

**An archaeological excavation  
on land to the west of the junction  
between Duck Street and Rookery Lane,  
Wendens Ambo, Essex  
September 2008-March 2009**



**report prepared by  
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**on behalf of  
Foxley Builders**

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## Contents

|     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| 1   | Summary   | 1          |
| 2   | Introduction  | 1          |
| 3   | Archaeological background   | 2          |
| 4   | Aim   | 3          |
| 5   | Results   | 3          |
| 6   | Finds   | 8          |
| 6.1 | The small finds, fired clay and bulk ironwork <i>by Nina Crummy</i>                   | 8          |
| 6.2 | The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery <i>by S Benfield</i>                              | 9          |
| 6.3 | The post-Roman pottery <i>by H Brooks</i>   | 11         |
| 6.4 | The tile and brick <i>with identifications by Brian Hurrell</i>                       | 14         |
| 6.5 | The faunal remains <i>by Adam Wightman</i>  | 15         |
| 6.6 | The lithics <i>by Adam Wightman</i>   | 17         |
| 6.7 | An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains <i>by Val Fryer</i> | 18         |
| 6.8 | Other finds   | 20         |
| 7   | Discussion  | 20         |
| 8   | Archive deposition  | 24         |
| 9   | Acknowledgements  | 24         |
| 10  | References  | 24         |
| 11  | Glossary  | 25         |
| 12  | Context list  | 25         |
|     | Appendix 1: animal bones  | 29         |
|     | Figures   | after p 29 |
|     | EHER summary sheet  |            |

## List of figures and plate

|         |  |             |
|---------|--|-------------|
| Plate 1 | Trench 2, view north   | front cover |
| Fig 1   | Site location.   |             |
| Fig 2   | Site plan, showing CAT excavations.  |             |
| Fig 3   | Plan of trenches, showing CAT T1 and CAT T2 and FAU trenches 1-3.  |             |
| Fig 4   | Period 1: Roman.   |             |
| Fig 5   | Period 2: medieval and post-medieval.  |             |
| Fig 6   | The excavations in relation to previous work on the site of the Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn and on the route of the M11. |             |
| Fig 7   | ECC FAU evaluation 2006: sections from FAU trenches 1-3.   |             |
| Fig 8   | CAT T1 and CAT T2: representative trench sections.   |             |
| Fig 9   | Roman, probable Roman and post-Roman features, including phase 2a and phase 2b.  |             |
| Fig 10  | Small find.  |             |
| Fig 11  | Medieval pottery.  |             |

## 1 Summary

*During two stages of excavation by the Colchester Archaeological Trust, evidence for activity dating predominantly to the Roman and medieval periods was uncovered on land to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex. Artefactual evidence indicates sporadic activity in the immediate area from prehistoric through to modern times. The archaeological deposits were well preserved with little modern disturbance.*

*Pits and shallow linear features of a Roman date indicate agricultural activity on the site during this period. Further Roman evidence was located within dark clayey-silt alluvial deposits from a nearby water source, most likely a spring, in the eastern corner of the site. Roman artefacts and an area of flint cobbles indicate that the water source was probably a focus for activities such as crop-processing. This evidence probably relates to agricultural activities peripheral to a Roman villa complex, the remains of which were identified to the north-west at the Chinnel Barn site. The small quantity of Roman pottery collected suggests that the activity occurred towards the end of the period of occupation at the villa complex (around the 3rd-4th centuries AD).*

*Three periods of post-Roman activity were identified. The earliest belonged to the 12th century or earlier, and was represented by a small number of features, two of which may indicate a small structure or enclosure on the site. A number of gullies, ditches and large pits which date to the 13th-14th century (possibly the 16th century) indicate a significant increase in activity during this period. At this time, a wide ?trackway metalled with flint cobbles crossed the site and probably connected with the medieval lane which is now Duck Street. In the 16th/17th century, activity in the area continued but was sparse and probably associated with the ?trackway and use of the land for the disposal of refuse, a practice which continued until the land was purchased for development. The evidence for previously-unidentified medieval activity in this area appears predominantly agricultural in character and is sporadic, rather than continual or intensive, throughout the medieval period. The absence of any structural remains and the low frequency of artefactual evidence across the site implies that the activity may be peripheral to a previously-unknown farmstead on the edge of the medieval village of Wendens Ambo.*

*As requested by the ECC HEM team, the results of a previous evaluation of the site by the ECC FAU have been included in the figures and discussion section of this report. These investigations by the ECC FAU and CAT have identified previously-unknown medieval activity in the area and expanded our knowledge of the wider landscape used by inhabitants of the Roman villa complex at the Chinnel Barn site.*

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on two stages of archaeological excavation carried out at the residential development to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex. The work was carried out on behalf of Foxley Builders by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in accordance with two archaeological briefs prepared by Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team and two Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) prepared by CAT (CAT 2008).
- 2.2 The site covers an area of 0.24 hectares and is centred at NGR TL 510 361. It is situated approximately three miles south-west of Saffron Walden and in the south-western part of the village of Wendens Ambo (to the east of the M11; Fig 1).
- 2.3 A planning application was made to Uttlesford District Council in January 2008 (UTT/0126/08) for the construction of six houses on the site fronting Duck Street. As the site lies on the edge of the historic village of Wendens Ambo and is also in close proximity to the site of the Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn, the ECC HEM team recommended that an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching should be carried out on the site. This was undertaken in April 2006, in advance of the residential development, by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU). Three connecting trenches (FAU trenches 1-3) were excavated and archaeological

deposits dating predominantly to the Roman and medieval periods were recorded (ECC FAU Report 1595). A full archaeological condition was recommended to the District Council. Subsequently, four semi-detached houses were constructed on the site without the archaeological condition having been fulfilled.

- 2.4 The first of two stages of archaeological excavation undertaken by CAT on behalf of the building contractors, Foxley Builders, began in September 2008 (trench CAT T1). The recommended work was described in an ECC HEM team brief written in August 2008 entitled *Archaeological excavation at Duck Street, Wendens Ambo* (Havis 2008). The archaeological work consisted of the full excavation of the footprint of a fifth, detached house on the site (planning application no UTT/1219/08). In March 2009, further excavation (trench CAT T2) was undertaken on the site according to a second brief written by Richard Havis of the ECC HEM team (October 2008). This involved the excavation of a 3m-wide trench along the frontage of the new buildings, to link the ECC FAU trial-trenches 1 and 3 with CAT T1.
- 2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

### 3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) of the Essex County Council.

The site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. Archaeological excavation and evaluation, undertaken during works associated with the construction and widening of the M11, provided archaeological evidence spanning the prehistoric and Roman periods near to the site (EHER nos 169-170).

The principal known archaeological site in the area is that of a double-corridor Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn (Fig 1), located 200m to the east of the site (Hodder 1982). First discovered in 1853 when the stone footings of a large building were discovered, the site has been investigated more recently ahead of the construction of the M11 in 1973-4. Trial-trenching in 1971 by Mr M Spratling for the M11 Archaeological Committee, followed by excavation by Ian Hodder in 1973, uncovered evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation at the site, including evidence of a round-house and further building foundations. More recently, further parts of the site and the surrounding area have been investigated by the ECC FAU as part of proposals for widening of the M11 (Atkinson & Wade 1992; Atkinson 1993; Gilman 1994, 243-5). Works included a geophysical survey and trial-trenching to assess the northern and southern limits of the site of the villa complex.

An extensive flint assemblage was recovered from the Chinnel Barn site (EHER no 16924). This indicated that the manufacture of flint tools was taking place in the area from as early as the Mesolithic period and continued to the Bronze Age. However, these flint artefacts were generally found within later contexts.

An Iron Age settlement dating mainly from the 3rd to 1st centuries BC was identified at the Chinnel Barn site. This settlement may have continued into the 1st century AD. The full extent of many of these earlier features had been obscured by the succeeding Roman occupation, but settlement evidence including round-houses, hearths, pits and a four-post structure was identified.

The origins of the present-day village of Wendens Ambo date back to at least the Late Anglo-Saxon period. The settlement is recorded in the Domesday book (1086) with St Mary's Church dating back to the 11th century. Medieval and later activity would appear to have been focused around St Mary's Church. The name 'Wendens Ambo' is derived from the old English word 'Wendena' which is interpreted as meaning 'winding valley' (Reaney 1969, 542), and 'Ambo' from the Latin, meaning 'both', referring to the amalgamation of Great Wenden and Little Wenden in 1662 during a period of increasing local development. Duck Street is a probable medieval lane which survives as a hollow-way.

During the archaeological evaluation by the ECC FAU on the site in 2006, surviving stratified archaeological deposits of Roman and medieval date were identified. These deposits had been protected by the considerable build-up of soil on the site with many of the features located at approximately 1m below modern ground-level. Full details are given in the evaluation report (ECC FAU Report 1595).

## **4 Aim**

The aim of the archaeological excavation of trench CAT T1 was to preserve, by record, the archaeological deposits which were to be destroyed by the construction of the fifth house. The aim of trench CAT T2 was to identify the nature of the archaeological deposits across the site and assess their extent and importance, to allow an assessment to be made of those deposits destroyed by the construction of the first four houses. Special attention was to be paid to:

- i. Establishing the date and nature of the initial and subsequent settlements.
- ii. Defining the site in relation to the work previously undertaken on the site of the Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn and the medieval and post-medieval development of Wendens Ambo.
- iii. Defining the nature of the site in relation to the Roman and medieval occupation identified in the evaluation stage.
- iv. Assessing the extent and importance of any deposits lost as a result of the construction of the first four houses.

## **5 Results**

### **5.1 Overview**

The initial trench, CAT T1, was laid out by a Foxley Builders employee to encompass the entire footprint of the fifth, detached house ahead of its construction. This was located to the south-west of the four partially-complete houses (Fig 2). The second trench, CAT T2, was located between the partially-complete houses and the south-eastern boundary of the site, at a safe distance from the houses and the trees on the site boundary with Duck Street. The south-western end of CAT T2 was in line with the southern corner of CAT T1 (a safe distance from the nearby water-main), and continued north-east adjacent to the part of CAT T1 which crossed the alignment of two of the ECC FAU trial-trenches excavated in 2006 (FAU trenches 1 and 3). Both of these trenches were observed in the south-eastern sections (Sx 4 and Sx 5) of CAT T2, along with the slot excavated by ECC FAU through layer FAU 10, which confirmed the location of FAU trench 3. Excavation of CAT T2 ceased when the excavator did not have sufficient room to continue. This coincided with the line of a drain, and an area of dry soil by the large conifer hedge along the northern boundary of the site. It was necessary to decrease the width of the trench to one bucket width for the final 1.5m of the trench to accommodate the spoil. One baulk was left in the centre of the trench on the alignment of two live electricity cables. A water-pipe put in by the building contractors also crossed this baulk, as did much of FAU trench 1, so little in the way of archaeological deposits is likely to have been missed in this area. Other previously-unknown services laid by the building contractors were uncovered at varying depths, but these were declared obsolete by the site director and removed with his consent.

The topsoil identified by ECC FAU in 2006 (dark grey/brown clay-silt, 0.2-0.5m in depth; Fig 7) had been removed from the site prior to the excavations by CAT. Much of the topsoil lay in a large mound in the western corner of the site and had become covered in vegetation. The topsoil had been replaced over much of the site with a layer of crushed rubble by the building contractors. This was subsequently overlaid by a layer of loose tarmac by the building contractors. This layer of make-up (rubble and tarmac; L1) varied in depth across the site, and was absent over the western and southern parts of CAT T1 (Fig 8). The layer became much thicker in the time between the first and second stages of the CAT excavations.

Beneath L1 where it was present, and beneath the top stratigraphical layer where it was not, there was a deposit of dark grey/brown modern accumulation (L8; Fig 8). This layer was observed in the sides of all three FAU trenches as well as CAT T1 and CAT T2, although it was originally subsumed into L1 in CAT T1 due to the thinness of the crush layer. The only location where L8 was not present was in the south-western end of CAT T2 where a light brown silty clay (L10), which appears to have been imported into the site, was stratified between L1 and L2 (Fig 8, Sx 6). L8 was referred to as 'modern overburden' in the ECC FAU report (Table 1; Fig 7; ECC FAU Report 1595, 5). L8 contained modern material as well as post-medieval brick, tile and pottery. A lens of hydrated lime was also observed in this layer across most of CAT T2 (Fig 8).

Underlying the modern material was a layer of dark brownish grey clay-silt (L2) which overlay most of the archaeological deposits and, over most of the site, the natural clay. This layer was interpreted as an undisturbed subsoil accumulation both by CAT and ECC FAU (FAU 5). The thickness and colour of L2 varied across the site.

The layers detailed above were removed from CAT T1 and CAT T2 using the mechanical excavator until either significant archaeological deposits or the natural geology were reached. The natural geology (L3) was a glacial head deposit of chalky boulder clay overlying bedrock chalk. Large areas of dense chalk nodules/flecking were observed in the boulder clay across CAT T2, but were particularly dense in the western corner of CAT T1. In the north-eastern end of CAT T2, the clay was considerably more orange and slightly sandy but still had areas of dense chalk flecking. The 'terminal end' of a vein of clay with dense chalk flecking had been investigated in FAU trench 3, and, when this area was re-excavated by CAT, the backfilled hole (F31) was initially mistaken for a modern feature. The orange sandy clay was numbered by ECC FAU (FAU 13) and believed to be Roman; however, wider excavation showed the material to be natural. Considerable variation in the natural clay was observed elsewhere and, where there was uncertainty, sondages were excavated to investigate. The quantity of chalk in the natural was found to increase with depth and the areas of dense chalk continued below the surrounding natural clay.

**Table 1: table of concordance.**

| CAT 2008 and 2009 | ECC FAU 2006                                 |
|-------------------|--|
| L2                | FAU 5 + subsoil                              |
| L3                | FAU 13                                       |
| L7                | FAU 10 + FAU 11 + FAU 14 (interface with L3) |
| L8                | 'modern overburden' + FAU 27                 |
| L9                | FAU 26                                       |
| F28               | FAU 12                                       |

The following descriptions by period include the findings from both stages of excavation undertaken by CAT. An attempt is made in the text to reconcile the findings of the excavations with the findings of ECC FAU. Evidence of activity has been grouped as follows:

- i. Period 1: Roman
- ii. Period 2: medieval and post-medieval with three phases -
  - a) phase 2a: 12th century or earlier
  - b) phase 2b: 13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century
  - c) phase 2c: 16th/17th century, possibly later
- iii. Period 3: modern.

## 5.2 Results by period

### Period 1: Roman

Two areas with deposits dated to the Roman period were identified, one in the north-western corner of CAT T1 and the other in the north-eastern end of CAT T2 (Fig 4). In each instance, the identification of deposits as Roman is based on the presence of small quantities of Roman material and the absence of later material. Some

features which did not contain any datable evidence have also been ascribed to the Roman period based on stratigraphical relationships.

In the north-western corner of CAT T1 (in the south-western corner of the site), a north-west/south-east aligned ditch was identified which extended beyond the north-western limit of excavation (F9; Fig 9). Three fragments of Roman pottery were recovered from a section excavated through the ditch, and two of the fragments (joining) are probably of mid-late Roman date. Excavation of a second section through ditch F9, where it had been cut by pit F23, suggested that the pit had cut the terminal of the ditch. However, it is possible that the ditch turned in a north-easterly direction to become F27, a small length of gully which contained no datable evidence and had a similar fill and profile to ditch F9. A shallow sub-square pit (F8), which cut the ditch F9, contained a pottery fragment dated to the mid 2nd-late 3rd/4th century. This pottery fragment could have entered the fill of pit F8 when it cut through ditch F9. However, no other finds were recovered which suggest a later date for F9. The stake hole F12 in the base of pit F8 is probably contemporary. A large section was excavated through a short, shallow gully on an approximate east-west alignment (F13). No artefacts were recovered from F13. However, it was cut by the Roman ditch F9, providing a *terminus ante quem* of a mid-late Roman date. The stake hole F14 in the northern side of gully F13 is probably closely associated with it.

In the north-eastern end of CAT T2, deposits which correspond to the Roman contexts excavated in the south-eastern end of FAU trench 3 were identified (Table 1). A group of large flint nodules was interpreted by ECC FAU as a 'flint-cobble surface', but, on further investigation in trench CAT T2, the flint nodules (F28) appeared to be part of a scatter and not an area of metalling. F28 overlay a layer of orange sandy clay which extended south almost to the baulk. During the cleaning over and subsequent removal of F28, four fragments of Roman pottery were recovered dating to the late Roman period (later 3rd-4th century). An oval-shaped pit (F34) cut the metalling, and large irregular flint nodules from its surface were observable in the fill (Fig 9). No pottery fragments were recovered from pit F34, but it contained Roman brick and tile and no later material. A small, shallow ?post-hole with a light chalk-rich clayey fill (F29) contained no finds but may have been associated with the Roman deposits in this area. Overlying these deposits was a 0.25m-thick layer of dark grey/brown clayey-silt which was moist and high in organic content (L7), and a slightly lighter clayey-silt horizon, 0.15m thick, with more frequent stone/chalk nodules (L9; Fig 8, Sx 4). These layers extended southwards to the baulk left for the services but were not observed beyond it. Neither were they identified in FAU trench 1 by ECC FAU. Although the one fragment of pottery recovered by CAT, from the top of L7, dated to the late medieval period, the large quantity of Roman pottery found by ECC FAU implies that the layer accumulated over a long period of time.

A small shallow gully terminal (F35) on a north-west/south-east alignment was overlaid by the dark grey/brown clayey-silt L7, yet had a distinctive light-coloured clay fill. No finds were recovered from the feature, but its stratification suggests that it was Roman, if not earlier.

## **Period 2: medieval and post-medieval**

### *Phase 2a: 12th century or earlier*

Five features were identified across the site which date to the earliest medieval phase, ie 12th century or earlier.

Two narrow, shallow linear features were excavated in CAT T1. One was the terminal (F22) of a gully on a north-east/south-west alignment, and the other was a linear feature (F17; Fig 9), on the same alignment as F22, but L-shaped (Fig 5). F17 may represent a ground-plate. It is possible that the features are associated and that the gully F22 similarly turns a corner; hence its absence in CAT T2. If these features were structural, then it is probable that the small, tight cluster of post-hole and stake holes in the south-eastern corner of CAT T1 (F3-F6) may also be contemporary. Also in CAT T1, there was a small shallow pit (F7). In CAT T2, a wide but shallow ditch on a north-west/south-east alignment (F36) contained finds dating to this phase of occupation. The linear feature had a flat base, was cut by a later large pit, and contained few finds.

Within the dark grey/brown clayey-silt deposit described above (L7), a linear spread of loose medium to large flint nodules (F33) was identified (Fig 9). No cut for the feature was observed and it was not sufficiently dense to be a wall foundation. Although L7 began to accumulate in the Roman period, later pottery was found in the upper parts of the layer, and excavation of a section through the flint nodules (F33) found pottery dating to this medieval phase.

*Phase 2b: 13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century*

A high proportion of the features excavated, particularly in CAT T1, fall within this phase of post-Roman occupation. These include linear features, pits, and two areas of metalling. Five (or possibly six) linear features in CAT T1 date to this period, and all except one follow the same alignment pattern, ie north-west/south-east or north-east/south-west (Fig 5).

The narrow north-west/south-east aligned gully (F11/F26; Fig 9) was cut by gully F16/F24 and disturbed by the removal of some of the metalling L5. There may have been a gap between the two lengths of the gully F11/F26, as was indicated by a possible terminal at the south-eastern end of F11. However, the apparent terminal probably did not exist but was a product of disturbance to the feature. Only one fragment of medieval buff ware was recovered from the gully F11/F26, along with thirteen fragments (some joining) from a Roman Mayen lava quernstone.

The deepest and widest linear feature on the site was a north-west/south-east aligned ditch (F2; 0.52m deep; Sx 2). The northern edge of the ditch was beyond the limit of excavation, but the depth and break of slope attest to its considerable width (Fig 9). One fragment of pottery dating to the second phase of post-Roman occupation on the site (phase 2b) was recovered; however, five fragments dating to the earlier medieval phase were also collected, perhaps indicating an earlier date for the original excavation of the ditch. Unfortunately, the pottery was not well stratified. Three fragments of grog-tempered pottery were recovered from the two excavated sections, two of which date to the Late Iron Age (c 50 BC-AD 50), and the other may be Late Iron Age if not early post-conquest Roman. No other pre-medieval sherds were recovered. Although almost certainly residual (they were not stratified below the later material), the fragments may suggest the disturbance of another feature dating to this period by the excavation of the ditch. The north-western terminal of the ditch was identified (with an associated stake hole F19), but the ditch was not observed in CAT T2.

On a slightly different alignment to the previous two linear features, but also aligned north-west/south-east, was the gully F16/F24 (Fig 9). Both terminals of the gully were located within CAT T1. The gully was overlaid by the metalling L5 but cut the metalling L4, and, as such, is later in the stratigraphical sequence than gully F11/F26 and ditch F2. Twenty-five fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from the gully, 24 of which were medieval coarse wares.

The ditch F1 was aligned at right-angles to the north-west/south-east linear features, and had a distinctive grey fill with many chalk flecks. Five fragments of a previously unknown late medieval sandy orange ware (to be referred to as 'Wendens Ambo ware') were collected from the lower fill of Section 2 (Sx 2, Fig 11.1). This section also contained many large cobbles in its lower fill which appeared to have derived from the metalling L4 (Fig 9), indicating that the ditch was either open when the metalling was laid or was excavated during its use. A fragment of peg-tile was recovered from the upper fill of Section 1 (Sx 1), indicating that the ditch had not been completely infilled until the latter part of the phase at the earliest.

Two other linear features which did not contain any artefactual evidence may well have dated to this phase. Gully F10 was on the opposite alignment (north-east/south-west) to the features described above but dates to this phase of activity based on its stratigraphical location above gully F11 but below ditch F2. The gully F27, which has already been postulated as possibly Roman, could be dated to early in this occupation phase as it is on the same alignment pattern as the other linear features (north-east/south-west).

Two large pits in CAT T1 are associated with this period, ie F23 and F25. Neither of the pits were very deep, they both had similar profiles, and both contained very little artefactual evidence. Pit F25 had an uneven base. Fragments of peg-tile were

present in the upper fill of pit F23, indicating that this feature is later in the phase 2b date range than pit F25. The close adherence of the metalling L5 to the edge of pit F23, including the slumping of the layer into the pit (Fig 9), suggests that the features may be associated. A large, deep sub-square pit in CAT T2 (F37) contained very few finds, including pottery fragments, dating to this occupation phase, although an almost-complete flask in north-west Essex sandy orange ware (Fig 11.2) dating to the 13th-14th century was recovered from the upper fill during machining. The pit had straight sides which were slightly undercut, perhaps indicating that water had filled the pit at some point (Fig 9).

Two discrete areas of flint-cobble metalling were identified. The earlier and larger area of metalling (L4) covered one-sixth of the area of CAT T1 and was present in CAT T2 (Fig 5). It consisted of a layer of medium-sized flint nodules, laid roughly 150mm thick in the centre of the metalling and thinning towards the edges. In CAT T1, the metalling was located in the eastern part of the trench, where it appeared to form a rounded corner. CAT T2 revealed a north-eastern and south-western edge to the metalling, probably indicating that it had a linear shape, although the south-western edge was not as well defined, with flint nodules visible in section for additional 1.2m beyond the excavated extent (Fig 5). During the removal of the metalling in CAT T1 and the excavation of a slot through it in CAT T2, fragments of medieval coarse wares and sandy orange ware were recovered and no later pottery fragments or peg-tile was observed. During the cleaning of L4, pottery dating to the 14th century was recovered along with peg-tile fragments and a cast pewter rumbler bell dating to the 18th century (Fig 10). Combined with the stratigraphic location of the metalling in the site sequence (overlying ditch F2 and L-shaped linear feature F17, cut by gully F16/F24 and within ditch F1), this suggests that the metalling was laid early in this phase (phase 2b) and continued to be used into the next phase (phase 2c). The small area of metalling in the centre of CAT T1 (L5) was constructed of medium/large flint cobbles, laid 200mm thick near the centre (Fig 9). The layer slumped into the pit F23 and adhered quite closely to its extents. It also overlay an area where two gullies bisected one another (F11/F26 and F16/F24), perhaps for the same purpose. Excavation of the layer recovered many Roman tile and brick fragments (60% of the fragments collected from the site), peg-tile, and worked stone from amongst the flint cobbles. Pottery fragments dated the metalling to this phase and included medieval coarse ware and Mill Green ware. However, the presence of peg-tile and the stratigraphic location of the metalling above other features of this date suggest that it belongs to the later part of the phase's date range. The pottery fragments collected during the cleaning of the metalling also suggest that it was still exposed and, therefore, in use during the subsequent phase.

Other excavated features which did not contain any datable artefactual evidence may date to this occupation phase based on their stratigraphic location or proximity to features detailed above. These include a shallow linear feature (F41) which underlay metalling L4 in CAT T2 and a shallow pit or ditch/gully terminal (F39) in the south-western end of CAT T2 which was overlaid by flint nodules from L4.

#### *Phase 2c: 16th/17th century, possibly later*

The only feature securely dated to the post-medieval period was a sub-square pit (F30; Fig 5) filled with three lenses of charcoal/ash-rich silty clay (Fig 9). Two large fragments of burnt bos femur, as well as other bones which were not burnt, were recovered. The pit appears to have contained general household waste as well as the sweepings from a fire. The shallow gully F38, which cut the metalling L4 in CAT T1, contained a fragment of peg-tile. On this basis, it probably originated in this phase.

Although few features date to this phase of post-Roman activity, the pottery evidence suggests that other features, for example, the metalling L4 and L5, remained in use into this phase. The pottery recovered from the layer overlying most of the archaeological deposits also suggests that there was still activity on the site during the post-medieval period.

#### **Period 3: modern**

Modern features included a drainage pipe (F32) unknown to the building contractors and also not recorded by ECC FAU in 2006, indicating that it was probably laid by

the previous contractors. This drain prevented the reconstruction of the stratigraphy along much of the western section of CAT T2. There were also two pits which were demonstrably modern, ie a sub-square pit (F40) containing modern bricks and china fragments in CAT T2, and a sub-square post-hole/pit in CAT T1 with straight sides which contained asbestos (F21). Two other shallow pits (F20, F18) in close proximity to F21 contained no datable material but had similar fills. These are also probably modern pits.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 The small finds, fired clay and bulk ironwork

*by Nina Crummy*

The assemblage is small and the objects of limited type. The only item which can be dated reasonably closely is an 18th-century rumbler bell from a harness. The form is well-represented on rural sites such as Caldecotte, Buckinghamshire, and urban sites such as Colchester (King 1994, 146-7, fig 86; *CAR 5*, 84). Many of the other finds are iron nails or metal scraps. Two groups of lava quernstone fragments cannot be closely dated as querns of this stone were imported from Germany not only in the Roman period but also from the Middle Saxon period on into the early post-medieval period. These fragments are, however, not much abraded or weathered and so are likely to be little older than the feature from which they derive. A fragment of a marble veneer strip may be Roman, but, given the lack of other Roman material from the site, is more likely to be Victorian or later, when marble became quite widely used in domestic, commercial and public buildings.

**Fig 10.** SF 1. (6) L2. Cast lead-alloy (pewter) rumbler bell fragment. The rectangular suspension loop has bevelled edges and a keyhole-shaped perforation. The upper hemisphere is decorated with petal-like mouldings, the lower with overlapping scales. Length 39 mm, diameter 30 mm. A close parallel for this bell, almost certainly made by the same hand, comes from Manor Farm, Broughton, near Milton Keynes (Oxford Archaeology East, XBU BRf 06, SF 235).

SF 2. (15) F2. Two fragments of thin copper-alloy or base silver sheet. 14 by 11 mm; 13 by 11 mm.

SF 8. (23) L2. Fragment of iron sheet. 30 by 31 mm.

SF 3. (18) L4. Tongue-ended pierced terminal from an iron strap. Length 32 mm, width 25 mm.

(34) F1 Sx 2. Incomplete iron nail with damaged round head. Length 37 mm.

(2) F2. Complete iron nail with small square head. Length 50 mm.

(42) F17. Incomplete iron nail with damaged head. Length 23 mm.

(14) L2. Iron nail shank, doubly clenched. Length 51 mm.

(23) L2. Complete iron nail with round head and clenched shank. Length 43 mm.

(35) L4. Complete iron nail with round head. Length 47 mm.

SF 6. (11) F11. Thirteen fragments (some fitting) from a Mayen lava quernstone. Total weight 259 g.

SF 4. (26) L5. Two fragments from a Mayen lava quernstone, one from the edge of an upper-stone. Total weight 275 g.

SF 5. (4) L2. Marble (?Cipollino) veneer strip, one end sawn, the other broken. Length 75 mm, section 21 by 15 mm.

SF 7. (27) L5. Roughly worked worm limestone block, probably used as building stone or paving. 160 by 140 mm, 60 mm thick.

(2) F2. Tiny fragment of fired clay. Weight 3 g.

SF 9. (25) L5. Reset dribble of soft clay. Length 28 mm; weight 6 g.

## 6.2 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by S Benfield

### Pottery fabrics and recording

Only a small quantity of pottery of Late Iron Age and Roman date was recovered, ie 18 sherds weighing a total of 217 g. This has been recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10*, in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. An additional code for Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW) has been added. This fabric is described below. These letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 2 (below). Black surface ware (Martin 2003, 131) was also used to describe some sherds while cataloguing them for the archive (Table 3), as this fabric nomenclature was used in the ECC FAU evaluation report (Compton 2006). The pot forms were recorded, where possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Dating of the pottery broadly follows the dating of pottery fabric and forms in *CAR 10*. For each context, the number of sherds, weight and the identifiable pottery forms were recorded for each finds number by fabric type (see catalogue below). A full catalogue of all of the Roman pottery, listed by finds number for all of the numbered contexts and unstratified material, is contained in the site archive.

Fabric descriptions or references additional to those in *CAR 10* used in this report:

Fabric GTW, Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares

Generally thick sherds with patchy red-brown, brown or grey-brown surfaces. Fabric contains various quantities of crushed fired clay (grog).

**Table 2: Roman pottery fabrics used in recording the pottery.**

| Fabric name   | Fabric code |
|---|-------------|
| oxidised Hadham wares                                       | CH          |
| coarse oxidised and related wares                           | DJ          |
| fine oxidised wares   | DZ          |
| grog-tempered ware  | GTW         |
| other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares | GX          |
| shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares                    | HD          |

### Discussion

In total, 18 sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing 217 g, were recovered. The pottery consists of small- to medium-sized sherds, with an average sherd weight of 12 g. Overall the condition of the pottery is good, although a number of the sherds are abraded. Apart from a probable beaker base in oxidised Hadham ware (L2, finds no 44), no other fine wares were identified. Also, no specialist vessel types such as mortaria or imported wares such as samian or amphoras are present in the assemblage.

A few of the sherds (4 sherds, weighing 81 g) are grog-tempered. Overall they make up 20% of the assemblage by sherd count and 40% by weight. These sherds can be dated to the Late Iron Age and possibly to the early post-conquest, Roman period, c 50 BC-AD 50. Three sherds recovered from ditch F2 are all grog-tempered. Two of these are probably of Late Iron Age date. The other sherd is hard-fired, with fragments of hard, grey, grog-temper in the fabric, and may be post-conquest. The remaining grog-tempered sherd is from pit F25. This comes from a large storage jar which had been decorated with vertical combing on the body. The fabric is sandy and hard fired, with sparse pieces of grey grog-temper, and it may be post-conquest.

The remaining pottery (14 sherds weighing 136 g) can be dated to the Roman period. The Roman pottery makes up 80% of the assemblage by sherd count and

60% by weight. Some of this pottery can be more closely dated, either based on the form of the vessel, where this can be identified, or on the specific fabric type.

Several sherds can be dated to the early Roman period of the 1st-2nd centuries. Two sherds, one from ditch F9 and one from gully F16/F24, are likely to date to the 1st-early 2nd century. That from F9 is from a necked jar or bowl, possibly of form Cam 266 or a form with a similar neck and rim. Sherds of cream-coloured coarse oxidised ware from pit F30 and L2 are probably of 1st- to 2nd-century date. That from pit F30 is almost certainly part of a flagon.

The mid-late Roman period of the mid 2nd-3rd century is probably represented by sherds from two pots. One rim sherd from pit F8 is likely to represent either a jar of form Cam 268, or possibly a bowl of form Cam 299, and can be dated to the mid 2nd-late 3rd/4th century. Less securely dated are two sherds from a bowl with a rounded everted rim which came from ditch F9. However, this vessel is also likely to be of mid-late Roman date.

Pottery which can be dated to the late Roman period of the later 3rd-4th century is also present. The most securely dated among this pottery is a sherd from the rim of a flanged bowl of form Cam 305B from pit F37. This can be dated to the mid-late 3rd to 4th century. There are two sherds from separate vessels in shell-tempered ware, one from the flint-nodule scatter F28 and the other from L2. That from F28 is probably part of the base of an open bowl form. These sherds are probably late Roman shell-tempered ware and can be dated to the 4th century here (Wallace & Turner-Walker 1998, 98-101). There is also a sherd from the base of a small vessel, probably a beaker. This has been burnt, making the fabric difficult to identify. However, it is probably oxidised Hadham ware and can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century.

Overall the assemblage appears similar to that recorded from the 2006 evaluation (Compton 2006), although it differs in several specifics. This may well be due to the difference in size of the two assemblages, that from 2006 being between eight and nine times larger in terms of sherd numbers and weight. While the pottery is consistent with occupation dating from the Late Iron Age to the late Roman period, there is no clear bias towards the early Roman period as seen in the 2006 assemblage. Whereas all of the Late Iron Age pottery recovered in 2006 was residual in later-dated contexts (Compton 2006), a small group of grog-tempered Late Iron Age-early post-conquest pottery was associated with ditch F2. As mentioned above, there are no imported wares (ie amphoras or samian), which were present in the 2006 assemblage, and there are no sherds from specialist vessels (ie mortaria).

**Table 3: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.**

| context | finds number | sherds | weight (g) | Fabrics | description and comments  | pottery date  |
|---------|--------------|--------|------------|---------|---|---|
| F2      | 7            | 1      | 15         | GTW     | body sherd in sandy fabric with moderate density of grog-temper   | Late Iron Age, c 50 BC-AD 50  |
| F2      | 21           | 1      | 18         | GTW     | body sherd, probably part of a large storage jar, abraded   | Late Iron Age, c 50 BC-AD 50  |
| F2      | 21           | 1      | 32         | GTW     | sherd from the shoulder of a jar, recently broken into 2 joining pieces, hard fired with hard grey grog-temper                                  | Late Iron Age-early Roman, 1st century AD                                     |
| F8      | 10           | 1      | 6          | GX      | rim sherd from a jar or bowl in sandy grey ware with everted rim, possibly Cam from 268 or Cam 299  | Roman, mid 2nd-4th century  |
| F9      | 13           | 1      | 20         | GX      | rim sherd from a necked jar or bowl, burnt on rim, fine sandy-grey ware some fragments of dark organic temper in fabric, sherd slightly abraded | Roman, possibly form Cam 266, dated at Colchester as 1st to early 2nd century |
| F9      | 43           | 2      | 23         | GX      | two joining rim sherds from a bowl with rounded, slightly everted rim, in fine sandy grey ware, abraded   | Roman, possibly mid-late Roman  |
| F16     | 20           | 1      | 4          | GX      | body sherd in black-surface ware with brown and grey fabric and groove around body, probably from a partly enclosed vessel                      | Roman, probably 1st-2nd century   |

| context       | finds number | sherds    | weight (g) | Fabrics | description and comments   | pottery date                     |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| F17           | 19           | 1         | 12         | DJ      | body sherd from a jar or bowl in red-brown, oxidised fabric  | Roman                            |
| F25           | 36           | 1         | 16         | GTW     | body sherd from a large storage jar with vertical combed surface, hard sandy fabric with some hard grey grog temper  | Late Iron Age-early Roman        |
| F28           | 44           | 1         | 4          | HD      | base sherd from an open bowl with fine shell temper  | probably late Roman, 4th century |
| F28           | 44           | 1         | 27         | GX      | rim sherd from a necked jar in grey fabric with black core, burnt on rim which is a pointed almond shape, slightly flattened on interior of rim (originally thought to be possibly medieval) | Roman                            |
| F28           | 44           | 1         | 3          | GX      | body sherd in grey ware  | Roman                            |
| F28           | 44           | 1         | 4          | ?CH     | base from a beaker with faint remains or groove around edge of underside, burnt and abraded, fabric red-brown but burnt pale grey on exterior, possibly Hadham oxidised ware                 | late 3rd or 4th century          |
| F30           | 52           | 1         | 2          | DJ      | sherd from a handle, probably from flagon or possibly the rim of a ring-neck flagon, abraded with an edge on only one side of the sherd  | probably 1st-2nd century         |
| F37           | 57           | 1         | 23         | GX      | rim sherd from a flanged bowl of form Cam 305B, red-brown fabric with grey core, light grey surface, slightly abraded  | mid-late 3rd to 4th century      |
| L2            | 4            | 1         | 2          | DJ      | two joining sherds from what appears to be part of a small, thin handle or strap   | Roman                            |
| L2            | 23           | 1         | 6          | HD      | body sherd (from cleaning over L5)   | probably late Roman, 4th century |
| <b>Totals</b> |              | <b>18</b> | <b>217</b> |         |  |                                  |

### 6.3 The post-Roman pottery

by H Brooks

#### Introduction

This is the report on a group of 118 sherds (weighing 2,625g) of post-Roman pottery from the site.

#### Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after *CAR 7*): Fabric 97 (hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery); Fabric 9 (Thetford-type ware); Fabric 13 (early medieval ware); Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware); Fabric 22 (Heddingham-type ware); Fabric 23 (medieval buff ware); Fabric 35 (Mill Green-type ware); and Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE).

This group is dominated by medieval sandy grey ware and sandy orange ware (Fabrics 20 and 21), which account for 24% and 58% respectively of this group by weight. There are smaller quantities of early medieval ware (7%) by weight. Early wares include a possible Anglo-Saxon hand-made sherd, and Thetford ware.

#### Comment

I am obliged to Helen Walker of Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit for examining the pottery with me, and advising on dating and classification.

There are two points worthy of mention. First, and perhaps more important, is the presence of a previously-unrecognised variant of what Helen Walker describes as 'North-west Essex sandy orange ware' (ie a variant of Fabric 21), and advises

should be named 'Wendens Ambo ware'. This is a Fabric 21 variant with a distinct chalky content (Fig 11.1).

Second, the almost-complete Fabric 21 flask from pit F37 (Fig 11.2). The almost-complete condition of this flask may indicate deliberate burial; unfortunately, the circumstances of its discovery make it impossible to be certain whether this was so.

With regard to site dating, there is residual Roman pottery here, plus an Anglo-Saxon sherd and a sherd of Thetford ware. There is too little evidence here to suggest continuity between Roman and medieval occupation. It is probably the case that there was intermittent activity here at several points during the Anglo-Saxon period and before the Norman conquest. As for pottery after that date, there is material from the 12th century through to the 14th century or possibly later. It is reasonable to argue from the ceramics that this activity was continuous, but not necessarily intensive. After that, there is some later material which may relate to a later phase of activity, ie post-dating the 14th century.

## **Catalogue**

### **F1**

#### *Finds no 33*

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 5 sherds, 83g - includes late medieval sandy orange ware, 'Wendens Ambo ware', chalky fabric with green glaze, including a handle (Fig 11.1) and a late sandy orange ware sherd

### **F2**

#### *Finds no 2*

Fabric 9 (Thetford ware), 1 fine dark grey rim sherd, 14g

#### *Finds no 21*

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 1 sherd, very chalky fabric - local type?, 1g

#### *Finds no 51*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 2 sherds, 15g

Fabric 35 (Mill Green-type ware), 2 sherds, 3g

### **F7**

#### *Finds no 9*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 10g - early medieval ware, chalky fabric, chalk from Boulder Clay

### **F11**

#### *Finds no 12*

Fabric 23 (medieval buff ware), 1 sherd, 3g

### **F16**

#### *Finds no 16*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, fine ware rim, 5g

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 6 sherds, 166g - the Fabric 20 is all Hedingham-type coarse ware, including a rim with vertically-applied strip

#### *Finds no 20*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 4 sherds, 29g

### **F17**

#### *Finds no 19*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 3g

### **F21**

#### *Finds no 22*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, from storage jar, fire-blackened, with external wavy-line decoration, 17g

### **F22**

#### *Finds no 32*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 6g

### **F23**

#### *Finds no 28*

Fabric 22 (Hedingham-type ware), 1 sherd, with pale, thumbbed base; surface gone, 18g

**F24**

*Finds no 30*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 18 sherds, 211g - these are all medieval coarse wares; three joining sherds with dimples are definitely Hedingham ware, others may be Hedingham ware

**F25**

*Finds no 36*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 7g

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 1 sherd, the fine sandy orange ware is NW Essex variant type, 14th-15th century, 8g

**F28**

*Finds no 44*

1 unidentified shell-tempered sherd – ?Roman, 4g

**F30**

*Finds no 45*

Fabric 40 (PMRE), 2 sherds, 48g

*Finds no 52*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 2g

Fabric 40 (PMRE), 3 sherds, 19g

**F33**

*Finds no 57*

probably hand-made Anglo-Saxon (Fabric 97), 1 sherd, 13g

**F36**

*Finds no 50*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 2 sherds, 1 with thumbbed bevelled rim, 12th century, 83g

**F37**

*Finds no 49*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 20 sherds, 310g - includes almost-complete flask in NW Essex sandy orange ware (Fig 11.2), coarser version of Hedingham ware?, 13th-14th century

*Finds no 62*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 2 sherds, 20g

**L2**

*Finds no 3*

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 8 sherds, 937g - large parts of thumbbed base of a jug, late medieval not post-medieval

*Finds no 4*

unidentified buff pottery, 1 sherd, ?Roman, 2g

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 2 sherds, 49g

Fabric 21 variant as identified by Helen Walker, 'Wendens Ambo ware', 1 sherd, 4g

Fabric 21, NW Essex sandy orange ware, 1 sherd, a handle, 45g

*Finds no 5*

Fabric 13 (early medieval ware), 1 sherd, 7g

*Finds no 23*

unidentified shell-tempered pottery, 1 sherd, not St Neots - ?Roman, 6g

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 3 sherds, 30g

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 2 sherds, NW Essex variant type and 'Wendens Ambo ware', both glazed, 20g

Fabric 40 (PMRE), 1 sherd, 18g

**L2/L4**

*Finds no 55*

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 3 sherds, includes bevelled jug rim and strapped handle, 14th century, 102g

**L4***Finds no 35*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 2 sherds, 92g - includes a Hedingham coarse ware variant, twisted rod handle, slip coated and two-tone glazed, 73g and a coarse sandy grey ware sherd, 19g

*Finds no 46*

Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware), 1 sherd, late Fabric 21 type with internal glaze, 17g

Fabric 35 (Mill Green-type ware), 1 sherd, 4g

**L5***Finds no 25*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 8 sherds, includes a handle with stamps of 6 vertical lines, 110g

*Finds no 39*

Fabric 35 (Mill Green ware, but not typical), 1 sherd, a handle with deep central groove and splash of glaze (Fig 11.3), 78g

**L7***Finds no 56*

Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 1 sherd, 6g - late sandy orange ware, presumably local NW Essex type; not unlike a reduced version of 'Wendens Ambo ware'

**L8***Finds no 47*

Fabric 40 (PMRE), 2 sherds, very smooth fabric; possibly Tudor Red Essex ware, 16th-19th century, 49g

**6.4 The tile and brick**

*with identifications by Brian Hurrell*

**Roman tile and brick**

Almost 9kg (8,743 g) of Roman tile and brick was recovered from fifteen contexts (Table 4). Of this, just over 0.5kg (512g) came from contexts dated to the Roman period, while the remainder was residual in medieval and post-medieval contexts. Of the residual Roman tile and brick, 65% of the fragments by weight were recovered from the removal of the metalling L5. This metalling also contained a large number of peg-tile fragments. Brick and tile fragments, some with flanges, mammata and signatures, were recovered as well as *imbrex* fragments, but most of the fragments were too small to be diagnostic and were ascribed to '?tile' based on the thickness of the fragment. As well as being quite small in size, many of the fragments were quite abraded. In conjunction with the low frequency of tile and brick fragments in most features, this would suggest that there were probably no Roman buildings in close proximity to the site, and that the fragments probably derive from the Roman villa complex to the north-west.

**Table 4: Roman brick and tile.**

| Context | Finds number | Context dated | Type   | Qty | Total weight (g) | Observations (signature, prints, etc) |
|---------|--------------|---------------|--------|-----|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| F1      | 33           | phase 2b      | ?Tile  | 1   | 28               |                                       |
| F1      | 34           | phase 2b      | ?Tile  | 1   | 193              |                                       |
| F2      | 31           | phase 2b      | Tile   | 2   | 522              | ?flanged                              |
| F16     | 16           | phase 2b      | ?Tile  | 1   | 124              | ?burnt (black)                        |
| F17     | 38           | phase 2a      | ?Tile  | 3   | 118              |                                       |
| F22     | 32           | phase 2a      | Tile   | 1   | 168              | circular                              |
| F24     | 30           | phase 2b      | Tile   | 1   | 108              |                                       |
| F25     | 36           | phase 2b      | ?Tile  | 1   | 108              |                                       |
| F30     | 45           | phase 2c      | ?Tile  | 1   | 150              |                                       |
| F30     | 52           | phase 2c      | ?Tile  | 2   | 28               |                                       |
| F30     | 52           | phase 2c      | ?Brick | 1   | 176              |                                       |

| Context | Finds number | Context dated  | Type          | Qty | Total weight (g) | Observations (signature, prints, etc) |
|---------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| F33     | 57           | phase 2a       | Tile          | 1   | 141              | flange                                |
| F33     | 57           | phase 2a       | <i>Imbrex</i> | 1   | 114              |                                       |
| F34     | 48           | Roman          | Brick         | 1   | 190              | mammata                               |
| F34     | 48           | Roman          | ?Tile         | 1   | 69               |                                       |
| F34     | 48           | Roman          | ?Brick        | 1   | 253              |                                       |
| F37     | 51           | phase 2b       | Tile          | 2   | 234              | flange                                |
| F37     | 51           | phase 2b       | ?Tile         | 4   | 65               |                                       |
| F37     | 62           | phase 2b       | <i>Imbrex</i> | 1   | 24               |                                       |
| F38     | 63           | phase 2c       | ?Tile         | 1   | 68               |                                       |
| L2      | 23           | phase 2c       | ?Tile         | 14  | 530              |                                       |
| L2/L4   | 53           | phase 2b (?2c) | <i>Imbrex</i> | 1   | 44               |                                       |
| L5      | 5            | phase 2b/c     | ?Brick        | 1   | 820              |                                       |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/c     | ?Tile         | 25  | 1,452            |                                       |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/c     | ?Brick        | 3   | 558              |                                       |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/c     | <i>Imbrex</i> | 1   | 66               |                                       |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/c     | ?Tile         | 1   | 66               | ?flanged broken                       |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/c     | Tile          | 1   | 467              | flanged                               |
| L5      | 125          | phase 2b/c     | Tile          | 1   | 247              |                                       |
| L5      | 39           | phase 2b/c     | ?Tile         | 5   | 496              |                                       |
| L5      | 39           | phase 2b/c     | ?Tile         | 4   | 502              | ?flanged broken                       |
| L5      | 39           | phase 2b/c     | ?Brick        | 2   | 614              |                                       |

### Post-Roman tile and brick

Almost 2kg (1,754 g) of post-Roman tile and brick was recovered from seven contexts. Almost three-quarters (74%) of this tile and brick came from features dated to the late medieval/post-medieval periods, and one large fragment was collected from a modern context (Table 5). Most of the fragments were peg-tile. Three fragments of peg-tile (7% by weight) were recovered from contexts dated to phase 2b (13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century). Peg-tile did not become commonly used in Essex until the 14th century (Ryan & Andrews 1993), which suggests that these particular contexts date to the latter part of the phase 2b date range.

**Table 5: post-Roman tile and brick.**

| Context | Finds number | Context dated | Qty | Weight (g) | Description                        |
|---------|--------------|---------------|-----|------------|------------------------------------|
| F1      | 1            | phase 2b      | 1   | 44         | Peg-tile                           |
| F21     | 22           | modern        | 2   | 342        | Mortar-covered post-medieval brick |
| F23     | 28           | phase 2b      | 1   | 50         | Peg-tile                           |
| F23     | 40           | phase 2b      | 1   | 28         | Peg-tile                           |
| F30     | 52           | phase 2c      | 2   | 69         | Peg-tile                           |
| F38     | 63           | phase 2c      | 1   | 52         | Peg-tile                           |
| L2      | 23           | phase 2b/2c   | 6   | 124        | Peg-tile                           |
| L2      | 4            | phase 2b/2c   | 1   | 73         | Peg-tile                           |
| L2/L4   | 46           | phase 2b/2c   | 1   | 9          | Peg-tile                           |
| L2/L4   | 46           | phase 2b/2c   | 1   | 23         | Post-medieval brick                |
| L4      | 5            | phase 2b/2c   | 1   | 33         | Peg-tile                           |
| L5      | 25           | phase 2b/2c   | 20  | 907        | Peg-tile                           |

## 6.5 The faunal remains

by Adam Wightman

### Introduction

Forty-three pieces of animal bone, weighing 708g, were recovered from fourteen contexts (ten features and four layers) from CAT T1 and CAT T2. All of the bone fragments recovered were hand-collected from contexts dated to the medieval and

post-medieval periods, with the exception of one bone from a probable Roman context. The bone was generally quite well preserved, with a couple of exceptionally well-preserved teeth.

### Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. Each bone was inspected to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context. All information was input directly into a Microsoft Works spreadsheet for analysis. Measurements were not taken for the bones as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. Bones of sheep and goats were recorded as *Ovis* (sheep species), based on the greater frequency of this species in Britain, but horn-cores, metapodials and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) of sheep or goat were distinguished between the two species. The side of the body from which the bones were derived was noted. The zones of the bone which were represented by the fragment (Z1-Z8 in Appendix 1) and the zone on which butchery marks occurred were recorded using the methodology devised by Serjeantson (Serjeantson 1996). The freshness of the bone when it was broken was also recorded, based on an assessment of the fractures on the bone.

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992) and also with reference to Cohen & Serjeantson 1996; Hillson 1986; Outram 2001; and Payne 1987. A catalogue of the assemblage is included as a table with this report (Appendix 1).

### The assemblage – findings

The post-medieval pit F30, which had a high frequency of ash and charcoal, contained two large fragments of burnt *bos* (cattle) femur as well as other bones, including *sus* (pig species), which were not burnt. The pit appears to have contained general household waste as well as the sweepings from a fire. The large medieval pit F37 had a low incidence of bone in relation to its size, and the bones recovered were not particularly diagnostic. Around 40% of the bone from the two trenches (CAT T1 and CAT T2) was collected from the cleaning and excavation of the metalling L5. The bones collected were mainly axial, ie bones from the head and trunk of the body, and only one incidence of butchery marks was noted. As well *sus*, *bos* and *ovis*, a *capra* (goat) tooth (DPM4) was collected from on top of the metalling, and the tarso-metatarsus of a species in the order of *galliformes* (fowl) from the removal of the layer itself. The bone was not in good condition and the heavy wear on one of the bones suggests that it had been trampled. Despite the close proximity of L4 to L5 and the larger area of metalling L4, only three (two conjoining) mandible fragments were recovered from the cleaning and excavation of L4. One fragment of large mammal bone with a cut-mark came from pit F34 and one fragment of rib came from the short length of gully F27, both of which are probably Roman.

### Discussion

The bones of domesticates dominated, with a low incidence of hunting suggested by a single *cervidae* (deer) bone. Of the domesticates, *bos*/large mammal bones were most common; *ovis* was well represented; and *sus*, *equus* (genus including horse), *capra*, and bird bones from a species in the order of *galliformes* (fowl), were also identified in small quantities. Evidence of gnawing on the surface of the bone was rare but suggests the presence of *canids* (dog) in the vicinity.

Almost twice as much animal bone was recovered during the earlier ECC FAU evaluation. Just over half of the bone was in contexts dated to the medieval period. Similar species were identified and the frequency of bones ascribable to each species is comparable. However, no bird or *equus* bones were identified from ECC FAU contexts. Bones gnawed by *canids* were found in the fill of a medieval ditch (FAU 2).

Overall the medieval/post-medieval bone assemblage suggests a pattern of domestic waste. No significant differences were noted between the bones of different periods/phases. Few abnormalities in the assemblage suggests that no specific practices involving animals were taking place in the vicinity, such as tanning, butchery, etc. A low frequency of bone, both across the site and within each context, prevents many conclusions being drawn about the role/use of animals at this site.

## 6.6 The lithics

by Adam Wightman

In total, seven flints were collected from the two CAT trenches (Table 6). Five of these flints were almost certainly not humanly knapped as they did not exhibit any of the characteristics of a knapped flint. The natural geology of the area incorporates a lot of flint, and flakes such as these could have been created by a natural mechanism such as frost fracturing or by a modern machine such as a plough. One of the flints was a burnt flint from the cleaning of the metalling L5 (stratified in L2) which did not exhibit any signs of being worked.

Two flints which had been humanly knapped were collected. The tertiary flake from pit F23 had a small but deep retouched notch on its right lateral edge as well as rough retouch on its left lateral edge. The rough retouch may be a denticulated edge and, as such, the flint should be considered a multiple tool (denticulate and notch). A second flint with nine small removals is a small core with removals from all across the piece in varying directions. The removals have, however, created a usable edge and it is possible that it was used as a tool. Neither of the pieces recovered can be identified as belonging to a specific prehistoric period.

The two residual worked flints are further evidence of the prehistoric activity in the area, which was suggested during the excavation of the Late Iron Age and Roman site at Chinnel Barn nearby (Hodder 1982), when a large number of worked flints was recovered. These finds were described as representing a 'mixed flint industry' (Hivernel 1982, 23), with artefacts of all periods, from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age periods, some of which are particularly good examples of their type.

Substantially more flint artefacts were recovered during the ECC FAU evaluation. Thirteen humanly-worked flints in all, including six formal tool types (five blades and a denticulate), were collected by ECC FAU. All thirteen flints came from the north-western area of the site, in the opposite corner of the site to the excavations undertaken by CAT, and 11 of these were in one feature (Roman ditch FAU 28).

**Table 6: the lithics.**

| Finds no | context | Description  | Date    |
|----------|---------|--|---------|
| 1        | F1      | 1 small flake. Would be tertiary but probably not humanly worked (lacks knapping characteristics).   | -       |
| 33       | F1 Sx 2 | 1 large flake. Would be secondary but probably not humanly worked (lacks knapping characteristics). Slight damage to edges but does not resemble retouch.        | -       |
| 2        | F2      | 1 medium-sized flake; would be tertiary but probably not humanly worked (lacks knapping characteristics). Numerous previous scars and edge damage.               | -       |
| 29       | F23     | 1 medium-sized tertiary flake with a retouched notch on the right lateral edge and rough retouch on the left lateral to form a denticulated edge. Multiple tool. | -       |
| 30       | F24     | 1 small flake; would be tertiary but probably not humanly worked (lacks knapping characteristics).   | -       |
| 51       | F37     | 1 small core with nine very small removals; a usable edge has been created and may have been used.   | unknown |
| 23       | L2      | 1 burnt flint, not worked.   | -       |

## 6.7 An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

### Introduction and method statement

During these excavations, CAT recorded a large, straight-sided pit (F37) of phase 2b (13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century) and a dark organic clayey-silt deposit (L7) ranging from Roman to medieval in date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and three were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 7 (below). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (Stace 1997). All plant remains were charred.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm-mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

### Results

Cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at varying densities within all three assemblages. Preservation was poor to moderate, with a high density of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. Wheat chaff was present within all three assemblages, and was especially abundant within sample 3 (from L7), which contained a very high density of spelt (*T. spelta*) glume bases. Sample 3 also contained a number of detached cereal sprouts and a single fragmentary cotyledon of an indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae).

Weed seeds were scarce, with all occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. Taxa noted included brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae) and grasses (Poaceae). Fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were noted within the assemblages from sample 1 (pit F37) and sample 3. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout.

Small assemblages of terrestrial mollusc shells, indicative of open, short-turfed grassland with minimal shade, were noted in all three samples (not tabulated). However, at the time of writing, it was not clear whether all specimens were contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken. Although most shells were fragmented and abraded, some specimens retained excellent surface structuring, possibly indicating that they were intrusive within the contexts.

Other remains occurred at a very low density. The pieces of black, porous material and the vitreous globules were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Abraded bone fragments were present throughout and a fragmentary, burnt small mammal bone was noted within sample 3. The coal fragments within samples 1 and 2 were possibly intrusive within the fills of pit F37.

### Discussion

The sub-square shape and straight-sided profile of pit F37 probably suggests that this feature was either deliberately or accidentally backfilled soon after it was originally excavated. The few plant macrofossils recorded within the fills were probably accidentally incorporated, and, although the origin of the material is unclear, the presence of grains, chaff, nutshell fragments and pieces of bone may indicate that scattered or wind-blown hearth waste is represented.

Although the assemblage from L7 is more comprehensive, the precise origin of the material is, again, far from certain. To all intents and purposes, the assemblage is derived from a small deposit of charred malting or cereal-storage waste; detached cereal sprouts are present along with a number of fragmentary grains with distinctive concave profiles indicating that they had been either deliberately or accidentally germinated prior to charring. However, the sample was taken from a spread of material which may have been deposited within a pond or similar body of standing water, and, if this is the case, it is possible that the material has been redeposited

from elsewhere. The predominance of spelt chaff within the assemblage almost certainly indicates an original later prehistoric or Roman date for the material, although the date of final deposition may be somewhat later.

### Conclusion

In summary, the low density of material recovered from pit F37 almost certainly indicates that the remains were accidentally included within the backfill of the feature. Although sample 3 appears to contain a low density of charred malting or cereal-storage waste, the taphonomy of the assemblage may be complex. However, it would appear most likely that all three assemblages are derived from material originally deposited during either the Iron Age or Roman periods.

### Recommendations for further work

The assemblages from samples 1 and 2 contain an insufficient density of material (ie less than 100 specimens) for quantification, and although the assemblage from sample 3 is sufficiently comprehensive for analysis, the date and origin of the material is not certain. As analysis of a single assemblage in isolation would contribute little to the overall understanding of the site or its component features, no further work is recommended.

**Table 7: charred plant macrofossils and other remains.**

#### Key to table

x = 1-10 specimens  
 xx = 11-50 specimens  
 xxx = 51-100 specimens  
 xxxx = 100+ specimens  
 cf = compare  
 coty = cotyledon  
 fg = fragment  
 b = burnt  
 pmc = possible modern contaminant

| Sample number                        | 1          | 2          | 3            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>Finds number</b>                  | <b>59</b>  | <b>60</b>  | <b>64</b>    |
| <b>Feature/Layer number</b>          | <b>F37</b> | <b>F37</b> | <b>L7</b>    |
| <b>Feature type</b>                  | <b>Pit</b> | <b>Pit</b> | <b>Layer</b> |
| <b>Cereals and other food plants</b> |            |            |              |
| <i>Hordeum sp.</i> (grains)          | xcf        |            | xcf          |
| <i>Large Fabaceae indet.</i>         |            |            | xcotyfg      |
| <i>Triticum sp.</i> (grains)         | x          | x          | x            |
| (glume bases)                        |            | x          | xx           |
| (spikelet bases)                     |            |            | x            |
| (rachis internodes)                  |            |            | x            |
| <i>T. spelta L.</i> (glume bases)    | x          | x          | xxxx         |
| Cereal indet. (grains)               | x          | xx         | xxx          |
| (sprout fragments)                   |            |            | xx           |
| <b>Herbs</b>                         |            |            |              |
| <i>Bromus sp.</i>                    |            |            | xcf          |
| <i>Fabaceae indet.</i>               | x          | x          | x            |
| <i>Small Poaceae indet.</i>          |            |            | x            |
| <i>Large Poaceae indet.</i>          |            | x          |              |
| <b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>       |            |            |              |
| <i>Corylus avellana L.</i>           | x          |            | x            |
| <b>Other plant macrofossils</b>      |            |            |              |
| Charcoal <2mm                        | xx         | xx         | xxx          |
| Charcoal >2mm                        | x          |            | xx           |
| Indet. seed                          | x          |            |              |

| <b>Other remains</b>           |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Black porous 'cokey' material  | x              | x              | xx             |
| Bone                           | x              | x              | x              |
| Small coal fragments           | x              | x              |                |
| Small mammal/amphibian bones   | x              |                | xb xpmc        |
| Vitrified material             | x              | x              |                |
| <b>Sample volume (litres)</b>  | <b>16</b>      | <b>16</b>      | <b>30</b>      |
| <b>Volume of flot (litres)</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> |
| <b>% flot sorted</b>           | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    |

## 6.8 Other finds

This table includes finds not reported on separately above (sections 6.1-6.7).

**Table 8: other finds.**

| Find type    | Context | Finds number | Qty | Weight (g) | Description   |
|--------------|---------|--------------|-----|------------|---|
| Oyster shell | F17     | 42           | 2   | 10.6       | Quite small, 90% & 70% complete   |
| Oyster shell | F25     | 36           | 1   | 3.4        | Small and 95% complete  |
| Oyster shell | L2      | 23           | 2   | 10.5       | Small, 95% and 60% complete   |
| Glass        | L2      | 4            | 1   | 54.5       | 'Finish' (ie rim and neck) of a hand-made bottle in pale green glass, probably 18th century |

## 7 Discussion

### Introduction

The investigations by ECC FAU indicate that significant archaeological remains would have been destroyed during the construction of the basements and foundations for the first four houses built on the site. The subsequent work by CAT around the footprints of these buildings showed that the remains were part of a complex of similar remains which spread across and beyond the whole site. As far as can be judged from the limited evidence available, it seems likely that the remains excavated in the FAU and CAT trenches fairly reflect the nature and character of what had been destroyed during the early construction work on the site, and their investigation by FAU and CAT has provided significant and useful mitigation to offset the loss.

### Prehistoric

No prehistoric features were identified during either the evaluation (ECC FAU) or the excavations (CAT). Two flint artefacts identifiable as having been humanly knapped were collected from residual contexts during the CAT excavations. This is considerably fewer than the thirteen recovered by ECC FAU during the evaluation, which included six formal tool types (five blades and a denticulate). However, these flints were also residual in later contexts, and eleven of the flints came from one feature, a substantial Roman ditch (FAU 28). The flints recovered by ECC FAU were all from the north-western part of the site. A large quantity of worked flint from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age periods was recorded during excavations along the line of the nearby M11 (Hodder 1982, 64), and it has been suggested that there was a prehistoric settlement somewhere in the vicinity. The relatively low frequency of worked flint across the site suggests that a nearby prehistoric settlement would probably have been located to the north-east of the site, most probably further up the side of the valley of the River Cam.

No features associated with the Iron Age occupation and farming identified at the nearby Chinnel Barn site were found during the evaluation or excavations. However, grog-tempered pottery fragments which can be dated to the Late Iron Age/early

post-conquest periods were recovered from Roman contexts in the ECC FAU evaluation and from medieval contexts in the CAT excavations.

### **Roman**

Roman activity identified in the CAT excavations consisted of two isolated clusters of deposits over 25m apart. A ditch (F9) from the north-western corner of CAT T1 lay on a trajectory which suggests that it could be associated with activity at the site of the Roman villa complex identified at Chinnel Barn, only 150m to the north-east (Fig 6). Moreover, the alignment of ditch F9 implies an association with the villa complex, where excavation and magnetometry has shown there to be a high frequency of linear features on this alignment (Fig 6). Roman linear features identified in the evaluation by ECC FAU were also on this alignment or at right-angles to it (Fig 4), and it was suggested that they were part of a field system which was perhaps orientated on the nearby stream flowing through Wendens Ambo village (ECC FAU Report 1595, 14). Gully F27, which contained no dating evidence, could also be a part of this field system. It is also notable that Duck Street is also on this alignment, perhaps indicating that the origins of the thoroughfare pre-date the medieval period. The other Roman features identified in the vicinity of ditch F9 are assumed to be associated, and probably represent peripheral agricultural activity associated with the Roman villa complex. The little pottery evidence from these features suggests a mid-late Roman date for activity in this area.

The Roman deposits identified in CAT T2 were located in the area where FAU trench 3 crossed the site (Fig 3). In this location, the ECC FAU observed a stratigraphic build-up of deposits not observed elsewhere in their evaluation trenches (Fig 7, FAU sx 3). CAT T2 allowed a wider examination of these deposits, which are interpreted as alluvially deposited. The dark organic clayey-silt deposit (L7) had the character of bedded silts accumulated in a body of water. Analysis of this deposit for plant macrofossils could not confirm that this was the case. Roman pottery was recovered from the deposit by ECC FAU and post-Roman material was recovered from the top of L7 by CAT, indicating that the deposits accumulated over a long period of time. Beneath this layer an orange clayey-sand was observed. This appeared to be the natural boulder clay with clay particles washed out of it (FAU 13, but considered natural - L3 - by CAT). The clayey-sand natural was lower, and the clayey-silt deposit was thicker, in the north-eastern end of CAT T2 than further south-west. The level of the natural rose and the clayey-silt deposit had tapered when observed near the baulk left for the services. However, the deposits were not present on the other side of the baulk, nor were they observed in FAU trench 1 (Fig 7, FAU sx 1; Fig 8, FAU sx 5). This implies the limit of the alluvial activity lay somewhere within the baulk. The limit of the deposit in a north-westerly direction was identified by ECC FAU where the ditch (FAU 23) had been cut (Fig 7, FAU sx 3). However, it is possible that the deposit continued beyond the ditch and was present beneath the unexcavated flint-cobbled metalling (FAU 16). A slightly lighter clayey-silt layer (L9) which overlay the main bedded deposit (L7) probably represents the final silting of the area once the water source had dried up or was no longer used. The flint nodules located below/within the clayey-silt layer at the interface with the orange sand-clay natural were spread sparsely over the whole area covered by the clayey-silt. The densest part of the flint-nodule scatter F28 was in the vicinity of the section excavated through L7 by ECC FAU where the flint nodules had been interpreted as a 'flint-cobble surface' (FAU 12). It was suggested by ECC FAU that this metalling may have been 'an area of hardstanding used for crop-processing or livestock management or perhaps laid down to firm up the ground surface around a source of water ...' (ECC FAU Report 1595, 14). The firming of the ground around a water source is in keeping with the interpretation above, although the presence of the nodules across the whole area could suggest that the cobbles simply sank through the waterlogged soft silt, coming to rest on the natural interface. The presence of Roman pottery in conjunction with the considerable increase in the density of the nodules to the north-east suggests that the former is most likely, although the cobbling was not as dense or well laid as the later metalling found elsewhere on the site. A plant macrofossil assemblage from L7 above the metalling was derived from a small deposit of charred malting or cereal-

storage waste, supporting the suggestion that the water source may have been used for crop-processing. Pottery fragments recovered by both CAT and ECC FAU suggest a late Roman date for activity in this area.

The most probable water source to have been located on the site is a spring. Other springs exist close to the site, including one marked on the Ordnance Survey map only 20m to the north of the site (Fig 1). The site became waterlogged in the winter of 2008/09, attesting to the high water levels on the site, although no water was encountered during the excavations of CAT T1 in March 2009. The ground-level on the site also declines towards the east/north-eastern corner of the site by around 1m from the west/south-west. This would also have facilitated the collection of water and the formation of waterlogged deposits in this area.

Overall little artefactual evidence from the Roman period was recovered from the CAT excavations, particularly when compared to the findings of the ECC FAU evaluation. The Roman pottery assemblage from the ECC FAU evaluation was eight to nine times larger in terms of sherd numbers and weight, and no sherds of fine wares or specialist vessel types were present in the CAT pottery assemblage. The same disparity was found in the percentage of features ascribable to the Roman period. This may suggest that Roman activity was centred in the northern part of the site, perhaps focused around access to the water source. The activity identified probably represents farming activity peripheral to the area of Roman occupation at the Chinnel Barn site, which took place towards the end of the life of the villa complex (around the 3rd-4th centuries AD).

### **Anglo-Saxon**

No features from the Anglo-Saxon period were identified, although two fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered during the CAT excavations and one fragment during the ECC FAU evaluation. Two of the fragments were residual but one came from the linear spread of flint nodules F33 within the dark clayey-silt deposit L7, which may imply exploitation of the water source during the Anglo-Saxon period. The presence of Anglo-Saxon pottery suggests intermittent activity during this period; however, there is too little evidence to suggest continuity between the Roman and medieval periods.

### **Medieval**

Five excavated features were dated to the early medieval period (phase 2a). The L-shaped linear feature (F17) in CAT T1 may mark the position of ground-plates from a timber structure or perhaps suggest a small enclosure in this area (Fig 5). It is possible that the gully terminal F22, which does not continue into CAT T2, mirrors F17, so forming the north-eastern corner of the structure/enclosure. The gap between the two linear features would then indicate the site of an entrance way facing north-east. The small cluster of post- and stake holes within the possible structure footprint may well be associated. The ditch F36 is located near to the edge of the alluvial deposits and may have formed a boundary, perhaps aiding drainage, along the side of the waterlogged area. The linear spread of flint nodules F33 within the dark clayey-silt deposit (L7; mentioned above) also appears to have been laid during this period, probably to form a negotiable path across what was probably marshy ground. The orientation of the early medieval features adheres to the same alignment as the Roman features and Duck Street, which is believed to have originated in the medieval period.

The main phase of activity on the site is dated to the mid to late medieval period (phase 2b; 13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century). Linear features identified from this period almost all adhere to the same alignment pattern as observed for the earlier linear features. This implies that the medieval field system was almost certainly on the same orientation as the Roman field system. Two long straight gullies extending through the centre of CAT T1 (F11/F26 and F16/F24) were probably for drainage, the latter probably replacing the former. Two larger and deeper linear features (ditches F1 and F2) were probably boundary ditches. The ditch F2 did not continue into the excavation area (Fig 3), perhaps changing direction before this point. It is possible that the ditch changed angle by 90 degrees on the alignment of the ditch with a similar depth and width identified in FAU

trench 1 (FAU 4) and FAU trench 3 (FAU 23). The section excavated though the ditch in FAU trench 1 contained only Roman finds; however, the section in FAU trench 3 contained medieval pottery, perhaps indicating that this is the same medieval ditch and that the Roman pottery was residual. The ditch F1 also contained a previously-unidentified medieval pottery type to be known as 'Wendens Ambo ware'. Three large pits of uncertain origin date to this phase of activity. All three contained few finds, indicating that, if they were rubbish-pits, then they would have been used primarily for the disposal of organic material. The very large pit in CAT T2 had an angular shape and straight but undercut sides, indicating that it was probably backfilled soon after it was excavated. The low density of plant macrofossils recovered from soil sampled (perhaps scattered or wind-blown hearth waste) supports this hypothesis. This pit could have been the product of quarrying or perhaps had a brief agricultural purpose, perhaps one involving the filling of the pit with water (creating the undercut sides). An agricultural use may also be suggested for the other two pits, particularly for F25 which had an uneven base perhaps caused by trampling by livestock. The metalling L4 identified in both CAT T1 and CAT T2 was probably a wide trackway (Fig 5). The surface lacked a significant camber, but the corner observed in CAT T1 and the limits observed in CAT T2 suggest that it was a wide trackway which probably connected with the medieval lane which is now Duck Street. Medieval pottery was recovered from the metalling identified in the ECC FAU trenches, and the alignment of the cobbles also suggests that they were part of the same trackway (Fig 5). The metalling was laid in the medieval period but continued to be used into the post-medieval period, as the presence of a rumble bell on the surface attests. The smaller area of metalling which contained many building material fragments was probably a late medieval episode of consolidation to cover earlier excavated and backfilled features (in particular, the pit F23). The infilling of these features, which had been cut into poorly-draining boulder clay, could have made the ground in this area quite marshy, particularly as the site lies quite low in the landscape. The cobbles remained exposed into the post-medieval period.

The evidence for previously-unrecognised medieval activity in this area appears predominantly agricultural in character and is sporadic, rather than continual or intensive, throughout the medieval period. The location of the site near the bottom of a valley, in damp soils, surrounded by springs, would suggest the use of the land for pasture as opposed to arable. However, there was little evidence of stock-management and the probable drainage features identified may well suggest use for arable. There is possible evidence for a building dating to the early medieval period, although the absence of significant structural evidence and the general low frequency of finds suggest that this was an ancillary building, if it was a building at all. Indeed, the low frequency of artefactual evidence across the site implies that the agricultural activity identified was peripheral to a probable farmstead. This farmstead may have been located adjacent to the trackway somewhere to the north-east of the site towards the medieval centre of Wendens Ambo (as suggested by the location of the village church). However, the high occurrence of medieval remains in the south-eastern corner of the site, particularly when compared to the frequency of medieval remains identified by ECC FAU, suggests that the farmstead may have been located to the south-east of the site or perhaps on the other side of Duck Street at the junction with Rookery Lane (Fig 1).

### **Post-medieval**

Post-medieval artefacts were present in the layers overlying the medieval and Roman deposits (ie L2 and L8). They were also recovered from the soil directly overlying earlier features such as the metalling L4 and L5, indicating their continued use into this period. Evidence for further activity in this period, however, was minimal, with only one, or possibly two, features identified in the two CAT trenches and none from the ECC FAU evaluation. Overall the post-medieval evidence suggest that activity on the site during this period was sparse and probably associated with the trackway and the use of the land for the disposal of refuse (ie pit F30).

### Modern

Once the trackway went out of use, the land continued to be used for the disposal of unwanted materials including topsoil and agricultural waste (ie L10 and the lens of hydrated lime), as well as building materials, probably by the building contractors who constructed the surrounding houses. It is probable that, when these were built, some of this material was embanked along the western and southern boundaries of the site, and the trees which grow there now were planted. The disposal of waste on the site continued throughout the 20th century, as attested by the presence of pits containing modern building materials including asbestos. Construction of the dwellings was then undertaken by the building contractors, including the laying of foundations and services (ie F32), without regard to the archaeological condition imposed on the planning consent.

## 8 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM 2008.78.

## 9 Acknowledgements

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The project was monitored by Mr Richard Havis for the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team.

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Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs (desk-based assessments) are available online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> in .pdf format.

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## 11 Glossary

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| AOD           | above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall |
| context       | on an excavation site, a specific location (especially of finds)              |
| ECC FAU       | Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit                                   |
| ECC HEM       | Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team                     |
| EHER          | Essex Historic Environment Record, maintained by Essex County Council         |
| feature       | something excavated – a wall, a floor, a pit, a ditch, etc                    |
| medieval      | period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500  |
| modern        | period from c AD 1800 to the present  |
| natural       | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity                              |
| post-medieval | after c AD 1500 to c AD 1800  |
| prehistory    | the years BC (prehistoric)  |
| residual      | an earlier find in a later context, eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit        |
| Roman         | the period from AD 43 to AD 410, approximately                                |

## 12 Context list

Period 1: Roman  
 Period 2: medieval and post-medieval  
 phase 2a: 12th century or earlier  
 phase 2b: 13th-14th century, possibly to the 16th century  
 phase 2c: 16th/17th century, possibly later  
 Period 3: modern

| Context | Trench | Description  | Associated finds  | Context date |
|---------|--------|--------------|---|--------------|
| F1      | CAT T1 | Ditch, SW-NE | pottery, tile, animal bone, daub, flint, iron               | phase 2b     |
| F2      | CAT T1 | Ditch, NW-SE | pottery, tile, animal bone, daub, flint, copper alloy, iron | phase 2b     |

|     |        |   |  |            |
|-----|--------|---|--|------------|
| F3  | CAT T1 | Post-hole (with stake hole F4 in base)  |  | ?phase 2a  |
| F4  | CAT T1 | Stake hole  |  | ?phase 2a  |
| F5  | CAT T1 | Stake hole  |  | ?phase 2a  |
| F6  | CAT T1 | Stake hole  |  | ?phase 2a  |
| F7  | CAT T1 | Pit (small, shallow)  | pottery                                  | phase 2a   |
| F8  | CAT T1 | Pit (shallow, sub-square)   | pottery                                  | Period 1   |
| F9  | CAT T1 | Ditch, NW-SE  | pottery                                  | Period 1   |
| F10 | CAT T1 | Gully, NE-SW  |  | phase 2b   |
| F11 | CAT T1 | Gully, NW-SE; probably the same as F26  | pottery, worked stone                    | phase 2b   |
| F12 | CAT T1 | Stake hole (in base of pit F8)  |  | Period 1   |
| F13 | CAT T1 | Gully, NE-SW (short, shallow)   |  | Period 1   |
| F14 | CAT T1 | Stake hole (in base of gully F13)   |  | Period 1   |
| F15 | CAT T1 | Stake hole  |  | phase 2b   |
| F16 | CAT T1 | Gully, NE-SW; almost certainly the same as F24                                    | pottery, tile, animal bone               | phase 2b   |
| F17 | CAT T1 | L-shaped linear feature with a sharp curve, SW-NE/SE-NW - possibly a ground-plate | pottery, tile, animal bone, iron         | phase 2a   |
| F18 | CAT T1 | Pit (shallow, cut into chalk)   |  | Period 3   |
| F19 | CAT T1 | Stake hole (inside terminal of ditch F2)  |  | phase 2b   |
| F20 | CAT T1 | Pit (shallow, cut into chalk)   |  | Period 3   |
| F21 | CAT T1 | Post-hole/pit (sub-square, straight sides)  | pottery, tile, brick (asbestos)          | Period 3   |
| F22 | CAT T1 | Gully terminal (same as F17?)   | pottery, tile, brick                     | phase 2a   |
| F23 | CAT T1 | Pit (large, underlying metalling L5)  | pottery, tile, brick, animal bone, flint | phase 2b   |
| F24 | CAT T1 | Gully, NE-SW; almost certainly the same as F16                                    | pottery, tile, flint                     | phase 2b   |
| F25 | CAT T1 | Pit (large, shallow)  | pottery, tile                            | phase 2b   |
| F26 | CAT T1 | Gully, NW-SE; probably the same as F11  |  | phase 2b   |
| F27 | CAT T1 | Gully, NE-SW  | animal bone                              | ?Period 1  |
| F28 | CAT T2 | Scatter of flint nodules  | pottery                                  | Period 1   |
| F29 | CAT T2 | ?Post-hole with light chalk-rich clayey fill                                      |  | ?Period 1  |
| F30 | CAT T2 | Pit (charcoal/ash-rich silty clay fill)   | pottery, tile, brick, animal bone        | phase 2c   |
| F31 | CAT T2 | Natural linear feature (excavated by ECC FAU)                                     |  | geological |
| F32 | CAT T2 | Modern drainage pipe  |  | Period 3   |
| F33 | CAT T2 | Linear spread of loose medium/large flint nodules                                 | pottery, tile, animal bone               | phase 2a   |
| F34 | CAT T2 | Pit (oval-shaped)   | tile, brick, animal bone                 | Period 1   |
| F35 | CAT T2 | Gully terminal, NW-SE (small, shallow)  |  | ?Period 1  |
| F36 | CAT T2 | Ditch, NW-SE (wide, shallow)  | pottery                                  | phase 2a   |
| F37 | CAT T2 | Pit (large, deep, sub-square with straight sides)                                 | pottery, tile, animal bone, flint        | phase 2b   |
| F38 | CAT T2 | Gully, E-W (shallow)  | tile                                     | phase 2c   |
| F39 | CAT T2 | Pit/gully terminal (shallow)  |  | ?phase 2b  |
| F40 | CAT T2 | Pit (sub-square)  |  | Period 3   |
| F41 | CAT T2 | Linear feature, NW-SE (shallow)   |  | ?phase 2b  |
| L1  | CAT T2 | Modern make-up (crushed building material, including tarmac)                      |  | Period 3   |

|     |                   |   |  |              |
|-----|-------------------|---|--|--------------|
| L2  | CAT T1/<br>CAT T2 | Accumulation (dark brownish grey clay-silt)                                     | pottery, animal bone, flint, iron, worked stone, glass | phases 2a-2c |
| L3  | CAT T1/<br>CAT T2 | Natural chalky boulder clay   |  | geological   |
| L4  | CAT T1/<br>CAT T2 | Metalling (?trackway)   | pottery, animal bone, iron                             | phase 2b     |
| L5  | CAT T1            | Metalling   | pottery, tile, brick, animal bone, worked stone        | phase 2b     |
| L6  | CAT T1            | Interface between accumulation L2 and natural L3                                |  | Period 2     |
| L7  | CAT T2            | Dark grey/brown organic clayey-silt deposit                                     | pottery  | phase 2b     |
| L8  | CAT T2            | Accumulation (dark grey/brown, modern)  | pottery, animal bone                                   | Period 3     |
| L9  | CAT T2            | Accumulation horizon - clayey-silt; represents final silting up of water source |  | Period 2     |
| L10 | CAT T2            | Imported soil brought into site (light brown silty clay)                        |  | Period 3     |

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**Distribution list:**

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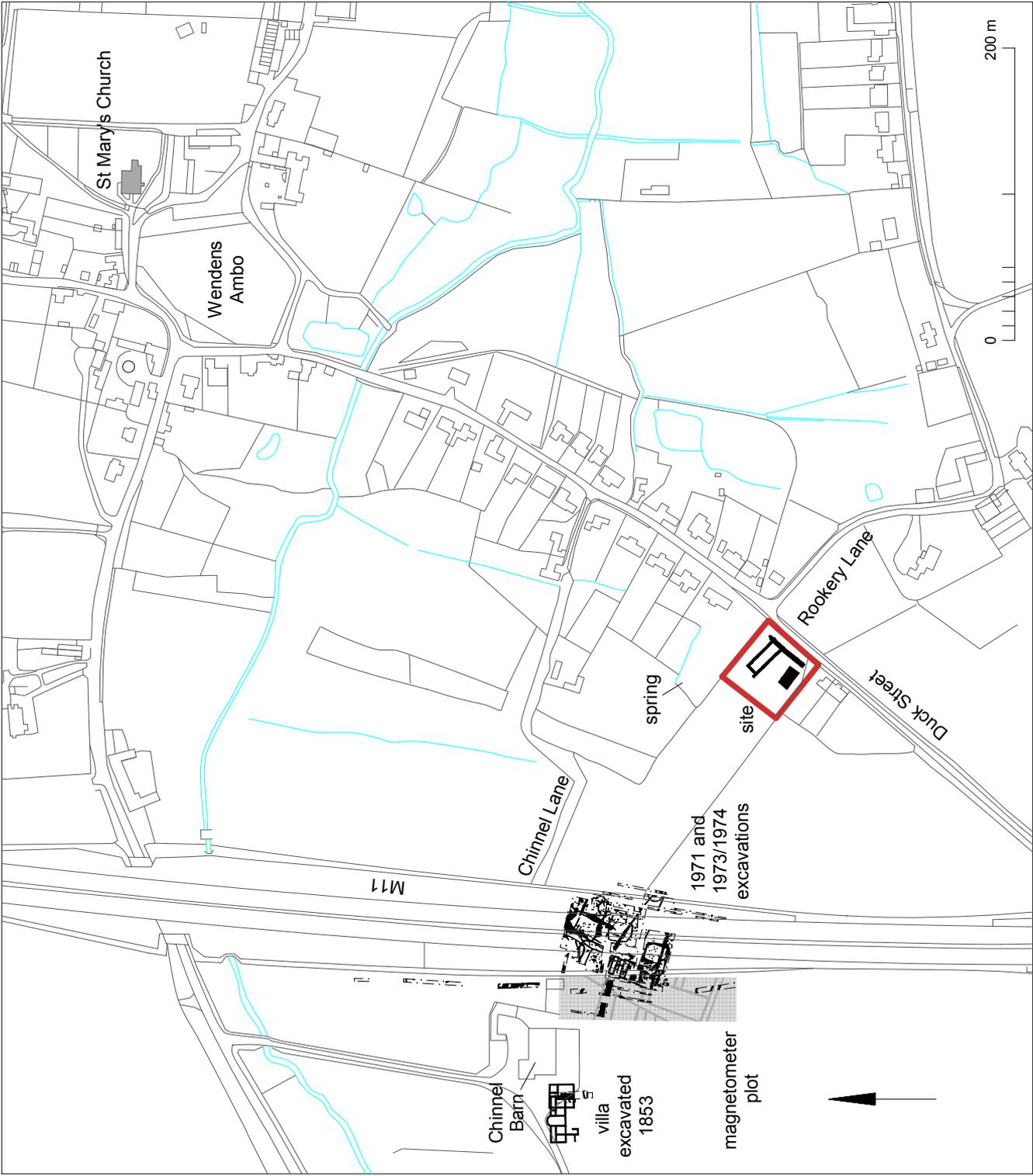
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## Appendix 1: animal bones

| Context no | Finds no | Date/type                                     | Total qty | Wt (g) | Species             | Sp. qty | Prox F | Dist F | Age | Bone                 | Butchery                | zone | Max length | Bone fragment type      | Comments                                 | Z1 | Z2 | Z3 | Z4 | Z5 | Z6 | Z7 | Z8 | Freshness | Side  |
|------------|----------|---|-----------|--------|---------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----|----------------------|-------------------------|------|------------|-------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|-------|
| F1 Sx 2    | 33       | medieval ditch                                | 1         | 30.1   | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | molar                | chopped                 |      |            |                         | chopped above roots                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F2         | 2        | medieval ditch                                | 2         | 2.9    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         | cut-marks               |      | 2-4        | axial                   |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 7.3    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | rib                  |                         |      |            |                         | solid concretion on bone                 |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |           |       |
| F16        | 16       | medieval gully                                | 1         | 28.3   | <i>cervidae</i>     | 1       |        |        |     | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           | left  |
| F17 Sx 2   | 38       | medieval L-shaped linear feature              | 1         | 30.2   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | scapula              |                         |      |            |                         | <i>bos</i> or <i>cervidae</i>            |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |           | left  |
| F23        | 28       | medieval pit                                  | 2         | 39.6   | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | humerus              |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | fresh     |       |
|            |          |   |           | 11.4   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | rib                  |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F23        | 40       | medieval pit                                  | 1         | 16.6   | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       |        |        |     | radius               | gnawed                  | 1    |            |                         |  | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |           | right |
| F27        | 41       | ?Roman gully                                  | 1         | 4.9    | medium/large mammal | 1       |        |        |     | rib                  |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F30        | 52       | post-medieval pit                             | 6         | 21.5   | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | 3rd phalanx          |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           | right |
|            |          |   |           | 25.2   | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | molar                |                         |      |            |                         | excellent preservation                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 12.0   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 1.9    | <i>sus</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | premolar             |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 10.1   | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | femur                | badly burnt, white/grey |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 7.8    | <i>bos</i>          | 1       |        |        |     | femur                | badly burnt, white/grey |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F33        | 57       | medieval linear spread of loose flint nodules | 1         | 37.0   | <i>equus</i>        | 1       |        |        |     | molar                |                         |      |            |                         | excellent preservation                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F34        | 48       | ?Roman pit                                    | 1         | 12.1   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         | cut-mark                |      |            | appendicular cancellous |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| F37        | 62       | large deep medieval pit                       | 1         | 17.3   | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       | f      |        |     | metatarsal           | gnawed/cut-marks        |      |            |                         | cut-marks down centre, gnawed distal end |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |    |           | right |
| F37        | 51       | large deep medieval pit                       | 2         | 8.0    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         |                         |      |            | appendicular cancellous |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 2.5    | medium mammal       | 1       |        |        |     | tibia                |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| L2         | 23       | post-medieval accumulation                    | 11        | 57.8   | <i>sus</i>          | 1       |        |        | a   | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         | canine,p3,p4,m1                          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           | left  |
|            |          |   |           | 40.5   | <i>bos</i>          | 2       |        |        |     | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 2.4    | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       |        |        | a   | molar                |                         |      |            |                         | very worn                                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 5.7    | <i>capra</i>        | 1       |        |        |     | molar                |                         |      |            |                         | <i>capra</i> dp4                         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 66.5   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | pelvis               |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 41.0   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | vertebrae (cervical) |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 3.7    | medium/large mammal | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         |                         |      | 2-4        | axial                   |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 3.8    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         |                         |      | 4-6        | diaphysis               |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | fresh     |       |
|            |          |   |           | 8.6    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | tibia                |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | fresh     |       |
|            |          |   |           | 9.0    | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | unidentified         |                         |      |            |                         | worn                                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| L4         | 17       | medieval metalling                            | 3         | 18.1   | medium mammal       | 3       |        |        |     | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         | two joining                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| L5         | 39       | medieval metalling                            | 2         | 17.2   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | vertebrae            |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 14.5   | large mammal        | 1       |        |        |     | vertebrae (thoracic) |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
| L5         | 25       | medieval metalling                            | 4         | 59.1   | <i>bos</i>          | 3       |        | f      | a   | humerus              | chopped                 | 7-8  |            |                         | distal end chopped off                   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | fresh     | right |
|            |          |   |           | 1.3    | <i>galliform</i>    | 1       |        |        |     | tarso-metatarsus     |                         |      |            |                         |  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |           | left  |
| L5         | 5        | medieval metalling                            | 1         | 15.5   | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       |        | f      |     | humerus              |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |           | left  |
| L8         | 47       | modern accumulation                           | 2         | 14.1   | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       |        |        |     | pelvis               |                         |      |            |                         |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |       |
|            |          |   |           | 2.6    | <i>ovis</i>         | 1       |        |        |     | mandible             |                         |      |            |                         | hinge                                    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           | left  |



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Site plan, showing CAT excavations.

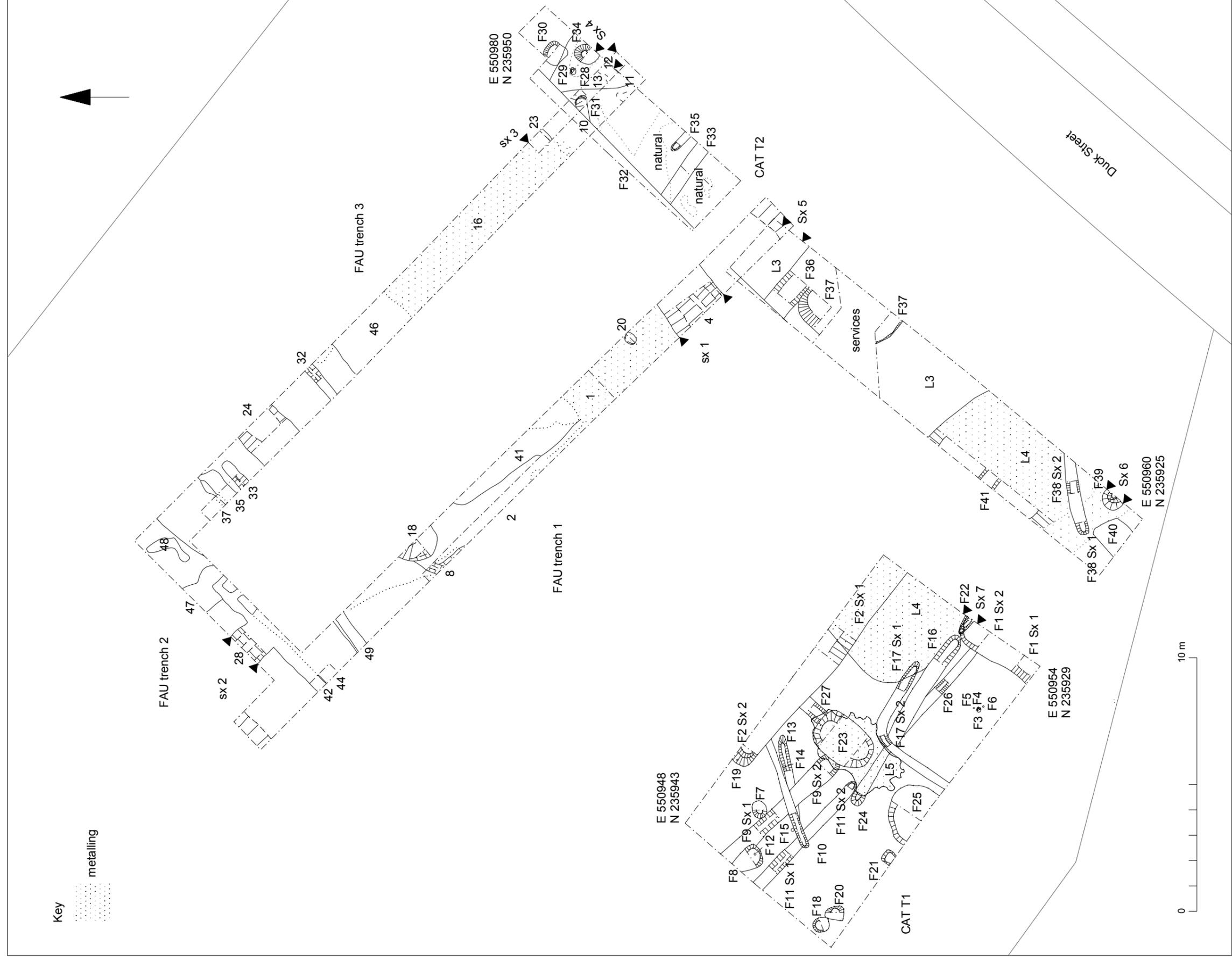


Fig 3 Plan of trenches, showing CAT T1 and CAT T2 and FAU trenches 1-3.

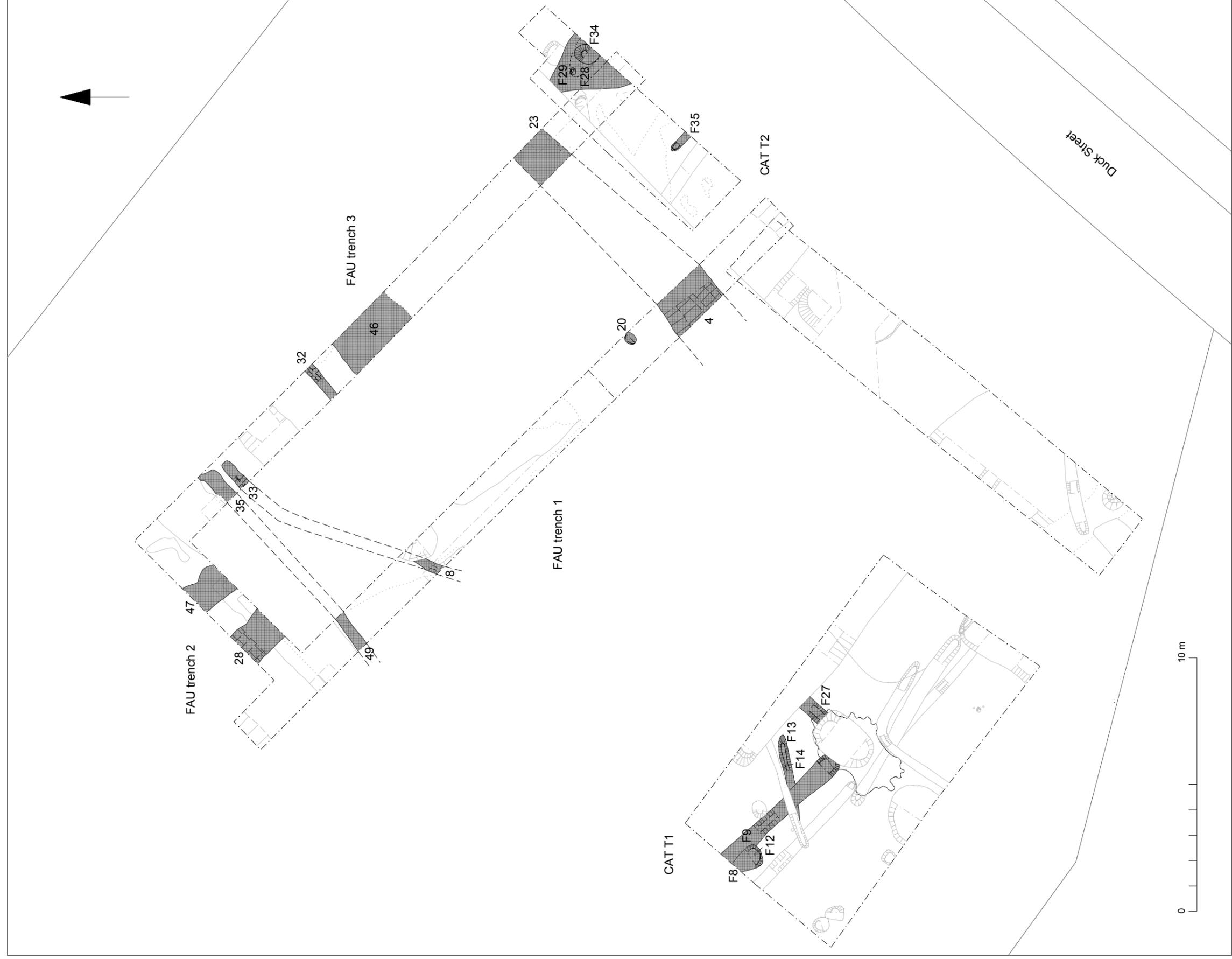


Fig 4 Period 1: Roman (grey tone).

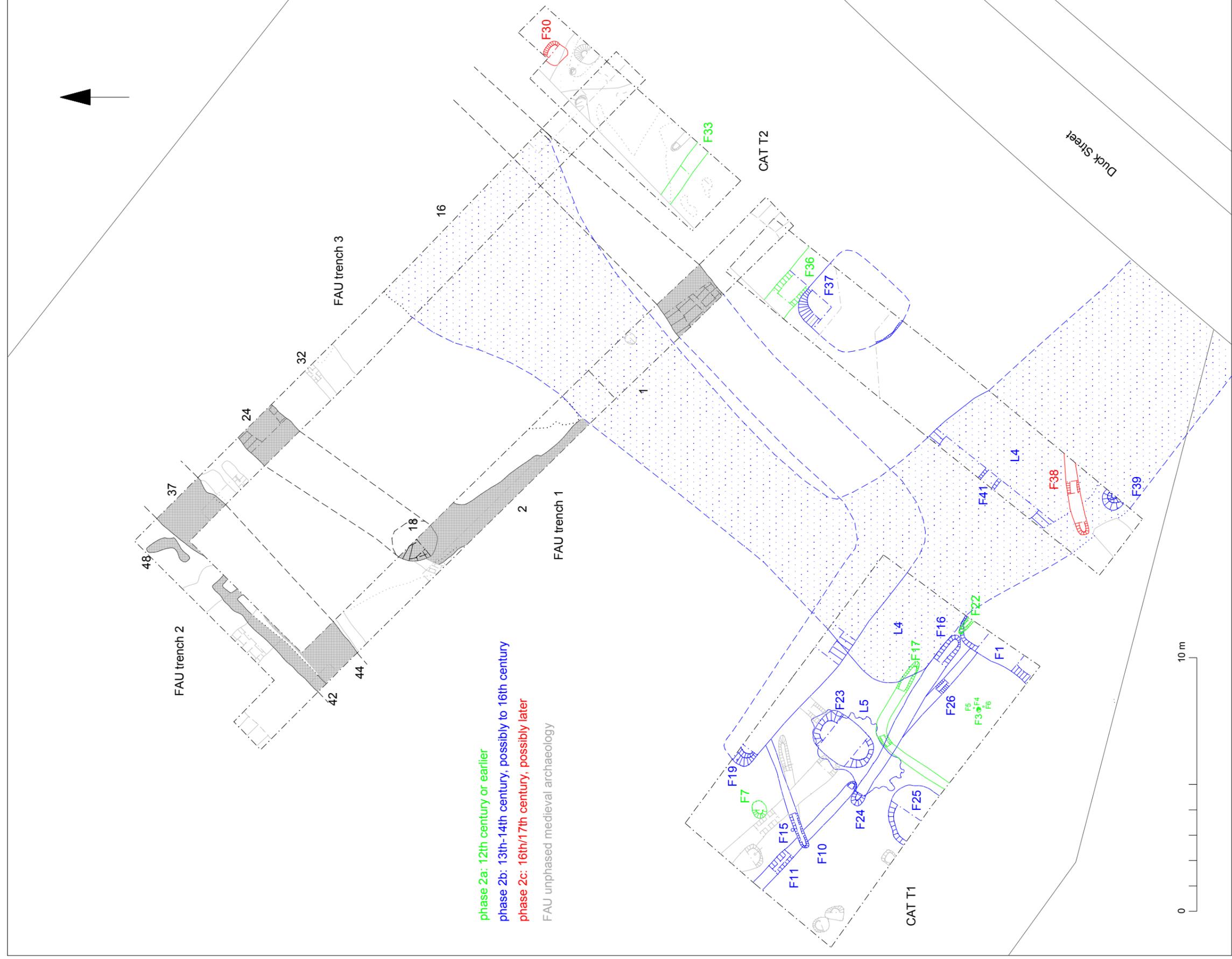


Fig 5 Period 2: medieval and post-medieval.

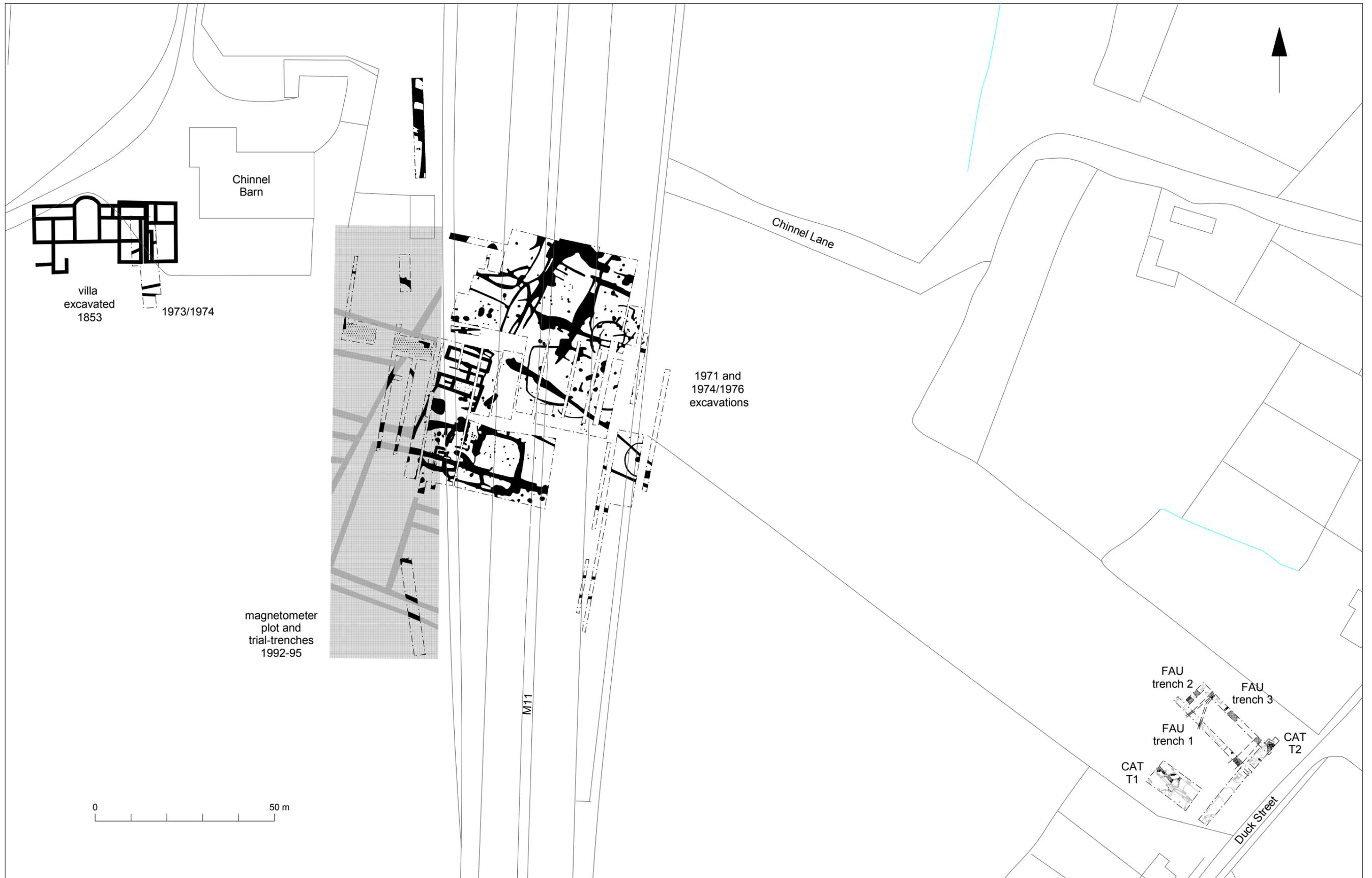


Fig 6 The excavations in relation to previous work on the Chinnel Barn site, including the Roman villa complex.

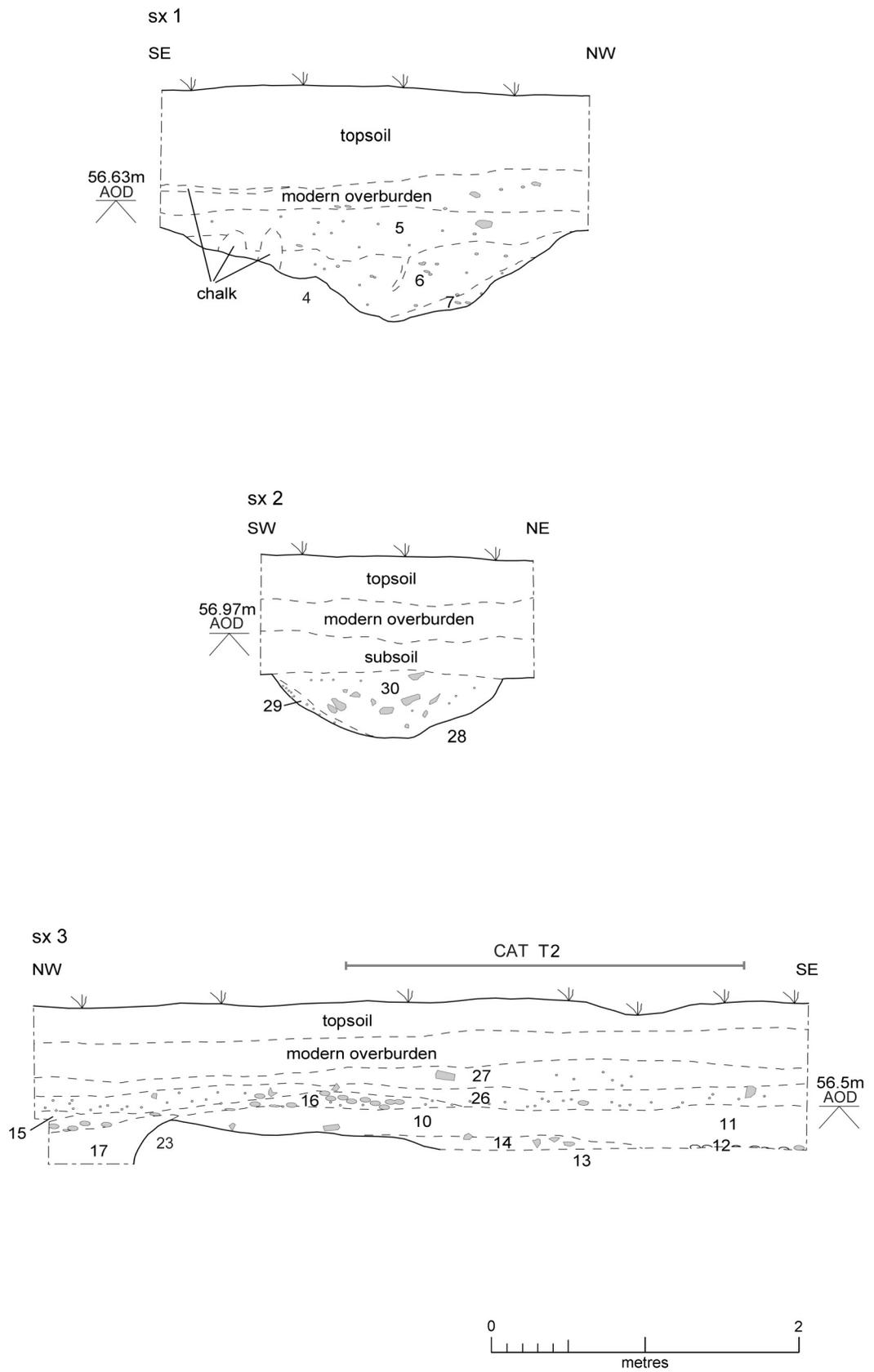


Fig 7 ECC FAU evaluation 2006: sections from FAU trenches 1-3 (see Fig 3 for location).

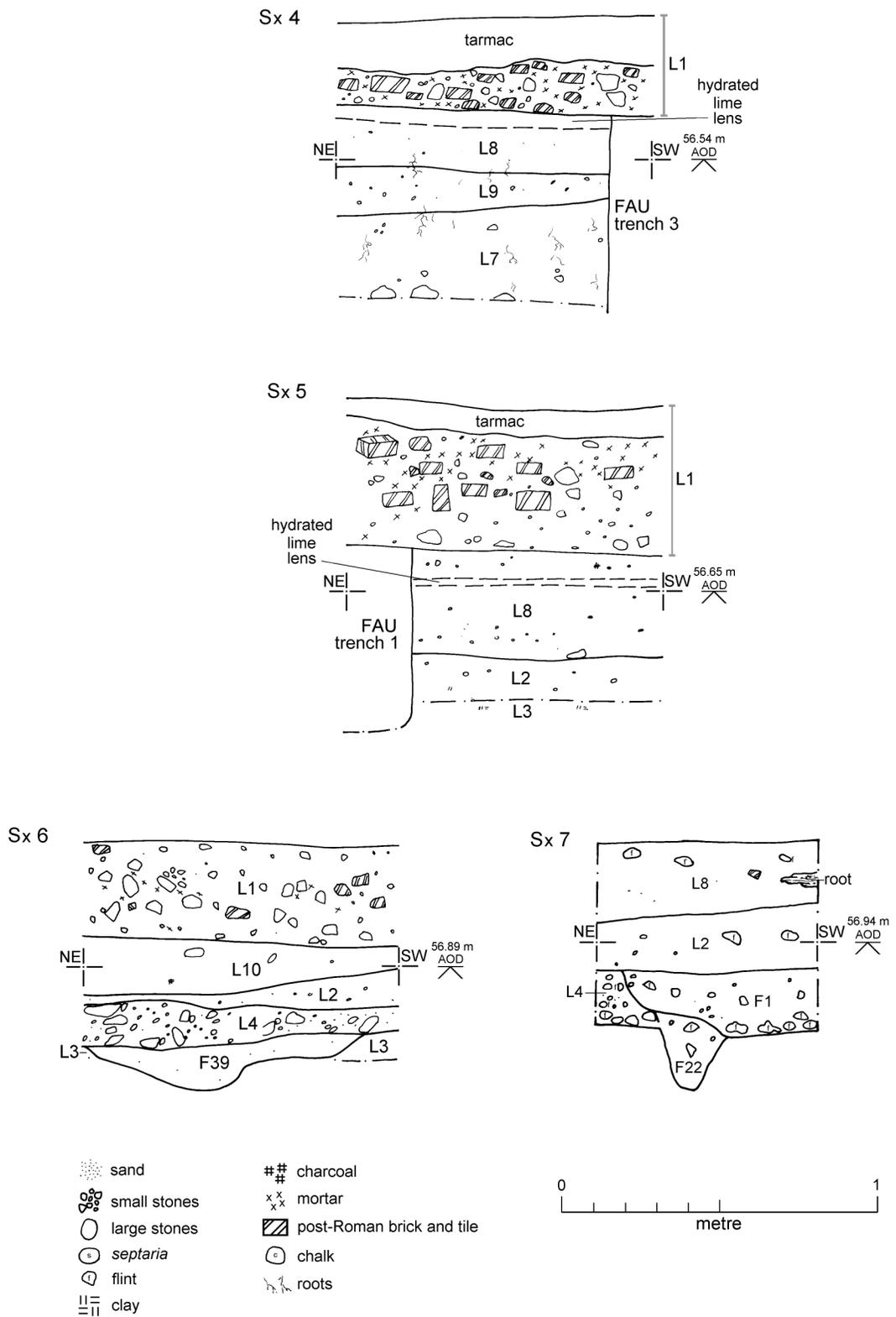


Fig 8 CAT T1 and CAT T2: representative trench sections (see Fig 3 for location).

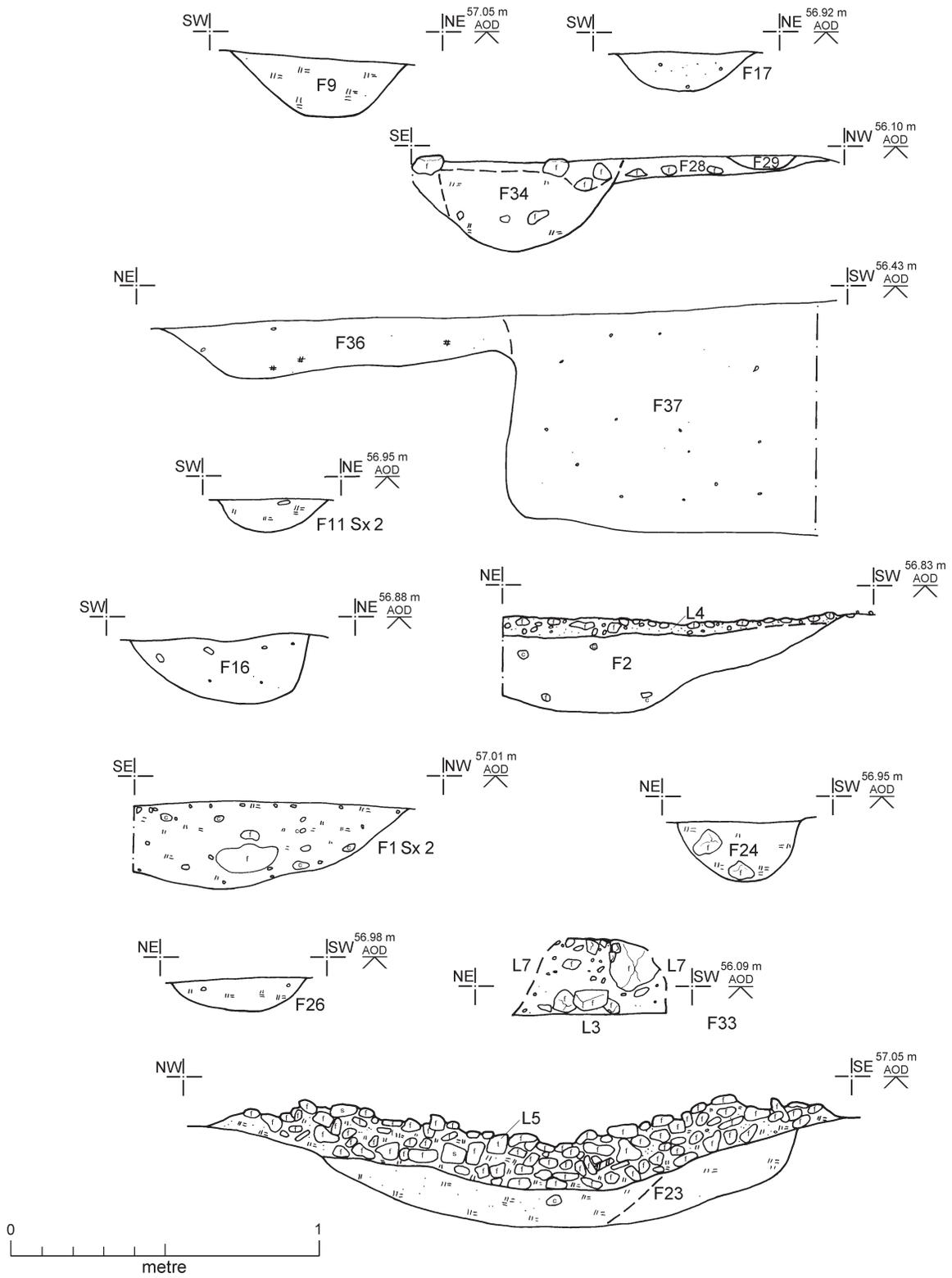


Fig 9 Roman, probable Roman and post-Roman features, including phase 2a and phase 2b.

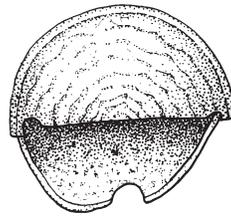
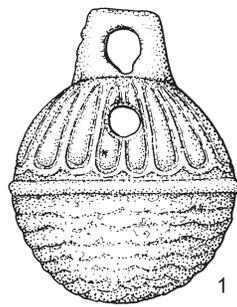
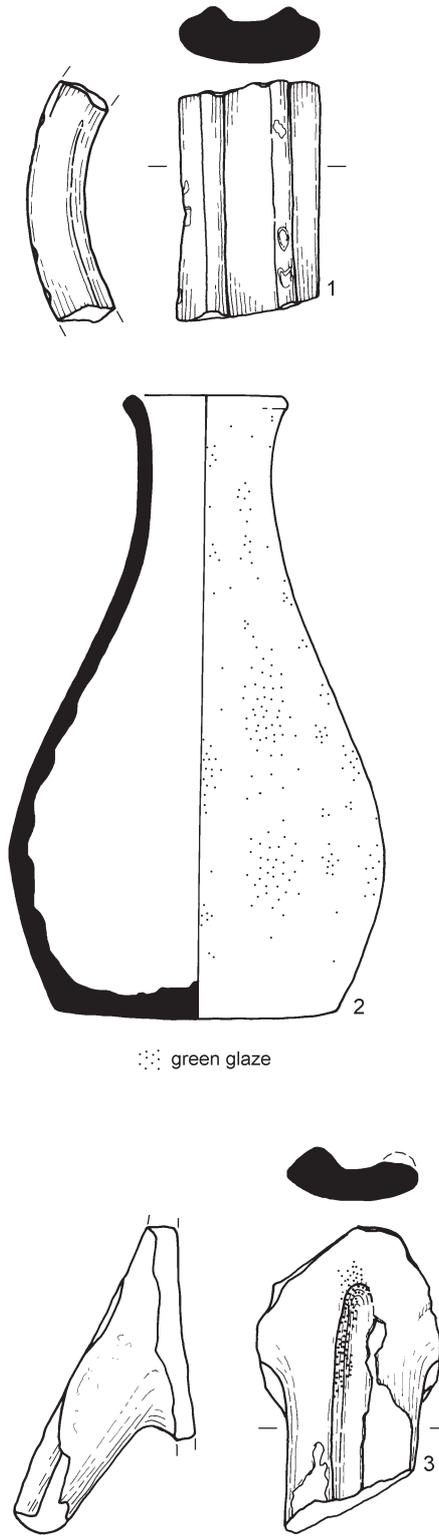


Fig 10 Small find (scale 1:1).



⋯ green glaze



Fig 11 Medieval pottery (scale 1:2).

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Site address:</b> land to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex   |   |
| <b>Parish:</b> St Mary's, Wendens Ambo  | <b>District:</b> Saffron Walden   |
| <b>NGR:</b> TL 510 361 (c)  | <b>Site codes:</b><br>CAT project code: 08/8b, 08/10c<br>Museum accession code: SAFWM 2008.78<br>ECC site code: WEAD 08 |
| <b>Type of work:</b><br>Two phases of excavation  | <b>Site director/group:</b><br>Colchester Archaeological Trust  |
| <b>Date of work:</b><br>September 2008-March 2009   | <b>Size of area investigated:</b><br>0.24 hectares  |
| <b>Curating museum:</b><br>Saffron Walden Museum  | <b>Funding source:</b><br>Developer (Foxley Builders)   |
| <b>Further seasons anticipated?</b><br>No   | <b>Related EHER nos:</b><br>169-170, 16924  |
| <b>Final report:</b>  | CAT Report 518  |
| <b>Periods represented:</b>   | Roman, medieval, post-medieval  |
| <p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>During two stages of excavation by the Colchester Archaeological Trust, evidence for activity dating predominantly to the Roman and medieval periods was uncovered on land to the west of the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex. Artefactual evidence indicates sporadic activity in the immediate area from prehistoric through to modern times. The archaeological deposits were well preserved with little modern disturbance.</i></p> <p><i>Pits and shallow linear features of a Roman date indicate agricultural activity on the site during this period. Further Roman evidence was located within dark clayey-silt alluvial deposits from a nearby water source, most likely a spring, in the eastern corner of the site. Roman artefacts and an area of flint cobbles indicate that the water source was probably a focus for activities such as crop-processing. This evidence probably relates to agricultural activities peripheral to a Roman villa complex, the remains of which were identified to the north-west at the Chinnel Barn site. The small quantity of Roman pottery collected suggests that the activity occurred towards the end of the period of occupation at the villa complex (around the 3rd-4th centuries AD).</i></p> |   |

*Three periods of post-Roman activity were identified. The earliest belonged to the 12th century or earlier, and was represented by a small number of features, two of which may indicate a small structure or enclosure on the site. A number of gullies, ditches and large pits which date to the 13th-14th century (possibly the 16th century) indicate a significant increase in activity during this period. At this time, a wide trackway metalled with flint cobbles crossed the site and probably connected with the medieval lane which is now Duck Street. In the 16th/17th century, activity in the area continued but was sparse and probably associated with the trackway and use of the land for the disposal of refuse, a practice which continued until the land was purchased for development. The evidence for previously-unidentified medieval activity in this area appears predominantly agricultural in character and is sporadic, rather than continual or intensive, throughout the medieval period. The absence of any structural remains and the low frequency of artefactual evidence across the site implies that the activity may be peripheral to a previously-unknown farmstead on the edge of the medieval village of Wendens Ambo.*

*As requested by the ECC HEM team, the results of a previous evaluation of the site by the ECC FAU have been included in the figures and discussion section of this report. These investigations by the ECC FAU and CAT have identified previously-unknown medieval activity in the area and expanded our knowledge of the wider landscape used by inhabitants of the Roman villa complex at the Chinnel Barn site.*

**Previous summaries/reports:** ECC FAU report 1595

**Keywords:** Roman, medieval, post-medieval, agricultural activity, trackway, 'Wendens Ambo ware'

**Significance:** \*

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