

Archaeological evaluation on land west of the playing fields, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1NS

November-December 2017



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield

figures by Mark Baister, Emma Holloway, Chris Lister and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Mark Baister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

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on behalf of Graham Elmer**

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Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the west of the playing fields, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex as part of a pre-application assessment of archaeological remains. Located within the scheduled monument of the Roman town, the development site is located inside the 4th-century Roman town wall, with geophysics indicating the presence of a Roman road, aligned southwest to northeast, crossing the site.

The Roman town wall was not encountered in any of the evaluation trenches to the front of the development site, indicating that the route of the wall is likely to be located slightly further to the northwest than currently projected. However, metalling was identified in two of the trenches (T1 and T4), confirming the presence of the southwest to northeast Roman road. A Roman ditch in trench T2 may also indicate internal subdivisions within Insula 4 of the town.

The evaluation also revealed that the southwestern corner of the development site had been reduced by approximately 1m due to early 20th-century quarrying.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land to the west of the playing fields, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex which was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 29th November to 1st December 2017. The work was commissioned by Andrew Stevenson Associates on behalf of Graham Elmer as part of a pre-application assessment of the archaeological remains.

In response to consultation with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) and the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (EHIAM) it was advised that, in order to assess the archaeological remains, the client should commission a scheme of archaeological evaluation.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with scheduled monument consent (S00177384), the *Brief for trial trenching evaluation on land off Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford* detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCHEA/EHIAM (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The proposed development site lies within the pre-Flavian Roman fort at Great Chesterford built during a time of Roman conquest, military expansion, the Boudiccan revolt and Roman retribution (Medlycott 2011b, 18). It was relatively short-lived though, with the ditches backfilled in the post-Boudiccan period (AD 60-70) (ibid.). Features include sections of Roman road running north/south and east/west, and ditches suggesting possible internal divisions.

The development site is also located on the eastern edge of the later Roman town and 4th-century Roman town wall (Scheduled Monument 24871). Within the recently published *'The Roman Town of Great Chesterford'* (Medlycott 2011b), the town wall is projected to run along the street frontage of the development site. The town wall was still visible at the beginning of the 18th century but was practically non-existent by the mid 20th century after it had been robbed for road-mending materials (ibid., 49). A plan of the town walls, as published in 2011, used a combination of archaeological evidence (excavation, geophysics and aerial photography) and educated guesswork (ibid., 51, Fig 3.26). In plan it was an oval circuit built in the 4th century with an external ditch, enclosing an area of about 15ha (ibid., 51, 182-4, 195-6). Where seen, the foundations of the wall comprised rammed chalk or ragstones and mortar, with the wall itself constructed of flint, rubble, stone and mortar with courses of brick. Antiquarian records state that the standing wall averaged 3.6-4m wide, although the northern wall foundations (excavated by Brinson in the 1940s) averaged only 2.7m wide (ibid., 49-51). A watching brief just outside the development site in 1990 also revealed the part of the town wall, made of large flints, stones and chalk with fragments of Roman brick in a mortar mix (ibid., Gazetteer site 14, 50 & 220).

Although the large geophysical survey carried over the Roman town of Great Chesterford did not include the development site, the survey was carried out on fields immediately to the west. It revealed a Roman road 'Road 2' aligned northeast to southwest which, if projected to the northeast, should cross the development site (ibid., 19, Fig 3.1-3.2). It is traced for 84m on the survey and appears to be between 7m to 9m wide, its edges defined by c 1.5m wide ditches (ibid., p19). Maria Medlycott states that:

'It is possible that this feature also had its origins in the construction of the pre-Flavian fort. This road is thought to have led out of the town north-eastwards to the temple. It is not known whether there was a north-eastern gate in the 4th century town wall or whether the construction of the wall led to the closure of the road' (ibid.).

'Road 2' divides the development site into two, with *Insula* 2 to the north of the site and *Insula* 4 to the south. The geophysical survey revealed internal sub-divisions in *Insula* 2 (reminiscent of narrow house plots) and anomalies in both *insulae* could be pits or the result of occupation along the road frontage (ibid., 28).

Archaeological investigations nearby include:

- Rear of Poplar Lodge (Gazetteer 27, ibid., 225): a human skeleton and substantial quantities of pottery
- Rear of Poplar Lodge (Gazetteer 28, ibid.): remains of a semi-circular flint foundation, probably an oven or corn dryer
- Excavations at Omega Cottage (Gazetteer 25, ibid.): remains of two late 2nd to late 3rd century pits and an undated ditch and gully. However, this area had been significantly disturbed by post-medieval quarrying, which included the robber trench for the town wall.
- A watching brief on a pipeline (Gazetteer 12, ibid., 200): chalky rubble horizon thought to be the lower part of the Roman town wall. This appeared to be thicker and sturdier at the northern end of the area observed.

The 1919 OS map clearly shows an area of quarrying in the southwestern corner of the development site that may or may not have destroyed archaeological remains.

4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that existed on the site and to assess the archaeological importance of this piece of land.

There were four specific aims. These were to identify:

- where exactly the Roman wall cuts across the site.
- evidence of occupation behind the wall.
- the location of the Roman road ('Road 2') which leads from the centre of the town towards the temple 1km to the northeast.
- how much of the site had been disturbed/destroyed by quarrying shown on the 1919 OS map.

5 Results (Figs 3-6)

Five trial-trenches were excavated by machine under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 (T1): 7m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25m thick) and two layers of post-medieval/modern make-up/accumulation (L2-L3, c 0.37-0.45m) probably resulting from quarrying activities in the southwest corner of the site. Sealed beneath was a layer of late Roman accumulation (L4, c 0.27-0.3m thick) dated from the late 3rd to 4th or 4th centuries.

Roman road surface F2 was sealed beneath L4. Two sections onto F2 (Sx1 and Sx2) were cleaned and the metalling recorded (Figs 4-5). It consisted of compacted flint and stone with patches of compacted gravel and lumps of chalk/a chalky mortar which may represent phases of repair. A loose spread of chalk/chalky mortar was also identified above F2 in the southeastern edge of Sx1 (see section on Fig 5). At the request of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor, a section was not excavated through F2.

The road surface, as identified in Sx2, is located within the projected route of the Roman town wall, perhaps indicating that the road continues through the wall and that this trench is located within a gateway. However, until the route of the town wall at this location can be accurately plotted, this cannot be confirmed.



Photograph 1 T1, road metalling F2 sx1, looking NE

Trench 2 (T2): 9m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T2 was excavated through L1 (c 0.25m thick), L2-L3 (c 0.35-0.55m, although L3 was patchy was not recorded across the entire trench) and L4 (c 0.10-0.23m thick) which sealed natural sands and gravels (L6).

Roman ditch F3 was sealed beneath L4. Aligned northwest to southeast, it was not fully excavated as it was located below safe dig-depth. It was also not identified continuing into T1 or T3, although it could have been sealed by the road metalling (F2) in T1 and cut by pit F4 in T3. Despite being located on the projected route of the Roman town wall, there was no evidence to suggest that this was an associated robber trench.



Photograph 2 T3, pit F4 (Fill a and b visible), looking SW

Trench 3 (T3): 9m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T3 was excavated through L1 (c 0.49m thick) and three layers of post-medieval/modern make-up/accumulation (L2, L8 and L3, c 0.55m thick). Sealed beneath was an unusual feature, possibly a pit (F4), the full extent of which could not be determined within the evaluation trench. The pit had two distinct fills, the first (fill a) was a medium brown silty-sand which contained finds of a post-medieval date. This sealed a compacted layer of what appeared to be a mix of chalk and mortar (chalky-mortar) (fill b). As safe-dig depth had been reached, fill b was not excavated and

neither its date nor significance could be determined. At present, it is uncertain if the chalk and mortar (fill b) is a layer within a larger feature or a lining in the base of a pit. Several areas of compacted chalk have been previously identified in Great Chesterford as layers within Roman pits/shafts/wells (Medleycott 2011b, 49). So, it is perhaps possible that the layer of silty-sand (fill a) in the top of the feature is actually a later accumulation layer slumped into an earlier Roman feature. If further work was to occur on the development site, this feature would need to be fully investigated.

Trench 4 (T4): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T4 was excavated through L1 (c 0.45m thick) and a layer of probable post-medieval/modern make-up/accumulation (L7, c 0.64m thick). Although no finds were recovered from this layer, it was very similar to L3 as seen in T3.

A large, probably post-Roman, pit (F5) spanned most of the length of the trench. Due to the depths involved, it could not be bottomed, but was excavated to a depth of 0.6m.

Pit F5 had cut through Roman road F6, the remains of which had slumped into the pit at the far southeastern end of the trench. The road surface consisted of compacted flint nodules and stones which were larger than those identified in the metalling in F2 (T1) and also contained less chalk inclusions.



Photograph 3 T4, road metalling F6, looking NE

Trench 5 (T5): 12m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T5 was excavated in a large ground hollow made by early 20th-century sand/gravel quarrying in the southwestern corner of the development site. Consequently ground level in this area is approximately 1m lower than on the rest of the site.

The trench was excavated through L1 (c 0.12-0.2m thick) and a layer of modern accumulation (L5, c 0.18-0.35m thick) overlying natural sands and gravel (L6). Modern pit F1 was cut through L5.



Photograph 4 T5, showing difference in ground level in the southeastern corner, looking NW

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The types and quantities of finds recovered are listed in Table 1. The great majority of the closely-dated finds are Roman. A much smaller quantity of pottery and other find types can be attributed to the prehistoric, post-medieval and modern periods. All of the finds are listed by context in the bulk finds appendix (Appendix 2).

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	132	2306
Ceramic building material (CBM)	16	1890
Plaster (wall plaster)	5	226
Stone (primarily building stone)	1	124
Flints	2	
Clay tobacco pipe	3	16
Nails (iron)	3	
Marine shell (oyster)	3	38
Animal bone	86	2580

Table 1 Types and quantities of bulk finds

Pottery

Pottery of Roman, post-medieval and modern date was recovered. All of the pottery was recorded by sherd count (number) and weight for each fabric type. Vessel forms and the EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) were also recorded.

Roman

There are some significant differences in the pottery supply to Great Chesterford in relation to much of Essex (notably the presence of Horningsea wares) and for that reason a fabric series previously used to record pottery at Great Chesterford (Martin 2011) has been adopted to record the pottery here (Table 2). Fabric codes (numbers) for corresponding fabric types commonly used in recording Roman pottery in Essex (Going 1987) have been given in brackets in the fabric list where appropriate. The Roman pottery vessel form-types referred to follow Going (1987).

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.	EVE
SACG	Central Gaulish samian	2	6	0.03
SAEG	East Gaulish samian	4	30	0.03
BB2 (41)	Black-burnished ware Type-2	1	34	
BSW (47)	Black surfaced wares	1	16	0.07
GRS (47)	Miscellaneous sandy greywares	51	614	0.26
HAG (36)	Hadham grey wares	6	152	0.32
HAB (35)	Hadham black surfaced ware	9	168	0.36
HAX (4)	Hadham oxidised redware	11	374	0.15
HORN	Horningsea grey wares	18	540	0.38
HORNB	Horningsea buff wares	1	8	
MSH (51)	Midlands shell-tempered ware	2	74	
NVC (2)	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	2	6	
STOR (44)	Storage jar fabrics	1	16	
UCC	Unspecified colour-coated ware	2	14	
UNSCB (31)	Unspecified coarse buff wares	1	8	
UNSW (15)	Unspecified white-slipped wares	5	98	
Total		117	2158	1.6

Table 2 Pottery by fabric

The modest assemblage includes fineware imports consisting of samian (SACG & SAEG) together with regional fine wares consisting of oxidised Hadham ware (HAX), Nene Valley colour-coated ware (NVC) and unsourced colour-coated pottery (UCC). Between them, the fine wares make up approximately 18% by count and 20% by weight of the pottery, with the imports (plain samian) making up approximately 5% by count and 1.6% by weight. The samian is Central (SACG) and East Gaulish (SAEG). The only form tentatively identified among the samian is Dr 31 represented by small pieces of bead rims in both fabrics. The Hadham oxidised ware sherds include pedestal bases from two ovoid jars, while one of the sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware is from a barbotine-decorated beaker.

The coarsewares (as is commonly the case) are dominated by unsourced sandy greywares (GRS) which make up approximately 43.6% of the pottery by count and 28.4% by weight. Other than this, the two most significant identified sources of coarsewares are the Hadham potteries (HAB & HAG) which account for 13% of the pottery by count and 15% by weight, and the Horningsea potteries (HORN & HORNB) which account for 16% by count and 25% by weight. Overall (including the fine oxidised wares above) Hadham provides 22% by count and 32% by weight of the Roman assemblage. These are likely to be minimum figures as some of the other unsourced coarsewares might also derive from these potteries, especially Hadham. Other pottery of note among the coarsewares are a sherd of BB2 and two sherds of Midlands shell-tempered ware (MSH). Coarseware pot forms include examples of the rimless shallow dish B1 (HAB), deep bead rim dish/bowl B4 (HAG), flanged dish B6 (BSW, GRS & HAB) and the bowl/jar form E2 (GRS). No specific forms were recognised among the Horningsea wares although most of the sherds are from jars or storage jars including

one with a broad, simple flaring rim and one sherd with the characteristic internal combing which came from from F5 (7) in Trench 4.

In terms of dating, apart possibly from a sherd from a storage jar (F3 (4) in Trench 2), all of the more closely-dated pottery could be accommodated in a date range of the mid 2nd to 4th century. All of the samian is 2nd century or later. East Gaulish sherds are more common than Central Gaulish and the only samian form recognised, Dr 31 (see above), is current in the late 2nd and early 3rd century. It is noted that much of the samian is quite broken-up suggesting it was probably of some age when deposited in these contexts. This is generally the case in relation to the other pottery. The larger pieces are mostly represented by thicker, more robust sherds; although it should be borne in mind that pottery in proximity to the road surfaces (F2 in Trench 1 & F6 in Trench 4) might be broken up more rapidly and some larger sherds are notable among the pottery from the make-up layer L4 (11) in Trench 1.

While the bead rim bowl (Form B4) and a sherd of BB2 are also of 2nd- or 3rd-century date, most of the closely-dated pottery consists of 3rd- to 4th-century types. This includes all of the oxidised Hadham wares (HAX) and the several examples of flanged bowls (B6) both dating to the later 3rd and 4th century. Horningsea pottery, which makes up a significant part of the assemblage (first appearing in the late 1st century), also continues to arrive at Great Chesterford up to the mid 4th century (Martin 2011, 3.1). Sherds of shell-tempered ware (MSH), although of late Roman date elsewhere in Essex (see Going 1987 Fabric 51), are not particularly helpful in dating here as this pottery occurs throughout the Roman period at Great Chesterford (ibid, 3.1). It can be noted that, while some of the pottery here is current up to the end of the Roman period, there is no pottery that needs necessarily date to the late 4th or early 5th century.

Post-medieval

Only a small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered. This totals 15 sherds with a combined weight of 148g. It consists mostly of sherds of post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware (Fabric 40 & 40A) together with a single sherd of Staffordshire-type slipware (Fabric 50). The fabrics recorded refer to Cunningham (1985) and CAR 7. Almost all of this pottery comes from one context, L3 (13) in Trench 2. This consists of 13 sherds (136g) with an internal glaze that probably represent part of a single broken bowl (Fabric 40). These can be broadly dated to the period of the late 16th/17th-18th century. A single glazed sherd in a hard red fabric and probably from a slipware pot (Fabric 40A), comes from F6 (8) in Trench 4 of 17th- to early 18th-century date. The single small sherd of Staffordshire-type slipware, dating to the late 17th to 18th century, was recovered from F4 (3) in Trench 3.

Ceramic building material

A total of 16 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered weighing 1890g. Most of this, ie 11 pieces weighing 1460g, is either Roman or almost certainly so, the remainder being medieval or later.

Roman

Only two of the pieces of Roman CBM could be closely identified. One is a piece of a *tegula* roof tile and the other a fragment of Roman brick, although several flat, tile-like pieces are less than 20mm thick and are likely to be parts of *tegulae*. The flanged *tegula* piece was recovered from L4 (11) in Trench 4. This is from the front edge and has a lower cut away of Warry Type C4 (2006) which has been formed from a sanded block in the corner of the tile mould and has not been further trimmed. The tile base is 18mm thick. This particular type of lower cut-away is suggested as primarily dating to the period of the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century (ibid.) although it is also recorded from immediate post-Boudiccan (late Neronian) deposits at Colchester (CAR 3, fiche, fig 203, D). The piece of Roman brick, identified from its thickness (35mm), comes from the same context.

While mostly orange/red in colour, with inclusions of fine or medium sand, the small Roman assemblage of CBM encompasses several visually distinct fabrics. One piece of flat tile from F6 (8) in Trench 4 contained common fine and some medium size pieces of crushed burnt flint. Other pieces from F2 (1) and L4 (11) in Trench 1 have a sandy fabric with a pale brown fabric core and orange/red margins. The difference in thickness between these two pieces (30mm and 35mm) shows they are from two different bricks/tiles, probably brick given the body thickness.

One relatively thin piece of tile (14-15mm thick) recovered from F5 (7) in Trench 4 might possibly be post-Roman, but is considered more likely to be of Roman than later date.

Post-Roman

The post-Roman CBM consists of pieces from roof tiles and bricks. Two piece of relatively thin, flat tile from F5 (6) in Trench 4 are probably peg-tile. A piece of peg-tile and a thick tile piece, probably from a pan tile, were recovered from F6 (8) in Trench 4, while two pieces of red brick come from F4 (3) in Trench 3. The peg-tile is not closely-dated, being in common use from the 14th century to the modern era. The remaining pieces are of post-medieval or modern date. The pan tile can be dated to after the 17th century, and the brick pieces (one with a noticeably sandy fabric) probably also date from the 17th century or later.

Animal Bone

by Alec Wade

The small assemblage of animal bone amounts to a total of 86 pieces, together weighing 2580g. Although not of itself closely-datable, all of the animal bone was recovered from contexts associated with other finds dating to the Roman period (F2 and L4 in Trench 1, F5 and F6 in Trench 4) suggesting that that most, if not all, of the animal bone is probably also Roman. Present in the assemblage are the main domestic species: cattle (19 pieces), sheep/goat (3 pieces) and pig (3 pieces). Much of the bone from Trench 1 (F2 and L4) had been hacked or split in a manner usually associated with marrow extraction. A chop mark from butchery was also noted on a cattle femur fragment from F5 in Trench 4. Dog gnawing was noted on a piece of pig bone from L4 in Trench 1 and is often a good indicator of residual bone in a context.

Other notable finds

Clay tobacco pipe

Three pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from L3 (13) in Trench 2. Two are plain stem pieces, the other is part of a pipe bowl with an oval foot. The bowl shape and foot suggest an 18th-century date. The pipe bore on the pieces is c 2mm.

Wall plaster

A small group of wall plaster pieces was recovered from L3 (10) in Trench 3. The group consist of five pieces of white-painted plaster together weighing 226g. The plaster is a sandy brown-grey/pale-grey lime-based plaster with a white, probably lime-based surface coat. The plaster has lathe impressions on the back surface indicating a probable date after the 16th century and is almost without doubt post-medieval or modern.

Nails (iron)

Three small-medium sized iron nails were recovered as single finds from three contexts: F2 (1) and L4 (11) in Trench 1, and L3 (13) in Trench 2. All are in the region of 45-55 mm in length, although that from F2 is incomplete. Contexts F2 and L4 are associated with finds of Roman date, context L3 contained finds of post-medieval date.

7 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation on the development site has produced a number of interesting results relating to the four specific aims set out at the start of this project.

Aim: to identify exactly where the Roman town wall cuts across the site

No trace of the town wall was found in trenches T1-T3 which were positioned on the projected route of the wall. Within the currently projected route, Roman road metalling was identified in T1 (F2), a Roman ditch in T2 (F3) and a pit in T3 (F4). Monitoring just outside the development site in 1990 did reveal part of the eastern edge of the Roman town wall, made up of flints, stones, chalk and fragments of Roman brick in a mortar matrix (Medlycott 2011b, Gazetteer site 14, 220). Together with the results of this current evaluation, the evidence would suggest that the wall diverges slightly to the northeast from the currently projected route, and is probably located just outside the development site, either in the roadside verge and/or underneath the modern road.

Aim: to identify the location of the Roman road ('Road 2')

The presence of road metalling in trenches T1 and T4 confirms that 'Road 2', first identified during a geophysics survey of the Roman town (ibid., 19, Fig 3.1-3.2), does continue into the development site.

Metalling in T1 would suggest that the road was being patched and repaired with both gravel and chalk/mortar, and was therefore being maintained over an unspecified length of time. This metalling continues up to the far northeastern end of the evaluation trench but, as no trace of the town wall was identified, it is not possible to determine if the road pre-dates the construction of the wall or if a gateway exists through it. This would certainly need to be clarified if further investigative work was to occur on the site in the future. However, the presence of late Roman accumulation layer L4 sealing the Roman road (F2 in T1), and also ditch F3 (in T2), may indicate that neither feature was being used or maintained by this late period.

Unfortunately pit F5 appears to have removed most of 'Road 2' in T4. As there was also no trace of any roadside ditches in T4, neither the full width nor the exact route of the road can be determined. This too would need to be investigated further if more archaeological work was to occur.

Dating evidence from this road was only recovered from surface cleaning, and not from good stratified contexts within/at the base of the metalling. Pottery dating from the 3rd to 4th century was excavated, but so too was pottery of a post-medieval date, intrusive from the layer above.

Aim: to identify evidence of occupation behind the wall

As positioned, Trench T2 is located within *Insula 4* of the Roman town. The presence of Roman ditch F3 might indicate internal subdivisions, similar to those seen on the geophysical survey of *Insula 2* to the north of 'Road 2' (ibid, 28).

Areas of compacted chalk have been previously identified in Great Chesterford as layers within Roman pits/shafts/wells (ibid., 49). Therefore, it is possible that the unexcavated layer of compacted chalk and mortar (fill b) identified in pit F4 may be of a Roman date. This should be investigated if future work allowed.

Aim: to identify how much of the site had been disturbed/destroyed by quarrying shown on the 1919 OS map

Evaluation confirmed that the southwestern corner of the development site is located within the quarry pit first shown on the 1919 OS map. Modern ground level in this corner is approximately 1m deeper than the rest of the site with approximately 0.4-0.6m of modern topsoil and accumulation covering natural. No significant archaeological horizons were identified in T5 or are likely to survive in this area.

Post-medieval make-up/accumulation layers L2-L3, L7 and L8, and pit F5, are likely associated with this quarrying, and/or other agricultural activities.

8 Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services

EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1207)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

13 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code: SAFWM 2017.77.

Distribution list:

Andrew Stevenson Associates
Graham Elmer
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Sarah Poppy, Historic England
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 10.1.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Find Number	Context Type	Description	Date
L1	12 (T5)	Topsoil	In all trenches. Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silt, lots of plant/root disturbance	Modern
L2	-	Make-up/levelling	In trenches T1, T2, T3 Friable, dry, medium brown sandy-silt, 5% stone, peg-tile fragments (not retained)	Post-medieval/modern
L3	10 (T3) 13 (T2)	Make-up	In trenches T1, T2, T3 Loose, soft, dry, medium brown silt, 30% chalk/mortar.	Post-medieval, 18th century
L4	11 (T1)	Accumulation	In trenches T1, T2 Firm, moist, light-medium brown silt, 10% chalk.	Roman, mid/late 3rd-4th or 4th century
L5	-	Accumulation	In trench T5, base of quarry pit. Hard, dry, light yellow/white chalk.	Modern
L6	-	Natural	Natural sand and gravel	-
L7	-	Make-up	In trench T4, similar to L3 in T3. Hard, dry, medium brown silt with lots of chalk and CBM flecks.	?Post-medieval
L8	-	Make-up	In trench T3. Loose, dry, white/cream chalk/mortar	Post-medieval/modern
F1 (T5)	-	Pit	Friable, dry, dark grey/black silt containing modern china, brick and glass (not retained).	Modern
F2 (T1)	1 (sx2) 2 (sx1)	Roman road	Hard, dry, dark orange/brown sandy-silty matrix containing 50% flint, 30% gravel and lumps of chalk.	Roman, 3rd-4th century
F3 (T2)	4	Ditch	Hard, dry, light-medium grey/brown silt. Not fully excavated as below safe dig-depth.	Roman, mid 1st-3rd century
F4 (T3)	3	Pit	Fill a) Friable, dry, medium brown sandy-silt with flecks of oyster shell. Fill b) compacted chalk and mortar	Fill a) Post-medieval, 17th-18th century
F5 (T4)	6, 7	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt with small fragments of chalk	Post-medieval
F6 (T4)	8	Roman road	Hard, medium brown silt matrix containing 80% stone and flint (includes intrusive post-medieval finds probably from F5 or L7)	Roman, late 3rd-4th century

Appendix 2 Bulk finds list

(finds listed by trench then context number)

Trench, context and finds no.	Ctxt type/ finds note	Find type	Find period	Fabric/ type	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE (100=1 EVE)	Finds Spot date	
T1, F2 sx2, 1	Road (surface cleaning)	pot	Rom	NVC (2)	Small sherd from a barbotine decorated beaker		1	2		3-4C	
		pot	Rom	HORNB			1	8		L1-4C	
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Sherds probably from one pot		3	50		Rom	
		flint			Broad secondary flake with most of dorsal face covered with cortex, snapped from a larger flake, retouch along the broad distal edge		1				preh
		CBM	Rom	RB MS	Piece from the edge of a Roman brick, pale brown core, orange margins and surface, thickness 30mm		1	92			Rom
		nail (fe)			Bent shaft from a corroded iron nail (50mm)		1				
		animal bone			Medium-large & large mammal pieces from longitudinally split long bones including a tibia fragment, probably cattle bone		16	248			
T1, F2 sx1, 2	Road (surface cleaning)	pot	Rom	SAEG	Bowl interior abraded from use		1	6		M2-3C	
		pot	Rom	MSH (51)	Single base edge sherd from a jar (note in Essex this type of 'late' shell-tempered ware dates to after the mid 4th century but is earlier at Gt Chesterford)		1	18		Roman 2-4C (possibly late Roman)	
		pot	Rom	HAG (36)			1	12		Rom	
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	misc		3	14		Rom	
		animal bone			Metatarsal fragment from a large mammal, probably cattle, split lengthways		1	30			
T1, L4, 11	Make-up (machining)	pot	Rom	HAX (4)	Part of a heavy base from a tall, ovoid pedestal jar (larger than F5 (7)), two other sherds	pedestal jar	3	186			L3-4C
		pot	Rom	SAEG	Small sherd		1	4			M2-E3C
		pot	Rom	NVC (2)	Sherd from an indented scale beaker		1	4			3-4C
		pot	Rom	UCC	Slightly sandy buff fabric with orange core and abraded dark slip, possibly Nene Valley		1	6			?2/3-4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Sherds from min of 5 jars, includes thick sherd with light combing (LSJ) and rims from two other medium-large jars, one with everted slight thickened rim	LSJ	7	244	33		2-4C
		pot	Rom	MSH (51)	Single sherd from a relatively thick walled jar (note in Essex this type of 'late' shell-tempered ware dates to after the mid 4th century but is earlier at Gt Chesterford)		1	56			4C (possibly late Roman)
		pot	Rom	HAB (35)	Sherds from 2 pots, flanged bowl B6 & dish B1	B6 & B1	4	74	30		M/L3-4C
		pot	Rom	HAG (36)	In bead rim bowl form B4 & bowl/jar with flat flange rim	B4	5	140	32		C 3C
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Misc greyware sherds inc bowl form B6 (triangular shaped rim) & bowl with thickened flange rim E2	B6 & E2	13	258			Rom (L2-3C)
		nail (fe)			Small, corroded iron nail, lower part of shank missing, length 45mm		1				
		CBM	Rom	RB MCS	Roman brick, medium-coarse sand with buff/pale grey core and orange/red margins and surface, thickness 35mm		2	304			Rom
		CBM	Rom	OR MS	Roman brick/tile, one small piece orange red with buff core		2	328			Rom
CBM	Rom	PO FMS	Roman tile, right lower corner (viewed from front) with LCA, Warry		1	486			Rom		

Trench, context and finds no.	Ctxt type/ finds note	Find type	Find period	Fabric/ type	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE (100=1 EVE)	Finds Spot date
					Type C4 (2006) tile base 18mm thick – the lower cut away here is entirely sanded so is part of the mould and is not knife trimmed (note this type is recorded from immediate post-Boudiccan contexts at Colchester – CAR 3 fiche fig 203, D)					(2-3C?)
		animal bone			Large quantity – mainly large mammal bones (22 pieces) and cattle (12 pieces), including pieces from mandible, metapodial, scapula, radius, ulna and a femur head; also present pig bone including radius fragment and pieces of a dog gnawed tibia; in addition there are three sheep/goat teeth		41	1238		
T2, F3, 4	Ditch (upper fill)	pot	Rom	STOR (44)	Combed surface, some organic matter and ?grog (does not appear to be HORN)		1	16		M1-3C
		CBM	Rom	OR FS GC	Thickness c 20mm, grey core orange margins		1	16		Rom
		shell			Oyster shell		1	10		
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)			1	2		Rom
T2, L3, 13	Make-up (machining)	pot	p-med	40	Internal glaze, probably mostly from one bowl	bowl	13	136		L16/17-18C
		pot	Rom	UNSW (15)	Lower part of one pot with footring base, pale grey fabric with pale orange margin & surface, abraded white slip coat		5	98		Rom
		clay pipe	p-med		Lower part of bowl with round foot/spur c 18th century, and two stem pieces, pipe and stem pieces bore c 2mm diameter		3	16		C 18C
		nail (fe)			Small, corroded complete iron nail, length 55mm		1			
		flint			Small flint flake with plunge fracture all along one distal edge. Appears to be snapped from a larger piece or has had pieces snapped from it. It is not clear if this is deliberately flaked.		1			
T3, F4, 3	Pit (fill a)	pot	Rom	HORN			1	14		L1-4C
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Small sherds		4	8		Rom
		pot	p-med	50	Small sherd		1	4		L17-18C
		stone		limestone	Coarse grained limestone, irregular lump not obviously worked.		1	124		
		CBM	p-med		Two pieces from red bricks, one with very sandy fabric		2	288		Post-medieval
		pot	Rom	UNSCB (31)	Burnt sherd, with buff-pale orange surfaces		1	8		Rom
T3, L3, 10	Make-up (machining)	plaster	p-med/mod		Five pieces and some very small fragments of lathe & plaster. Pale sandy lime plaster with white lime wash surface coat, brown-grey/grey sandy plaster backing with lathe marks in the back (16th century or later)		5	226		post-medieval-modern
T4, F5, 6	Pit	pot	Rom	SAEG	Body sherd		1	14		M2-E3C
		pot	Rom	SACG	Inc small bowl (bead) rim		2	6	3	2C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Sherd from a medium-large pot		1	34		2-2/E4C
		pot	Rom	UCC	Single sherd in sandy, buff fabric, red coat abraded (only a few small patches remaining)		1	8		Rom
		pot	Rom	BB2 (41)	Base sherd from a bowl		1	34		2-3C

Trench, context and finds no.	Ctxt type/ finds note	Find type	Find period	Fabric/ type	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE (100=1 EVE)	Finds Spot date
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Rim from a bow & ?jar, one other body sherd		3	48	13	?2-3/4C
		CBM	med-p-med	OR FMS	Small piece from tile edge, tile 13-14mm thick, probably peg-tile		1	14		Med- p-med (14C+)
		animal bone			Medium-large & large mammal bone, includes large pieces of two cattle mandibles and cattle humerus fragment		14	750		
T4, F5, 7	Pit	pot	Rom	HAX (4)	Heavy base from a tall, ovoid pedestal jar, 4 other body sherds	pedestal jar	5	152		L3-4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Large storage jar, comb inside and out	LSJ	1	68		2-3/E4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Sandy, combed buff surface probably HORN	Jar/LSJ	1	6		2-3/E4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Sandy body sherds, greyware, likely to be Horningsea		2	36		L1-4C
		pot	Rom	HAB (35)	Black surfaced ware, probably a Hadham product		1	8		2-4C
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Misc body sherds		7	48		Rom
		CBM	Rom	O MS	Piece of Roman brick 40mm thick		1	98		Rom
		CBM		O MS	Flat tile 14-15mm thick, possibly post-Roman		1	30		?Post-Roman
		shell			Oyster shell (2 shell halves)		2	28		
animal bone			Misc bone pieces, mostly large mammal bone includes cattle (3 pieces) teeth and a femur fragment with a chop mark; also present a fragment from a pig scapula.		7	166				
T4, F6, 8	Road (surface cleaning)	pot	Rom	SAEG	Bowl rim, small sherd	bowl	1	6	3	M2-E3C
		pot	Rom	HAX (4)			2	14		L3-4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Sandy body sherds, probably from storage jars, one decorated with band of fine, angled scoring	LSJ?	2	34		2-3/E4C
		pot	Rom	HORN	Rim, probably Horningsea greyware	bowl	1	12	5	L1-4C
		pot	Rom	BSW (47)	Flanged bowl	B6	1	16	7	L3-4C
		pot	Rom	HAB (35)	Black surfaced ware, probably Hadham products, probably from BB-type dish/bowl forms		3	56		2-4C
		pot	Rom	HAX (4)	Jar rim sherd, sooted externally from use		1	22	15	L3-4C
		pot	Rom	GRS (47)	Misc body sherds with two, small jar/bowl rim sherds		17	186	13	Rom
		pot	p-med	40/40A?	Recently broken sherd, hard red fabric with grey core and dark glazed exterior with faint lines of yellow coloured slip, probably post-medieval GRE		1	8		16/17-18C?
		flint			Two broken natural pieces (discarded)					
		CBM	p-med	OR FS	Peg-tile (12-13mm thick) & probable pan tile (17C or later)		2	128		Late 17C+
		CBM	Rom	OR FS	Small piece, flat tile 15mm thick		1	22		Rom
		CBM	Rom	OR FS & FI	Flat tile piece, 18-20mm thick, common small-medium pieces of white calcinated flint in the fabric		1	84		Rom
animal bone			Pieces hacked and split large mammal bones (most split lengthwise) including a cattle mandible piece		7	148				
T5, L1, 12	Topsoil	pot	Rom	HORN	Combed storage jar sherds	LSJ	2	92		2-3/E4C
		pot	Rom	HAB (35)	Dish form B1		1	30	6	2-4C

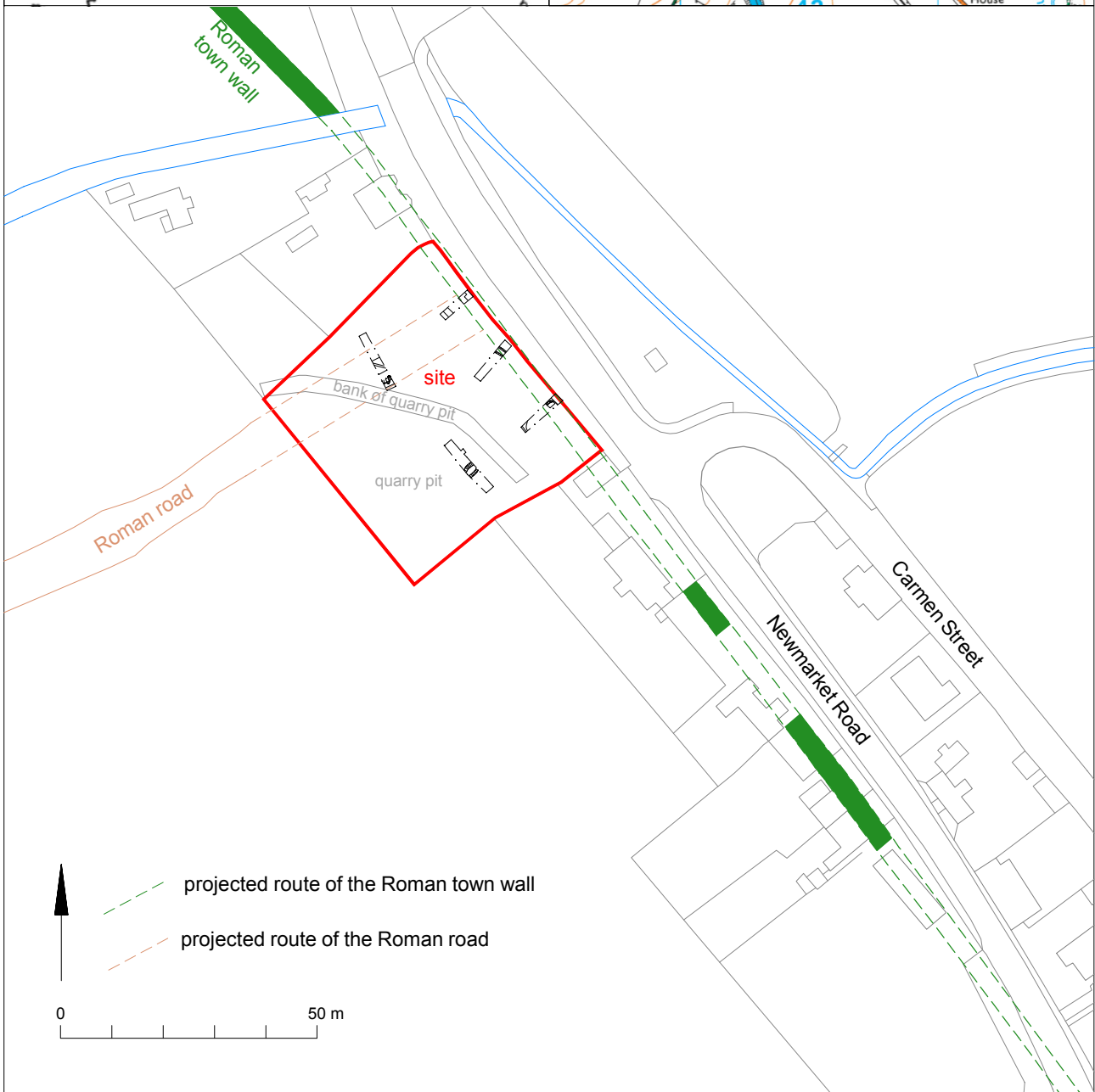
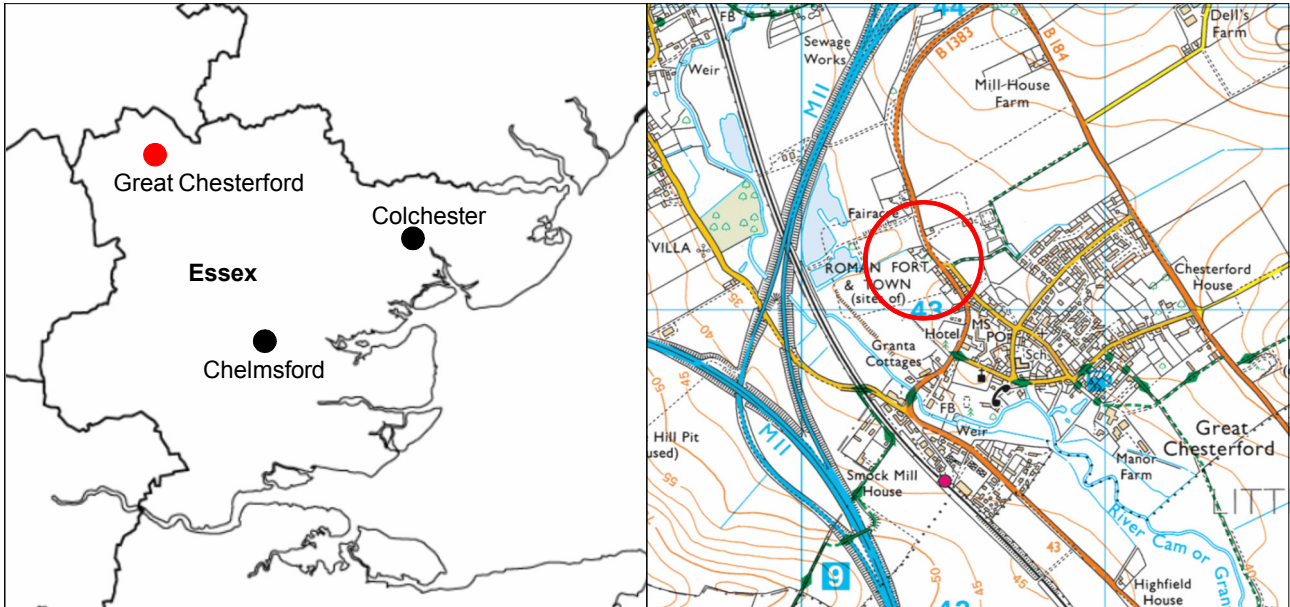


Fig 1 Site location, showing known and projected routes of the Roman town wall and road

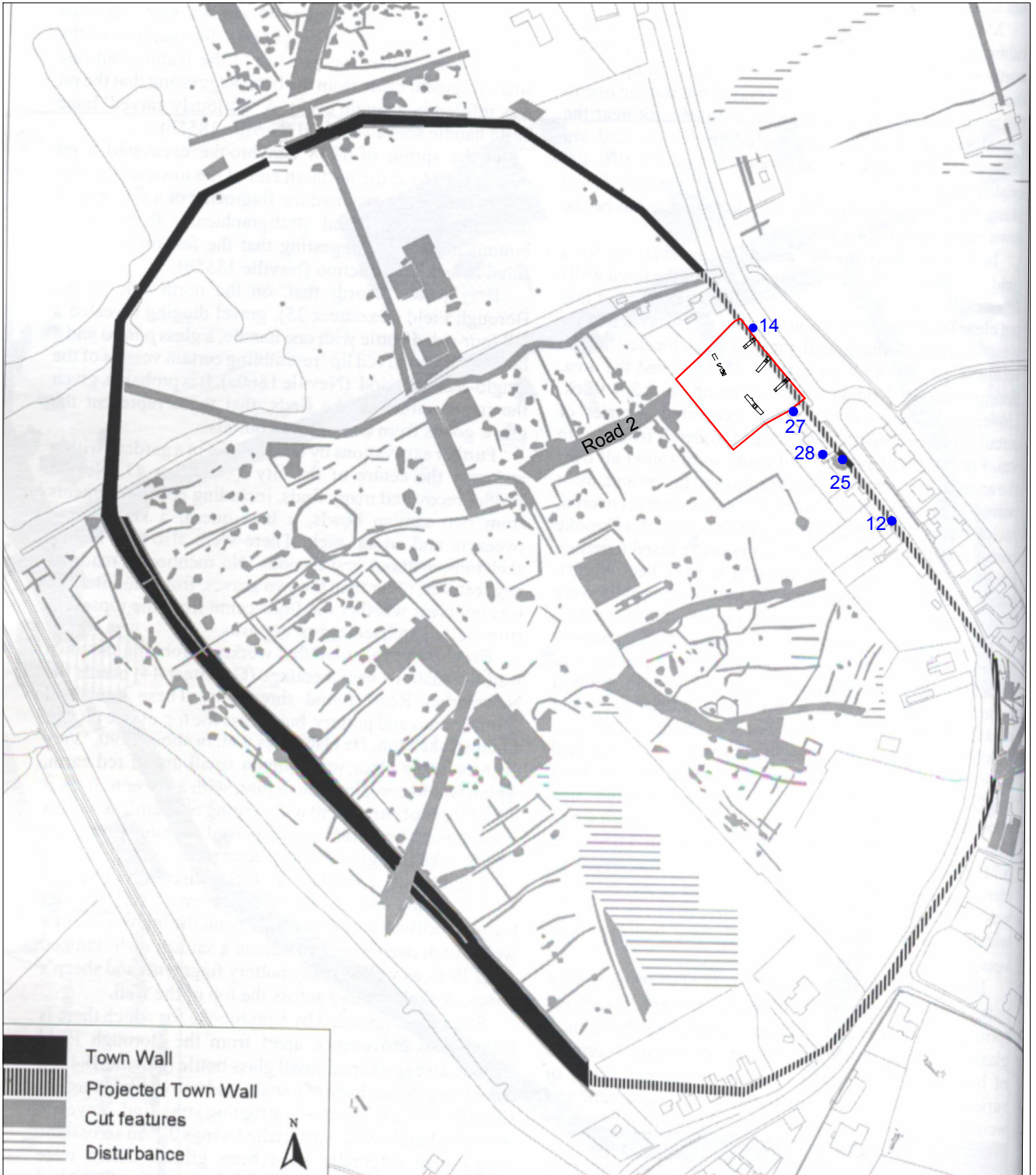


Fig 2 Site location overlaid on plans of the Roman town (Medlycott 2011b, Fig 3.26).
 Medlycott Gazetteer sites referenced in this report are in blue.

0 50 m

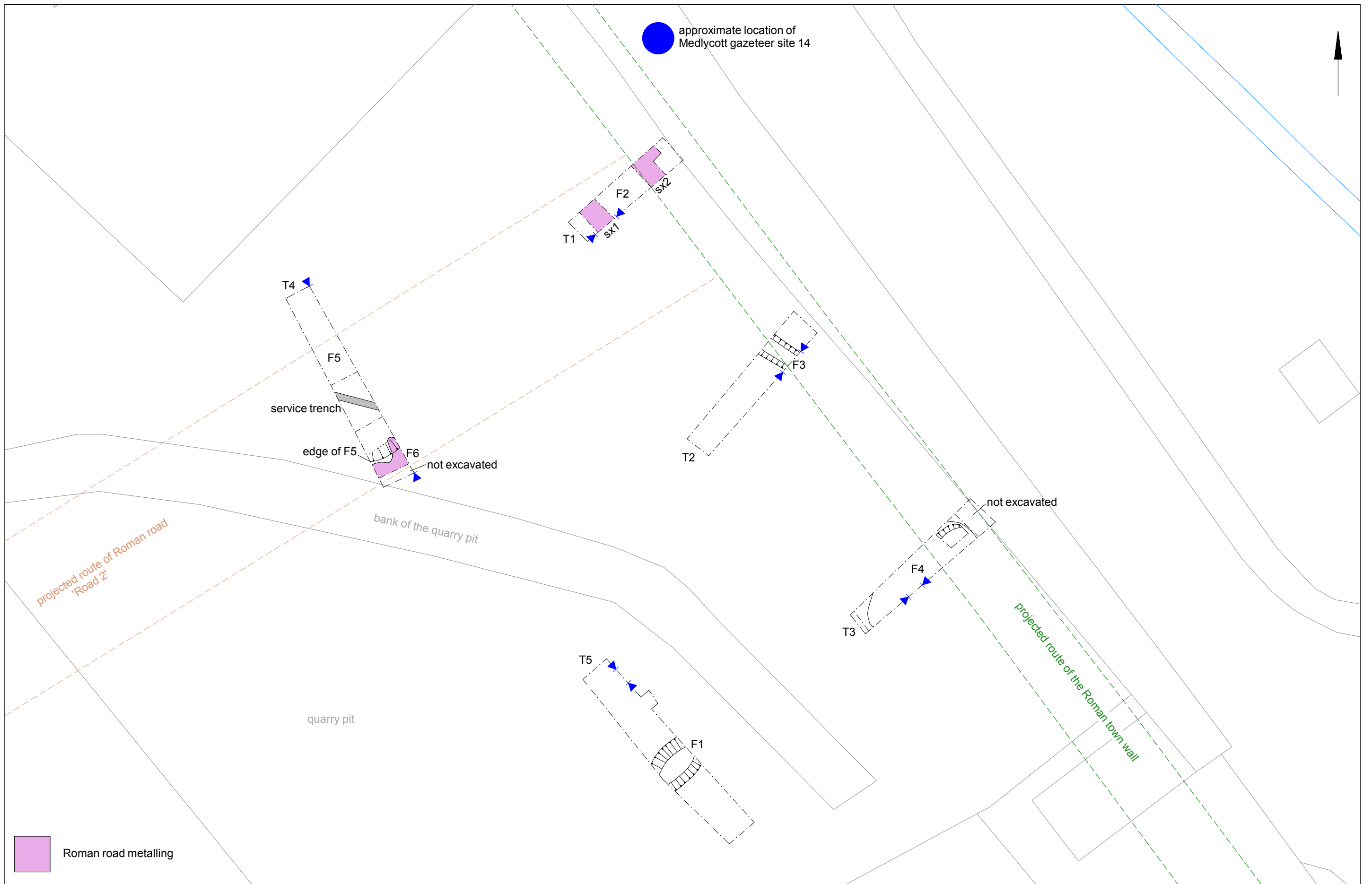
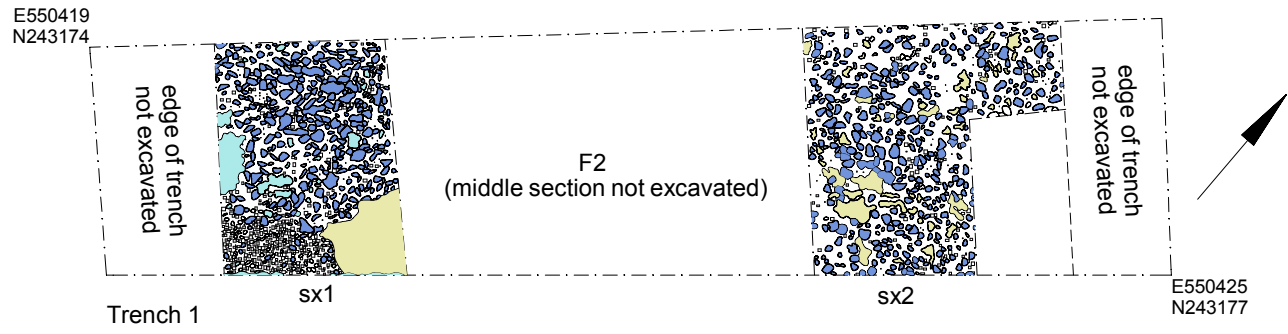


Fig 3 Results



-  chalk
-  chalk mortar
-  flint

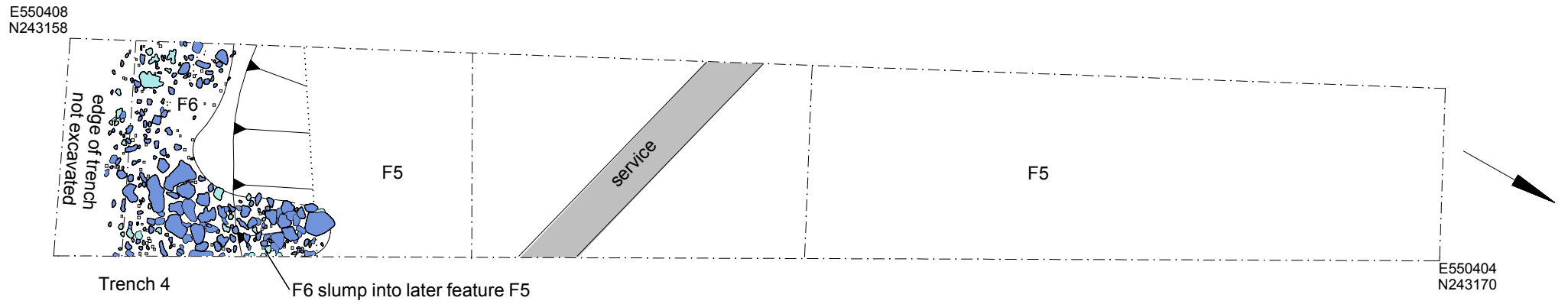


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans: T1 and T4 showing the Roman road metalling



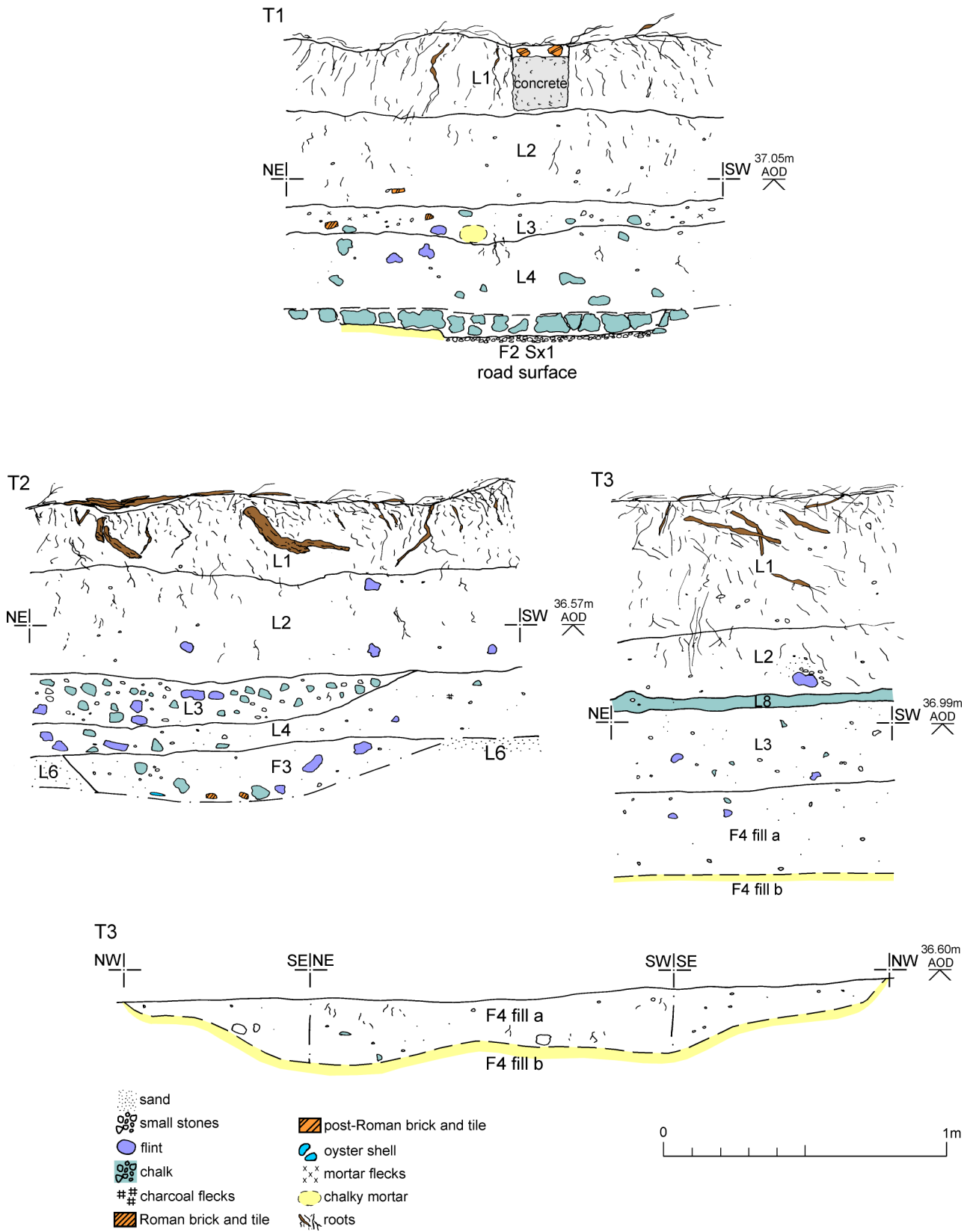


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

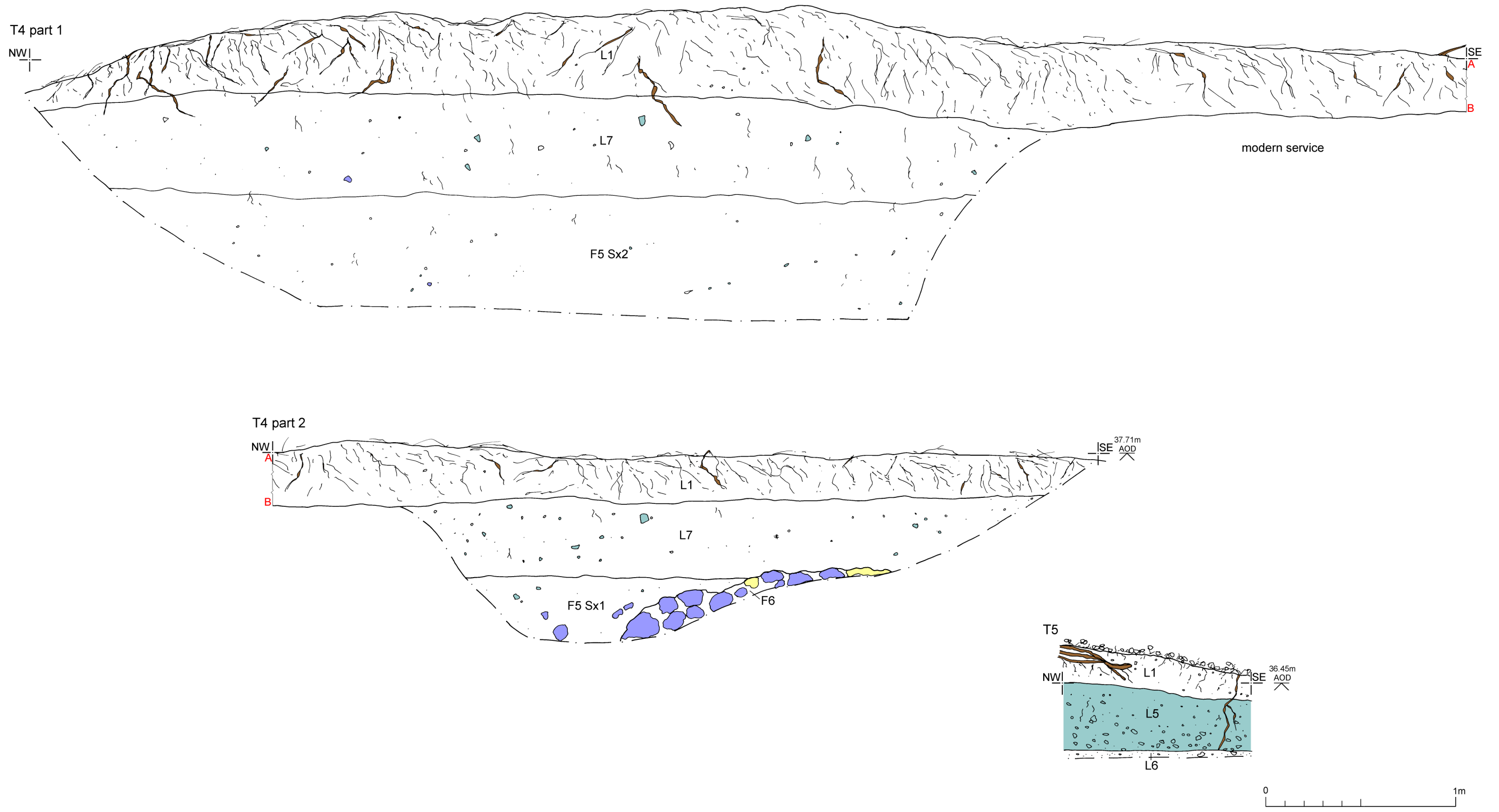


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-295791

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land west of the playing fields, off Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, CB10 1NU
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the west of the playing fields, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex as part of a pre-application assessment of archaeological remains. Located within the scheduled monument of the Roman town, the development site is located inside the 4th-century Roman town wall, with geophysics indicating the presence of a Roman road, aligned southwest to northeast, crossing the site. The Roman town wall was not encountered in any of the evaluation trenches to the front of the development site, indicating that the route of the wall is likely to be located slightly further to the northwest than currently projected. However, metallurgy was identified in two of the trenches (T1 and T4), confirming the presence of the southwest to northeast Roman road. A Roman ditch in trench T2 may also indicate internal sub-divisions within Insula 4 of the town. The evaluation also revealed that the southwestern corner of the development site had reduced by approximately 1m due to early 20th-century quarrying.
Project dates	Start: 29-11-2017 End: 01-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/08g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	GC69 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2017.77 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT CHESTERFORD land west of the playing field, off Newmarket Road
Postcode	CB10 1NU
Study area	0.22 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 50431 43159 52.065901470811 0.194824914747 52 03 57 N 000 11 41 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36m Max: 36.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister

Type of sponsor/funding body

Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Physical Archive ID SAFWM: 2017.77

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID SAFWM: 2017.77

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Paper Archive ID SAFWM: 2017.77

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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