T8	Two fragments of structural clay (daub)	Roman	24.0
31	F10, T8	1 piece of <i>imbrex</i> , 2 pieces of Roman tile	Roman	73.0
31	F10, T8	Burnt flint	prehistoric?	68.0
32	F10, T8	SF 7 - copper-alloy object	Roman	
33	F14, T8	Late Iron Age pottery	Late Iron Age	87.0
34	L6, T7	Roman pottery	Roman	33.0
35	F10, T8	SF 9 - round copper-alloy bell	Roman	
36	F10, T8	Roman pottery	Roman	899.0
36	F10, T8	Three iron nails	Roman	
36	F10, T8	1 piece of burnt Roman brick, 2 pieces of Roman tile	Roman	269.0
36	F10, T8	Fragments of structural clay (daub)	Roman	90.0
36	F10, T8	Burnt flint		73.0
36	F10, T8	8 animal bones		104.0
36	F10, T8	2 oyster shells	Roman	48.0
37	F16, T3	8 pieces of Roman tile	Roman	603.0
37	F16, T3	5 pieces of animal bone		29.0
37	F16, T3	Slag(?)	Roman	105.0
37	F16, T3	Roman pottery	Roman	211.0
37	F16, T3	Struck flint		5.0
38	L14, T4, upper fill	Roman pottery	Roman	151.0
38	L14, T4, upper fill	Fragments of structural clay (daub)	Roman	32.0
38	L14, T4, upper fill	7 pieces of Roman tile, 1 piece of peg-tile (intrusive?)	Roman	195.0
39	F18, T6	Roman pottery	Roman	62.0
39	F18, T6	14 pieces of Roman tile, 1 piece of burnt tile?	Roman	1,696.0
39	F18, T6	3 pieces of septaria stone	Roman	609.0
40	F18, T6	SF 11 - fragment of copper alloy	Roman	
41	F18, T6	SF 12 - fragment of copper alloy	Roman	
42	F19, layer b, T6	Roman pottery	Roman	716.0
42	F19, layer b, T6	Iron nail	Roman	
42	F19, layer b, T6	Small fragment of animal bone		0.8
42	F19, layer b, T6	1 piece of peg-tile - intrusive	medieval to modern	30.0
43	T6, U/S	Roman pottery	Roman	385.0
43	U/S, T6	1 piece of burnt Roman tile	Roman	46.0
44	F17, T4	Roman and Late Iron Age pottery	Roman and Late Iron Age	1,659.0
44	F17, T4, lower fill	Small fragments of cremated animal bone		1.0
45	F16, T3	1 piece of glass	Roman	1.0
46	F17, T4	Cremated animal rib bone		5.0
47	F16, T3, upper fill	1 flint-tempered sherd of pottery	Late Bronze Age	13.0
47	F16, T3, upper fill	1 piece of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (Fabric 40)	17th-19th century	4.0
47	F16, T3, upper fill	2 pieces of peg-tiles, 1 piece of Roman <i>tegula</i> , 12 pieces of Roman tile/brick	Roman	738.0
47	F16, T3, upper fill	Roman pottery	Roman	48.0
48	F16, middle fill, T3	Roman pottery	Roman	984.0

48	F16, middle fill, T3	1 piece of burnt Roman brick, 10 pieces of Roman brick, 1 piece of Roman <i>tegula</i> , inc 1 piece of intrusive peg-tile	Roman	1,012.0
48	F16, middle fill, T3	Horse/cow teeth, large animal bone		128.0
49	F17, T4	2 pieces of burnt Roman tile	Roman	42.0
50	F17, T4	Roman pottery	Roman	634.0
51	F23, T6	Roman pottery	Roman	131.0
51	F23, T6	Large nail	Roman	
52	F23, T6	Roman pottery	Roman	140.0
52	F23, T6	1 piece of <i>imbrex</i> , 5 small tile fragments	Roman	95.0
52	F23, T6	SF 10 - copper-alloy fitting, possibly military	Roman	
52	F23, T6	Iron nail	Roman	
53	F20/F21, T6	Roman pottery	Roman	762.0
53	F20/F21, T6	1 piece of <i>tegula</i> , 1 piece of tile, 1 piece of <i>imbrex</i>	Roman	381.0
54	F18, T6	1 piece of glass	Roman	2.0
55	F18, T6	1 fragment of daub, 1 piece of Roman tile	Roman	734.0
56	F18, T6	2 animal nails (claws), small fragments of animal bone		9.0

7.2 The Bronze Age pottery

by S Benfield

There is only one sherd of pre-Late Iron Age pottery. This was recovered from the upper fill of F16 (T3, finds no 47). It is a flint-tempered body sherd about 7 mm thick and weighing 13 g. The edges of the sherd are slightly abraded. The sherd is most probably of Late Bronze Age date, and previous excavations have produced features and finds of the Late Bronze Age period at the Sheepen site (CAR 11, catalogue 66d).

7.3 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

The excavation produced just over 13.5 kg (13,522 g, 877 sherds) of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, all of which, by comparison with previous large assemblages from the Sheepen site, can be dated to the period c AD 5-60. The pottery is listed in Table 3 by finds number for each of the contexts, together with an overall date. Where possible, pottery fabrics were recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for CAR 10 in which all the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 2). The CAR 10 pottery fabrics are almost entirely concerned with pottery of Roman date and do not cover pottery of Late Iron Age date or of Late Iron Age tradition adapting to Roman pottery techniques (Romanising wares). To include Late Iron Age and Romanising pottery fabrics additional to the CAR 10 fabric series, some new codes have been used. These are grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW) and Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW). The additional fabrics are described below and full fabric names for each of the lettered fabric codes are given in Table 1. In addition, for some fabrics, reference has been made to the fabric types described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). These have been included in the table of Roman pottery fabrics used in this report (Table 1) as well as, where possible, the corresponding fabric designation for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection.

The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels were catalogued where possible using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996, although for early form reference has been made to types in the Camulodunum report (Hawkes & Hull 1947). The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each finds number. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric together with the weight and the estimated vessel equivalent (eve).

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after CAR 10 with additions), together with total weight in grams for each fabric type.

Fabric code	Fabric name	weight (g)	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection Fabric
AA	amphora, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras	414	
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	1,538	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 2
BA	plain samian forms		
AR	Arretine samian	1	LOY SA, PIS SA
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	406	LGF SA
BX	decorated samian forms		
AR	decorated Arretine samian	72	LOY SA, PIS SA
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian	59	LGF SA
BPW	butt-beaker parchment ware	22	NOG WH 3
CS	Pompeian-red wares	1	CAM PR 1, CNG PR 3, IMP PR 6
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	1,745	
DZ	fine oxidised wares	104	
TR	<i>terra rubra</i>	11	
EB	Lyon colour-coated ware	8	LYO CC
EC	early Colchester colour-coated ware	65	
GTW	grog-tempered wares	2,408	SOB GT
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	1,103	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	1,744	
GT	large storage jars with prominent grog temper	953	
MQ	white-slipped fine wares and parchment wares	13	
RCW	Romanising coarse ware	2,173	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	505	
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares		
LTC	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares, local traded coarse wares	40	
GAB TN1	Gallia-Belgica (Vesle Valley) <i>terra nigra</i> 1	100	GAB TN 1
WPW	white pipeclay ware	37	NOG WH 1

Table 3: the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by finds number for each feature (LIA = Late Iron Age).

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T3	37	F16			DJ GX HZ RCW		16	211	0.00		probably 1st century
T3	47	F16		upper fill	DJ GTW GX RCW	Cam 229	6	48	0.00	Fabric GX, Roman grey ware sherds	most if not all 1st century
T3	48	F16		middle fill	AJ BA(SG) DJ EB GTW GX RCW	Cam 62 Cam 266?	40	984	0.08	Fabric BA(SG), large platter Fabric DJ, several pots, some sherds possibly amphora	1st century, ?pre-Flavian
T4	38		L14		AJ GTW GX HZ RCW		11	151	0.00		1st century

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T4	44	F17		lower fill	GTW	Cam 229 Cam 258?	108	1659	0.60	sherds from at least 7 pots, including a base from a wheel-turned pedestal form; some pots are clearly partly hand-built, from finger marks inside	LIA/?early Roman
T4	50	F17		upper fill	BPW DZ GTW HZ(GT) RCW UR(GAB TN1) WPW	?Cam 115B ?Cam 220 Cam 163B	46	634	0.30	Fabric DZ sherd from butt-beaker, with fernleaf-like zig-zag bands	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	51	F23			GTW HZ RCW		6	131	0.10		1st century
T6	43			U/S	HZ		2	385	0.00	sherds from 2 pots: one large storage jar, one thinner sherd	1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	BA(SG) DZ EC? GX HZ RCW		7	62	0.00	abraded	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	42	F19		layer B	AA BA(SG)DJ DZ GTW HZ(GT) RCW TZ UR(GAB TN1)	Dr 18?	31	716	0.02	Fabric TZ appears to be a mortaria base in fabric similar to Fabric AJ, probably an early import	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	53	F20/ 21			AA AJ DJ DZ DZ(TR)GX HZ RCW	Cam 8/24	24	762	0.15	1 sherd, burnt	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	52	F23	L24 L25		HZ RCW	Cam 266?	15	140	0.30		1st century
T7	15	F7		upper fill	BA(SG) DJ DZ GTW HZ RCW	Cam 326/331	30	169	0.25	Fabric BA(SG), probably South Gaulish but possibly Fabric BA(AR) Fabric DJ, Cam 326/331 probably this form but otherwise not recorded from the Sheepen site (CAR 10, p 483)	probably 1st century
T7	17		L6		AJ BA(SG) GX HZ RCW	Dr 18	10	199	0.05		1st century
T7	34		L6		BX(SG) RCW	Dr 29	2	33	0.04	Fabric BX(SG), running hare facing right pursued by dog, dog head touching back of hare, with small rosette below hare and panel of dart motifs, part of T7 finds no 19, L6	pre-Flavian to early Flavian
T7	29	F12		upper fill	UR(LTC) RCW	Cam 218	8	74	0.00		1st century, ?pre-Flavian
T7	14	F8		upper fill	BA(SG) BPW DJ TZ GTW GX HZ RCW	Dr 15/17 ?Cam 113 Cam 192A Cam 253	18	563	0.28	Fabric BA(SG), about half of pot in several abraded sherds, part of a	1st century, probably pre-Flavian

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eye	comments/ description	date
										central potter's stamp, very worn Fabric HZ, possibly burnt	
T7	19	L6			AA AJ BA(AR) BX(SG) DJ EC DZ GTW HZ(GT) RCW	Ritterling 5 (Dr 29 Cam s11) Dressel 2-4 Cam 258 Cam 218	78	969	0.36	Fabric BA(AR), Ritterling 5 cup, rim sherd with rouletting on lip edge Fabric BX(SG), 2 joining sherds, running hare facing right with small rosette below and panel of dart motifs, part of T7 finds no 34 F6 Fabric AA, very top of handle only, possibly Dressel 2-4	pre-Flavian
T8	21	F10		upper fill	AA AJ BA(SG) DJ EB GTW RCW	Dr 17 Dr 24/25 Dr 27 Cam 62 Cam 266	87	976	0.55		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	BA(SG)DJ EC? GX HZ RCW	Dr 27 Cam 243- 244/246	17	486	0.15		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	AA AJ BA(SG)DJ EC? GX RCW	Dr 24/25Cam 243- 244/246	27	406	0.40		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T8	36	F10		lower fill	AA AJ DJ BA(SG) GX HZ	Dr 24/25 Cam 140 Cam 243- 244/246	27	899	0.12	Fabric DJ, includes complete neck from a large flagon	pre-Flavian
T8	33	F14			GTW		6	87	0.00		LIA
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	AJ BA(SG) BX(SG) DJ DZ EC GX HZ RCW TZ	Dr 27 Dr 29 Cam 94 Cam 191 Cam 270	112	114 4	0.30	Fabric RCW, one base sherd from a jar/bowl with post-firing hole made through it	1st century, pre-Flavian-early Flavian
T10	4	F2		west side	DZ GTW MQ RCW		8	44	0.00		1st century
T10	9	F5		north fill	AA BPW DJ DZ GTW GX HZ RCW UR(LTC)	Cam 14 ?Cam 16 Cam 113	40	358	0.24		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T10	10	F5		south fill	AA DJ DZ(TR) GTW GX HZ(GT) RCW	Cam 8/24? Cam 108 Cam 257	49	632	0.12		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	AJ BA(SG) BX(?AR)BX(S G)CS DJ GTW HZ RCW	Dr 29	31	387	0.51		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T10	26	F6		Upper fill	DJ DZ UR(GAB TN1) GTW HZ(GT)		15	213	0.10		1st century, probably pre-Flavian

Discussion

Overall the pottery types recovered during the evaluation are entirely consistent with those present among the large assemblages previously recovered from the Sheepen site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985) and dated c AD 5-60 (Niblett 1985, p 3). In this respect, there is little that can be added to this statement apart for one or two specific points of interest.

Only one pottery form was recorded which is not previously recorded among the earlier assemblages from the Sheepen site. This is the bowl form Cam 326/331 which came from the upper fill of F15 (T7). The surviving part of this vessel consists of a number of sherds from the rim, which is grooved or ringed in a similar fashion to examples listed in *CAR 10* under Fabric DJ type 51. The form is present among pottery associated with the 'bypass' kiln at Colchester, which is dated to the pre-Boudican period although it is noted that it is absent from assemblages from the Sheepen site (*CAR 10*, p 483). The sherds from the vessel from F15 are sufficient to allow a reasonably confident identification; however, as the attribution of this form type to this pot cannot be completely certain, it is simply noted that a probable example of the form is present in this assemblage.

While pottery forms and fabrics of the Late Iron Age are common at the Sheepen site, contexts that can be dated to that period are few in number (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pp 46-51; Niblett 1985, pp 5 & 48). One context from the evaluation, the pit F17 (T4), produced a group of pottery which is consistent with a Late Iron Age date.

The lower fill of F17 (finds no 44) produced 108 sherds (1,659 g) of pottery. All of the sherds are relatively thick and most are grog-tempered (Fabric GTW), although a few are in a coarse, predominantly sandy fabric. Also some pots are clearly partly hand-built, having the indentations of finger marks inside them, especially at the joint of the base and wall of the vessel and the area of the shoulder where neck and body join. At least seven pots appear to be represented, among which two form types could be identified, ie Cam 229 (ripple shouldered bowl) in grog-tempered ware and Cam 258B (cooking pot) in a sandy fabric with occasional red grog fragments. Both forms are recorded from Period 1 (c AD 5-43) contexts at the Sheepen site (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pp 280-81), although Cam 258 is also current during the early Roman, Claudian period (*CAR 10*, p 478). There are no Gallo-Belgic imports among the pottery from the lower fill, which begin to appear in Britain during the Augustan period after c 25 BC (Stead & Rigby 1989, p 144). Also no local fine ware vessels are present.

The pottery from the upper fill of F17 (finds no 50) consists of 46 sherds (634 g). The coarse pottery is also mostly grog-tempered, although three sherds are recorded as Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW). However, in contrast to the lower fill, a number of fine wares are present, including imported Gallo-Belgic white wares and *terra nigra* (Fabrics BPW, WPW and UR(GAB TN 1)). The forms recorded are Cam 220 (bowl) in Fabric GTW, Cam 163B (*lagena*) in Fabric WPW and Cam 115B (butt-beaker) in Fabric DZ. None of these forms are recorded among assemblages from the Roman fortress or early *colonia* and are only associated with the Sheepen site.

The pottery from F17 is an interesting small assemblage. The presence of the imported fine wares only in the upper fill could suggest a significant difference in date between the lower and upper fills. However, this seems unlikely, especially as both contexts are fills within a pit. Also the occupation at the Sheepen site is dated from c AD 5, significantly later than the beginning of the importation of fine wares into Britain. Although the earliest evidence for Late Iron Age occupation at Camulodunum comes from burials at Lexden, suggesting a date of c 25 BC (*CAR 11*, p 174), on present understanding of the Sheepen site itself, it appears unlikely that the lower pit fill would pre-date the accepted beginning of the Late Iron Age occupation there, and so probably represents a number of coarse ware pots which were disposed of together. Of itself, the pottery from the lower fill does, however, appear to represent a Late Iron Age group. The pottery from the upper fill could also be of Late Iron Age date, although the presence of a few sherds recorded as Romanising coarse ware may indicate a post-conquest date.

7.4 The small finds

by Nina Crummy

(Due to the tight timescale for the report none of the small finds have been conserved and therefore have not been drawn. It is anticipated that if further excavation is required then the small finds will be conserved at this stage and the illustrations incorporated into the excavation report.)

The assemblage is distinguished by two items from F1, both probably unique. One is a miniature Loeschcke type 1 lamp and the other an unusual knife with flat integral handle. Miniature lamps are generally found in burials, and the recovery of this example with a complete knife, and also with fragments of what may be a lock-plate, argues strongly for the interpretation of the feature as a grave.

Few of the other items are well-preserved, but exceptions are a bell from F10, which is unusual in having a silver suspension loop, and a hairpin fragment from F5. The later is of a type that dates to the later 1st or 2nd century. A hinged fitting from F23 may be military.

SF 1. (1) F1. Miniature Loeschcke type 1 lamp (Loeschcke 1919, 23-32), with angular volutes. Length 57.5 mm. The discus design is unclear, with the principal surviving features being raised bosses; it may represent a vine wreath. The form usually only occurs in Colchester in the pre-Boudican period, but in this miniature form may be slightly later.

SF 16. (3) F1. a) Iron knife with integral handle set at right angles to the plane of the blade. The form is unusual, possibly unique. The back of the blade is slightly curved, and the edge has the S-shaped profile typical of much sharpening. The handle widens to the terminal. Length 172 mm. b) Not illustrated. Ten fragments of an iron plate, some fitting and some bent in places. Three fragments have small pieces of copper-alloy corrosion on one surface. Possibly part of a lock-plate. Dimensions of largest reconstructable fragment 66 by 55 mm.

SF 14. (2) F1. Iron pierced disc or terminal fragment. Maximum dimensions 31 by 28 mm.

SF 2. (6) F6. Corroded copper-alloy fragment, probably part of a stud. Maximum surviving dimensions 17 by 18 mm.

SF 5. (12) F5. Very corroded copper-alloy coin or stud head. If this is a coin it belongs to the 3rd or 4th century. Maximum diameter 17.5 mm.

SF 4. (11) F5. Copper-alloy hairpin of Cool's Group 10, Subgroup A, with biconical head decorated with incised triangles. Most of the shaft is missing. Length 31 mm. The form belongs to the eastern region. Dating evidence is sparse but suggests that it belongs to the later 1st and 2nd century (Cool 1990, 160).

SF 3. (7) F6. Very corroded and fragmented scraps of copper-alloy, some curved, some flat. Possibly all that remains of one or more studs, or of a seal-box. No meaningful dimensions survive.

SF 6. (20) L6, T7. Very corroded copper-alloy coin, stud head or fragment of sheet metal. The edge is now polygonal but may originally have been round. If this is a coin it belongs to the 3rd or 4th century. Maximum diameter 17 mm.

SF 8. (24) L6, T7. Small wedge-shaped lead object. Length 31 mm, width 16 mm, maximum thickness 15 mm.

SF 9. (35) F10. Round copper-alloy bell, with separate polygonal suspension loop made from silver. Height 32.5 mm, diameter 31 mm.

SF 7. (32) F10. Shaft and small fragment of copper-alloy. Length of shaft 18 mm, maximum dimensions of fragment 8 by 8 mm.

SF 15. (21) F10. Three fragments of iron sheet, one piece either thick or of double thickness. All have fresh breaks and may be part of the same object. Dimensions 49 by 41 by 18 mm; 42 by 23 by 6 mm; 24 by 21 by 6 mm.

SF 13. (30) F10. Iron strip fragment; one end is expanded and slightly bent. Length 47 mm.

SF 11. (40) F18. Small fragment of copper-alloy. Diameter 7 mm.

SF 12. (41) F18. Copper-alloy fragment, possibly casting debris or a damaged furniture nail. Length 15 mm.

SF 10. (52) F23. Hinged copper-alloy fitting, probably from a military apron or belt, with a single thickness of metal on one side of the hinge and two on the other. Length 47.5 mm.

7.5 Bulk ironwork

by Nina Crummy

The nails are of standard Manning type 1b form (Manning 1985, 134) with flat or slightly convex round head and one, from F23, may be of the larger type 1a.

(2) F1. Type 1b nail. Length 23 mm.

(3) F6. ?Type 1b nail. Length 87 mm.

(8) F6. Three type 1b nails. Lengths 89, 50 and 25 mm.

(15) F7. Type 1b nail. Length 31 mm.

(21) F10. Four nail shaft fragments. Lengths 31, 28, 26 and 25 mm.

(36) F10. Three type 1b nails. Lengths 54, 26 and 25 mm.

(42) F19. Type 1b nail. Length 67 mm.

(51) F23. Head and part of the shaft of a large nail. The shank is so thick that this may be a type 1a nail, which reached lengths in excess of 150 mm. Surviving length 69 mm.

(52) F23. Type 1b nail, clenched. Length (bent) 68 mm.

(17) L6, T7. Two nail shank fragments. Lengths 22 and 32 mm.

7.6 Metal-working debris

by Nina Crummy

This small quantity of slag is equivalent to the background presence of such material on the majority of Roman sites and is insufficient on its own to attest to smithing in the immediate area, but in this instance the location of the site, within the industrial area of pre-and post-conquest Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985), demonstrates the source of the fragments.

(4) F2. Iron-smithing slag. Weight 29 g.

(5) F6. Iron-smithing slag. Weight 39 g.

(8) F6. Iron-smithing slag. Weight 15 g.

7.7 Structural clay

by Nina Crummy

Many of these fragments are hard and may have been fired. They may therefore come from oven or kiln superstructures, rather than buildings.

(5) F6. Twenty-one fragments, one with original surface. Weight 203 g.

(31) F10. Two fragments, both with original surface. Weight 24 g.

(36) F10. Five fragments, all with original surface. Weight 90 g.

(38) L14. Three fragments. Weight 32 g.

7.8 The animal bone

by Julie Curl

(16), F7 - cremated mammal bone, not identifiable to species.

(25), F6, T10 - not burnt. The six fragments include two pieces of animal tooth, probably cattle.

(29), F12, T7 - cremated mammal bone, not identifiable to species.

(44), F17, T4 - cremated mammal bone. Very small fragments, not identifiable to species.

(46), F17, T4 - 10 fragments of cremated bone, including fragments of sheep/goat rib. Fill includes one unburnt fragment of cattle metatarsal (proximal end of bone).

8 Discussion

8.1 The archaeological remains

The evaluation confirmed that the site is an extension of the Sheepen site with features of the same date and type as those excavated at Sheepen in the 1930s and later excavations, ie Late Iron Age to 1st-century AD features typical of pre-conquest (AD 5-43) and pre-Flavian (AD 43-69) activity. There were no features definitely dating after the 1st century AD except for a 1930s' excavation trench, modern services and a land drain.

In T10, a deep ditch (F6) was recorded on a NE to SW alignment. The feature's relatively steep sides indicate that it was not dug as a dyke or a boundary ditch nor anything designed to be left open. The fill of the feature looked like deliberate backfilling rather than gradual silting up over time. F6 was not bottomed due to safety restrictions. The ditch measured 2.5m at its top but was only 1.5m wide where excavation stopped, and at this point it appeared to be starting to shelve down sharply. One interpretation for F6 is that it was an underground aqueduct. The Romans dug such an aqueduct to the north-west of the site to carry water from Sheepen Springs down the valley side. Part of it was excavated in the 1930s prior to the bypass being constructed (see Fig 2). It was built in the Claudian period (AD 43-48) and it was 1.5m wide and very steeply sided (Region 2 of 1930s' excavations, Hawkes & Hull 1947, 52, 76, figs 3 and 13 and plate CVII). F6 contained only pre-Flavian finds and, if it had been possible to excavate it completely, it may well have had the same steeply-sided profile as the aqueduct. The aqueduct under the bypass was built at between 12m and 10.5m AOD and followed the contour of the valley side. F6 was at 9.8m AOD. It does not follow the line of the contour, but it is possible that the aqueduct was angled off eastwards as it approached the valley floor. For F6 to be part of the aqueduct, it would have had to pass through the Sheepen Dyke and a Roman road. The Sheepen dyke was filled in immediately after the Roman conquest (CAR 11, 55), so this would not have posed an obstacle to the aqueduct. The latter could have easily passed under the Roman road or been dug before the construction of the road. F6 was not picked up in the excavations of this area in the 1930s (Region 4), which is surprising as it is a substantial feature (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate CIX).

Pit F1 in T10 contained charcoal flecks and some items that are normally associated with burials, ie a miniature Loeschke type 1 lamp, an unusual iron knife and some copper-alloy fragments which could well derive from a lock-plate to a wooden box (see section 7.4). The feature was fairly shallow and appeared to be sub-square in plan. However, no human bone was found in the fill and the western part of the feature had been machined away, making its interpretation problematic.

The metallised trackway F19 revealed in T6 showed evidence of resurfacing in the pre-Flavian period. The flanking ditches also contained pre-Flavian pottery. It was also located in T7 and T8 (F24 and L10 respectively) and sealed a Late Iron Age gully (F14). This trackway does not seem to link up with any roads or trackways thus far excavated. The roadway found during the recent excavations at the St Mary's hospital site runs to the south of the Institute (see Fig 2; CAT report in prep). This one may be a spur off the St Mary's hospital site road, although the two routeways do differ; notably, F19 had trackside ditches and the St Mary's hospital site road did not.

In T7, a clay floor (L7) and a possible ground beam (F11) indicate a structure here. Charcoally patches in the same trench may also represent occupation in this area. The site plan of Region 4 of the 1930s' Sheepen excavations (plate CIX in Hawkes & Hull 1947) shows a hearth and a 1st-century AD clay floor in this area. Occupation layers and ditches in T6 plus the rubbish-pit in T8 are all consistent with domestic activity, although they could be linked to industrial activity.

The presence of daub in some of the features, notably from F6 in T10 and F10 in T8 may represent an oven or kilns in the vicinity rather than burnt buildings, particularly given the hardness of the clay (see section 7.7). A small quantity of slag recovered from F2 in and F6 in T10 does not necessarily signify iron-smithing on the site, but it is certainly what would be expected in such close proximity to the industrial area of pre-and post-conquest Sheepen (see section 7.6). To summarise, the features here reflect the status of the nationally important Sheepen site.

8.2 Preservation of archaeological remains

T1a and T1b were archaeologically blank. This appears to be due to a lack of archaeological remains in this spot rather than because of any ground disturbance. T9 was also empty, but this was due to the levelling out of the slope and the consequent removal of archaeological deposits. The archaeological features in the remaining six trenches were largely undisturbed by recent site-levelling activities, although the topsoil and post-Roman layers had been removed in T7, T8 and T10, probably when creating the car-parks. In T3 and T4, the features were buried by over 1m of hillwash. Modern underground services had only caused minor damage to archaeological features.

To conclude, the area of the peripatetic staff car-park (T9) appears to have no archaeological potential, and nor does the small area west of A block (T1a and T1b). In the other areas, the archaeological deposits were well preserved but varied in their depth below ground-level.

9 Acknowledgements

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11 Glossary and abbreviations

amphora	a large Roman storage jar for transporting wine or olive oil
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum, ie height above sea level
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick, tile and daub
<i>colonia</i>	an urban colony of Roman citizens
context	specific location on an archaeological site, usually a feature or layer
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
Flavian	the period of the Flavian Roman emperors, AD 69-96
<i>imbrex</i>	a Roman roof tile connecting two <i>tegulae</i>
Iron Age	the period preceding the Roman conquest in Britain, c 700 BC to AD 43
LIA	Late Iron Age, ie c 75-50 BC to AD 43
modern	period from the mid 19th century to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>oppidum</i>	a Late Iron Age tribal centre defended by earthworks
post-medieval	c AD 1500-1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
SF	small find, an object that requires special conservation and reporting, ie not usually pottery, CBM or bone
sx	archaeological section
<i>tegula</i>	a Roman roof tile

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is 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 2006.96.

13 Site data

Table 4: table of contexts. (LIA = Late Iron Age.)

Context	Trench	Description	Datable finds	Date
L1	T7, T8, T9, T10	Tarmac - car-park surface	-	present day
L2	T7, T8, T9, T10	Hogging and concrete blocks - car-park sub-base	-	present day
L3	T10	Subsoil immediately beneath L2; firm dry light brown silt becoming lighter in colour further down	Roman pottery (not kept)	Roman
L4	T1a, T1b, T9, T10	Natural orangey brown clayey sand, with patches of light brown silty sand - the result of floral and faunal activity	-	Glacial
L5	T10	Up to 50mm-thick layer of gravel in between L3 and L4 near F1, seen in both north- and south-facing trench sections; between 1.5m and 3m wide in extent - may be naturally deposited hillwash or could be a man-made surface	no finds	Roman or natural
L6	T7	Medium dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones; similar to L16 - sealed by L2, sealed F7 and F8 - contained animal bone, brick and tile	Roman 1st-century AD pottery including samian; copper alloy coin, 3rd to 4th century	Roman
L7	T7 - west end	Yellowish brown silty clay, 300mm deep; cut by F8, similar to L9 but cleaner; sealed by L6 - possible floor surface?	no finds	Roman, 1st century?
L8		no L8		
L9	T8	Clean yellowish brown silt - cover loam?; sealed by L10, sealed natural L4, cut by F14 and F10	no finds	prehistoric?
L10	T8	Mid brown sandy silt layer similar to L6 in T7 but with two bands of gravel; sealed by L2, possibly cut by F10, sealed L9 and F14 - possible continuation of trackway F19	no finds	Roman?
L11	T1a, T1b, T3, T4, T6	Turf and dark brown loam topsoil	no finds	modern
L12	T4	450mm-thick layer of dry grey brown silty loam subsoil underlying L11, contained charcoal and brick flecks - may be hillwash	Coal flecks	post-medieval to modern
L13	T4	700mm-thick layer of firm dry medium yellowish brown silt underlying L12, contained flecks of charcoal, brick and daub - may be hillwash	no finds	Roman or later
L14	T4	320mm-thick layer of firm dry light grey brown silt underlying L13, containing pieces of brick/ tile and pottery; charcoal, daub and manganese flecking; heavy root action from the adjacent tree probably accounts for the dryness - L14 may be the upper layer to F17	Brick/tile and 1st-century Roman pottery	Roman, 1st century
L15	T3	Subsoil underlying topsoil L11; sealed L22 - hillwash?	no finds	post-medieval?
L16	T6	Medium brown sandy silt subsoil sealing trackway F19, L23 and F23	Coal, Roman and post-medieval pottery (not kept)	post-medieval

L17		no L17		
L18	T1a, T1b	Dry light brown silt subsoil, 300mm thick, underlying topsoil L11; tile flecks	no finds	post-medieval?
L19	T1a, T1b	Light orange brown slightly sandy silt, 200mm thick, underlying L18 and overlying natural L4	no finds	?
L20		no L20		
L21	T3	Dirty yellowish brown silty clay underlying L22 and cut by F16 and F22 - re-worked cover loam?	no finds	prehistoric or Roman
L22	T3	Subsoil layer sealing L21 and sealed by L15 - hillwash?	no finds	post-medieval?
L23	T6	Firm moist light grey brown sandy clay; sealed by L16 and sealing F23	no finds	Roman
L24	T6	Friable moist medium brown clayey sand with small and medium-sized rounded stones and flecks of charcoal - the upper layer of F23 (a)	Roman pottery	Roman, 1st century
L25	T6	Dark brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks - the middle layer of F23 (b)	Roman pottery, iron nail	Roman, 1st century
L26	T6	Firm moist medium dark grey brown clayey sand with flecks of charcoal and pieces of daub and brick - lower layer of F23 (c)	no finds	Roman, 1st century
L27	T6	Hard yellow course sand with pockets of brown soil and 20% stone content; cut by F23 - may be the same layer as L31 or could be a feature	no finds	Roman or LIA?
L28	T6	Very light brown clayey sand, seemed to be cut by F23 and possibly by L27	no finds	Roman or LIA?
L29	T6	Medium grey brown silt with frequent charcoal flecks - possible occupation layer seen below F20 and F21	no finds	Roman or LIA?
L30	T6	Hard orange brown sandy silt with 65-70% stone content; seen below F21, sealed L29	no finds	Roman or LIA?
L31	T6	Orange brown sandy silt with 40% stone content; cut by F20 - possibly the same as L27	no finds	Roman or LIA?
F1	T10	Sub-square pit, up to 600mm deep, possibly a burial, immediately below L2; filled by dark brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks and a large amount of pottery, plus a lamp, copper-alloy knife and iron objects; the western edge is unclear having been machined away. F1 cut L3, L4 and L5 - no human bone	Early Roman lamp and 1st-century (pre-Flavian) pottery	1st century, pre-Flavian
F2	T10	Small shallow ditch cutting F6 on its west side; fill, mid orange brown sandy silt - contained burnt stone and animal bone	Roman, 1st-century pottery	Roman, 1st century
F3		no F3		
F4		no F4		
F5	T10	1930s' excavation trench: flat-bottomed 1.5m-deep ditch with a protrusion to the east. Slot dug through exposed a mixed fill showing diagonal tip lines. Cut into natural L4 and sealed by L2, contained Roman 1st-century and modern pottery, daub, animal bone and copper-alloy finds; flecks of charcoal and coal	19th- to 20th-century pottery, coal, possible 3rd- or 4th-century coin	1930s
F6	T10	2.5m-wide ditch at least 1.2m deep but not bottomed; sealed by L3 and cutting into L4. Several fills: Lower layers are made up of sandy silt of various hues interleaved with diagonal	Roman pottery, 1st-century pottery (probably	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian

		humic layers - remnants of turf lines, showing settlement of the feature. Above this a layer of compacted gravel and pea grit may be a deliberate effort to level out the backfilled ditch. The burnt daub layer above the gravel may be Boudican burnt material. Cut by F2 to the west; contained brick, tile, daub, animal bone, burnt stone and flint	pre-Flavian)	
F7	T7	A charcoally patch, roughly linear - the upper 50mm consisting of mid brown sandy silt with charcoal, daub and animal bone fragments sitting on a layer of small and medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones (F11); edges and depth of feature not definitely established, sealed by L6 - plinth/ground beam?	Roman, probably 1st - century, pottery including samian	Roman, probably 1st century
F8	T7	Narrow linear adjacent to F7/F11 and sealed by L6, filled by mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium-sized stones and charcoally fragments especially on the surface; contained some animal bone, cut L7 and possibly F11 - structural?	Roman, 1st-century (probably pre-Flavian) pottery including samian	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F9		no F9		
F10	T8	Large pit at least 2m deep, seemingly cutting gravel layer/surface L10. Various fills: Upper northern fill (a) - gravel and large amount of pot sherds Main southern fills (b, d, h) - dark brown sandy silt with small to medium-sized rounded stones. Diagonal tip lines on the northern side (c, e, f, g) - alternating bands of sand and dark brown sandy silt with one band of oyster shell and animal bone. F10 contained Roman tile, animal bone, glass, oyster shell, copper-alloy finds, iron nails and burnt flint. Feature not bottomed - may continue another 500mm	Roman, 1st-century pottery, pre-Flavian from the lower fill and probably pre-Flavian from upper and middle fills	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F11	T7	Compact layer of medium-sized and large angular and sub-angular stones under F7; stones are unworn and unburnt. Cut by F8? - possible plinth/ground beam for a timber wall	no finds	Roman, 1st century?
F12	T7	Charcoal patch, not fully excavated; filled by soft mid brown sandy silt with daub, charcoal and brick/tile (the charcoal is most dense in the top layer); may be the same as F13. Sealed by L6, contained animal bone and Roman tile.	Roman, 1st-century, possibly pre-Flavian pottery	Roman, 1st century
F13	T7	Charcoal patch, not excavated; may be a continuation of F12. Sealed by L6	no finds	Roman?
F14	T8	Linear gully filled by mid brown sandy silt similar to L10 above but sandier; sealed by L10 and cut into L9, contained Roman tile and LIA pottery	6 sherds of LIA pottery	LIA or Roman
F15	T8	Pit or ditch at north-eastern corner of trench. Not excavated. Fill - medium brown sandy silt. At least 1m wide; either cut by F10 or cut F10	no finds	Roman?
F16	T3	Wide linear aligned NW-SE: upper fill (a) - mid brown sandy silt , middle fill (b) - light brown sandy silt.	1st-century pottery, ?pre-Flavian	Roman, 1st century, ?pre-Flavian

		The feature was sealed by L22 and cut L21. Feature not bottomed but an auger hole revealed a further 250mm of fill; contained tile, animal bone, one piece of glass, a struck flint and slag. Peg-tile and post-medieval pottery appear intrusively in the upper fill		
F17	T4	Large pit with various fills: upper fill (a) - mid to dark grey brown hard sandy silt with charcoal and pot and CBM fragments middle fill (b) - yellow sandy silt containing occasional charcoal fragments outer/lower fill (c) - grey brown sandy silt with a heavy concentration of charcoal fragments and flecks and much pottery. small fragments of cremated animal bone LIA pottery. Extreme outer fill (d) - heavy concentration of charcoal with oyster and burnt flint. F17 sealed by 1.4m of hillwash (L11-L14); feature not bottomed. Contained cremated animal bone	Lower/outer fills containing LIA or early Roman pottery Upper fill - Roman 1st-century, pre-Flavian pottery	Roman, 1st century
F18	T6	Ditch on the north side of trackway F19, filled by mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent stones; contained septaria, pottery, glass, daub, tile and animal bone; may be a trackside ditch or it may be a re-cut of F25	Roman, 1st-century (probably pre-Flavian), pottery from upper and middle fills	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F19	T6	Metalled trackway 5m wide, made up of 3 layers: upper layer (a) - (resurfacing) small to medium-sized rounded and sub-rounded stones 2-5cm wide plus smaller pebbles middle fill (b) - dark brown layer with pockets of clay and frequent angular and sub-angular and rounded stones plus tile and pottery; a make-up layer for re-surfacing lower fill (c) - the original surface consisting of small to medium-sized round stones. The depth of the trackway is 700mm including patching and resurfacing. Two probable trackside ditches run parallel to the south and north respectively (F20 and F18/F25)	Roman, 1st-century pottery (probably pre-Flavian) from middle layer	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F20	T6	Ditch running parallel to F19 to the south and probably associated with it. Filled by mid-dark brown sandy silt, cut by F21. F20 cuts L31 and is sealed by L23. Contained one burnt sherd of pottery plus Roman tile	Roman 1st-century pottery (probably pre-Flavian)	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F21	T6	Ditch intersecting F20 at an angle and cutting it; filled by mid-dark brown sandy silt - may also cut F23. Contained pottery and tile	Roman, 1st-century pottery (probably pre-Flavian)	Roman, 1st century, probably pre-Flavian
F22	T3	Small feature adjacent to F16 with a similar-looking fill. Not excavated	no finds	Roman
F23	T6	Pit with three different fills a, b, c = L24, L25 and L26 respectively. The relationship between F23 and the adjacent F21 is not clear. F23 did not cut natural but cut L27 and L28. Contained some tile pieces	1st-century AD pottery	Roman, 1st century

F24	T7	Gravelly layer beneath L6, originally thought to be natural but after discovery of trackway F19 in T6, F24 is thought to be a continuation of it	no finds	Roman
F25	T6	Shallow ditch filled by mid orange brown sandy silt, parallel to F19 and possibly related to it; probably cut by F18	no finds	Roman

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14 Appendix: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery table

by S Benfield

Table 5: the Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman pottery by finds number for each context.

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T3	37	F16			DJ		3	2	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T3	37	F16			RCW		1	10	0.00		1st century
T3	37	F16			GX		11	166	0.00		Roman
T3	37	F16			HZ		1	33	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T3	47	F16		upper fill	DJ		1	6	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T3	47	F16		upper fill	GX		1	13	0.00	Roman grey ware	Roman
T3	47	F16		upper fill	GTW	Cam 229	1	5	0.00		LIA
T3	47	F16		upper fill	RCW		1	7	0.00		1st century
T3	47	F16		upper fill	GX?		2	17	0.00	oxidised interior of ?pot sherds, surfaces missing	Roman
T3	48	F16		middle fill	AJ		3	354	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T3	48	F16		middle fill	BA(SG)		7	132	0.00	large platter	1st century
T3	48	F16		middle fill	DJ		8	183	0.00	several pots, some sherds possibly amphora	1st-2nd/3rd century
T3	48	F16		middle fill	EB	Cam 62	1	2	0.00	fragment from a cup	pre-Flavian
T3	48	F16		middle fill	GTW		3	48	0.00	possibly Fabric HZ(GT)	LIA/1st century Roman
T3	48	F16		middle fill	RCW	Cam 266?	12	250	0.05		1st century
T3	48	F16		middle fill	GX		6	15	0.03		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T4	38		L14		AJ		1	81	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T4	38		L14		HZ		1	12	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	38		L14		GTW		2	20	0.00		LIA
T4	38		L14		RCW		5	34	0.00		1st century
T4	38		L14		GX		2	4	0.00		Roman
T4	44	F17		lower fill	GTW		1	101	0.00	base from a pedestal form, wheel-turned	LIA
T4	46	F17		lower fill	GTW	Cam 229 Cam 258B	107	1558	0.60	sherds from at least 6 pots, a large group which can all be treated as LIA pottery, thick sherds with grog-temper although one or two have little or no grog and one may have been shell- or vegetable-tempered, some are clearly partly had built from finger marks inside	LIA

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T4	50	F17		upper fill	WPW	Cam 163B	6	37	0.25		pre-Flavian
T4	50	F17		upper fill	BPW		1	2	0.00		probably pre-Flavian
T4	50	F17		upper fill	UR(GAB TN1)		1	6	0.00	dove grey	pre-Flavian
T4	50	F17		upper fill	DZ	?Cam 115B	6	39	0.00	sherds from butt-beakers, one with fernleaf-like zig-zag bands + probably 1 other pot	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T4	50	F17		upper fill	HZ(GT)		7	300	0.00		probably 1st century
T4	50	F17		upper fill	GTW	?Cam 220	22	231	0.05	mostly small sherds	LIA
T4	50	F17		upper fill	RCW		3	19	0.00	possibly grog-tempered	LIA/early Roman
T5	51	F23			HZ		1	70	0.00		probably 1st century
T5	51	F23			GTW		2	37	0.10		LIA/early Roman
T5	51	F23			RCW		3	24	0.00		early Roman
T6	43			U/S	HZ		2	385	0.00	from 2 pots: one large storage jar, one thinner sherd	1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	BA(SG)		1	11	0.00	abraded	1st century
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	EC?		2	10	0.00	red-brown slip	pre-Flavian?
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	HZ		1	12	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	GX		1	11	0.00		Roman
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	RCW		1	5	0.00	fine with banded fine incised decorative bands on body, probably a butt-beaker	probably pre-Flavian
T6	39	F18		upper-middle fill	DZ		1	13	0.00	handle, probably from a relatively fine pot	?early Roman
T6	42	F19		layer b	TZ		1	250	0.00	appears to be a mortaria base (no gritting present or remains) in fabric, reminiscent of or similar to Fabric AJ, probably an early import	1st century
T6	42	F19		layer b	AA		4	98	0.00	sherds from 3 amphora	probably 1st-early 2nd century
T6	42	F19		layer b	HZ(GT)		6	248	0.10	sherds from 2 pots	probably 1st century
T6	42	F19		layer b	UR(GAB TN1)		1	15	0.00		pre-Flavian
T6	42	F19		layer b	DZ		2	11	0.00	possibly from a butt-beaker	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	42	F19		layer b	DJ		4	11	0.00		1st-2nd century
T6	42	F19		layer b	BA(SG)	Dr 18?	1	1	0.05		1st century
T6	42	F19		layer b	GTW		4	40	0.00		LIA
T6	42	F19		layer b	RCW		8	42	0.05		1st century
T6	53	F20/ F21			AJ		3	161	0.00	1 sherd burnt	1st-early 3rd century

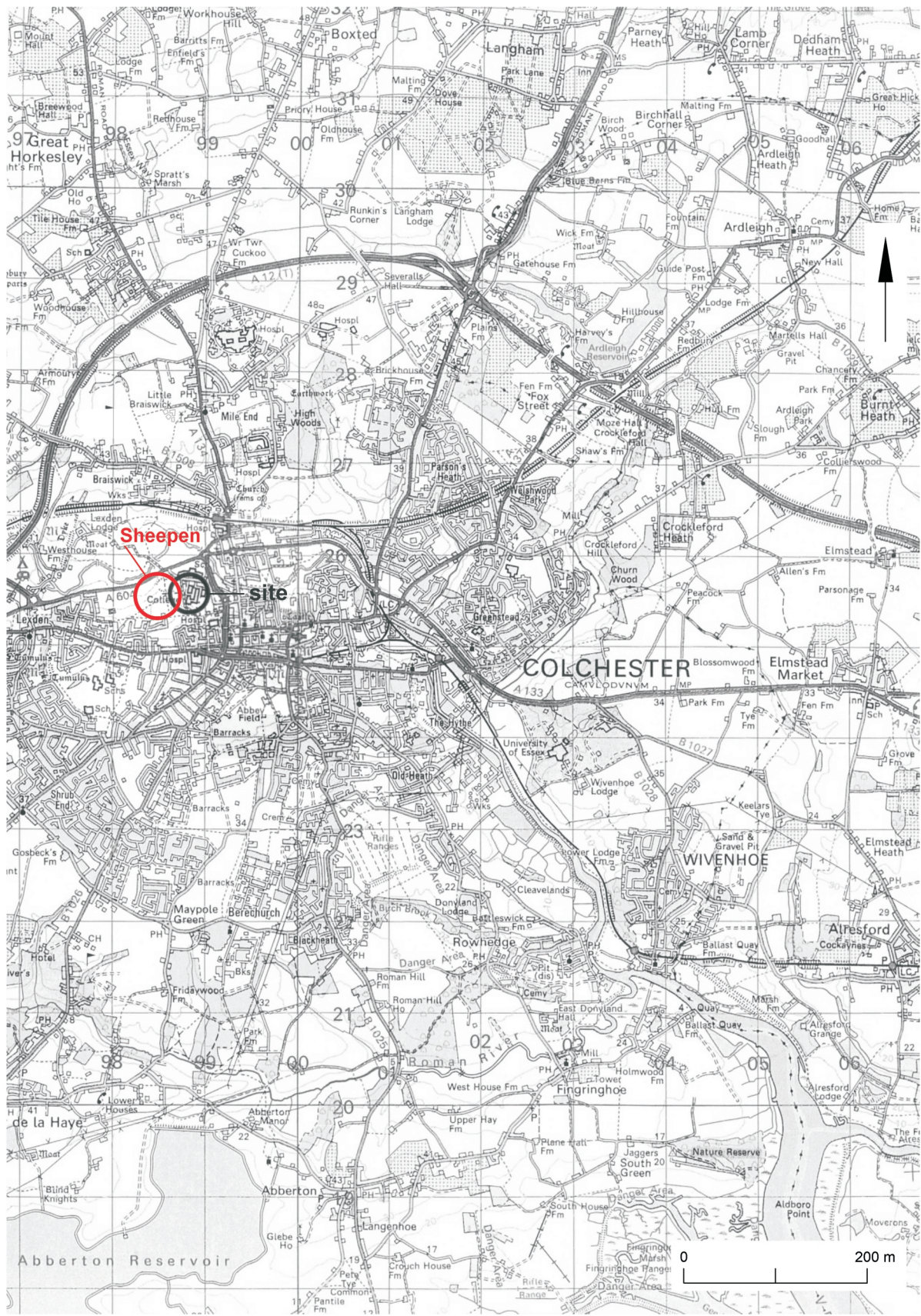
trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T6	53	F20/ F21			AA		1	10	0.00	micaceous red-brown fabric	probably 1st-early 2nd century
T6	53	F20/ F21			HZ		6	169	0.00	sherds from 2-3 pots	1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	53	F20/ F21			GX		5	124	0.00		Roman
T6	53	F20/ F21			RCW		2	122	0.00	thick sherds	1st-early 2nd century
T6	53	F20/ F21			GX		2	158	0.00	gritty black surface	probably 1st-early 2nd century
T6	53	F20/ F21			DZ(TR)	Cam 8/24	1	10	0.15		pre AD 55
T6	53	F20/ F21			DZ		1	2	0.00	rouletted sherd from a butt-beaker	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T6	53	F20/ F21			DJ		3	6	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	52	F23	L24 L25		HZ		1	11	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	52	F23	L24 L25		RCW	Cam 266?	14	129	0.30		1st century
T7	15	F7		upper fill	HZ		3	36	0.00		probably 1st century
T7	15	F7		upper fill	BA(SG)		1	2	0.00	probably South Gaulish but possibly Fabric BA(AR)	1st century
T7	15	F7		upper fill	GTW		5	51	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T7	15	F7		upper fill	RCW		7	34	0.00		1st century
T7	15	F7		upper fill	DZ		1	8	0.00	unusual fabric, possibly an import	Roman
T7	15	F7		upper fill	DJ	Cam 326/331	13	38	0.25	probably this form but otherwise not recorded from the Sheepen site (CAR 10, p 483)	Claudio-Neronian to late 1st/early 2nd century
T7	17		L6		AJ		3	118	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T7	17		L6		BA(SG)	Dr 18	1	3	0.05		1st century
T7	17		L6		HZ		2	31	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T7	17		L6		RCW		2	6	0.00		1st century
T7	17		L6		GX		2	41	0.00		probably early Roman
T7	34		L6		BX(SG)	Dr 29	1	18	0.04	running hare facing right pursued by dog, dog head touching back of hare, with small rosette below hare and panel of dart motifs, part of T7, finds no 19 L6	pre-Flavian to early Flavian
T7	34		L6		RCW		1	15	0.00		1st century
T7	29	F12		upper fill	UR(LTC)		2	16	0.00	sandy platter base	probably pre-Flavian
T7	29	F12		upper fill	RCW	Cam 218	6	58	0.00		1st century
T7	14	F8		upper fill	BA(SG)	Dr 15/17	5	218	0.08	about half of pot in several abraded sherds,	1st century

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
										part of a central potter's stamp, very worn	
T7	14	F8		upper fill	TZ	Cam 192A	2	174	0.10	rim sherds	1st century, ?pre-Flavian
T7	14	F8		upper fill	GTW	Cam 253	2	42	0.05	rim sherd from bowl, 1 other sherd	LIA/early Roman
T7	14	F8		upper fill	HZ		4	68	0.00	possibly burnt	1st-2nd/3rd century
T7	14	F8		upper fill	BPW	?Cam 113	1	9	0.05	rim sherd	probably pre-Flavian
T7	14	F8		upper fill	DJ		1	9	0.00	coarse sandy fabric	1st-2nd/3rd century
T7	14	F8		upper fill	GX		1	17	0.00		probably 1st-2nd century
T7	14	F8		upper fill	RCW		2	26	0.00		1st-early 2nd century
T7	19		L6		BA(AR)	Cam s11	1	1	0.02	cup, Ritterling 5, rim sherd with rouletting on lip edge	LIA/early Roman
T7	19		L6		EC		1	2	0.00		pre-Flavian
T7	19		L6		DZ		1	2	0.03	butt-beaker rim	pre-Flavian
T7	19		L6		GTW		1	3	0.00	fine Fabric GTW, probably from a butt-beaker	LIA
T7	19		L6		BX(SG)	Dr 29	2	12	0.01	2 joining sherds, from just below rim, abraded, running hare facing right with small rosette below and panel of dart motifs	pre-Flavian to early Flavian
T7	19		L6		AJ		6	183	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T7	19		L6		HZ(GT)		3	138	0.00	1 sherd circular motif around shoulder	probably 1st century
T7	19		L6		DJ		25	179	0.00	probably sherds from flagons, one small hole (possibly a rivet repair hole or kiln fault)	1st-2nd/3rd century
T7	19		L6		AA	D 2-4	3	175	0.00	very top of handle only, possibly Dressel 2-4 but not clear, sherds from 1 other vessel	1st-early 2nd century
T7	19		L6		HZ(GT)	Cam 258	1	26	0.15		pre-Flavian
T7	19		L6		RCW	Cam 218	28	209	0.15		1st-early 2nd century
T7	19		L6		GTW		6	39	0.00	includes decorated sherd with fine incised lines	LIA/early Roman
T8	21	F10		upper fill	AJ		8	350	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T8	21	F10		upper fill	AA		1	23	0.00		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T8	21	F10		upper fill	EB	Cam 62	3	6	0.00		pre-Flavian
T8	21	F10		upper fill	BA(SG)	Dr 17 Dr 24/25 Dr 27	3	5	0.10		pre-Flavian

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T8	21	F10		upper fill	DJ		20	146	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T8	21	F10		upper fill	GTW		2	21	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T8	21	F10		upper fill	RCW	Cam 266	50	425	0.45	includes part of a lid	1st century
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	DJ	Cam 243-244/246	1	29	0.15	rim	1st-early 2nd century
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	BA(SG)	Dr 27	1	4	0.00		1st century
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	EC?		5	29	0.00		pre-Flavian
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	HZ		7	382	0.00	all part of one pot, combed surfaces	probably 1st century
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	GX		1	5	0.00		probably early Roman
T8	30	F10		middle-lower fill	RCW		2	37	0.00		1st century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	DJ		4	33	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	EC?		1	12	0.00	faint traces of red-brown slip	?pre-Flavian
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	AA		4	33	0.00		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	AJ		2	31	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	DJ	Cam 243-244/246	3	151	0.25	appears to be burnt	1st-early 2nd century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	RCW		2	13	0.10		1st century
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	GX		10	131	0.05		probably early Roman
T8	31	F10		upper-middle fill	BA(SG)	Dr 24/25	1	2	0.00		pre-Flavian
T8	36	F10		lower fill	HZ		2	60	0.00	white interior surface	1st-2nd/3rd century
T8	36	F10		lower fill	AJ		2	112	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T8	36	F10		lower fill	BA(SG)	Dr 24/25	1	1	0.02		pre-Flavian
T8	36	F10		lower fill	AA		2	31	0.00		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T8	36	F10		lower fill	DJ	Cam 140	8	373	0.10	complete neck from a large flagon	1st-2nd/3rd century
T8	36	F10		lower fill	GX		11	305	0.00		probably 1st century
T8	36	F10		lower fill	DJ	Cam 243-244/246	1	17	0.00		1st-early 2nd century
T8	33	F14			GTW		6	87	0.00		LIA
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	BA(SG)	Dr 27	3	25	0.15		1st century
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	BX(SG)	Dr 29	1	24	0.00		pre-Flavian-early Flavian
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	TZ	Cam 191	1	81	0.00		pre-Flavian
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	DJ		50	373	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	AJ		3	108	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	DZ		4	9	0.00	rouletted sherds	1st century?
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	EC	Cam 94	2	12	0.05		pre-Flavian
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	HZ	Cam 270	9	270	0.10		probably 1st century

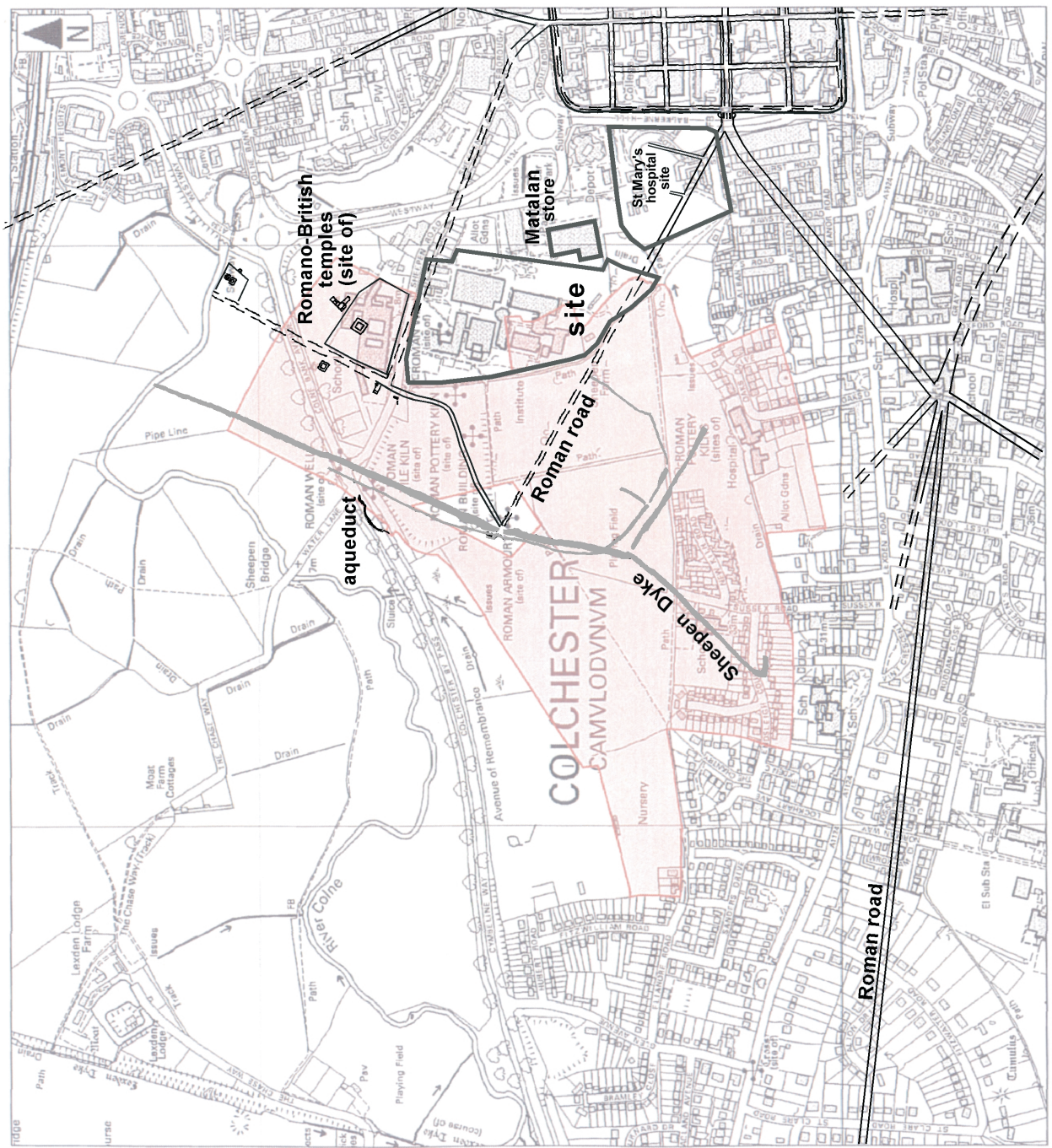
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T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	RCW		30	222	0.00	one base sherd from a jar/bowl with hole through base	1st century
T10	2	F1		upper-middle fill	GX		9	20	0.00		Roman
T10	4	F2		west side	MQ		1	13	0.00		Roman
T10	4	F2		west side	DZ		1	7	0.00	possibly base of butt-beaker or jar	LIA/early Roman
T10	4	F2		west side	GTW		1	4	0.00		LIA
T10	4	F2		west side	RCW		5	20	0.00		1st century
T10	9	F5		north fill	GX		10	74	0.05		Roman
T10	9	F5		north fill	BPW	Cam 113	1	11	0.10		probably pre-Flavian
T10	9	F5		north fill	DZ		2	8	0.00		probably early Roman
T10	9	F5		north fill	DJ		3	15	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T10	9	F5		north fill	AA		2	10	0.00		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T10	9	F5		north fill	UR(LTC)	Cam 14 ?Cam 16	2	24	0.04		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T10	9	F5		north fill	HZ		5	115	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T10	9	F5		north fill	RCW		14	89	0.05		1st century
T10	9	F5		north fill	GTW		1	12	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T10	10	F5		south fill	DJ		9	100	0.00		1st-2nd century
T10	10	F5		south fill	AA		2	34	0.00		probably 1st-early 2nd century
T10	10	F5		south fill	DZ(TR)	Cam 8/24?	2	1	0.02	rim fragment and sherds from a cup	pre AD 55
T10	10	F5		south fill	HZ(GT)		9	200	0.00	mostly grog-tempered	1st century
T10	10	F5		south fill	GTW	Cam 257	1	14	0.05		pre-Flavian
T10	10	F5		south fill	RCW		25	281	0.05		1st century
T10	10	F5		south fill	GX	Cam 108	1	2	0.00		1st-early 2nd century
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	AJ		1	40	0.00		1st-early 3rd century
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	CS		1	1	0.00		1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	BX(SG)	Dr 29	1	5	0.03		pre-Flavian to early Flavian
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	BA(SG)		1	2	0.00		1st century
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	BX(?AR)	?Dr 29	2	72	0.03		LIA/early Roman
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	HZ		1	90	0.00		probably 1st century
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	DJ		3	33	0.00	2 sherds possibly Fabric DZ	1st-2nd century
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	GTW		3	48	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T10	5	F6		burnt fill	RCW		18	96	0.45		1st century
T10	26	F6		upper fill	DJ		6	41	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T10	27	F6		upper fill	UR(GAB TN1)		2	79	0.00	sherds from 2 platters	pre-Flavian
T10	27	F6		upper fill	DZ		1	5	0.10	rim sherds from a butt-beaker	LIA/early Roman

trench	finds no	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T10	27	F6		upper fill	GTW		4	47	0.00		LIA
T10	27	F6		upper fill	HZ(GT)		2	41	0.00		1st century



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Fig 1 Site location.



Map Scale: 1:10000

Scheduled Monument

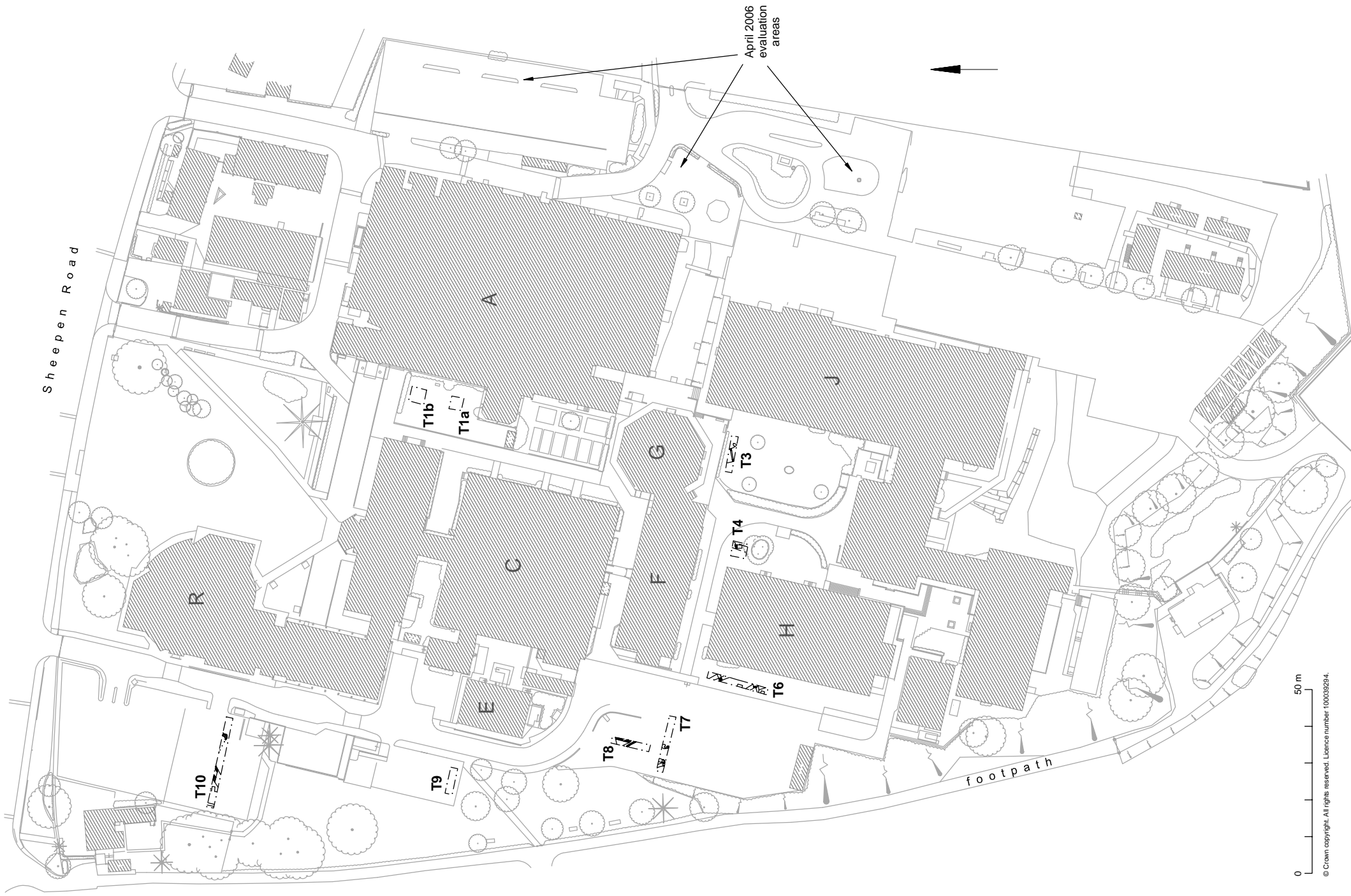
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Fig 2 Site location, showing surrounding archaeological features and scheduled monument area (shaded). Adapted from English heritage scheduled monument no 46 map.



April 2006
evaluation
areas

Sheepen Road

footpath

0 50 m

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Fig 3 Plan of site, showing location of trenches.

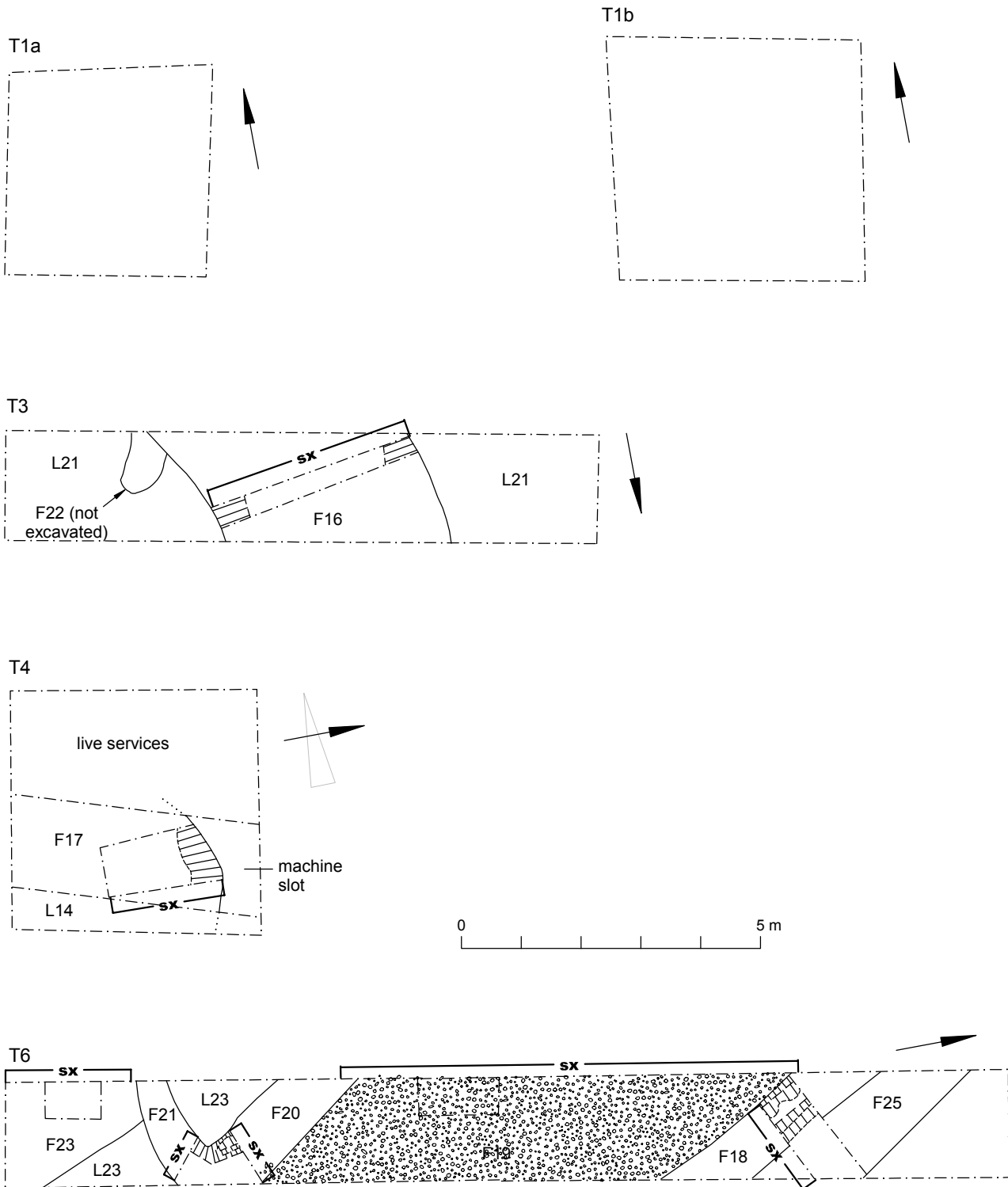


Fig 4 T1a, T1b, T3, T4, T6: plans.

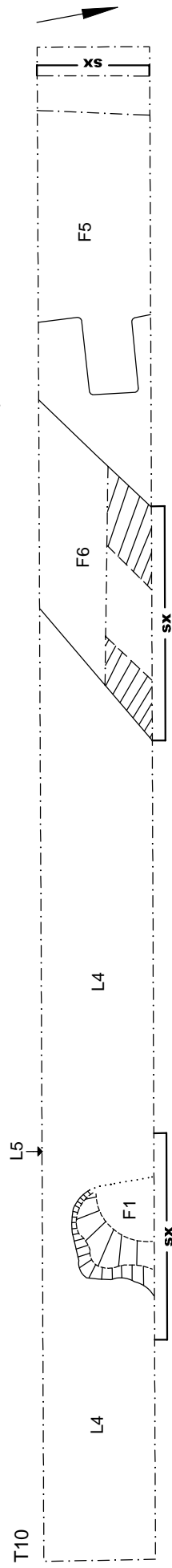
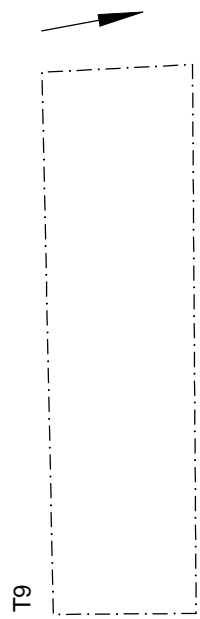
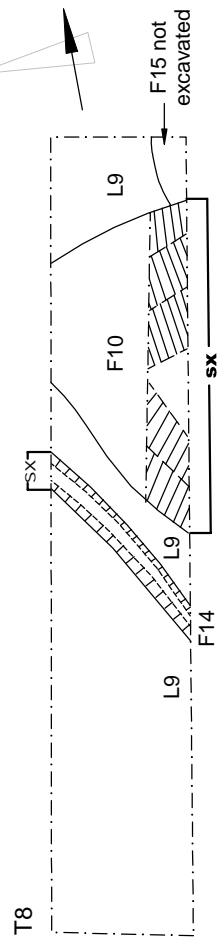
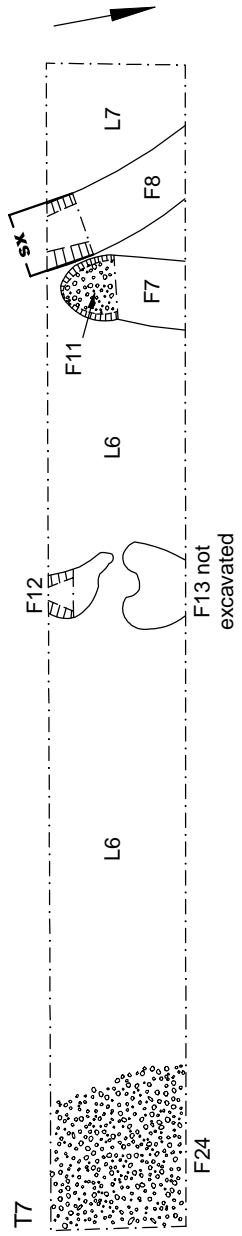
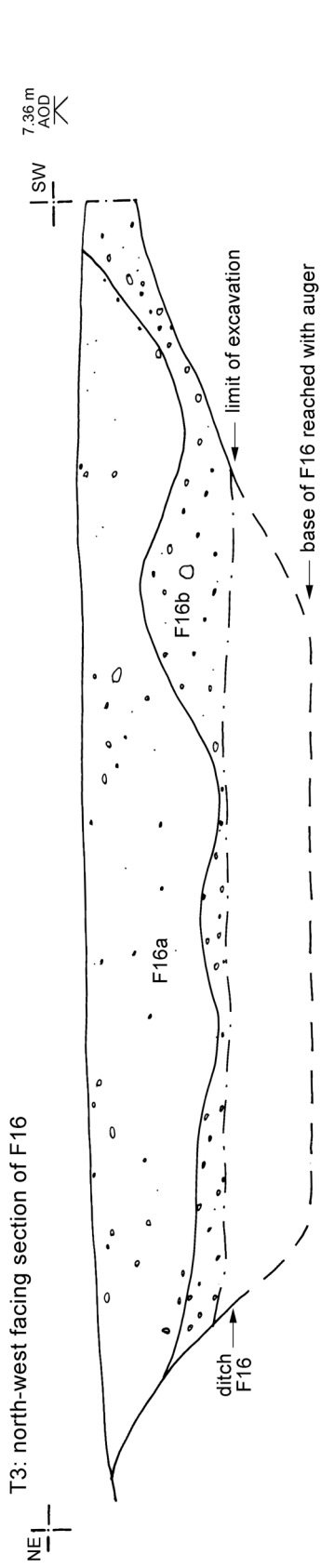


Fig 5 T7, T8, T9, T10: plans.



T4: representative west-facing section, including F17

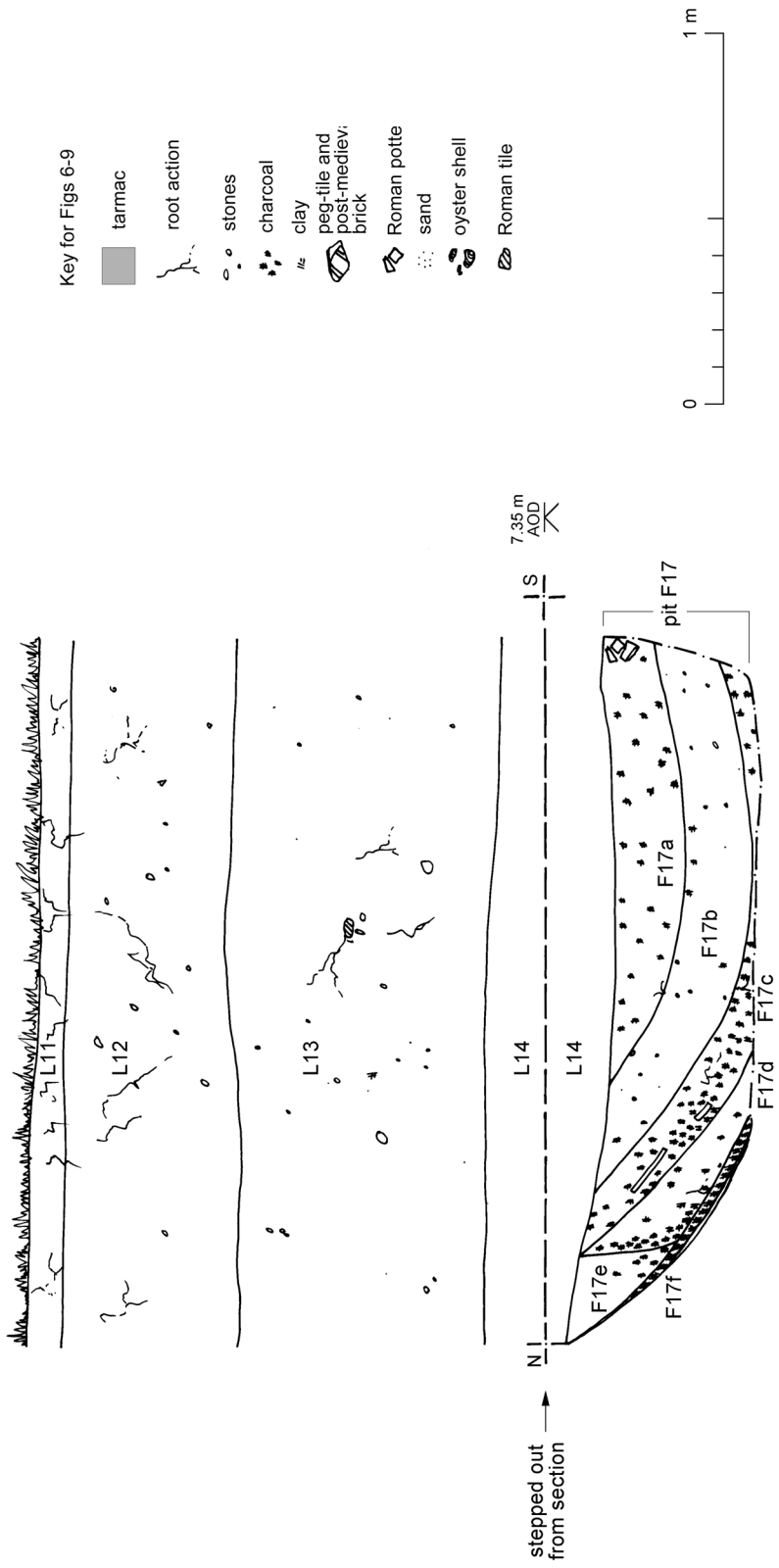
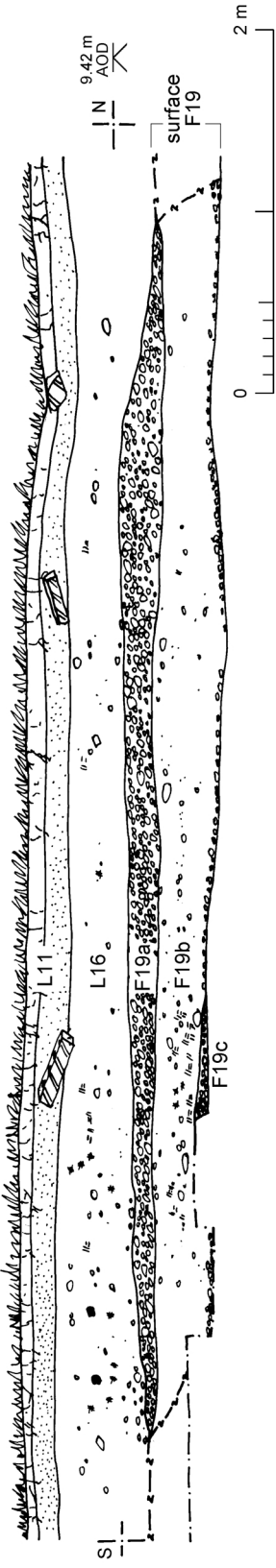
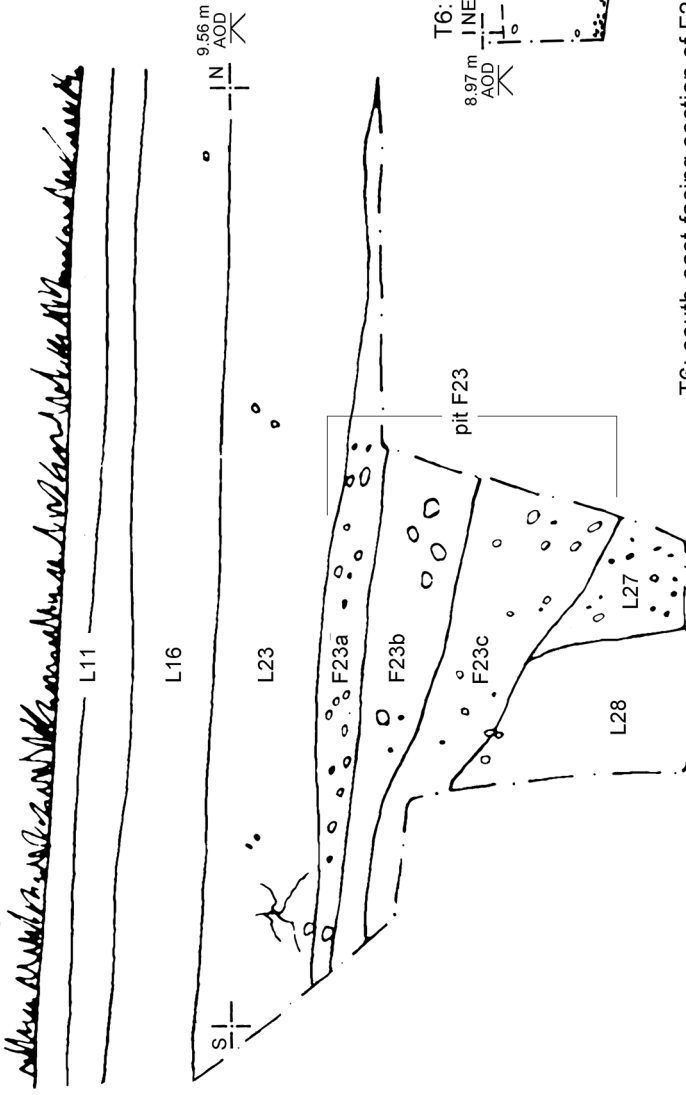


Fig 6 T3 and T4: sections.

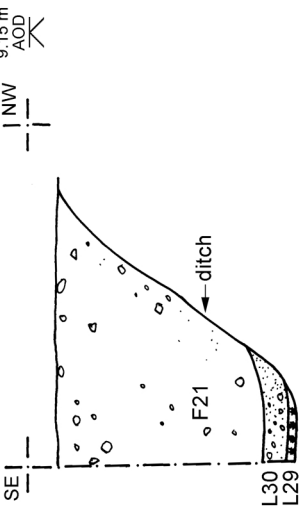
T6: east-facing section of F19



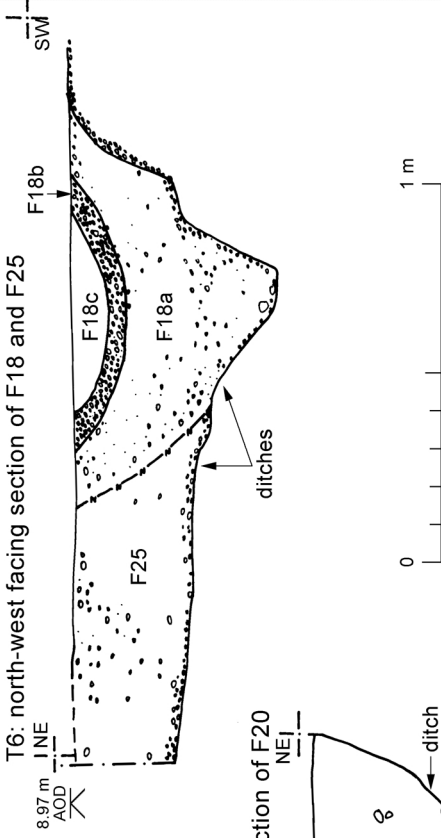
T6: east-facing section of F23



T6: north-east-facing section of F21



T6: north-west facing section of F18 and F25



T6: south-east-facing section of F20

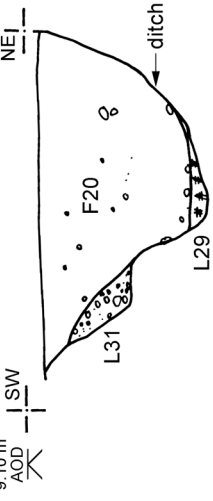
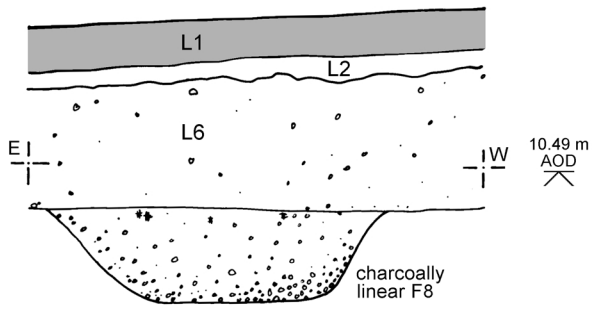
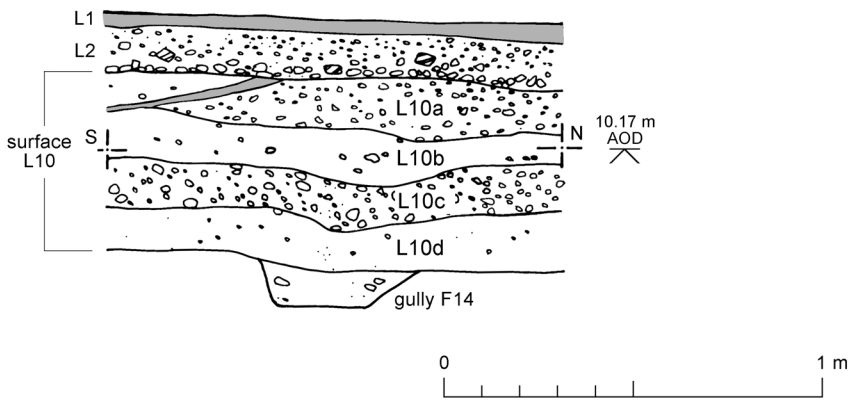


Fig 7 T6: sections.

T7: north-facing section of F8



T8: east-facing section of F14



T8: west-facing section of F10 and F15

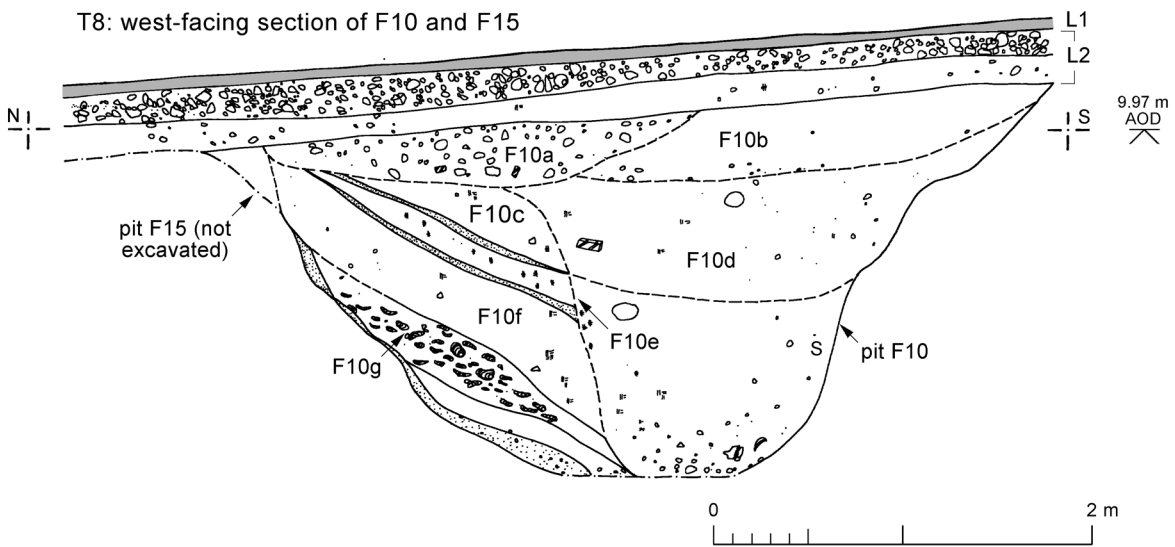
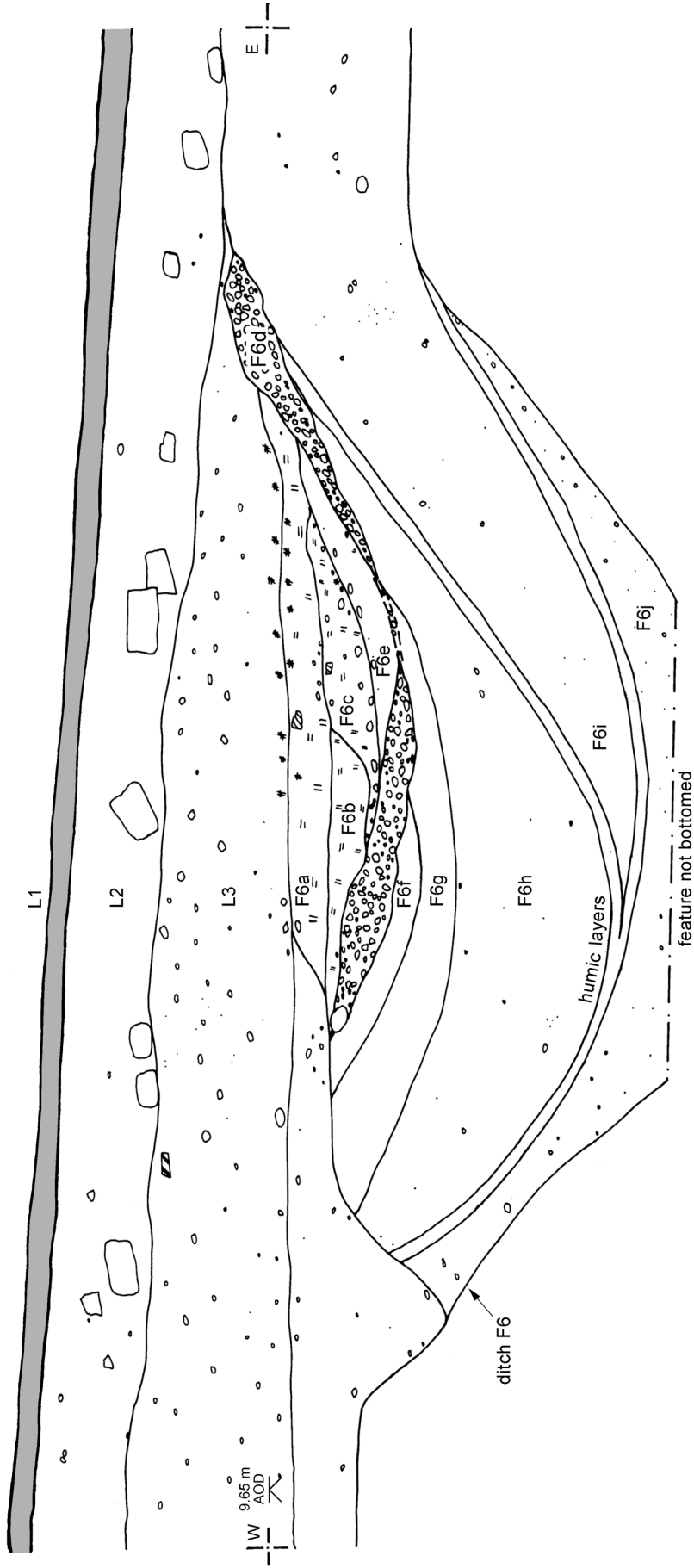


Fig 8 T7 and T8: sections.

T10: south-facing section of F2 and F6



T10: south-facing section of F1

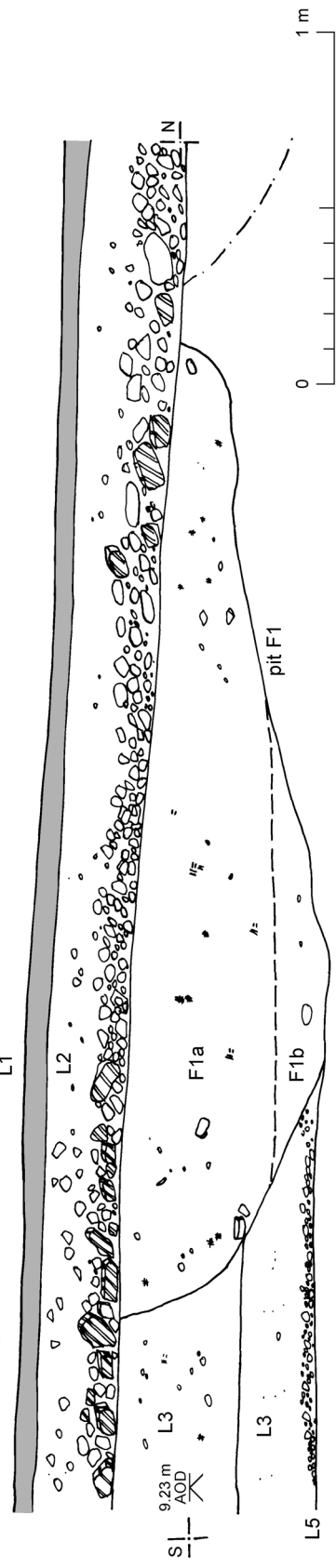


Fig 9 T10: sections.

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

Summary sheet

Site address: Phase 2 of an archaeological evaluation at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 989 256 (centred)	Site code: Museum accession code 2006.96
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August 2006	Size of area investigated: 9 trenches equating to 190.4 sq m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Colchester Institute
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER/UAD nos:
Final report: CAT Report 382 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Late Iron Age and Roman 1st century AD	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Nine evaluation trenches were excavated in the staff car-parks and in between buildings at the Colchester Institute in August 2006. Three trenches were archaeologically blank, but the rest revealed a network of Late Iron Age to 1st-century AD features typical of activity on the Sheepen site including pits and ditches, a possible burial, a likely floor and wall to a building, a trackway and a possible continuation of the Sheepen underground aqueduct. Parts of the slope had been cut into to create a more level surface for car-parking. This recent activity had removed all archaeological deposits within one trench and some post-Roman layers within other trenches, but generally the archaeology survived well on the site. In some places, further to the east, archaeological features were buried under more than a metre of hillwash.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 103, 131 and 368	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: September 2006