

**Report on an archaeological
evaluation, excavation and watching brief
at the Salerooms site, Chequers Lane,
Great Dunmow, Essex
August and September 2009 and March 2010**



**report prepared by
Howard Brooks and Adam Wightman**

**on behalf of
Foxley Builders**

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Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

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1 Summary

The site lies in the centre of modern Great Dunmow, and on the northern edge of the site of the Roman 'small town'. It is also to the east and north-east respectively of sites excavated at Chequers Lane by the Chelmsford Archaeological Trust in 1970-72 and adjacent to Redbond Lodge by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in 2004.

A 5% evaluation revealed areas of gravel, which were thought to represent a Roman road bordered by a ditch, Roman pits and post-holes, and a number of possible Roman inhumation burials. The trench containing the inhumation burials and one of the areas of gravel was later extended to an area broadly equivalent to the footprint of one of the proposed buildings, and a previously unevaluated area was also opened up in the south-western corner of the site. Together, these gave an excavation area of approximately 490m² (or 28% of the site).

In this larger excavation site, the number of inhumation burials increased to a total of 23 (all dating to the late 3rd-4th century). In addition, it became more apparent that the gravel road was simply natural gravel, the surface of which had been used as a convenient surface for a route.

A small number of post-holes or small pits located close to the grave cuts may have held grave markers. A crescentic feature cutting some of the inhumation burials was of uncertain but possibly ritual purpose.

A subsequent watching brief on the digging of four soakaways and a pit for a holding tank produced no significant results.

The majority (75%) of the excavated contexts were of Roman date. The post-Roman features are not considered to be of particular archaeological significance.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching, excavation and watching brief carried out on behalf of Foxley Builders by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Salerooms site in the centre of Great Dunmow, Essex (site centred at NGR TL 6265 2189).
- 2.2 The 0.17-hectare Salerooms site is situated to the south of the Stortford Road, which is thought to mark the northern limit of the site of the Roman 'small town' (Medlycott 1998). The standing buildings were surrounded by a tarmac/concrete hardstanding, with a perimeter of shrubs. Eleven properties were proposed fronting onto Chequers Lane with another property to the rear.
- 2.3 A planning application was made to Uttlesford District Council (no UTT/0750/09) in June 2009 for the construction of twelve residential properties with associated parking. As the development site lies within the area of the Roman and medieval town of Great Dunmow, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team recommended that an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching should be carried out, followed by an open area excavation of any archaeological deposits identified and then a watching brief on the digging of four soakaways and a pit for a holding tank. The recommended work was described in briefs written by Richard Havis of the ECC HEM team in July 2009 (Havis 2009a; Havis 2009b).
- 2.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in August 2009 in accordance with the HEM briefs and a corresponding Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (CAT 2009) and agreed with the HEM team. The excavation stage followed in September 2009, and the watching brief in March 2010.
- 2.5 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008b), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008c) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

(IfA 2008d). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

3.1 This section is based on records held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), Medlycott 1998, Wickenden 1988, and CAT records of recent archaeological work.

A Roman 'small town' (one of many in the Trinovantian *civitas*) developed here at Great Dunmow where Stane Street (the road from Colchester to St Albans) was joined by routes from London and Chelmsford on a prominent ridge above the crossing of the River Chelmer. Roman occupation started in the 1st century and extended along both frontages of Stane Street to the west of the road junction for approximately 500m, giving the small town an estimated size of 10-12 hectares.

There have been a number of excavations in and around Chequers Lane over the past 40 years or so (Fig 1).

3.2 In 1970-72, an excavation was undertaken by the Chelmsford Archaeological Trust (ChAT) on a site to the south of Chequers Lane ('1970-72 Chequers Lane site' on Fig 1; Wickenden 1988). These excavations, the largest and arguably the most important so far in Great Dunmow, produced extensive evidence of Roman occupation, including burials and a shrine (EHER nos 13864-13869). The burials, which included three possible casket burials, were dated to the late 1st to late 2nd centuries; the shrine dates to the 4th century. There was evidence that, following the Roman period, there was Middle Saxon occupation on the site (EHER no 13867). Redbond Lodge was subsequently built on the Chequers Lane site.

3.3 Three trial-trenches were dug by ChAT in 1972 on the site of a former market garden at New Street, 70m south of the current site, which produced 1st-century finds ('1972 market garden site' on Fig 1; Wickenden 1988, 83-4; EHER nos 13880-13882).

3.4 In 1999, a trial-trenching evaluation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (FAU) on land at the rear of the Saracen's Head Hotel in the High Street. No Roman-period material was identified here ('Saracen's Head site 1999 and 2006' on Fig 1; FAU 1999). In 2006, archaeological monitoring by the FAU on this site did not produce any Roman-period material, but medieval and post-medieval pits ('Saracen's Head site 1999 and 2006' on Fig 1; FAU 2006).

3.5 In 2004, an excavation was undertaken by the FAU on land to the south-west of Redbond Lodge ('2004 Redbond Lodge site' on Fig 1; FAU 2004). This excavation uncovered evidence of early to mid-Roman ditches and trackways (generally matching those found by Wickenden 30m to the north in 1970-72), a later Roman enclosure and pits (Robertson 2005).

3.6 In 2008, during an evaluation by FAU at the junction of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, a Roman pit was found 120m to the north-west of the current site ('2008 Chequers Lane site' on Fig 1; FAU 2008).

3.7 In 2009-10, during an evaluation and monitoring by CAT at 2 Chequers Lane, Roman pits were found 150m north-west of the current site ('2009-10 2 Chequers Lane site' on Fig 1; CAT Report 524).

3.8 There have also been several evaluations or excavations on sites in Great Dunmow which are not in the immediate vicinity of Chequers Lane and are, therefore, not shown on Figure 1 or referred to further in this report, but some of which are of interest.

Trial-trenching and test-pitting by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust in 2001 at the Dunmow Junior School at High Stile (300m west-south-west of the current site) uncovered evidence of a 2nd-century Roman cremation cemetery (O'Brien 2005).

- 3.9** The current site lies immediately to the east of the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site where Redbond Lodge now stands. Because of the proximity of the two sites, it was expected that features on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site might extend into the current Salerooms site.

4 Aim

The specific aim of the archaeological trial-trenching, excavation and watching brief was to preserve, by record, the archaeological deposits which would be destroyed by the development. The site-specific research aims were to:

- Identify surviving evidence relating to the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval town and the nature of the occupation.
- Identify features continuing from the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site.
- Define the longevity of the settlement.
- Examine the economy of the Roman and medieval settlement including industrial, domestic and commercial production.
- Study samples from any surviving organic deposits.
- Examine all elements of burial and ritual activity.
- Study the evidence for transition periods between the Late Iron Age and Roman and the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, if present.

5 Results

5.1 Introduction

There were three stages of work on this site. First, CAT undertook a trial-trenching evaluation in 2009. Second, CAT undertook two area excavations (northern and southern) in 2009; the northern excavation area being an enlargement of evaluation trench T2, and the southern being a separate area to the south of the southern end of evaluation trench T3. Third, CAT undertook a watching brief in 2010. The results of each stage of work are described below in that order (sections 5.2-5.4).

5.2 The trial-trenching evaluation (Figs 2, 4)

In fulfilment of the brief (Havis 2009a) and WSI (CAT 2009), three trenches totalling 75m in length (T1-T3) were positioned in the only available space (as constrained by standing buildings, previously the auction rooms, and by the need to maintain access to the site).

Most of the site, with the exception of the area between the two buildings where T1 was excavated, was overlaid by tarmac with an associated layer of hardcore (L1). Beneath L1 was a topsoil (L2) which varied in depth and contained modern material (such as modern ironstone or china, and slate) in its upper parts, and peg-tile and occasional pottery fragments in its lower parts.

L2 was homogeneous, and contained no distinct archaeological horizons. This is probably because the ground had been cultivated before the construction of the Salerooms. L2 was considerably deeper in the southern part of the site (ie in T1) than farther north. This may be the result of landscaping which took place before the construction of the car-parking area. The frequency of medieval or post-medieval finds in this soil was very low, in comparison with finds from the evaluation and monitoring undertaken at the 2009-10 2 Chequers Lane site, 150m to the north-west (CAT Report 524).

Underlying L2 and directly overlying the natural geology was thin layer of lighter subsoil (L3). This was either a brickearth (medium orange/grey sandy clay), or gravel and sand. The same variation of natural was seen during the excavation at the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site, to the west (Wickenden 1988).

L1 and L2 were removed using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation ceased at the top of natural L3, where the cuts of the archaeological features could be clearly seen.

Trench 1

T1 was 15m long, and aligned approximately east-west at the southernmost accessible place on the site. A deposit of gravel in a dark clay-silt matrix (F7) was exposed along the whole trench. A sondage into its western end showed that the gravel was at least a metre deep.

Trench 2

T2, a long curved trench 40m long, was excavated along the footprint of the eleven proposed properties fronting onto Chequers Lane (ie the eastern edge of the site). T2 was excavated down to gravel (F7) at its southern end, and down to brickearth (L3) in the remainder of the trench. The soil removed by machine (ie L1) was less deep than in T1.

A number of features were cut into L3. These were ditch F1, modern service-run F3, and small features, ie small pit F4, large post-hole F5, small pit/post-hole F6, ?natural pit F10 and post-/stake hole F11. There were also several of what were thought to be pits, which were left for full examination in the subsequent excavation stage (in fact, they were later identified as inhumation burials, ie F39, F43/F51, F52).

During the later excavation stage, T1 was subsumed entirely within the northern excavation area, and the features identified during the evaluation stage were fully excavated.

Trench 3

T3 was 20m long and aligned approximately north-south at the easternmost accessible place, and was placed to target any archaeological features extending east off the eastern edge of the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site. The layers removed by machine were identical to those in T1 and T2, and contained no archaeological horizons or finds of any kind.

Features exposed included an area of gravel (F7) bounded by ditches F8 and F9, and cut by pit F16 and natural feature F17. To the north were two pits (F15, F20). By its fill, F20 was identified as a natural feature but, in retrospect, F15 may have been a grave cut. However, it lies outside the footprint of the new buildings, and so is preserved under the car-parking area.

5.3 The excavation (Figs 2-17, Plates 1-4)

5.3.1 Introduction

It was clear during the evaluation stage that there would have to be a second stage of work on the site (ie area excavations). Therefore, at the request of the client, the HEM team was asked to provide an appropriate brief. This brief was produced quickly (Havis 2009b), which allowed the evaluation stage of the project to move immediately to the excavation stage without the CAT team leaving the site. As the greater part of the excavation was effectively an enlargement of T2, the HEM team did not ask CAT to produce a new WSI.

For the purposes of discussion, the overall site can be split into a number of distinct areas:

- the cemetery
- the natural gravel possibly used as a route
- the area of pits and post-holes

5.3.2 The cemetery

On the northern edge of the site was a Roman cemetery with 23 inhumation burials. The eastern side of the cemetery appears to have been defined by ditch F1, which lay NNE/SSW. A possible southern boundary is ditch F8, which was identified in

evaluation trench T3. A continuation of F1 would meet a continuation of F8 at right-angles (ie forming the south-eastern corner of the cemetery). Against this proposition is the fact that there were no burials in the rest of T3 (ie the 6m of T3 to the north of the ditch line). The orientation of the graves in relation to the possible boundary ditches is as follows (there are three groups):

- 1) broadly north/south and aligned with boundary ditch F1 (eleven examples),
- 2) broadly east/west and aligned with boundary ditch F1 and possible boundary ditch F8 (six examples),
- 3) and those which do not follow the alignment of either ditch (six examples).

The grave fills were a dark-brown silty loam, with common stones, presumably derived from the gravel deposits and brickearth into which the graves were cut.



Plate 2: cemetery boundary ditch F1, view north-east.

Details of the size, completeness and contents of the 23 inhumation burials are given below in Table 1, but can be summarised as follows. Of the 23 burials, eleven were complete or substantially complete (F14, F28, F33, F38, F39, F58, F59, F61, F63, F71, F75), five others were approximately half-complete (F24, F43/F51, F47, F49, F64), and the remaining seven were badly truncated by later features (F52, F53, F57, F68, F69, F70, F76).

None of the graves contained human bone, which has presumably decayed as a result of the acidic subsoil. Five contained coffin nails, indicating that at least a proportion (22%) originally contained coffins. In a number of cases, adjacent features (post-holes, stake holes or small pits) may have held posts which served as grave markers. The burials and their respective markers are F14 (F27), F24 (F55, F56), F28 (F45), F33 (F26), F61 (F48), F71 (F66), and F64 (F62).



Plate 3: excavating beaker F14.2 in burial F14.

Grave goods consisted only of placed pots, which were present in six (ie 26%) of the graves. However, this may be a misleading figure because some of the graves were either cut away by other graves, or were only partially within the site area. Stephen Benfield discusses the choice of pots and their placing in his finds report (section 6.3 below). Table 1 below gives the size and completeness of the graves, with a summary of the pot dating. A complete catalogue of finds in the graves is given in section 6.6 below).



Plate 4: removing beaker F64.1 and jar F64.2 from burial F64.

Table 1: contents and completeness of graves.

Size (of grave): Large, presumed adult; Medium, presumed small adult/juvenile;

Small, presumed small juvenile/child.

Completeness: **G** = partially cut by other grave (number given); **C** = partially cut by other features; **O** = partially off site.

Feature	size	% completeness	completeness codes	coffin nails (c), hobnails (h)	date of placed pots
F14	L	100		c	late 3rd-4th century
F24	S	?60	C		
F28	L	100			
F33	L	?70-80	C	c	mid/late 2nd to 3rd/4th century
F38	L	80-90	O, C F69	c, h	
F39	S	?70-80	C	c	
F47	S	?50	O		
F49	S	50	C, O		
F43/F51	S	?30	C		
F52	S	?30-40	C		
F53	L	?10	G F28		
F57	L	30	O		
F58	M	100			
F59	M	100			
F61	L	80-90	O	h	2nd-later 4th century
F63	M	100		h	
F64	L	?60	G F63	h	mid-late 3rd to 4th century
F68	M	30-40	G F76, O	c, h	
F69	-	10	O		
F70	L/M	20	O, G F38		
F71	M	100			
F75	S	100			
F76	-	10-20	G F61, O		mid 2nd-4th century

Stratification of the cemetery

There was a certain degree of the intercutting of graves. This allows a basic stratification to be determined. Those graves which cut or were cut by other graves can be grouped into three separate stratigraphical sequences according to date as follows:

F69 - (no finds)
F38 - earliest date: **late 3rd to 4th century**
F70 - (no finds)

F63 - pottery dated 'Roman' only
F64 - earliest date: **mid-late 3rd to 4th century**

F28 - pottery dated 'Roman' only
F53 - pottery dated 1st century ([residual here](#))
F61 - earliest date: **2nd-later 4th century**
F76 - earliest date: **mid 2nd-4th century**
F68 - (no finds)

Burials with dated finds but without stratigraphical relationships with other burials are as follows:

F14 - late 3rd-4th century
F33 - mid/late 2nd century to 3rd/4th century

5.3.3 Gravel F7 and ditches F8-F9 (Fig 2)

Exploration of the gravel

The dominant feature to the south and east, outside the boundary ditch F1 and possible boundary ditch F8 of the inhumation cemetery, was gravel F7. Its top surface was a mixture of stones and a dark brown sandy silt (ie with some

similarities to the overlying topsoil). Gravel F7 was either a natural gravel seam, or the surface of a Roman road.

Because of the uncertainty on this point, slots were excavated through the gravel. At the western end of T1, a slot was excavated down to 0.65m below the top of the gravel, at which point a very compact gravel in an orange sandy matrix was reached. This was notably different from the deposit above, and is taken to be an unequivocal geological deposit (ie natural ground). It produced no finds. Its constituent gravel pebbles were round and sub-rounded and horizontally bedded, in keeping with water-deposited gravels. There was no sign of the distinct surfaces, banding or camber which would usually be associated with a road.

In T2 and T3, and in the later northern excavation area, gravel F7 sloped down from north to south, and in T3 dipped below L5. In T1, the gravel continued beneath a layer of soft, moist mid-dark brown sandy silt which can be identified as L6. The top of the gravel here was at 75.80m AOD.

Gravel F7 was also exposed in T3 at a depth of only 0.38m. Here, it was more compact than in T1, and two features were cut into it: an undated, shallow pit F16, and a deeper natural feature (F17). The position of ditch F8 had originally led to the not-unreasonable conclusion that gravel F7 was a Roman road, the roadside ditch of which was F8. F8 was definitely a feature; it contained animal bone and Roman pottery, and it also had gravel in its the lower fill in such a position as would be expected for a roadside ditch. The base of the ditch was cut into the same orange gravelly sand as was observed at the bottom of the section excavated in T1, and in the edge of the ditch it was apparent that F7 (gravel in a dirty soil matrix) sealed the natural orange gravelly sand, as it did in T1. In the section through ditch F8, F7 was approximately 0.6m thick (as in T1).

When T1 was opened up to create the larger northern excavation area (N), the top of F7 was at 75.60m AOD, showing a slight drop in height from the top of F7 in T3 to the west. To the south of gravel F7 was a soft, moist mid to dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional stone (L6). It was not clear whether this was a natural layer or not, so a north-south sondage was excavated through it to a depth of 1.4m below modern ground-level. This sondage was later extended to extend 14m north-south across most of the eastern end of the northern excavation area. This showed that, as elsewhere on the site, F7 consisted of gravel in a dark silty matrix to a depth of 0.4m below site level, where a more compacted gravel in an orange sand matrix was reached.

There were two main reasons why it began to appear that F7 was a natural gravel seam and not a Roman road surface. First was the presence of a natural feature F17 cutting its surface. Second was the position of Roman ditch F9. Although this was parallel to and approximately 7.2 m to the south of ditch F8, it was not located at the southern boundary to gravel F7, but was actually cut through a patch of brickearth (L5). Gravel F7 was seen in the bottom of the section of F9, and a section dug to the southern end of T3 showed the same sequence of L5 over F7. In addition, a camber would be expected in a Roman road, but gravel in the base of the above section was at 76.45 m AOD, whereas in the centre of gravel F7 to the north (ie where the crown of the road would be) was only 8 cm higher (at 76.53 m AOD).

A large piece of Roman storage jar was found in the surface of F7. This was the only find from extensive work on the gravel. This shows that, although it is argued here that F7 was not a deliberately laid Roman surface, it was used in the Roman period.

L6, sealing F7, was up to 0.8m deep. L6 was either a natural silty sand deposit over a natural gravel seam, or the backfill of a large feature, perhaps a quarry-pit. It was not dissimilar to L5 at the southern end of T1. The top of L6 was brown and silty, but lower down it was very sandy and a lot greyer in colour and it appeared more like natural than a back-filled deposit. There were no inclusions, but one fragment of Roman pottery was recovered. On balance, and it is more likely that L6 (and L5) were natural deposits, rather than the fill(s) of a quarry-pit. It is thought that

F7 is natural gravel but which was possibly used as a route, as it was exposed by erosion possibly caused by footfall and also produced a piece of Roman pottery.

The southern excavation area (S) uncovered ditch F65 which was originally thought to be the southern ditch for the road; however, the fact that it did not continue to the east lessens the case for it being a roadside ditch and, therefore, also for the existence of the road. A modern feature (ditch F67) was also exposed in the southern excavation area.

5.3.4 The area of pits and post-holes

These features will be discussed from south to north. To the south of gravel F7 was undated but probably modern post-hole F41, cutting L6. Cut into gravel F7 were a small post-hole F37 and the ditch terminus F40 which continued beyond the western limit of excavation. Both features are undated.

To the north of gravel F7 and cut into the brickearth/clay L4 were a number of small pits or post-holes. Large post-hole F5 was dated to the Roman period by pottery. Large post-hole F32, pit F35 and large post-hole F36 were dated to the post-medieval period by peg-tile. Small pit F4, pits F29 and F31, and post-holes F30 and F34 were all undated. On the 2004 Redbond Lodge site, there were several post-holes which seemed to continue the line of Roman ditches. Even if the undated features were Roman, that kind of alignment cannot be easily spotted here.

5.4 The watching brief

Introduction

Subsequent to the excavation, a watching brief in March 2010 monitored the excavation of deep holes for four soakaways (SA1-SA4) and a holding tank (HT) for a subsequent pumping station.

Location of works

None of the holes were within the excavated areas or trial-trenches, but were located in areas which are now gardens and car-parking.

The HT was located within the footprint of the former auction building in the middle of the site near to the western end of evaluation trench T1. The hole was circular, 3m in diameter and 3.5m deep. SA1 and SA2 were located in the south-eastern area of the site (away from the inhumation cemetery and south of gravel F7). SA3 was located in the centre of the site, east of the projected alignment of the cemetery boundary ditch F1, and SA4 was located to the west, within the perimeter of the Roman cemetery.

Results

Although ground-level not changed significantly, concrete and tarmac had been removed and a roughly 200 mm-thick layer of hardcore crush/large stones had been laid in its place. No features were observed in any of the four soakaways. Although this was to have been expected of SA1-SA3 (based on previous findings), the chances of SA4 containing archaeological features were quite high. However, none were found. The gravel F7 was seen in all holes.

Stratification observed in watching brief

L1 Recently-dumped hardcore/crush.

L2 remaining topsoil/accumulation deposit (to a depth of 1.1m).

L3 natural geological sands and gravels.

6 Finds (Figs 5-18)

6.1 Note on the finds reports

The enlargement of T2 into an area excavation meant that, in many cases, the features explored in the trial-trenches were also explored during the excavation stage. Therefore, rather than create an artificial split between finds recovered at the

evaluation stage and at the excavation stage, the finds are treated as one group. In all the finds reports below, it is to be understood that the finds are from the project as a whole. Where this is not the case, an explanation will be given. (There is only one group of finds from the evaluation stage which merits a separate report, and that is the Roman pottery from the watching brief, in section 6.3 below).

6.2 Prehistoric pottery

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

A total of 21 sherds of prehistoric - pre-Belgic - pottery, together weighing 72 g, was recovered. Eighteen (59g) were from the northern excavation area (ie the Roman inhumation cemetery): two from evaluation T2 (5g) and one from the southern excavation area. However, as these sherds are all residual, it is sensible to treat them as a group rather than split them between site areas.

The average sherd weight is 3.4 g. The pottery was recorded using the fabric series devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988). The fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2 and a full catalogue of the pottery is contained in Appendix 1.

Table 2: prehistoric pottery by fabric types.

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

Fabric	description	sherds	weight (g)
B	Flint S-M 2	4	17
C	Flint S-M with occasional L	2	16
E	Flint and sand S-M 2	5	12
F	Sand S-M 2-3 with occasional large flint	1	5
H	Sand S2	3	5
L	Quartz sometimes with some sand, S-L 2	1	3
O	Quartz and flint with some sand S-L 2, poorly sorted	5	14
	totals	21	72

Discussion

The prehistoric pottery consists of small abraded sherds, all of which were residual in later-dated contexts. In terms of dating, there are no diagnostic sherds among the assemblage. There are no rims, bases or carinated body sherds, while surface decoration consists of a single groove across one sherd (finds no 76 from burial F64) and a possible fingernail impression on another (finds no 66 from burial F38). The dating of the pottery, therefore, relies almost exclusively on the fabrics (Table 2). Some sherds are exclusively flint-tempered (Fabrics B and C), some contain a mix of flint with sand-temper or are exclusively sand-tempered (Fabrics E, F, H), while others have distinct quartz sand-temper (Fabrics L and O).

The sherds which are exclusively flint-tempered and the sherds with quartz and sand-temper have not been closely dated other than as prehistoric, although the exclusively flint-tempered sherds are likely to date to prior to the Middle Iron Age. From the Late Bronze Age-Iron Age in Essex there was increasing use of sand-temper in pottery (Sealey 2007, 50). The use of a mix of sand with flint-temper suggests a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date, while the exclusive use of sand-temper is typical of the Middle Iron Age. Exclusively flint-tempered sherds make up 28% of the total, while sherds with flint and sand, or just sand-temper, make up 43%. However, it should be noted that these proportions are almost exactly reversed if based on weight rather than sherd numbers.

Prehistoric pottery has been recovered from previous excavations in Great Dunmow (Wickenden 1988, 7; CAT Report 133, 2). It consists mostly of small, abraded sherds which were residual in later-dated features and which are probably of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date (Wickenden 1988, 7). It was thought that

the presence of these small sherds might result from the manuring of cultivated land and the lack of Middle Iron Age or Late Iron Age sherds might indicate a reversion to pasture during that period (Wickenden 1988, 89). Overall, it appears to be similar to the pottery recovered from the current site. However, it can be noted that at least a few of the sherds from the current site are probably of Middle Iron Age date and three prehistoric sherds from the 42b High Street site are also dated to the Middle Iron Age (CAT Report 133, 2). Also, it can be noted that, while there remains little indication among the pottery from previous sites or the current site of significant occupation or other activity in the Late Iron Age period, two grog-tempered sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman date were recovered from the current site (below).

6.3 Roman pottery (Plate 5, Figs 5-16)

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Roman pottery was recovered from the site as grave goods placed with a number of inhumation burials (nine pots), as whole or partial vessels from grave fill (two pots), and from the fills of other features and residual sherds from grave fill (398 sherds, together weighing 4,613g).

(For reasons explained above, all Roman pottery from the site is treated as one group. However, Appendix 2 shows which finds came from which part of the site, and, therefore, whether they are from the evaluation, excavation, or watching brief.)

Because of their different nature as placed vessels, the complete or partial pots accompanying the burials in the graves are reported on separately to the sherds recovered from the backfill and from the fills of the other features. The two pots associated with the fill of two graves are also reported on separately as they are whole or partial vessels. A full catalogue of the pottery is provided in Appendix 2.

Pottery fabrics and recording

The pottery was recorded, where possible, using the Chelmsford Roman fabric series (Table 3) and pottery form types (Going 1987). In addition, the pottery fabric black-surfaced wares (BSW) has also been used and is described below. Samian vessels were recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers, or other common form-type references following those used in Webster (Webster 1996). The weight of each fabric group, the number of sherds and EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) was recorded for each finds number. Any identifiable pot forms were noted. The placed pots accompanying burials and whole or near-complete pots from the fill of their grave cuts were recorded individually. Dating of the pottery broadly follows the dating in Going (Going 1987) and Webster (Webster 1996).

Black-surfaced wares (Fabric BSW)

This fabric includes a number of fabric types which are not easily separated by visual inspection, but which, for the most part, are visually distinct from the Roman sandy grey wares (Fabric 47). These generally have a red-brown or buff-brown fabric with dark-grey to black surfaces. Where any grog was noted in these fabrics, the sherds were assigned to Fabric 45 (Romanising grey wares). For a discussion of black-surfaced wares, see Martin (Martin 2003, 129-32).

Table 3: the Roman pottery fabrics.

Fabric code	Fabric name
SACG	Central Gaulish samian
SAEG	East Gaulish samian
BSW	Black-surfaced wares
2	Nene Valley colour-coat
4	Hadham oxidised red wares
12	?Local mica-dusted ware
15	Miscellaneous white- or cream-slipped sandy red wares
21	Miscellaneous oxidised red wares
31	Unspecified buff wares

39	Fine grey wares
44	Storage jar fabrics
45	Romanising grey wares
47	Sandy grey wares
53	Grog-tempered fabrics

Pottery vessels from burials (Plate 5; Figs 5, 7, 15, 17)

Introduction

Nine pots were recovered from five burials, ie F14, F33, F61, F64 and F76. Although some of the graves were first identified at evaluation stage, they were only excavated (and the pots lifted) at the excavation stage. That these pots had been placed in the graves at the time of burial can be clearly identified both by their location at the base of the grave and by their degree of completeness. The pots include both whole vessels and partial vessels recovered as sherd groups. Where all of a grave could be excavated, the pots accompanied the burials either as single vessels, or where two vessels were present these had been placed close together. Almost all were located at, or close to, one end of the grave. The position of vessels in relation to the orientation of the bodies is not known as no bone survived but, as some were found in association with footwear (hobnail clusters), this suggests that these may have been either worn on the feet or placed near them. One grave (F64) appears to have contained three pottery vessels, one set apart from the other two, and this is the only fully-excavated burial in which all of the pots were not placed close together. However, it is possible that the third (isolated) pot is associated with another, later grave which cut the earlier one. Also, in addition to the placed pots, a single nearly-complete pot (F14.1) and another partial pot (F64.3), both of late Roman date, were recovered from grave fill.

The pottery

The pots recovered from the graves consist of dishes of form B1 3.1 (F33.1) and B3 (F61.1, F61.2, F64.3), small jars of form G24 1.2 (F64.2, F76.1), a flagon (cut down in antiquity) in Hadham oxidised red ware (F14.1), and also a small beaker in Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F64.1). There is also the upper part of a narrow-necked jar or flask of form G36 (F33.2).



Plate 5: selection of placed pots.
(Clockwise from bottom left, these are from burials F64, F64, F14, F64, F61, F61, and F76 (centre of group).

Some of the pots are of long-lived forms which are not closely datable, although none date to earlier than the early/mid 2nd century and the more closely-datable of the pots are of late Roman date. The Hadham oxidised red ware flagon (F14.1) from burial F14 and the Nene Valley colour-coated beaker (F64.1) from burial F64 can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century, although the Nene Valley pots could date a little earlier. The pots from the other burials can only be broadly dated to the period of the 2nd-4th century. However, one of three similar deep dishes of form B3 (F64.3) is associated with a Nene Valley beaker (F64.1) in burial F64 or is possibly associated with a later burial which cuts it. Either way, this particular dish can be dated to the late Roman period. As such, it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the other two similar deep dishes (F61.1, F61.2) are probably also of late Roman date.

The choice of pots suggests a small range of forms of kitchen and table wares relating to the storage, preparation and serving of food and drink. The range of forms consists of jar, dish, deep dish, beaker, flagon and narrow-mouth jar or flask. One of the deep dishes (F61.1) may have been used to heat or cook food as sooting or burnt residue is present on the outside below the rim, and there is a dark discoloration possibly with some sooting on the outside of another (F64.3). However, the range of vessel types intended to be represented among these pots may be even more limited than initially appears, as two of the jars (F64.2, F76.1) are quite small and may in effect represent or double as beakers.

In general, the pots were located close to the edge of the graves, ie at or towards one end. Whole pots were placed upright. Sherds from two broken dishes (F61.1, F61.2) also seem to have been located at the edge of the grave although one of the sherds was recorded as from the mid area of the grave floor. This indicates that many of the pots had been placed alongside the burial or coffin. Exceptions to placement at the grave edges are two pots from F33 (F33.1, F33.2) which were recovered from the southern end of the burial, within the area of the coffin as defined by the position of coffin nails. As one of these is a whole pot, then they must have been placed either inside or on top of the coffin. There is also the one dish (F64.3) recovered from burial F64 which, if not part of F64 (see next paragraph), had been placed in the mid area of the grave floor. It can be noted that a small number of inhumation burials in the eastern cemetery of Roman London were found to have broken pots which appear to have been placed inside the coffin (Barber & Bowsher 2000, 124-5).

While most of the pots can be associated with particular burials, the association of two with particular burials can be questioned. In burial F64, a deep dish (F64.3) was recovered as a broken sherd group from a different part of the grave to two other complete vessels found together (F64.1, F64.2). This dish appears to have been placed as broken sherds either below the coffin or on the coffin. However, the dish sherds lay across the centre line of the grave, approximately following the line of the edge of a later burial F63 cutting burial F64. It can be noted that the sherds of two broken dishes of similar type recovered from burial F61 (F61.1, F61.2) appear to have been placed at the edge of that grave alongside the burial. Their position in that grave is similar to the position of the dish F64.3 in relation to the grave cut for F63. One possible explanation for its apparent separation from the other two pots and its different treatment is that it was originally placed alongside the burial in F63, and that sinkage into the burial F64 brought it to this position. Also a flask or narrow-mouth jar (F33.2) from burial F33 is unusual in relation to the other pots recovered as it is neither a whole vessel nor a near-complete broken pot. This might suggest that it is an accidental inclusion. However, as much of the upper part is present as joining sherds, its position alongside the whole dish (F33.1) and the possible deliberate damage to the rim all indicate that it is a deliberate inclusion with the burial.

Although some of the pots are whole or are broken complete or partial vessels, in each case a small part of the rim, or a single sherd from the base, is missing (F33.1, F64.1, F64.2, F76.1). All of these pots were damaged or broken in antiquity and, as none of the missing pieces were recovered, it appears that they must have been

removed prior to the pots being placed in the in the grave. The flask or narrow-mouth jar F33.2, which was recovered as a partial pot alongside the dish F33.1, also has a sherd missing from the rim. One flagon (F14.1) had previously been cut down by the removal of the neck and handle, presumably an earlier re-working to make it serviceable, but had not been further damaged. Damage in the form of chipping a piece from the pot rim, interpreted as deliberate ritual practice, has been recorded on pots from Roman cremation burials at the adjacent 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Going 1988, 22-3).

Other sherds from near-complete broken vessels seem to have been retained rather than being placed in the grave. The deep dishes (F61.1, F61.2, F64.3) must have been deliberately broken at or around the time of burial. These pots are relatively robust vessels and are unlikely to have broken post-deposition. All were broken into a number of large sherds and were located as sherd clusters. Part of the base of two (F61.1, F61.2), probably a single large sherd, was not recovered with the others. The remaining bowl (F64.3) had a number of sherds (30% by EVE) missing from the vessel rim and wall. None of the missing sherds from these pots was found by searching through the pottery from these graves, or among that from the other features on the site. While it remains possible that the missing single sherds from two of the bowls (F61.1, F61.2) may have been missed during excavation, the coincidence of this seems unlikely and suggests that the missing sherds from all of these pots had been retained when the pots were placed in the grave.

In addition to the pots placed with the burials, one whole and one partial pot were recovered from the fills of two graves. Both pots can be dated to the period of the mid/late 3rd-4th century. A complete late Roman Nene Valley folded beaker (F14.2) was recovered from the upper surviving fill of burial F14. The dating of this pot suggests that it had been brought to the site during the life of the cemetery but how it came to be in the backfill of the grave is not clear. The upper (broken) part of another beaker, also from the Nene Valley potteries, was recovered from the fill of burial F64. The near-complete state of the folded beaker suggests that it had been a grave good in another burial. However, the presence of part of a second beaker in the fill of another grave may suggest that they both represent pots used during funeral ceremonies or remembrance rites carried out on the site and incorporated into the backfill.

Discussion

Although only a small number of pots were recovered from the burials, these make an interesting and important group in relation to funerary practices in the Roman small town. This is because of the evidence for ritual damage to grave pots and possible evidence for the use of other vessels in funerary rites on the site.

The small number of pots per burial and the emphasis on vessels for the serving of food and drink accords with the general trends of pottery placed with Roman burial practice noted for much of the country (Philpott 1991, 112-13). While some of the pots can be closely dated to the late Roman period (mid/late 3rd-4th century), the majority of the pots can only be attributed to the mid-late Roman period (mid 2nd to 3rd or 4th century).

All of the pots placed with the burials had been damaged in antiquity. Either sherds are missing from the rim or the pots had been broken and sherds retained while the remaining pieces were placed with the burial. The only exception is the cut-down flagon although, in effect, this pot had already been altered and was not whole. This may have made it suitable for inclusion in a burial without need for further damage. Significantly, there appears to be a clear continuity in the treatment of pottery placed in these graves and that found with earlier-dated Roman cremations excavated close by at the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Wickenden 1988). A number of the pots placed with these cremations had also been damaged in antiquity (Wickenden 1988, 22-3). Most notably, some had small sections of the

rim missing which were not recovered from the burials and which must have been broken away prior to the pots being placed with the burials.

Damage to pots placed with burials has been recorded at a number of rural sites and Roman 'small town' sites in Essex (Going 1988, 103). The most common damage appears to be sherds broken from the rim, although there are a number of pots, usually closed forms, with holes pierced through their body walls sometime after firing (Going 1987, 22-3). Given the frequent occurrence of these types of damage among burial assemblages, this clearly represents a deliberate funerary rite or tradition although also possibly involving the use of previously-damaged vessels. Most of this type of damage has been recorded among pots placed with cremations of which there is a significant number although a possible instance of damage (perforation) of a pot placed with an inhumation burial has been recorded at the Butt Road site in Colchester (Going 1993, 47). In relation to broken pottery vessels placed with burials, there are examples of broken, incomplete pots which have been recovered with inhumation burials at the Butt Road site in Colchester (Going 1993, 23). Also, broken but complete pots have been recovered from a number of inhumation burials in the Roman eastern cemetery at London, although no other damage to pots was recorded there (Barber & Bowsler 2000, 124-5). As every pot associated with the inhumation burials at the current site has been broken in or has suffered damage in antiquity, the group represents an unusual concentration of such damage.

A near-complete beaker and another partial beaker from the backfill of two of the burials are interesting. The near-complete beaker was probably originally whole and was damaged on recovery. No separate cut was noted for either of these pots and they appear to be associated with the burials on the site, especially as they are not representative of the pottery assemblage recovered from the non-funerary contexts (see below). They may represent accidental incorporation into the grave fill of vessels disturbed from other burials. However, it is possibly more likely that they are part of a wider group of pottery used during the funerary or remembrance activities in the cemetery, which became incorporated in the grave fill.

Other pottery from the fill of features and the backfill of graves

Introduction

The pottery recovered from the fill of features is set out in Table 4. In all, 398 sherds were recovered which together weighed 4,613 g with a total EVE of 2.52. The average sherd weight is 11.6 g.

Table 4: quantities of Roman pottery fabrics recovered as sherds from the fill of features.

Fabric	code	sherds no	% no	wt g	% wt	EVE	% EVE
Imported fine wares:							
Central Gaulish samian	SACG	3	0.7	13	0.3		
East Gaulish samian	SAEG	1	0.2	8	0.2	0.06	2.4
sub total		4	0.9	21	0.5	0.06	2.4
Local and regional fine wares:							
?Local mica-dusted ware	12	1	0.2	6	0.1		
Miscellaneous white- or cream-slipped sandy red wares	15	4	1.0	17	0.4		
Fine grey wares	39	1	0.2	11	0.2	0.04	1.6
sub total		6	1.4	34	0.7	0.04	1.6
Local and regional coarse wares:							
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	205	51.5	1,870	40.5	1.74	69.0

Fabric	code	sherds no	% no	wt g	% wt	EVE	% EVE
Miscellaneous oxidised red wares	21	1	0.2	1	0.0		
Unspecified buff wares	31	27	6.8	372	8.1		
Storage jar fabrics	44	29	7.3	1,286	27.9	0.22	8.7
Romanising grey wares	45	4	1.0	17	0.4	0.06	2.4
Sandy grey wares	47	118	29.6	970	21.0	0.40	15.8
Grog-tempered fabrics	53	2	0.5	34	0.7		
sub total		386	96.9	4,550	98.6	2.42	95.9
Late regional wares:							
Hadham oxidised red wares	4	2	0.5	8	0.2		
total		398	99.7	4,613	100.0	2.52	99.9

The pottery

Much of the pottery recovered from the fill of the features on the site is abraded. This may be partly due to soil conditions and it can be noted that edges on some of the pots placed with the burials had also become abraded which must be due to soil conditions (ie F33.2 and F64.3). However, this probably indicates that much of the pottery had some period of depositional history after breakage and discard before finally arriving in the contexts from which it was recovered. Where sherds are recorded from graves, these are from the backfill of the grave.

The only imported wares are samian from Central and East Gaulish potteries. The majority of this is of 2nd-century date from Central Gaul and includes sherds from unidentified plain vessels and a small sherd from a mould-decorated bowl of form Dr 37. The decorated bowl sherd (finds no 86) comes from the ditch F65. The sherd is abraded and discoloured and appears to have been burnt. The surviving decoration consists of the back half of a small dog running to left with raised tail. This is almost certainly Oswald figure type 1989A (Oswald 1936-37, plate LXXV111), attributed to Lezoux and dated in that publication as Trajanic-Antoine. There is one abraded East Gaulish samian sherd (finds no 21) from the fill of the crescentic feature F13. This is almost certainly from a Dr 31 bowl and can be dated to the mid/late 2nd-mid 3rd century.

The small quantity of local and regional fine wares is made up of mica-dusted ware (Fabric 12), white-slipped wares (Fabric 15) and fine grey wares (Fabric 39). The origin of these particular fabrics is uncertain. It is notable that there is no fine colour-coated ware from the Colchester kilns among this assemblage. The only vessel form recorded among this pottery is a bowl with curved flange of Type C2 in fine grey ware (finds no 86; Fabric 39), dated late 1st-early 2nd century, which came from ditch F65.

Most of the pottery consists of coarse wares of local or regional origin. These make up over 90% of the pottery by number, weight and EVE. Possibly the earliest pottery consists of two grog-tempered sherds (Fabric 53) which can be dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period. These are residual sherds from the backfill of burial F53 (finds no 48) and the ditch F65 (finds no 86). The majority of the coarse wares consist of black-surfaced wares (Fabric BSW) and sandy grey wares (Fabric 47). Most of the forms recorded were current in the period of the 2nd-4th century, although the relatively common late Roman flanged bowl form B6.2, which dates to the late 3rd to 4th century, was not recorded and the majority of this pottery probably dates to the mid Roman period of the 2nd-3rd century. Forms recorded for Fabric BSW are: B3 (ditch F65), B4 (boundary ditch F1 and ditch F65), E5 or E6 (burial F57), G9 3.1(?) (burial F59), G23 1.1 (burial F61), G23 (ditch F65), G25(?) (crescentic feature F13), G36 (pit F46), and G45 1.1 (boundary ditch F1 and ditch F65). Forms recorded for Fabric 47 are B3 (ditch F65) and B4 (boundary ditch F1). There are also sherds from storage jars (Fabric 44) of form G44 5.1 (burial F61, ditch F65).

Late Roman wares are only represented by products from the Hadham potteries. Single sherds of Hadham red oxidised ware (Fabric 4), were recovered from the ditch F9 (finds no 8) and the backfill of the burial F38 (finds no 67). These sherds can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century. It can be noted that Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric 2) was also present but, by contrast, consisted of one near-complete and one partial pot recovered from the backfill of two of the burials, ie from F14 (finds no 49) and from F64 (finds no 76) (see above).

Discussion

Much of the pottery recovered from the fill of features and backfill of graves consists of abraded sherds from coarse ware vessels which are not closely datable. Of the pottery which is more closely datable, a small number of sherds can be dated to the 1st-early 2nd century and include two grog-tempered sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. A larger number of sherds can be dated to the 2nd century or later. While some of the pottery types among these remained current into the 4th century, there is little that is specifically of late 3rd- or 4th-century date, suggesting that most of this pottery belongs to the 2nd-3rd century. Apart from a near-complete and a partial vessel associated with the backfill of two inhumation burials, just two sherds of closely-dated late Roman pottery were recovered. These are both Hadham oxidised red ware (Fabric 4) and came from one of the ditches (F9) and from the fill of one of the graves (F38). It can be noted that the relatively common late Roman flanged bowl form B6.2 (dating to the late 3rd to 4th century) was not recorded.

While some of the inhumation burials contained pottery of late Roman date, some of the more broadly-dated and longer-lived pot types appear both among the burials and the other features, ie the dish forms B3 and B4, so that some of the burials might be contemporary with some of the contexts in the other features. Equally, apart from one sherd of Hadham oxidised red ware, late Roman pottery recovered from the backfill of the graves otherwise consists only of two Nene Valley colour-coated beakers (Fabric 2; see above). Given the association of whole, near complete and partial pots placed with the burials, it may be that few sherds would have been created by the funeral activity or remembrance activities in the late Roman period which to find their way into other features nearby. However, overall, the majority of the pottery associated with the fill of the features probably dates to the period of the 1st-3rd century while at least some of the burials can be dated to the late 3rd-4th century, and it would seem that burials are the later of the Roman features encountered on the site.

Pottery from the watching brief

Three Roman sherds and one possible Roman sherd were recovered during the watching brief on the site. Two sherds were recovered from soakaway SA3. One of these, from L3, is a rim sherd (9 g) from a jar or bowl in black-surfaced ware (Fabric BSW). The other sherd (21 g) is from L2 and is in a coarse oxidised ware (Fabric 21). The inside surface has a pale brown coating, the visual effect of which is similar to mica-dusting, but under magnification this can be seen to be the result of a finely spotted vitrified substance or a glaze covering it. While the fabric would not be inconsistent with a Roman date, this interior surface coating suggests the sherd might well be post-Roman. Two sherds were also recovered from soakaway SA4, both came from L3. One (4 g) is in Romanising grey ware (Fabric 45), the other is in an abraded, coarse black-surfaced ware (Fabric BSW) and is from the base of a large jar or storage jar.

6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

by Stephen Benfield

In total, 25 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), together weighing 1,203g, were recovered. Most of this is of Roman date, with a few pieces which are, or probably are of post-Roman or modern date. The brick or tile type was recorded where this could be identified, otherwise the Roman pieces were simply recorded as

Roman brick or tile (rbt). Other unidentified pieces which were not closely datable or which are of post-Roman date were simply recorded as CBM. Basic differences between types of inclusions visible in the fabrics were recorded resulting in the division of the assemblage between seven fabric types (Table 5). These inclusions are almost certainly naturally occurring in the clay. A catalogue of the CBM by finds number is provided in Appendix 3.

Table 5: CBM fabric quantities.

Key:

fs - fine sand, ms - moderate sand, CS - common sand

fi - fine clay; cp = pale clay pellets or streaks, r = red iron-rich clay inclusions

fl = flint

Fabric	code	qt	wt (g)
fine sand	fs	2	14
fine sand with red (ferrous) clay pellets	fs(r)	2	291
moderate (visible) sand with red (ferrous) clay pellets	ms(r)	3	388
common (visible) sand with pale clay pellets or streaks	cs(cp)	2	19
common (visible) sand with flint and mixed (pale & red) clay pellets	cs(fl)	3	101
common (visible) sand with red (ferrous) clay pellets	cs(cp)	2	122
fine clay with pale clay pellets	fi(cp)	1	29

Discussion

In all, eleven pieces with a total weight of 921 g can be dated as Roman. All of these are red coloured tile pieces in Fabrics fs(r) (2 pieces), ms(r) (3 pieces), cs(cp) (2 piece), cs(fl) (3 pieces) and cs(r) (1 piece). The significance of the differences between these fabrics is not clear; especially given such a small assemblage. They may simply represent a general variability within the local clays but could indicate different local production sites or regional sources. Small quantities or single pieces of Roman tile were recovered from boundary ditch F1, burial F38, burial F63, burial F64, ditch F65 and L6. Many of the pieces are abraded, indicating a significant depositional history prior to finally ending up in these contexts. Abraded pieces are recorded from F1, F63, F64 and L6. Only one piece could be positively identified to a tile type. This was a piece of a *tegula* roof tile from burial F63 (finds no 75). The base of this tile is 20 mm thick. Two pieces recovered from F1 (finds no 43) are probably also part of another *tegula* - from the area close to the flange - with a base thickness of 19 mm. Other Roman roof tiles appear to be represented by pieces which are probably part of *imbrex* tiles recovered from burial F38 (finds no 92) and ditch F65 (finds no 86). These pieces are 15 mm and 16 mm thick respectively. A thin (12 mm), very abraded piece of tile (Fabric fs) from L6 may also be a piece of a Roman *imbrex*.

Two tile pieces which are probably post-Roman were recovered from boundary ditch F1. One (finds no 41) is in a pale, cream fabric (Fabric fi(cp)) with smooth, non-sanded edges and is probably a piece of a post-medieval brick. The other (finds no 43), which is in a fine sandy red fabric (Fabric fs), has two surfaces, similar to a pottery vessel; it could be a piece of a large coarse pot or chimney pot of post-medieval date. Other post-Roman material, ie fragments of either peg-tile or brick, came from ditch F21, post-hole/pit F22, large post-hole F32, pit F35 and L2.

6.5 Small finds (Fig 18)

by Stephen Benfield

The small finds include groups of coffin nails and hobnails from Roman footwear, plus five individual objects, ie two of copper-alloy, two of iron and one of stone. Two of the individual finds were recovered from Roman graves and are listed with the other finds from the burials (section 6.6). These are an iron object (SF7, F64.4) recovered from burial F64 and small fragments from a copper-alloy object (SF12,

F33.4) from burial F33. Although the objects, or objects of which they were part, are not identified they can be dated as Roman because of the context.

There are two other individual metal finds, neither of which has any associated context dating. One is a small iron knife (SF3) recovered from post-hole F30. The knife is not closely dated. It is not easily paralleled among Roman iron knives in the British Museum collection (Manning 1985); however, it appears to be of early date and there are few other finds or features which can be dated later than the Roman period. The other is an unstratified small copper-alloy ring (SF6) which is undated.

A small piece of Hertfordshire puddingstone was also recovered from the site (SF1) is almost certainly a natural geological piece.

It is notable that no personal items were recovered from the burials other than hobnails (ie footwear) and the few small fragments of copper-alloy from F33 (SF12), is notable. However, while preservation of organic material on the site is poor, any personal items made of metal, had they been present, would be expected to survive to be recovered or their presence to be identifiable, even if severely degraded.

Metal objects

SF7 (see F64 in section 6.6)

SF12 (see F33 in section 6.6)

SF6. (11). U/S. Complete, circular, copper-alloy ring; weight 6 g, maximum diameter 40 mm (central void diameter 36 mm), the hoop has slightly sub-rounded profile and a smooth surface with faint linear facets running around the length of the hoop. No clear sign of any join around hoop and almost certainly cast.

Fig 17. SF3. (23). Post-hole F30. Complete whittle-tang knife. Corroded. Triangular blade with rectangular/oval tang (tang broken at mid point but whole when deposited). Blade appears to have straight back, sloping down toward the tip, with a small, slightly sloping shoulder at the tang. The single cutting edge is curving with small V-shaped notch close to tip. Length 11.5 mm, blade width maximum 15 mm. (X-ray plate CX1462.)

Iron nails

Hobnails

Iron hobnails representing footwear (shoes/boots) were recovered from eight of the burials including one from only its backfill (Table 6).

Table 6: iron hobnails from inhumation burials, by context.

context	SF	finds no	quantity	weight (g)	comments
F33	SF4	35	21	35	single cluster, located inside coffin (coffin outline indicated by nails), close to southern end of burial
F38	SF2	65	11	23	recovered from north-eastern end
F61	SF10	59	17	52	part of elongated or double cluster along north-eastern edge of grave
F61	SF8	60	33	85	part of elongated or double cluster along north-eastern edge of grave
F63	SF11	77	15	19	single cluster, located on the central line of the grave close to the northern end
F64	SF9	88	9	14	single cluster, located within coffin (coffin outline indicated by nails), central line of the grave toward northern end
F68	SF5	91	37	91	single cluster, located on the central line of the grave towards northern end

All of the hobnails were recovered as clusters and, although no footwear shapes could be discerned, it seems likely that all of these represent the presence of complete, decayed footwear items or pairs. As no bone survives, the position of the head ends is not known. Similarly it is not known if any of the footwear had been worn at burial; although this might have been possible in some cases where hobnails were found at one end of the coffin or grave cut. However, this is certainly not the case with the elongated, possible double cluster of nails from burial F61 (SF8, finds no 60 and SF10, finds no 59) which could represent a pair of footwear items placed at the edge of the grave. It is interesting to note that, in each case, the hobnails are located at or towards one end of the grave and that this is also the end at which any accompanying pottery vessels had been placed.

This group of burials appears to include a high proportion of burials with footwear. At the Butt Road site in Colchester, among the large number of Roman inhumation burials dating to the 3rd-4th century in Period 1, eleven burials out of a total of 44 had footwear and, in Period 2, only seven out of 669 excavated burials were found to have footwear present (CAR 9, 41, 145).

Coffin nails

Iron nails used in the construction of wooden coffins were recovered from seven graves presumably in locations presumably reflecting their positions in the coffin. A single nail lay in the fill of an eight grave. These are all described in Table 7.

Table 7: coffin nails from burials, by context.

context	finds no	nails	maximum quantity	description	comments
F14	53	13, 70 & 53a-53v	26	corroded; 3 complete 53f & 53q @ 75 mm & 53r @ 55 mm, all sub-rectangular or rounded heads, also 53d, 53l & 53t, Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985), most or all probably same type	nails concentrated at ends (north-eastern, south-western) of grave, showing position of coffin ends
F28	19	-	3	corroded; 3 incomplete, max. surviving lengths 25, 27, 35 mm; 1 head, indeterminate, probably Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985)	clustered in north-eastern corner of grave
F33	28	28a-28s	15 (4 missing)	corroded; max. surviving length 55 mm (ie 28n, incomplete) but none appear significantly longer; flat rounded heads where discernible (28b, 28c, 28f, 28h, 28m, 28n) probably all Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985); nail 28p bent, also 28e & 28k	nails outline coffin, concentrated at northern end
F38	68	68a-68i	9	corroded; 68f & 68i appear both to be larger nails, 68i 110 mm long and probably complete; other possibly complete nails (68d & 68e), 60-80 mm long	
F39 (cut by slot F42)	36	36a-36p	16 (4 missing)	corroded; 1 complete 39d length 90 mm, 36a (80 mm) & 36p (60 mm) possibly complete or near so, all with sub-rectangular or flat	nails from excavated western end of grave

				rounded heads, Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985), also 39g & 36b?	
F39 – from slot F42	36	36q-36s	3	corroded; all complete or near so; longest 36s broken (100 mm), shortest 36r (75 mm); sub-rectangular or rounded heads, Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985)	
F61	63	-	1	corroded; incomplete, oval head plus 20mm of shaft; almost certainly Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985)	single nail from middle to lower fill
F63	74	74a-74c	3	corroded; ?shaft pieces (no certain heads), all small pieces/nails at approx 35 mm long	single nails recovered from edge of grave at northern end, southern end and mid area towards south-eastern corner of grave
F64	79	79a-79i	12	corroded; maximum surviving length 60 mm 79f & 79h (incomplete) but none appear significantly longer, sub-rectangular or rounded head 79f, Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985) – other nails in this set may also be Manning Type 1b	nails appear to outline coffin, positions appear slightly disturbed, all from mid to north-western end of grave

The coffin nails, where these could be identified to a type, appear to be Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985). Of nails that could be measured, the largest is 110 mm long, but most are less at between 60 mm and 80 mm. Nails in or close to the horizontal plane appeared to be most common at the presumed positions of the ends of coffins, while nails recorded in a vertical plane appeared to be more common along the presumed positions of the sides. Most appeared to be in or close to their original positions and, in several features, the plotting of the nails clearly related to the outline of a rectangular coffin. This can be clearly seen in burial F14 and F33. Some of the nails recorded in burial F64, while still suggesting a roughly rectangular coffin shape, appeared to have been slightly disturbed. The three nails from the burial F63, although small in number, might also represent the remains of a coffin as they were all located around the edge of the grave. It should be said that wooden coffins might be constructed in whole or part in ways other than involving the use of nails. However, not all of the nails recorded in any one burial relate to the coffin and some in more unusual positions may represent incidental inclusions of residual nails.

Three fragmentary iron nails were recovered from burial F28 (finds no 19) and one from burial F61 (finds no 63). All are corroded. The single nail fragment from F61 (finds no 63) retains the head which is rectangular or rounded and the nail is almost certainly of Manning Type 1b. The three small pieces from F28 (finds no 19), between 25 mm and 35 mm long, might represent either two or three nails. One has an indeterminate head and is probably of Manning Type 1b.

Indeterminate iron nail

One fragmentary iron nail was recovered from boundary ditch F1 (finds no 43). It is corroded. It is 43 mm long with indeterminate head. It could be a coffin nail displaced from an adjacent burial.

Stone

SF1. (2). Boundary ditch F1. Small piece of a conglomerate stone identified as Hertfordshire Puddingstone; weight 147 g, length 95 mm, maximum width 45 mm. Recently broken into two (joining) pieces with a broken edge along one, long face - possibly also a recent break. The other edges are smoothed from rolling or natural abrasion and have a light grey-coloured patina(?). Also, one end of the stone piece is grey and smoothed indicating a natural termination to a small, irregular-shaped stone. Although this stone type was commonly used for quernstones in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, c 1st-early/mid 2nd century (Major 2004), there is no indication of working on this piece and it is probably part of a naturally occurring stone.

6.6 Catalogue of finds from burials (excluding coffin nails)

by Stephen Benfield

F14

F14.1 (62) F14. Flagon. Fabric 4 (Hadham oxidised red ware). Placed upright outside of position of coffin at southern corner. Neck and handle cut-down and smoothed-off in antiquity, otherwise whole, one loose sherd from neck/shoulder probably modern damage, two grooves around body at level of base of handle (wt 755 g, EVE 0). Dated late 3rd-4th century.

Vessel from grave fill

F14.2 (49) F14. From upper surviving fill of grave, close to surface. Folded beaker with bead rim and tall body. Fabric 2 (Nene Valley colour-coat). Form not exactly paralleled by Going (Going 1987, form H33/35) but is *CAR 10*, Fabric EA (Nene Valley colour-coated ware) Type 11. Probably whole in fill; broken with some small sherds missing from shoulder and lower body. Dark grey surface, pale fabric (wt 327 g, EVE 0.80). Dated mid 3rd to mid/late 4th century.

F33

F33.1 (31). F33. Shallow dish. Form B1 3.1, Fabric BSW (black-surfaced ware). Whole pot. Chamfered base, burnished, damage to rim in antiquity consisting of a large chip missing from one edge with several other smaller chips, also crack in wall extending part way across base (wt 326 g, EVE 0.85). Dated mid 2nd-3/4th century.

F33.2 (34). F33. Narrow-necked jar or flask. Form G36, Fabric BSW (black-surfaced ware). Broken into sherds, much of upper part of pot present but base entirely missing, sherd missing from rim, small cordon at base of neck decorated with angled stab/small slash marks and another band of similar decoration below on shoulder, edges of sherds abraded (wt g 244, EVE 0.65). Dated mid/late 2nd century to 3rd/4th century.

F33.3 Cluster of 21 iron hobnails.

F33.4 SF12. (26). F33. Three very small fragments of copper-alloy wire or rod 5 mm diameter. Degrading copper-alloy core with faint, spiral (twisting) striations on harder surface which are visible under magnification. Context date Roman.

F61

F61.1 (58). F61. Deep dish. Form B3, Fabric 47 (sandy grey ware). Near complete but broken in antiquity with sherd missing from edge of base. Grey with dark sooting on exterior, especially just below the rim, over remnants of original black surface finish (wt 304 g, EVE 1.00). Dated mid 2nd-later 4th century.

F61.2 (64). F61. Deep dish. Form B3, Fabric 47 (sandy grey ware). Near complete but broken in antiquity with sherd missing from centre of base. Grey (wt 317 g, EVE 1.00). Dated mid 2nd-later 4th century.

F61.3 Two clusters of iron hobnails:

SF10. (59). F61. 17 nails and

SF8. (60). F61. 33 nails. Possibly representing a pair of footwear items placed at the edge of the grave.

F64

F64.1 (80) F64. Beaker. Fabric 2 (Nene Valley colour-coat). Whole pot with sherd missing from rim removed in antiquity. Small bulbous beaker with foot ring, everted rim and decoration on shoulder consisting of three bands of rouletting with single bands of white paint dots above and below it, dark-grey slip with brownish-red firing cloud on part of lower body, pale fabric (wt 162 g, EVE 0.90). Dated mid/late 3rd to 4th century.

F64.2 (81). F64. Small jar. Form G24 1.2, Fabric 47 (sandy grey ware). Whole pot with one small area of rim edge chipped away in antiquity (wt 167 g, EVE 0.90). Dated mid 2nd-4th century.

F64.3 (87). F64. Deep dish and
(90). F64. Base sherd. (Note: vessel possibly placed with burial F63 and taken by sinkage to base of cut for burial F64). Form B3, Fabric 47 (sandy grey ware). Broken in antiquity and sherd edges abraded. Much of pot present but sherd(s) missing from base and only about half of body wall represented (EVE 0.53). Grey with dark upper half to exterior body wall and some thin sooting traces on exterior, traces of burnishing marks on inside of base, sherd edges abraded (wt 534 g, EVE 0.70). Dated mid 2nd-4th century.

F64.4 SF7. (89). F64. Unidentified iron object recovered from south-eastern corner of grave. Recently broken into two pieces close to mid point. Aligned with grave, close to inferred possible corner of coffin although, as the recorded coffin nails do not extend to this end of the grave, the object may have been located beyond the end of the coffin. The X-ray indicates solid bar with squared ends, tapering in width from about 20 mm at one end to 15 mm at other. The cross-section at the break is rectangular and the section indicates bar is approximately 4 mm thick. The lack of holes for fixing does not suggest a fitting. (X-ray plate CX1462.)

F64.4 Cluster of 9 iron hobnails

Vessel from grave fill

(76). F64. Beaker. Fabric 2 (Nene Valley colour-coat). Form H41, rim and body sherds from a beaker with white barbotine decoration of scroll-work and berries (7 sherds, wt 22 g, EVE 0.08). Dated mid/late 3rd to early/mid 4th century

F68

F68.1 Cluster of 37 iron hobnails.

F76

F76.1 (96). F76. Small jar. Form G24 1.2, Fabric 47 (sandy grey ware). Whole, with one rim sherd missing which is old damage, and one other which is modern damage, also crack in rim extending down body (wt 305 g, EVE 0.62). Dated mid 2nd-4th century. (10)

6.7 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

A single sherd of modern stoneware (Fabric 45m, see *CAR 7*, 254) weighing 7 g was recovered from small pit/post-hole F19 (finds no 9).

6.8 Faunal remains

by Adam Wightman

Introduction

This report presents findings from analysis of the faunal assemblage from the trial-trenching and excavation stages of the project. A total of 36 fragments of animal bone was recovered (120.2g). The bone fragments were hand-collected from four contexts, three of which (possible cemetery boundary ditch F8, burial F47, ditch F65) certainly date to the Roman period and one (large post-hole F36) which probably dates to the Roman period. One fragment was recovered from the spoil heap (U/S). The level of bone preservation was very poor.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. All identifiable elements were recorded. However, some elements were not identified to exact taxon but rather to the level of unidentified medium or large taxon. These comprise loose maxillary teeth (apart from pig canines), carpals, tarsals (apart from the astragalus and calcaneus), cranial fragments (except for the zygomatic and occipital), ribs and cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. Fragments recorded as medium-sized taxon will predominantly be from sheep and pig, although canids and roe deer may also be represented. Fragments of unidentified large taxa derive primarily from cattle although may also include horse, red deer and wild boar. If determination of the element from which a small fragment originated was not possible, it was noted whether the fragment was diaphysis (hard shaft of long bone) or cancellous (osseous bone tissue that fills inner cavity of bone). 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 was 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. The side of the body from which the bones were derived was also noted. 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 these climes, but diagnostic metapodials, horn cores and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) were distinguished between the two species following the criteria of Boessneck (Boessneck 1969). All information was input directly into a Microsoft Works Spreadsheet for analysis (see Table 8, below)

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

The assemblage – findings

Two of the contexts from which animal bone was recovered were Roman ditches F8 and F65. A poorly preserved fragment of large mammal diaphysis was recovered from possible cemetery boundary ditch F8 along with fragments of broken up *Bos* (cattle) teeth. Fragmentary *Bos* teeth were also recovered from the section excavated through ditch F65. The large post-hole F36, one of a series of three located outside of the cemetery boundary, contained eight fragments of reasonably well preserved bone including a proximal fragment of large mammal tibia which exhibited a chop mark. These would probably have entered the post-hole once the post had been removed and the hole infilled. Three fragment of burnt bone were recovered from the inhumation burial F47. Most of this feature was located outside the excavation area, but its proximity to the other inhumation burials and its profile suggests that it was probably also an inhumation burial. These fragments could be from a human cremation although they are notably thick long bone fragments and no other cremated bone was recovered from within the cemetery. One fragment of unstratified bone was recovered as it was believed to be human. Although in a poor state of preservation the bone is almost certainly an *Ovis* radius.

Discussion

The low number of animal-bone fragments and the frequency of teeth fragments, the most durable of elements, attests to the poor level of bone preservation on this site. Moreover, 23 inhumation burials and probable inhumation burials were excavated on the site and no fragments of human bone were recovered. The recovered bone was generally poorly preserved with flaky cortical surfaces and a powdery internal texture. Three burnt bone fragments were recovered. Burnt bone has a better resistance to decomposition than unburnt bone so it would be expected

that such fragments would survive. Other than burning, identifying other forms of modification to the bones has been inhibited by the poor condition of the bone. The presence of the teeth fragments in the ditches suggests that animal bone was likely discarded in the ditches and has completely decomposed, probably due to high acidity levels in the soil. The teeth had become fragmentary and were also in a poor state of preservation attesting to the acidity of the soil.

No conclusions about the role of animals in the vicinity of the site in Roman times can be drawn from the assemblage other than the presence of domesticates such as cattle in the landscape during the Roman period.

Table 8: faunal remains. (MNE- minimum number of elements.)

Context no	finds no	date/type	total qt	total wt (g)	species	sp. qt	bone	butchery	comments
F8	5	Roman ditch (possible cemetery boundary)	8	48.2	<i>Bos</i>	7	premolars		MNE 4
F8	5	Roman ditch (possible cemetery boundary)		7.1	large mammal	1	unidentified		poor condition
F36	40	Roman or post-medieval post-hole	2	9.8	? <i>Ovis</i>	2	tibia	chopped	distal articulation
F36	33	Roman or post-medieval post-hole	5	2.5	unidentified	5	unidentified		v. small, poor condition
F36	55	Roman or post-medieval post-hole	1	0.3	unidentified	1	unidentified		v. small, ?rib
F47	45	Roman inhumation burial	3	8.7	<i>Bos</i>	3	unidentified diaphysis	burnt	thick bone
F65	85	Roman ditch	12	22.2	<i>Bos</i>	12	molars		MNE 3/4
F65	86	Roman ditch	4	10.3	medium mammal	4	molar		MNE 1
U/S	69		1	11.1		1	?radius		v. poor condition

6.9 Lithics

by Adam Wightman

In total, 24 worked flints were recovered from eight Roman features (one ditch, one crescentic feature, six inhumation burials), and from the overlying soil (L2). The group consists of three retouched flakes, eighteen unretouched flakes (of which one is a primary flake, ten are secondary and seven are tertiary), two tertiary waste fragments, and a tool of convenience (see Table 9, below).

The flakes all appear to be hard hammer flakes with relatively large unprepared platforms. Many exhibit hinge fractures and breaks, and the two waste fragments are probably shattered pieces from the use of a hard hammer. The flint utilised to produce the flakes is variable in colour and quality. The poor quality of the raw

material in some instances may account for the rough edges. One flake has been produced on a light grey flint which is very grainy and chert-like in appearance. No patination or staining was noted. Overall the nature of the flake assemblage is typical of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age or possibly the later Bronze Age.

Three retouched flakes were recovered including a denticulate and a scraper. All three exhibited semi-abrupt, invasive retouch describable as 'rough'. Similar retouch was also noted on the broken edge of a pebble, which appears to have been utilised as a tool of convenience. The characteristics of the retouched pieces in this assemblage support a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, or possibly later Bronze Age, date for this assemblage. Two fragments of burnt flint were recovered from inhumation burial F14.

The flints were all residual in later contexts, but do suggest activity in the vicinity during the later prehistoric period.

Table 9: lithics catalogue.

Context	Finds no	Description	Artefact date
F13	6	1 retouched flint nodule (small pebble) one edge retouched, probable tool of convenience (43 mm x 31 mm x 22 mm).	
F13 Sx 1	21	1 tertiary flake, notable grainy light grey flint (chert-like), possible usewear on right lateral edge (43 mm x 27 mm x 12 mm).	
F13	82	1 secondary flake (43 mm x 35 mm x 11 mm).	
F14	13	1 secondary ?flake, notch removed probably damage (27 mm x 19 mm x 5 mm). 2 nodules of burnt flint (white, 18g).	
F14	72	1 secondary ?flake, broken (44 mm x 25 mm x 4 mm). 1 primary ?flake, not likely to be an artefact (33 mm x 40 mm x 15 mm). 1 secondary flake (53 mm x 43 mm x 12 mm). 1 secondary ?flake (57 mm x 33 mm x 15 mm).	
F38	66	1 secondary flake (34 mm x 27 mm x 6 mm).	
F57	50	1 retouched secondary flake, steep retouch on small area of left lateral next to a break, break may have occurred after the edge had been retouched (43 mm x 32 mm x 9 mm).	Bronze Age
F61	61	1 tertiary flake, possible usewear (26 mm x 18 mm x 4 mm). 1 secondary flake, reddish tinted flint (43 mm x 32 mm x 7 mm). 1 secondary flake (30 mm x 37 mm x 6 mm). 1 tertiary flake, mottled flint (44 mm x 36 mm x 14 mm). 1 retouched tertiary flake, two previous removals, right lateral has a series of small removals creating a small denticulated edge (30 mm x 30 mm x 7 mm). 1 retouched tertiary flake, large, evidence of two failed attempts to remove the flake, neat, long, invasive retouch around most of the edge of the piece, probable scraper (51 mm x 32 mm x 5 mm).	Bronze Age
F61	63	1 tertiary flake, possible usewear (19 mm x 25 mm x 6 mm). 1 secondary flake (36 mm x 27 mm x 9 mm).	
F63	75	1 secondary flake (38 mm x 31 mm x 9 mm).	
F64	76	1 tertiary flake, area of possible use wear on ventral face (26 mm x 30 mm x 5 mm).	
F65	85	1 tertiary flake (45 mm x 49 mm x 15 mm).	
L2	20	1 tertiary flake small area of ?retouch which could be edge damage (33 mm x 22 mm x 4 mm). 1 tertiary waste fragment (28 mm x 12 mm x 5 mm). 1 tertiary waste fragment (21 mm x 20 mm x 7 mm).	

6.10 Other finds

by Howard Brooks

F6

Finds no 3

1 piece of 19th-century or later window glass. 1.25 mm thick, 1.3g.

7 Discussion

There are two aspects to consider here: first, what the significant archaeological remains on the current site are, and second, how they relate to the results of previous excavations on the three nearest sites which produced significant Roman-period remains, ie on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Wickenden 1988), on the 2004 Redbond Lodge site (Robertson 2005) and, to a lesser extent, on the 1972 market garden site (Wickenden 1988, 83-4).

7.1 Prehistoric (Bronze Age and Iron Age)

A small number of prehistoric sherds, most probably of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, indicate some activity here in those periods. However, there were no cut features of that date – all the sherds were residual in later contexts. The small size and abraded condition of these sherds lends weight to the suggestion, as made for similar finds from the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Wickenden 1988), that they may represent manure scatter rather than evidence of occupation, as there is a Bronze Age/Iron Age site somewhere close by, but no evidence of it on the current site or on either the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site or the 2004 Redbond Lodge site.

The small group of flints which, like the pottery, were also residual in later contexts, indicate activity here in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age or possibly the later Bronze Age. The flints thus indicate a start to activity here which is substantially earlier than that indicated by the ceramic evidence.

7.2 Late Iron Age and early Roman (1st-2nd centuries AD)

There were no cut features, but activity in this period was represented by residual sherds in later features. This may indicate that the current site was peripheral to the centre of activity in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. This accords with the conclusions drawn from the 2004 Redbond Lodge site, ie that the centre of early Roman activity was on the western side of that site, and to its north-west, ie on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Robertson 2005, 194). In fact, trial-trenching on the 1972 market garden site in New Street (70 m south of the current site) revealed a high proportion of 1st-century finds, when compared to the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Wickenden 1988, 83-4). This indicates that the 1972 market garden site lies close to the site of the earliest (and possibly military) Roman occupation. It can, therefore, be concluded that the current site lies between two early Roman sites (one to the north-west of the 2004 Redbond Lodge site and the other to the north of the 1972 market garden site).

7.3 Mid to late Roman (3rd-4th centuries)

The bulk of the dated archaeological features belong to this period, and consist principally of an enclosed inhumation cemetery, a number of ditches on differing alignments, and the use of an apparently natural area of gravel, possibly as part of a route.

The inhumation cemetery

At least one of the cemetery boundary ditches can be identified, ie F1, which convincingly defines the eastern boundary. The position of the southern boundary is less certain. Ditch F8 is aligned in such a way that it may have met F1 at right-angles. However, if F8 did define the southern boundary of the cemetery, then the northern part of T3 should have exposed more burials; however, it did not.



Plate 6: excavating placed flagon F14.1 in burial F14, view south-west.

The absence from the graves of any grave goods other than the placed pots and hobnails from shoes or boots presumably indicates low status in this group of inhumation burials. Nick Wickenden interpreted the burials on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site as a small family group, and it is attractive to interpret the inhumation burials on the current site in the same way. As Wickenden points out, there are several instances of small groups of burials being located in the back-plots of Roman 'small towns' in Essex (Braintree, Wickford, Heybridge, Chelmsford, and Kelvedon: Wickenden 1988, 89). Again, in comparison with the adjacent 1970-72 Chequers Lane site, Wickenden interprets his twenty burials as spanning 100 years, which can be equated with one burial every five years from a family group of six to eight people. The period of time over which the cemetery here was in use is not so easily defined, as one can take a 'long' or 'short' view of the chronology. At one extreme, the pottery dating would support a 150-year life (mid-2nd to the 4th century), or a 50-year life (late 3rd-4th century). Stephen Benfield's view is that, while some of the pots can be closely dated to the late Roman period (mid/late 3rd-4th century), the majority of the pots cannot be more closely dated than the mid-late Roman period (mid 2nd to 3rd or 4th century). Therefore, the view taken here is that the cemetery may date from the mid 2nd to the late 3rd or 4th century, ie a period of use of perhaps 150 years.

Ditch alignments and site periods

There are two more ditches to consider. F9, which is parallel to the possible cemetery southern boundary ditch F8 and to ditch F65. Both are pottery-dated to the late 2nd-4th century. The ditches on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site were on differing alignments, reflecting different periods of occupation. This division into periods based on alignment does not work well for the current site, since the cemetery boundary ditch and the large ditch F65 are on differing alignments, yet are both dated late Roman. Nor is there a parallel on the current site for the rows of post-holes continuing the lines of the trackway ditches on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site (Wickenden 1988, x).

Together, ditches F8 and F9 appear to define a trackway heading WNW/ESE, but not on an alignment shared by any of the ditches at the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site, and not particularly reflecting the alignment of Stane Street, which lies 120 m to the south. Whether F8 had a dual purpose, being a cemetery boundary ditch and

the northern ditch of this trackway, is unknown, but it seems feasible. Linking in with that is the question of the gravel F7. Given the ubiquity of this gravel on the current site, and its presence on the 2009-10 2 Chequers Lane site (CAT Report 133), there seems little doubt that it is a natural deposit. However, the piece of Roman pottery found pressed into its surface is reasonable evidence that it was in use as a route. How the gravel came to be exposed is not clear, but erosion by traffic is an alternative explanation.

Late Roman ditch F65, which does not particularly share the alignment of any of Wickenden's later Roman phase at the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site, is the source of most of the Roman finds not found in burials (1.23 kg). This may indicate that the ditch lies close to the site of the main focus of domestic settlement and, given that there are no cut features on the site, then the focus may lie south of the ditch line. This conclusion is in keeping with the fact that a focus of early Roman activity has been postulated at the 1972 market garden site (70m south of the current site: section 7.2 above).

Ritual

There is nothing on the current site which relates to the shrine found at the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site. However, there is a curious feature (F13), a crescentic feature cutting the late Roman graves. Though positive proof is lacking in that there are no related finds, a ritual use for this feature may be postulated.

Other features

Other Roman features are pits F25 and F46.

7.4 Anglo-Saxon

Despite significant Anglo-Saxon evidence being found on the 1970-72 Chequers Lane site to the west, there was no sign of Anglo-Saxon activity here. The site had presumably reverted to agricultural use. Subsoil L3 may have developed in this period as a result of agriculture.

7.5 Medieval

There was no evidence of medieval activity on the current site. The site presumably continued in agricultural use.

7.6 Post-medieval and modern

The post-medieval pits (F23), post-holes, post-hole/pit F22, ditches (F21) and modern service-runs are not considered to be of any particular archaeological significance.

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 2009.20.

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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11 Glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c AD 410 to Norman conquest of AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point, based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Bronze Age	period from c 2,500 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick and tile
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made, usually a layer or a feature
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
Early Bronze Age	c 2,500 BC-1,000 BC
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Record Office
faunal	animal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management team (ECC)
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists (formerly the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

<i>imbrex</i>	(plural <i>imbrices</i>) curved Roman roof tile placed over the junction between two <i>tegulae</i>
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Late Bronze Age	c 1,000-800 BC
Late Iron Age	c 150 BC-AD 43
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
lithics	literally 'stones', actually 'flints'
make-up	material dumped to raise ground-level
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4,500 to 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
peg-tile	rectangular roof tile of medieval or later date
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
prehistory	the years BC
residual	something out of its original period context (eg a Roman coin in a modern pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
<i>tegula</i>	(plural <i>tegulae</i>) flat Roman roof tile with edge flanges, which were covered by <i>imbrices</i>
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

12 Context list

Note: site areas = T1-T3, N (ie northern excavation area) and S (southern excavation area).
Underlining = residual in this context. Dates given in bold are significant dates.

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Finds nos, SF nos and details	Date
F1	T2, N	eastern boundary ditch of cemetery	F50		1: Roman pottery, early 2nd- early/mid 3rd century , 2nd-3rd century 2: SF1 . natural Hertfordshire puddingstone? 41: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd: post-medieval CBM 43: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd century: Roman <i>tegula</i> fragment?, Roman brick/tile, post-medieval CBM?, 1 nail	Roman, 3rd century (with intrusive post-medieval CBM)
F2		natural gravel			-	-
F3	T2, N	service-run	L1	F1, F13, L4	-	modern
F4	T2, N	small pit	L3	L4	-	undated
F5	T2, N	large post-hole	L3	L4	56: Roman pottery	Roman
F6	T2, N	small pit/post-hole	L3	L4	3: 19th-century or later window glass	modern
F7	T1-T3, N	natural gravel (possibly used as a route)	F16, F17, F37, F40, L3, L5	L4	78: Roman pottery late 1st-2nd/3rd century (in top of gravel)	Roman, late 1st-2nd/3rd century

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Finds nos, SF nos and details	Date
F8	T3	ditch (possible cemetery boundary)	L3	F7, L4	5: Roman pottery, animal bone	Roman
F9	T3	ditch	L3	F7, L5	4: Roman pottery, 1st-2nd/3rd century 8: <u>prehistoric pottery</u> : Roman pottery, 1st-2nd/3rd century, late 3rd-4th century . 10: Roman pottery, 1st-2nd/3rd, late 2nd-4th century	Roman, late 3rd-4th century
F10	T2, N	?natural pit	L3	F50, L4	-	-
F11	T2, N	post-/stake hole (?grave marker)	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F12	T2, N	pit, ?natural	L3	L4	-	-
F13	T2, N	crescentic feature (possibly ritual) cutting inhumation burials	F3	F33, F43/F51, F52	6: Roman pottery, <u>prehistoric flint</u> 7: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd, mid 2nd-early 4th century+ 18: Roman pottery late 1st-2nd/3rd century 21: <u>prehistoric flint</u> , Roman pottery, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century 22: Roman pottery 24: Roman pottery, early 2nd century+? 82: <u>prehistoric flint</u> , Roman pottery	Roman, 3rd-4th century (by stratification)
F14	T2, N	inhumation burial	F3, L3	L4	13: <u>prehistoric flint</u> , Roman pottery 49: Roman pottery mid 2nd/late 3rd-?4th century 53: coffin nails 62: Roman pottery, late 3rd-4th century 70: Roman pottery 71: Roman pottery 72: <u>prehistoric flints</u> , Roman pottery 73: <u>Iron Age pottery</u>	Roman, late 3rd-4th century
F15	T3	pit (possible grave cut)	L3	L4	-	undated
F16	T3	pit	L3	F7	-	undated
F17	T3	natural feature	L3	F7	-	-
F18	T3	(part of ditch F9)			-	-
F19	T3	small pit/post-hole	L3	L4	9: modern stoneware, 19th-20th century	modern
F20	T3	natural feature	L3	L4	-	-
F21	T2, N	ditch SE-NW	L3	L4, F1	14: peg-tile	post-medieval
F22	T2, N	post-hole/pit	L3	L4	15: peg-tile, post-medieval CBM	post-medieval
F23	N	pit, cuts fill of inhumation burial F49	L3	F49	16: Roman pottery	post-Roman

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Finds nos, SF nos and details	Date
F24	N	inhumation burial	L3	F54	-	Roman
F25	N	pit, small	L3	L4	17: Roman pottery	Roman
F26	N	post-hole (?grave marker for burial F33)	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F27	N	post-hole - ?grave marker for burial F14	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F28	N	inhumation burial	F3, L3	F53	19: Iron Age pottery, Roman pottery 3 coffin nails	Roman
F29	N	pit	L3	L4	-	undated
F30	N	post-hole	L3	L4	23: SF3. Complete whittle-tang knife, undated	undated – (?Roman)
F31	N	pit	L3	L4	-	undated
F32	N	large post-hole	L3	L4	25: peg-tile, post-medieval CBM 39: Roman pottery, post-medieval CBM	post-medieval
F33	N	inhumation burial	F13, F3, L3	L4	26: SF12. copper-alloy wire or rod 27: Roman and early Roman pottery 28: coffin nails 31: Roman pottery early/mid 2nd-4th century 34: Roman pottery late 2nd/3rd-?4th century 35: SF4. hobnails	Roman, 2nd-4th century
F34	N	post-hole	L3	L4	-	undated
F35	N	pit	L3	L4	29: peg-tile	post-medieval
F36	N	large post-hole	L3	L4	33: animal bone, Roman tile or peg-tile? 40: ?Roman pottery, animal bone 55: Roman pottery, animal bone	Roman or post-medieval?
F37	N	small post-hole	L3	F7	-	undated
F38	N	inhumation burial	F69	F70	65: SF2. hobnails 66: prehistoric flint, Middle Iron Age pottery and prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery late 1st-2nd/3rd century 67: Iron Age and prehistoric pottery; Roman pottery, late 3rd-4th century 92: Roman <i>imbrex</i> fragment	Roman, late 3rd-4th century
F39	N	inhumation burial	F42, L3	L4	36: coffin nails 37: Roman pottery	Roman
F40	N	ditch terminus	L3	F7	-	undated
F41	N	post-hole, probably modern	L3	L4?	-	undated
F42	N	slot	L3	F39	36: coffin nails 38: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd century	Roman

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Finds nos, SF nos and details	Date
F43	N	northern part of inhumation burial F43/F51	F13	L4	42: Roman pottery	Roman
F44	N	pit	L3	L4	-	undated
F45	N	post-hole (?grave marker)	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F46	N	pit	F47, L3	L4	46: Roman pottery, 3rd-?4th century	Roman
F47	N	inhumation burial	L3	F46, L4	44: <u>Iron Age pottery</u> , Roman pottery	Roman
F48	N	post-hole (?grave marker)	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F49	N	inhumation burial	F23, L3	L4	47: <u>Iron Age pottery</u> , Roman pottery	Roman
F50	N	natural pit	F10, L3	L4	-	-
F51	N	southern part of inhumation burial F43/F51	F13	L4	52: Roman pottery	Roman
F52	N	inhumation burial	F13	L4	83: Roman pottery	Roman
F53	N	inhumation burial	F28	L4	48: Roman pottery, 1st century	Roman, 1st century
F54	N	pit	F24	F56, L4	-	undated, but presumed to be Roman
F55	N	stake-hole (?grave marker for burial F24)	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F56	N	post-hole (?grave marker for burial F24)	F54	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F57	N	inhumation burial	L3	L4	50: <u>Bronze Age flint</u> , Roman pottery 51: Roman pottery, ?late 2nd-4th century	Roman, late 2nd-4th century
F58	N	inhumation burial	L3	L4	-	undated, but presumed to be Roman
F59	N	inhumation burial	L3	L4	54: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd, 3rd century	Roman, 3rd century
F60	N	pit	L3	L4	57: Roman pottery	Roman
F61	N	inhumation burial, large	L3	F76, L4	58: Roman pottery, 3rd-4th century 59: SF10. hobnails 60: SF8. hobnails 61: <u>Bronze Age flints</u> , Roman pottery late 1st, late 1st-early 2nd century 63: <u>prehistoric flints</u> , Roman pottery 2nd century 1 coffin nail 64: Roman pottery, 3rd-4th century	Roman, 3rd-4th century
F62	N	post-hole/pit, ?grave marker for burial F64	L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Findings nos, SF nos and details	Date
F63	N	inhumation burial	L3	F64	74: coffin nails 75: prehistoric flint, Roman pottery, Roman <i>tegula</i> fragment 77: SF11. hobnails	Roman, 3rd-4th century (by stratification)
F64	N	inhumation burial	F63, L3	L4	76: prehistoric flint, Iron Age and prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery, early Roman pottery, late 3rd-4th century, Roman brick/tile 79: coffin nails 80: Roman pottery mid/late 3rd-4th century 81: Roman pottery mid 2nd-4th century 87: Roman pottery, 3rd-4th century 88: SF9. Hobnails 89: SF7. Unidentified iron object	Roman, mid/late 3rd-4th century
F65	S	large ditch	L2	L4	84: Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd century, 2nd-3rd century? 85: prehistoric flint, prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery, late 1st-2nd/3rd century, 2nd-3rd century, 3rd-4th century, animal bone 86: prehistoric pottery or Roman pottery, late 2nd century BC-mid 1st?. Roman pottery, late 1st, late 1st-early 2nd, 2nd, early 2nd-3rd, 3rd-4th century , animal bone, Roman <i>imbrex</i> fragment? 93: Roman pottery	Roman, 3rd-4th century
F66	N	pit (?grave marker)	F71, L3	L4	-	undated (?Roman)
F67	S	ditch	L2	L4	-	modern
F68	N	inhumation burial	F76	L4	91: SF5. hobnails	undated, but presumed to be Roman
F69	N	inhumation burial	?L3	F38	-	Roman, 3rd-4th century (by stratification)
F70	N	inhumation burial	F38		-	undated, but presumed to be Roman
F71	N	inhumation burial	L3	F66	-	undated, but presumed to be Roman
F72	N	post-hole	L3	L4	-	undated
F73	N	post-hole	L3	L4	-	undated
F74	N	natural silt patch	L3	L4	-	-
F75	N	inhumation burial	L3	L4	-	undated, but presumed to be Roman

Context	Area	Description	cut by	cuts	Finds nos, SF nos and details	Date
F76	N	inhumation burial	F61	F68	96: Roman pottery, mid 2nd-4th century	Roman, mid 2nd-4th century
L1		hard-standing, tarmac				modern
L2		topsoil			20: peg-tile, <u>prehistoric flints</u> 97: <u>prehistoric pottery</u> and <u>Roman pottery</u>	modern
L3		subsoil				?post-medieval
L4		natural		L6, F7		-
L5		natural hill wash	F9, L3	F7		-
L6		natural fill	L4	F7	98: Roman brick/tile?	-

13 Contents of archive

Finds

2 x museum boxes with Roman and later pottery
1 x museum box with sundry finds (CBM, flints, animal bone)

Paper record

1 lever-arch file containing:

- copy of report
- original site record sheets
- photo. log
- brief, WSI, sundry papers
- CD with digital images

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Mr Richard Havis, ECC HEM team
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
(01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

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14 Appendices

Appendix 1: prehistoric pottery quantification

Note: SV = same vessel.

Context	Finds no	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Feature type	Fill context	Sherd nos	Weight (g)	Pottery Fabric(s)	Comments	Spot date
F9	8	T2	ditch		1	3	O	brown surface, dark grey fabric, abraded	-
F9	8	T2	ditch		1	2	B	red-brown surface, brown interior, abraded	-
F14	73	N	burial	residual	1	6	E	red-brown surface, red-brown to brown interior, abraded	Iron Age
F14	73	N	burial	residual	3	5	E	all same pot, brown surface, black interior and fabric, abraded	Iron Age
F28	19	N	burial	residual	1	1	E	brown surface, black interior and fabric, abraded	Iron Age
F38	66	N	burial	residual	1	3	B	red-brown surface, black interior and fabric, possible fingernail impression in surface, abraded	-
F38	66	N	burial	residual	1	2	H	brown surface, dark grey fabric, abraded	Middle Iron Age
F38	67	N	burial	residual	1	4	B	grey-brown surface and fabric	-
F38	67	N	burial	residual	1	6	O	red-brown surfaces, dark grey fabric, large temper, abraded	Iron Age
F47	44	N	burial	residual	1	3	L	brown surface, dark grey fabric, abraded	Iron Age
F49	47	N	burial	residual	1	2	O	brown surface, dark grey fabric, abraded	Iron Age
F64	76	N	burial	residual	1	6	C	grey fabric, grey/brown surfaces, abraded	
F64	76	N	burial	residual	1	5	F	red-brown surfaces, brown fabric, groove on sherd surface, abraded	Iron Age
F64	76	N	burial	residual	2	3	H	grey fabric, grey/brown surfaces, abraded	Iron Age
F64	76	N	burial	residual	2	3	O	red-brown surfaces, grey fabric, abraded	Iron Age
F65	85	S	ditch mid fill	residual	1	8	B	red-brown surface, grey-brown fabric, abraded	-
L2	97	-			1	10	C	fragment possibly from edge of base, red-brown surface, dark grey fabric, abraded	-
totals					21	72			

Appendix 2: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery quantification

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F1	1	cemetery boundary ditch	T2, N		GX	2	17	0	47		body sherds	Roman	
F1	1	cemetery boundary ditch	T2, N	37A	GX	1	23	6	47	B4	rim, abraded, distorted waster or second?	early 2nd-early/mid 3rd century	
F1	1	cemetery boundary ditch	T2, N	270B	GX	1	30	4	BSW	G45 1.1	rim, abraded	2nd-3rd century	
F1	1	cemetery boundary ditch	T2, N		GX	1	4	0	BSW		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F1	41	cemetery boundary ditch Sx 1	T2, N		GX	1	5	0	47		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F1	41	cemetery boundary ditch Sx 1	T2, N		HZ	1	3	0	44		abraded body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F1	43	cemetery boundary ditch Sx 2	T2, N		GX	5	45	0	47		body sherds	Roman	
F1	43	cemetery boundary ditch Sx 2	T2, N		GX	1	5	7	47		abraded rim sherd	Roman	
F1	43	cemetery boundary ditch Sx 2	T2, N		HZ	1	113	0	44		body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F5	56	large post-hole	T2, N		GX	1	1	0	BSW		body sherd from a thin-walled pot	Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F7	78	natural gravel (possibly used as a route)	T1-T3, N		HZ	1	189	0	44		body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F8	5	ditch (possible cemetery boundary)	T3		GX	5	92	0	47		base and body sherds from more than one pot	Roman	
F8	5	ditch (possible cemetery boundary)	T3		GX	1	8	0	BSW		body sherd	Roman	
F9	4	ditch	T3		HZ	1	70	0	44		base, abraded	1st-2nd/3rd century	
F9	8	ditch	T3		HZ	1	59	0	44		body sherd, abraded	1st-2nd/3rd century	
F9	8	ditch	T3		HZ	1	11	0	44		body sherd, abraded	1st-2nd/3rd century	
F9	8	ditch	T3		CH	1	3	0	4		body sherd, abraded	late 3rd-4th century	
F9	10	ditch	T3		GX	2	9	0	47		body sherds, abraded	Roman	
F9	10	ditch	T3		GX	1	13	0	47		body sherd from a folded beaker, abraded	late 2nd-4th century	
F9	10	ditch	T3		HZ	1	4	0	44		body sherd, abraded	1st-2nd/3rd century	
F9	10	ditch	T3		MQ	2	4	0	15		body sherd, abraded, abraded from one sherd completely	Roman	
F9	10	ditch	T3		GX	3	10	0	BSW		body sherds, some abraded	Roman	
F13	6	crencentic feature	T2, N		GX	20	231	0	BSW		abraded, part of base and body sherds from one pot; disturbed placed pot (from burial F43/F51)	Roman	
F13	6	crencentic feature	T2, N		GX	1	1	0	BSW		abraded sherd	Roman	
F13	7	crencentic feature (lower fill)	T2, N		GX	2	30	0	47		body sherds	Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F13	7	crescentic feature (lower fill)	T2, N		HZ	2	27	2	44		rim and body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F13	7	crescentic feature (lower fill)	T2, N		GX	9	54	0	BSW		abraded body sherds	Roman	
F13	7	crescentic feature (lower fill)	T2, N	?268	GX	1	10	9	BSW	G25?	rim	mid 2nd-early 4th century?	
F13	18	crescentic feature Sx 2	T2, N		GX	5	14	0	BSW		abraded body sherds	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F13	21	crescentic feature Sx 1	T2, N		DJ	3	4	0	31		abraded fragments	Roman	
F13	21	crescentic feature Sx 1	T2, N	Dr 31?	BA(EG)	1	8	6	SAM EG	Dr 31?	abraded sherd	mid 2nd-mid 3rd century	
F13	22	crescentic feature Sx 3	T2, N		GX	1	2	0	BSW		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F13	24	crescentic feature	T2, N		HZ	1	9	0	44		abraded	Roman	
F13	24	crescentic feature	T2, N		GX	10	94	0	BSW		abraded, includes large sherd with base and wall of pot	Roman	
F13	24	crescentic feature	T2, N		GX	1	16	0	BSW		abraded sherd from bowl with chamfered base edge	early 2nd century+?	
F13	82	crescentic feature	T2, N		GX	2	7	0	BSW		body sherds	Roman	
F14	13	burial	T2, N		GX	2	12	0	47		body sherds (residual)	Roman	
F14	13	burial	T2, N		GX	1	3	0	BSW		abraded body sherd (residual)	Roman	
F14	49	burial upper fill	T2, N	EA, Type 11	EA	31	327	80	2	H33/35	pot, broken but near complete, base and part of body together, small part of rim missing, folded beaker with	mid/late 3rd-?4th century	#

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F14	62	burial	T2, N		CH	1	755	0	4	J	bead rim and tall body, form not exactly paralleled by Going, black surface, pale fabric	late 3rd-4th century	#
F14	70	burial	T2, N		Gx	4	28	19	BSW		jar rim, shoulder sherd (residual)	Roman	
F14	71	burial	T2, N		Gx	7	81	0	47		body sherds (residual)	Roman	
F14	72	burial	T2, N		DJ	1	2	0	31		abraded body sherd (residual)	Roman	
F23	16	pit	N		Gx	1	1	0	BSW		body sherd	Roman	
F25	17	pit	N		Gx	1	2	0	47		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F28	19	burial	N		Gx	5	22		47		body sherds		
F28	19	burial	N		Gx	7	68	0	BSW		body sherds from more than one pot, some abraded (residual)	Roman	
F32	39	large post-hole	N		Gx	1	1	0	BSW		fragment	Roman	
F33	27	burial	N		Gx	11	77	0	BSW		base and lower body sherds from one pot	early Roman	
F33	27	burial	N		Gx	6	23	0	BSW		body sherds from more than one pot, some abraded (residual)	Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F33	31	burial	N	39B	GB	1	326	85	BSW	B1 3.1	burial pot, whole shallow dish with chamfered base, burnished, damage to rim in antiquity, several small chips missing and a large chip from one edge, crack in wall extending part way across base	early/mid 2nd-4th century	#
F33	34	burial	N	281	GX	35	244	65	BSW	G36/37	burial pot, much of upper part of pot, base entirely missing, sherd missing from rim, small cordon at base of neck decorated with angle stab/small slash marks, two further bands of similar decoration below on shoulder	late 2nd/3rd-?4th century	#
F36	40	large post-hole	N		DJ	1	1	0	21		small sherd	?Roman	
F36	55	large post-hole	N		GX	1	1	0	47		small sherd with pale orange-brown surface	Roman	
F38	66	burial	N		HZ	1	13	0	44		abraded body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F38	67	burial	N		GX	11	58	0	47		body sherds from more than one pot, some abraded	Roman	
F38	67	burial	N		GX	7	21	0	47		abraded body sherds from more than one pot	Roman	
F38	67	burial	N		GX	1	4	0	45		BSW, body sherd	early Roman	
F38	67	burial	N		DJ	1	1	0	31		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F38	67	burial	N		CH	1	5	0	4		abraded body sherd	late 3rd-4th century	
F38	67	burial	N		GX	3	7	0	BSW		body sherds from more than one pot, some abraded	Roman	
F38	92	burial	N		GX	3	13	6	45		BSW, rim and abraded body sherds	?early Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F39	37	burial	N		GX	9	34	0	BSW		body sherds	Roman	
F42	38	slot	N		HZ	1	38	0	44		abraded body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F42	38	slot	N		GX	1	6	6	BSW		rim	Roman	
F43	42	northern part of burial F43/F51	N		GX	4	27	0	47		abraded body sherds	Roman	
F46	46	pit	N	280	GX	1	61	33	BSW	G36	rim	3rd-?4th century	
F47	44	burial	N		GX	18	152	16	BSW		rim neck body and base sherds all probably SV, probably a large flask or narrow-mouth jar	Roman	
F49	47	burial	N		GX	1	6	0	BSW		body sherd	Roman	
F51	52	burial	N		GX	1	6	0	BSW		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F52	83	burial	N		GX	1	1	0	47		abraded body sherd	Roman	
F53	48	burial	N		GT	1	4	0	53		abraded body sherd, grey fabric	1st century	
F57	50	burial	N		GX	1	8	0	47		body sherd, abraded		
F57	50	burial	N		DJ	2	43	0	31		body sherds, join, SV as finds no 51	Roman	
F57	51	burial	N		DJ	20	322	0	31	J	body sherds from a large flagon, base of two-ribbed handle, SV as finds no 50	Roman	
F57	51	burial	N	?299	GX	3	141	0	BSW	E5/E6?	body sherds and base from two+ pots	?late 2nd-4th century	
F57	51	burial	N		GX	3	47	22	BSW		SV, oxidised surfaces, poor firing?	Roman	
F59	54	burial	N		HZ	1	43	0	44		body sherd	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F59	54	burial	N	278	GB	23	310	0	BSW	G9 (?3.1)	SV, body sherds with angled burnished line decoration, abraded	3rd century	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F59	54	burial	N		GX	1	13	0	BSW		abraded lower body sherd	Roman	
F60	57	pit	N		GX	1	2	0	BSW		body sherd	Roman	
F61	58	burial	N	39B	KX	5	304	100	47	B3	burial pot, deep dish, broken but near complete, sherd missing from base, grey with dark sooting on remnant black surface traces exterior especially just below the rim	3rd-4th century	#
F61	61	burial	N	273	HZ	2	243	14	44	G44 5.1	abraded rim and a body sherd (residual)	late 1st century	
F61	61	burial	N	266	GX	15	100	18	BSW	G23 1.1	abraded rim, shoulder, body and base sherds (residual)	late 1st-early 2nd century	
F61	63	burial	N		BA(CG)	1	1	0	SAM CG		small abraded sherd (residual)	2nd century	
F61	64	burial	N	39B	KX	5	317	100	47	B3	burial pot, deep dish, broken but near complete, sherd missing from base, grey	3rd-4th century	#
F63	75	burial	N		GX	1	7	0	47		body sherd	Roman	
F64	76	burial	N		GX	15	77	15	47		rim and body sherds from several pots, some abraded (residual)	Roman	
F64	76	burial	N	408-410	EA	7	22	8	2	H41	rim and body sherds from a beaker with white barbotine decoration of scroll-work and berries	late 3rd-4th century	
F64	76	burial	N		GX	1	11	6	BSW		rim sherd	early Roman	
F64	80	burial	N		EA	1	162	90	2	H	burial pot, whole small bulbous beaker with foot ring, everted rim and decorated on shoulder with 2-3 bands of rouletting and with bands of white paint	mid/late 3rd-4th century	#

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F64	81	burial	N	268	GX	1	167	90	47	G24 1.2	burial pot, whole small jar, one small area of rim edge chipped away in antiquity	mid 2nd-4th century	#
F64	87	burial	N	39B	KX	11	534	70	47	B3	burial pot, deep dish, broken but most present, sherd from base and part of wall missing, grey with dark sooting or remnant black surface traces on exterior especially on the upper wall, traces of burnishing on inside base surface, the abraded joins suggest broken in antiquity (also includes finds no 90, 1 sherd)	3rd-4th century	#
F65	84	ditch upper fill	S		GX	4	15	0	47		body sherds	Roman	
F65	84	ditch upper fill	S		HZ	1	10	0	44		body sherd	late 1st-2/3rd century	
F65	84	ditch upper fill	S		GX	1	31	0	BSW		abraded base sherd from large/storage jar, white deposit on interior	2nd-3rd century?	
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S		GX	24	241	7	47		rim, body and base sherds	Roman	
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S	40B	GX	1	14	5	47	B3	rim, body and base sherds	3rd-4th century	
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S		HZ	8	160	0	44		abraded	late 1st-2nd/3rd century	
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S		MQ	2	13	0	15			Roman	
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S		GX	14	61	0	BSW		body and base sherds	Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
F65	85	ditch mid fill	S	270B	GX	1	30	4	BSW	G45 1.1	rim	2nd-3rd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S		GTW	1	30	0	53		hand-made base with grog-temper and same small flint	late 2nd century BC-mid 1st century?	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S		GX	12	142	0	47		body sherds and base from different pots	Roman	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	?273	HZ	5	294	6	44	G44 5.1	rim, body sherds and base from different pots	late 1st century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	46/31 1	GP	1	11	4	39	C2	flange rim, decorated with angled strokes	late 1st-early 2nd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S		ON	1	6	0	12		body sherd	Roman	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S		BA(CG)	1	6	0	SAM CG		body sherd	2nd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	Dr 37	BX(CG)	1	6	0	SAM CG	Dr 37	burnt, abraded, decorated body sherd with rear half of small dog	2nd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S		GX	14	88	0	BSW		body sherds	Roman	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	?266	GX	1	8	10	BSW	G23	rim	late 1st-early 2nd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	38	GX	1	33	20	BSW	B4	rim	early 2nd-3rd century	
F65	86	ditch lower fill	S	39B	GX	1	33	7	BSW	B3	rim	3rd-4th century	
F65	93	ditch	S		GX	2	4	0	BSW		body sherds	Roman	
F76	96	burial	N	268	GX	1	305	62	47	G24 1.2	burial pot, whole jar, old crack in rim, one small rim sherd missing (old damage), one other modern damage	mid 2nd-4th century	#
L2	97		-		GX	1	3	0	BSW		body sherd, abraded	Roman	

Context	Finds no	Context details	Trench number (T1-T3) or excavation area (N, S)	Cam form	Fabric (Colchester)	Sherds no	Weight (g)	% EVE	Going 87 Fabric	Going 87 form	comments	Roman pottery spot date	drawn
U/S	11				GX	1	2	0	47		body sherd, sandy, ?possibly medieval	?Roman	
Totals						497	8,076						

Appendix 3: ceramic building material quantification

type:

rbt - Roman brick and tile, rb - Roman brick

Fabric:

fs - fine sand, ms - moderate sand, CS - common sand

fi - fine clay, cp - pale clay pellets or streaks, r - red iron-rich clay inclusions,

fl - flint

Context	Find no	Type	No	Wt (g)	Thickness (mm)	Fabric	Comments	Dated
F1	41	CBM	1	29		fi(cp)	reddish cream, large cream clay pellets, fine mica, ?combed surface	post-medieval
F1	43	?tegula	2	291	19	fs(r)	probable tegula pieces	Roman
F1	43	rbt	1	78		ms(r)	abraded	Roman
F1	43	?CBM	1	13	15	fs	fragment, 2 surfaces, surfaces not sanded, ?chimney pot	post-Roman
F21	14	CBM	1	4			small fragment peg-tile	post-medieval
F22	15	CBM	1	15			peg-tile	post-medieval
F22	15	CBM	2	6			small fragments brick/tile	post-medieval
F32	25	CBM	1	9			peg-tile	post-medieval
F32	25	CBM	2	15			brick fragments	post-medieval
F32	39	CBM	1	22			small brick fragment	?post-medieval
F35	29	CBM	1	88			peg-tile	post-medieval
F36	33	tile	1	1		fs	fragment with sanded base, Roman or possible peg-tile	
F38	92	?imbrex	3	101	15	cs(fi)	also contains some cp and r inclusions	Roman
F63	75	tegula	1	303	20	ms(r)	abraded flange and base piece	Roman
F64	76	rbt	1	11		cs(cp)	abraded	Roman
F64	76	rbt	1	8		cs(cp)	abraded	Roman
F65	86	?imbrex	1	122	16	cs(r)	possible imbrex side piece	Roman
L2	20	CBM	2	80			peg-tile	post-medieval
L6	98	tile	1	7	12	ms(r)	abraded thin tile	?Roman

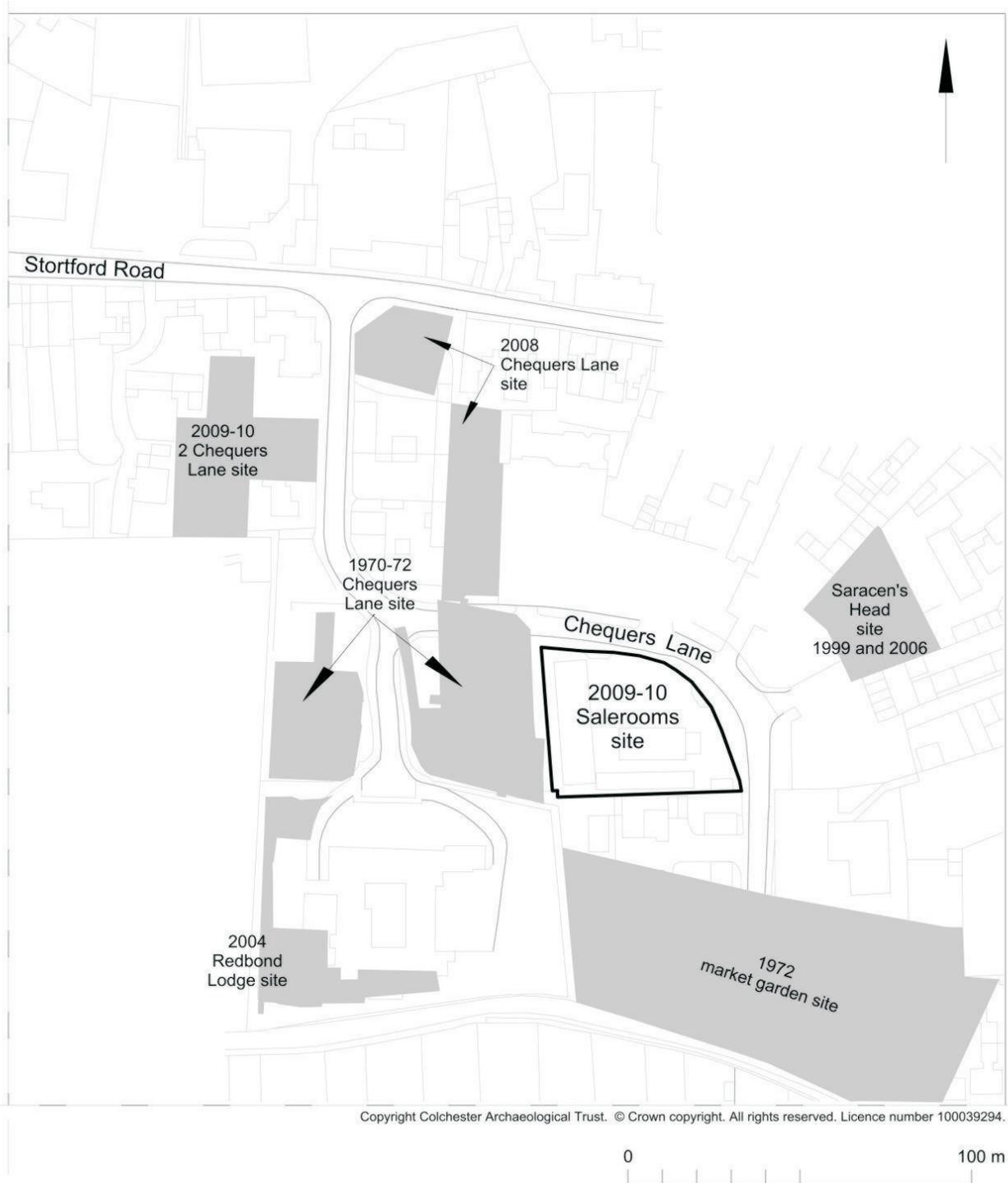


Fig 1 Site location (bold outline), showing previous investigations (grey tone) in the vicinity of the site.

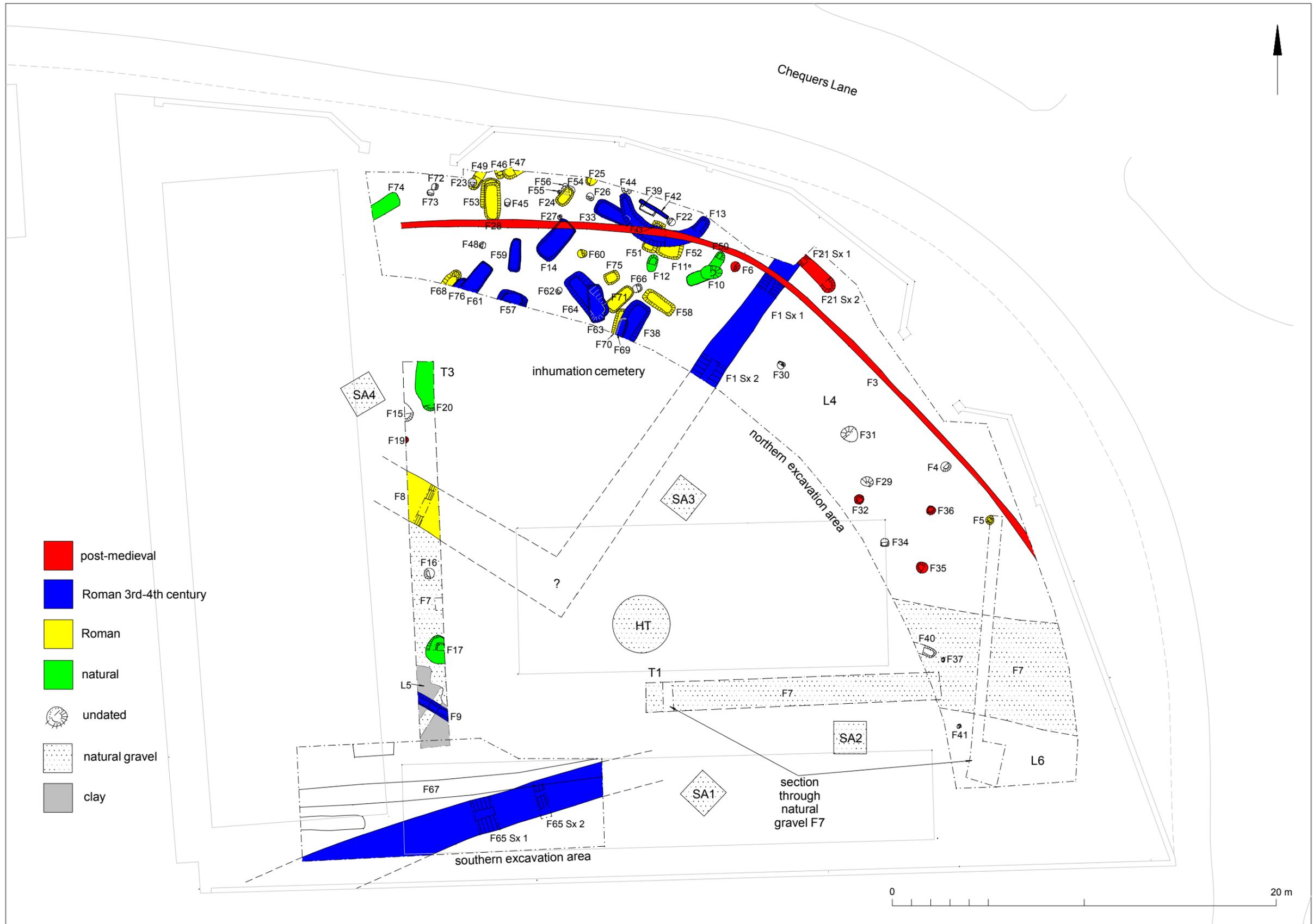


Fig 2 Site plan, showing trial-trenches (T1, T3), the northern and southern excavation areas, the soakaways (SA1-SA4) and holding tank (HT) monitored during the watching brief, and all excavated features.

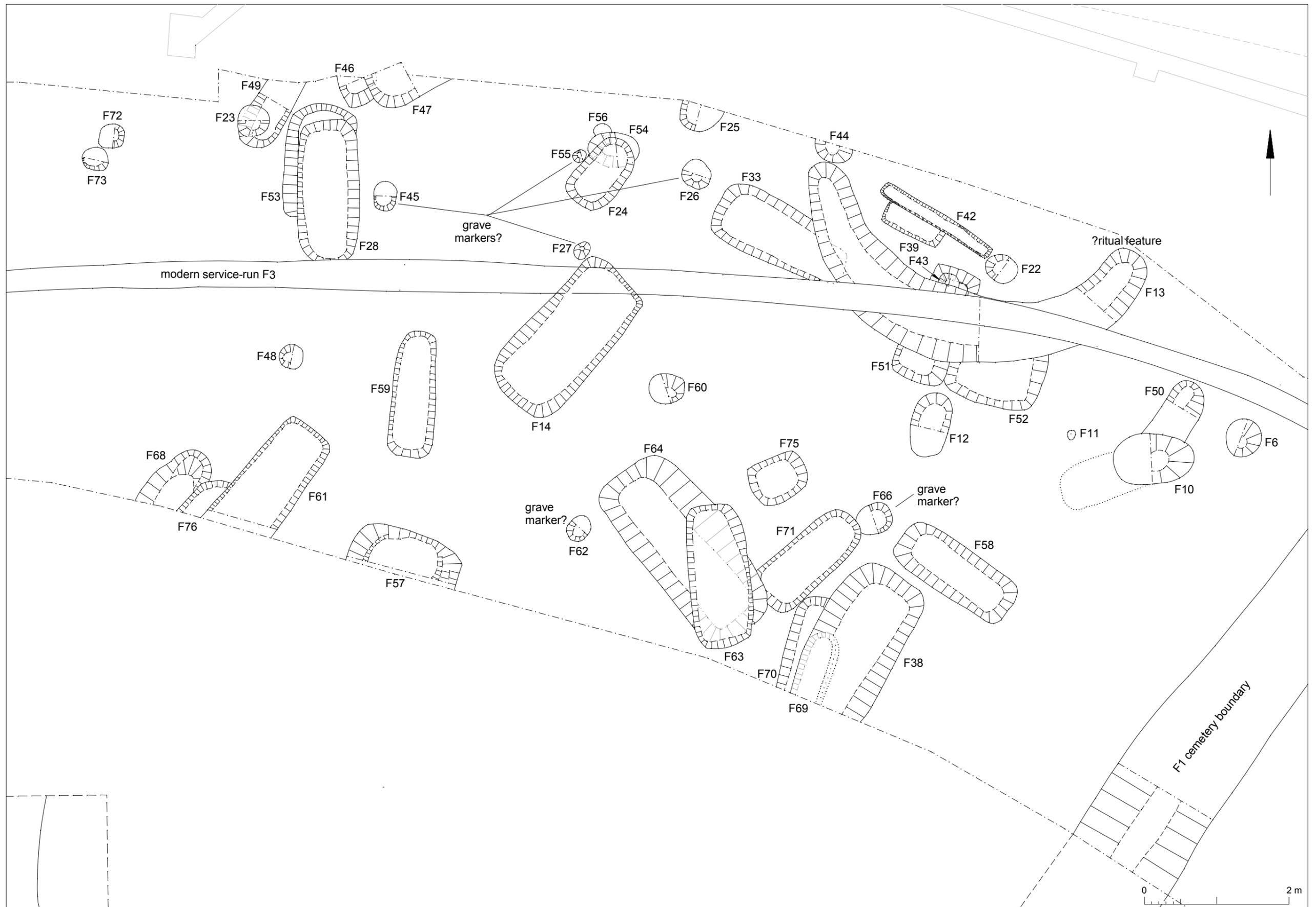


Fig 3 The late Roman inhumation cemetery: plan.

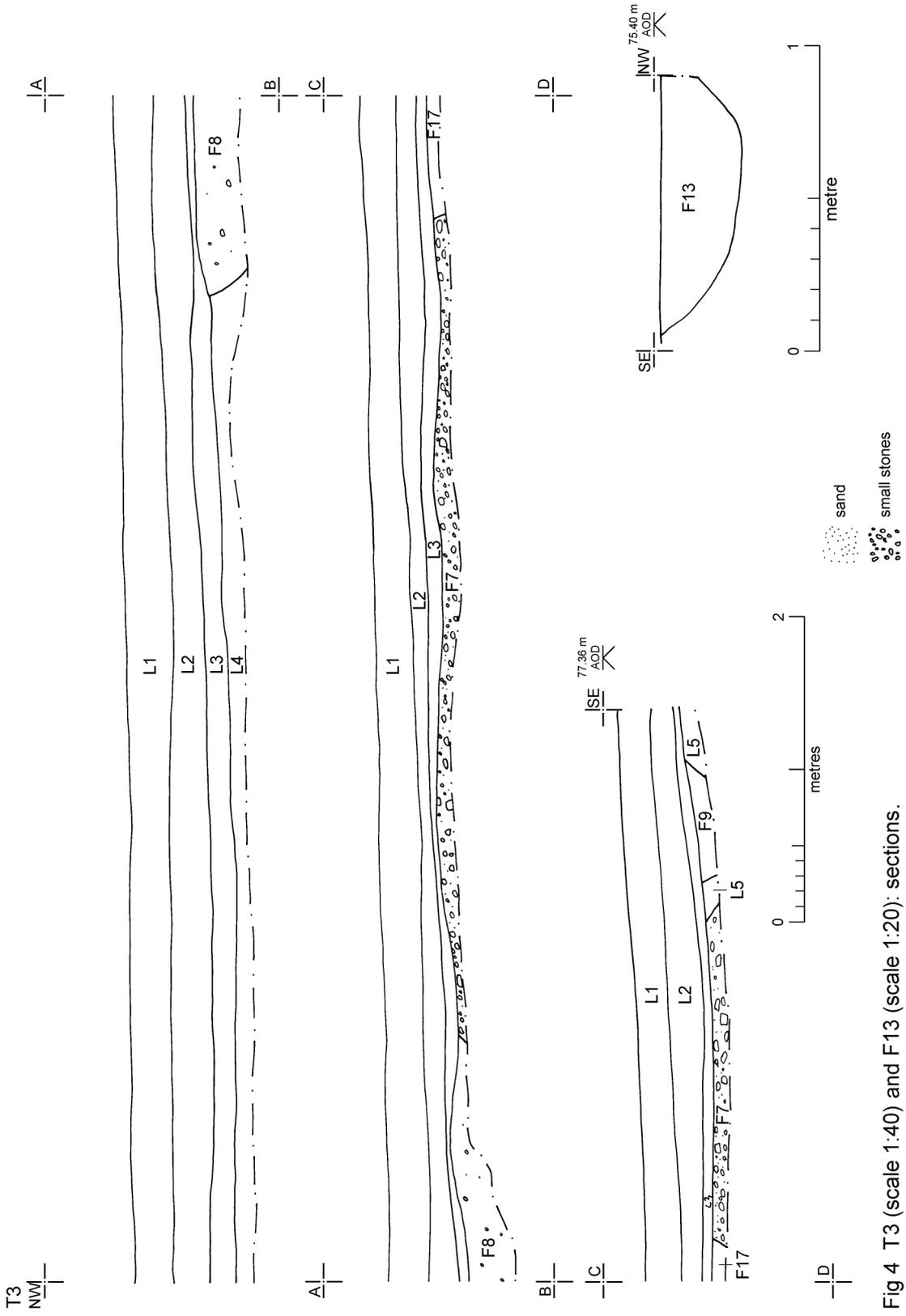


Fig 4 T3 (scale 1:40) and F13 (scale 1:20): sections.

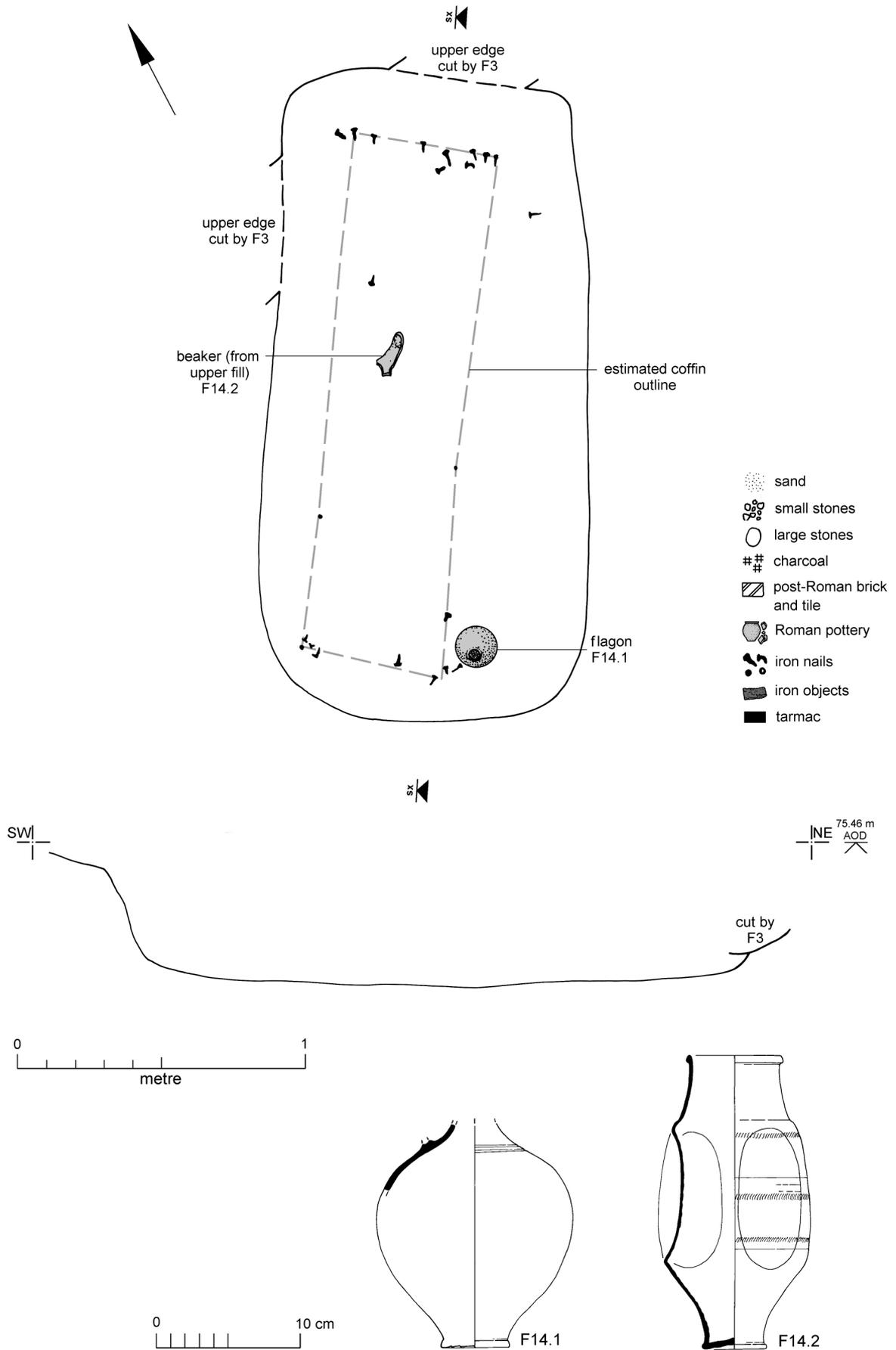


Fig 5 Burial F14: plan, profile and pottery.

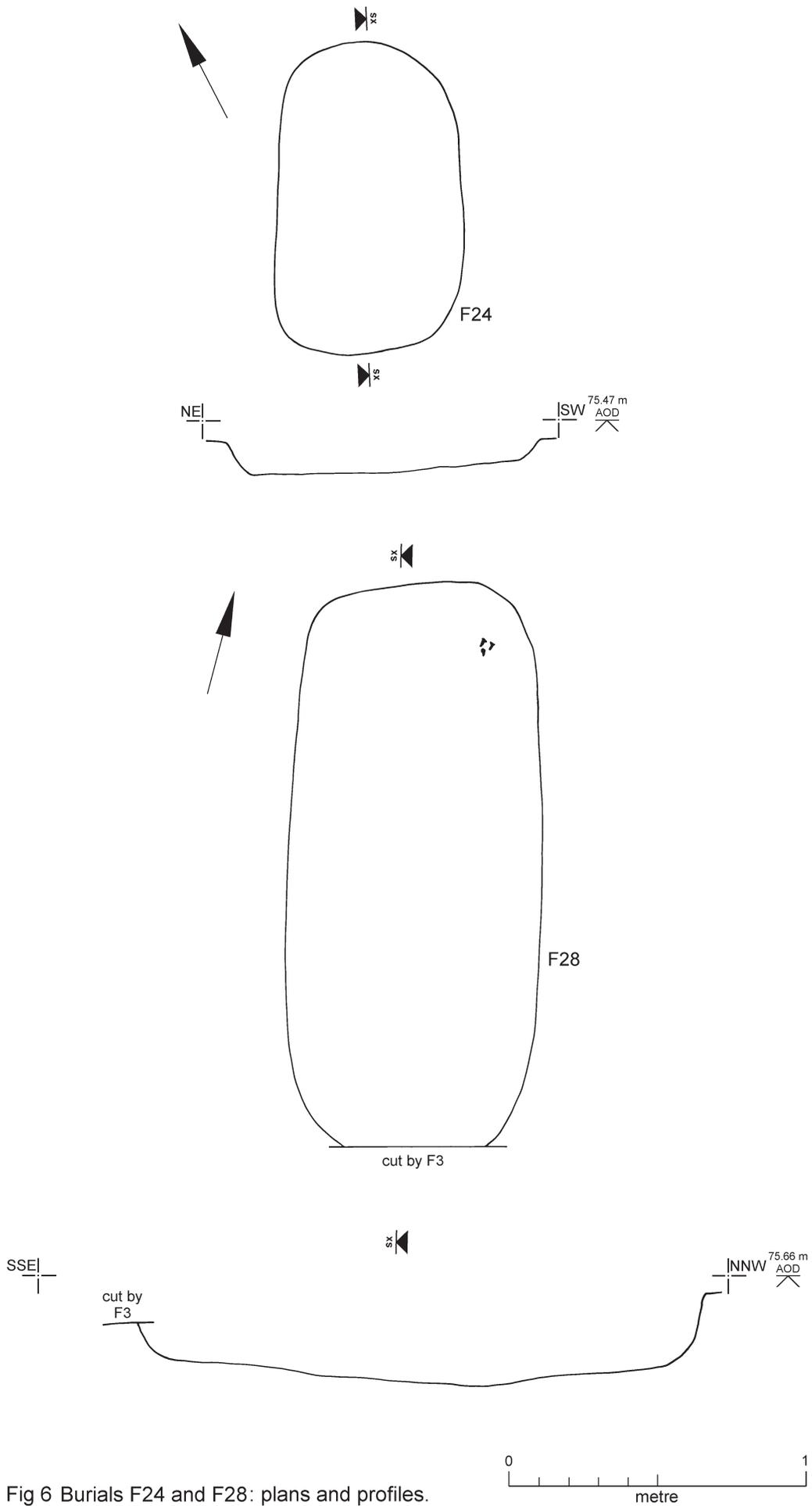


Fig 6 Burials F24 and F28: plans and profiles.

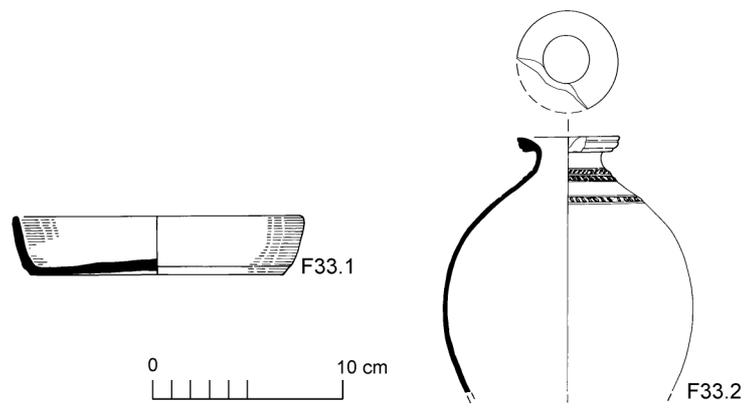
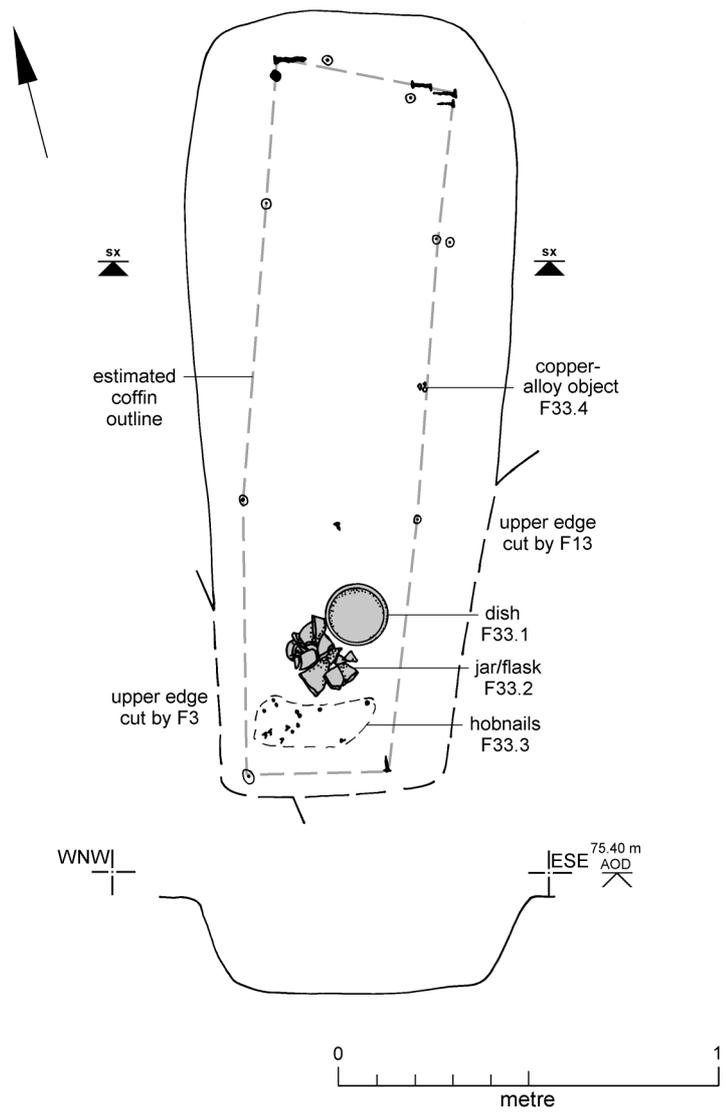


Fig 7 Burial F33: plan, profile and pottery.

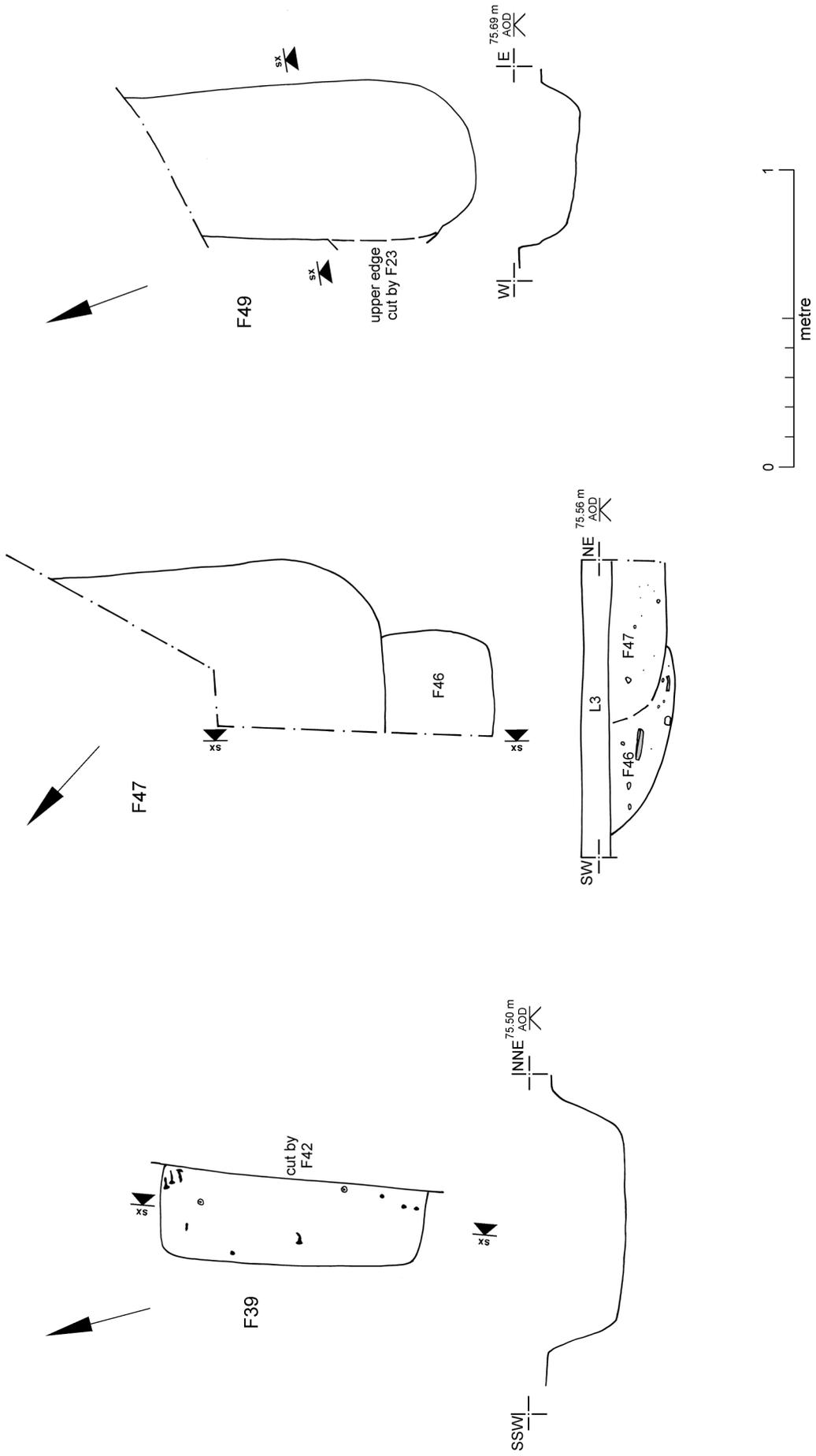


Fig 8 Burials F39, F47, F49 : plans, profiles and section.

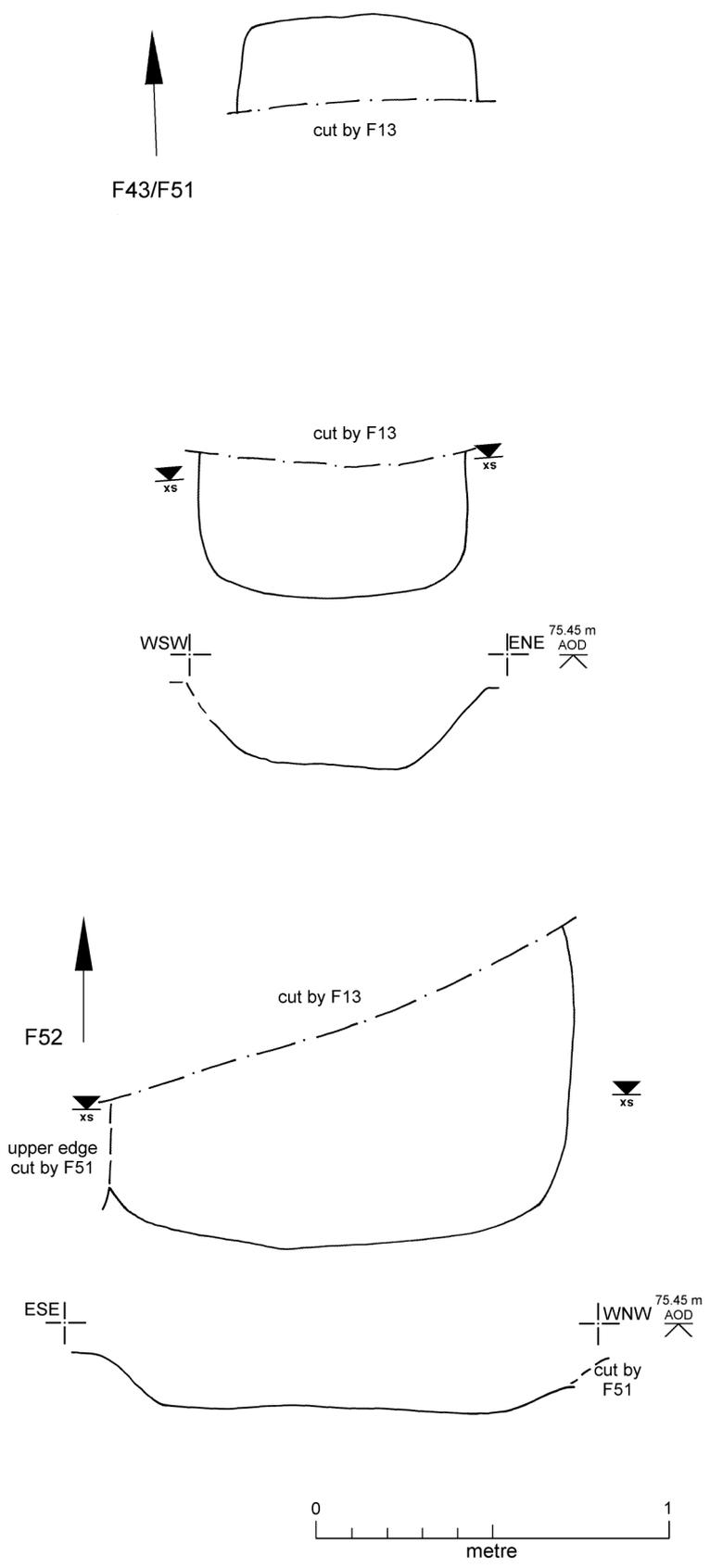


Fig 9 Burials F51 and F52: plans and profiles.

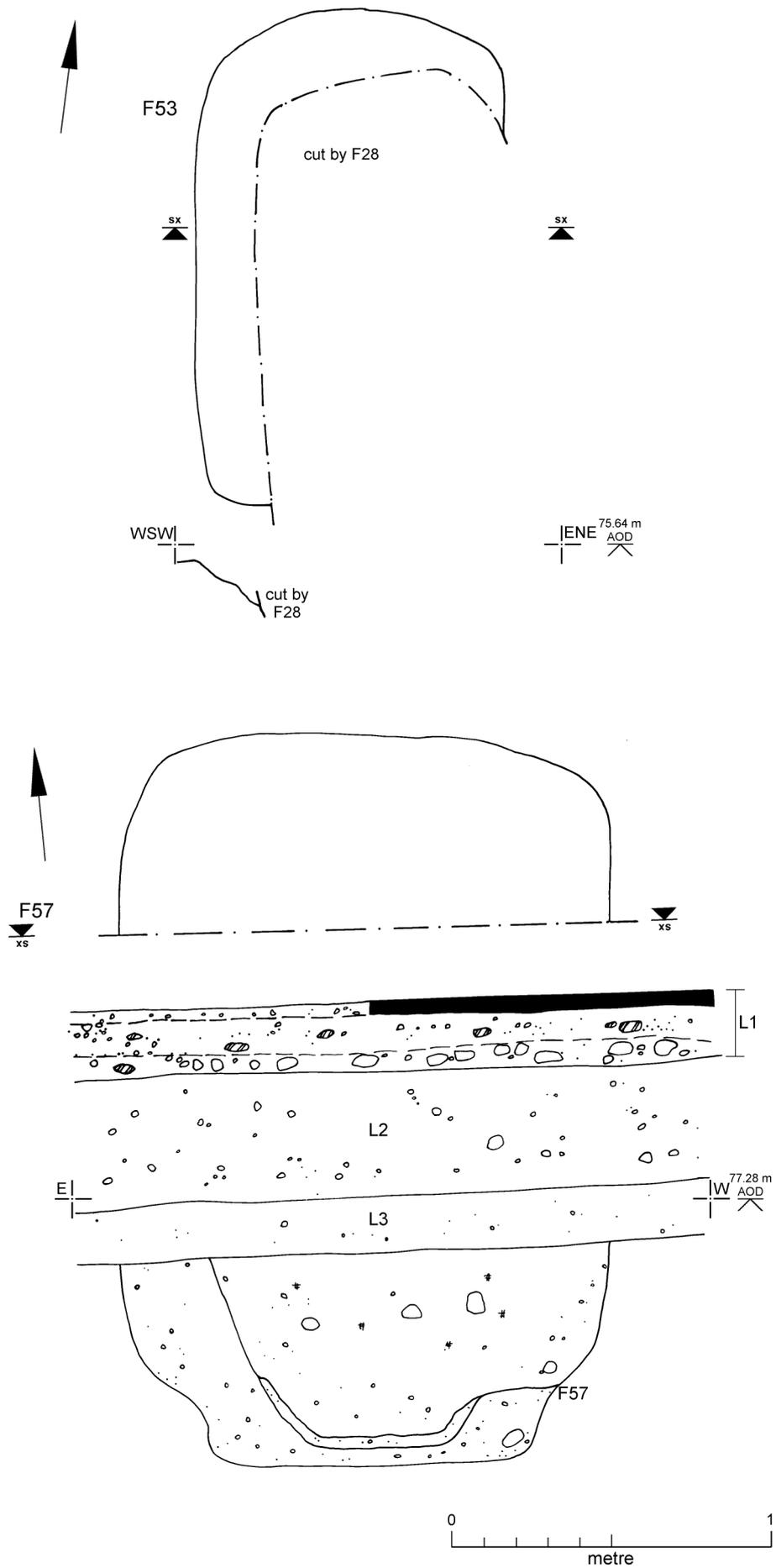


Fig 10 Burials F53 and F57: plans, profile and section.

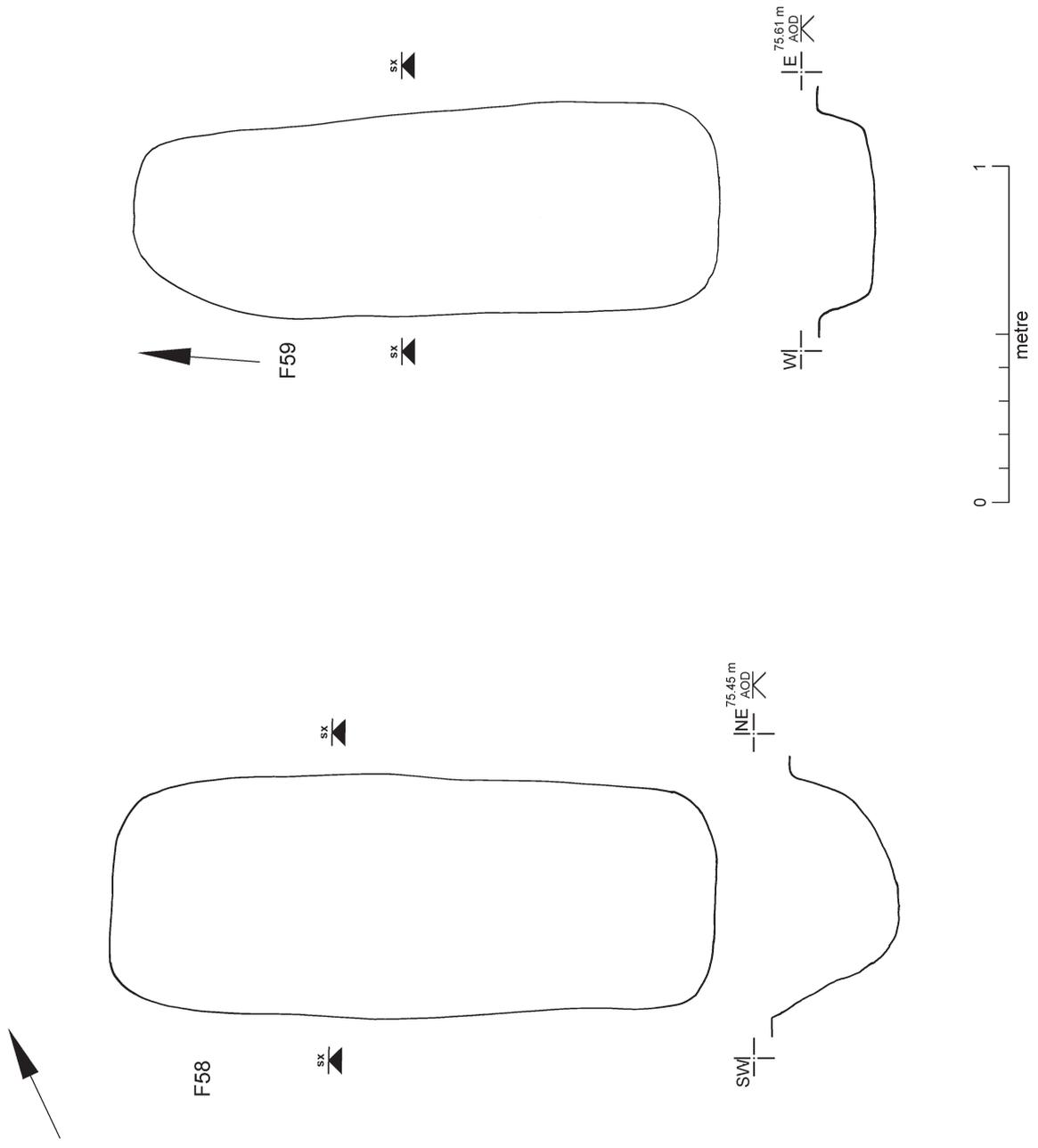


Fig 11 Burials F58 and F59 : plans and profiles.

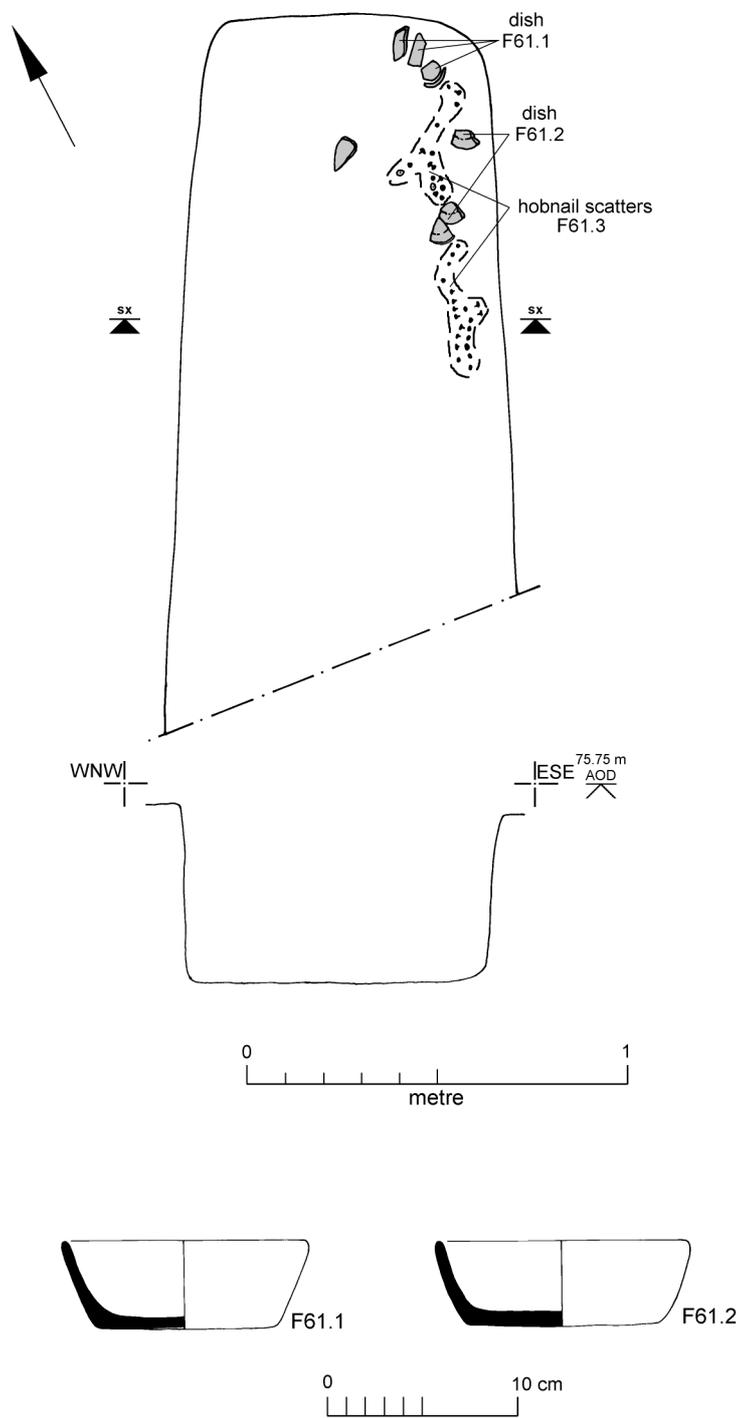


Fig 12 Burial F61: plan, profile and pottery.

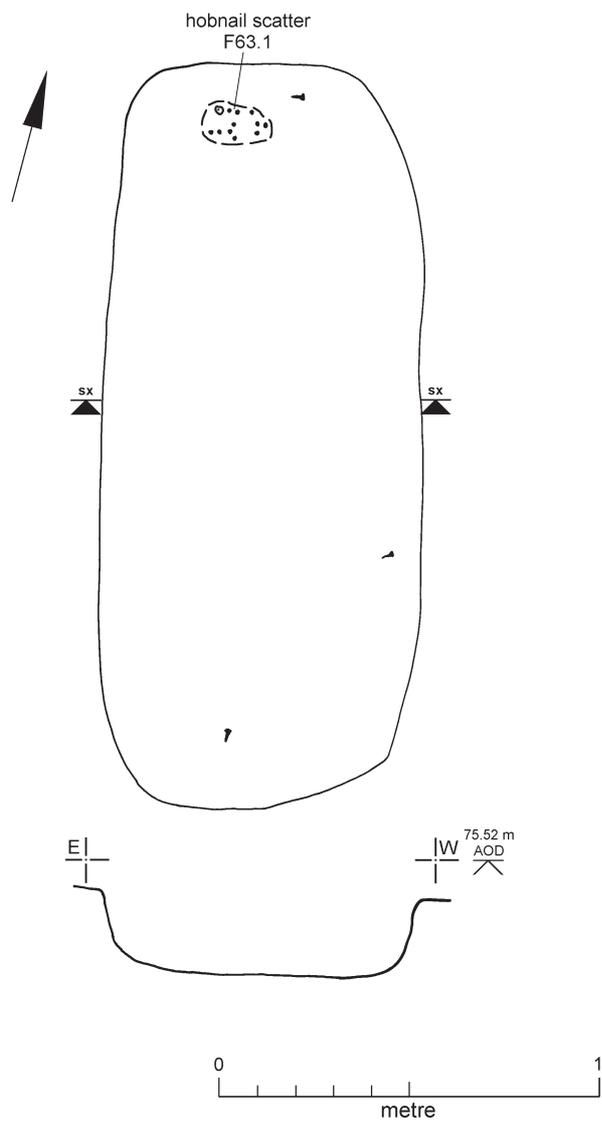


Fig 13 Burial F63: plan and profile.

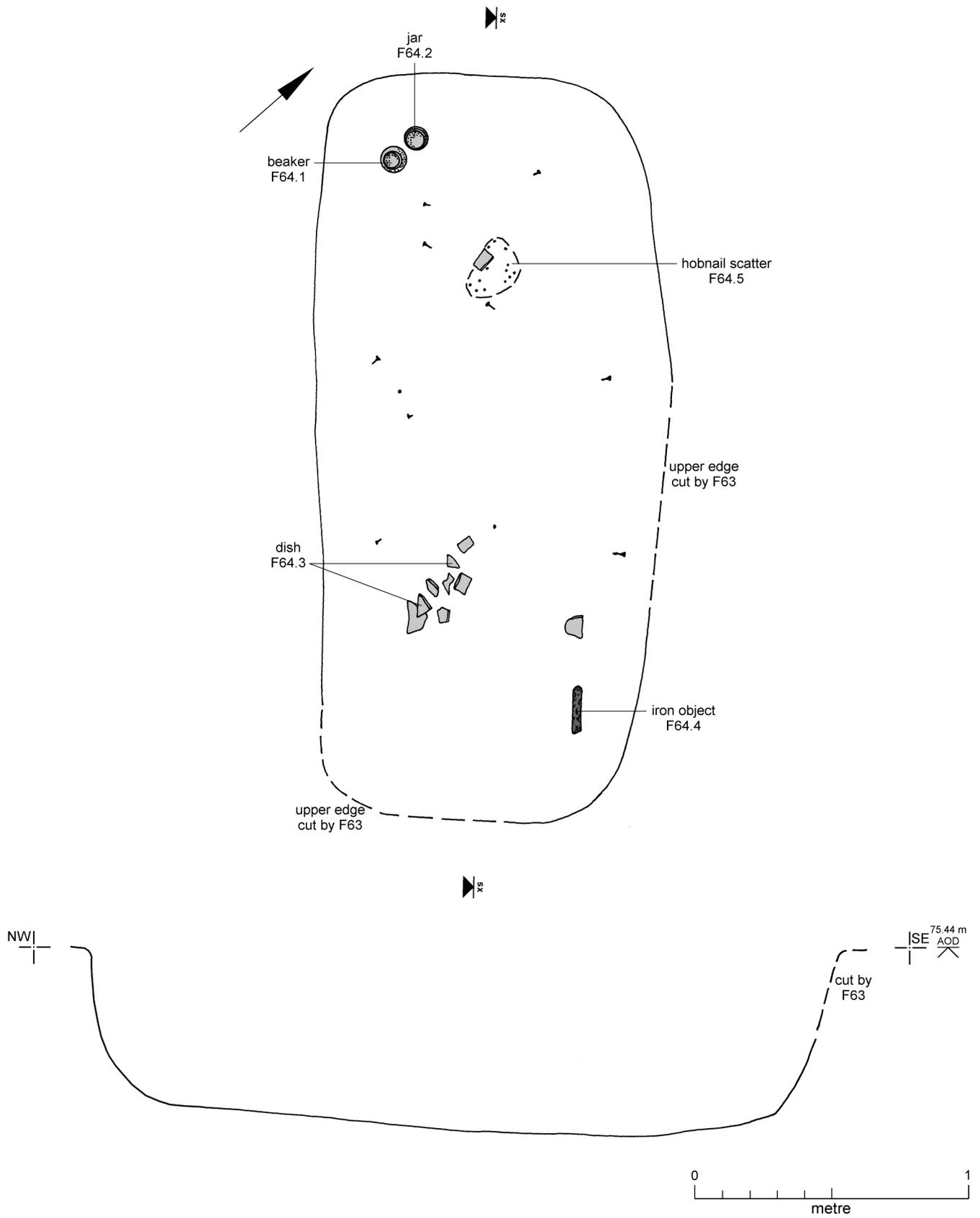


Fig 14 Burial F64: plan and profile.

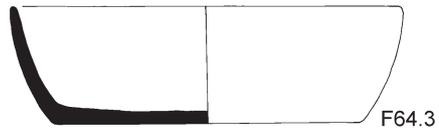
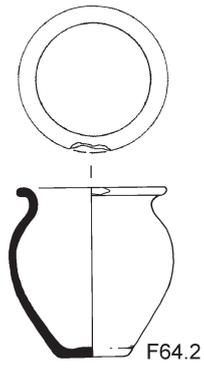
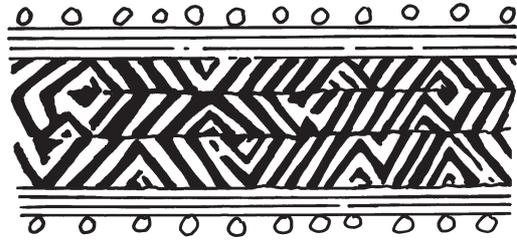
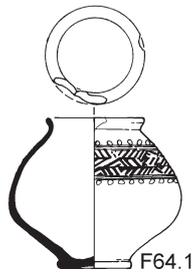


Fig 15 Burial F64: pottery.

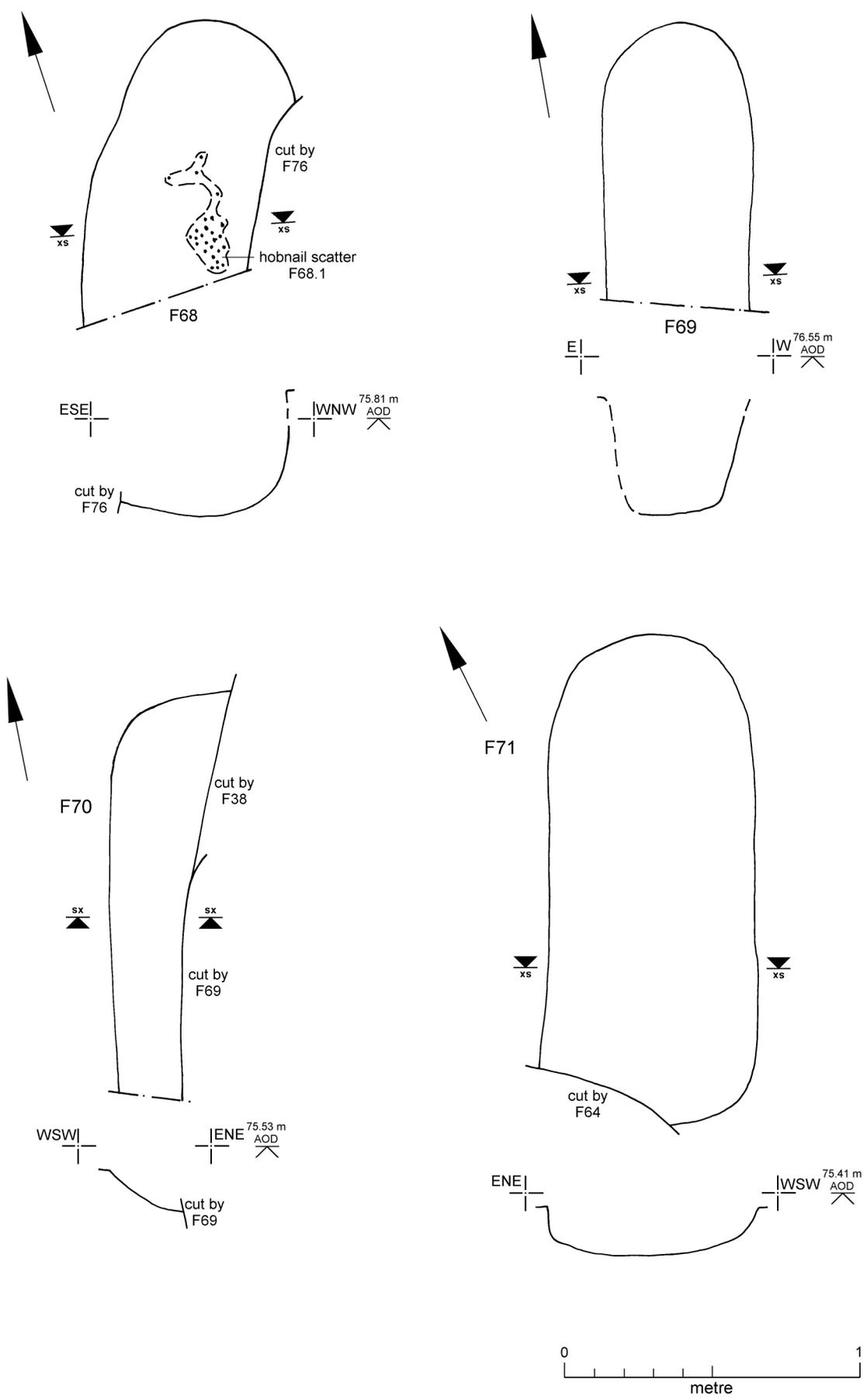


Fig 16 Burials F68, F69, F70, F71: plans and profiles.

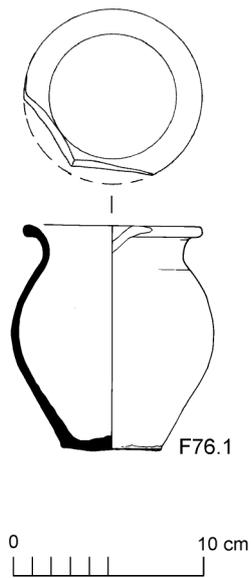
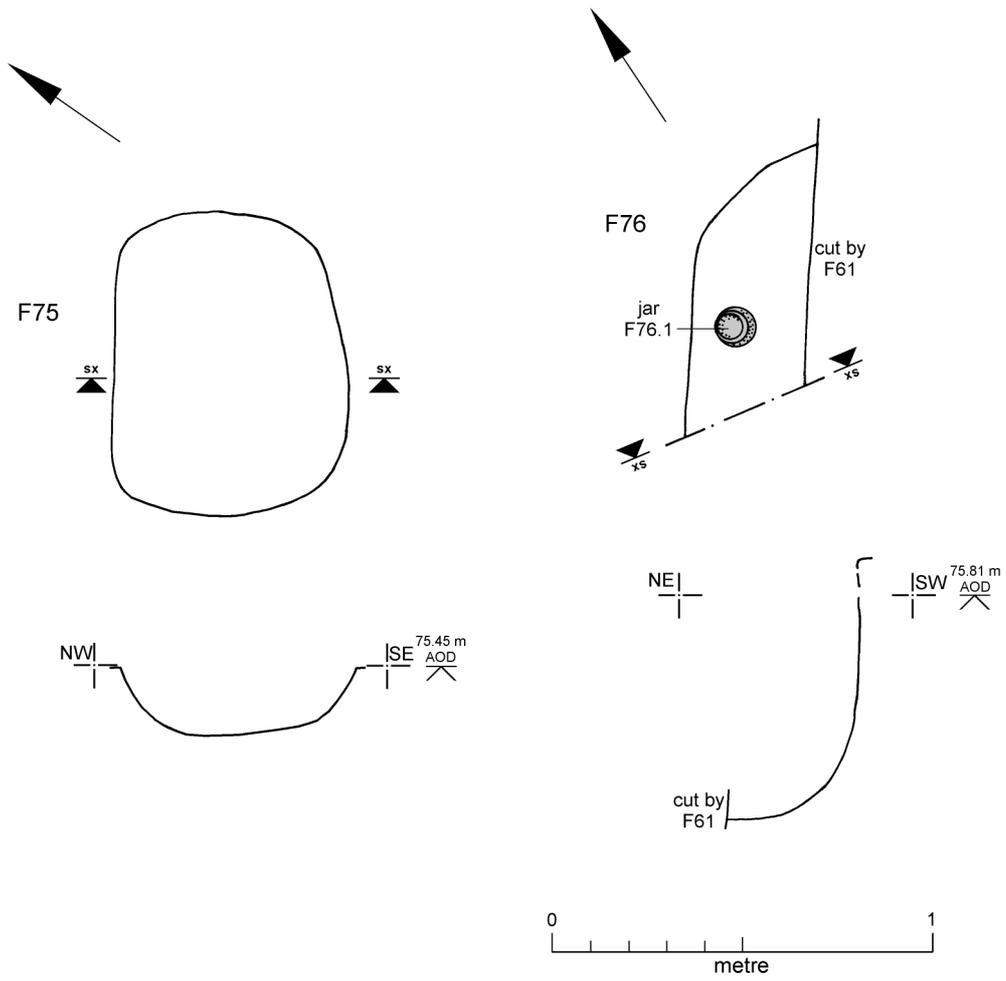


Fig 17 Burials F75 and F76: plans, profiles and pottery.

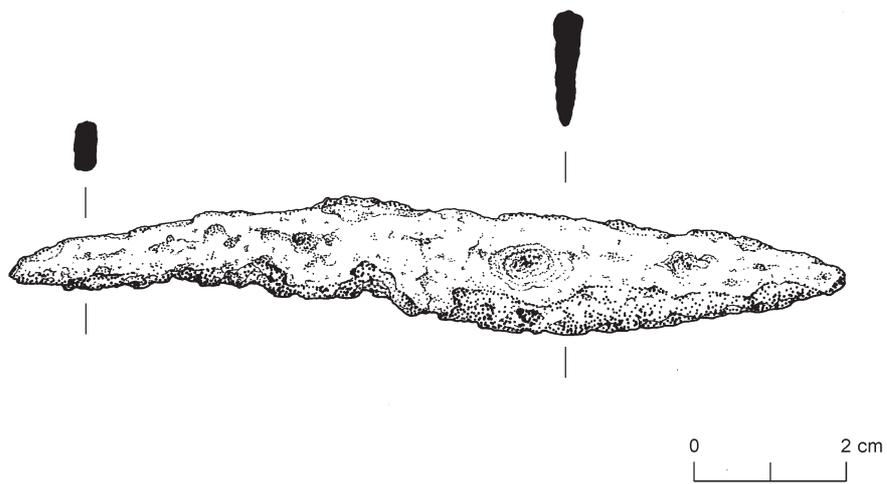


Fig 18 Burial F64: unidentified iron object SF7 (scale 1:1).

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

Site address: Salerooms site, Chequers Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex	
Parish: Great Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6265 2189 (c)	Site code: CAT project - 09/8c ECC HEM - GD 29 Museum accession - SAFWM 2009.20
Type of work: Evaluation, excavation and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August and September 2009, March 2010	Size of area investigated: 75m of evaluation trenching followed by excavation of approximately 490m ² (28% of 0.17ha site) and later watching brief on site
Curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 13864-13869
Final report: CAT Report 535 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval/modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site lies in the centre of modern Great Dunmow, and on the northern edge of the site of the Roman 'small town'. It is also to the east and north-east respectively of sites excavated at Chequers Lane by the Chelmsford Archaeological Trust in 1970-72 and adjacent to Redbond Lodge by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in 2004.</i></p> <p><i>A 5% evaluation revealed areas of gravel, which were thought to represent a Roman road bordered by a ditch, Roman pits and post-holes, and a number of possible Roman inhumation burials.</i></p> <p><i>The trench containing the inhumation burials and one of the areas of gravel was later extended to an area broadly equivalent to the footprint of one of the proposed buildings, and a previously unevaluated area was also opened up in the south-western corner of the site. Together, these gave an excavation area of approximately 490m² (or 28% of the site).</i></p> <p><i>In this larger excavation site, the number of inhumation burials increased to a total of 23 (all dating to the late 3rd-4th century). In addition, it became more apparent that the ?gravel road was simply natural gravel, the surface of which had been used as a convenient surface for a route.</i></p> <p><i>A small number of post-holes or small pits located close to the grave cuts may have held grave markers. A crescentic feature cutting some of the inhumation burials was of uncertain but possibly ritual purpose.</i></p>	

A subsequent watching brief on the digging of four soakaways and a pit for a holding tank produced no significant results.

The majority (75%) of the excavated contexts were of Roman date. The post-Roman features are not considered to be of particular archaeological significance.

Previous summaries/reports: none

Keywords: Roman, inhumation,
burial, cemetery

Significance: **

Author of summary:
Howard Brooks

Date of summary:
November 2011