

**Stage 1b archaeological evaluation,
Alienated Land Area J2,
Colchester Garrison,
Colchester, Essex
October 2006 and August-September 2007**

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**on behalf of
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CAT project code: 06/10d
Colchester Museums accession code: 2006.127
NGR: TL 9910 2430 (c)



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CAT Report 437
November 2007

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	2
4	Aims and strategy	4
5	Results of the evaluation	4
6	Findings	10
7	Discussion	13
8	Acknowledgements	14
9	References	14
10	Abbreviations and glossary	15
11	Archive deposition	15
12	Context list	16
	Figures	after p 17
	EHER summary sheet	

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Trench locations.
- Fig 3 T21-T26: plans.
- Fig 4 T27-T33: plans.
- Fig 5 T34-T38: plans.
- Fig 6 Sections.
- Fig 7 Sections.

1 Summary

Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area J2 coincides with the southern part of the former Cavalry Barracks on the east side of Butt Road.

An archaeological evaluation by nineteen trial-trenches has revealed fragments of an undated but probably Roman agricultural landscape.

Previous Garrison Alienated Land excavations and evaluations have identified a north-south droveway linking the main Roman road system to the fields of the oppidum of Camulodunum. This droveway should cross the extreme north-east corner of Area J2, but the presence of an access route meant that a trench could not be placed in the appropriate position to confirm this.

The relevance of this droveway to Area J2 is that it appears to act as a boundary between two different areas of land use – Roman cemetery areas to its east and enclosed Roman farmland to its west. Sections of Roman ditches excavated in eight of the trenches are best interpreted as field boundaries belonging to that Roman farmland.

The discovery of a few sherds of prehistoric pottery indicates limited activity here in the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

Post-Roman features included a post-medieval north-south gravelled track (possibly associated with a similar track excavated on Area J (west) in 2004), two medieval or later field ditches, and a large number of modern, Garrison-related foundations and services.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-3)

- 2.1** This is the archive report on the Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on Taylor Wimpey's Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) redevelopment Area J2, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). Previous stages of evaluation in Areas J and J2 are listed in section 2.5 (below).
- 2.2** The parcel of land, which is centred on NGR TL 9910 2430, coincides with the southern part of the former Cavalry Barracks. It has recently passed from the ownership of MoD/RMPA to Taylor Wimpey for redevelopment.
- 2.3** The archaeological requirements for archaeological evaluation of this parcel of land were originally included in a 2002 strategy document for the overall development (*Colchester Garrison outline archaeological project strategy proposal and quality plan*, RPS 2002) in support of outline planning consent. An overall archaeological strategy was subsequently provided for the Alienated Land (Taylor Wimpey) stage of the project in support of full planning consent by RPS Planning (RPS 2004). The updated strategy provides an outline framework for the mitigation of the archaeological impacts on the Alienated Land. This document was required by and agreed by Colchester Borough Council (CBC). Figures 1-2 show the context of Area J2 and the trial-trenching evaluation which is the subject of this report.
- 2.4** GAL Area J2 lies on the east side of Butt Road, and consists of the barrack blocks and other buildings at the southern end of the former Cavalry Barracks.
- 2.5** Trial-trenching has been previously undertaken in Area J2 on behalf of RMPA Services in advance of outline planning permission in 2002 (Stage 1a). CAT, managed by RPS Planning, undertook evaluation trenching to provide a 0.95% sample of Area J2. This comprised eleven trenches (497m²). Due to restrictions on access to the parade ground and surrounding buildings, these trenches were mainly placed in the grassy paddock in the east part of Area J2, with a few more on the southern edge (ie on the north side of Circular Road West: CAT Report 206, fig 8). No significant archaeology was encountered within these trenches. The archaeological strategy required the level of trenching for full planning permission to be raised to 3%. Therefore a further 2.05% (975m²) of trenching was required at this stage. This equated to a 541m length of 1.8m-wide trenches. The information obtained from the combined Stage 1a and Stage 1b evaluations will determine whether further mitigation (excavations, watching briefs or avoidance strategies) will be required ahead of or during the construction phase.

- 2.6** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Area J2 has been submitted to and approved by CBC (RPS in association with CAT 2006).
- 2.7** The archaeological work was carried out by CAT in association with RPS on behalf of Taylor Woodrow (later Taylor Wimpey) in two stages. The first stage involved the excavation of trenches T28, T29 and T39 between 25th and 27th October 2006, and the second stage involve the excavation of T21-T27 and T30-T38, between the 28th August and 7th September 2007. Post-excavation work was carried out between August and November 2007.
- 2.8** In addition to the archaeological strategy (RPS 2004) and the Area J2 WSI (RPS in association with CAT 2006), all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices 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), 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 archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1** The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment site has already been comprehensively explored in *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site* (CAT Report 97).
- 3.2** Area J2, like much of the land south and south-west of Colchester's modern and Roman walled town, lies within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum, the Catuvellaunian royal estate. The Garrison site lies within the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, the only above-ground traces of which are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. One of these (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison, on the east edge of Roman Barracks (GAL Area S2 (south)).
- 3.3** Cartographic evidence suggests that the northern edge of Colchester Garrison (ie the land recently occupied by Cavalry and Le Cateau Barracks) was farmland in the 17th century. The exception to this was the medieval St John's abbey within its precinct wall, which is partially extant; part of the site of the abbey is located within the Flagstaff House compound on the north side of Napier Road.
- 3.4** To the south of the former Cavalry and Le Cateau Barracks lies the Abbey Field which has traditionally been used for Army training.
- 3.5** Area J2 is located within the former Cavalry Barracks, which were built in the early 1860s. The OS 1st Edition 1:10,560 map (surveyed in 1874-76 and published in 1881) shows that Area J2 was occupied by barrack blocks and other related buildings. It is interesting to note that Goojerat Barracks, now occupying the parcel of land to the south of Cavalry Barracks, had not been built at that time (they are first shown on the 2nd edition OS sheet of 1921).
- 3.6** During the Siege of Colchester in 1648, the Parliamentarians built a string of forts around the town, linked by a substantial ditch and bank. A contemporary map indicates the probable position of the forts and defensive line, but errors and inaccuracies in the map make it impossible to pinpoint these. However, the position of St John's abbey on the map implies that the course of the defensive line probably crosses the Mersea Road at or near the place now occupied by Meeanee Barracks, then extends across the Abbey Field, and then crosses the Maldon Road at or near to Cavalry or Le Cateau Barracks. The defences have never been identified by evaluation trenching or geophysical survey, although a ditch recently found in GAL Area E may well have been part of the system.

- 3.7** Prior to the Stage 1a evaluation of 2002 (CAT Report 206), there were no archaeological find spots noted on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) held by the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (Colchester Borough Council). However, despite the relative lack of recorded archaeological discoveries, the archaeological context of the area is now relatively well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent Garrison Urban Village (GUV) areas since 2000 (CAT Reports 206, 361).
- 3.8** No pre-Roman archaeological discoveries were known in Area J2 prior to the GUV evaluations and excavations (CAT Reports 206, 361). However, some background is provided by nearby discoveries recorded on the UAD. The earliest activity in the vicinity of Area J2 consists of the Late Neolithic pits (dated to c 2,500-2,000 BC) associated with settlement found in 2004 in Taylor Woodrow redevelopment Areas C1 and C2 (approximately 355 m and 360m north-east and east-north-east of Area J2 respectively). There is also some evidence for later prehistoric activity in the vicinity: Middle Bronze Age vessels, probably burial urns, were found on the north-western boundary of Area J1, ie 120m north of Area J2, in 1908 (UAD no 1247). A Late Bronze Age pit was excavated beneath Flagstaff Road during the installation of the storm-water drain by the Anderson Group in January 2006 (CAT Report 412 forthcoming), while several Late Bronze Age settlement-related features were excavated in 2005 during the archaeological excavations for Taylor Woodrow on the northern edge of Area J1 (north) (CAT Report 361). Area J2 is 100m to the south-west of Area J1 (north), so there was a potential for Late Bronze Age features to extend as far south as Area J2.
- 3.9** No clear traces of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* landscape were known in Area J2 before the GUV evaluations and excavations (CAT Reports 206, 361). However, a major Roman-period droveway extended south through the Area J1 (south) excavation site (CAT Report 361) and the Abbey Field car-park site (CAT Report 424), meaning that at least the western ditch of this droveway should pass through the extreme north-east corner of Area J2. This droveway has not been seen beyond the two sites just mentioned, but its direction implies that its northern branch should join the main Roman road network at the junction close to the site of the Royal Grammar School, and that its southern end should connect into the rural field network of the *oppidum*.
- 3.10** A stone-built monumental Roman circus, currently unique in Britain, has been discovered during excavations in GAL Areas C1, C2 and J1. Further elements of the circus were located in Area H in 2005 and 2007. These include the starting-gates in the Sergeants' Mess garden, further wall foundations, a monument base from the central barrier, and the curved eastern end of the circus which was uncovered during service works at Napier Road in 2006 (CAT Report 412 forthcoming). As a result, the plan of the 450m-long and 75m-wide circus is now reasonably well understood. The development proposals for Area J2 will not impact the circus remains.
- 3.11** The other major Roman archaeological remains south of the modern and Roman walled town are Colchester's Roman cemeteries. Roman Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Britain, because the town represents a fusion of two different populations, ie the indigenous British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had its own beliefs and funerary practices.
- 3.12** There have been many accidental discoveries of Roman burials within the area of the Garrison or the Abbey Field over the years, notably the 1925 discovery of at least 28 Roman burials during construction of the athletics ground and sports pitches on the east side of Circular Road North (Hull 1958, no 200; UAD no 1099; TL 9940 2430). Apart from that example, the UAD records other Roman burials in this area, specifically close to the entrance of Le Cateau Barracks (UAD nos 1022-1023, 1095), and at Errington Road, to the west of Butt Road (UAD no 1063). However, the major modern excavation on the cemeteries close to Area J was in the 1970s and 1980s at the Butt Road site (300m north-east of Area J2). Here, over 730 burials were excavated in advance of the construction of the Police headquarters (CAR 9, 4-202). Also in the Abbey Field, trial-trenching and excavation for the all-

weather hockey pitch by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 cremation burials, immediately to the north of the Garrison athletics track (revised CAT Report 138).

- 3.13** The GAL investigations have greatly added to our understanding of the composition and distribution of the Roman cemeteries to the south of the modern and Roman walled town. Excavations revealed a mixture of inhumations and cremations in 2004 and 2005 in Area J1 (north) (360 burials), and in Area C2 (66 burials: CAT Reports 206, 361). Another site close to the Garrison athletics track, ie the Abbey Field car-park site, south of the athletics track has revealed seven burials (CAT Report 424), and another recent evaluation in Area H (immediately to the north of Area J1) revealed another fourteen burials (CAT Report 413). All these cemetery sites appear to be on the southern fringe of a wide area of burials focused on the Butt Road cemetery (section 3.12).
- 3.14** Roman-period remains which are not necessarily connected with the Roman cemeteries include several discoveries recorded on land adjacent to Area J2. Immediately west of Area J2 the discovery of Roman coins is noted at 132 and 143 Butt Road (UAD nos 957, 867: CAT Report 97, map 4). Further south along Butt Road, another Roman coin is recorded from 173 Butt Road (UAD no 865).

4 Aims and strategy

The general aim of the evaluation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of archaeological features in the site. The over-arching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:

- Inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the construction of Camulodunum; are there further indications of late Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement?
- To elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*,
- To address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland,
- To elucidate the relative density of Roman burials and the influence of the recently-discovered Roman circus across the northern zone of Colchester Garrison.

5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-7)

Trench numbering starts at T21 because numbers T1-T20 were used in the 2002 evaluation of Area J (CAT Report 206). Trenches T28, T29 and T39 were dug in October 2006, and the other trenches (T21-T27 and T30-T38) in September 2007.

This section gives an archaeological summary of each of the nineteen trenches (T21-T39), with context and finds dating information.

Trench 21: summary (Figs 2-3, 7)

T21 was located in the extreme northern corner of Area J2. Excavated features were mainly modern. They consisted of the brick foundations (F44) of a now-demolished building. A backfilled basement (not fully excavated) was also a part of this building. In addition, a single Roman post-hole (F43) was identified to the west of F44.

F44 was sealed by a layer of demolition debris (L6) which sealed accumulated subsoil L4, which in turn sealed the post-hole F43. All layers within T21 were sealed by a thin deposit of turf and topsoil (L1).

Trench 21 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F43	post-hole	Roman pottery	Roman
F44	foundation	-	modern

Trench 22: summary (Figs 2-3)

T22 was located on the northern edge of Area J2. It contained three natural features (F40-F42), and a modern service run (not numbered). F40-F42 were small irregular pits with highly-leached fills, possibly tree-throw pits. Small traces of charcoal in their fills indicate the possibility of burning to aid removal of tree-stumps in an episode of agricultural clearance.

The features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4; the service run was sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 22 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F40	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F41	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F42	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 23: summary (Figs 2-3)

T23 was located in the northern part of Area J2. It contained two natural features (F36 and F37) and a modern service run (not numbered). F36 and F37 were small, irregular pits with highly leached fills, probably tree-throw pits.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service run was sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 23 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F36	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F37	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 24: summary (Figs 2-3, 7)

T24 was located in the north central part of Area J2. It contained a modern ditch (F34), a north-south aligned ditch (F35), and two service runs (not numbered) which cut ditch F35.

Ditch F35 was similar in profile and dimensions to other ditches excavated during the Garrison project, and, although undated, it may be of Roman date.

Modern linear feature F34 contained a redundant iron pipe which was probably associated with the Victorian barracks.

All excavated features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8), and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 24 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F34	ditch	Iron (not retained)	modern
F35	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman

Trench 25: summary (Figs 2-3, 7)

T25 was located in the north central part of Area J2. It contained a natural feature (F30), two modern gullies (F33 and F38), and a compacted, post-medieval gravel surface (F31).

Natural feature F30 was an irregular pit, the fill of which was highly leached and contained traces of manganese at its base. It was probably a tree-throw pit.

Gullies F33 and F38 were narrow, shallow features running parallel to each other on a north-east to south-west alignment, and cutting across track F31. They may be agricultural in origin, or possibly associated with the Garrison. Finds included fragments of peg-tile and coal.

The compacted gravel surface (F31) is interpreted as part of a north-south aligned track which was also intercepted in T36 and T31. Its surface had been heavily eroded by use, and a number of clearly-defined wheel-ruts were identified. This

track was roughly parallel to a similar track excavated in GAL Area J (west) in 2004 (CAT Report 361) and may be associated with it.

All features in T25 were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4.

Trench 25 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F30	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F31	compacted gravel surface	Peg-tile, brick	post-medieval
F33	gully	Peg-tile, coal	post-medieval/modern
F38	gully	Post-med brick	post-medieval/modern

Trench 26: summary (Figs 2, 3, 6)

T26 was located on the north-eastern edge of Area J2. The ground in this area had been severely disturbed, to the extent that modern service runs extended the full length of the trench.

The single, surviving feature was a fragment of a post-medieval, east-west aligned ditch (F39). Although truncated, its profile and dimension indicates an agricultural function.

All excavated features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 26 – context and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F39	ditch	Clay pipe	post-medieval

Trench 27: summary (Figs 2, 4)

T27 was located on the eastern edge of Area J2, and was excavated in two halves. It contained eight natural features (F45-F47, F49-F50, F52-F54), two linear features (F48 and F51) and four modern service runs (not numbered).

The natural features consisted of small- to medium-sized irregular pits with highly-leached fills, suggestive of tree-throw pits. However, the presence of small traces of charcoal in the fills indicates the possibility of tree-stump removal during an episode of agricultural clearance.

The alignment and irregular profile of linear feature F48 suggest a natural origin such as a periglacial channel.

The dimensions of F51 were similar to those recorded as in F39 in T26, indicating that the feature is possible agricultural in nature. The features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and tarmac (L7).

Trench 27 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F45	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F46	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F47	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F48	natural linear (periglacial)	-	undated
F49	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F50	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F51	linear feature (ditch)	-	undated
F52	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F53	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F54	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 28: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This was one of the two trenches excavated in 2006 in the paddock on the east edge of Area J2. At the time of the evaluation, this area was unused, and was overgrown with rough scrub.

All the datable features were post-medieval or modern. These included a modern ditch (F2), a modern pit (F6), a modern concrete plinth (F3), a modern post-hole (F5), and an undated linear feature (F4).

All features were sealed by subsoil (L4) and by L6, crushed brick and building materials dumped on the north-west side of the modern concrete plinth F3.

Trench 28 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F2	ditch	Bag of cement, brick	modern
F3	concrete plinth	-	modern
F4	ditch (undated)	-	undated
F5	post-hole	Peg-tile, coal	modern
F6	pit	Brick, iron pipe	modern

Trench 29: summary (Figs 2, 4)

Like T28, this trench was excavated in 2006 in the area formerly used as a paddock by the Garrison Saddle Club. At the time of the evaluation, the area was unused, and was overgrown with rough scrub.

T29 contained a single feature, a post-medieval ditch (F1). This appeared to align with field boundary ditches excavated during the Area J (south) excavations in 2004, and was therefore a part of the post-medieval agricultural landscape (CAT Report 361). Its lower and middle fills were dated by peg-tile and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 29 – context and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F1	ditch	Peg-tile	post-medieval

Trench 30: summary (Figs 2, 4, 6)

T30 was located on the south-east corner of Area J2. It contained six natural features (F12-F13, F15-F17, F19), two linear features (F14 and F18), and the foundations of a demolished barracks (F11). This structure would have been an identical build to the remaining Victorian barracks built around the parade square.

The natural features consisted of small- to medium-sized irregular pits, the fills of which were highly leached. They were probably tree-throw pits.

The dimensions of F14 were similar to those recorded elsewhere on the Garrison, indicating that it was possibly agricultural in nature.

The modern service cut F18 contained a redundant iron pipe probably associated with the construction of the barracks. The structural remains F11 were sealed by a layer of demolition debris (L6) which sealed an accumulated subsoil L4, which in turn sealed the natural pits and linear features. All of the layers in T30 were sealed by a thin deposit of turf and topsoil (L1).

Trench 30 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F11	brick footings	Brick, slate	modern
F12	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F13	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F14	ditch	-	undated
F15	pit (?tree-throw)	LBA/MIA pottery	LBA/MIA?
F16	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F17	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F18	service cut	Iron pipe (not retained)	modern
F19	pit (?tree-throw)	LBA/MIA pottery	LBA/MIA?

Trench 31: summary (Figs 2, 4, 7)

T31 was located in the south central part of Area J2. It contained the terminal ends of two undated ditches (F25 and F26) and a compact gravel surface (F27). The dimensions of ditches F25 and F26 were similar to those recorded elsewhere in the Garrison, indicating that they were possibly agricultural in nature.

The compact gravel surface F27 is interpreted as having been part of a track extending north-south. F32 is a part of this. The track was also traced in T36 and T25. Its surface had been heavily eroded by use, and a number of clearly-defined wheel-ruts were identified. This track was roughly parallel to a similar track excavated in GAL Area J (west) in 2004 (CAT Report 361), and may be associated with it.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4, and the service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 31 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F25	ditch	-	undated
F26	ditch	-	undated
F27	compact gravel surface	Peg-tile, post-medieval brick	post-medieval
F32	ditch	-	post-medieval

Trench 32: summary (Figs 2, 4, 7)

T32 was located on the southern edge of Area J2. It contained two natural features (F21 and F22) and one linear feature (F20). A modern service run truncated the northern end of the trench.

The natural features were small- to medium-sized irregular pits with highly leached fills, probably tree-throw pits. The irregular profile and alignment of linear feature F20 indicate that it was natural in origin such as a periglacial channel.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4, and the service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 32 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F20	natural linear	-	undated
F21	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F22	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 33: summary (Figs 2, 4, 6)

T33 was located on the southern edge of Area J2. It contained a natural feature (F61) and a ditch (F60).

The natural feature was a large irregular pit, the highly leached fill of which indicates that it was a tree-throw pit or glacial feature.

The dimensions of ditch F60 were similar to those recorded elsewhere in the Garrison, indicating that it was possibly agricultural in nature. Its alignment corresponds with other ditches in GAL Area J (south) excavations in 2004, and for that reason it may represent a component of the Roman agricultural landscape (CAT Report 361). The features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 33 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F60	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman
F61	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 34: summary (Figs 2, 5)

T34 was located in the centre of Area J2. It contained two natural features (F58-F59). A modern service run (not numbered) truncated the northern end of the trench.

The natural features were small- to medium-sized irregular pits, the highly leached fills of which indicate that they were tree-throw pits.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 34 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F58	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F59	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 35: summary (Figs 2, 5-6)

T35 was located on the middle of Area J2. It contained a natural feature (F57) and two linear features (F55 and F56).

The natural feature was a small- to medium-sized irregular pit, the highly leached fill of which indicates that it was a tree-throw pit.

The dimensions of F55 and F56 were similar to those recorded elsewhere on the Garrison, indicating that they were possibly agricultural in nature. Their alignment corresponds with other ditches in GAL Area J (south) excavations in 2004, suggesting that they were components of the Roman agricultural landscape (CAT Report 361).

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 35 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F55	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman
F56	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman
F57	?tree-throw pit	-	undated

Trench 36: summary (Figs 2, 5)

T36 was located in the middle of Area J2. It contained a compact, post-medieval gravel surface (F29), a modern ditch (F28), and a modern service run (not numbered).

The compact gravel surface F29 is interpreted as being part of a track aligned north-south. It was intercepted in T31 and T25. Its surface had been heavily eroded by use, and a number of clearly-defined wheel-ruts were identified. This track was roughly parallel to a similar track excavated in GAL Area J (west) in 2004 (CAT Report 361), and may be associated with it.

Modern linear feature F28 contained a redundant iron pipe most likely associated with the construction of the barracks.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 36 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F28	linear feature	Modern iron pipe (not retained)	modern
F29	compacted gravel surface	Peg-tile, post-medieval brick	post-medieval

Trench 37: summary (Figs 2, 5)

T27 was located on the eastern edge of Area J2. It contained no archaeological features, but was criss-crossed by numerous service runs (not numbered)

associated with the 19th-century barracks and later additions. They were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 38: summary (Figs 2, 5)

T38 was located on the southern edge of Area J2. It contained two natural features (F23, F24). A modern service run (not numbered) truncated the northern end of the trench.

The natural features were small- to medium-sized irregular pits, the highly leached fills of which indicate that they were tree-throw pits.

All features were sealed by subsoil accumulation layer L4. The service runs were sealed by a layer of compacted hogging (L8) and by tarmac (L7).

Trench 38 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F23	?tree-throw pit	-	undated
F24	pit (natural)	-	undated

Trench 39: summary (Figs 2, 5)

T39 was located in the same rough grassed area (the former riding-school paddock) as T28 and T29, on the eastern side of the evaluation site.

It contained two undated ditches (F9, F10), modern post-hole F7 and modern pit F8. Neither F7 nor F8 were excavated, due to EOD requirements.

Although the ditches were undated, their orientation appears to correspond with other ditches identified in previous GAL evaluations and excavations (CAT Report 361), and for that reason it can be assumed that they were a component of the Roman landscape.

Trench 39 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F7	post-hole	Peg-tile, brick	modern
F8	pit	Peg-tile, brick	modern
F9	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman
F10	ditch	-	undated – ?Roman

6 Finds

6.1 The clay tobacco-pipe and other material culture

by Nina Crummy

The clay tobacco pipe

Although only undatable plain stem fragments were recovered, both the features producing these pieces must date to the post-medieval period.

(7) F29. Post-medieval track. Plain stem fragment. Length 32 mm, bore diameter 2 mm.

(13) F39. Post-medieval ditch. Plain stem fragment. Length 45 mm, bore diameter 3.5 mm.

Other material culture

The assemblage consists of iron nails and a very worn piece of worked stone. None can be closely dated, but the corroded condition of the nails points to their being Roman or medieval in date.

(7) F29. Post-medieval track. a) Incomplete nail with round, slightly convex head. Length 38 mm. b) Two nail shank fragments. Lengths 32 and 37 mm.

(11) F33. Modern service run. Two incomplete nails with round, slightly convex head. Lengths 68 and 36 mm.

(13) F39. ?Roman ditch. Nail shank fragment. Length 52 mm.

(7) F29. Post-medieval track. Very worn fragment of worked shelly limestone, tapering on one side towards a thin straight edge. Maximum dimensions 117 by 92 by 63 mm.

6.2 The prehistoric pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

The prehistoric pottery fabrics (Table 1) follow those devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988).

The evaluation produced a small quantity, ie 13 sherds, of prehistoric (pre-Belgic) pottery, weighing 40g. All of the prehistoric pottery was recovered from just two features (F15 and F19), in one evaluation trench (T30). All the sherds are moderately fine, being generally between 4-5 mm thick and all are flint-tempered. While not closely datable, these sherds are probably of Late Bronze Age, or possibly Early-Middle Iron Age, date.

Table 1: prehistoric pottery fabrics used in this report.

size of inclusions:
S - small (<1 mm)
M - medium (1-2 mm)
L - large (>2 mm)
density of inclusions:
1 = less than 6 per square cm
2 = 6 to 10 per square cm
3 = more than 10 per square cm.

Fabric C	flint, S-M with occasional L
Fabric D	flint, S-L 2 poorly sorted

Catalogue of prehistoric pottery

T30

F15, finds number 4 (32 g)

Fabric C (13 g), 3 sherds, flint-tempered, 4-5 mm thick although increasing to 6-7 mm toward the base, grey-brown surfaces and fabric, all part of one pot.

Fabric D (19 g), 7 sherds, flint-tempered, 4-5 mm thick, slightly abraded patchy grey-brown exterior surface, reddish-brown fabric, dark grey-brown interior surface, possibly all from one pot.

F19, finds number 3 (8 g), Fabric D, 3 sherds, flint-tempered, 5 mm thick, dark grey-brown exterior surface, reddish-brown interior surface, brown fabric, probably all from one pot.

6.3 The Roman pottery

by S Benfield

The pottery was recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10*, in which all of the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 2).

Only two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. One, which cannot be closely dated, is from the lower part of a grey ware jar or bowl. This came from the fill of F43 (finds no 14) in T21. The other is a small sherd of Colchester colour-coated ware, dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, from L4 (finds no 5) in T30.

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR 10*).

Fabric code	Fabric name
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares

Catalogue of Roman pottery

T21

F43, finds number 14 (20 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, lower body sherd with part of base, Roman.

T30

L4, finds number 5 (3 g); Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, abraded, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century.

6.4 The post-Roman pottery

by H Brooks

Description of pottery

Fabrics descriptions are after *CAR 7*. Fabrics present are as follows: Fabric 13 (early medieval sandy ware), Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE), and Fabric 51b (flowerpot).

Catalogue of post-Roman pottery

T31

F27, finds no 6

1 sherd PMRE Fabric 40 from large bowl, 17th-18th century, 113g.

T36

F29, finds no 7

1 sherd PMRE Fabric 40 glazed, 17th-18th century, 6g.

1 sherd PMRE Fabric 40 unglazed or Fabric 51b flowerpot, 17th-20th century, 10g.

T26

F39, finds no 13

1 sherd medieval grey ware, probably Fabric 13, 12th century, 12g

2 sherds medieval grey ware, probably Fabric 20, 13th century, 12g. H1 rim type.

This is a very small group of material (six sherds, weighing 153 g), dating between the 12th and the 20th centuries.

6.5 Other finds

This is a list of all finds not reported on separately above. (D = discarded.)

T21

F43, finds no 14

1 Roman tile fragment, 57g, D.

T25

F31, finds no 10

3 Roman tile fragments, 189g, D.

3 Roman brick/tile scraps, 18g, D.

3 peg-tile fragments, 75g, D (1 kept, 17g).

1 animal bone, 7g.

F33, finds no 11

1 peg-tile fragment, 13g.

F38, finds no 12

1 Roman tile fragment, 26g, D.

1 post-medieval ?brick fragment, 43g.

T26

F39, finds no 13

1 ?Roman tile fragment, 58g.

T31

F27, finds no 6

1 Roman brick fragment, 66g, D.

1 peg-tile fragment, 36g, D.

1 post-medieval brick fragment, 48g.

T34

F59, finds no 43

1 Roman brick fragment, 316g, D.

T36

F28, finds no 8

1 Roman *imbrex* fragment, 34g, D.

2 peg-tile fragments, 41g, D (1 kept, 16g).

F29, finds no 7

10 Roman brick fragments, 956g, D.

3 Roman tile fragments, 100g, D.

2 Roman *imbrex* fragments, 54g, D.

7 Roman brick/tile scraps, 125g, D.

18 peg-tile fragments, 346g, D (2 kept, 74g).

5 animal bone, 155g.

1 Kentish greensand fragment, 507g.

7 Discussion

7.1 Prehistoric

A small quantity of Late Bronze Age or Early to Middle Iron Age pottery shows that there was some, probably limited, activity during that period. Unusually, no prehistoric struck flints were found.

7.2 Roman

The Roman landscape in the immediate vicinity of this site appears to be defined by the driveway extending north to south through the extreme north-eastern corner of Area J2. The reason for this supposition is the fact that Roman cemetery areas have been excavated on its northern side (Area J1 (north), Area H, and at the Abbey Field car-park site in 2007: CAT Reports 361, 424), whereas excavation sites south of the driveway (Area J1 (south) in 2005, CAT Report 361) have produced no burials. Of course, there are always exceptions to any rule, and an isolated burial is recorded in the UAD at Errington Road, which is south of the driveway position.

The effect of this driveway in splitting two land blocks with different uses prompts the obvious question that if the cemeteries were generally located north of the driveway, what was located to the south? The twelve fragments of undated ditch are relevant here. Although they are undated, the presence of a total of 2kg of Roman tile and pottery (mainly residual in later contexts), and the presence of Roman field systems elsewhere in the *oppidum* (CAT Reports 206, 207, 361), makes it much more likely that these undated ditches are Roman than of any other period. To conclude, the ditches are probably fragments of a Roman landscape of enclosed fields.

7.3 Anglo-Saxon

There were no finds or features of this period.

7.4 Medieval

A single field ditch in T26 on the north edge of Area J2 was the only medieval feature. It is possible that some of the undated field ditches were medieval. A few sherds of medieval pottery from the ditch in T26 suggest some limited activity here.

7.5 Post-medieval

A gravel track extended north to south across the centre of what is now Area J2. It was parallel to a similar track excavated in Area J (east) in 2004, and the two may be related (CAT Report 361). A possible dog-leg in the track is shown as a dashed line on Figure 2 to link the excavated segments. Its alignment is interesting, in that it seems to bear no relation to the alignment of the local roads or field boundaries. These do seem to have affected the later setting out of the barracks, which generally follow the alignment of Maldon Road very closely.

7.6 Modern

Modern features consist of footings and service runs associated with the Garrison. These are not of any archaeological significance.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT and RPS Planning would like to thank Taylor Wimpey (especially Robert Taylor and John Phillips) for commissioning and funding the work, and Bovis Homes (Tony Lee).

The project was managed by B Holloway, and the site work was carried out by L Driver, M Górniak, B Hurrell, C Lister, P Spencer and A Wightman, and with digital survey carried out by C Lister assisted by B Holloway.

The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Martin Winter (Archaeology Officer), and for RPS Planning by Rob Masefield.

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EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
IFA	1999	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field 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> , second edition (English Heritage)
RPS	2002	<i>Colchester Garrison Alienated Land outline archaeological project strategy proposal and quality plan</i>
RPS	2004	<i>Research design for archaeological evaluations, excavations and watching briefs on Alienated Land, new garrison, Colchester</i>
RPS in association with CAT	2006	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation, Area H, Colchester Garrison, Colchester</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	post-Roman, AD 410 to c AD 1066
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	2,500 BC to c 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CM	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by ECC
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LBA	Late Bronze Age, c 1,000-800 BC
LIA	Late Iron Age, c 200 BC-AD 43
MIA	Middle Iron Age, c 400-250 BC
medieval	c AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	c 1800 to the present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	New Stone Age, c 4,000 BC to c 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	c AD 1500 to AD 1800
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (ie pre-Roman)
residual	an early find in a late context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning (project consultants)
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held and maintained by CM

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, under accession code COLEM 2006.127.

12 Context list

Feature no	Trench no	Type	Period
F1	T29	ditch	post-medieval
F2	T28	ditch	modern
F3	T28	concrete plinth	modern
F4	T28	ditch	undated
F5	T28	post-hole	modern
F6	T28	pit	modern
F7	T39	post-hole	modern
F8	T39	pit	modern
F9-F10	T39	ditch	undated – ?Roman
F11	T30	brick footings	modern
F12-F13	T30	?tree-throw pit	undated
F14	T30	ditch	undated
F15	T30	pit (?tree-throw)	LBA/MIA?
F16-F17	T30	?tree-throw pit	undated
F18	T30	service cut	modern
F19	T30	pit (?tree-throw)	LBA/MIA?
F20	T32	natural linear	undated
F21-F24	T32	?tree-throw pit	undated
F25-F26	T31	ditch	undated
F27	T31	compact gravel surface (of track)	post-medieval
F28	T36	ditch	modern
F29	T36	compact gravel surface (of track)	post-medieval
F30	T25	?tree-throw pit	undated
F31	T25	compacted gravel surface (of track)	post-medieval
F32	T31	ditch – part of F27	post-medieval
F33	T25	gully	post-medieval/modern
F34	T24	ditch	modern
F35	T24	ditch	undated – ?Roman
F36	T23	?tree-throw pit	undated
F37	T23	pit	undated
F38	T25	gully	post-medieval/modern
F39	T26	ditch	post-medieval
F40-F42	T22	?tree-throw pit	undated
F43	T21	post-hole	Roman
F44	T21	brick foundations	modern
F45-F47	T27	?tree-throw pit	undated
F48	T27	natural linear	undated
F49-F50	T27	?tree-throw pit	undated
F51	T27	ditch	undated
F52-F54	T27	?tree-throw pit	undated
F55-F56	T35	ditch	undated – ?Roman
F57	T35	?tree-throw pit	undated – ?Roman
F58	T34	pit	undated
F59	T34	pit	Roman
F60	T33	ditch	undated – Roman
F61	T33	?tree-throw pit	undated
L1	all areas	turf	modern
L2	T28 & T29	dump deposit	modern
L3	all	topsoil	post-medieval/modern
L4	all	subsoil	?
L5	all	natural	?
L6	T28-T39	dump	modern
L7	Cavalry Barracks area	tarmac	modern

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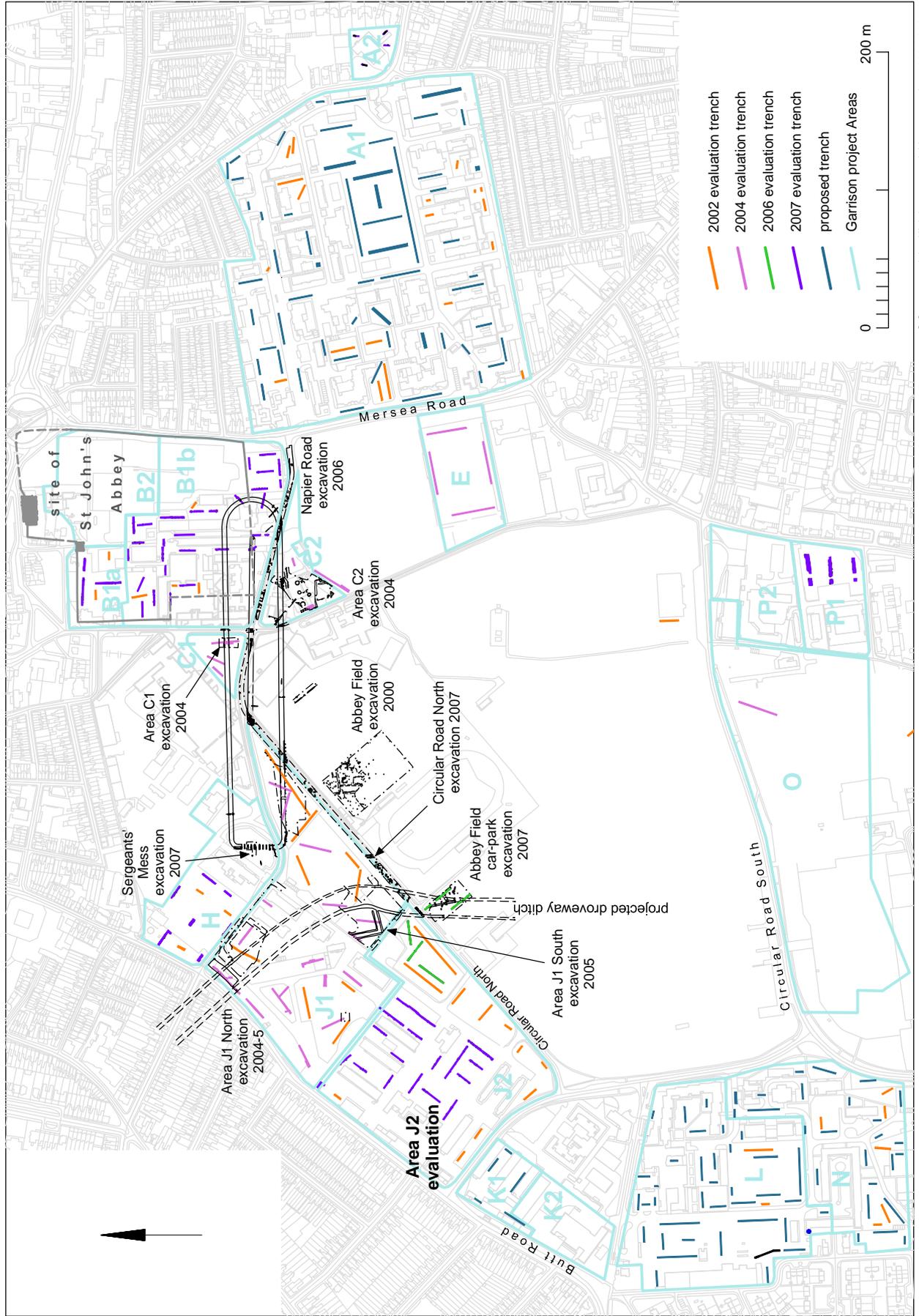
(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

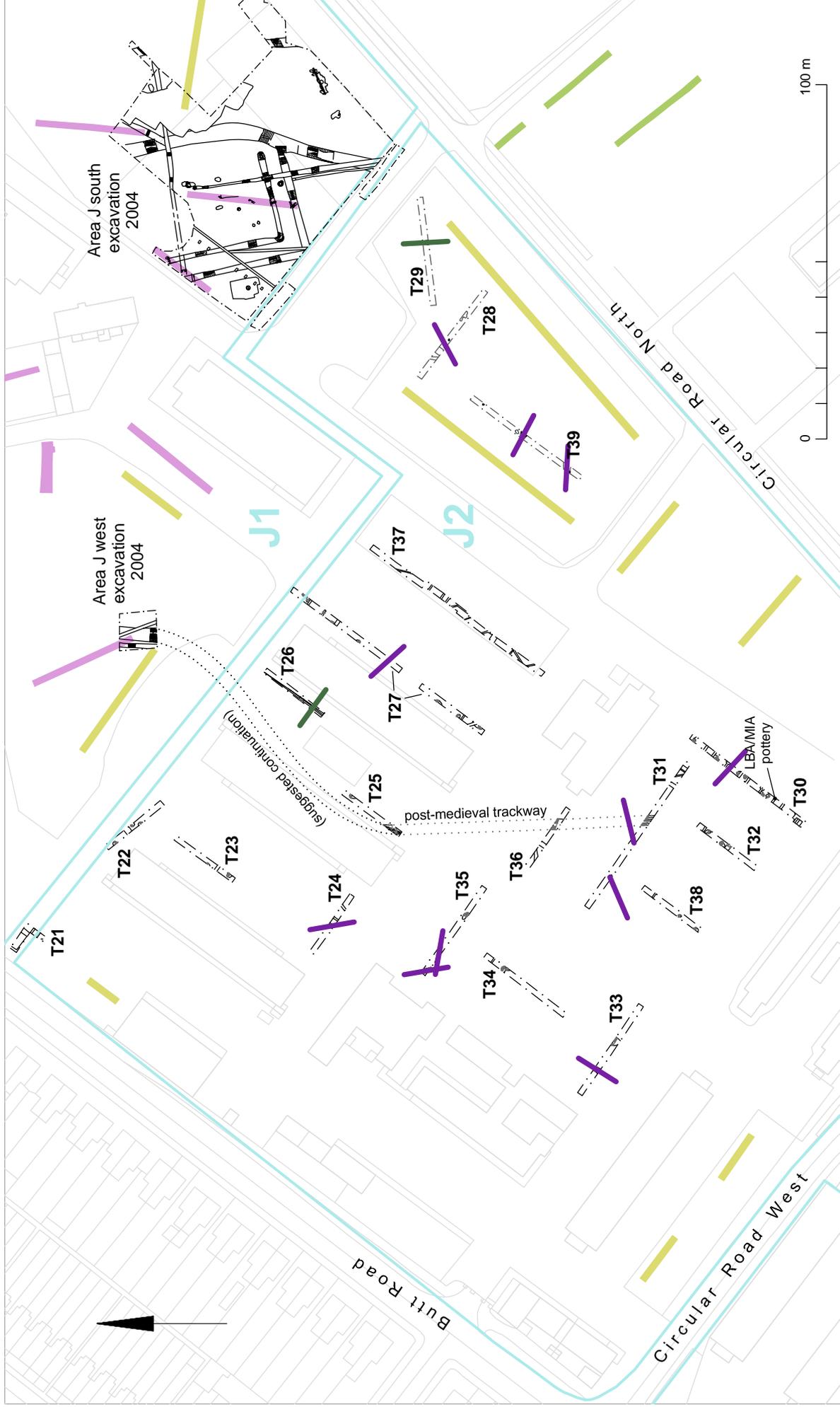
Date: 21.11.07

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Fig 1 Site location.



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- 2002 evaluation trench
- Garrison project Areas
- 2006 evaluation trench
- medieval or later ditch
- 2004 evaluation trench
- undated ditch (Roman?)

Fig 2 Trench locations.

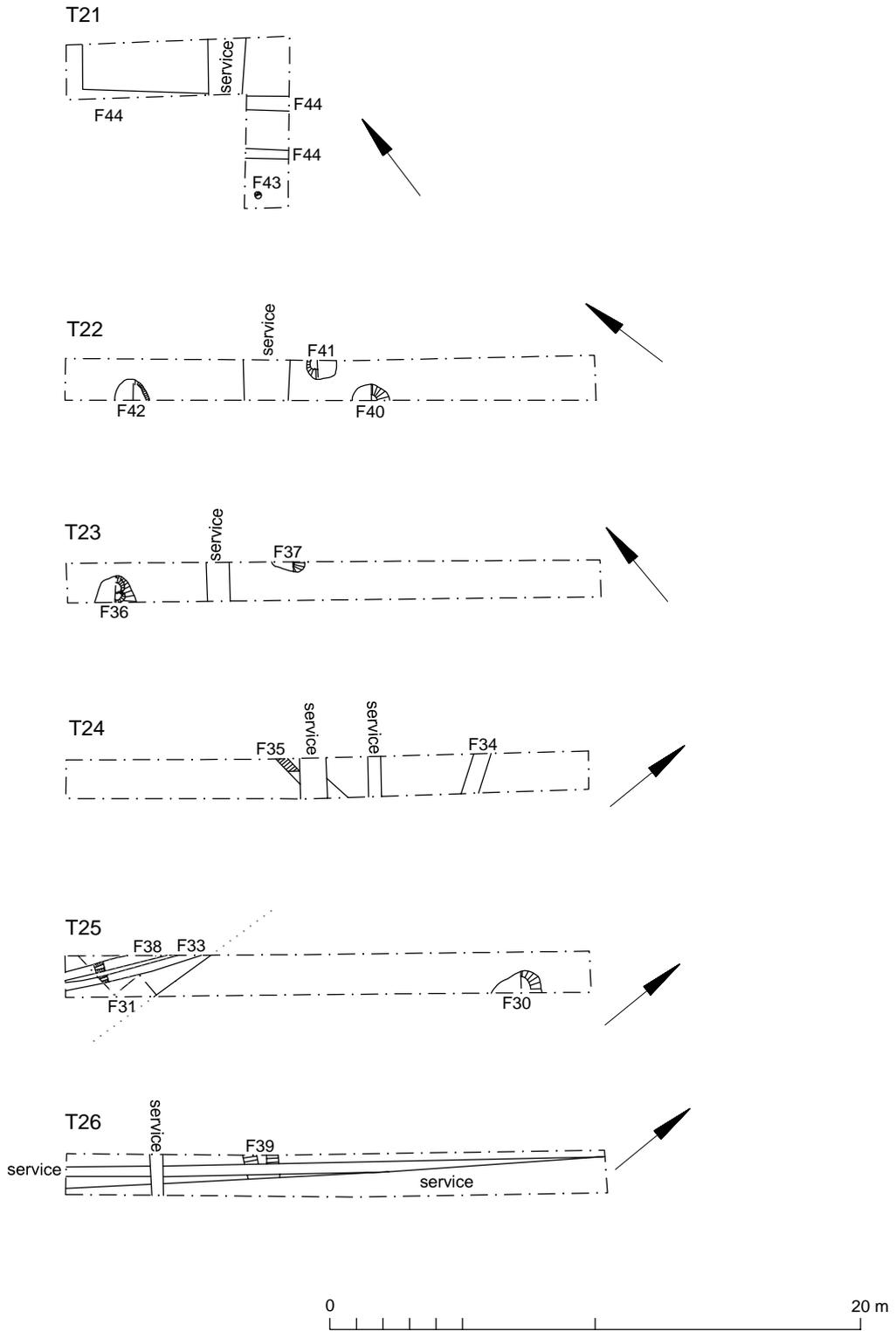


Fig 3 T21-T26: plans.

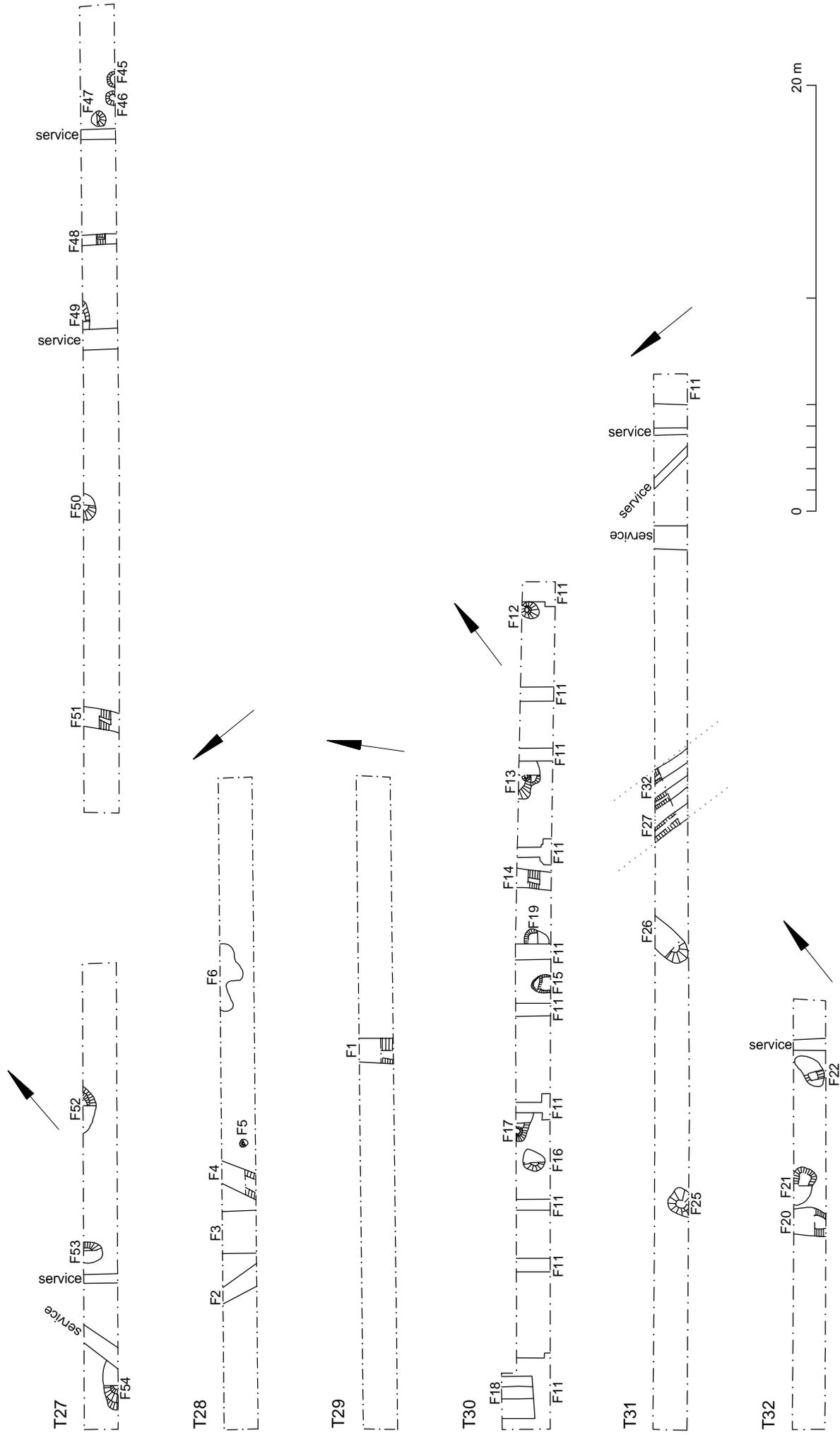


Fig 4 T27-T33: plans.

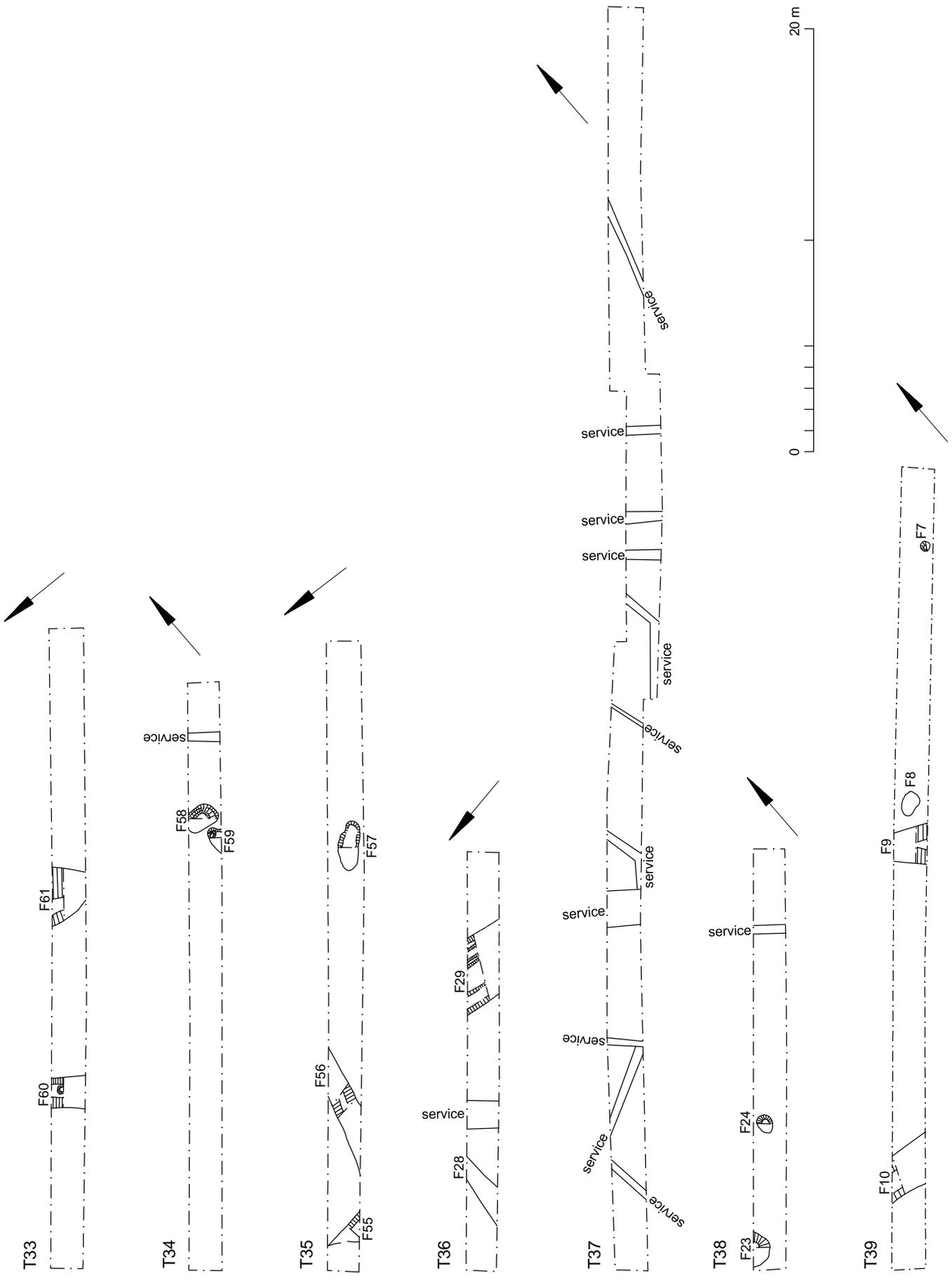


Fig 5 T34-T38: plans.

Ditch features

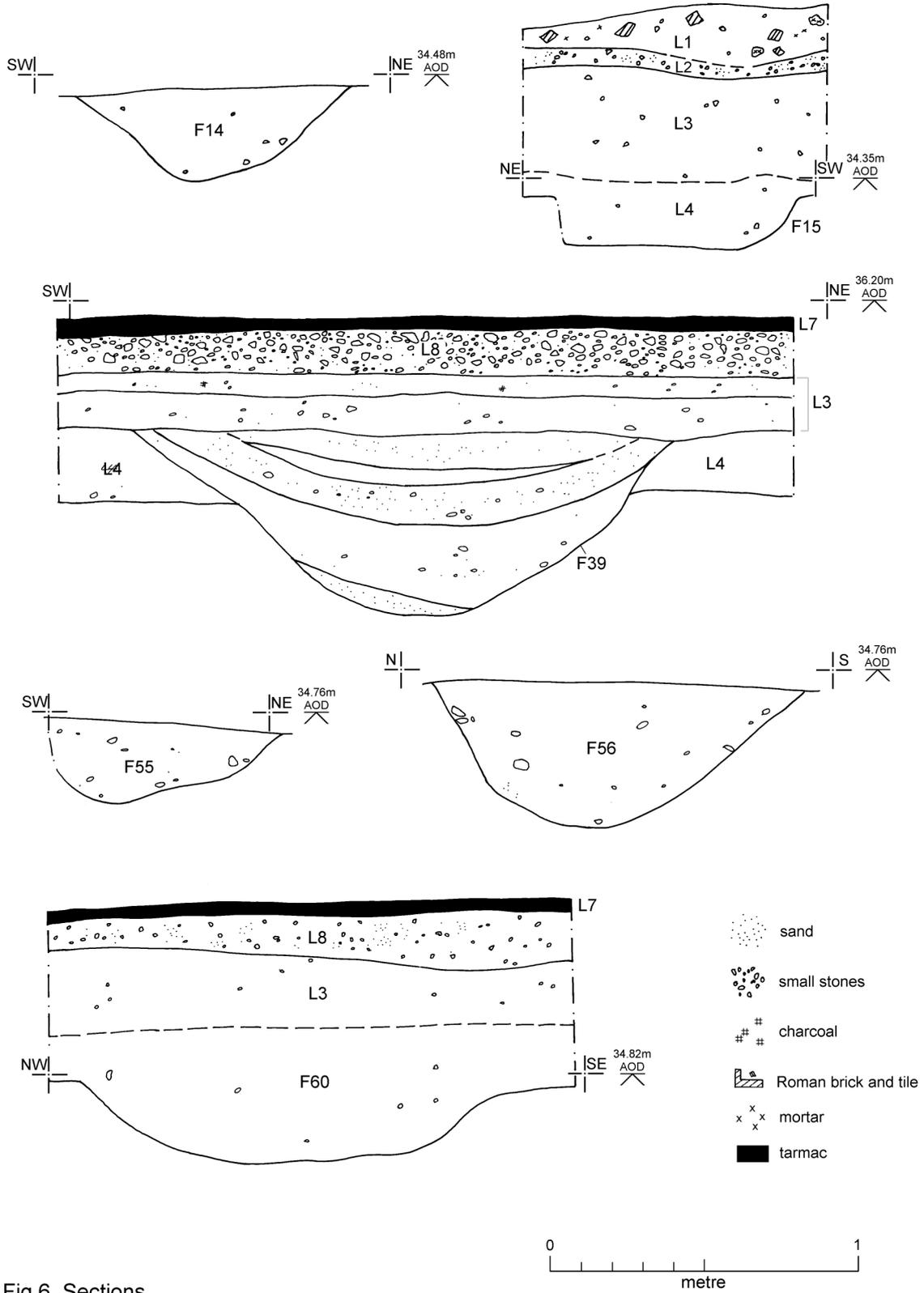


Fig 6 Sections.

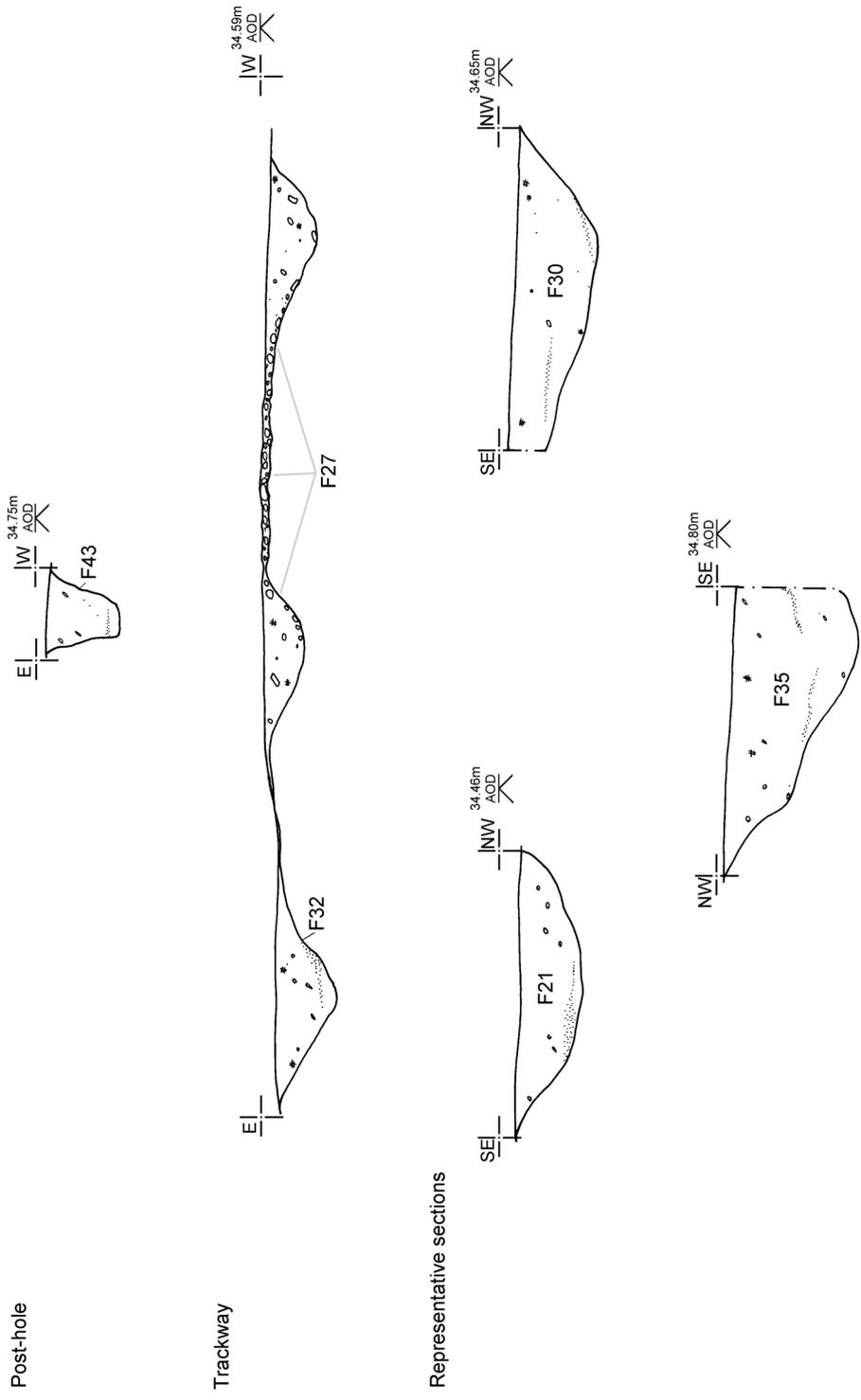


Fig 7 Sections.

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

Summary sheet

Site address: Alienated Land Area J2, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9910 2430 (centre)	Site code: Museum accession code COLEM: 2006.127
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2006 and August-September 2007	Size of area investigated: 19 trenches (total length 541m, width 1.8m) in a site of approx 0.52ha
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Unknown	Related UAD nos: 865, 867, 957, 1022, 1023, 1063, 1095, 1099, 1247
Final report:	CAT Report 437 and summary in <i>EAH</i>
Periods represented:	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area J2 coincides with the southern part of the former Cavalry Barracks on the east side of Butt Road.</i> <i>An archaeological evaluation by nineteen trial-trenches has revealed fragments of an undated but probably Roman agricultural landscape.</i> <i>Previous Garrison Alienated Land excavations and evaluations have identified a north-south droveway linking the main Roman road system to the fields of the oppidum of Camulodunum. This droveway should cross the extreme north-east corner of Area J2, but the presence of an access route meant that a trench could not be placed in the appropriate position to confirm this.</i> <i>The relevance of this droveway to Area J2 is that it appears to act as a boundary between two different areas of land use – Roman cemetery areas to its east and enclosed Roman farmland to its west. Sections of Roman ditches excavated in eight of the trenches are best interpreted as field boundaries belonging to that Roman farmland.</i> <i>The discovery of a few sherds of prehistoric pottery indicates limited activity here in the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.</i> <i>Post-Roman features included a post-medieval north-south gravelled track (possibly associated with a similar track excavated on Area J (west) in 2004), two medieval or later field ditches, and a large number of modern, Garrison-related foundations and services.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports:	CAT Report 206
Author of summary: H Brooks and B Holloway	Date of summary: November 2007