

**Roman burials, buildings, and enclosures
west of Mersea Road, Colchester:
Stage 3 archaeological excavation at Colchester
Garrison Alienated Land Area E (GAL E).**

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**on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East London,
for Essex County Council Infrastructure Delivery Team**

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1 Summary

The site is in the southern hinterland of the Roman walled town where previous excavation has revealed Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, funerary monuments, and a circus. This is the report on a Roman cemetery of seventeen burials, and a later large Roman quarry set within paddocks and enclosures, all to the west of a previously-identified Romanised farmstead building.

Evaluations (2004, 2011) and excavation (2013) on a site now occupied by St John's Primary School revealed three phases of Roman activity consisting of a cemetery, ditches and enclosures. The first phase consisted of 1st-century Roman cemetery including high status individuals to one side of an early ditch (part of a north-west/south-east rectilinear landscape) which may have been its western boundary. The cemetery continued into phase 2, when it may have been associated with a Romanised farmstead building of early Roman date (found by the 2004 trenching) and associated with the northern of two connected east-west enclosures forming a new landscape arrangement. These enclosures were at right-angles to the presumed north-south course of the Roman road leading to the town's south-east gate, thought to be on the approximate course of Mersea Road to the east of the new school site. The east-west landscape may have continued in use into the early 3rd century by when the Romanised building was seemingly abandoned. The Roman cemetery may have continued in use despite the landscape changes, The Phase 2 southern enclosure is likely to have been agricultural in use - a farmyard compound. In Phase 3 (later 2nd/3rd century) a large sand and gravel quarry was dug through the Phase 1 and 2 ditches and probably through the southern extent of the earlier cemetery. The quarry was itself cut by several large pits on its southern edge which were filled with domestic rubbish and building material of the mid 2nd to 3rd century. This dating is similar to the latest material associated with the Romanised building and may reflect its final phase/abandonment.

The elite nature of three early burials, including an in situ cremation (bustum) probably male burial of c AD70 (accompanied by lamps and a coin of Vespasian), and a cremation burial (containing the fittings from a boxed burial and fragments of a mirror) may indicate that the Phase 1 and 2 cemetery was exclusively used by one prosperous family founded at the time of the colony. The proximity to the Romanised farmstead building might suggest the farmstead had its origins in the 1st century.

A large ditch on the southern edge of the site is probably a circumvallation ditch dug in the Civil War of 1648, east of Fort Needham.



Plate 1: general view across site, view NW

2 Introduction (Figs 1a, 1b, 2, 3)

The excavation described here is part of an extensive programme of archaeological survey, evaluation and excavation undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of RMPA, MoD and Taylor Woodrow (later Taylor Wimpey), in advance of and during the redevelopment of Colchester Garrison. Project consultants were RPS.^{1 2}

This site, on the western side of Mersea Road and south-east of the Abbey Field (centred TL 99820 24270), was formerly sports pitches, and is now St John's Primary School. Across Mersea Road and 150m to the east is the former Meanee & Hyderabad Barracks, now redeveloped for housing, where the GAL Area A excavations took place in 2011-12.

There have been three stages of archaeological work on this site. The first two were 2004 and 2011 evaluations comprising an overall 4.17% sample of the site which revealed Roman ditches apparently forming an enclosure, a placed deposit, and evidence (from large quantities of brick and tile and beam trench foundations) that a Roman structure stood in the eastern area of the site (CAT Reports 274, 607). The excavation described here is the third stage. As the excavated area overlaps and subsumes some of the evaluation trenches, the narrative below also takes into account the results of both evaluations (2004, 2011), and the excavation (2013). All finds reports upon which this narrative is based are given in Appendices 1-2 (below).

The mitigation was conducted in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological 'Strip, Map and Sample' following topsoil stripping ahead of the foundations and drainage (and other main services) associated with the construction of the St John's Green Primary School at the Colchester Garrison redevelopment Site E at Circular Road East (RPS 2012). Area E is located on the west side of Mersea Road and the east side of Circular Road East on the east of Abbey Field (Fig 1a and 1b).

The second archaeological evaluation was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and was carried out by CAT under RPS project management. Post-excavation work took place in July and August 2011. The project was monitored by the CBC Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) and RPS.

The 2013 CAT excavation was similarly funded by Taylor Wimpey and managed by RPS but was monitored by the Historic Environment Team of Essex CC due to the subsequent handover of archaeologically recorded Site to the County Council for development of the school.

Geology and topography

Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by cover loam. The site is broadly flat at c.32-32.5m OD (CAT 2011). The site was formerly an MoD sports pitch, and as such was a more or less flat piece of land, with a terrace along the northern side separating the cricket pitch to the north from the sports pitch of Area E. The drop is about 0.5m, indicating that Area E has been subject to some levelling. Area E is 1.32ha in extent.

Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical setting of the proposed development has already been comprehensively explored in the desk-based assessment or DBA (CAT Report 97) as updated by subsequent redevelopment of Colchester Garrison and is only summarised here.

The earlier prehistoric evidence in the vicinity of Area E is sporadic but includes a tree throw containing a significant assemblage of early Neolithic plain bowl Mildenhall Ware sherds from Area A1 to the east of Area E (CAT forthcoming), mid-late Neolithic pits containing presumably late Mildenhall Ware along with Peterborough Ware from Area C1 (north of Circular Road North) and late a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pit containing Beaker pottery from Area C2 to

¹ The work programme was negotiated between Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) Mr Martin Winter and RPS, and was set out in a number of Written Schemes of Investigation agreed with and approved by CBCAO, principally RPS 2004. The project was CAT code 13/1a

² Principal report references are CAT Reports 97, 292 (with RPS), and 412.

the north of E on the east side of Circular Road North at its junction with Napier Road (CAT Report 361, Jan 2006; CAT Report 412, 18). A late Bronze Age settlement is suspected at the former Cavalry Barracks site (Area J1) where pits and post holes truncated by the Roman cemetery contained a large assemblage of plain ware sherds (*ibid*). A later middle Iron Age defended enclosure around a c 12m diameter roundhouse was excavated to the south of Area E at Ypres Road for the New Garrison project, and represents one farming focus of the apparently relatively sparsely populated pre-oppidum phase (CAT Report 292). The enclosure dates from c 100BC.

Much of the land to the south and west of the modern town centre, including Area E, falls within the area of the pre-Roman oppidum of Camulodunum. The surviving above-ground remains of the oppidum consist of some of the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system which surrounded it. Centres of occupation, trackways, boundary ditches and roads have been identified from cropmarks. The Garrison PFI site occupies the eastern edge of the oppidum which is defined by the Berechurch Dyke; this crosses the extreme south-east of the site between Area S1 and Area S2 where its line has been confirmed, and upper levels have been excavated, during the project. Berechurch Dyke was previously thought to terminate at its intersection with the north-east-east projecting 'Barnhall Sector' at Colchester cemetery to the south-east of Area E. However, the 2011 excavations in Area A1 (former Hyderabad and Meanee Barracks) unexpectedly identified and excavated an entirely unknown northern 'Hyderabad Sector' extension of the same dyke alignment in the south-east corner of the site, extending the eastern defences of Camulodunum by over 1km towards the River Colne. The dyke actually turned north-east-east within the site, heading towards a meander of the Colne, where it is likely to have terminated to complete the apparently single-phased eastern defences. The dyke was excavated to its base in two interventions and was dated south to the late 1st century BC or more likely early 1st century AD (contemporary with the Sheepen Dyke) by a large assemblage of 'Belgic' pottery along with imported Dressel 1 amphora sherds from a previously unknown adjacent occupation, likely to have been located immediately to the south.

As presently understood, the oppidum had two main centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km west of the Garrison PFI site), which was a late Iron Age rural farmstead (possibly the home of Cunobelin), and at Sheepen (2km to the north of the Garrison PFI site), which was an industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the oppidum. Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were a number of smaller sites, industrial or domestic, that await discovery within the oppidum. One such site has been recorded at Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Shimmin 1998), and another more recently in the former Goojerat Barracks (GAL Area L/N: CAT Report 588, 2011). The latter enclosure site included assemblages of imported pottery including Dressel 1 amphora, Arretine Ware and Gallo-Belgic fine wares (including terra nigra and terra rubra) suggesting an occupant well-connected with the trading port at Sheepen. The cropmarks within the Garrison PFI site may represent the trackways and field boundary ditches that are associated with such sites.

A large number of cropmarks has been recorded over the southern part of the Garrison PFI site. Geophysical survey has partially confirmed and also added to the pattern of these cropmark features (CAT Report 184). Interpretation based on limited excavation (CAT Report 412) would indicate that these are late prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date and represent the trackways, paddocks and field boundaries of a rural landscape. Overlapping of the cropmarks suggests that multiple phases of activity are represented.

In addition to the pre- and early Roman activity relating to occupation and agriculture that is associated with the oppidum, the land immediately to the south of the walled town includes part of the area of its Roman southern extra-mural cemetery and therefore Area E has some potential to contain burials of a Roman date (CAT Report 274).

Roman burials were recorded within the area of the Garrison PFI site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. One of these discoveries comprised three burials, including a lead coffin, found in Mersea Road opposite the Officers' Mess in 1937 (Hull 1958, catalogue no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432), and two Roman cremations were also found in the bank of Mersea Road (Hull no 146a, UAD event no 1080, NGR TL 994 2432). Roman graves have been recorded to the south-east of Area E (the southern part of Abbey Field: Hull no 200, UAD event no 1099). The burials in Abbey Field were previously noted by Hull during hut-building activities 'to the north of the military hospital' in 1939 (Hull 1958 nos 133 & 133, UAD event no 1073, EHER nos 11893-11894, NGR TL 9960 2395). These recorded burials of the Roman

southern extra-mural cemetery have been found over a wide area and the density of the burial appears to vary greatly. It would seem that areas of this cemetery were designated as intensive burial plots (such as the site of the sports pitch at the north end of Abbey Field), while other areas of the cemetery to the south contain far less dense distribution of burial groups (CAT Reports 54, 97, 138). Some 850 plus Roman burials have also been found during the Alienated Land project for Taylor Wimpey around the Roman circus site to the north of Area E within Area C2, Area J1, Area H, Area A1 and under Napier Road, Circular Road North and at the northern end of Circular Road East (CAT Reports 412, 652).

There are also records of an Anglo-Saxon burial in the vicinity of Area E close to Mersea Road and of another one in the north-west area of Meanee Barracks in 1938 (UAD event 935, TL 9993 2473; CAT Report 97). Several ring-ditch enclosed burials of possible early Saxon or late Roman date within have been found during the recent excavations in the north-west area of Hyderabad and Meanee Barracks (Area A1). Area A1 (within Meanee Barracks), has additionally produced a series of poorly dated inhumations have recently found along the east edge of Mersea Road, to the north-east of Area E. These are also likely to be late Roman or Anglo-Saxon in date.

The remains of the stone built monumental Roman circus currently unique to Britain and has been confirmed by a number of investigations (Fig 2 & CAT Report 361, CAT Report 412) to the north of Area E (Taylor Wimpey Areas C1, C2, H, J1, B1b). The western end of the spina was found beneath Circular Road North in 2007 whilst the starting gates themselves were partially exposed by CAT excavations in 2007 (ibid). The east-west orientated circus is approximately 450m in length and 70m wide with a central 'spina' barrier and was used for chariot racing. Elements identified to date include the seating cavea with internal and external (buttressed) walls, two entrance ways through the southern cavea, a lowered racetrack dirt surface (the removed topsoil was presumably used to construct cavea banks on which seating was constructed), a segment of the semi-circular end of the circus, a fragment of the starting gates structures (demonstrating bays for eight chariots rather than twelve), a monument base on the line of the spina (for an obelisk?), and further elements of the spina including its western end and a fragment of a turning post pillar (meta). The circus is a Scheduled Monument.

The principal medieval site in the area is St John's Abbey whose precinct wall and gatehouse partially survive to the north of Napier Road. The Roman circus foundations at C1 were robbed out during the medieval period and this appears to tally well with the construction of St John's Abbey to the north-east (with the western precinct wall of the abbey flanking the east side of Flagstaff Road). The abbey church was recently investigated following a fire at the former officer's Club. The following text for the Medieval period is taken from the DBA (CAT Report 97, 2000):

'The Abbey was built by the Benedictine Order by 1115 but burnt down in 1133. It was rebuilt in the early 13th century. The cruciform –shaped church is thought to have stood in the north of the Abbey precinct. A wall was seen during investigations at St Botolph's roundabout in 1972 and 1986 which might be part of the church. Human remains, certainly medieval burials associated with the Abbey, have been recorded several times in this area (Crummy et al 1993, 203-221). The church was added to and altered in the 14th and 15th centuries. To the north of the church were the cloister, chapel house and domestic buildings. Some of the domestic buildings were said to have been moved to the south side of the church after 1133 and this has been backed up by archaeological evidence (Crummy 1981, 28-30)...

The Abbey and St Giles's Church were surrounded by a precinct wall with towers. The wall dates from before the 13th century and was refaced in parts in the 16th century. It was partly demolished when building St Botolph's roundabout in the early 1970's, but it was recorded before its destruction (Crummy et al 1993, 219). Surviving stretches (some refaced in brick) can still be seen in various places ...

The surviving Abbey gatehouse was built in the 15th century as the main gatehouse, giving access to the town. The upper storey was blown up during the Siege in 1648 and was rebuilt, probably in the 1840s...The building is Grade 1 Listed and is also scheduled. It is possible that there was a second gatehouse, in the Flagstaff House area.

The Abbey was dissolved in 1538 and started to fall down or be demolished at this time.'

There are several features of possible post-medieval date within the vicinity of Area E. In terms of the later use of the abbey site to the east the project DBA (CAT Report 97) further states:

'(The Abbey) passed through many hands including the Lucas family, was confiscated during the Civil War, and then changed ownership several times until it was bought by the War Office in 1860. Maps from 1610 and 1648 show (possibly) part of the abbey church, other abbey buildings and part of the precinct wall still standing. These maps may not be entirely accurate; however, some abbey buildings may still have been standing at this time but having different uses. Lucas's house is one of these (see section 6.8.6). There also appears on these maps to be buildings to the west of the abbey gatehouse (where Abbey House is now) and to the north of Lucas's house (on Flagstaff Road).'

Evidence of the siege defences have recently been identified in the form of a star shaped fortlet at the north-western extent of Area A1 adjacent to Mersea Road and just to the south-east of the walled abbey wall precinct (CAT Report 628, forthcoming). A siege works ditch runs east and west from the fort and was clearly associated with recorded exchanges between the defending parliamentarians and the New Model Army. It is unclear whether the fort identified is Fort Needham itself, which is identified on the siege maps to the south of the abbey – approximately co-incident with Abbey Field to the north of Circular Road South. Clearly either the map location is incorrect or the fortlet and siegeworks found either side of Mersea Road to the north are of an advanced line when the net around Colchester was closed. This is relevant to Area E since a large ditch of approximately the 17th century was found during the evaluation works of 2004 and 2011 in Area E and may represent the larger ditch of Fort Needham, which, if so would have been located further east.

Cartographic evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 18th century (Chapman & André map of 1777). The site of the TA Centre to the immediate south was used by the military from at least 1876, with Area E shown as open ground on the OS 1st Edition of 1874-1876 and the 2nd Edition of 1893-1904. Area E is labelled as being part of the Garrison cricket ground by 1921. The six World War Two air-raid shelters at the east end of the site are shown on MoD maps of 1949 (CAT Report 97). The remainder of the area is shown as open ground, probably already with its current use as a sports pitch.

A series of trial-trenches was excavated in 2002 within the area of the new garrison (Areas A and V), located to the north, east and south of Area E (CAT Report 206). Trial-trenching in 2002 at the southern extent of Abbey Field (Area V) to the south-west of Area E showed that the area had been heavily disturbed by modern services and no significant archaeological remains were recorded (CAT Report 206).

The Area E evaluation trenching

The works specific to Area E conducted in 2004 indicated slight terracing had cut into the northern edge of the site, with some build up in the south area, to create the flat surface for the former sports pitch. The archaeological findings included the identification of an east-west/north-south aligned Roman ditched enclosure set within fields centred on the eastern half of the site. The easternmost trench produced structural evidence (beam trenches and post-holes) of two phases of a timber-framed building. The structure was associated with sufficient hypocaust and tegula tile, along with concentrations of domestic pottery within adjacent features (including the closest alignments of compound ditches) to indicate a domestic Romanised structure, probably a simple Roman 'villa'. A gravel spread on the east side of the associated beam trenches and post-holes may have been part of a yard fronting onto the Roman Road, which is thought to have been close to the line of Mersea Road (leading to the south-east gate of the town).

The following Discussion is taken from the report by CAT on the 2011 evaluation of Area E:

'As in 2004, the current evaluation has demonstrated that significant terracing has taken place across Area E. In T5 and T6 natural subsoil L3 was found between c 680mm and c 900mm below modern ground level (bgl) respectively, and in several places it was below 1m bgl. As in 2004 (CAT Report 274), this strongly indicates that soil was moved from north to south as the site was levelled to create the sports pitch playing surface.

Again, as in the 2004 evaluation, most of the archaeological features in T5 and T6 were Roman pits, postholes, and ditches, the exception being a large quarry pit in T5. The

ditches were of similar character and alignment to those found previously across the Colchester Garrison site, and are best interpreted as field boundaries associated with Iron Age and Roman-period farming and occupation within the oppidum. However, pottery in ditches F4, F7 and F9 indicates that they were all of Roman date, and that there are no Iron Age fields in what is now Area E.

The western edge of the rectangular Roman enclosure identified in 2004 as EF9, EF10, EF13 and EF22 (CAT Report 274) was also intercepted in T5 as F2 (Fig 2). The two postholes to the east of T5 (F15 and F16) are almost certainly structural in nature, connected to either a fence line associated with the enclosure itself, or a building located within it. This would support the 2004 conclusion that there were buildings at the eastern side of the enclosure, and indeed most of the archaeological activity is on the eastern side of the Roman enclosure (and also of Area E).

A large greyware urn (damaged by recent agricultural activity as well as at the time of evaluation) was found in T5, more or less in the centre of the enclosure. There were no associated human remains, so rather than interpreting this as a Roman cremation burial, a ritual interpretation is possible. This is supported by the fact that the pot had been cut into the terminal end of ditch F17, which contained substantial amounts of late 2nd or 3rd century Roman pottery (including a fragmentary mortarium). This would imply a third century date for the placed deposit.

The thirty-one inhumation burials recently excavated on a site at Hyderabad Barracks (across Mersea Road and to the north-east of the current site) may be associated with the enclosure on Area E (GAL area A1, site H: CAT report 628, forthcoming).

This evaluation has added to the picture provided by the 2004 evaluation, and strengthened the conclusions formed in that report that most of the archaeological activity was at the eastern edge of the site, and that this activity defined a Roman-period ditched enclosure on this site containing at least one substantial brick-built structure and possibly several other post-built structures. The presence of structures within the enclosure is supported by the discovery of large quantities of Roman building material, including roofing tile (*tegula* and *imbrex*) in post-Roman ploughsoil L2, and finds of domestic pottery from both stages of evaluation. Also, the presence of flue-tile among the CBM shows that a hypocaust system was located nearby. Whether this heated a floor, or a bath-house of some sort is not known – either way, a structure with some pretensions to a Romanised style of life is indicated. There is evidence for some activity outside the enclosure too, in the form of postholes (F3 and F5), ditches (F4 and EF1) and a possible gravel pathway (F8) flanked by ditches (F7, F9) leading towards the enclosure (F8). The misalignment of some of these ditches with the enclosure, and the fact that post-holed F3 and F5 cut ditch F4 may indicate that there are actually several phases of activity here.

The most likely interpretation of such a collection of structures is a villa-type complex surrounded by its own fields, similar to the sites discovered at the Kirkee & McMunn Barracks (Shimmin, 1998) and at the Goojerat Barracks (GAL Area L/N: CAT Report 588 - forthcoming).

No evidence of prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was encountered in any of the evaluation trenches. The only non-Roman, non-natural feature uncovered during the evaluation was a post-medieval ditch (F14) running E-W across the southern end of T6. Its fill contained peg-tile and a 17th or 18th-century glass fragment, and it aligned well with similar ditch EF11 found in 2004 T4 (Fig 2). This alignment makes it very likely that the ditch was part of a larger system connecting various elements of the Parliamentary forts and gun emplacements by which Colchester was surrounded during the siege of 1648. The siege map of Colchester shows east-west siege works ditches to the south of St John's Abbey through what is now the northern end of the Garrison site (CAT Report 97; CAT leaflet, 'The Siege of Colchester', 1998). It is quite likely that post-medieval ditch F14/EF11 is a surviving fragment of these siege works.'

Of these features it was concluded in the WSI that the construction works for the school would not significantly affect the eastern area of the enclosures and villa (as topsoil for the sports pitches was retained and sports pitch drainage was to be avoided). Elements of the less significant Roman ditched landscape and the quarry pit as identified by the 2011 trenching were likely to be impacted to a minor degree by the foundation and drainage works for the school,

hence their excavation. The possibility that Roman burials could be encountered in low densities was also noted ahead of excavation.

3 Disturbance and dating

Various types of Garrison infrastructure (footings, services, etc) and landscaping prior to the construction of the playing fields which previously occupied this site have removed the uppermost horizons and caused considerable damage.

Not all features contained dating evidence, or had relationships with other features. In the 2004 evaluation, 21% of features were undated, in 2011, 24%, and on the 2013 excavation site, 29%. Some contexts contained only single finds, which may be residual.

4 Outline site chronology

Period 1: Neolithic / Bronze Age

Residual flints and sherds. No occupation.

Period 2: Iron Age

A curved gully *may* be the eaves-drip gully of a prehistoric round-house. However, the lack of finds and possible south-west aligned entrance (rather than the much more usual east, south-east or sometimes south facing entrance for domestic roundhouses) casts considerable doubt on a domestic roundhouse interpretation. The gully, if representative of an eaves drip gully, is also quite small at an extrapolated diameter of *c* 8m, as drip gullies are usually placed at least one metre outside of roundhouse wall foundations (where foundations are apparent) and in this case that would make the postulated building only 6m or so in diameter. On balance the curving gully may not have structural associations.

Period 3: Roman

Phase 1: mid 1st century to 2nd century

The first phase consisted of a rectilinear landscape including a NW/SE aligned ditch with a similarly-aligned paddock (34m wide) on its western side (an entrance-sized gap between the two indicates they are contemporary)³. The NW/SE ditch appears to be the western boundary of a 1st-century Roman cemetery including a high-status bustum (containing lamps and a coin of Vespasian, dating this feature to circa AD 70), and three cremations (one a high-status boxed cremation), although in later periods (below), burials are placed beyond it. The high number of imported items in the early burials, and the very Romanised ways of life that they represent, together with an absence of La Tène-style personalia, indicate that the deceased are more likely to be post-Boudican immigrant colonists than Romanised Britons.

Phase 2: mid-late 2nd century

The cemetery continued into phase 2, when it may have been associated with a Romanised farmstead building of early Roman date (found by the 2004 trenching) and associated with the northern of two connected east-west enclosures forming a new landscape arrangement (the enclosures were 40m wide N-S and at least 60m E-W)⁴. These enclosures were at right-angles to the presumed north-south course of the Roman road leading to the town's south-east gate, thought to be on the approximate course of Mersea Road to the east of the new school site. The east-west landscape may have continued in use into the early 3rd century by when the Romanised building was seemingly abandoned. The Roman cemetery may have continued in use despite the landscape changes (at least two inhumations are associated with this phase). The Phase 2 southern enclosure is likely to have been agricultural in use - a farmyard compound. Despite the major Phase 2 realignment of the landscape (presumably in relation to the Roman town and circus to the north) some of the earlier Phase 1 landscape elements continued in use.

³ the ditches defining this enclosure (EF3, EF29) were 2.4m, 1.85m wide, and 0.7, 0.65m deep respectively

⁴ the ditches defining these enclosures (EF1, EF101, EF153) were 3.3m x 0.5m, 0.9m x 0.12m, and 2.2m x 0.48m, though severe truncation on this site means these sizes are smaller than their original sizes.

Phase 3: later 2nd - 3rd century

In Phase 3 (later 2nd/3rd century) a large sand and gravel quarry was dug through the Phase 1 and 2 ditches and probably through the southern edge of the earlier cemetery. The quarry was itself cut by several large pits on its southern edge which were filled with domestic rubbish and building material of the mid-2nd to 3rd century. This dating is similar to the latest material associated with the Romanised building and may reflect its final phase/abandonment.

Period 4: late Roman

The twelve undated grave-shaped cuts in and west of the *Phase 2* cemetery are probably graves whose bodies (in shrouds?) have been dissolved by the acidic soil. In the absence of dating evidence, these are probably late Roman, of a similar date to the late Roman inhumation cemetery at GAL A1 site H (140m ENE of here)

Period 5 Medieval

There is no evidence of any medieval activity.

Phase 6 Post-medieval

Major Garrison infrastructure (footings, fences, pits) cut through the prehistoric and Roman remains. Figures 2 and 3 show the large post-medieval ditch F60 whose dating fits with the interpretation that this is part of the Civil War siege works. From its size (3.45m wide and 1.2m deep), and from its position (east of the location of Fort Needham as shown by the *Siege Map* of 1648, over the present Berechurch Road) it may be interpreted as a circumvallation ditch dug by the Parliamentary forces in the Siege of Colchester.

5 Finds reports (Figs 12, 13, 20, 22-26)⁵

Stephen Benfield with Nina Crummy, Adam Wightman, Julie Curl, and Val Fryer

5.1 The small finds and bulk metalwork

by Nina Crummy

Introduction

The assemblage is small and chiefly consists of items either deliberately deposited in funerary features as grave goods or residual in their backfill. A few objects were also recovered from non-funerary Romano-British and post-medieval contexts. The material is catalogued below by context type or date as appropriate. Unless stated otherwise, all the nails are of Manning's Type 1b (1985, 134), short nails with round flat or slightly convex head.

Burials:

The funerary deposits in cremation EF137, bustum EF 62 and inhumation EF107 are all broadly contemporary, giving a broad range of c. AD 50 to the early 2nd century for the use of this area for burials. Lamps and a coin of Vespasian from the bustum provide a narrower range centring on the AD 70s. The high number of imported items and the very Romanised ways of life that they represent, together with an absence of La Tène-style personalia, indicate that the deceased are more likely to be post-Boudican immigrant colonists than Romanised Britons.

Other features:

Romano-British

Few Romano-British objects were recovered from non-funerary features and at least two show signs of scorching and can be presumed to be disturbed pyre or burial deposits. The latter are listed first in the catalogue below, the remainder are grouped by function as defined in *CAR 2* (dress accessories, household equipment, etc).

The two scorched objects are a coin residual in the fill of the post-medieval ditch EF1 (SF 1) and part of the shaft of a hairpin, toilet instrument or spoon from pit EF31 (SF 9). The coin is illegible, and while it may be as late as the early 3rd century, it is more likely to be broadly contemporary with the mid to later 1st century objects from the funerary features.

The dress accessories consist of a Polden Hill brooch (Fig 25.2: SF 5) and a mount from the quarry pit EF2, and part of a Type 2 bone hairpin from pit EF31 (SF 8). The brooch is British-made and dates to the pre-Flavian to early-Flavian period (Mackreth 2011, 78), while the hairpin is a long-lived form first introduced at the conquest and continuing to be made until about AD 200 (*CAR 2*, 21; Crummy 2011, 125). The mount cannot be closely dated and, given the presence of an intrusive post-medieval shoe buckle in the quarry pit (see SF 17 below), may not be Roman.

Toilet instruments consist of a small bone spoon (SF 42) from pit F96 (88). Two small pieces of worked bone waste were also recovered from this feature (SF 43 & 44).

Household equipment from the site is represented by a strap-ring from a box, possibly a disturbed pyre or burial deposit but not obviously scorched (SF 14), and by fragments of Mayen lava rotary querns from four contexts: quarry pit EF2 (SF 16), posthole EF17 (SF 37), pit EF74 (SF 10) and ditch EF92 (SF 11). All the quern fragments derive from lower-stones and are very worn, with traces of radial dressing surviving only SF 37. Lava querns quarried from the Eifel Hills of Germany were introduced to Britain at the conquest, and the trade continued at least into the later 2nd century (*CAR 2*, 75-6; Buckley and Major 1998, 245). Given their condition, it is possible that the quern fragments were reused as building material or hardcore (Mould 2011, 170).

Building material from the site otherwise consists of two fragments of gastropodic limestone wall veneer (probably Purbeck marble) that probably derive from a building of some quality in the vicinity of the site, perhaps a mausoleum, shrine or small temple. One comes from the

⁵ Last update - 17/12/13

quarry pit EF 2 (SF 15) and the other from pit EF96 (SF 39). The importation of decorative veneers to Colchester from the Isle of Purbeck began soon after the conquest (CAR 6, 173 no. 1015, 225 no 207).

The general fittings consist of an L-shaped lift key from pit EF33 (Fig 25.3, SF 41), again probably from a building of some quality and a swivel-link that may come from a chain or from harness from pit EF96 (SF 23). Part of an iron handle from quarry pit EF2 is probably from a tool (SF 22), perhaps an agricultural implement, and a goad prick from posthole EF7 (SF 2) represents animal husbandry. Goad pricks may be large or small, the larger used for herding cattle or driving oxen used for haulage, but SF 2 is the smaller form that was more likely to be used for sheep, goats or pigs. Goad pricks from sanctuary sites such as the shrine of Apollo at Nettleton and the shrine of Nodens at Lydney were probably used to drive animals to sacrifice, and the rituals involved in funerary activity and at the nearby circus provide contexts for a similar interpretation for SF 2 (Crummy 2011, 130).

A strip of lead rolled into a ring from quarry pit EF2 cannot be assigned to any certain function and given the recovery of a post-medieval shoe buckle from an adjacent context it may also be post-Roman (SF 18).

SF 1. (1) EF1, residual in post-medieval ditch fill. Very worn and scorched mid 1st century to early 3rd century copper-alloy *as*, with nothing remaining on either face of the legends or designs. Probably a disturbed pyre or cremation deposit. A date early in the suggested range is most likely. Diameter 27 mm.

SF 9. (44) EF31, pit fill. Fragment of a scorched copper-alloy shaft, probably from a toilet instrument, hairpin or spoon. Length 22 mm.

Fig 25.2 SF 5. (19) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Copper-alloy Polden Hill brooch, missing most of the catchplate, the pin and parts of the spring, axial bar and superior chord. The sidewings are semicircular for most of their length, but the ends are solid and the tips bend round to secure the axial bar holding the spring in place. There are three pairs of mouldings on each sidewing, decreasing in size as the wings taper to the ends. Two transverse mouldings mark the junction of the head and the pierced crest that holds the chord. The bow has a line of beading down the centre, and tapers to a short foot that kicks out slightly at the toe. Length 35 mm, width at crossbar 31 mm.

SF 8. (43) EF31, pit fill. Upper part of a Type 2 bone hairpin, with a single groove below the head, which is rounded, rather than having the more usual point. Length 50 mm.

SF 7. (20) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Copper-alloy lozenge-shaped mount fragment, with open circular centre and a prominent knob at each angle; the underside is flat. Maximum length 27 mm, width >18 mm, maximum thickness 4 mm. Date uncertain.

SF 14. (94) EF96, pit fill. Copper-alloy strap-ring with lozenge-shaped section; the angle on the outer face is less acute than that on the inner where fettling has worn some metal away. The loop of the iron spring-clip that attached the ring to the box remains. Ring: diameter 21 mm, height 2 mm, 1 mm thick. Spring-clip: length 10 mm, width 7 mm.

SF 16. (99) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Three fitting weathered fragments from the lower-stone of a Mayen lava rotary quernstone. Weight 76g.

SF 37. (14) EF17, posthole fill. Fragments from the lower-stone of a Mayen lava rotary quernstone, with traces of radial dressing on the largest. Maximum surviving thickness 39 mm; weight 580g.

SF 10. (23) EF74, pit fill. Fragments from the very weathered lower-stone of a rotary quern of Mayen lava. Most are small and featureless, but two rim fragments remain, neither with any surviving tooling or dressing marks. Diameter uncertain, surviving thickness 55 mm; weight 2.4 kg.

SF 11. (85) EF92, ditch fill. Worn rim fragment from the lower-stone of a Mayen lava rotary quern; no tooling or dressing marks remain. Diameter uncertain, surviving thickness 37 mm; weight 430g.

SF 15. (97) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Very weathered corner fragment from a slab of gastropodic limestone veneer (as Purbeck marble); one face has sheared off. 65 by 50 mm, surviving thickness 25 mm.

SF 39. (88) EF96, pit fill. Fragment of weathered gastropodic limestone veneer (as Purbeck marble), with well-polished upper face, one surviving polished edge, and rough underside. Length 111 by 40 mm (edge 34 mm), 18 mm thick.

Fig 25.3 SF 41. (6) EF33, pit fill. Iron L-shaped lift-key, with three teeth on the bit. The handle tapers down towards the stem and is missing its pierced terminal (Manning 1985, 90, fig. 25, 2). Length 135 mm, length of bit 45 mm.

SF 23. (111) EF96, pit fill. Iron figure-of-eight-shaped swivel link with hooked swivel clip. Length 115 mm, width of link 24 mm.

SF 22. (106) EF2 fill of quarry pit. Iron handle fragment with angular terminal broken at the upper end. Length 124 mm maximum width 17 mm.

SF 2. (12) EF7, posthole fill. Part of the iron prick from a small animal goad, missing the lower coils. Diameter 16 mm, surviving length 22 mm.

SF 18. (104) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Thick lead strip bent round to form an irregular ring; there is a deep central groove on the outer face. Maximum diameter 18 mm, height 14 mm, 4 mm thick.

Illustrated Fig 25.4. SF 42 (88) F96 Toilet spoon, small bone spoon with slightly expanded, rectangular, dished spoon end, slightly curving shaft with trimmed and roughly shaped (triangular/pyramidal) end. Length 60 mm

SF 43 (88) F96 Worked bone strip, fine cut edges, broken at ends, one end with angled cut part way through bone where broken. Length 60 mm.

SF 44 (88) F96 Worked bone piece, fine smooth cut at one end with partial rough snap, one natural rounded edge along one side, other edges broken away. Length, 45 mm

Post-medieval

A well-preserved post-medieval shoe buckle, still retaining part of the leather strap between the buckle-plates, was intrusive in quarry pit EF2 (SF 17). Its presence suggests that the undated mount and lead strip from the quarry may also be post-Roman (SF 7 and SF 18 above).

A lace-end and iron patten from ditch EF60 are both post-medieval (SF 6, SF 21). The former has a date-range of c. 1550/75-1700+ and the latter is probably of 17th century date (*CAR* 5, 13, Type 2; Grew 1984, 106).

SF 17. (105) EF2, intrusive in fill of quarry pit. Trapezoidal copper-alloy shoe buckle, missing the tongue. The outer bar of the buckle is fitted with a sheet metal roller. The folded buckle-plate tapers slightly, continuing the line of the buckle, and is secured to the strap by a single rivet at the inner end. Part of the strap remains between the plates. Total length 39 mm, maximum width of buckle 11 mm, buckle-plate tapers from 9 to 7 mm.

SF 6. (15) EF60, ditch fill. Copper-alloy ribbed Type 2 lace-end, with mineral-replaced textile preserved in the hollow centre. Length 22 mm.

SF 21. (107) EF60, ditch fill. Iron patten with sub-rectangular frame with central expansion on the long sides and a tab at each end to support a wooden or leather sole; the shoe of the user would be fastened to the sole. Length 190 mm, maximum width 89 mm.

SF 18. (104) EF2, fill of quarry pit. Thick lead strip bent round to form an irregular ring; there is a deep central groove on the outer face. Maximum diameter 18 mm, height 14 mm, 4 mm thick.

5.2 Roman burials

5.2.1 Bustum F62

by S Benfield

Pottery

In total 2,364g of pottery was recovered by hand from the bustum. The pottery was recovered as broken sherds from across the feature, although there appear to be a distinct concentration of sherds in the southwest area (quadrant D). All the pottery is broken into sherds and most is in buff fabrics (Fabric DJ), some of which appear to have been scorched or burnt (they are discoloured). The pottery represents a minimum of seven vessels. The majority of sherds are from frilled *tazza* (Cam 198). The only part vessel, much of the upper part of which was recovered together, was a *tazza* located in the northeast quadrant F62.2 (quadrant A). Parts of four other *tazza* could be identified, F62.3-F62.5; one from the northwest area of the bustum (quadrant C) and three from the southwest area (quadrant D). Only sections of the upper parts of these pots could be reconstructed and the recovery of fewer sherds from the lower parts of the vessels appears to be real, although parts of three *tazza* bases (not fitting) are also present. Body sherds from two other vessels, some joining together, are also present among the assemblage. These are a flagon, F62.6 in buff fabric (Fabric DJ) from the southwest area of the feature and a carinated flat-rimmed bowl (Cam 243-244/246) in grey ware (Fabric GX) from the northwest area, F62.7. A single plain rim sherd from a flat-rimmed bowl F62.8 in the southwest area of the feature appears to be from another, different vessel and may be part of the assemblage or possibly residual. The *tazza* (am 198) can be dated to the period of the mid 1st-2nd century, the flagon is probably of similar date, but the carinated bowl (Cam 243-244/246) is probably not current beyond the early-mid 2nd century. The apparent scorching of some sherds indicates they were associated with the pyre, although none appear to have been exposed to great heat.

The presence of parts of five pottery *tazza* from this feature is of note. *Tazze* are usually considered to be associated with the burning of incense and some at least have ritual associations. They are occasionally found with cremation burials either singly or as two or more vessels in a group. A probable bustum pit at Southwark, London (burial 1), produced eight *tazza* vessels (Mackinder 2000, 12) and a cremation burial at Baldock (B50) contained fifteen pedestal vessels variously suggested as cups, candlesticks or incense burners (Stead & Rigby, 1986; Eckardt 2002, 109). There also appears to be connections between the presence of *tazza* and lamps with burials, although not all burials with *tazza* have lamps. At Colchester of four burials with *tazza* listed in Hull's inventory of graves (G35, G36, G73 & G191) two (G35 & G36) also have lamps (Hull unpublished, *CAR* 9, 257). One of these (G36) which had three *tazza* also contained a picture lamp and six Firlampen. More recently a cremation at the Handford House site which had parts of three *tazze* (F19) also included a picture lamp (CAT Report 323, 17). The bustum here (F62) also contained at least three lamps while the Southwark bustum contained eight lamps. The cremation burial at Baldock, which is possibly also an example of this pairing of *tazza* and lamps, contained thirty-one lamps and an as yet unpublished burial at Mucking with a group of three *tazza* had eleven Firlampen (Eckhardt 2002, 109).

It has been suggested that this grouping of numbers of lamps and *tazza*/incense burners together in some burials probably represents a specific burial rite (Eckardt 2002, 106) and more broadly the combination of *tazza* and lamps probably reflects this or aspects of other specific funerary rites.

Small finds

The debris from the bustum consists mainly of iron nails and burnt and shattered lamps but also includes a scorched coin. The nails may come from pieces of furniture or from recycled wood used as fuel. The coin is an *as* of Vespasian, AD 69-79, and from its position within the feature it may have been placed in the right hand or mouth of the corpse. It was found with the reverse face uppermost (SF 13), which within the context of a bustum may be fortuitous rather than deliberate, but there is some possibility that this is another example of the practice of selecting as the ferryman's fee a coin with a reverse pertinent to a funerary context. Most evident in Colchester in the late Roman period (Crummy 2010, 69-74), this may also have been done in at least some of the early Roman burials found at Handford Place, formerly Handford House (Crummy in CAT Report 323).

At least three picture lamps were among the debris, all represented by burnt or scorched sherds (SFs 3 and 4 and 12); two separate small sherds (SFs 19 and 20) probably derive from either SF 3 or SF 12. One lamp (SF 4) had been placed near the centre of the feature, with SF 3 at one end and SF 12 at the other, as if they had been positioned to ignite the wood used to cremate the body from three

points, or at the very least allow the oil they contained to help the fire catch hold. Discus images survive on two of the lamps, a mask of Silenus on SF 3 (Fig 13, top) and a bust of Jupiter behind an eagle with outspread wings on SF 4 (Fig 13, bottom), both of which would have been chosen for their funerary meaning. Silenus is a companion of Dionysus-Bacchus, the saviour god who promised rebirth and whose image, or those of his revelling associates, often occurs in Roman-period tombs in Italy (Toynbee 1971, 38-9; Henig 1984, 103-6, 110). Jupiter with his eagle refers not only to imperial power and to the god in his solar-sky deity aspect (Green 1997, 58; Eckardt 2002, 117-18) but also to the Roman practice of placing within a pyre a caged bird that when released would fly upwards as if bearing the soul to the heavens (Toynbee 1971, 59). Eagles were released in this way at the funerals of Augustus and Septimius Severus, and deceased members of the imperial family were shown on 1st- to 3rd-century reliefs and coins with the birds, sometimes riding them skywards (*ibid.*, 59-60; *eadem* 1973, 240-3). The eagle and Jupiter lamp is a product of a Central Gaulish lamp workshop but no direct parallels to the Silenus image have been found in Britain or elsewhere and it may be a local post-Boudican product. The luxuriant wreath above the god's brow is here reduced to a curved line of raised points and his beard is narrow and pointed rather than full and unkempt as on lamps made in Gaulish or Mediterranean workshops (cf. Loeschcke 1919, Taf. V, 362-3; Goethert-Polaschek 1985, 209, M52-3; Bailey 1988, 8, fig. 13, Q3027-8, Q2379, Q2520, Q1702).

From the presence of picture lamps and of a worn coin of Vespasian, the date of the bustum is likely to lie within the AD later 70s or early 80s. Picture lamps are essentially pre-Flavian artefacts and in Colchester rarely occur in post-Boudican contexts; Eckhardt suggests that they ceased to be imported to Britain c. 70 and would have survived in use no later than c. 90 (2002, 37-41).

The use of a coin to pay the ferryman to convey the soul to the underworld is a burial rite of the classical world, as is the use of oil lamps to light the soul on its way (Crummy 2010, 2, 20, 31, 33, 40). The lamps also imply a degree of wealth, as the creation of artificial light from a picture lamp involved burning oil, more usually used as a foodstuff (Eckardt 2002, 15, 58-60). Therefore, as with the cremation EF137 and inhumation EF107 below, the objects from EF62 point to the deceased being a highly Romanised individual. The absence of overtly female-gendered artefacts suggests that this is the burial of a male.

Following the completion of this report text by Nina Crummy a small piece of a decorated object, SF 47 (Fig 12 62.19), was recovered as four joining pieces from a bulk sample taken from the area of the cremated bone. The piece appears to have been subject to heating, presumably from the pyre. The carved object is part of a shaft/handle (broadening at one end) in a white bone or bone-like material. The narrow shaft is hollow along its central length and unusually within this is the remains of corroded iron, presumably from a thin iron rod running along the length of the piece. The piece is not easily paralleled, but appears to have been part of a decorated handle for a metal (iron) implement, possibly a knife.

It can be noted that among small pieces of iron (mostly nails) recovered from processing bulk samples from the area of the cremated bone several small nails were present which are of hobnail type (described as hobnails in the finds listing) and which are presumed to be from shoes/boots. The small number might reflect a token placement of these objects. One is bent at the end, typical of hobnails from shoes.

Glass

Fifty-eight pieces of glass (weight, 98g) were recovered by hand excavation (25, 34, 37, 75, 78-9, 93, 128). The majority of the melted pieces are not individually located on the plan, but almost all planned glass pieces come from the centre of the bustum. The glass is all blue-green in colour. Few pieces are identifiable, but some small pieces which are not melted indicate they are from one or more small, narrow necked vessels, most probably unguent bottles or flasks which would have contained toilet perfume or oils. One small, out-turned rim piece and fragments from a narrow neck F62(79) can be identified as from one of these vessel types. The sheared rim indicates the vessel is likely to date to the mid 1st century. A sherd from a base F62(75) is most probably from an unguent bottle. Other sherds indicate the presence of other unidentified vessels. A sherd F62(37) which retains part of an elliptical opening (neck/spout) is from a small, rounded, thin-walled vessel, possibly a small flask. Another small, heat-affected sherd F62(25) is relatively thick (2 mm) and is certainly from a vessel other than an unguent bottle. The melted pieces consist of flat irregular pieces, some of which have folded edges suggesting the collapse of a vessel, together with a few elongated droplets indicating

glass that has melted above the floor of the bustum and has been able to drip. The flat, melted pieces could also indicate the presence of thicker or more substantial vessels than unguent bottles.

Bustum finds catalogue

by S Benfield

Bone

F62.1 Cremated bone 27g

Pottery

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.2). F62(54) (located on plan) excavation quadrant A. *Tazza*, Cam 198, Fabric DJ, part scorched, near complete rim from broken, scorched whole pot. Little indication that any of the lower part of the pot is present. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.3). F62(35) excavation quadrant C. *Tazza*, Cam 198, Fabric DJ, part scorched, much of rim only, one or two other lower wall and base sherds possible from this or other vessel(s). None of the lower part of the pot is present. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.4). F62(58) excavation quadrant D. *Tazza*, Cam 198, Fabric DJ, part scorched, broken, much of rim and part of body joining, joins include rim sherd from F65(35) quadrant C. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.5). F62(38) excavation quadrant D. *Tazza*, Cam 198, Fabric DJ, part scorched, broken, much of rim with small internal groove (turning mark) and part of body with lower frill, not joining. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.6). F62(77) excavation quadrant D. *Tazza*, Cam 198, Fabric DJ, abraded, broken part of rim only but appears to be a different vessel to the other *Tazza*. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

F62.7 F62(38) excavation quadrant D. Flagon, Fabric DJ, abraded, joining upper body sherds with part of handle scar from the shoulder of a large flagon. Dated mid 1st-2nd century.

Illustrated - Fig 12 (F62.8). F62(38) excavation quadrant D. Cam 243-244/246 bowl Fabric GX. Groove above carination, curving body. Part vessel, some sherds joining. Fabric appears scorched. Other similar grey ware sherds from F62(58) quadrant D & F62(35) quadrant C. Dated Mid-late 1st/early 2nd century, probably 1st century.

F62.9 EB8 F62(38) excavation quadrant D. Fabric GX, rim sherd from a bowl in thick gritty grey ware

Other finds

F62.10 F62.9 SF 13. (91). Worn and scorched copper-alloy as of Vespasian, AD 69-79. Obverse legend -/SAR VESP/-, bust right, ?laurel-wreath. Reverse legend illegible, standing figure with left hand raised, S C in field.

F62.11 Fig 13 SF 3. (55). Scorched sherds from a ceramic picture lamp with rounded nozzle (Loeschcke 1919, pl. 1, Type IV). The fabric is buff, fired to grey/buff, with traces of a (reddish-brown) slip, now discoloured; possibly a local product. Diameter approximately 59 mm.

F62.12 Fig 13.SF 4. (24) Scorched sherds from a Central-Gaulish ceramic picture lamp of Loeschcke Type IV. The fabric is orange, fired on the surface to buff/brown, with traces of a darker orange slip, now discoloured. The discus image shows a bust of Jupiter behind an eagle with outspread wings (Bailey 1988, 160, Q1523-4, pl. 3, fig. 2; Eckardt 2002, fig. 130, 106). Lamps with the same image have been found in Colchester, London, Gloucester and Caerleon (*ibid.*, 373, 387). Diameter approximately 62 mm.

F62.13 SF 12. (90). Scorched sherds from the base of a ceramic picture lamp of Loeschcke Type IV in a buff fabric, fired grey/buff, with traces of a darker slip, now discoloured; either a Central Gaulish or local product. No part of the rim or discus remains, but there are surviving volute and nozzle fragments. Diameter <35 mm.

F62.14 SF19 (102) Small scorched sherd from rim of ceramic picture lamp in a buff fabric. 12x8mm.

F62.15 SF20. (108) Small scorched sherd from a ceramic (?picture) lamp in a buff fabric. 15 by 8 mm.

Iron nails

F62.16 (68). Iron nails, some slaggy from burning. A) Complete, 36 mm long. B) Two nails, both incomplete, 30 and 24 mm long. C) Two nails, one complete, one incomplete, both 25 mm long. D) Clenched shank fragment, 38 mm long. E) Complete?, 29 mm long. F) Incomplete, 39 mm long. G) Incomplete, 27 mm long. H) Incomplete, 27 mm long. I) Shank only, with traces of transverse wood grain on the upper end (minimum thickness 18 mm) and longitudinal wood grain (minimum thickness 47 mm) on the lower, 76 mm long. J) Shank fragment, 23 mm long

Glass

F62.17 (25) blue green glass (3g), melted droplets and sherd (2 mm thick); F62(34) blue green glass (1g), melted droplet; F62(37) blue green glass (4g), sherd from spout/neck of small globular necked vessel; F62(75) blue green glass (34g), base from a small thin walled vessel (probably an unguent bottle) with body sherds from a small rounded vessel (flask or unguent bottle?) and melted pieces; F62(78) blue green glass (20g) body sherds from a small rounded vessel (flask or unguent bottle?) and melted pieces; F62.18 (79) Fig 25.1 blue green glass (3g) sheared, out-turned rim from a flask or unguent bottle (dated mid 1st century) and small sherds from thin neck; F62(93) blue green glass (28 g), melted droplets and sherd; F62(128) melted piece (4g).

Finds recovered during processing bulk samples from the area of the cremated bone:

Quadrant A, Spit 1 (finds no. 41)

SF 47 Piece from a decorated handle(?) which appears to be in bone or a bone like material which has been affected by heat. Four, small joining pieces (weight 2 g) in white bone(?) with hollow (oval) shaft, the piece broadens and slightly flattens out at one end, decorated externally with quartered (four longitudinal rows) angled beading along all of the surviving length of the shaft; remains of corroded iron inside hollow centre presumably from a slightly oval sectioned iron rod or shaft running through it. Not easily paralleled, probably part of a handle from an implement with a thin metal (iron) shaft such as a knife.

Iron - Fragments from iron nails, small-medium nails, most shaft fragments, 1 round flat head (7 pieces, weight 13 g)

Quadrant A, Spit 2 (finds no. 56)

Iron - two hobnails and iron shaft fragments possibly from nails, or other small iron pieces (5 pieces, 6 g)

Quadrant A, Spit 4 (finds no 82)

Pottery - Fabric DJ (1 sherd, 2g) mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Glass - pieces of melted blue-green glass (12 pieces, 4 g); Iron - nail shaft fragments possibly from corroded iron nails, or other small iron pieces, some fossilised wood present (6 pieces, 2g)

Quadrant B, Spit 1 (finds no 41)

Pottery - Fabric DJ (5 sherds, 6 g) mid 1st-2nd/3rd C; Glass - piece/sphere of melted blue-green glass (1 piece, 1g); Iron - Two hobnails & shaft fragments from iron nails of small-medium size (5 pieces, 6g)

Quadrant B, Spit 2 (finds no 56)

Pottery - Fabric DJ (1 sherd, 1g) dated mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Glass - piece of melted blue-green glass (1 piece, 3 g); Iron - Single hobnail and shaft fragments from iron nails of small-medium size including a round flat head, other iron fragments present (8 pieces, 7g)

Quadrant C, Spit 1 (finds no 41)

Pottery - Fabric DJ (3 sherds, 2g) dated mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Glass - Pieces of melted blue-green glass (7 piece, 6 g); Iron - Single probable hobnail and fragments from iron nails of small-medium size including a round flat head (17 pieces, 22g)

Quadrant C, Spit 4 (finds no 82)

SF 46 Small domed head from a decorative tack or rivet (weight 1g)

Pottery - Fabric DJ (1 sherds, 2g) dated mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Glass - Pieces of melted blue-green glass (3 piece, 2 g); Iron - Fragments from iron nails of small-medium size including small pieces with fossilised wood (7 pieces, 6g)

5.2.2 Inhumations

by S Benfield

Inhumation EF70

EF70.1 Human bone

Inhumation F105

Human skeletal remains -none

Pottery

Illustrated - Fig 20 (EF105.1). F105(119), Bead rim jar, Cam 328, Fabric KX, whole pot (247 g) decorated with diagonal burnished lines (CAR 10 fig 6.46 no. 162) abraded grey surfaces. The form appears to be predominantly Antonine in date. Dated Hadrianic/Antonine-?early 3rd century

Illustrated - Fig 20 (EF105.2). F105 (120), Beaker, Fabric GX, plain globular beaker with small everted rim, complete pot (143 g) Fabric GX, abraded dark-grey/grey surfaces, recovered whole but upper part broken into sherds along soil pressure cracks. Form corresponds with Cam 108 (plain) (dated mid 1st-early 2nd century)

Illustrated – Fig 20 (EF105.3). F105(121), Bead rim jar, Cam 328, Fabric GB, complete pot (91 g) Fabric GB, recovered whole but broken into sherds along soil pressure cracks, decorated with burnished acute lattice. The form appears to be predominantly Antonine in date. Dated Hadrianic/Antonine-?early C3rd

Illustrated – Fig 20 (EF105.4). F105(122), Jar, Cam 278, Fabric GB, broken into numerous sherds, rim & base complete and presumed whole when deposited (845 g), acute lattice decorated body, some acidic soil abrasion of surfaces, partly flaring rim, probably 2nd century. Broadly dated early/mid 2nd-mid 3rd century, vessel here probably 2nd century

Other finds

EF105.5 SF 38. (122) EF105. Fragment of weathered shale with bevelled edge, probably part of a rectangular tray or mixing palette (Lawson 1976, 263-6). 20 by 20 mm, 9 mm thick.

EF105.6 – iron nails.

Pottery

The pottery indicates a mid-late 2nd century date for the burial. The small bead rim jars (Cam 328) might indicate containers for provisions, but might alternatively represent beakers. It can be noted that a cremation burial (JNF205) and a bustum burial (JNF5) from another Colchester site on Garrison Alienated Land (Site J North) both had provision of several small jars of black burnish ware type of form Cam 278 (CAT Report 412)

Other finds

The fragment of shale (SF 38) may be a burnt cremation deposit, residual in this later inhumation.

Inhumation F107

EF107.1 Human skeletal remains – a very small quantity of skull fragments only. Not sent for analysis.

Pottery

Illustrated – Fig 21 (EF107.2). F107(118, 127) Flagon, Cam 155, Fabric DJ, complete pot when put into ground (566 g), resting on its side, neck/rim recently broken into sherds, some of rim missing. Neck three ringed, two lobed handle with single central groove. Dated mid 1st -mid 2nd century

Other finds

Fig 21 - EF107.3 SF 24. (126) EF107. Iron penknife with thick integral octagonal-section handle terminating in a ring; in two pieces and missing the tip and part of the ring. The back and edge of the blade run parallel until the tip. Length 127 mm, maximum width of blade 10 mm.

Small finds

An iron penknife with integral octagonal-section handle lay close to the centre of the burial; it had probably been placed on the lower chest or at the waist (Fig 21, EF107.3: SF24). The knife is an

imported type probably used to sharpen reed pens (*calami*) or quills, with other examples occurring in sets of writing equipment found in 1st-early 2nd century continental burials and among the Boudican debris from the bed of the Walbrook in London (Božič 2001, 29; Manning 1985, Types 2-4), giving a range for EF107 from the AD 50s to the early 2nd century.

As with cremation EF137 and bustum EF62, this inhumation is the burial of a literate, highly Romanised, individual. That he or she was also of high status is also implied by the association of writing equipment in both female and male burials in the northern provinces with objects connected with Roman-style methods of grooming and feasting, such as mirrors and metal vessels (Crummy *et al.* 2007, 151; Koster 1994, Graves 8 and 9; Ambs and Faber 1998, 462-3).

5.2.3 Cremations

by S Benfield

Cremation F79

EF79.1 Cremated bone 544g

Pottery

F79.2 (47) Jar Fabric GX. Sherds (985 g) from a black-surface large jar with hooked rim, most of pot present (Eve 0.25) presumed whole when buried, red-brown silty fabric. Dated as probably Early Roman (mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century)

Cremation F91

EF91.1 Cremated bone – none recovered.

Pottery

EF91.2 (70) Jar Fabric GX. Sherds (435 g) from a the body and base of a black-surface jar or bowl, highly fragmented. Dated as probably Early Roman (mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century).

Glass

F91.3 (71) Ten small fragments of blue-green glass (1 g)

Cremation F137 (Fig 22)

EF137.1 Cremated bone 38g

Pottery

EF137.2. F137(137?) Small jar or beaker Fabric GX broken into sherds, most of base, much of rim, presume either whole when buried and later broken or broken at burial and deposited as sherds. Dated Roman (probably mid-late 1 to 2/3 century?)

Other finds

EF137.3 SF 25. (136) EF137. Slightly convex small round mirror of high-tin bronze coated with white-metal on the upper surface. Diameter 42 mm, 0.01 mm thick.

EF 137.4 SF 27. (133) EF137. Small fragment of a flat high-tin bronze mirror, highly polished on both sides (not part of SF 25). 17 by 5 mm, 0.02 mm thick.

EF137.5 SF 26. (135) EF137. Part of a lock-plate. a) Fragment of copper-alloy sheet with one original edge and a small fixing stud in situ. Sheet: 22 by 16 mm, 0.01 mm thick. Stud: diameter 9 mm, height 3 mm. b) Two fragments of mineral-replaced wood: 13 by 13 by 7 mm, 11 by 9 by 2 mm.

EF137.6 SF 28. (134) EF137. Three small fragments of copper-alloy sheet, 0.5 mm thick: 11 by 8 mm, 7 by 5 mm, 6 by 5 mm.

EF137.7 SF 29. (132) EF137. a) Part of the convex head of a small stud, missing the shank. Diameter 8 mm, height 1.5 mm. b) Small fragment of iron sheet. 8 by 7 mm, 0.5 mm thick.

EF137.8 SF 30. (145) EF137. Small convex copper-alloy stud, missing part of the head. Diameter 8 mm, height 3 mm.

EF137.9 SF 31. (146) EF137. Fragment of iron sheet, 1.5 mm thick: 28 by 22 mm.

EF137.10 SF 34. (147) EF137. Four small fragments of iron sheet, 1.5 mm thick, two with the head of a stud *in situ*: 16 by 15 mm, 15 by 14 mm, 11 by 9 mm, 8 by 5 mm.

EF137.11 SF 35. (138) EF137. The junction from an iron strap-hinge, with part of one spike on one side and two on the other, fixed in the closed position. Surviving lengths of sides 23 mm and 20 mm, width 20 mm.

EF137.12 SF 33. (139) EF137. Iron strap-hinge fragment as SF 35 above. Surviving length of sides 24 and 22 mm, width 20 mm.

EF137.13 SF 32. (130) EF137. Composite furniture nail with more or less biconical copper-alloy head and part of the iron shank; transverse wood grain survives on shank. Length 18 mm, diameter 10 mm.

EF137.14 SF 36. (131) F137. Iron nail and hinge fragments. A) Plano-convex hinge pin fragment with traces of longitudinal wood grain on convex surface; length 24 mm, width 7 mm, 3 mm thick. B) Incomplete iron nail and separate shank fragment; lengths 16 and 26 mm. C) Nail shank fragment with traces of transverse wood grain; length 16 mm. D) Nail shank fragment with traces of transverse wood grain; length 25 mm. E) Clenched nail, bent just below the head, giving a wood thickness of 8-9 mm; length (bent) 18 mm, approx. 44 mm straight. F) Nail shank fragment (in two pieces); length 53 mm.

SF 36. (131) F137. Iron nail and hinge fragments. A) Plano-convex hinge pin fragment with traces of longitudinal wood grain on the convex surface; length 24 mm, width 7 mm, 3 mm thick. B) Incomplete iron nail and separate shank fragment; lengths 16 and 26 mm. C) Nail shank fragment with traces of transverse wood grain; length 16 mm. D) Nail shank fragment with traces of transverse wood grain; length 25 mm. E) Clenched nail, bent just below the head, giving a wood thickness of 8-9 mm; length (bent) 18 mm, approx. 44 mm straight. F) Nail shank fragment (in two pieces); length 53 mm.

Fig 22 F137.15. SF45. (149). Small piece of copper-alloy sheet with an oval shaped end and with a fixing stud through it (SF45A) and two small, copper-alloy dome head studs (SF45B & 45C) (recovered from the deposit of cremated bone).

Glass

EF137.15 F137(141 & 142). Melted blue-green glass pieces and small fragments (14 pieces, 6g)

Small finds

Most of the metal objects from the burial derive from a box for jewellery and other personalia. The box had clearly been a pyre deposit that had been broken up before being placed in the pit as the fittings were scattered randomly across the feature. All that survives of the lock-plate is a fragment of sheet and a fixing stud SF26 (F137.5 - Fig 22) and parts of two other studs (SFs 29 and 30), while fragments of iron sheet represent the internal lock fittings (SFs 31 and 34). Small fragments of mineral-replaced wood were found with the lock-plate. Three sheet fragments thicker than the lock-plate may be all that remains of some other form of cladding, such as corner brackets (SF 28). The two iron hinges from the box are represented by three fragments found some distance apart and not aligned with each other (SFs 33 and 35, SF 36A). The hinges were of an unusual but simple form, with a central spindle around which pivoted three spikes or pins that were driven into the wood of the top and back-boards, two into one board and one into the other. A small piece of copper-alloy sheet with an oval shaped end and with a fixing stud through it (SF45A) and two small dome head studs (SF45B & 45C) which are also possibly part of the box were recovered from among the deposit of cremated bone – although another piece of furniture also appears to have been present (see below).

A single composite furniture nail with solid copper-alloy head and iron shank implies that at least one other piece of furniture had also been placed on the pyre (SF 32). Some nail shank fragments from the burial may come from this item, the box, some other piece of furniture, or the wood used to construct the pyre (SF 36B-F).

A flat double-sided mirror that was probably stored in the box and destroyed with it is represented by only a single small fragment (SF 27); too little remains for its form to be identified. A second mirror from the burial is of Lloyd-Morgan's Type F, a form known on the continent from the early 1st century AD (Lloyd-Morgan 1981, 30). Small, round, plated with white-metal on one face and plain on the other, it was almost certainly originally set into a wooden frame with the unplated face hidden SF 25 (F137.3 - Fig 22: Musty *et al* 1973). Its undamaged condition suggests that it had been placed in the pit as a secondary burial deposit.

Although there is some limited evidence from King Harry Lane, Verulamium, and from Stanway that small plain mirrors may have been imported before the conquest and used by indigenous Britons, in the cemeteries around the *colonia* mirrors of this type are of post-conquest date at the earliest and unlikely to be later than the early 2nd century (Stead & Rigby 1989, 103; Crummy *et al.* 2007, 260-2; CAR 9, table 8.3). In the context of the other burials found in Area E, the mirrors, and to some extent the box, show that EF137 is the burial of a highly Romanised young female accustomed to using continental grooming equipment (Eckardt and Crummy 2008, 31-2).

5.3 Bulk Finds

by S Benfield

Introduction

Bulk finds of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from a range of features. The quantities of these finds are listed by type in Table 1 and by context in Table 2. In addition to the bulk finds there are a number of individually recorded small finds of Roman and post-medieval date reported separately.

Bulk finds types	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	762	13,284
Ceramic building material (CBM)	250	35,536
Clay pipe	1	5
Glass	6	50
Flint	4	135
Stone	17	830
Slag	3	620
Animal bone	292	5402
Shell	517	17718

Table 1. Type and quantities of bulk finds

Pottery

Introduction

Pottery of prehistoric (pre-Belgic) Roman, medieval and post-medieval date was recovered. Almost all of the pottery is of Roman date.

Prehistoric pottery

There are six sherds of hand-made, prehistoric (pre-Belgic) pottery with a total weight of 32 g. All are flint-tempered (Fabric HMF). Most are single, residual finds and were recovered from five later dated contexts (F1, F30, F39(F37), F80 & F149). The sherds were recorded noting the density and size of the flint inclusions and general colour (Table 2). The majority of the sherds are not diagnostic and can only be broadly dated as Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. There is a small rim sherd from F89(53) which is internally thickened but again is not closely dated.

Although coming from features spread across the site, of itself, the very small quantity of pottery does not suggest any significant activity here in the prehistoric (pre-Belgic) period. No prehistoric pottery was recovered during the 2011 evaluation (CAT Report 607).

ctxt no.	finds no	Fabric	Fabric description	no	Wt/g	spot dating
F1	26	HMF	common flint S-M, oxidised	2	6	Neo-EIA (poss BA/EIA)
F30	2	HMF	common flint S-M/L, thick grey-brown sherd	1	17	Neo-EIA (poss BA/EIA)
F37 (sx1)	9	HMF	fragment with some sparse flint, abraded	1	2	Preh (Neo-EIA)
F89	53	HMF	rim (internally thickened) inturned - from a bowl form, abundant flint S-M, reduced fabric,	1	5	Preh (Neo-LBA)
F149	155	HMF	common flint S-M, oxidised	1	2	Neo-EIA (poss BA/EIA)

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery (S=small, M=medium, L=large)

Roman pottery

In total 825 sherds of Roman pottery with a total weight of 19,672g were recovered from features other than burial contexts and which are not placed funerary pots, or part of broken funerary vessels. The pottery is listed by fabric in Table 4. All of the Roman pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 3 below. The pottery fabrics recorded refer to the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (**CAR 10**) and vessel forms to the Colchester *Camulodunum* (Cam) pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958). Vessel forms recorded are listed in Table 5.

Fabric	Description
AA	amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphorae)
AJ	amphorae (Dressel 20)
BA(SG)	South Gaulish plain samian
BA(MV)	Les Martres-du-Veyre plain samian
BA(EL)	Early Lezoux plain samian
BA(CG)	Central Gaulish plain samian
BA(EG)	East Gaulish plain samian
BX(SG)	South Gaulish mould decorated samian
BX(CG)	Central Gaulish mould decorated samian
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware
CH	oxidised Hadham ware
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and north Kent wares)
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware
ON	mica-gilt wares
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the continent
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares

Table 3: Concordance of Roman pottery fabrics

Fabric	code	count	% count	Wt/g	% wt
<i>Imported fine wares:</i>					
Les Martres-de-Veyre plain samian	BA(MV)	2	0.2	61	0.3
Early Lezoux plain samian	BA(EL)	2	0.2	11	<0.1
Central Gaulish plain samian	BA(CG)	3	0.3	97	0.4
East Gaulish plain samian	BA(EG)	8	0.9	118	0.5
South Gaulish mould decorated samian	BX(SG)	1	0.1	8	<0.1
Central Gaulish mould decorated samian	BX(CG)	1	0.1	8	<0.1
other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	EZ	1	0.1	9	<0.1
<i>Sub total</i>		18	1.9	312	1.6
<i>Imported coarse wares:</i>					
amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphorae)	AA	22	2.6	1898	9.6
amphorae (Dressel 20)	AJ	39	4.7	4321	21.9
<i>Sub total</i>		61	7.3	6219	31.5
<i>Local and regional fine wares:</i>					
Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	CB	20	2.4	87	0.4
Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	CZ	7	0.8	29	0.1
fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and north Kent wares)	GP	2	0.2	35	0.2
mica-gilt wares	ON	1	0.1	3	<0.1
<i>Sub total</i>		30	3.5	12592	0.8
<i>Local and regional coarse wares</i>					
coarse oxidised and related wares	DJ	108	13.0	1572	7.9
BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	GA	3	0.3	55	0.2
BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	GB	52	6.3	1167	5.9
other coarse wares, principally locally-produced	GX	495	60.0	6268	31.8

Fabric	code	count	% count	Wt/g	% wt
grey wares					
large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	HZ	34	4.1	2020	10.2
black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	KX	3	0.3	41	0.2
mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the continent	TZ	19	2.3	1804	9.1
silvery micaceous grey wares	WA	1	0.1	37	0.1
<i>Sub total</i>		715	86.4	12964	65.4
<i>Late Roman specialist wares</i>					
oxidised Hadham ware	CH	1	0.1	23	0.1
Total		825	99.2	19672	99.4

Table 4: Roman pottery by fabric

Fabric	Recorded vessel forms
AA	Dressel 2-4, Dressel 7-11, (also stopper disc)
AJ	Dressel 20, Dressel 20 (late fabric BAT AM2 (Tomber & Dore 1998))
BA(MV)	Dr 18/31
BA(EL)	Dr 33
BA(EG)	Dr 31, Dr 33
BX(SG)	Dr 29
BX(CG)	Dr 37
CB	Cam 391
CZ	Cam 391, Cam 407
DJ	Cam 140, Cam 154, Cam 156, Cam 199, Cam 297? Cam 306, Cam 389
GA	Cam 279, Cam 303
GB	Cam 37A, Cam 37B, Cam 40A, Cam 40B, Cam 278
GP	Dish/bowl with flanged rim similar to Cam 46/311
GX	Cam 218, Cam 241/242, Cam 243-244/246, Cam 266, Cam 268, Cam 307
HZ	Cam 270B, Cam 273
KX	Cam 37/38
TZ	Cam 193, Cam 496 (Var.), Cam 497 (Var.), Cam 498, Cam 501, (also rim frag. with herringbone stamp)

Table 5: Roman pottery forms recorded by fabric

Discussion

The range of vessels - including, oil, wine and salazon amphora, a number of mortaria and a significant number of fineware imports, primarily samian - indicate a Romano-Gallic influenced domestic assemblage with a taste for Gallo-Roman cuisine.

A few sherds are probably Claudio-Neronian. These are flagon forms Cam 154 & 140 and mortaria form Cam 193. However, apart from these there is little indication of any significant pre-Flavian pottery, suggesting that the assemblage primarily dates to after the mid 1st century. Among the earliest closely-dated pottery is a sherd from a South Gaulish Dr 29 samian bowl which is not current after c AD 80-85. However, the absence of any other 1st century South Gaulish samian is notable; although one or two small sherds might possibly be 1st century Lezoux samian (Fabric BA(EL)) they are more probably of later (2nd-3rd century) date. The presence of the amphora types Dressel 2-4 & Dressel 7-11 also indicates activity in the 1st-early 2nd century and here are possibly more likely to date to the late 1st or early 2nd century. A small number of sherds from vessels dated as mid 1st-early 2nd century (Cam 218, Cam 243-244/246 & Cam 266) are probably also likely to date to the late 1st-early 2nd century, as is a sherd of probable Les Martres-du-Veyre samian.

The bulk of the closely-dated pottery is of early/mid 2nd century to mid/late 3rd century date. This includes imported samian, with sherds from a number of cups (form Dr 33) and dishes/bowls (forms Dr 18/31 & Dr 31) from Central and East Gaulish centres. Samian sherds identified as East Gaulish make up an unusually high proportion of the samian and some may be mis-identified. However, several are relatively large sherds and may only represent parts of two or three vessels, possibly leading to an over-representation in the assemblage sample. One sherd, part of a large rouletted bowl, is almost certainly a Trier product. Another fine ware import of probable 2nd century date is a Cologne colour-coated beaker (Fabric EZ).

Closely-dated local products of early 2nd-3rd century date are present in some numbers. Fine wares include beakers in Colchester colour-coated ware (Cam 391 & Cam 407) and a fine flanged, grey ware bowl (Fabric GP). There are a number of what are primarily kitchen wares in the form of bowls and jars in black-burnished ware forms, both from Dorset (Fabric GA) and primarily what are presumed Colchester products (Fabric GB). Numbers of sherd from form Cam 37B indicate that these products remain a significant part of the assemblage into the 3rd century. There are also a number of sherds from Colchester mortaria which can be dated to this period (Cam 496 & Cam 407 variants, Cam 498 & Cam 501). There are also sherds from Dressel 20 amphora in the late fabric type, Fabric BAT AM2 (Tomber & Dore 1998), which is of probable later 2nd-early 3rd century date. Local coarse wares include the form Cam 307 (Fabric GX), dated to the late 2nd-3rd century and Cam 306 (Fabric DJ) dated to the mid/late 2nd-3rd century.

It is noticeable that, apart from a single sherd of oxidised Hadham pottery (Fabric CH), there is nothing which need date later than the mid-late 3rd century, although a sherd from a Cam 307 beaker in local fabric (Fabric CZ) dates to the mid 3rd century or slightly later, probably remaining in production here into the late 3rd or early 4th century. Also, given the presence of other black burnished ware forms the absence of the relatively common flanged bowl form Cam 305 (dated mid/late 3rd-4th century) is significant. It is suggested that in terms of closely-datable pottery the Roman assemblage effectively stops in the mid-late 3rd century.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

A small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery (10 sherds weighing 111 g) was recovered as stratified sherds from four contexts and as unstratified (US) finds. The pottery fabrics and quantity are listed below (Table 6). The fabric types refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985 & CAR 7).

Fabric name	Code	No	Wt(g)	broad fabric date range
Heddingham ware	22	1	8	L12-13C
Late medieval red wares/Post-medieval red earthenwares (transitional)	40(T)	3	30	15-16C
Post-medieval red earthenwares (general)	40	3	39	16-18/19C
Imported stonewares (general)	45	3	34	16/17-19C
<i>Total</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>111</i>	

Table 6 Post-Roman pottery fabrics and quantity

Almost all the pottery is post-medieval. There is one medieval sherd (Fabric 22) dated late 12th-13th century. The remaining sherds are dominated by post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40) broadly dating to the period of the 16th-18th/19th century, with some imported stoneware (Fabric 45) of similar date range. The latest closely dated pottery is a red earthenwares sherd from F26 which has an internal and external glaze suggesting a 17th/18th-19th century date rather than earlier. The only vessel type identified among these sherds is a large dish or pancheon which was unstratified, US(87).

Most of the pottery was recovered from the south end of the site, associated with the upper fill of ditch F60. In addition there are single post-medieval sherds from ditch F1, the fill of inhumation burial F107 and stake-hole F26. Apart from F26 these single sherds are, or appear to be, intrusive into earlier contexts.

Ceramic building material (CBM) report and catalogue

by S Benfield

A total of 360 pieces of CBM, weighing 53,913g. No whole or significantly large pieces were recovered. Of these 94% by count (338 pieces) are Roman. A small quantity of CBM (56 pieces, mostly of Roman date) from an earlier evaluation was reported previously (CAT Report 607).

While small quantities of Roman CBM were recovered from features across the site, the largest quantities of CBM are associated with features on the southeast of the site, ditches F80 & F153 and pit F139 and with pits on the centre of the site F2, F30, F88 & F96. Between them these features account for 76% by count of the Roman CBM recorded. Almost all of the Roman CBM is in red, sandy

fabrics with just a few pieces in a cream fabric. The cream coloured tile (5 pieces) were identifiable as from *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles and was recovered from F2 and ditch F3.

The Roman CBM was divided between broad categories based on type: roof tiles (*tegula* & *imbrex*), bricks (generally over 30 mm thick, up to a maximum of 50 mm) and flue tiles; with a general category for flat Roman brick/tile (pieces generally less than 30 mm thick). The quantities of these types by count, are listed in Table 7.

CBM type	code	count	% of count
Roman <i>tegulae</i>	RT	51	15.0
Roman <i>imbrex</i>	RI	35	10.3
Roman brick & tile	RBT	181	53.5
Roman brick	RB	60	17.7
Roman flue tile (box flue, combed)	RFT	11	3.2

Table 7 Roman CBM by type

The total proportion of pieces identified as roof tiles (25%) is greater than that for pieces which can be identified as from Roman bricks (18%). While the thicker brick pieces may be more robust and the proportion of roof tile is likely to be larger still as some of the pieces which could only be identified as brick or tile (RBT), but which are not as thick as most of the identified brick are also probably from *tegula* roof tiles. The number of pieces identified as flue tile or box flue tile is small among the assemblage, even allowing for some possibly miss-identification of these pieces, which are often relatively thin, as post-Roman peg-tile. One small, red cube of tile from F52(116) appears to be a *tessera* (18g), but if so it does not appear to have been cemented into a floor as there is no mortar adhering to it. Two other more irregular pieces from F29(125) are possibly also *tesserae*, but again there is no mortar adhering to them. It can be noted that a small piece of grey stone (22 g) appears to be a *tessera* and has white mortar adhering to one side (F96).

Of itself the CBM itself is not closely dated. The pottery would suggest that most probably dates within the period of the mid-late 1st century/2nd century to 3rd century. The CBM is pit F30 is associated with pottery dated to the mid-late 1st century date. However, this is one pit amid a group which otherwise contain pottery of 2nd-3rd century date and most of the CBM is associated with pottery of that later date, notably the CBM from the quarry pit F2 and pits F88 & F96 and ditch F153.

The combed flue tile is likely to date to the 2nd century or later. Also, there are two moderately thick pieces of scored flue tiles from F60(154) which are from presumably box flue tiles similar to those from Culver Street, Type B8 (CAR 6) which first appear there in the period of the early/mid 2nd-3rd century (table 7.5). Both of these pieces are abraded.

Based on work by Ernest Black on *tegula* tiles from the Co-operative Society's store, 21-31 Long Wyre Street, Colchester (forthcoming) the relative thinness of the base of identified *tegula* pieces suggests that at least some of the tiles date to the mid-late 2nd century or after, while some could date earlier, to the mid 1st-mid 2nd century. Four are between 19-20 mm and 20-25mm suggesting an early date and seven between 14-16 mm thick suggesting they date later.

The Roman *tegula* pieces include a lower cut-away (LCA) of Type C5 on a tile with a base 20 mm thick which comes from pit F30 (Warry 2006, fig 1.3). One other LCA, either Type B6 or C5 on a tile with a base 20-25 mm thick, was recovered from an adjacent pit (F96). Types B & C are suggested as current during the period of the 2nd century and mid 2nd-mid 3rd century respectively (Warry 2006, 63). However, it can be noted that a few Type C5 LCA are associated with early dated contexts on two sites at Colchester, Lion Walk (CAR 3 fiche Appendix 5) & St Mary's Hospital (unpublished). The association of Type C5 here in F30 with pottery dated to the late 1st century could also indicate an early start date for this LCA Type; however, the feature is associated with other pits dating to the 2nd-3rd century and might date later. There is also one other LCA, from ditch F153(156), which is Warry's Type D1 which he dates from the mid 3rd century onward.

The quantity of CBM suggests that it probably represents construction/demolition material associated with a nearby building with a tile roof, possibly a hypocaust system and tessellated floor. It might relate to the building of unknown function, represented by of robbed-out foundation trenches which outline part of a rectilinear footprint, located approximately 70-80 m to the east (CAT Report 607, fig 2). It might also represent material from funerary monuments in the area and these types of structure, including the remains of a small mausoleum, have been located to the northeast on the site of the

former Hyderabad Barracks (CAT Report 628). There is no surviving mortar on any of the surfaces which would be expected had any of it been used in mortared construction, especially in the case of the brick and flue-tile pieces. Also, there is almost no mortar from the site, nor any plaster. It seems very unlikely that tile was produced on the site. There is no clear indication of any quantity of over or underfired wasters indicating a kiln or clamp; although one small group of brick from ditch F153 are burnt and a few pieces of brick from pit F88 and a piece of flue tile from pit F139 may have been discoloured by heat. These pieces might have been part of a hearth or oven and some of the CBM may have been brought to the site for unmortared construction in these types of features - although none were located. However, at least some of the CBM appears to represent demolition material simply dumped into ditches as well as possibly also the large quarry pit and other pits on the centre of the site. As much of the assemblage is broken roof tile this may not have had a significant quantity of mortar associated with it when in use.

A small number of pieces or post-Roman CBM were also recovered (21 in total). Some of these are from upper fill and may be intrusive in the contexts. All are in red or orange-red sandy fabrics. There are ten peg-tile pieces from F60, two from F30 & F99 and seven thin tile pieces which appear to be peg-tile, although some of these may be thin Roman tile from F60, F96 & F101. There are also two pieces of brick from F99 and one from F60. The peg-tiles are not closely dated, but are most common after the 14th century until the post-medieval or early modern period. The bricks pieces are most probably post-medieval or modern.

CBM catalogue

Note: Two museum boxes of tile were recorded but the information lost. All of the tile recorded in these boxes was red in colour and consisted of Roman brick, tegula, imbrex with a few pieces of combed flue tile. There were also a few pieces of peg-tile and post-med/modern brick.

Ceramic building material (CBM) catalogue Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) A1 HYD (2006.127)
RT-Rom. *tegula*; RI-Rom, *imbrex*; RFT-Rom flue tile RBT-Rom. brick & tile; TE-*tesserae* PT-peg-tile (dated 13/14C+), OB-other brick, OT-other tile; UNID-unidentified; HAF-height at flange, LCA-lower cut away; UCA-upper cut away; Fabric: r -red silty-sandy fabric with few other visible inclusions, pr-pale red, c-cream (white); inclusions pc-pale clay, sf-sparse flint; sq-sparse quartz, is-ironstone/iron rich sand, rs-red ?sandstone

ctxt (Sx)	finds no.	type	description	fab	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	LCA	period	spot date
							9692			
F002	001			r			981			
F002	001			c			234			
F002	001	RB			35	2	0		Rom	
F002	001	RBT				7	0		Rom	
F002	001	RBT		c		2	0			
F002	001	RI		c		1	0			
F002	001	RT			16	1	0		Rom	M2C+
F002	004			r			5248			
F002	004	RB				10	0		Rom	
F002	004	RBT				11	0		Rom	
F002	004	RI				2	0		Rom	
F002	004	RT				5	0		Rom	
F002	095			r			0			
F002	095			c			160			
F002	095	RB			30	1	0		Rom	
F002	095	RBT				5	0		Rom	
F002	095	RI		c		1	0		Rom	
F002	095	RI				1	0		Rom	
F002	096						2019			
F002	096	RBT				8	0		Rom	
F002	096	RI				5	0		Rom	
F002	098	RT		r	14-15	3	801		Rom	2C+?
F002	098	RT		r	15	1	249		Rom	M2C+
F003 sx2	030	RI	comb	r		1	224		Rom	2C+

ctxt (Sx)	finds no.	type	description	fab	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	LCA	period	spot date
F003 sx3	124			r			1030			
F003 sx3	124			c			338			
F003 sx3	124	RB			35	1			Rom	
F003 sx3	124	RBT				4			Rom	
F003 sx3	124	RT		c	16	1			Rom	
F028	028	RI	Thin tile	r		1	8		Rom	
F029	031			r			107			
F029	031	RBT				1			Rom	
F029	031	RT				1			Rom	
F030	002						1255			
F030	002			r			1550			
F030	002			r			1500			
F030	002	PT				2	20		Med+	
F030	002	RB	Prob brick, one piece quite abraded	r		7			Rom	
F030	002	RBT	Poss imbrex		30	1			Rom	
F030	002	RBT	Thin tile poss PT?		12	1			Rom?	
F030	002	RI				3			Rom	
F030	002	RT	LCA		20	2		C5	Rom	M2-3C?
F031	051			r	20	1	292		Rom	
F031	051	RB		r	40	1	1207		Rom	
F031	051	RBT	mort?	r		1	137			
F033	006			r			2570			
F033	006			r			1148			
F033	006	RB				2			Rom	
F033	006	RB			35	1			Rom	
F033	006	RBT	Inc. small part of animal foot print			7			Rom	
F033	006	RBT				4			Rom	
F033	006	RFT				1			Rom	
F033	006	RI				1			Rom	
F033	006	RI				2			Rom	
F033	006	RT			15	1			Rom	Prob L2C+
F049	063			r			3			
F049	063	UNID				1			UNID	
F060 sx1	018			r			180			
F060 sx1	018	PT?	Thin tile			1	16		Med+	
F060 sx1	018	RBT				3			Rom	
F080	144	RBT		r		5	1070		Rom	
F080	144	RT?		r	15-17	2	308		Rom	
F080	144	RI		r		2	644		Rom	
F080	144	RB	corner	r	22	1	236		Rom	
F080	144	RT		r	25	2	1115		Rom	
F080	144	RT		r	17	2	823		Rom	
F080 sx2	150			r			184			
F080 sx2	150	RFT	comb			1			Rom	
F080 sx2	150	RI				2			Rom	
F082 sx2	143			r			137			

ctxt (Sx)	finds no.	type	description	fab	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	LCA	period	spot date
F082 sx2	143	RBT				2			Rom	
F082 sx2	143	RI				1			Rom	
F088	049			r			5814			
F088	049	RB			30-35	12			Rom	
F088	049	RBT				17			Rom	
F088	049	RFT	Plain pieces from box tiles			2			Rom	
F088	049	RT			19	2			Rom	
F088	052	RT		r	14-16	2	335		Rom	
F088	096	RB	Grey, burnt/heat discoloured	r	40	6	1005		Rom	
F090 sx1	067			r			119			
F090 sx1	067	RBT	abraded			4			Rom	
F090 sx1	067	RBT		r		1	19		Rom	
F096	088			r			27			
F096	088	PT?	Thin tile		11	1			Med+	
F096	088	RBT	Very broken up (residual?)			33			Rom	
F096	088	RI		r		1	98		Rom	
F096	088	RT	LCA	r	20, 25	5	1242	B6/C5	Rom	2C+
F096	088	RBT		r		17	1070		Rom	
F099	084			r			1070			
F099	084	OB				2			p-med+	
F099	084	PT				3	40		Med+	
F099	084	RB			50	1			Rom	
F099	084	RBT				3			Rom	
F099	084	RFT	Box flue			1			Rom	
F101	109	RT		pr	20	1	340		Rom	
F101 (sx2)	140			r			7			
F101 (sx2)	140	PT	(frag) thin tile (14C+) Intrusive?	r		1				14-19C
F101 sx2	140			r			316			
F101 sx2	140	PT?	Thin tile			1			Med+	
F101 sx2	140	RB			30	1			Rom	
F101 sx2	140	RI				1			Rom	
F106	114			r			317			
F106	114	RB			40	1			Rom	
F125	029	RBT		pr		1	182		Rom	
F139	151			r			2529			
F139	151						81			
F139	151	RBT				18			Rom	
F139	151	RFT	Comb, grey, heat discoloured?	r		1	80		Rom	
F139	151	RI			20	1			Rom	
F139	151	RT				2			Rom	
F140	152			r			317			
F140	152	RBT				2			Rom	
F153	156	RFT	combed	r		2	539		2C+	
F153	156	RBT		r		4	429		Rom	

ctxt (Sx)	finds no.	type	description	fab	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	LCA	period	spot date
F153	156	RT	One with frag. of paw print from medium mammal, prob a cat	r	18-22	5	2138		Rom	
F153	156	RT			21	1	602		Rom	
F153	156	RB		r	35-45	8	2011		Rom	
F153	156	RFT	Thick but with combed grooves	r	16-17	1	91		2C+	
F153	156	RBT	Burnt/scorched grey, appears mostly to be Roman brick with other frags	r	30	9	656		Rom	
F153	156	RI		r		7	594		Rom	
F153	156	RT	Fragmented pieces	r	20(2) 15(2)	10	1335		Rom	

Table 8: CBM catalogue

Clay pipe

A single, small piece of post-medieval clay pipe stem (5g) came from F95(81). The bore is 3 mm diameter, indicating a possible early date of late 16th-17th century.

Glass

Roman

A small quantity of Roman vessel glass and probable window glass fragments (5 pieces weighing 39 g) came from three numbered contexts (F31, F88 & 139) and as an unstratified (US) find probably associated with L2.

Two vessels can be recognised. One is represented by a sherd in blue-green glass from the base edge of a tubular vessel, probably a cylindrical bottle dated mid 1st century-early 2nd century, F31(51). The other (Fig 25.1) is a from the rim of a shallow plate or bowl in clear glass with a small collar rim (CAR 8, 103) which was recovered from pit F88(49) together with Roman pottery dated late 2nd-mid/late 3rd century.

A flat piece of blue-green glass with one matt face. Possibly Roman window glass, F139(151).

Fig 25.1 F88(49). Clear (faintly green) glass, rim from a shallow plate or bowl in clear glass with a small, slightly undercut collar rim, small internal off-set just below rounded rim top, faint striations on outer surface.

Post-medieval/modern

A single piece of green post-medieval or modern bottle glass (11 g) came from the fill of stake-hole F99(84). A small blue-green piece with a bevelled edge may also be of late date L2(US).

Flint

A very small quantity of flints (four), was recovered. Three are flakes (F2(1), F29(125) & F31(51)) together weighing 45g, and one (F3(60)) is a possible irregular core piece (190 g) which has a few flake scars along one edge. Assuming a prehistoric date, all are residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. Some might represent incidental impact detachments of later date. All of the flakes are squat. One (F31) is a struck flake. It is a secondary piece, one edge of which retains traces of surface damage on the original flint core. It has a hinge fracture and the dorsal surface has the scar of an earlier flake removal in the same plane which also produced a hinge fracture. The two remaining flakes (F2 & F29) have irregular dorsal faces and could be pieces from smashed flints. One (F1) has signs of use wear or edge damage along one side. The core piece (F3) is a squat, cone shape with some areas of cortex. There are some scars from flake removal long one of the edges which could possibly have resulted from incidental impact damage.

Stone

Several contexts produced types of stone primarily associated with Roman construction, but which were also reused later. Some of this is imported building stone. There were in total sixty-five pieces

weighing 20,975g. It consists mostly of limestone and septaria, with a few pieces of chalk, limestone tufa and unidentified stone. The stone is listed by type in Table 12.

stone type	no.	wt (g)
Limestone	4	1196
Limestone chalk	4	526
Limestone greensand	21	13926
Limestone tufa	1	55
Metamorphic/igneous rock (unidentified)	1	14
Septaria	34	5258

Table 9: Stone types and quantity

Most of the limestone is of one type identified as greensand. Greensand was probably first imported from a source in north Kent, and, at Colchester, appears to have been primarily associated with the construction of the Roman circus. A few, moderately large pieces of this stone were recovered from a number of features, notably the pits F31 & F96, with one piece from the quarry pit F2. Pieces were also recovered from F29, F36, F60, F88 & F153. Its association with the stone built circus suggests that any feature with this stone type is likely to date to the 2nd century or later.

The septaria recovered is much more broken-up than the greensand which may reflect that it can be prone to fragment and deteriorate. Its relatively poor qualities are compensated by its local occurrence and availability, although sources for large scale extraction are not certainly identified. It was in use in mortared construction at Colchester from the early Roman period of the mid-late 1st century. While there are significant numbers of pieces of septaria among the assemblage, it is much less important in terms of weight and volume than the greensand; although the largest quantities are associated with the same features as the greensand, that is quarry pit F2 and pits F31 & F96. Pieces of septaria were also recovered from F3, F29, F60, F64, F86, F88 & F101.

There is a single small piece of light, vesicular, porous limestone (tufa) from F88(49), a stone type which is also associated with some Roman buildings and monuments at Colchester, notably in the early monumental arch at the Balcerne gate, a water feature (*nymphaeum*) at Head Street and a mausoleum at the Colchester Royal Grammar School. In addition there are a few small pieces of unidentified limestone (possibly greensand) from F36, F60 & F86, chalk (limestone) from F2 & F31 and a small piece of hard metamorphic or igneous rock from F28(28) which is likely to be modern.

No mortar was recorded on any of the pieces of stone and it may have been used as rubble or packing material. Overall the building stones do not suggest any significant stone built structure on or immediately adjacent to the site in the Roman or later periods.

Mortar

A single small piece (21g) of Roman *opus-signinum* mortar, a lime mortar which contains crushed tile (ceramic building material) fragments, was recovered from pit F31(51).

Slag

Three pieces of slag, or slag-like material (total 620g) were recovered. One is a light, glassy slag (82g) from F30 which is associated with early Roman pottery. Another is an irregular piece of heavy, iron rich slag (278g) which is possibly smelting slag and was recovered from the fill of a modern stake-hole (F99). The remaining piece (260g), which comes from F99, is probably not a slag, but appears to be a hard, grey conglomerate stone with black tar or bitumen adhering and is probably modern.

Shell

Approximately 517 shells (17,718g) were recovered. Apart from one whelk shell (F96(88)) all are oyster, and almost all of these are from one pit (F96(89)). The remaining shells consist of one or a few from each of three features (F2, F30 & F31). All of these are Roman contexts.

The pit F96 produced approximately 500 shells, weighing a total of 17,500g. Almost all of these are whole shells. Although some shells are flaking, the condition indicates they represent a primary deposit made into the pit soon after the oysters were consumed, or had accumulated in a relatively protected surface context, such as a short-lived midden close by, before being put into the pit. Either

way they appear to represent relatively recent food consumption when they were dumped into the pit, the latest pottery from which indicates a late 2nd-mid 3rd century date.

5.4 Animal bone

by Adam Wightman

Methodology

All the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. Species identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections. All identifiable elements were recorded. Fragments of unidentified large taxa derive primarily from cattle (*Bos sp.*), although may also include horse (*Equus sp.*) and larger deer species. Fragments recorded as medium-sized taxon will predominantly be from sheep (*Ovis sp.*) and pig (*Sus sp.*), although goat (*Capra sp.*), dog (*Canis familiaris*) and smaller deer species (*Cervus sp.*) may also be represented. If determination of the element from which a small fragment originated was not possible, it was noted whether the fragment was from the appendicular skeleton (limbs) or the axial skeleton (vertebrae, ribs, etc, including cranial skeleton).

Each bone was inspected to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antlerworking was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When available, the fusion state of identifiable bones was also recorded and ages were assessed following Silver (Silver 1969). A record was made of 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 the region, but diagnostic metapodials, horn-cores and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) were distinguished between the two species following the criteria of Boessneck (Boessneck 1969). Recently broken bones were joined where possible and have been counted as single fragments. The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992) and also with reference to Cohen & Serjeantson 1996, Hillson 1986, and Payne 1987. A catalogue of the faunal remains is included in the site archive.

Introduction

In total, 292 fragments of animal bone (weighing 5402g) were recovered from nine contexts. All the bone was hand-collected. Most are in good condition but have been fragmented from butchering and wear (the 292 bone fragments represent a maximum of 180 bones). Six of the contexts that contained animal bone were located in the centre of the site and are associated with a large backfilled Roman quarry pit. These contexts are considered separately below.

A digital copy of the tabulated data from the analysis of the animal bone can be found in the site archive.

Bone from the Roman quarry

The following section will consider the animal bone from the quarry pit (F2 & F33) and the large pits located on its south-western corner (F30, F31, F32 and F96). Two trenches were excavated through the quarry pit using a mechanical excavator and the bone was collected from the arisings and during the cleaning of the trench edges. Two narrow trenches were hand-excavated through F30, F31 and F32 and one quarter of F96 was hand-excavated. Therefore, the following assemblages should be considered to be small samples of the overall bone waste discarded into these features.

Over 95% of the bone collected during the Area E excavation was from the contexts listed above. All of the bone is well preserved with very little corrosion to the cortical surfaces. This is unusual for bone assemblages from Roman-dated contexts at the Colchester Garrison, which are usually dominated by very poorly preserved bone (ie Area A1 (CAT Report 628) and Areas L/N (CAT Report 588)). The bone is almost exclusively from sub-adult or adult individuals (only one unfused bone was identified) that may have been utilised for other purposes such as traction, hides or milk before being slaughtered for food. Evidence of canid gnawing on some of the bones suggests that meat remains were being given to domestic dogs.

The bone from the contexts F2, F30, F31, F32 and F33 all exhibited very little evidence of butchery. Cut and chop marks were identified on only four bones. In addition, one bone had been

burnt for a short period of time at a low temperature. Most of the different skeletal elements are present in the five assemblages listed above. However, there does appear to be a higher proportion of primary butchery elements, such as bones of the lower limbs and the head, than secondary butchery elements such as upper limb bones and scapulae. Cattle and unidentified large mammal bones are most common in these assemblages. It is probable that most of the large mammal bone is attributable to cattle in this instance. The dominance of this particular domestic species is typical of Roman animal bone assemblages from the Colchester Garrison and is probably primarily due to the versatility of cattle, which can be used to provide traction, milk, meat, hides and other by-products. Sheep and horse bones are also present in similar proportions. The horse teeth were notably small in size for adult specimens and may come from a small breed or perhaps even donkeys. Rare pig and bird bones (*Antidae*- family containing duck, geese & swans) were also identified along with one possible deer bone.

Pit F96 was a Roman midden containing a deposit of oyster shell as well as a considerable quantity of animal bone. Unlike the contexts described above, F96 contained an even mixture of elements from the main domesticated species (cattle, pig, sheep and horse). There were also a greater number of bird bones from this context (*Antidae* and *Galliformes*- order of birds containing chicken, pheasant and partridge). A Higher proportion of bones from F96 exhibited evidence of butchery than from the other five assemblages associated with the quarry pit. However, the frequency of butchery evidence was still relatively low for a domestic refuse assemblage. There is evidence of cleaver chops being used to dismember the carcass as well as finer knife cuts from the removal of meat. The 1st phalanx from a horse exhibited small, fine cut marks around the centre of the bone from the skinning process. Of particular interest in the F96 assemblage was two pieces of worked bone and a small bone scoop. These will be discussed in more detail with the small finds (App 2.1).

Other bone

The remainder of the animal bone from the site (5% of the overall total) was recovered from two Roman ditches (F60 and F153) and a Roman stake-hole (F143- two tiny fragments of unidentifiable bone). A cattle 1st phalanx was recovered from SX1 of ditch F60 and a heavily eroded dog humerus was recovered from SX2. The teeth from a horse mandible were recovered from ditch F153, but the bone around the teeth had entirely eroded away. The poor condition and low frequency of animal bone in these ditches and the absence of animal bone in other Roman features, suggests that a high level of acidity in the soil has caused the post-depositional erosion of bone from the large areas of the site.

Discussion

The recovery of animal bone in association with pottery and other items of domestic waste suggests that the quarry was a convenient repository for refuse from a nearby area of habitation. The high proportion of primary butchery waste suggests that the whole of the animal butchery process was taking place on-site, or perhaps that the inhabitants could generally only afford the less desirable parts of the carcasses

The condition of the bone recovered from the quarry contexts compared to the bone recovered from the rest of the site, indicates that the conditions for bone preservation were unusually good in this area. This was probably due to the organic content of the quarry backfill material or perhaps the depth of these contexts compared to the others on the site.

5.5 Human bone from cremations and inhumations

by Julie Curl (Sylvanus), Sept 2014

Methodology

Six bags of cremated bone and two bags from an inhumation were submitted for recording and analysis and were recorded following McKinley 2000 and McKinley 2004. The contents of the cremations were dry-sieved through a stack of 10, 5, 2 and 1mm sized mesh to ensure maximum recovery and assess the degree of fragmentation. Fragments measuring over 5mm were manually separated for analysis, those below 2mm were scanned, but not fully sorted and examined in greater depth for this report. Material was recorded onto the cremation recording sheet.

Quantification, provenance and preservation

The cremated material recovered from three features produced a total of 947g of bone (approximately 2419 pieces). The single inhumation in the assemblage produced a further 13g of bone.

Remains were recovered from a *Bustum* burial, cremation burials and an inhumation burial. The bone recovered is in poor condition, highly fragmented and the inhumation shows a good deal of erosion. Other cremations and inhumations were identified during the excavation but these produced no bone and clearly survival for bone at this site is poor. The burials in this assemblage are dated to the 1st to 3rd centuries.

The majority of the burnt bone had been fully cremated, with the vast majority (over 80%) of the remains having been left a white to sandy-white colour, some bone in F76 was not fully burnt.

Tables 10-11 show the quantifications of the cremations by weights and counts. Summary catalogues for the cremations, inhumation and animal remains found in one cremation are given in tables 13-14 and a full catalogue is available in the digital archive.

Cremation analysis results and discussion

Size of cremations

The cremated material from this assemblage varied in weight from 149g to 544g. The size of a cremation depends on the individual (age, sex, body mass, bone density), maintenance of the pyre, the extent of bone recovery from the pyre site and during excavation, as well as on the rate of bone preservation (McKinley 1993).

This weight for the cremations in this assemblage is at the low end of the weight range compared to other archaeological cremations (range: 57-3000 g) (McKinley 2000) and substantially incomplete in comparison to a modern cremation (1000-3600 g) (McKinley, 2000). Cremations in containers are normally larger than cremations in pits and finely crushed cremations tend to be smaller due to poor preservation. The smaller size of these cremations may be due to a range of factors such as loss of the volatile portion of bone before burial, and post-depositional bone decay (due to most remains not being interred in a vessel?). However, even the remains interred in the cremation vessel only produced a weight of 544g, which is still in the low weight range. The low weight for the urned burial may be due to poor collection of the cremated remains from the pyre. The remains from the urned cremation in F79 are highly fragmented with the majority of pieces below 9mm in length and the bone from this urn also contained animal remains. Quantification of the cremated assemblage by context, cremation type and weight can be seen in Table 14.

Context	Cremation Type and Weight (g)		Context Total
	Cremation	Urned Cremation	
48/F79		544g	544g
76/F62	254g		254g
148/F137	149g		149g
Cremation Type Total	403g	544g	947g

Table 10: Quantification of the cremation material by context, type and weight.

Fragmentation

The fragmentation of bone resulting from the cremation process may be increased by funerary practices such as raking and tending of the pyre, collection of bone at the pyre site, deliberate crushing prior to burial, as well as a result of post-depositional processes, excavation and processing (McKinley, 1989).

There is some variation in fragment size with the largest fragment in an un-urned cremation measuring a maximum length of 37mm in F79 and 31mm in F137, although the maximum in the urned cremation is only 35mm. Overall, a greater proportion (in terms of count) of bone in the urned cremation F79 was in the range of 5-9mm in length at 48% of the remains, just 12% of the remains are over 10mm, 18% are between 2-4mm and 22% are less than 1mm. The degree of bone fragmentation is greater than that generally seen in archaeological cremations where an average of 50% of bone fragments are over 10 mm in size (McKinley, 1994). This may be due to the lack of a cremation urn for most of the samples or the remains may be from a clearing of the pyre and have undergone a greater degree of fragmentation as a result. Quantification of the assemblage by context, cremation type and fragment count can be seen in Table 11.

Context	Cremation type and fragment count		Context Total
	Cremation	Urned Cremation	
48/F79		1354	1354
76/F62	900		900
148/F137	175		175
Cremation Type Total	1075	1354	2419

Table 11: Quantification of the cremation material by context, type and fragment count

Colour

The colour of cremated bone depends on a range of factors including maximum temperature reached, length of the cremation process, type and amount of fuel, quantity of oxygen, amount of body fat, and the degree of uniformity of exposure to the heat across the body. A correlation has been found between the temperature attained and colour changes. Cremated bone can exhibit a large range of heat-induced colour variation from normal coloured (unburnt), to black (charred: c.300 °C), through hues of blue and grey (incompletely incinerated: up to c.600 °) to fully oxidised white (> c.600 °C) (McKinley, 2004). The majority of bone in this assemblage was fully oxidised i.e. exposed to a temperature in excess of c.600 °C. A few fragments retained some typical brown colour of unburnt bone, which might suggest these fragments were to the edge of the cremation or residual remains in the deposit.

Surface Changes

Surface changes such as warping, cracking and fissuring were noted throughout. These are characteristics of cremated bone and are produced during the process of dehydration undergone by bone exposed to heat. The pattern of heat-induced bone changes in colour and texture can be exploited to infer the technological aspects of the ritual, the condition of the body at the time when the cremation process took place and the nature of post-depositional disturbance (Shipman *et al.*1984).

Elements identified during the cremations analysis

Most of the identifiable elements are thought to be human, with only two diagnostic elements from any animal remains (a pig/boar molar) seen in this assemblage, it is possible that other animal bone may be included in the smaller fragments. The elements identified cover much of the skeleton, although there is a notable lack of hands and feet and it is possible these small elements were completely destroyed during the burning. None of the fragments (other than the pig/boar tooth) could be reliably aged and no attempt at sexing elements could be made.

Animal bone from cremated material

The cremation from F79, (48), produced two fragments of a pig/boar tooth. The tooth is a fragmented pre-molar, the lack of wear indicates a juvenile.

Inhumation material

A single inhumation from F70, (21), was seen, totalling 13g and consisting of twenty-five fragments. The bone was recorded as parts of the upper and lower leg and are in very poor condition, highly fragmented, eroded and powdering. Fragments that were identifiable were pieces of the femur and tibia shafts. No ageing, sexing or estimate of stature could be made on any of the inhumation remains; with exception that the size of the fragments suggests an adult or sub-adult sized individual.

Conclusions

The cremated remains are small compared to the average sizes of archaeological cremations (McKinley, 2000). The remains in these cremations, even the urned cremation, appear not to represent the complete cremation of one individual. Animal remains are present. These may represent food for the afterlife included for the cremated individual, or they may be residual.

The average size of most of the cremated fragments was small to very small and most of these smaller fragments could be identified no further than 'mammal/HSR'. It therefore not possible to say whether the majority of the smaller fragments of bone are human, or animal or a mixture of the two. It is possible that the remains in the cremations assemblage represent bone cleared from a pyre area that has undergone extensive raking, crushing and disturbance of material, hence a greater degree of fragmentation. The remains may well include residual bone left from more than one individual's cremation. The inhumation is also very small and in very poor condition. The survival of the cremations and inhumations from this site is poor, with some burials unable to yield any surviving bone at all, suggesting that the soil conditions affect bone preservation in this area.

57	41	56	76	48	48	148	149	Finds number
F62	F62	F62	F62	F79	F79	F137	F137	Feature
18.9	45.2	47.9	27		544	38	110.22	context wt
166	277	282	72		1354	74	432	count
5	26	194	26		156	45	34	>10mm
1.3	13	28.4	18		125	32	27.4	wt
160	250	71	23	2	648	19	390	5-9mm
17.6	32.2	8.1	6	1	246	4	82.8	wt
1	0	49	12		250	10	8	2-4mm
0	0	3	2		89	2	0.2	wt
0	0	2	11		300		0	<1mm
0	0	0	1		84		0	wt
			br, bl, w	w	w	br, w		level
			y		y	y		warp
			y		y	y		crack
			fr		fr	fr		condition
								wt (g)
			HSR/	Pig/boar	HSR/No ID	No ID		species
			72	2	1352	74		NISP
								adult
				2				juv
			sk, limb, v, r	t	v, limb, sk	limb, sk		Element range
			some frags show incomplete burning, GL:30mm	unworn premolar	most small frags, GL = 35mm	some limb frags, GL=37mm		comments

Table 12: Summary catalogue of the cremated bone from GAL E (note by HB: more bone was found after JC had completed her report. The relevant weights have been added into tables 10-12, and into the text).

Key: >10mm/5-9mm/2-4mm/<1mm = count of the fragments in that size range: >10mm W (g) = weight of fragments in that size range
 Level: Level of burning – w = white, b/w = blue-white, br = brown (unburnt), bl = black Element range: ll = lower limb, ul = upper limb, v = vertebrae, r = rib, sk = skull, t = tooth
 Comments: GL = greatest length

Finds no	Feature	Male /F	Ad/J /N/P	Condition	Comp	Side	Misc	Fe	Tib/F	Comments
21	F70	?	?Ad	poor, fr, er	inc	upper leg	*	*		v. Poor and fragmented, some erosion 10g, Q = 15
21	F70	?	?Ad	poor, fr, er	inc	lower leg	*		*	v. Poor and fragmented, some erosion 3g, Q - 10

Table 13: Summary catalogue of the inhumation from GAL E

Ctxt	Feature No	Type	Frag	Burnt	Bt Col	Spot date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Age	Element range	comments
48	F79	Cremation	2	2	w	1st-2nd	2	1g	Pig/boar	2	j	tooth	2 premolar frags

Table 14 : Summary catalogue of the animal bone in the cremation

5.6 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Roman cremations

by Val Fryer (November 2013)⁶

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Colchester Garrison Area E recorded a bustum and a cremation deposit of Roman date. Five samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages (taken from four spits through bustum EF 62 and from cremation EF 91) were submitted for assessment. In addition, larger plant macrofossils noted during excavation were also submitted.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots and the individual hand retrieved macrofossils were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant remains and other materials noted are listed in Table 15. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) and Cappers and Neef (2012). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were abundant within all five of the floated samples.

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

Results

The four samples from spits through the bustum (finds numbers 41, 56, 57 and 82) all contain moderate densities of larger legumes and fruit fragments as well as occasional seeds. Preservation is moderately good, although in most instances, the seeds lack their testae and the fruits have become puffed and distorted, probably as a result of the high temperatures at which combustion occurred.

Cereal grains are scarce, with only four being noted (including three specimens of wheat (*Triticum* sp.)). Cereal chaff appears to be entirely absent. Large legumes (Fabaceae) are relatively abundant, although as none retain intact hila, close identification is not possible. However, rounded specimens of possible pea (*Pisum sativum*) type are recorded along with large, more angular seeds of possible field bean (*Vicia faba*) type. In addition, a number of small, rounded seeds with a distinct lenticular cross section have been identified as possible lentils (*Lens culinaris*). Whole date (*Phoenix dactylifera*) fruits are present within the hand-picked specimens, and a number of fragments of a very fine porous textured material may also be pieces of date flesh. Numerous agglomerations of small, rounded seeds are tentatively identified as fragmentary figs (*Ficus carica*), and grape (*Vitis vinifera*) seeds are present within sample 5 (finds number 57). Other seeds are generally scarce, although small legumes (Fabaceae) are recorded along with vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and a large grass (Poaceae) fruit. Sample 10 (finds number 82) includes a seed and a capitula fragment of an indeterminate umbellifer (Apiaceae), possibly a culinary herb.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments are abundant within the bustum deposits, but other plant macrofossils are scarce. However, small fragments of mineral preserved wood are recorded from samples 1 (finds number 41) and 10, and fragments of what appear to be bark are recorded as finds number 103.

A limited range of other materials are also recorded within the bustum deposits. These include fragments of bone (most of which are burnt/calced), small pellets of burnt or fired clay, globules of vitreous material and small pieces of coal (coal 'dust'). It is unclear whether the latter are contemporary with the bustum, or later contaminants introduced via root disturbance. Fragments of black porous and tarry material are present throughout. Most are probably derived from the combustion of organic remains (including fruits, pulses and the body of the deceased) at very high temperatures.

In contrast to the samples from the bustum, the assemblage from the cremation deposit is very limited, containing few plant remains other than pieces of charcoal/charred wood. However, black porous and tarry residues are abundant along with small pieces of coal.

⁶ Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF

Conclusions

In summary, the assemblages from the bustum are of particular significance, as they contain rare examples of exotic imported crops, which appear to have been deliberately placed in the bustum as offerings to the deceased. Although figs probably were grown as far north in the Roman Empire as Gaul, their cultivation in contemporary Britain is unlikely because of the lack of a suitable pollinating agent (cf Alcock 2001, 67). Dates and lentils were also imported, with dates often arriving as compressed blocks rather than individual fruits. However, the latter have been found at other sites in Colchester, for example from another cremation deposit at the Garrison Urban Village (Fryer 2006). That such valuable commodities are recorded (along with other food remains) within a single cremation, almost certainly implies that the deceased held some considerable status within contemporary society.

In the current instance, it would appear that wood was the primary fuel used for the bustum, with other plant remains being exceedingly scarce. However, evidence from other similar features within the Colchester area (cf Garrison Urban Village, *ibid* and Garrison Area H (Fryer 2013) suggests that cereal processing waste and/or dried plant materials were often used as tinder or kindling to ignite the pyres, and it is tentatively suggested that the cereal grains and seeds within the current samples may be indicative of this practise.

Although the current assemblages are of considerable local and national importance, their potential is, perhaps, limited by the fact that so few of the remains can be closely identified.

CAT Report 778: Roman burials, buildings and enclosures west of Mersea Road: Stage 3 excavation
at Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area E (GAL E), 2013.

Sample no	1	4	5	10								10
Finds no	41	56	57	82	73	74	80	100	101	103	123	69
Context no	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF91
Feature type	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	CD
Cereals and other food plants												
Triticum sp. (grains)			x	x								xcf
Cereal indet. (grain)			x									
Ficus carica L. (seeds)				x								
fruit frags	xcf	xxcf	xxcf	xcf								xcf
Lens culinaris Medik	xcf	xxcf	xcf	xxcf				xxcf				
Phoenix dactylifera L.	xcffg	xxcffg	xcffg	xcf	xwf	xwf			xcffg			
Pisum sativum L.	xcf	xcf	xcf	xcf				xcf				
Vicia faba L.		xcf	xcf	xcf			xcf	xxcf				
Large Fabaceae indet	x	xxfg	xx	xx				xx				
Vitis vinifera L.			x									
Herbs												
Apiaceae indet				x								
intact seed head frag				x								
Brassicaceae indet	xcf											
Fabaceae indet	x	xx	xx					x				
Lge Poaceae indet												x
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.		x	x	x								
Other plant macrofossils												
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx				x				xxx
Char >2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx				x				xx
Char>5mm	xxxx	x	x	xx				x				x
Char >10 mm	xxx	x										
Charred root/stem				x								
Indet bark										xcf		
Indet fruit frag			x									
Indet seeds	x	x	x	x								
Minerally preserved wood	x			x								
Other remains												
Black porous cokey material	x	x	x					x				xxx
Black tarry material	x		x	x								xx
Bone	xxb	xb	x xb	xb				xb				x
Burnt/fired clay	x		x									x
Burnt soil concretions			x									
Ferrous concretions	x											
?metallic residue			x	x								x
?pottery			x									
small coal frags	xx	x	x	x								xxx

Sample no	1	4	5	10								10
Finds no	41	56	57	82	73	74	80	100	101	103	123	69
Context no	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF62	EF91
Feature type	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	bustum	CD
vitreous material	x	x	x	x								x
Sample volume (litres)	38	60	70	40								36
Volume of flot (litres)	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3								0.2
% of flot sorted	50	25	50	50								50

Key to Table 15

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare fg = fragment wf = whole fruit b = burnt CD = cremation

6 Discussion

6.1 Period 1 Neolithic and Bronze Age (Fig 6)

Eight prehistoric sherds and six prehistoric flakes were found in the two evaluations and the excavation stage combined. They were all in residual contexts, apart from F149⁷ which contained a prehistoric sherd (BA/EIA?). However, given the limited prehistoric activity here, this is likely to be residual too.

6.2 Period 2 Iron Age/prehistoric (Figs 5, 6)

Curved gully EF141 most resembles the gully around a circular timber building, lying mostly off site to the north. Eight features – stake-holes EF143-8, EF150, and pit EF149 lie within the arc of the gully and may be associated with it. Unfortunately, none of the features is dated, with the exception of pit F149 which contains a Bronze Age sherd (residual?). The gully was cut by ditch F140, which is dated by Roman CBM. It is therefore clearly a Roman or pre-Roman feature – although the absence of finds, small-scale and non east-, south-east, or south-facing entrance all suggest that if it was a building it was not a domestic roundhouse.

6.3 Period 3 Roman (Figs 3, 4, 7)

The principal remains are of this period: a cemetery, at least two phases of enclosures, a pair of parallel ditches which may a track or driveway and a robbed-out Romanised building (within the evaluation only, on the eastern side of the site).

6.4 Roman cemetery - contents, dating and status of graves (Figs 4, 12-25)

The cemetery appears to continue in use while the ditched landscape around it changes. The outline chronological development (section 4 above) is followed here by an overall discussion.

6.4.1 Contents

The cemetery contained one bustum (EF62: Figs 12-14), two urned cremations (EF79, EF91: Figs 17-18), one boxed cremation (EF137: Fig 22), and three inhumations containing either human bone (EF70, EF107: Figs 16, 21) coffin nails (EF105), or grave goods (EF105 and EF107: Figs 20-21).

There were also eleven empty grave-shaped cuts (EF39, 40, 61, 63, 69, 89, 100, 104, 106, 136, 138: Figs 15-17, 19, 23-5), which are presumed to have contained bodies wrapped in shrouds, no trace of which survived. The very acidic local soil is presumed to have dissolved all traces of the bodies in the eleven empty grave cuts, the body and the coffin in EF105 (where iron nails showed

⁷ evaluation features are shown as EF00, excavation features as F00.

the coffin outline), most of the bodies in EF70 (except for leg bone fragments) and EF107 (except for a very small quantity of disturbed skull fragments).

There were other burials on this site apart from the small cemetery just discussed. The first was a 'placed pottery deposit', which was almost central within the northern enclosure on the eastern side of the double ditched trackway (2011, F1). This placed deposit is dated by stratification to the 2/3rd century, and if associated with a burial would be one of the latest on this site (as it cut the later 2nd- or 3rd-century upper backfill of the enclosure ditch).

Other possible burials are represented by large fragments of pottery, including the intact lower third of a pot from EF22 (*finds number 42*), and a flagon neck and rim (EF13, *finds number 6*). These could be discarded broken vessels, or they may be displaced from burials.



Plate 2: Placed deposit F1 in 2011 evaluation T5



Plate 3: EF62 bustum, pre-excavation and fully-excavated. The stake-holes are presumably the remains of a wooden structure to support the fuel and body.

6.4.2 Dating (Figs 2-4)

Six of the nine burials are well dated. It can be seen from Table 16 below that the bustum and cremations are earlier - late 1st to mid-2nd century (the bustum itself belonging to the colony period of c.AD70), with the inhumations of mid-late 2nd century (the inhumations are therefore contemporary with the Phase 2 enclosure, below).

The burials fall on either side of ditch F36. Dating of this feature (mid 1st to early 3rd) is not close, but it is reasonable to assume that the ditch was present in the 1st century AD is contemporary with the earliest burials and defines the western side of the cemetery in its earliest phase (the bustum and cremations). In addition it is very likely that perpendicular ditch F29 to the south-west side of ditch F36 is contemporary as its north-east terminal leaves an entrance sized gap between the two ditches. The 2nd-century inhumations also appear to be laid within the cemetery as defined by the ditch F36 and the slightly later ditch F101 to the east which also formed the west side of the postulated Phase 2 track. It is the empty and undated inhumations which spill out beyond the earlier boundary ditch F36. This may be because the eastern side of the cemetery was constrained

by the digging of the track ditches, the western one of which was dug in the 2nd century and probably infilled in the later 2nd or 3rd century.

More difficult to date are the empty grave cuts. Although the three inhumations with grave goods are dated mid-late 2nd, there is no reason why the empty grave cuts should necessarily be the same date – on the contrary, the complete absence of finds may indicate a later date, possibly late Roman or even Anglo-Saxon (given the presence of AS burials within 400m of this site: CAT Report 628). However, in this case there is no artefactual evidence for late Roman or Anglo-Saxon presence at the nearby Roman farm and therefore it is most likely that the undated burials are of similar (or possibly slightly later) date to the mid-late 2nd century burials. The tables below give basic information on cemetery dating evidence, human bone, and grave goods. For more information see Appendix 2, below.

EF62	bustum	AD 70s – 80s	Period
EF137	boxed cremation	1st to early 2nd	3 phase 1
EF79	urned cremation	mid 1st to early/mid 2nd	3 phase 1
EF91	urned cremation	mid 1st to mid 2nd	3 phase 1
EF105	inhumation:	mid-late 2nd.	3 phase 2
EF107	inhumation	mid 1st – mid 2nd.	3 phase 2

Table 16: GAL E: essential cemetery dating

EF62	bustum	cremated: 254 g
EF137	boxed cremation	cremated: 149 g
EF79	urned cremation	cremated: 544g
EF91	urned cremation	cremated bone: none recovered
EF70	inhumation	leg bone frags: 13g
EF105	inhumation:	none
EF107	inhumation	skull fragments (not recoverable)

Table 17: GAL E: human bone in Roman cemetery



Plate 4: inhumation EF105, with jars and beaker, view NW

EF62	bustum HIGH STATUS	Five tazze , dated mid 1 early 2nd. As of Vespasian AD 69-79, scorched. Glass fragments from flasks and unguent vessels. Nails either from furniture placed on pyre or jut recycled wood. Coin placed in mouth or right hand - ferry fee for Charon. Lamps 3 (possibly 5) picture lamp fragments. Imply a degree of wealth. The images are of funerary significance, and there seems to be an association between lamps and tazze, which were probably used for incense burning. Carbonised foodstuffs , including dates, and possible lentils and peas
EF137	boxed cremation HIGH STATUS	Lock plate , iron strap hinges, copper-alloy studs from box. Two mirrors, one is unlikely to be later than the early 2nd century Small jar or beaker , probably mid-late 1 to 2/3 century?) Burial of a highly Romanised young female accustomed to continental grooming equipment. 1st to early 2nd century
EF79	urned	Burial urn is mid 1st to mid 2 pot

	cremation	
EF91	urned cremation	Body and base of jar or bowl , truncated by ploughing. Glass frags. Mid 1st to early/mid 2nd
EF105	inhumation	3 jars and 1 beaker. Coffin outline defined by nails Dated mid-late 2nd century
EF107	inhumation HIGH STATUS	White ware flagon mid 1 – mid 2nd positioned at W end next to the skull. Fe knife blade positioned near pelvis (ie, on a belt) Flagon is. Fe knife (AD 50s to the early 2nd century) is for sharpening reed pens. Implies education.

Table 18: GAL E: grave goods in Roman cemetery, with indication of dating



Plate 5: close-up of the jars and beaker (centre) in grave EF105



Plate 6: close-up of burial urn in grave EF107

6.4.3 Status

The range of finds shows that the bustum EF62, cremation EF137 and inhumation EF107 belong to highly-Romanised individuals with EF62 associated with the early Roman colony.

Bustum EF62: The use of a coin to pay the ferryman to convey the soul to the underworld is a burial rite of the classical world, as is the use of oil lamps to light the soul on its way. The absence of overtly female-gendered artefacts suggests that the bustum is a male burial, whilst the presence of imported dates and lentils implies the Romanised individual was of considerable status (Fryer above). Given the colony status of the early Roman town and the style of burial it is possible that

the probably male individual was an official, perhaps associated with the military. It is not implausible that he was also the owner/occupier of the nearby Romanised farmstead building located in the sports field area towards the eastern extent of Area E. **F137** is the burial of a highly Romanised young female accustomed to continental grooming equipment. The iron knife in **EF107** implies an educated person, the knife being used to trim a reed pen.

Given that three out of nine certain burials were of high status it seems likely that the whole cemetery plot was associated with a particular family, or with a particular group of people. Again an association as family and estate workers associated with this hinterland farmstead occupying prime land just to the south of the Roman town (see below), is a tempting interpretation for this plot.

6.5 Roman ditches, enclosures, and structures (Figs 2, 3)

Roman Phase 1 enclosure (1st to 2nd century)

On the western edge of the 2013 site, two ditches (EF3, EF29) meeting almost at right angles define what appear to be the western and northern sides of an enclosure measuring approximately 34m wide (SW-NE: its size NW-SE is not known because its southern side has been cut away by later features). Its eastern side appears to be closed off by ditch F36, and between F36 and F3 is a gap of 1m, enough for an entranceway.

Ditch EF36 is dated by pottery to mid 1st to early 3rd century, but is probably at the early end of this sequence. Ditch EF36 appears to be the original western limit to the Roman cemetery described above, as it is west of all the early (Phase 1) burials. Subsequently, in Phase 3, burials were placed beyond (west of) this early boundary. Although ditch F29, contains some mid-late 2nd century pottery its layout in relation to F36 strongly implies it was contemporary and therefore the mid 2nd century earliest date attributable to the pottery may be the correct date for its final use.

There are other features which, for mainly stratigraphical reasons, are probably to be associated with this enclosure. Since we have no southern side it is difficult to judge whether the features are inside it or outside – probably outside it.

These features are mainly on the southern side of the 2013 excavation site, and include curvilinear gully F35, ditches F80, F82, F152 and F140 (which cuts the possible round house), and pit F139. The pottery dating from these features is 2nd/3rd century, so they could be placed in either *Phase 2* or *3*. However, none of the ditches align with the *Phase 2* enclosures, so it is more likely that they are *Phase 1*. This is supported by ditch F152 being cut by the *Phase 2* enclosure ditch F153. The features are randomly aligned, and it is difficult to assign a function to them.

The southern ditch of the northern enclosure (EF22) cut an earlier ditch on a different alignment EF23 (dated only as Roman). EF22 was approximately at right angles to a pair of ditches F7, F9 associated with a gravel pathway F8. As these are not parallel with the *Phase 2* enclosures (above) and are approximately in alignment with the *Phase 1* enclosure, it is likely that they are an earlier phase. Likewise, ditches F4 and F17 are probably associated with *Phase 1*.

On the northern edge of the 2013 site, ditch F92 cut the Phase 1 ditch F36 (see below), and so can be assigned to *Phase 2*.

Roman phase 2 enclosure and building (2nd - 3rd century)

Two parallel ditches spaced approximately 19m apart define a wide track (west side: F1, F101: east side: EF2, EF9, F153). It is not known how far to the north (beyond the current site) these ditches extend, but as they head towards a point close to the junction of modern Napier Road and Mersea Road it is a reasonable speculation that they linked with the course of the Roman road to Mersea at

a point to the north. Alternatively they may represent a stock route gap between the west side of the two linked enclosures to the east and a field boundary represented by F1 and F101.

There were three ditch lines running east off the eastern side of the putative track: EF10/EF13, EF22, EF12. These define two enclosures, each approximately 40m N-S and of unknown size E-W. Limited pottery dating of these features (including a samian stamp of AD 150-180), indicates that the enclosures and track were still in use in the 2nd- or early 3rd-century. Their earliest use of the enclosures is difficult to establish but could in theory have been contemporary with the earlier graves given that the pottery from both the enclosures and Roman building foundations includes earlier pottery in addition to 2nd to 3rd century material.

The eastern end of the northern enclosure included two robber trenches (2004 evaluation T2 F4 and F7), indicating that a robbed-out Roman structure stood here. There has been much disturbance from modern buildings, but as far as can be ascertained, there were two walls crossing at right angles, orthogonal to the enclosures. Other than that, the plan of the building is not clear. A clay floor (only dated as Roman) and a metal surface (Roman 1st-2nd/3rd) were associated with it. Its status is indicated by nearby finds of Purbeck marble, and 20 kg of CBM, including brick, tesserae, and box flue tiles (the latter indicating the proximity of a hypocaust system). The dating evidence for the construction of the structure is not strong, but a layer of debris including roof tiles dated mid 2nd to late 3rd represents its destruction. This indicates that the structure was probably associated with the northern enclosure in use, whilst the final silting/infilling of the enclosure ditches, like the infilling of the rubbish pits cut into the quarry pit to the west, was at or towards the end of the use-period of this structure. Associated pottery, found mainly in the enclosure ditch, includes domestic pottery and fine wares, from which it is fair to assume that this building was part of a moderately wealthy settlement, most likely a farm estate centre.

In addition the placed deposit (ie, the pot: F1) which cut associated enclosure a ditch (F17) contained late 2nd or early 3rd-century pottery, so the likelihood is that this event was also contemporary with the late use of the enclosure and building.

Roman phase 3 Quarry and Rubbish Pits (later 2nd to 3rd century)

Within the earlier Phase 1 enclosure formed by ditches F3/F29 and F36 were a scatter of stake-holes within which is no discernible structural pattern. In addition a very large quarry pit (28m x 30m) truncated both the above Phase 1 ditches (F29 and F36) and also the Phase 2 track side ditch F101. The pit (EF2/EF30) appears to be a large quarry pit from which sand was extracted in the Roman period for various local construction projects. Interestingly over 26kg of Roman brick and tile comes from this feature (and from large rubbish pit features around its perimeter which appear to be associated with it). Clearly, the material derives from demolition of a nearby Roman structure, most plausibly the aforementioned Roman structure within the enclosure to the east.

6.6 Anglo-Saxon

The eight undated grave cuts inside and the four undated grave cuts west of the *Phase 2* enclosure could be late Roman or Anglo-Saxon. However, none contain any finds (providing any sign of a late date), and the only stratification is undated grave cut EF89 cutting EF105, which contains mid-2nd to early 3rd-century Roman finds.

6.7 Medieval

There are no medieval features, unless the robbing of the structures in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 enclosures (north) were medieval events.

6.8 Post-medieval

Major Garrison infrastructure (footings, fences, pits) cut through the prehistoric, Roman and possible Anglo-Saxon remains.

Civil War remains

Perhaps the most interesting post-medieval remains were those of the Civil War.

A large ditch F60 running along the southern edge of Site E contained six sherds (63g) of post-medieval pottery - fabrics 40 and 45, dated 15th-16/17th, centuries, and fragments of peg-tile. Given its size (6.5m wide, 1.1m deep) and its alignment (west by south/east by north), there is little doubt that this is part of the Siege works. The question is - which part?



Plate 7: view north across the Civil War ditch F60

Evaluation and excavation at Garrison Alienated Land Area A1 (the Meanee & Hyderabad Barracks (MAHB) uncovered two very substantial ditches, which can be interpreted as part of a fort constructed in the Civil War of 1648. Finds including lead musket balls the ditches confirm this interpretation. Full excavation of Site A at GAL A1 (in the north-western corner of MAHB) revealed a large ditch (AF55/AF143/AF155). Its ground-plan, resembling a squashed rectangle, can be projected to form the lozenge shape. The two complete sections across the ditch (ie, AF143 and AF155) are respectively 3.7m and 3.6m wide respectively, and 1.1m and 1.3m deep. Allowing for the (unknown) distance between our site level and 1648 ground level, it may be suggested that the ditch was originally dug 5 feet deep and 15 feet across. This ditch must be part of the siege works forming the southern part of the circumvallation.

It was initially speculated that the GAL A1 ditch was the ditch of Fort Needham. On reflection, the documented dimensions of the fort make this impossible as the ditch is too close to the wall of St Johns Abbey, and would have placed the fort within the precinct of the abbey. It seems more likely that Fort Needham is farther south on Mersea Road. These new siege works are more likely to be a previously unknown fortification - either a fortlet or a gun position constructed as the circumvallation closed in on the town in the later stages of the siege.

So, what is the Site E ditch? The *Siege Map* shows Fort Needham squarely over the top of Berechurch Road, with Mersea Road running beyond its eastern side. There is a circumvallation ditch running east off Fort Needham towards Mersea Road. As the Site E ditch is straight, and

shows no angles which might be expected on the sides of Fort Needham, then it seems most likely that F60 is the straight circumvallation ditch off the eastern side of Fort Needham.

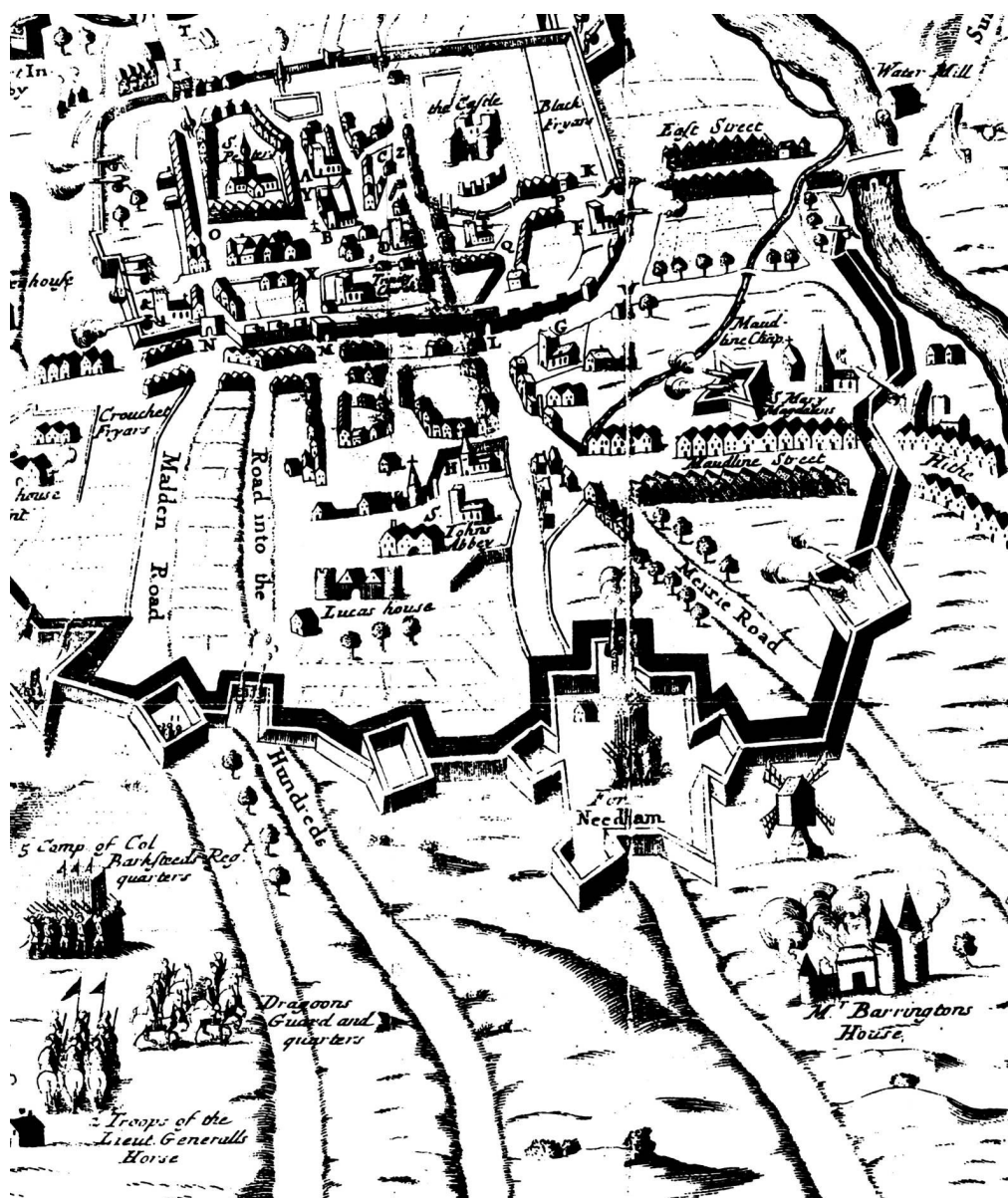


Plate 8 Colchester Siege Map

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CAT Report 588	2012	<i>Stage 2 archaeological excavation, Alienated Land Area L/N (Goojerat Barracks), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex. June-July 2010</i> Report by Howard Brooks, Stephen Benfield, Ben Holloway (CAT), and R Masefield (RPS) with contributions by Nina crummy, Mark Hassall, Val Rigby, and Adam Wightman
CAT Report 588	June 2012	<i>Stage 2 archaeological excavation, Alienated Land Area L/N (Goojerat Barracks), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex, June-July 2010</i> , by Howard Brooks, Stephen Benfield, Ben Holloway (CAT), and R Masefield (RPS), with contributions by Nina crummy, Mark Hassall, Val Rigby, and Adam Wightman
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Appendix 1: Area E context list (1st August 2014)

Context no	description	dated finds	finds in burials	notes	date
EL1	topsoil	peg-tile, brick, coal		grassed playing field surface	modern
EL2	accumulation				post-Roman
EL3	natural			sands and gravels	
EL4	fill of EF62	Roman sherds		charcoal-rich fill of bustum EF62	
EF001	ditch	<i>Roman sherds, post-Roman pottery</i>		field boundary? Terminal on N end	post-medieval
EF002	large quarry pit	Roman sherds L2-L3, Roman CBM (brick, teg, imbrex 9692g: M2+).	Fe nails – disturbed from local burials?	Cuts EF29, EF33, EF36, EF101. Animal bones – food debris? EF30-32 are part of this large pit. Much CBM here.	Roman L2-L3
EF003	ditch	Roman sherds E-M2, Roman CBM (brick, teg: 1590: 2+)		cuts EF4. Field boundary?	Roman E-M2
EF004	pit			cut by EF3. No finds, but cut by Roman ditch, so probably stratigraphically Roman	Roman?
EF005-21	stake-hole	peg-tile (not kept)		part of N-S fence (cuts Civil War ditch F60). Line continues as EF42-59.	post-med, modern
EF022	pit				undated
EF023	stake-hole			pair with F24?	undated
EF024	stake-hole			pair with F23?	undated
EF025	pit				undated
EF026	pit	post-Roman pottery, peg-tile (not kept)		small pit	post-medieval
EF027	stake-hole				undated
EF028	stake-hole	Roman imbrex 8G			Roman
EF029	ditch	Roman sherds 1-M2, Roman CBM 107g		cut by EF2. Field boundary? Same as F37	Roman 1-M2
EF030	quarry pit	BA/EIA sherd, Roman sherds M-L1, Roman CBM (4350g), 2 peg-tile frags (intrusive?)		part of quarry pit EF2. Animal bone also in fill	Roman M-L1
EF031	quarry pit	Roman sherds L2-M3, Roman CBM (1636g)		part of quarry pit EF2. Animal bone also in fill	Roman L2-M3
EF032	quarry pit	Roman sherds E2-E3,		part of quarry pit EF2.	Roman E2-E3
EF033	part of F2 quarry pit	Roman CBM (3718g)			Roman
EF034	stake-hole	peg-tile (not kept)			post-medieval
EF035	ditch	Roman sherds M1-E3			Roman M1-E3
EF036	ditch	Roman sherds M1-E3			Roman M1-E3
EF037	ditch	Roman sherds M1-E3		field boundary? Same as F29	Roman M1-E3

Context no	description	dated finds	finds in burials	notes	date
				cut by EF2	
EF038	stake-hole	Roman CBM			Roman
EF039	inhumation cut				undated, presumed Roman
EF040	inhumation cut	Roman sherds			Roman
EF041	stake-hole				undated 7
EF042-59	stake-hole	EF49, residual Roman tile		part of N-S fence (cuts Civil War ditch F60). Line continues as EF5-21.	post- medieval
F060	ditch	<i>Roman sherds M1-3, post- medieval pottery 15-16/17, peg-tile, Rom CBM 196g</i>			post- medieval
EF061	inhumation cut				undated, presumed Roman
EF062	<i>bustum</i> burial	Roman sherds M1-2	cremated bone, carbonized material, ?Roman glass, Roman coin (Vespasian)	<i>in situ</i> bustum pyre, edges of cut scorched, much pottery and burnt debris in fill	Roman M1-2
EF063	inhumation burial		fe nails		Roman or later (coffin nails)
EF064	pit	Roman sherds			Roman
EF065	pit	mod brick			modern
EF066-8	stake-hole	peg-tile			post- medieval
EF069	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF070	inhumation burial		human bone		undated, presumed Roman
EF071	pit				undated
EF072	pit				undated
EF073	pit				undated
EF074	pit		lava quern		Roman or later
EF075	pit				undated
EF076	pit				undated
EF077	pit	Roman sherds			Roman
EF078	pit				undated
EF079	cremation burial	Roman urn – E/M2 or later. Roman sherds in fill E2-3.	cremated bone		Roman M2-3
EF080	ditch	Roman sherds 2- 3/4, Roman CBM (4196g)		cuts EF82	Roman 2- 3/4
EF081	pit				undated
EF082	ditch	Roman sherds E2- L3/4, Roman CBM 137g		cut by EF80	Roman E2- L3/4
EF083	stake-hole				Roman
EF084-5	pit				undated
EF086	pit				undated
EF087	pit				undated
EF088	pit	Roman sherds, Roman CBM (7154g)		animal bone	Roman

Context no	description	dated finds	finds in burials	notes	date
EF089	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF090	pit	Roman sherds, Roman CBM 138g			Roman
EF091	cremation burial		cremated bone		Roman
EF092	ditch	Roman sherds 1-2?			Roman 1-2?
EF093	stake-hole				undated
EF094	stake-hole				undated
EF095	pit	coal			post-medieval
EF096	pit	Roman sherds L2-M3, Roman CBM (2410g), peg-tile (intrusive?)		animal bone, oyster shell	Roman L2-M3 peg tile!!
EF097	pit				undated
EF098	pit				undated
EF099	stake-hole	Roman sherds, post-med brick, Rom CBM 1110g		fe slag	post-medieval
EF100	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF101	ditch	Roman sherds L2-3, Roman CBM 351g, peg-tile (intrusive)			Roman L2-3
EF102	stake-hole	Roman sherds			Roman
EF103	stake-hole				undated
EF104	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF105	inhumation burial	Urn 1: M2-E3 Urn 2: Prob M2 Fill: Roman sherds Hadrianic to Antonine	fe nails		Roman M2-E3
EF106	inhumation cut	Roman CBM			undated, presumed Roman
EF107	inhumation burial	Roman sherds	human bone, fe blade		Roman
EF108	stake-hole				undated
EF109-13	stake-hole in bustum				(M1-M2)
EF114	pit				undated
EF115-35	stake-hole in bustum	(Rom CBM in F125, 182g)			(M1-M2)
EF136	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF137	cremation burial	Urn: 1-2/3. No sherds in fill	cremated bone, fe box fittings, copper alloy mirror (frag presumably)		Roman 1-2/3
EF138	inhumation burial				undated, presumed Roman
EF139	pit	Roman sherds L3-3/4, Roman CBM (2690g)			LATE Roman, 3-4

Context no	description	dated finds	finds in burials	notes	date
EF140	ditch	Roman CBM 317g		cuts EF141	Roman
EF141	ditch			cut by EF140	undated
EF142	pit				undated
EF143	stake-hole			animal bone	undated
EF144	pit			animal bone	undated
EF145	stake-hole			animal bone	undated
EF146	pit			animal bone	undated
EF147	stake-hole			animal bone	undated
EF148	stake-hole			animal bone	undated
EF149	pit	prehist sherd: BA/EIA pot			Roman with residual prehist
EF150	ditch				undated
EF151	pit			cuts EF152	undated
EF152	ditch			cut by EF151, cuts EF153	undated
EF153	ditch	Roman sherds M2-E3, Roman CBM (8395g)		cut by EF152	Roman M2-E3

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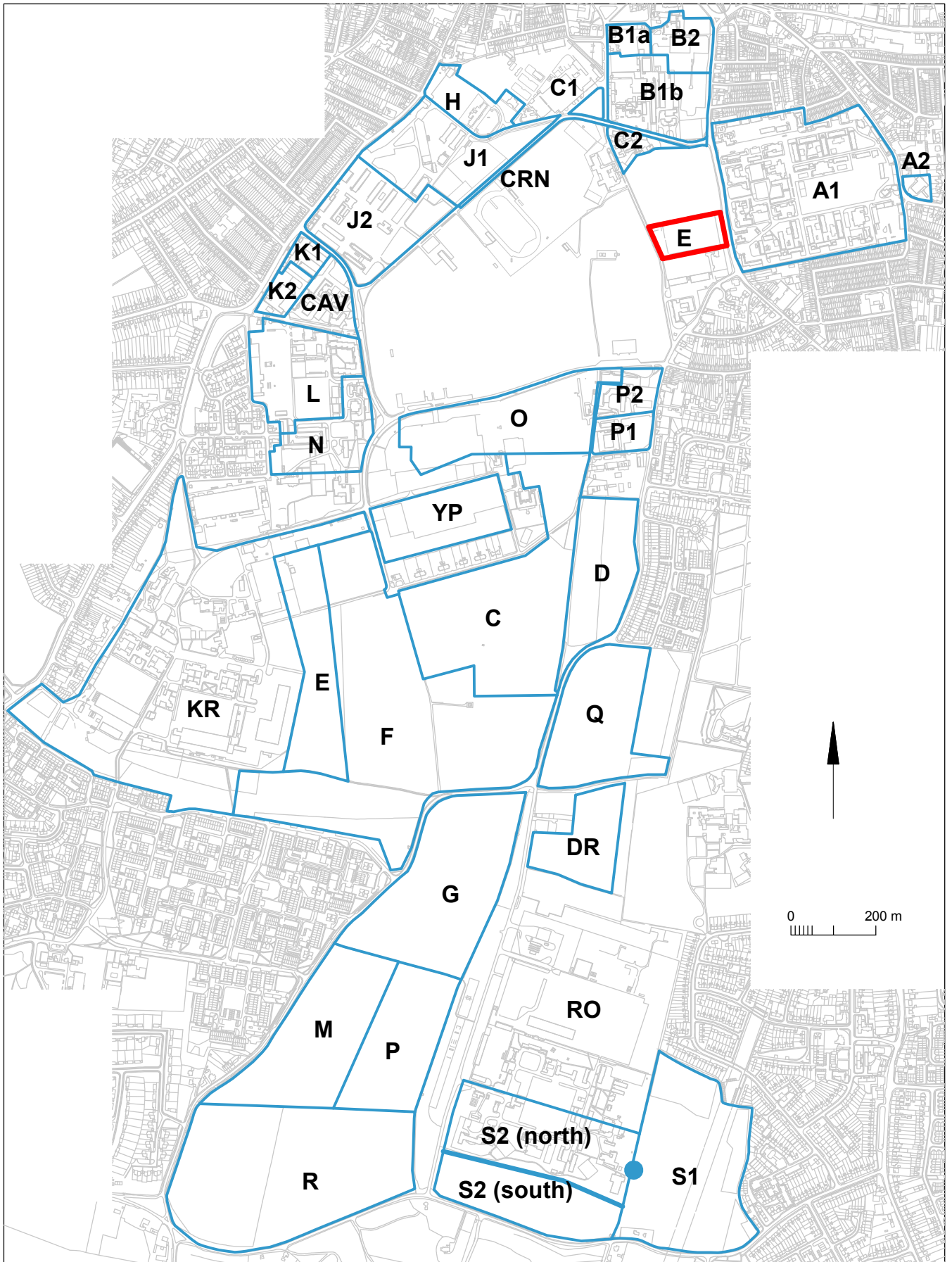
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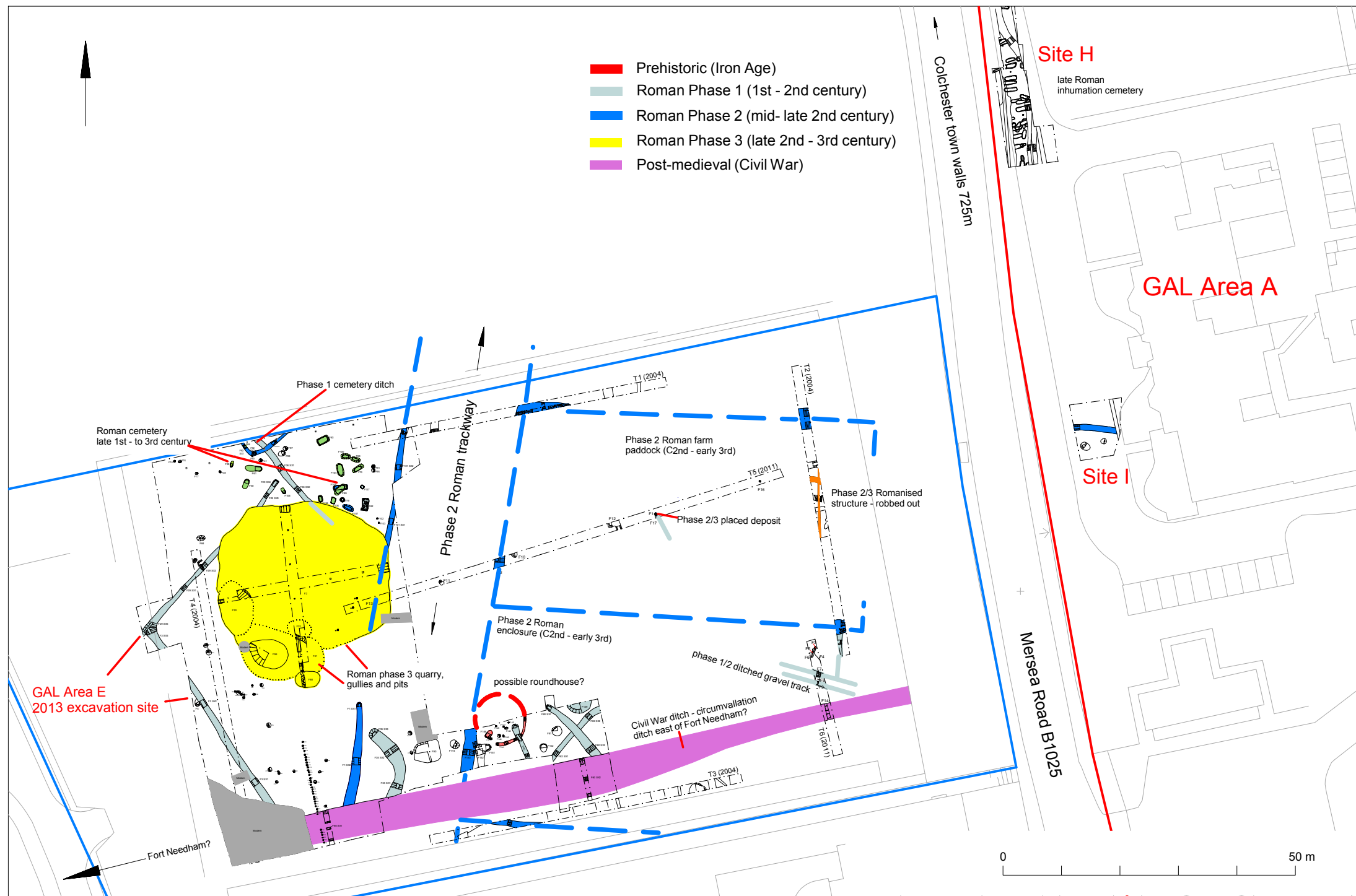


Fig 1a Site location.



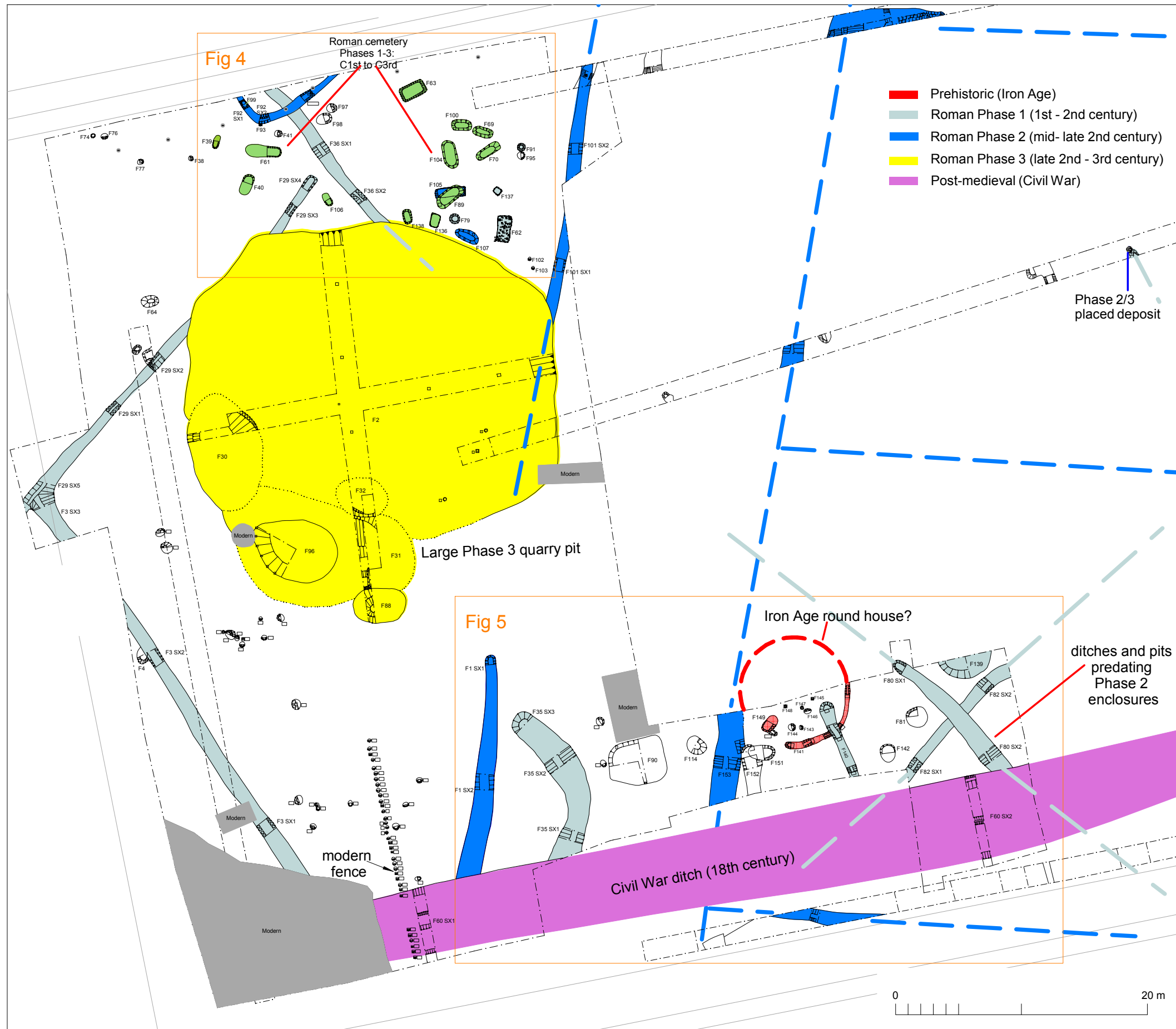
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Fig 1b Colchester Garrison Alienated Land, location of Area E is highlighted.



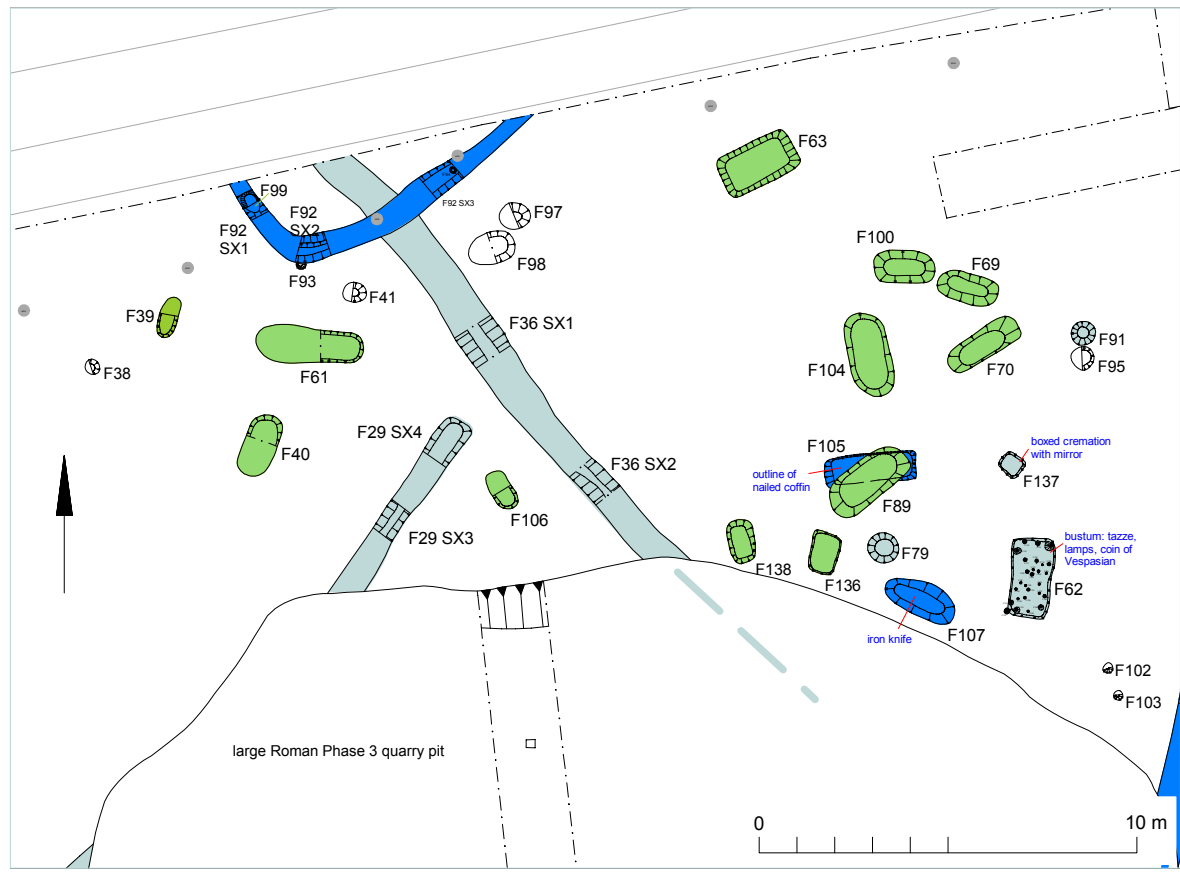
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Fig 2 Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) Area E, showing the 2004, 2011 evaluation trenches and 2013 excavation site, with interpretation



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Fig 3 GAL Area E site plan, showing prehistoric features, phasing of Roman landscape Phases 1-3, Civil War ditch, and insets Fig 4 and Fig 5



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Fig 4 Detail of cemetery. Shading shows Phase 1 (light blue - 1st - 2nd century), Phase 2 (dark blue - mid/late 2nd), and undated Roman (green)

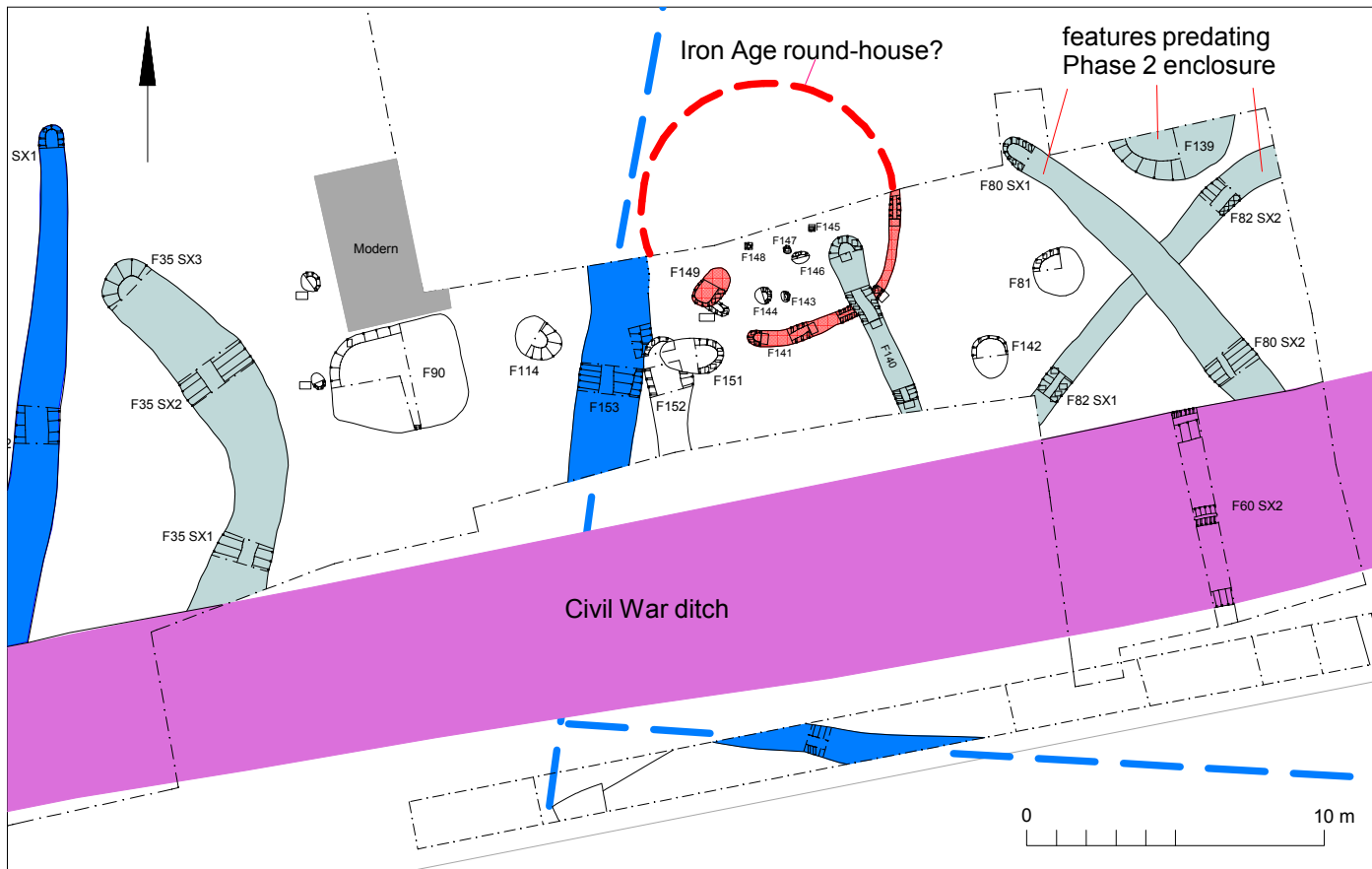
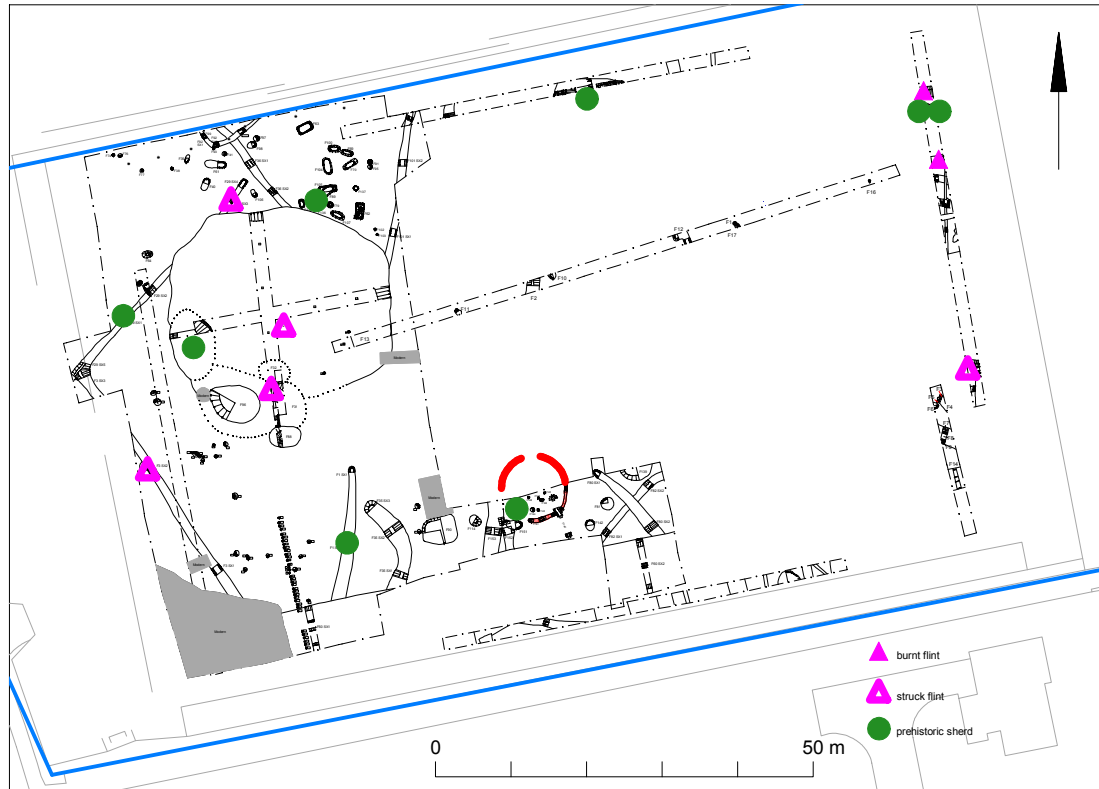


Fig 5 Detail of south-eastern corner of site, showing Iron Age features, and Phase 1 ditches and pits (medium blue) presumably put out of use by the Phase 2 ditches in the 2nd century (dark blue).



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Fig 6 prehistoric finds

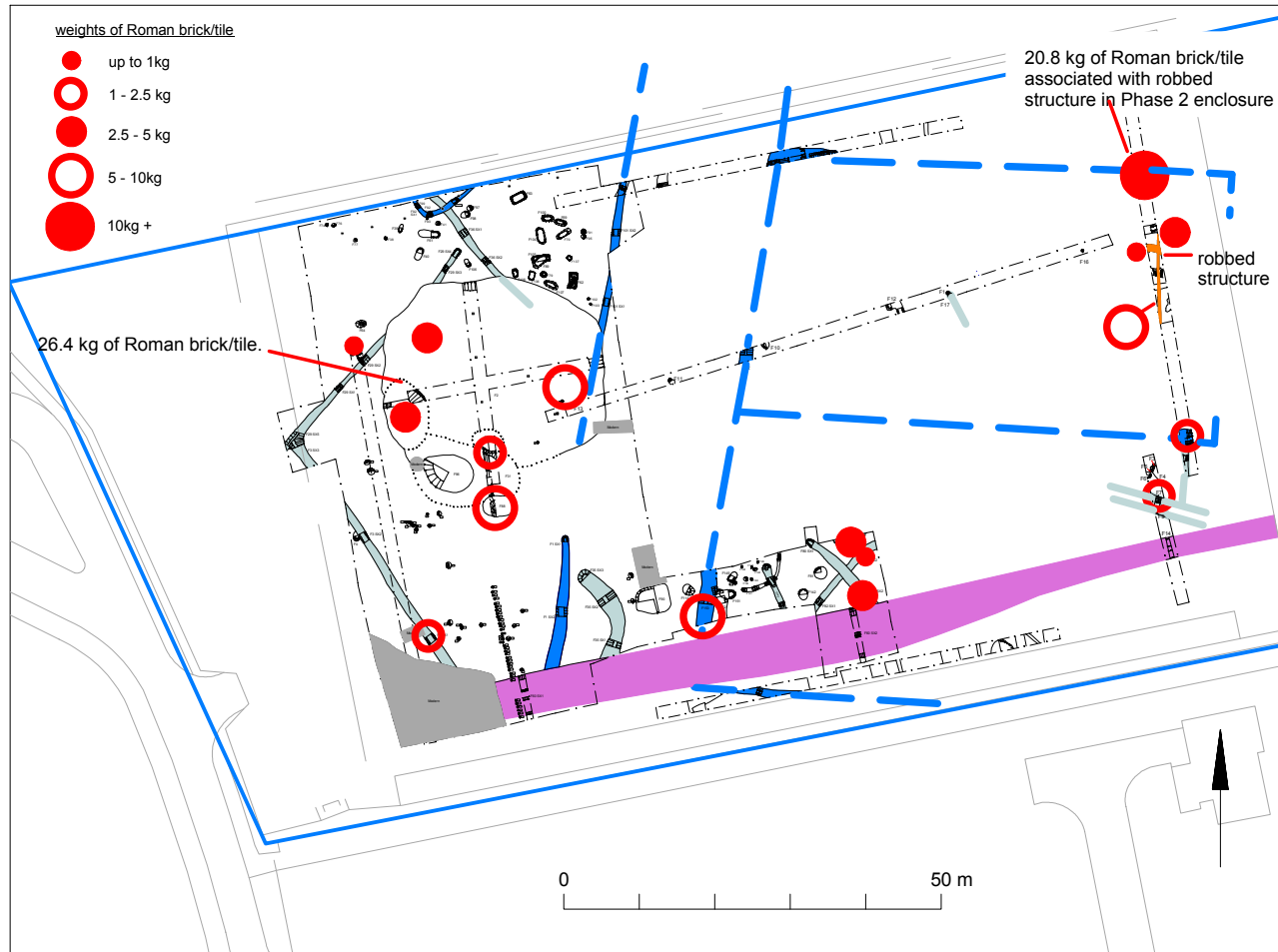


Fig 7 Weights of Roman brick/tile in relation to robbed structure

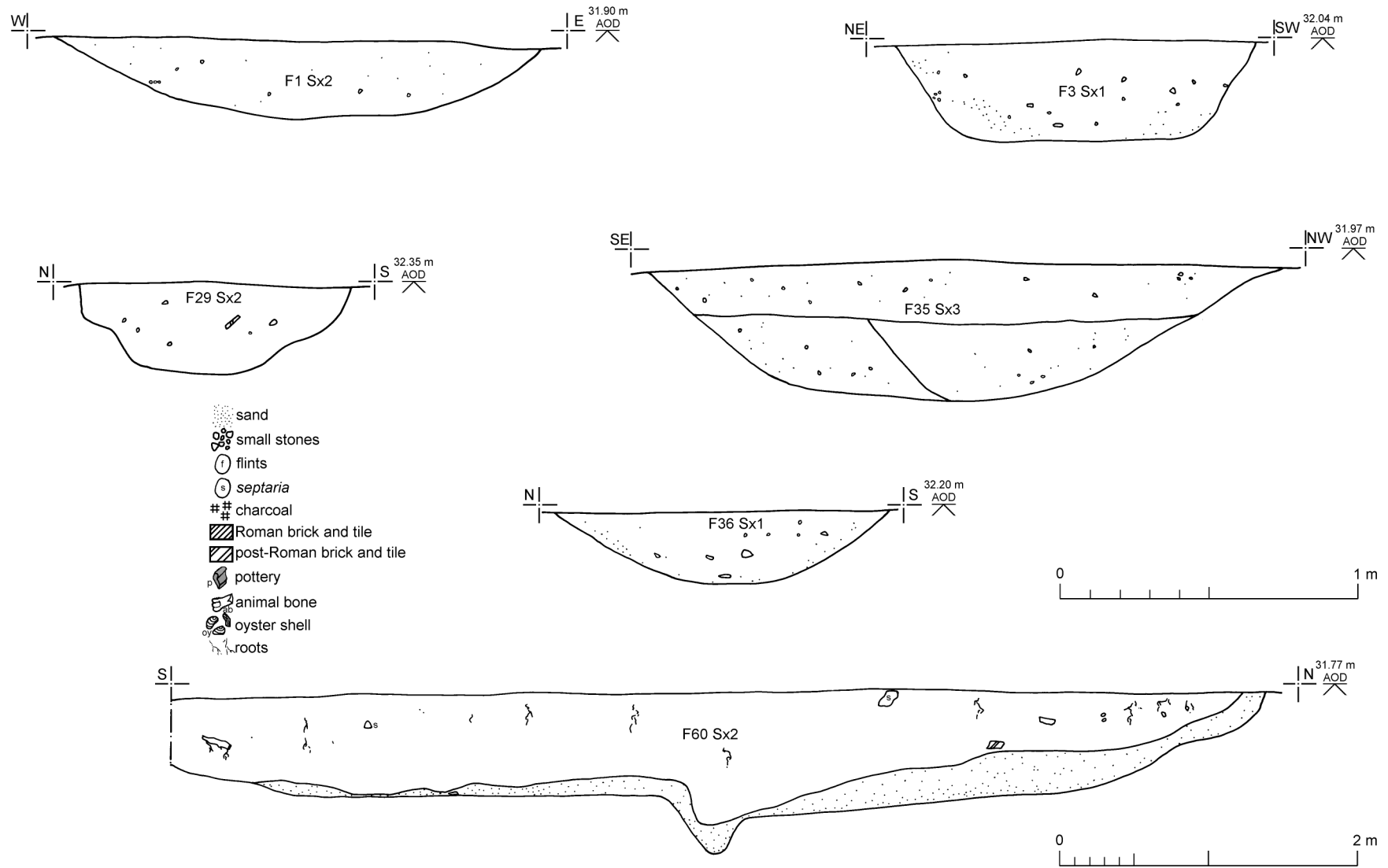


Fig 8 Ditch sections.

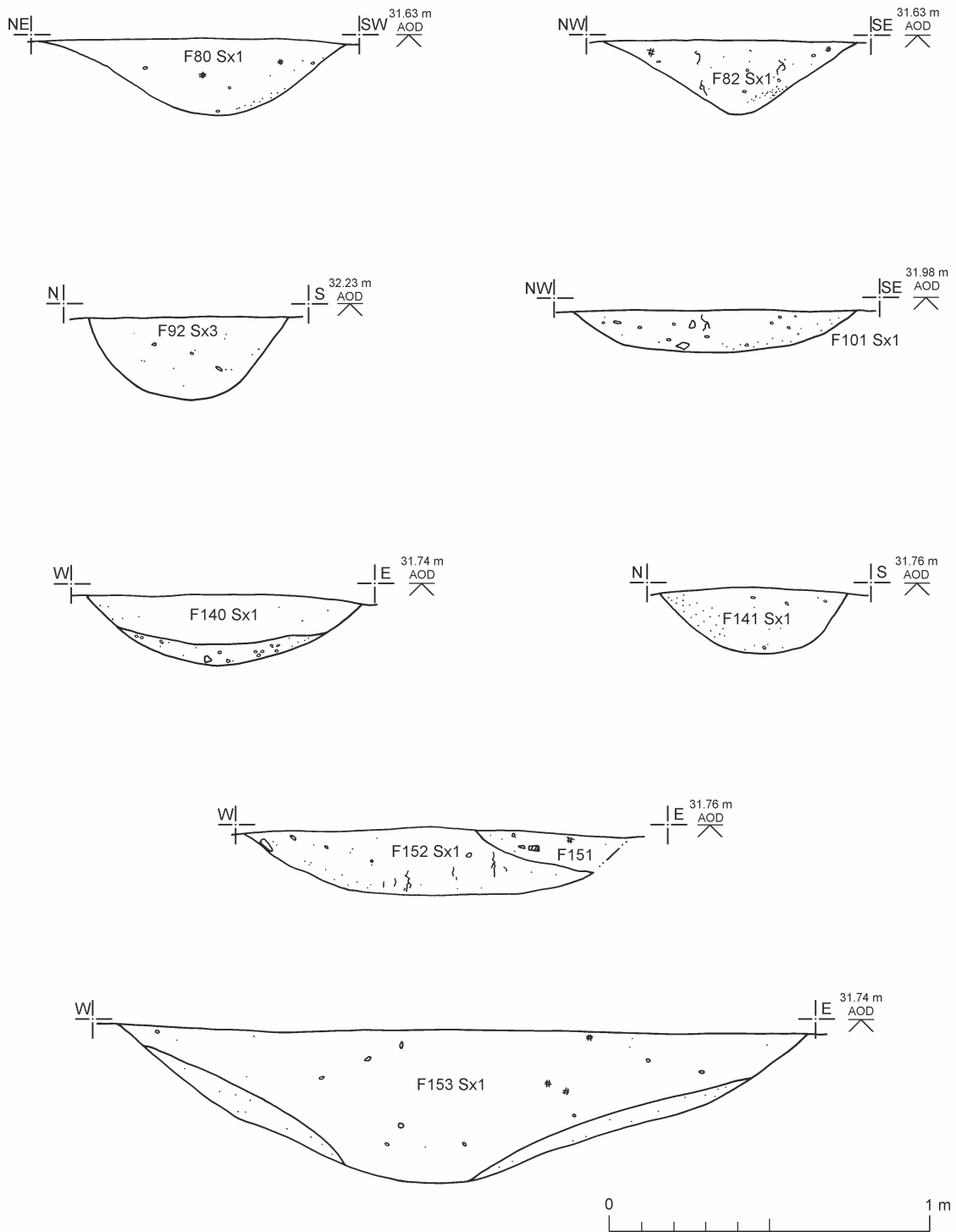


Fig 9 Ditch sections.

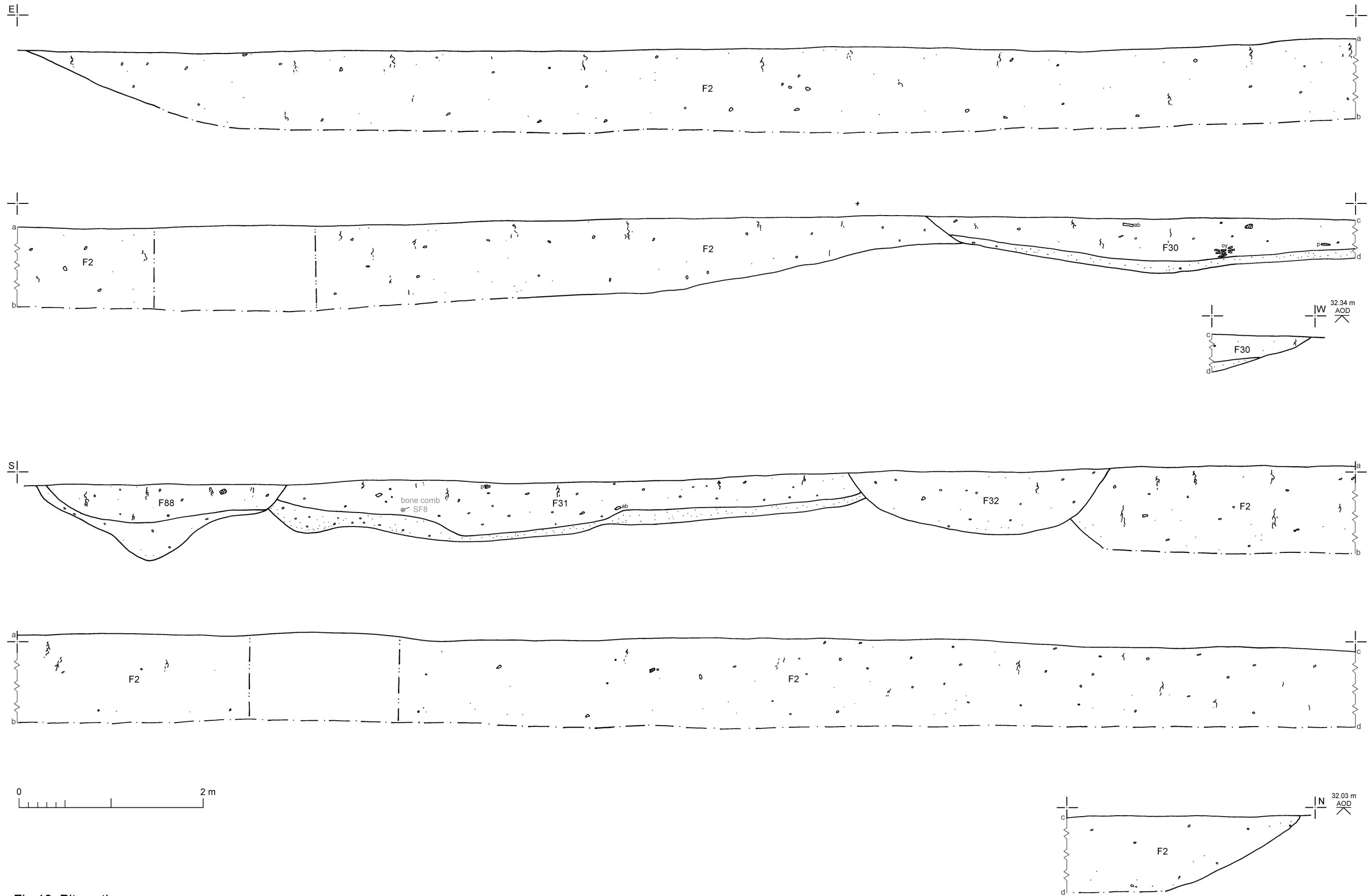


Fig 10 Pit sections.

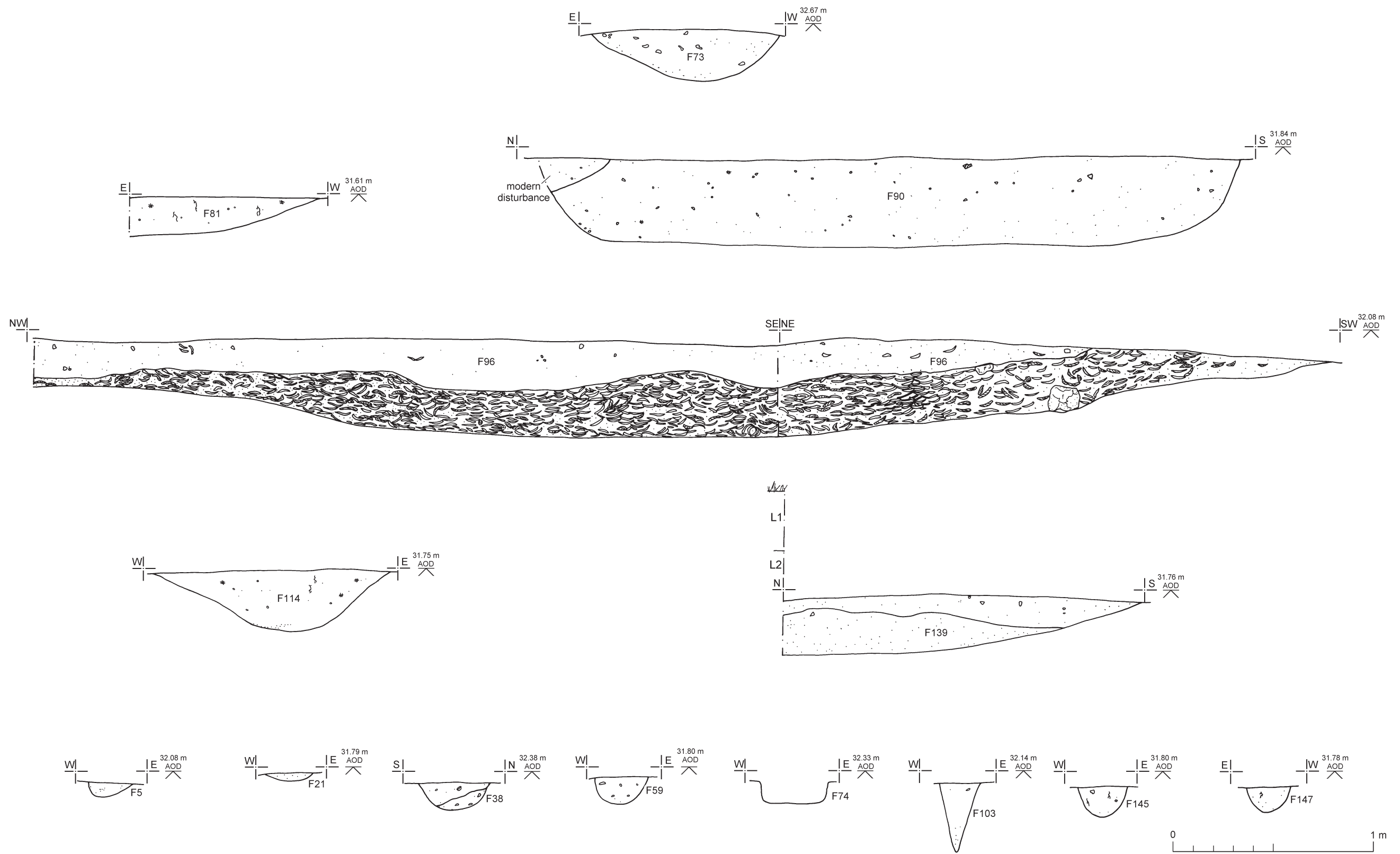


Fig 11 Pit sections (F73, F81, F90, F96, F114 and F139). Post-holes (F5, F21, F38, F59, F74, F103, F145, F147).

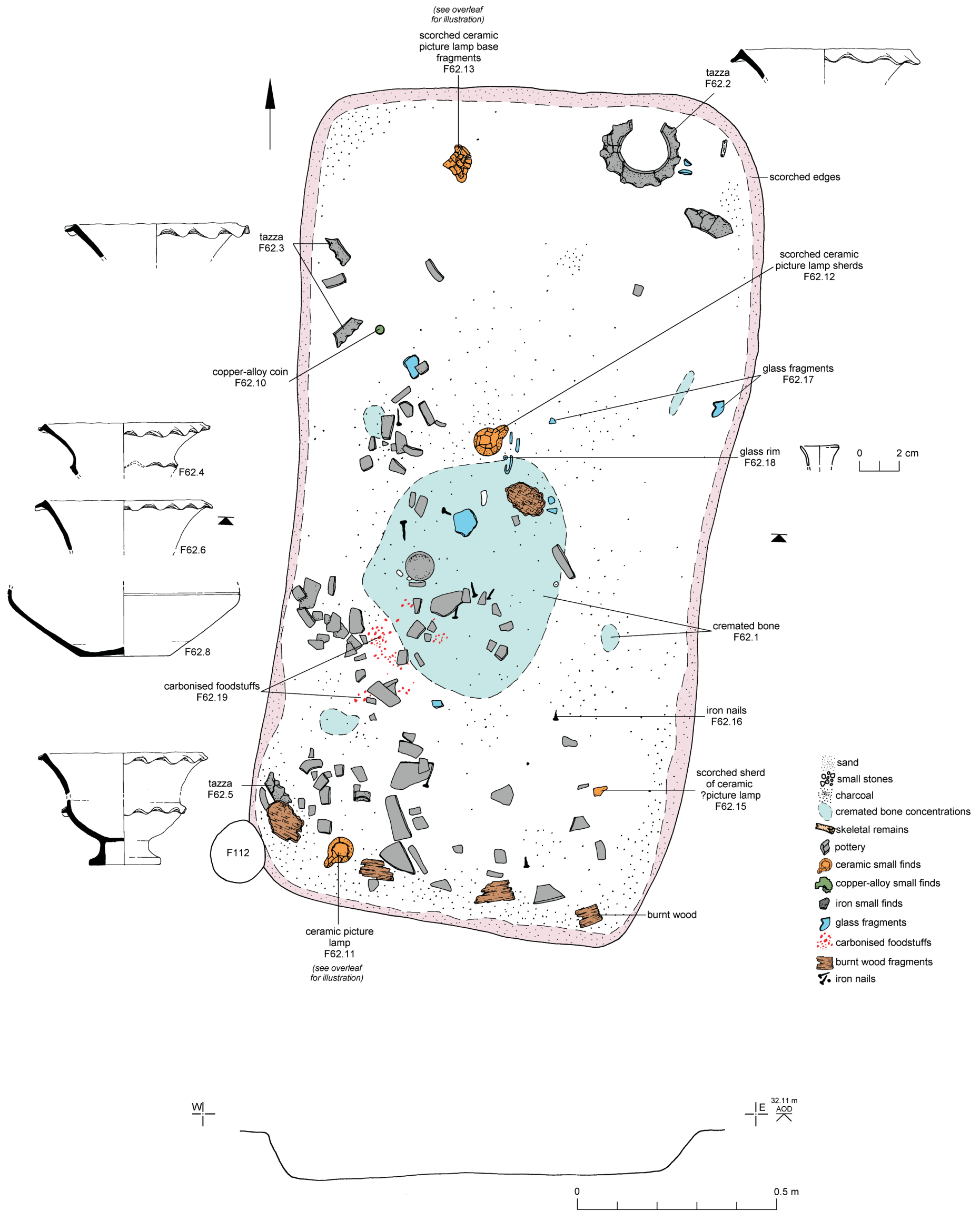


Fig 12 F62: burial plan and profile (scale 1:10), pottery (scale 1:4) and glass (scale 1:2).

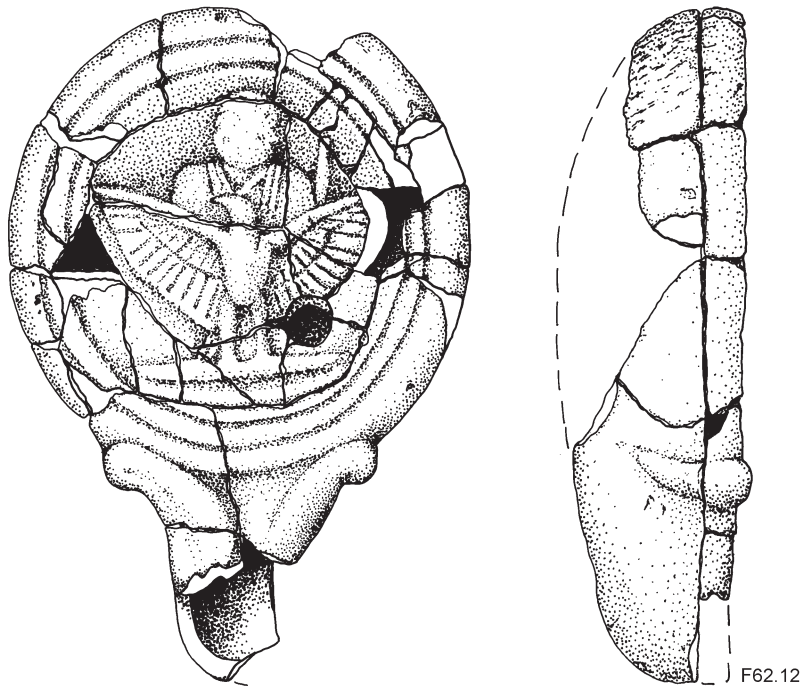
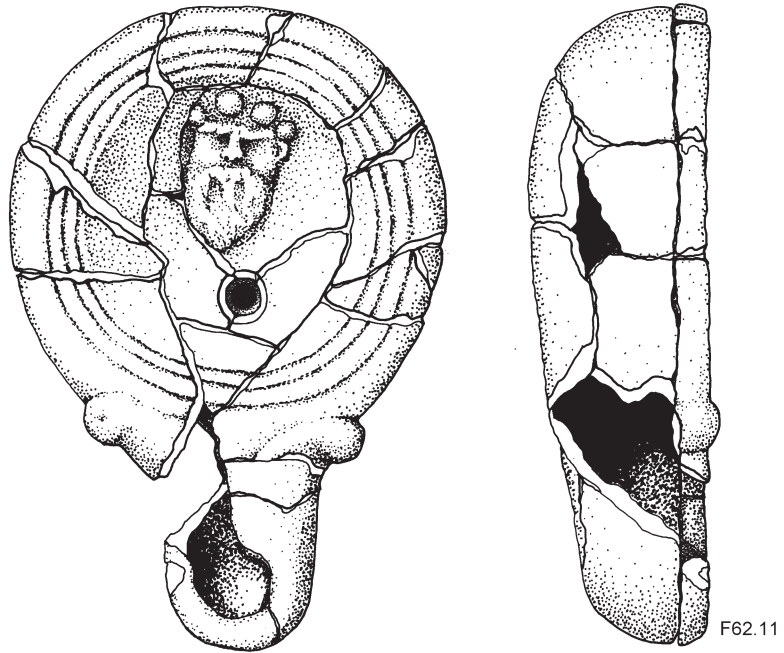


Fig 13 F62: small finds.

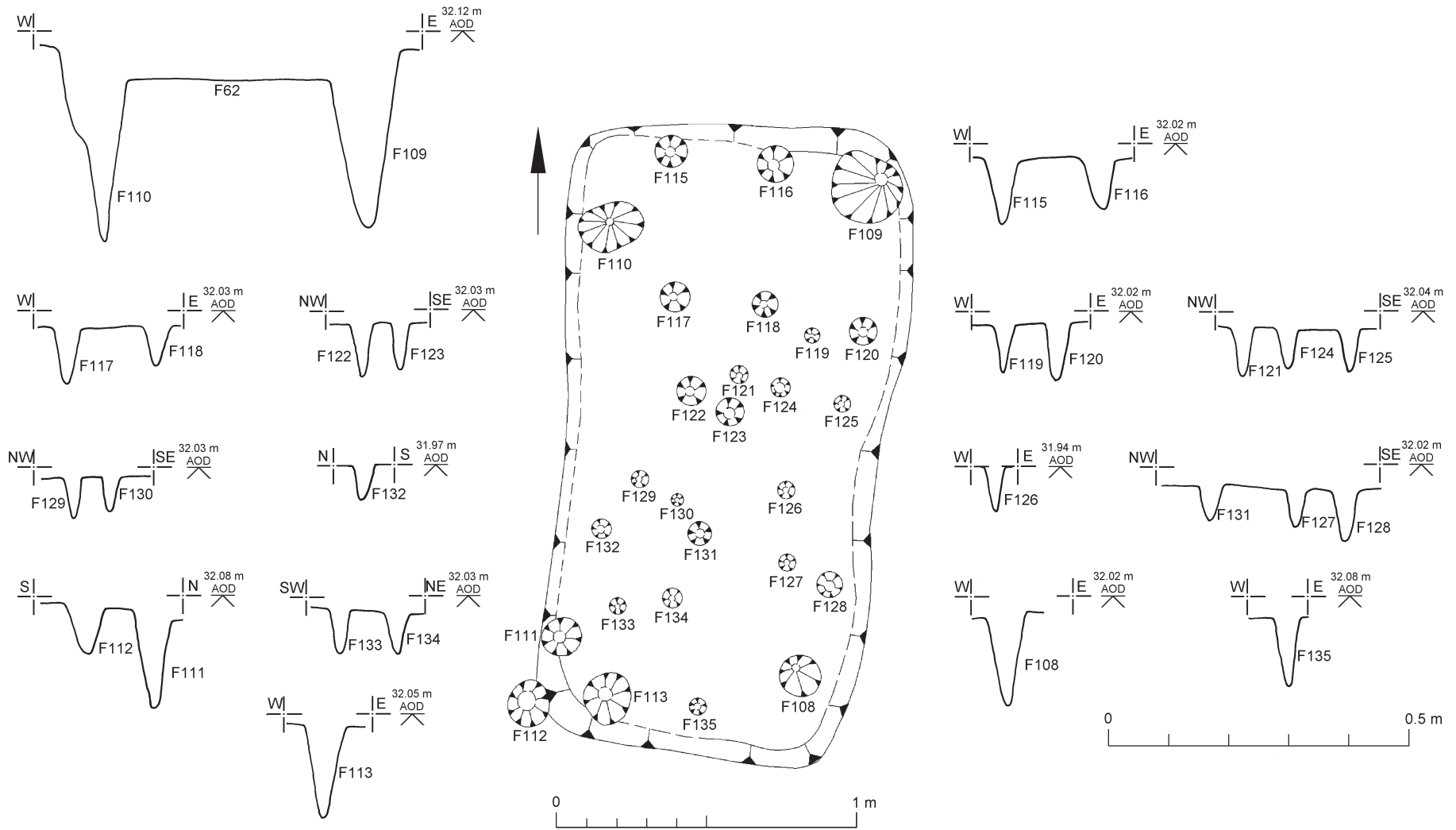


Fig 14 F62: post-excavation plan (scale 1:20) and post-hole profiles (scale 1:10).

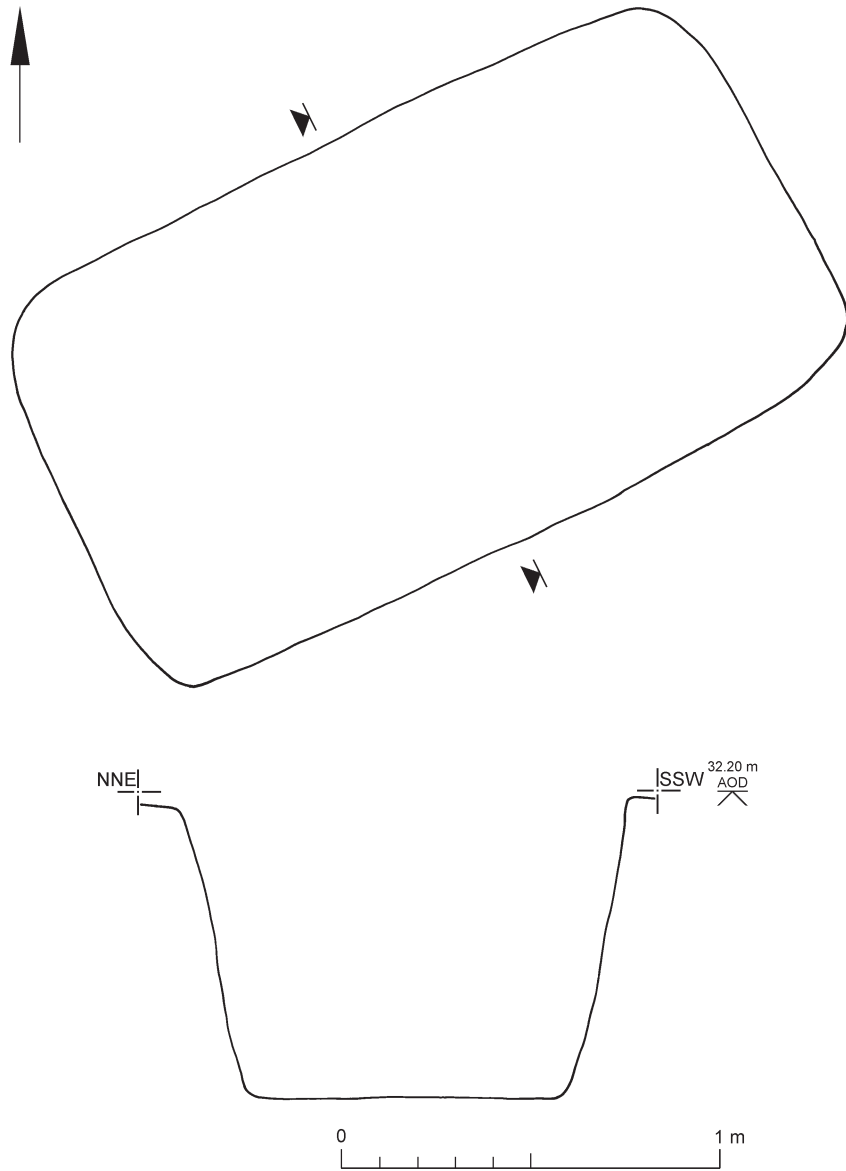


Fig 15 F63: burial plan and profile.

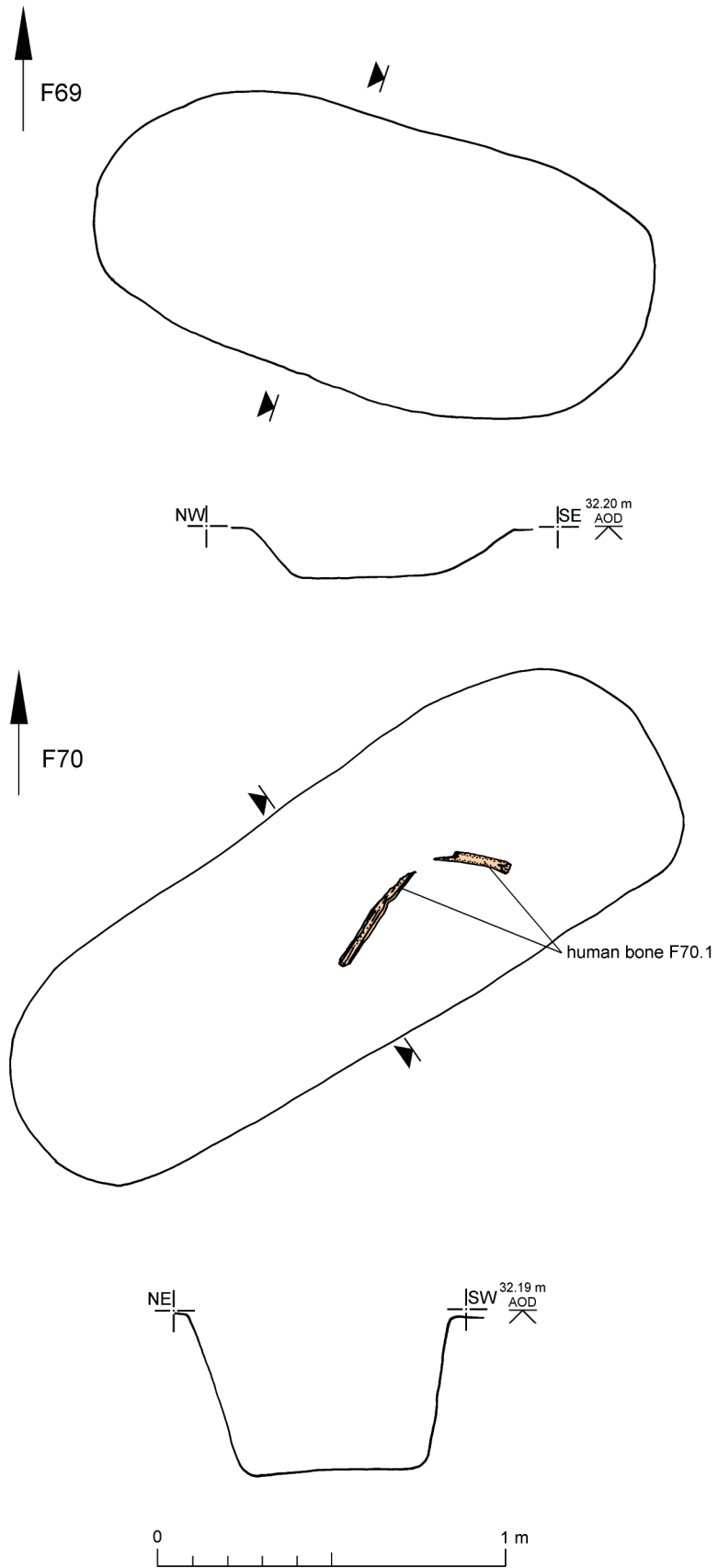


Fig 16 F69 and F70: burial plans and profiles.

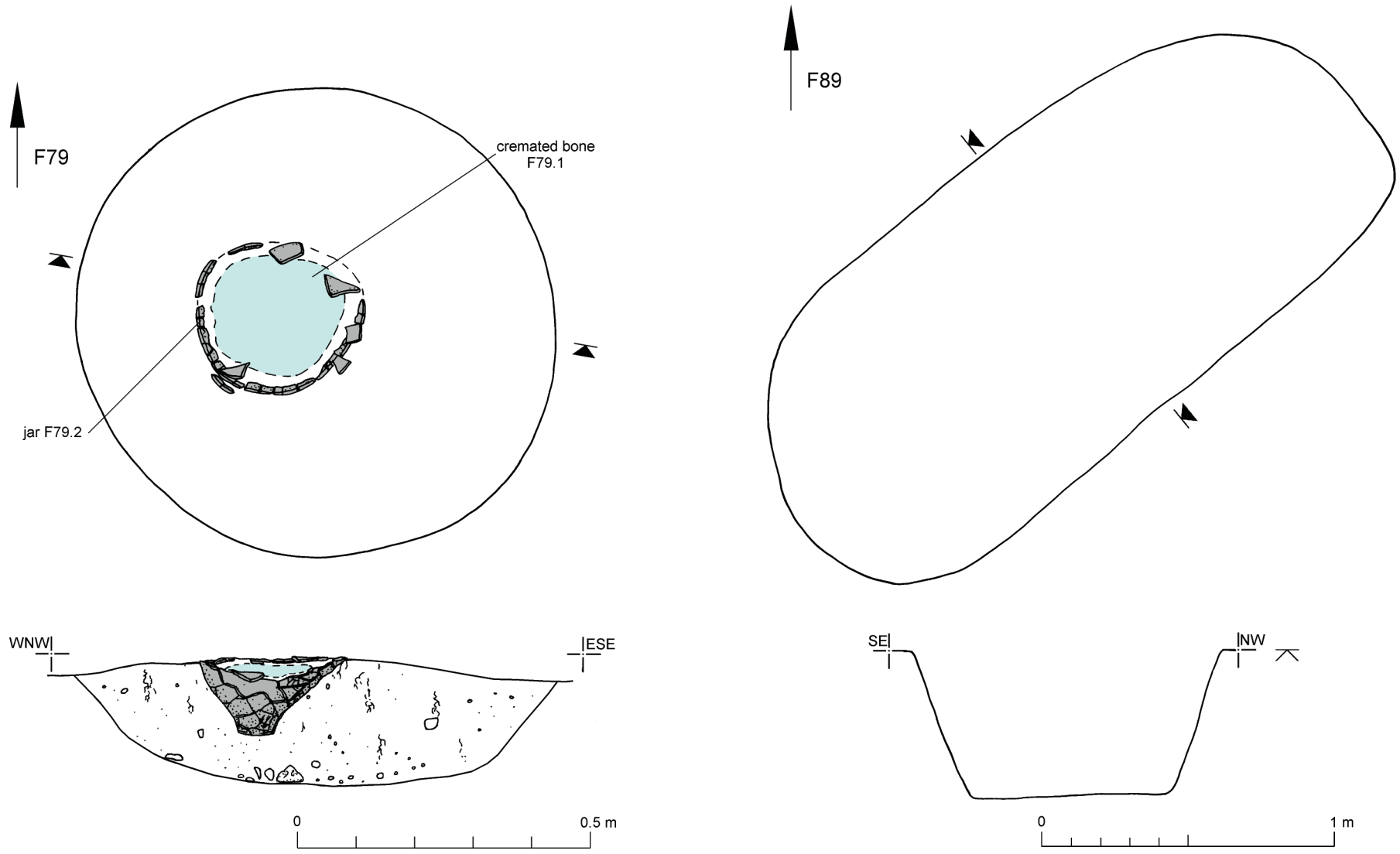


Fig 17 F79 and F89: burial plans, section and profile.

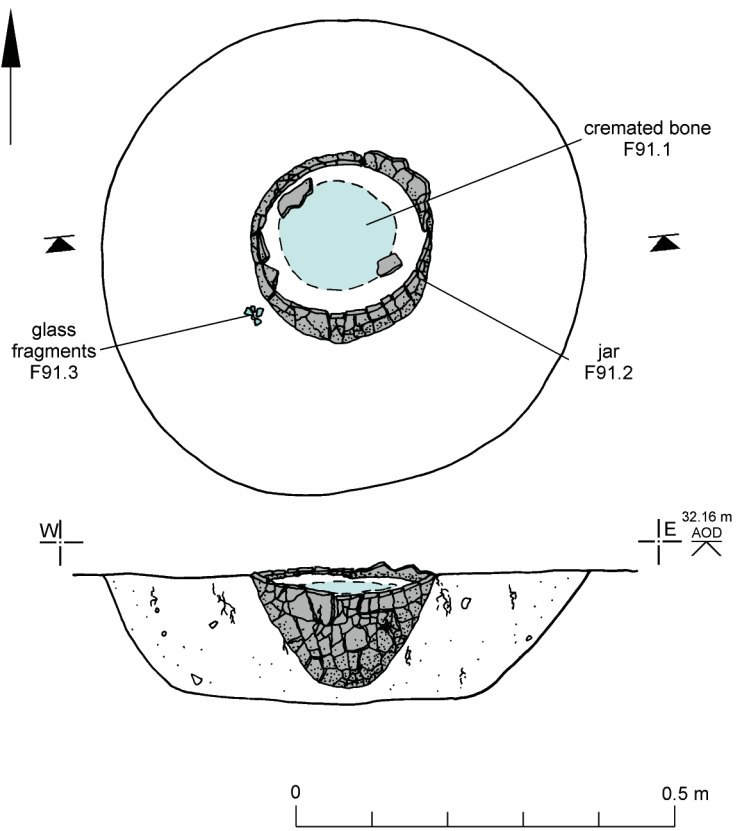


Fig 18 F91: burial plan and section.

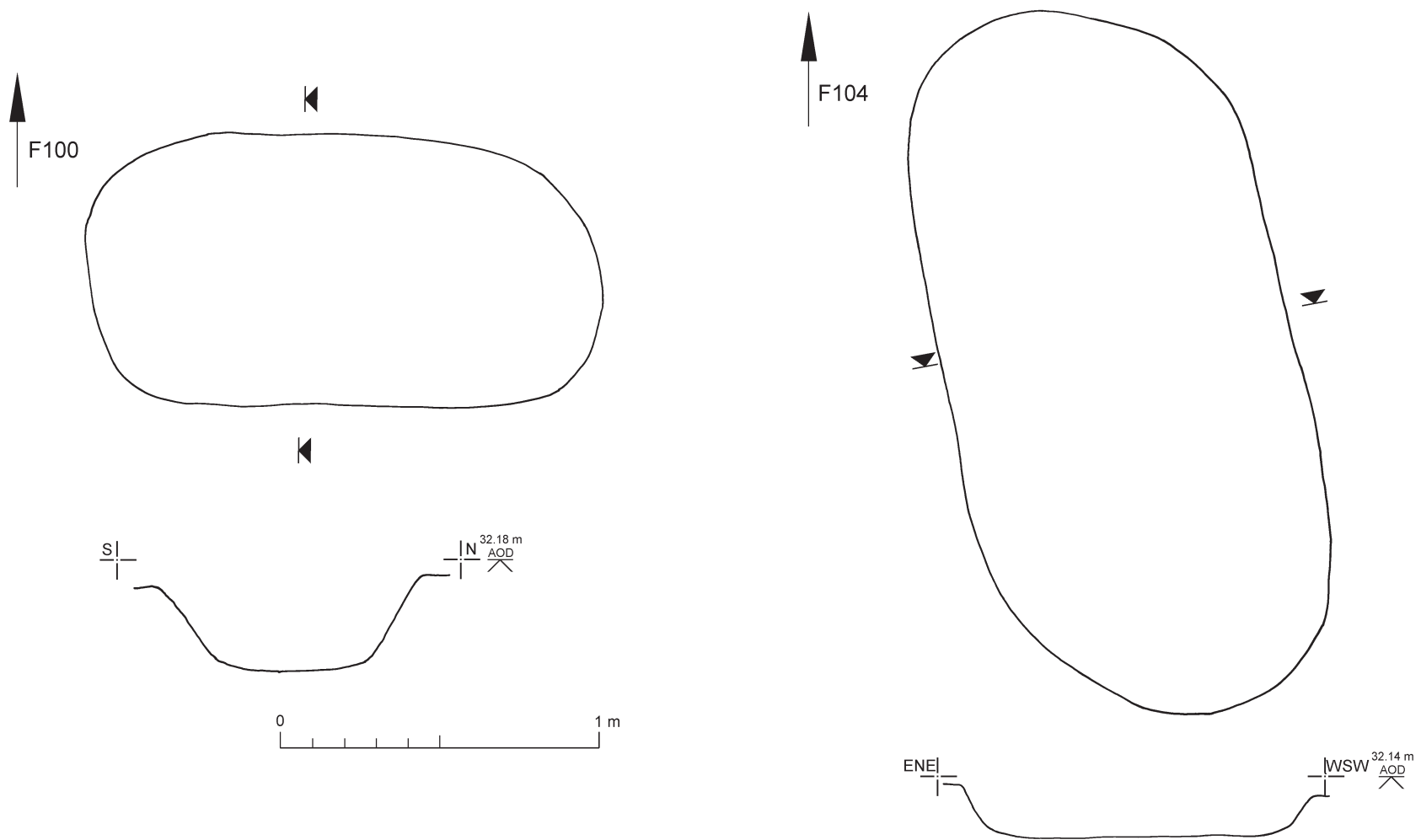


Fig 19 F100 and F104: burial plans and profiles.

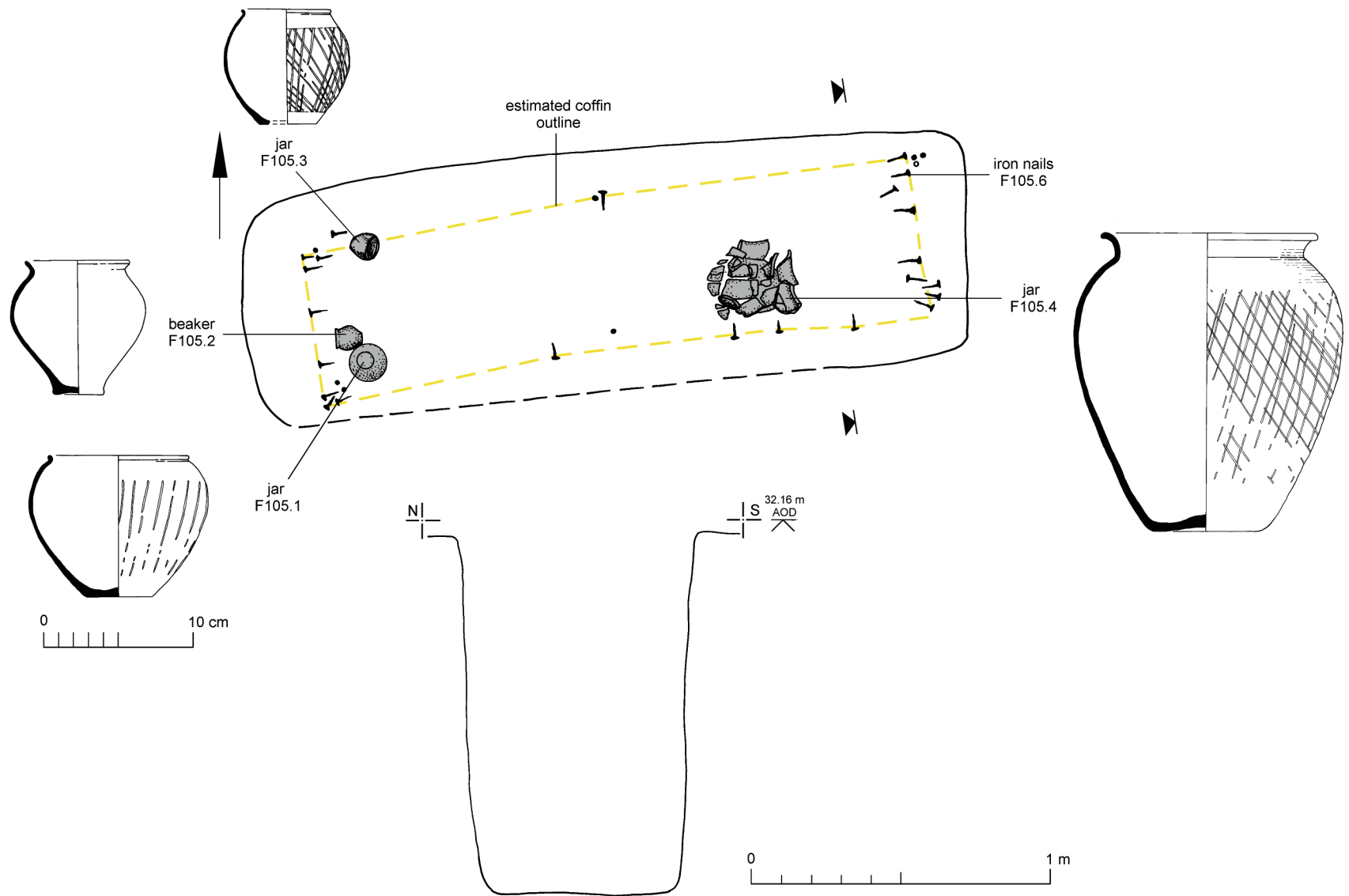


Fig 20 F105: burial plan and profile (scale 1:20) and pottery (scale 1:4).

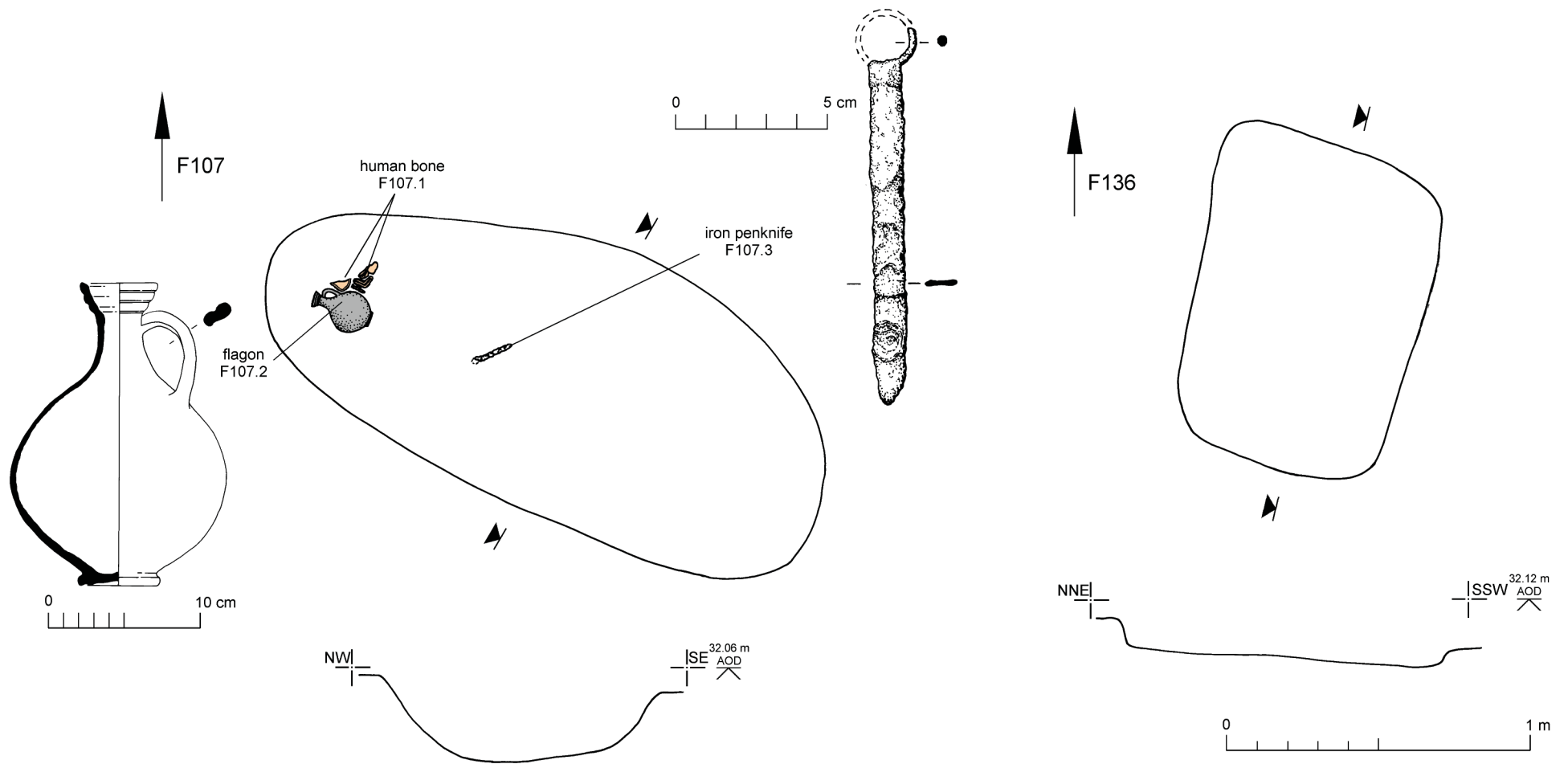


Fig 21 F107 and F136: burial plans and profiles (scale 1:20), pottery (scale 1:4) and small find (scale 1:2).

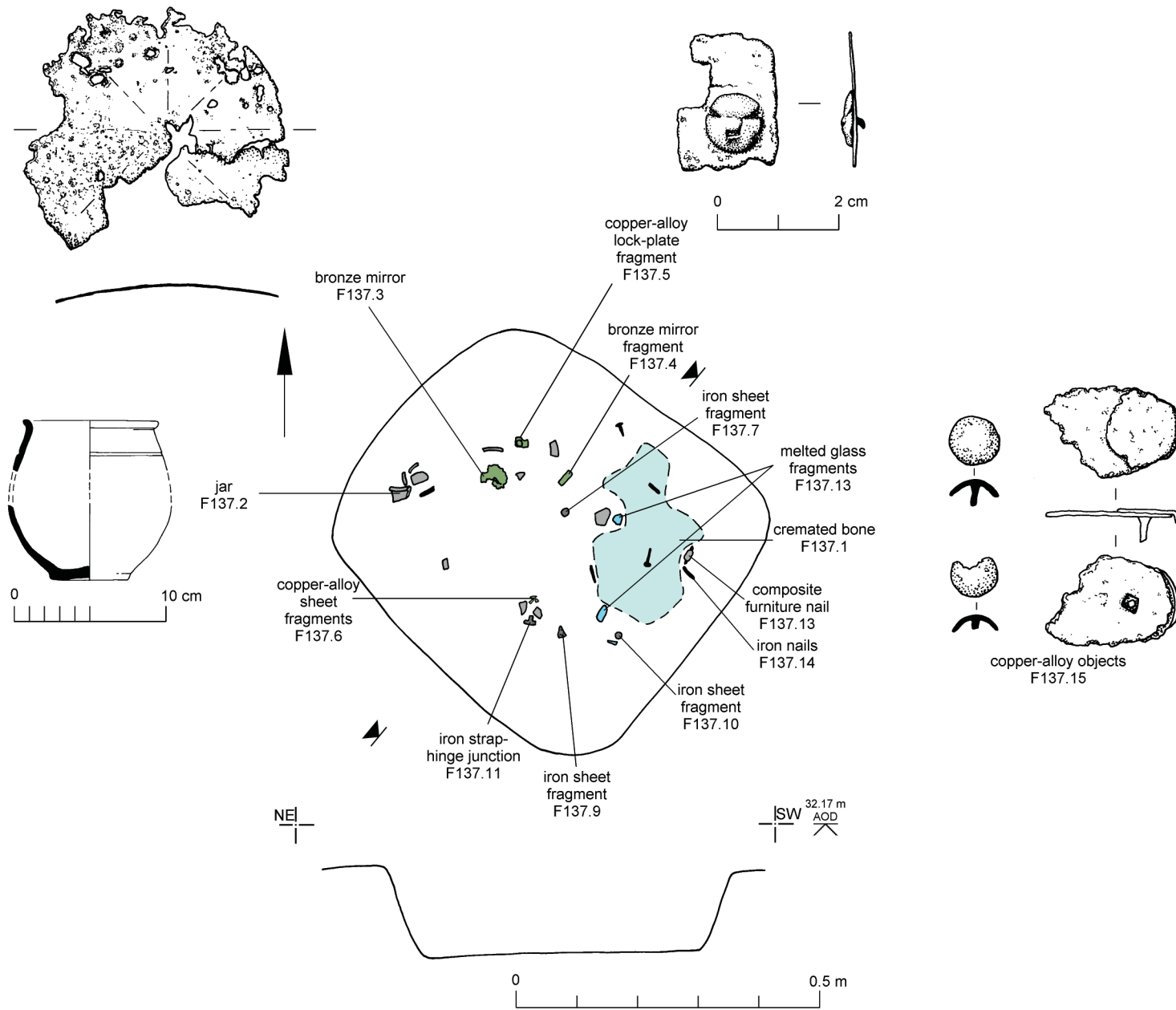


Fig 22 F137: burial plan and profile (scale 1:10), pottery (scale 1:4) and small finds (scale 1:1).

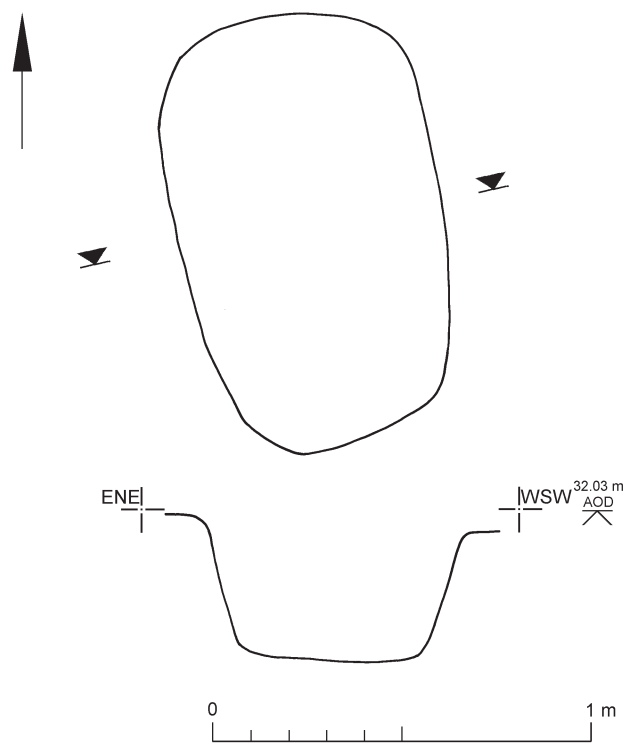


Fig 23 F138: burial plan and profile.

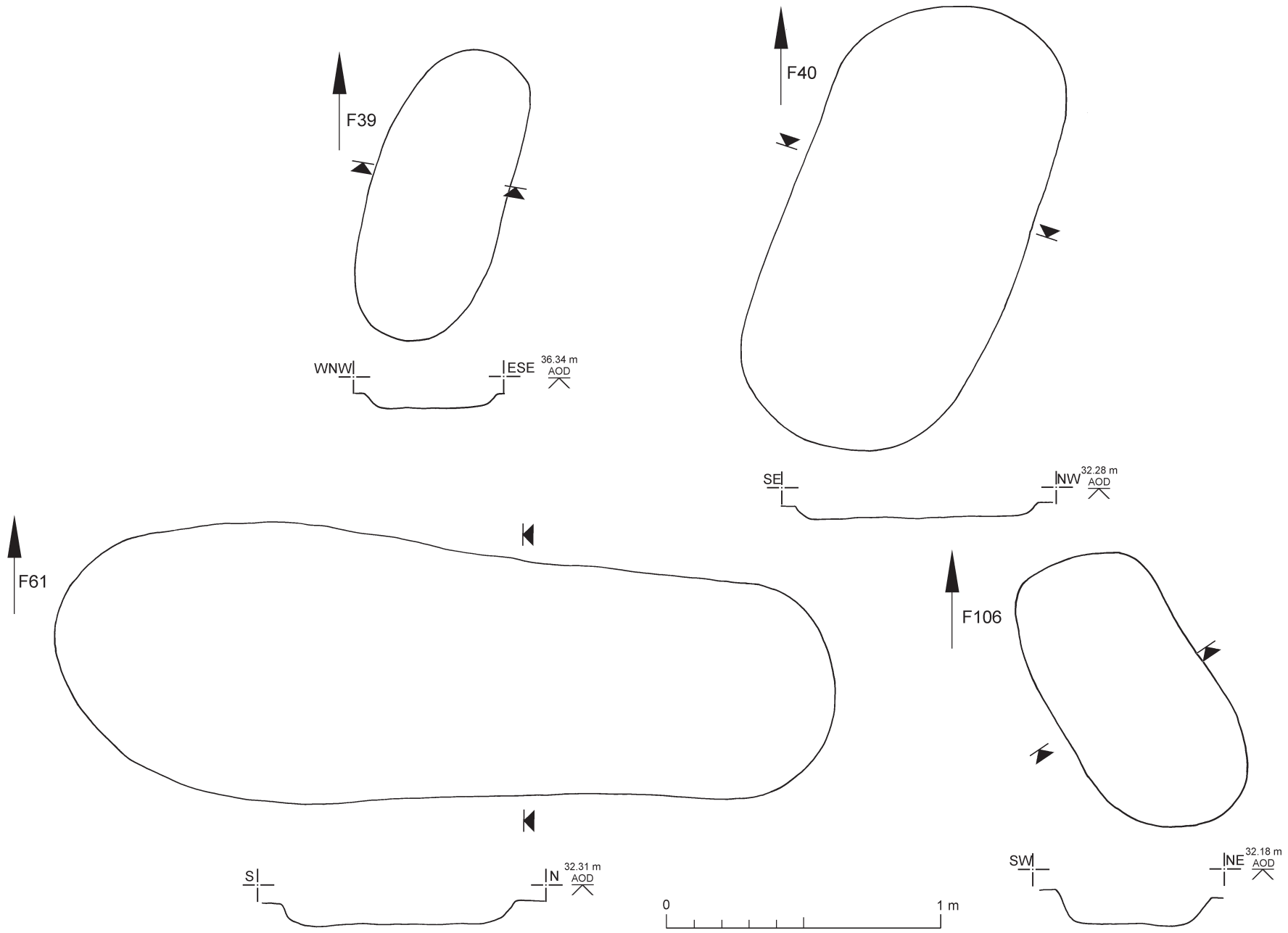


Fig 24 F39, F40, F61 and F106: possible burials.

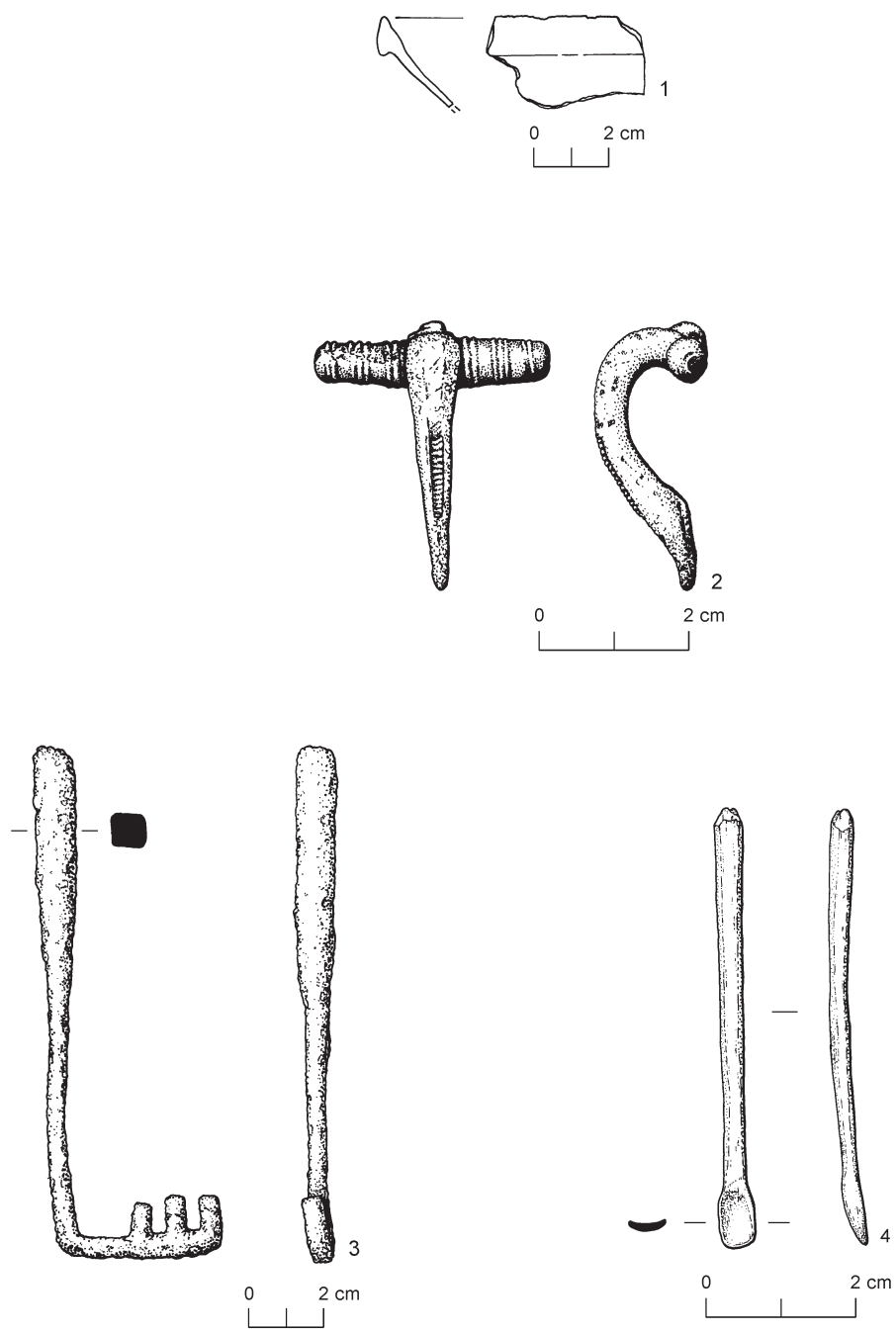


Fig 25 Glass and small finds from non-burial contexts.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area E (GAL E), former Meeanee & Hyderabad Barracks, Mersea Road, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99820 24270	Site code: CAT project code – 13/1a
Type of work: Stage 3 archaeological excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: January 2013	Size of area investigated: 1.1 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : 2014.71	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number:
Final report: CAT Report 778 and summary in EAH	
Periods represented: prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site is in the southern hinterland of the Roman walled town where previous excavation has revealed Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, funerary monuments, and a circus. This is the report on a Roman cemetery of seventeen burials, and a later large Roman quarry set within paddocks and enclosures, all to the west of a previously-identified Romanised farmstead building.</i></p> <p><i>Evaluations (2004, 2011) and excavation (2013) on a site now occupied by St John's Primary School revealed three phases of Roman activity consisting of a cemetery, ditches and enclosures. The first phase consisted of 1st-century Roman cemetery including high status individuals to one side of an early ditch (part of a north-west/south-east rectilinear landscape) which may have been its western boundary. The cemetery continued into phase 2, when it may have been associated with a Romanised farmstead building of early Roman date (found by the 2004 trenching) and associated with the northern of two connected east-west enclosures forming a new landscape arrangement. These enclosures were at right-angles to the presumed north-south course of the Roman road leading to the town's south-east gate, thought to be on the approximate course of Mersea Road to the east of the new school site. The east-west landscape may have continued in use into the early 3rd century by when the Romanised building was seemingly abandoned. The Roman cemetery may have continued in use despite the landscape changes, The Phase 2 southern enclosure is likely to have been agricultural in use - a farmyard compound. In Phase 3 (later 2nd/3rd century) a large sand and gravel quarry was dug through the Phase 1 and 2 ditches and probably through the southern extent of the earlier cemetery. The quarry was itself cut by several large pits on its southern edge which were filled with domestic rubbish and building material of the mid 2nd to 3rd century. This dating is similar to the latest material associated with the Romanised building and may reflect its final phase/abandonment.</i></p> <p><i>The elite nature of three early burials, including an in situ cremation (bustum) probably male burial of c AD70 (accompanied by lamps and a coin of Vespasian), and a cremation</i></p>	

burial (containing the fittings from a boxed burial and fragments of a mirror) may indicate that the Phase 1 and 2 cemetery was exclusively used by one prosperous family founded at the time of the colony. The proximity to the Romanised farmstead building might suggest the farmstead had its origins in the 1st century.

A large ditch on the southern edge of the site is probably a circumvallation ditch dug in the Civil War of 1648, east of Fort Needham.

Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 274, 607

CBC Monitor: Martin Winter

Keywords: Roman field systems, enclosures, building, cemetery, bustum

Significance: **/**

Author of summary: H Brooks

Date of summary: June 2015