

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, COLCHESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



ARCHIVE REPORT

JULY 1997

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WYNCOTE DEVELOPMENTS LTD

CgMs ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, BALKERNE HILL, COLCHESTER.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, MAY 1997.**

ARCHIVE REPORT

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1 SUMMARY

An evaluation has revealed archaeological deposits over most of a site on which there are records of many previous archaeological discoveries, principally Roman buildings and burials. The building numbers assigned to those remains in the Desk-Based Assessment (Chadwick 1997) are repeated here.

The 1997 evaluation demonstrated that there are stratified Roman remains on the south edge of the site (trenches 10, 14, 16). These are close to the previously known building 3, and may be associated with it. Because of modern truncation, these remains now lie very close to modern ground level. In the central part of the site deposits containing burnt daub provide evidence for a burnt structure dated before AD 120, and therefore possibly Boudiccan¹ (trenches 7, 6). This burnt debris lies to the east of the previously recorded building 2. On the northern edge of the site, in the vicinity of the temple-like building 1, another stone structure was discovered (trench 2). A single inhumation burial (probably later Roman) found on the eastern edge of the site (trench 11) ties in with previous discoveries of burials on the hospital site - known collectively as the "Union Cemetery" (Crummy CAR 6). There were other minor discoveries such as gravelled surfaces (trenches 7, 11), and Roman cut features (trenches 13, 1, 3).

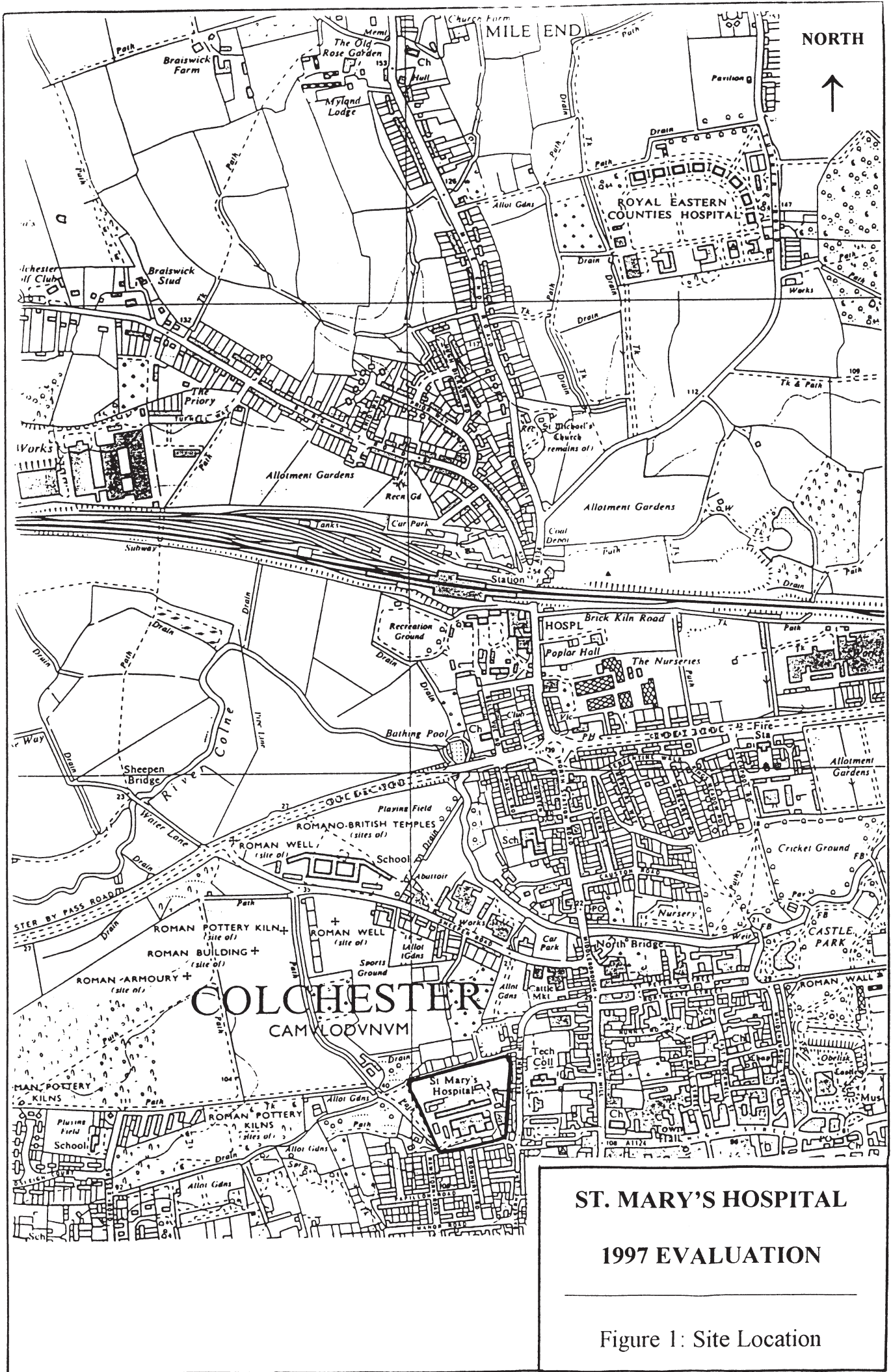
Pre-Roman remains were confined to two prehistoric struck flints and a single sherd of possibly prehistoric pottery. There were no significant post-Roman deposits or finds. Roman finds were abundant, especially brick/tile and pottery. These bear witness to buildings on the site, as does the burnt daub. Small finds included lava quern, bone pins, pottery counters, a hone, and a fragment of stylus.²

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation on the site of the now redundant St. Mary's Hospital site, Balkerne Hill, Colchester, Essex (figure 1). The evaluation was commissioned on behalf of Wyncote Developments by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust in May 1997.
- 2.2 The site consists of approximately 3.5 hectares of land at the now redundant St Mary's Hospital, Balkerne Hill, Colchester, Essex (figure 1). The site occupies a prominent location, on the hill-top and north facing slope immediately north-west of the Balkerne Gate. The site slopes quite considerably, from 32m AOD on Popes Lane (on its south edge) to 14.3m AOD on an unnamed footpath on its north edge.
- 2.3 Local geology is glacial sands and gravels over London Clay. All natural ground located on site was sand.
- 2.4 NGR for the site centre is TL 991 253
- 2.5 The site archive is currently in storage at Colchester Archaeological Trust headquarters at "Camulodunum", 12, Lexden Road, Colchester, but will ultimately be deposited at Colchester Museum (accession 1997.17). CAT site code was SMH 97.

¹ i.e A.D. 60 or 61.

² Writing instrument.



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Figure 1: Site Location

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

There is a very considerable amount of published (e.g. Hull 1958, Crummy 1984, Crummy 1992) and unpublished archaeological data (e.g. the Colchester Sites & Monuments Record - SMR) available for this site and its immediate surroundings. This has been recently synthesised (Chadwick 1997), and will only be summarised here.

3.2 Prehistoric

There are a number of records of one-off discoveries of earlier prehistoric objects from this site, including a Mesolithic³ flint axe (SMR 12372), and fragments of a Late Bronze Age⁴ bucket urn apparently found on the surface at the Union in 1930 (SMR 12367). Later in the prehistoric period, in the late Iron Age to be specific, Colchester became a nationally important tribal stronghold, named *Camulodunum*, centred on the areas now known as Sheepen Hill and Gosbecks Farm. Despite Sheepen Hill lying only a short distance west of St Mary's Hospital, nothing of late Iron Age date was found on the Balkerne Hill excavations of the 1970s, but a Belgic jar and a coin of Cunobelin are recorded from the Hospital site (SMR 12375, 12368).

Roman

The evidence for previous Roman discoveries at St Mary's is almost overwhelming, and is summarised here on figure 21, which is based on figure 3 in Paul Chadwick's report (1997). Buildings 1-3 were recorded by P.G. Laver, including the temple-like building 1. Building 4 was recorded during a watching brief in 1975. Other recorded building fragments are plotted as numbers 79, 76, and 78, and yet more records of building remains are not specific enough to be plotted. There are also extensive records of burials at St Mary's, known collectively as the Union Cemetery. Crummy, in a recent plot of known burials (1992, figure 2.12) lists 16 inhumations, three lead ossuaries containing cremations, and one tile cist. Apart from burials and buildings, many individual objects such as potsherds, bone pins, coins and brooches are recorded from the Hospital site, leading Hull to speculate that it was a general rubbish dump for the town.

Saxon & medieval

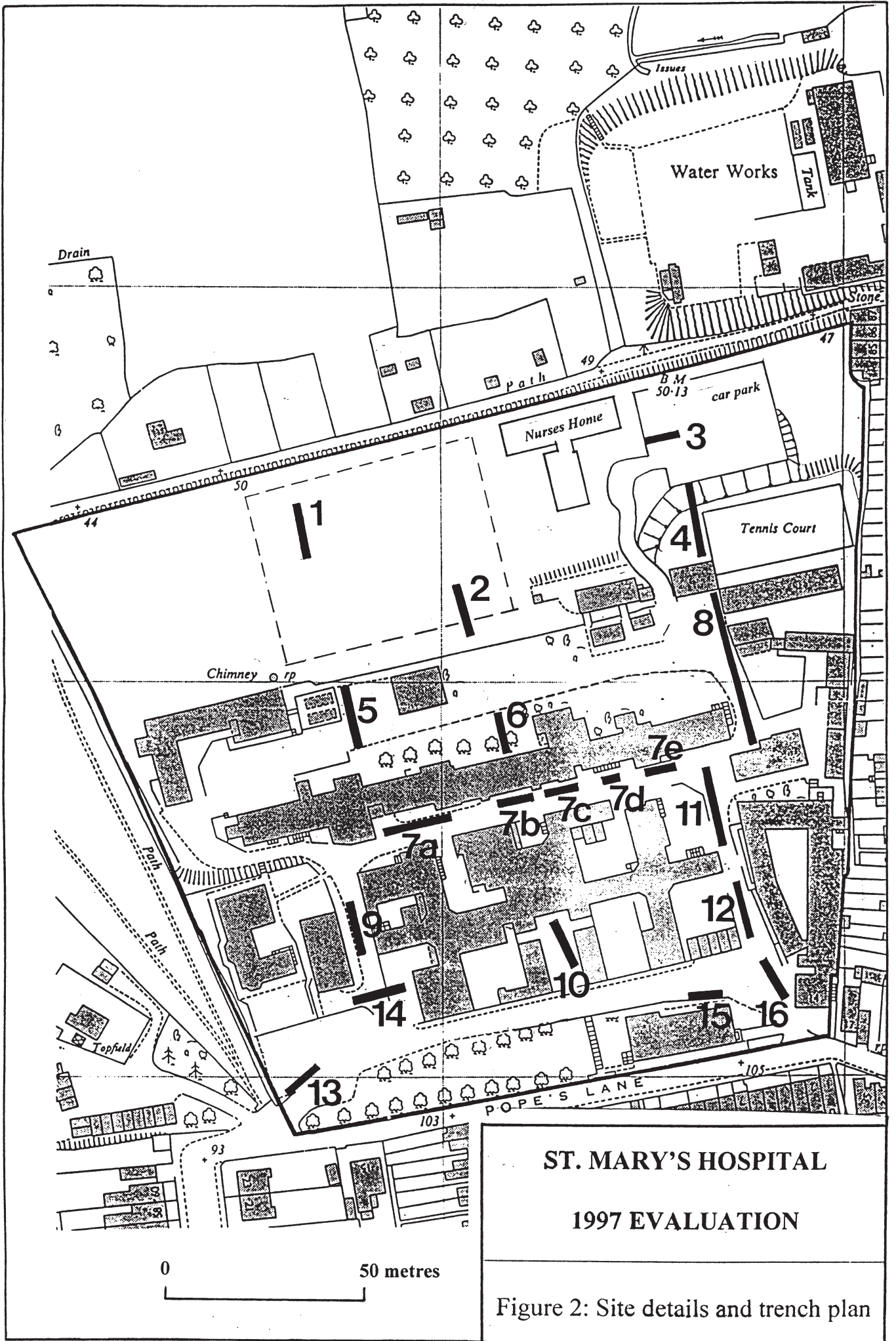
Saxon finds are limited to two brooches recorded by William Wire in his diary. It is quite possible that these brooches accompanied Saxon burials. In medieval times, settlement focused on the walled area of the town, and the St Mary's Hospital site is presumed to have been pasture.

Post-medieval

The land seems to have lain open until the Union was built. Land for the Union site was purchased in 1836, and the first record of buildings on the site is the Monson map of 1848. There was much subsequent building on the site, which was renamed St. Mary's Hospital in 1938 (Chadwick 1997).

³ the Mesolithic follows the melting of the glacial ice sheets, and dates conventionally 10,000 to 4,000 BC

⁴ in Essex this would centre on the years around 1,000 BC



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Figure 2: Site details and trench plan

4 PROJECT AIMS

The specification defined the following aims for this evaluation: to establish, as fully as possible, given the site constraints, the horizontal and vertical extent, character, condition and quality of archaeological deposits within the site.

5 METHOD

- 5.1 All archaeological work was done according to a brief written by Paul Chadwick of CgMs, which had incorporated comments from relevant bodies including Colchester Museum. **Sixteen trenches** totalling some 300 metres in length were opened under archaeological supervision using a JCB with a flat-edged ditching bucket (figure 2). Despite the restrictions imposed by the standing buildings, this gave good coverage of the site. Trench location was specifically targeted on the areas where the site would be affected by the proposed development. Deposits were removed by JCB down to the highest significant deposits, usually the Roman topsoil level. Below machined level, all cleaning and excavation was done by hand.
- 5.2 Several **geophysical surveys** were carried out over a 60x40 metre area in the north-west part of the site (figure 2). Here, the previous discovery of a masonry building (building 1) gave this apparently open grassy area a high potential for buried remains detectable by geophysical survey. The first (magnetometer) survey produced negative results. This was because the ground appeared to be “noisy”. Two reasons can be put forward. First, a large modern pit with a high metal content in trench 2 will probably have blanked out any archaeological signals in that area. Second, there is a very great depth of topsoil over the area cut by trench 1, which was too deep to be penetrated by geophysical survey equipment. However, there was a faintly visible circular mark on the geophysics plot. While acknowledging its existence, this writer did not feel it justified relocating the planned trench positions. In retrospect, this may have been wise, because we might have missed the previously unknown masonry structure.
- 5.3 Following the exposure of the masonry wall in trench 2, the adjacent boxes were subjected to **resistivity survey**. The results were interesting, without being wholly interpretable. Several signals were recorded - perhaps indicating considerable activity west of the excavated wall, and maybe including a return of the wall running off towards the north-west. The results of both surveys are appended to this report (section 11.3).

6 DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATED TRENCHES

An account is given here of the deposits revealed in each trench. Heights above Ordnance Datum are given for the top of the relevant deposits. Reference is made to archaeological remains described in the Desk-based study of the site (Chadwick 1996) under the numbers given to them in that report. "Natural" refers to the clean yellow sand which is the natural ground on this site. "Ground level" refers to 1997 ground level. All heights are given in metres above Ordnance Datum at Newlyn (AOD).

6.1 TRENCH 1 (figure 3).

Summary

Modern and post-medieval soils (L101-103) were mechanically removed, as well as the top of a deeply-cut post-medieval trench F101. Working level was the top of the first significant deposit - in this case (and usually over this site) the Roman topsoil level (L104). The northern edge of the trench was cut down farther through L104 to try to reach natural. As is evident from the section, remains are very deeply buried here, with a Roman cut feature (F102) in a sandy layer (L105) which was first taken to be natural lying some 2 metres below modern ground level. Despite hand digging down through 1 metre of sandy layers (L106-108) each one of which appeared to be close to natural, clean natural was not located here.

The upper part of the sequence of topsoils (L101) was presumably dumped here on top of contemporary ground level (L102) when the adjacent land (to the west) was terraced for what appears to be a bowling green. There were Roman (but otherwise undiagnostic) finds from the L-shaped (structural?) cut F102, and from L104-106. A flagon neck from L107 is later 2nd century in date. A residual⁵ prehistoric struck flint was found in Roman topsoil L104.

| | Heights | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (grass) | 19.20 | 18.05 |
| Dumped soil (recent landscaping) | 18.90 | 17.90 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 18.20 | 17.40 |
| Late Roman topsoil | **** | 16.70 |
| Roman cut feature | - | 16.10 |
| Natural ground | - | below 15.20 |

⁵ i.e. not in its original position

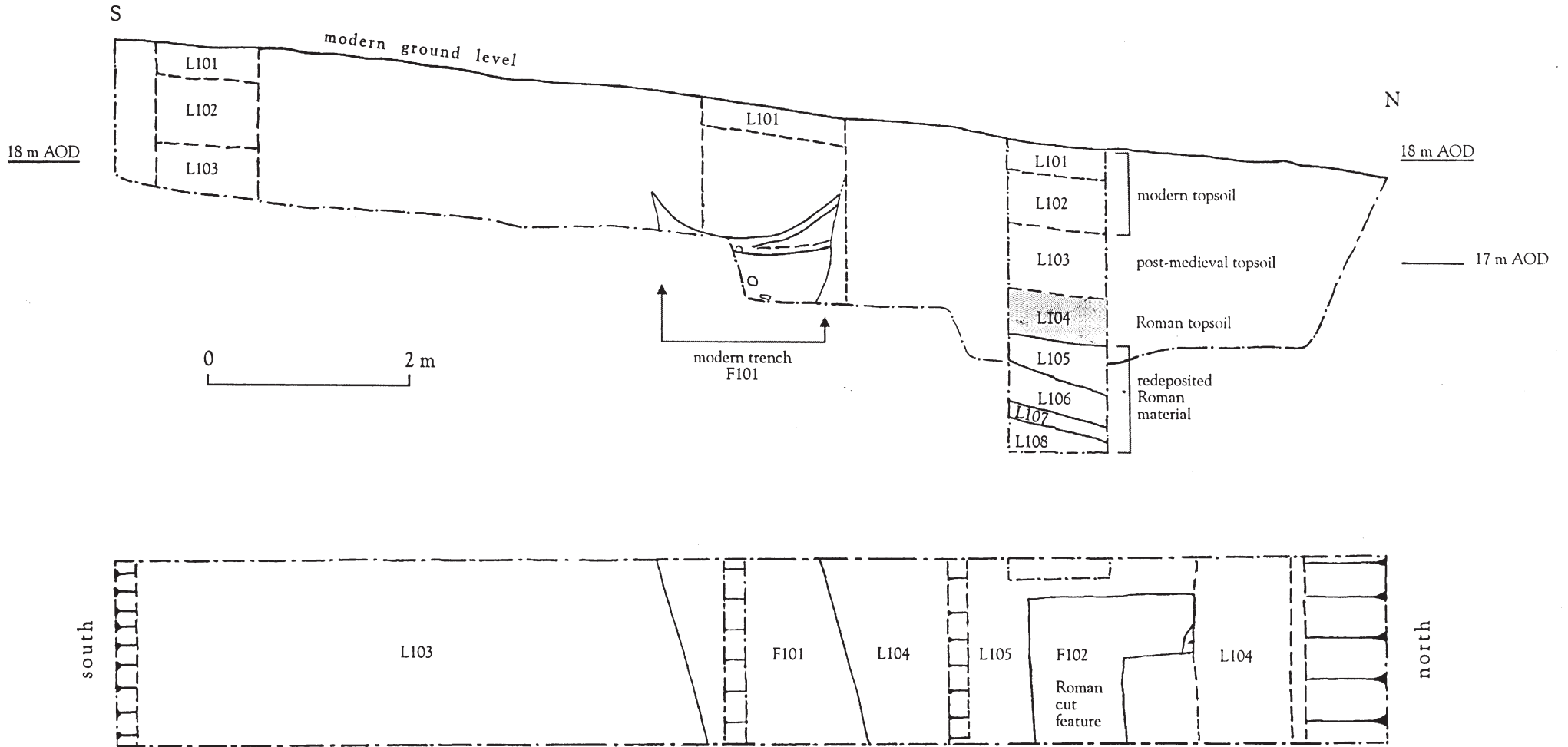


Fig 3 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 1

6.2 TRENCH 2 (figure 4).

Summary

Modern and post-medieval soils (L201-2) were removed mechanically down to the top of L203, which was both the highest significant deposit and Roman topsoil. There were two patches on top of L203 - a gravelly patch L205, and an oystery patch L206. Neither of these was specifically dateable, and could be Roman or later. Several sherds of Roman greywares dated L203, which appeared to seal a septaria-and-greensand-in-mortar wall F203. The wall at first appeared to be part of a structure whose north-east corner appeared in trench 2, but further cleaning showed that it actually lay within a T-shaped cut feature (foundation trench?) F202/F204. This may imply that the structure continued in some form out to the east of trench 2 as well as to the west. This cut feature cut a patch of Roman clay (L204) sealing natural L205. A large modern rubbish pit (F201) with a high metal content (galvanised iron sheet, old jugs etc.) cut most of the archaeological sequence in this trench, and damaged the top of wall F202. The metal in the rubbish was presumably responsible for clouding the magnetometer survey results on this part of the survey area.

The question then arises - what is this wall? There are two possibilities. First, it is a previously unknown Roman structure which is at least partly masonry-built. Second, allowing some flexibility in previous standards of recording, it is part of **Building 1**, whose recorded location lies 45 metres to the north west?

| | Heights | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (grass) | 21.60 | 20.00 |
| Late Roman/post-Roman topsoil | 20.65 | 19.40 |
| Roman masonry wall | - | 19.40 |
| Natural ground | - | - |

6.3 TRENCH 3 (figure 5).

Summary

This trench is located in the car park east of the old Nurses' Home. The modern tarmac surface and its foundation (L301-2) and a depth of topsoil (L303) were mechanically removed, down to the top of the highest significant layer L304 (Roman topsoil). A modern trench (F301) which was not bottomed cut most of the stratigraphy in this trench, including two sides of the same Roman cut feature (F302, F305). There were also two patches which looked like post holes (F303-4), but on excavation these were only a few centimetres deep, and are not considered to be significant. There were undiagnostic Roman finds from F302, F305 and L304.

The noteworthy point about this trench is the considerable depth of medieval/post-medieval topsoil (L303) which is rather bitty in appearance and looks like it has been turned over (i.e. ploughed). The depth of soil here, at the bottom of the slope, is no doubt accentuated by soil washing down the hillside.

| | Heights |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level | 16.70 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 16.40 |
| Roman topsoil | 15.40 |
| Natural ground | 15.20 |

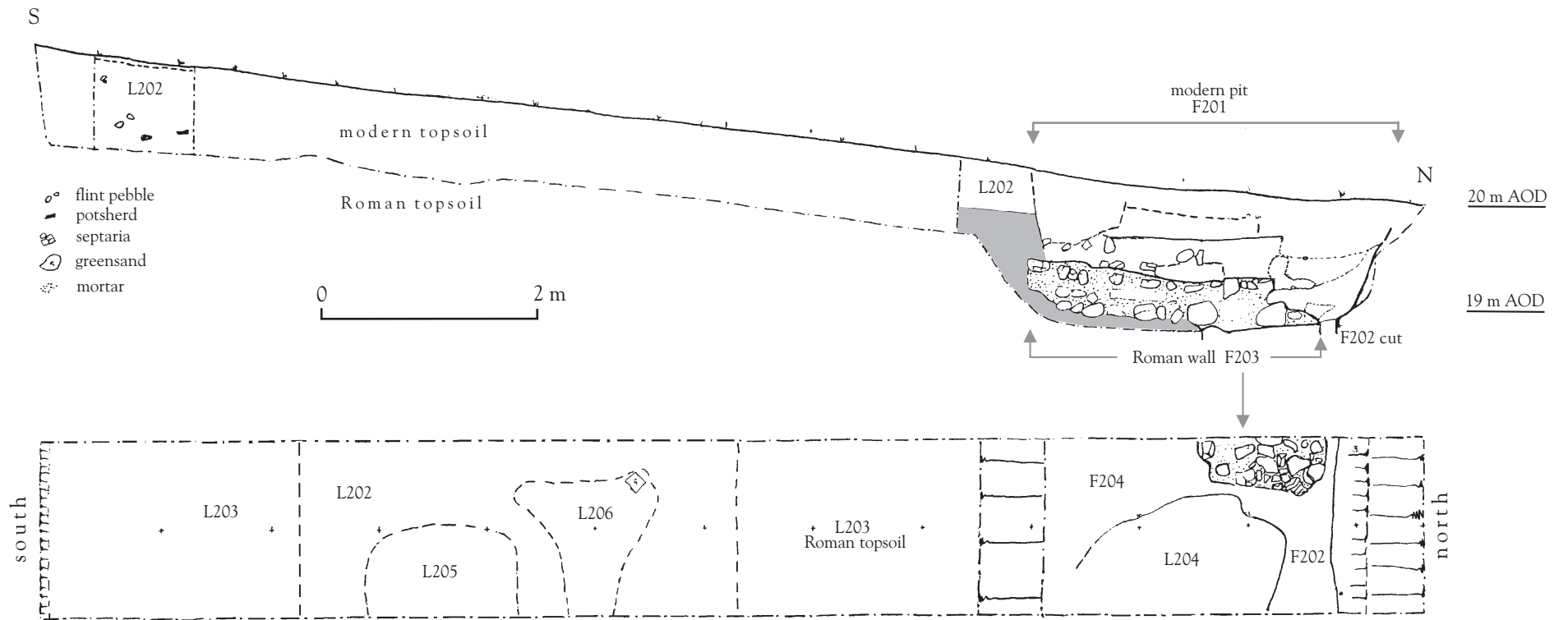


Fig 4 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and trench - Trench 2

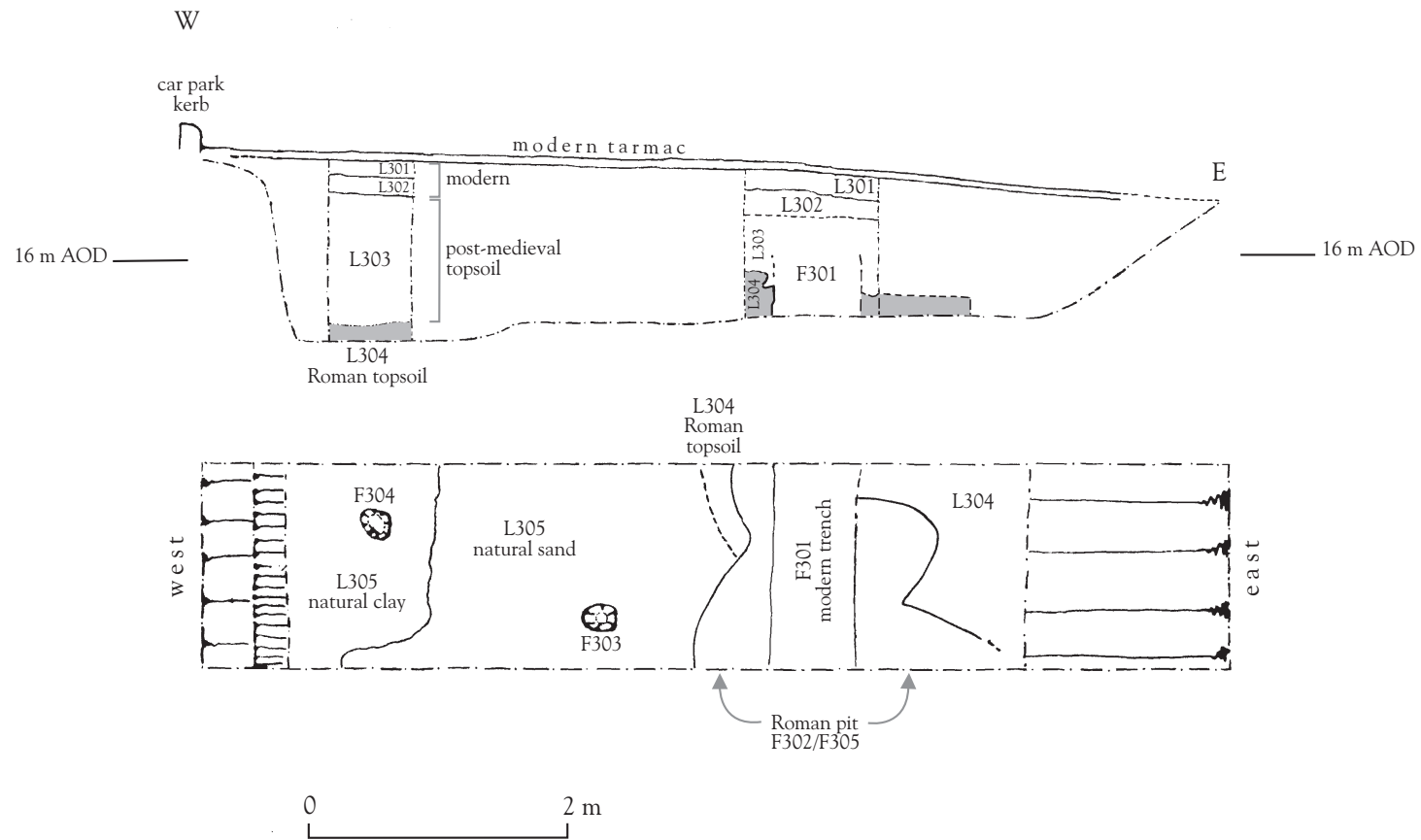


Fig 5 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 3

6.4 TRENCH 4 (figure 6).

Summary

This trench is on the steeply sloping bank south of the Nurses' Home. At the south end, the upper layers are associated with the present tarmac surface of the adjacent tennis court (L401-3), and these seal very recent dumped demolition layers (L404) lying over concrete slabs which are the footings of recent hospital buildings (F401-2). Layers 401-4 were removed mechanically. Under the concrete slabs were two post-medieval or medieval topsoil layers (L405-6). At the south end of the trench, only 405 was visible, but at the north end both were visible, overlying a Roman topsoil layer (407), which itself sealed natural 408. The north end of trench 4 was the only place on site where the whole range of Roman and later topsoils were visible in an apparently undisturbed state. Undiagnostic Roman finds were recovered from L407.

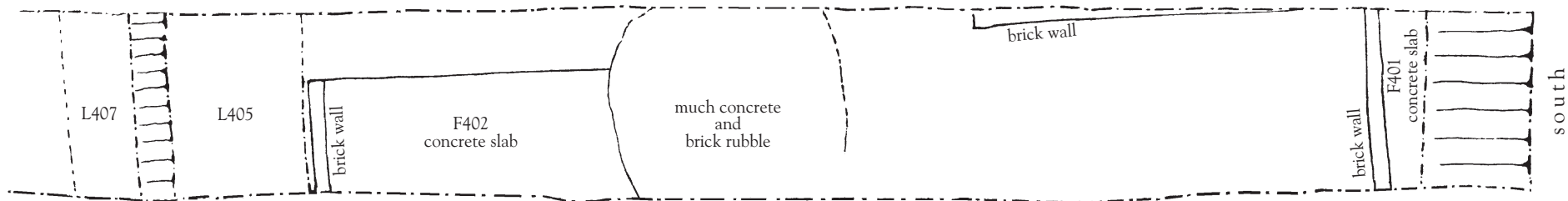
| | Heights | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level | 21.50 | 18.20 |
| Tarmac and associated build-up | 21.35 | - |
| Hospital period deposits | 20.60 | - |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 20.55 | 18.05 |
| Late Roman topsoil | - | 17.55 |
| Natural ground | - | 17.05 |

6.5 TRENCH 5 (figure 7).

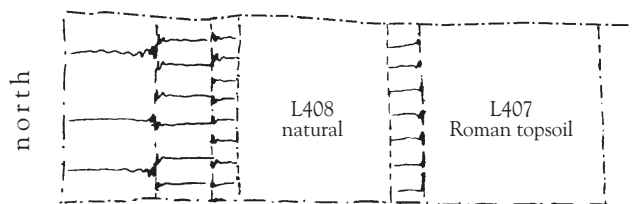
Summary

This trench, above all others on the site, shows how much the ground falls away to the north. At the south end, tarmac and its foundation (501-2) and the underlying post-medieval topsoil (L503) were removed by machine, and a sondage was made through the underlying Roman topsoil (L504) and reworked natural (505) to reveal natural L506 at the trench bottom. At the north end, excavation to maximum depth failed to even break through the post-medieval topsoil (L503). Though there were no obvious cut lines, some of this depth of topsoil was presumably dumped up against the hedge line immediately north of the north end of the trench.

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 23.80 | 23.80 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 23.40 | 23.25 |
| Late Roman topsoil | 22.95 | - |
| Natural ground | 22.75 | - |



continues below



continued from above

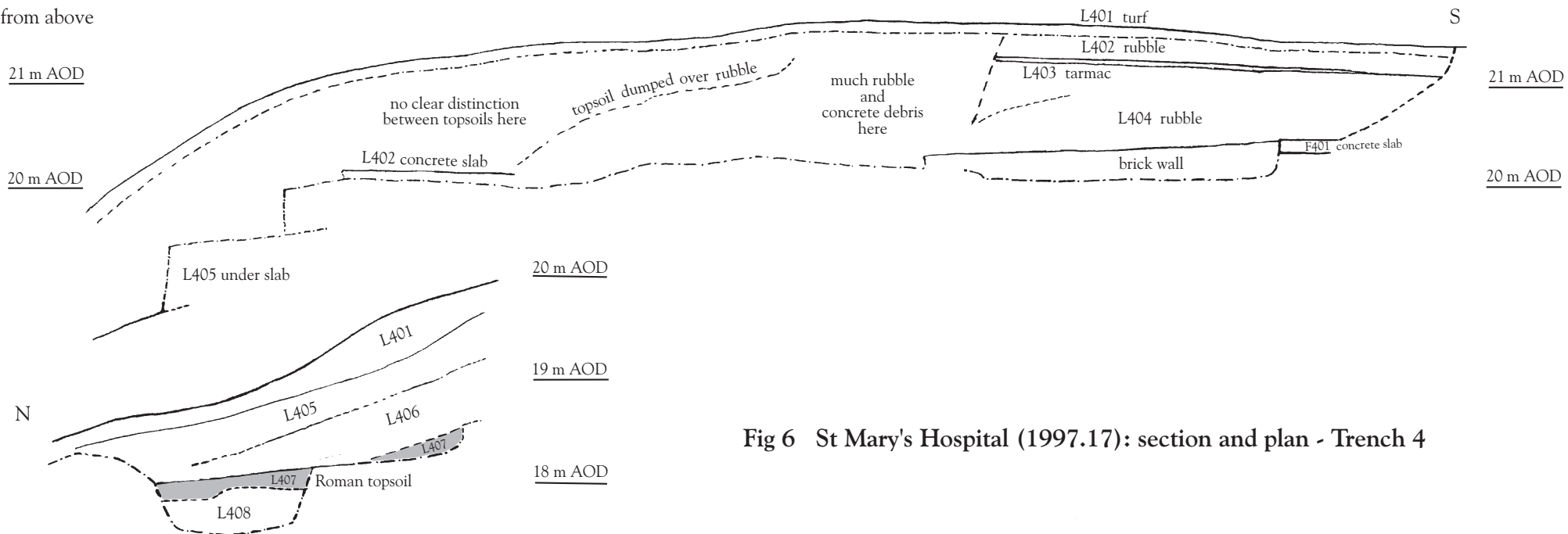


Fig 6 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 4

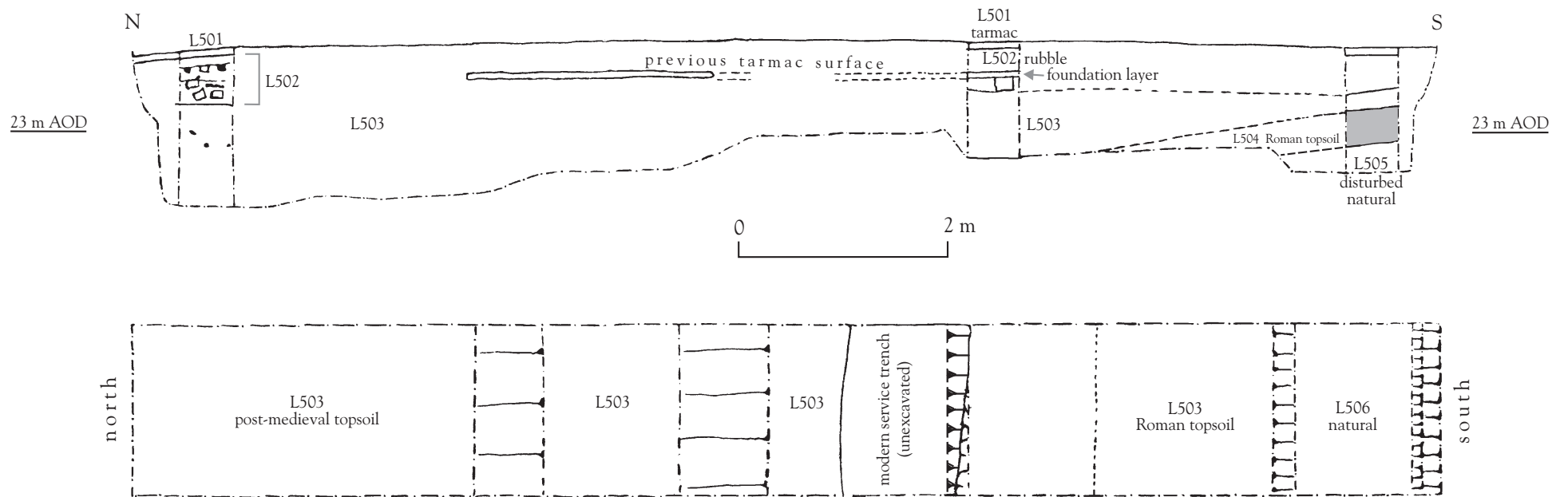


Fig 7 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 5

6.6 TRENCH 6 (figure 8).

Summary

This trench cut through a succession of dumped layers. Apart from the north end of this trench, natural ground was not located, although the sandy layer L607 was probably very close to it. At the south end of the trench, near the hospital building, the top three layers (L601-3) were all recent dumped soils. There were several cut features, all modern, which did not show in section. Sealed by L601 was an unnumbered concrete patch lying over two more modern dumped soils L604-5. Under 605 was a pocket of material (L606) which contained Roman material sealing an apparently burnt surface (L607), which became less convincing upon closer examination. L606 sealed reworked natural L608. The dumpy nature of all the deposits in this trench must allow the possibility that both of these Roman contexts (606, 607) are redeposited - they may well have been dug up and dumped here during the last century or so. L606 contained a 1st or 2nd century flagon neck, painted wall plaster, and a lump of burnt debris (Boudiccan?).

| | Heights | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>South end (grass)</u> | <u>North end (tarmac)</u> |
| Modern ground level | 26.15 | 23.80 |
| Hospital period deposits | 26.15 | - |
| Roman stratified deposits | - | 23.10 |
| Reworked Natural ground | - | 22.95 |

6.7 TRENCH 7a (figure 9).

Summary

The original intention was to trench all the way along the central road at St Mary's Hospital, but a combination of known drains, pipes and cables detected with a cable scanner, and other obstacles meant that the trench had to be cut in five separate trenches, 7a - 7e.

The sequence of deposits in trench 7a was relatively straightforward. The modern surface consisted of tarmac over concrete (L721-2), which was broken off and removed by JCB. Several large modern drainage trenches (F724, 723, 725/728) were sandwiched between the two, showing that the surface was at one time only concrete, with the tarmac being laid to repair the surface. The modern top sealed a post-medieval topsoil L723. All the above were mechanically removed, down to the top of the highest significant deposit (L724) - a Roman topsoil. Four cuts were made into L724 to reveal what lay below, which was not consistent along the whole trench. At the west end and in the central two cuts, L724 came down onto natural gravel L725. However, at the east end, it appeared to seal a layer of clay with Roman tile fragments (L726). This clay layer was certainly not present at this level (or anywhere) farther west in the trench, and indicates that archaeological deposits are deeper here, and perhaps consist of clay deposits in a slightly deeper cut.

There were several Roman cut features in gravel L725, probably cut through from above L724. F722 was more or less right-angled in plan, and might be structural. However, there was no trace of previously recorded building 2. Since natural gravel was located at three points in this trench, it is difficult to imagine where building 2 can actually be. The assumption must be that it is not properly located.

| | Heights |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 27.35 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 27.10 |
| Late Roman topsoil | 26.25 |
| Natural ground | 25.90 |

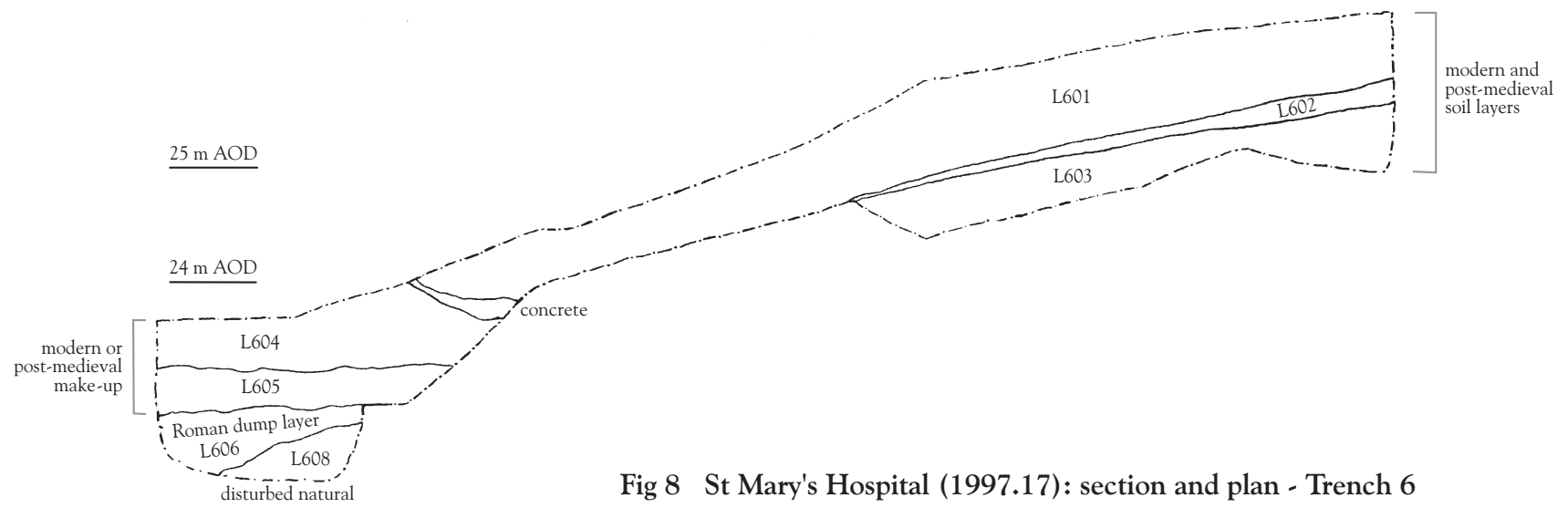
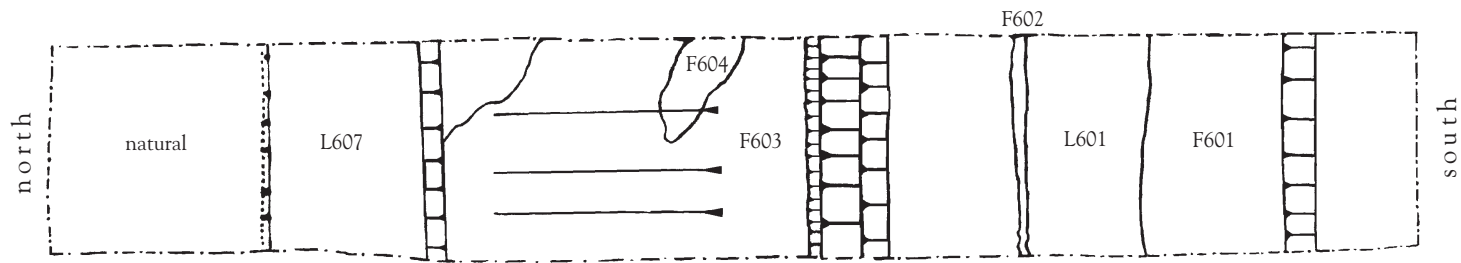


Fig 8 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 6

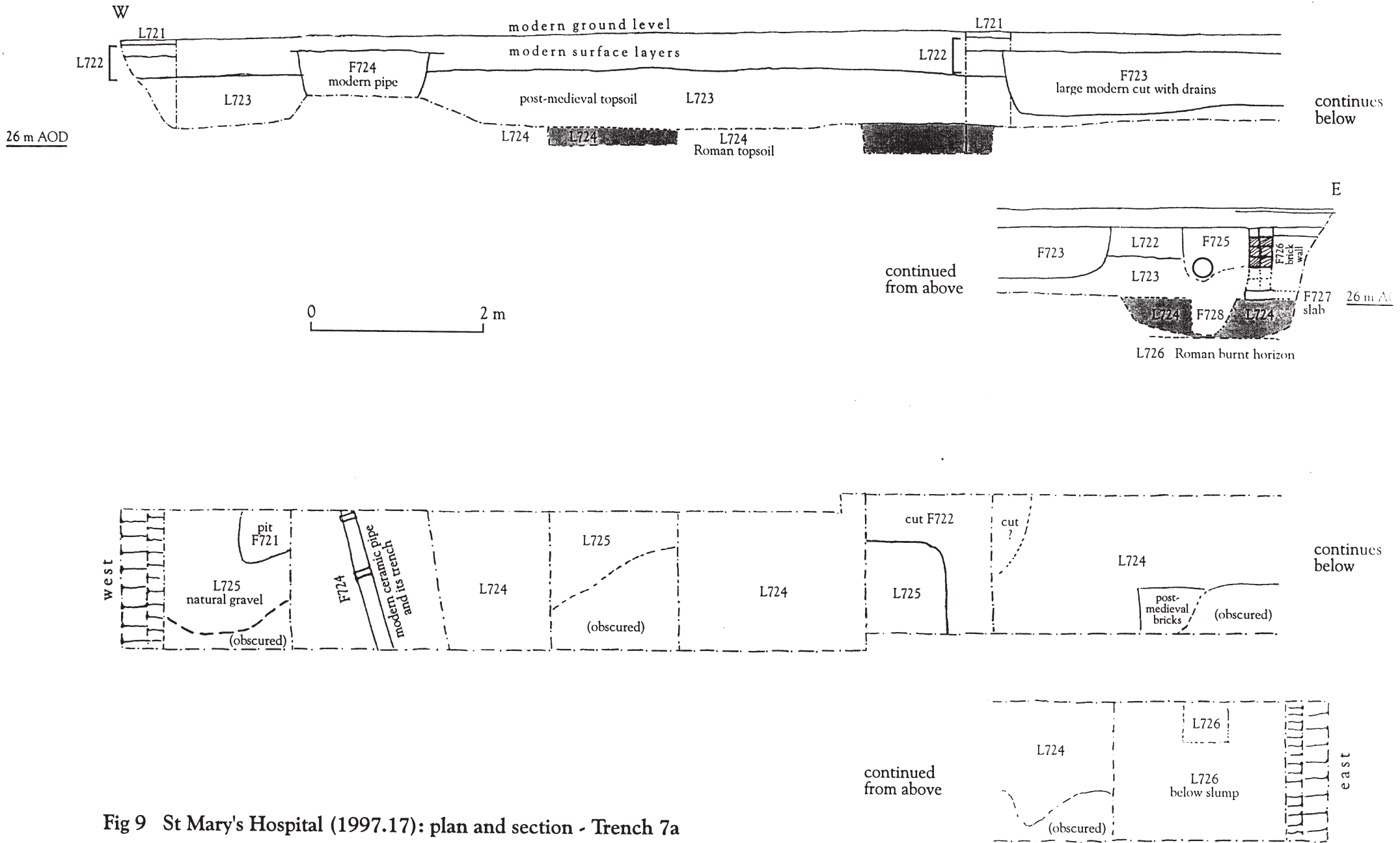


Fig 9 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): plan and section - Trench 7a

6.8 TRENCH 7b (figure 10).

Summary

This trench revealed a deep sequence of archaeological deposits. From bottom to top, these are:

- natural sand L719, capped by reworked natural L718.
- a burnt clay deposit L717 which is Boudiccan in character,
- dumped soils (L715-6) under a rough gravel/brick surface L713 (presumably Roman);
- a depth of post-medieval topsoil L712,
- a series of bands of mortar and other material (L703-11), probably hospital period;
- the whole sequence is capped by modern hospital drains (F701-3) and tarmac, etc. (L701-2).

The lower part of this sequence is of interest. The burnt deposit L717 contains amphora which is Dressel 2-4, and dated 1st to early 2nd century. The overlying layer 716 contains a good group of material dated to the mid-2nd century. Therefore the date range for the burnt deposit is fairly flexible within a 1st to mid-2nd century bracket. The natural context for this type of material would of course be the Boudiccan revolt (A.D. 60/61), and although the dating of this context is no so precisely defined, a Boudiccan date for this material is preferred here.

| | Heights |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 27.15 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | **** |
| Late Roman topsoil | 26.10 |
| Roman stratified deposits | 25.55 |
| Natural ground | 24.80 |

6.9 TRENCH 7c (figure 11).

Summary

Limitations on time meant that this trench was only rapidly recorded. Recognition of elements seen in trenches 7a and 7b to the west means that this rapid record was probably fairly accurate. The surface was tarmac, with a rubble foundation cut by a large drainage trench, with another concrete clad pipe running into it obliquely. This sequence sealed a layer of very fresh looking dumped sand, over a topsoil layer which was probably equivalent to L712 in trench 7b.

6.10 TRENCH 7d

Summary

The presence of unmarked cables prevented the full excavation of this trench.

6.11 TRENCH 7e

Summary

The presence of unmarked cables prevented the full excavation of this trench.

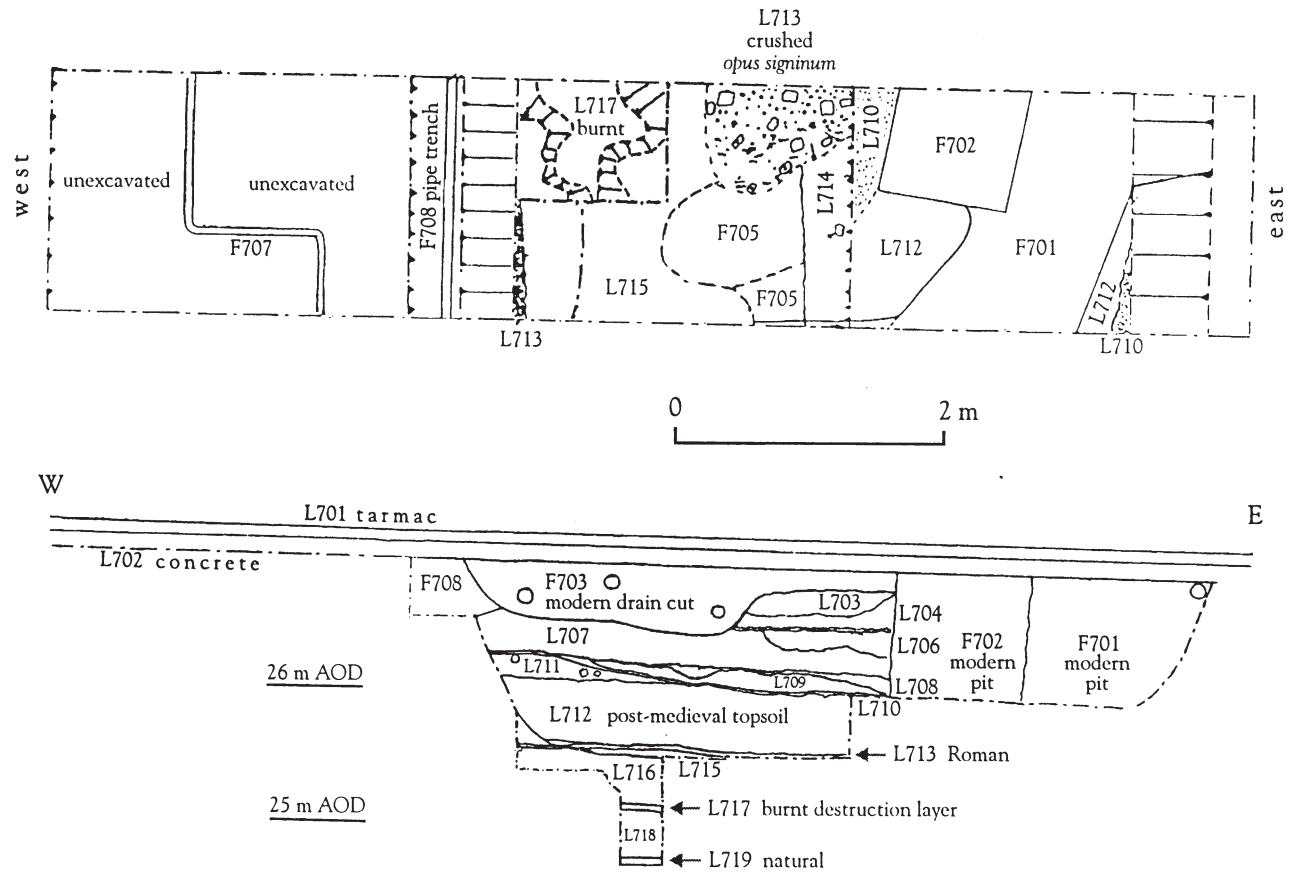


Fig 10 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 7b (composite)

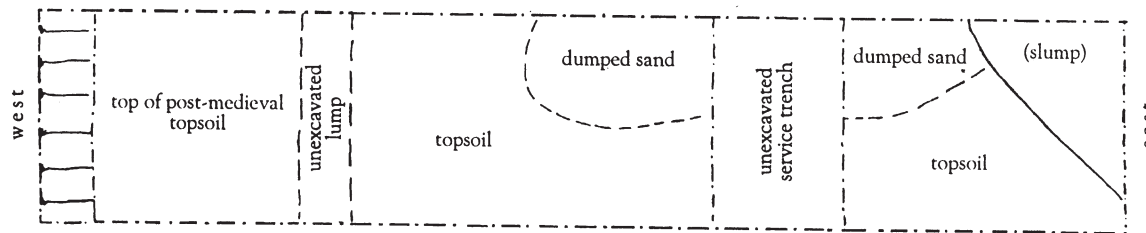
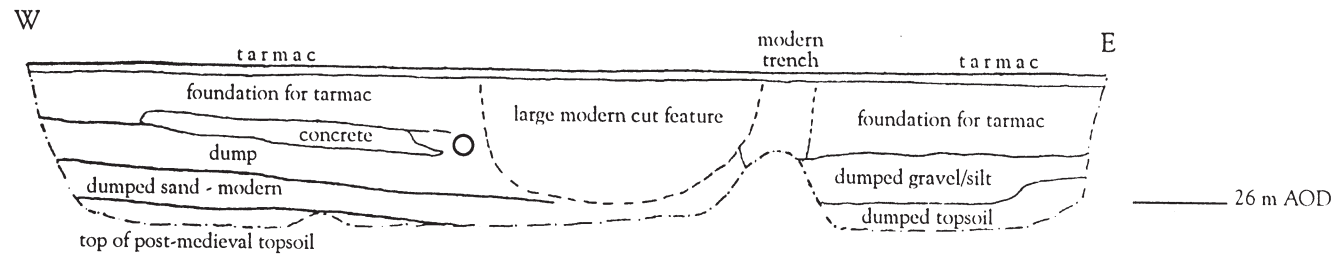


Fig 11 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): rapid plan and section - Trench 7c

6.12 TRENCH 8 (figure 12)

Summary

This trench ran downslope along the east edge of the site, on the line also explored by trenches 4, 11, 12, and 16. The south end was severely truncated by modern and post-medieval service trenches, which were plotted but not excavated or explored further. These were both very modern plastic ducts carrying cables, and cast-iron pipes, presumably Victorian. The top layer was modern tarmac (L801) and its foundation L802. This sealed a deep deposit of post-medieval topsoil (L803/805). All the above layers were removed by JCB, down onto the highest significant deposit L804 - probably a Roman topsoil. An intrusive clay pipe fragment was seen in this layer. L804 sealed a reworked natural L806 (containing fragments of Roman roof tile) over clean natural L807.

This trench showed that natural slope of the ground was quite gradual - more than would have been expected. There has certainly been no extensive terracing on this part of the site - rather, the steep slope down to the Nurse's Home has been enhanced by a build-up of material west of the tennis courts and under the building between trenches 8 and 4. As would be expected, the build-up of topsoil was greater downslope than it was upslope.

In theory, this trench should have passed through an area where Roman material has been previously recorded (No. 76). However, there was no trace of any such remains here, although the south end of the trench was so disturbed that any remains there may already have been destroyed.

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 26.45 | 23.30 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | - | 22.74 |
| Late Roman topsoil | - | 22.40 |
| Natural ground | - | 21.70 |

6.13 TRENCH 9 (figure 13).

Summary

Under modern tarmac (901) and brick rubble (902) was a layer of recent topsoil (903) which capped a redeposited topsoil (904/905)⁶. This redeposited topsoil may be upcast from the digging and construction of the brick-built well (in cut F901) which was clipped by the edge of this trench. The trench bottom at maximum excavation depth was still this redeposited material (905), and natural ground was not located.

Comparing the height at which natural sand was located in trench 14, only a few metres to the south, it is probable that the Roman deposits have already been removed here. There was no sign of the return wall of building 2, which might have passed here. One suspects it may not have survived the digging of a well here, which seems to have caused widespread movement of soil.

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 28.10 | 27.70 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 27.75 | 27.35 |
| Late Roman topsoil | ? | ? |
| Natural ground | ? | |

⁶ i.e. this is not its original position - it has been dumped here.

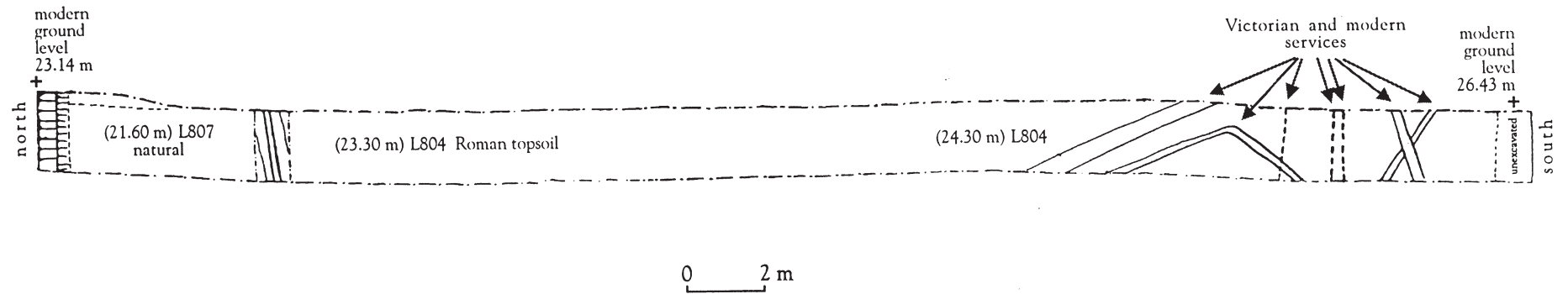


Fig 12 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): plan - Trench 8

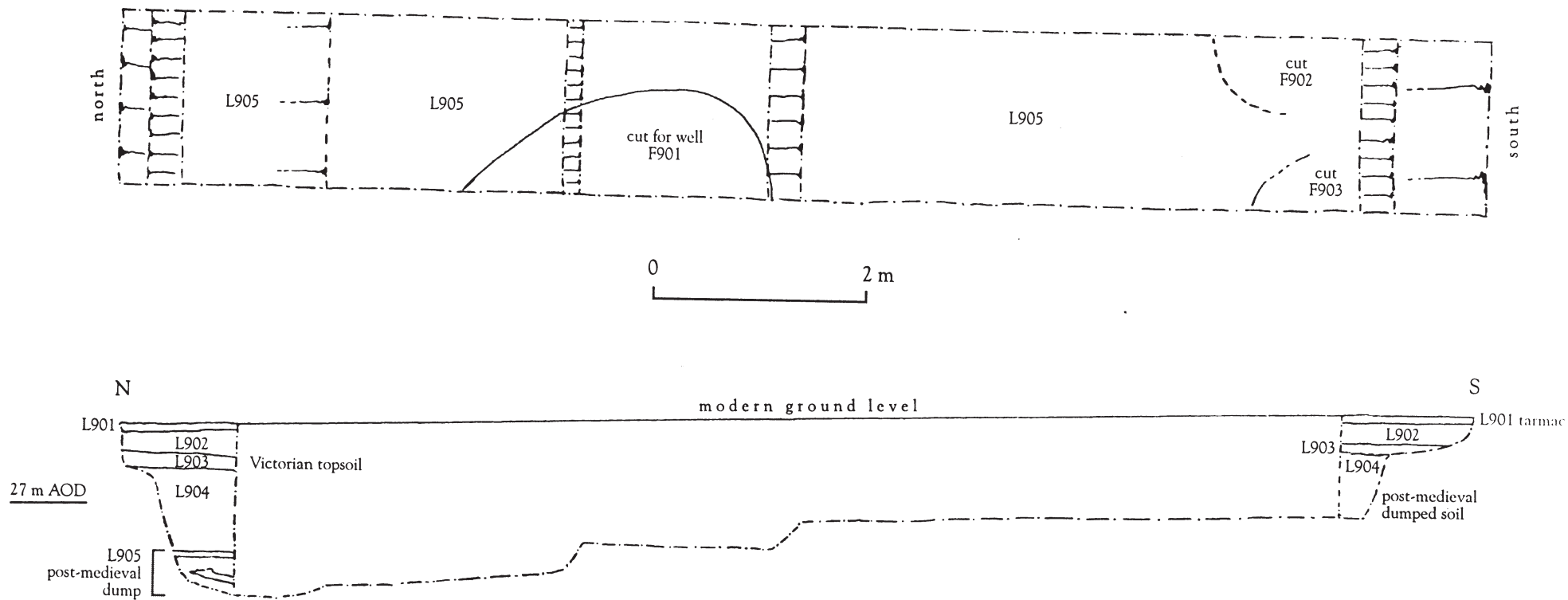


Fig 13 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 9

6.14 TRENCH 10 (figure 14).

Summary

This trench had to be swung slightly on its intended axis to avoid live cables and a gas main. Removal of modern tarmac and its foundation (L1001) revealed a metre of early Roman stratified deposits lying virtually below the modern tarmac. The Roman sequence was as follows: at the north end of the trench, L1002 and L1003 were undated but probably Roman, and sealed a series of Roman deposits L1004, L1005 lying over a yard surface L1006/1007. L1003 was a sandy clay - possibly a floor level lying over foundation deposits dumped on the earlier surface L1006/L1007. At the bottom of the sequence was L1008, a sandy silt layer which produced a prehistoric flint and a small abraded prehistoric potsherd.. The potsherd is of a sandy fabric typical of middle Iron Age date in this region, and the struck flint would be happy in a Bronze Age/Iron Age context. On the face of it, this material would seem slightly too early to be in a context which ought to be immediately pre-Roman, but otherwise there is no reason to doubt that this was a prehistoric context. This prehistoric context sealed natural sand L1009. In the central part of the site L1002 sealed and its foundation L1003 sealed natural L1009 which was in turn cut by F1002 (a small cut), F1003 (a dark charcoally deposit), F1004 (a small cut), and F1005 and F1006 (small scoops). One of the most interesting parts of the trench was the south end where there was a small surviving edge of what was once a larger cut feature with a lining of gypsum (F1007). Was this a heavily truncated inhumation burial cut? There were no human bones from the vicinity, but a sherd of samian ware dating to later in the 1st century was recovered. Immediately north of F1007 was a very interesting small pit F1001. This contained a large amount of Roman material including glass, amphora and flagon sherds and a samian cup stamped **CERMANI** (i.e. GERMANUS). Pit F1001 has too much domestic debris to be a burial (animal bones, mortar, *opus signinum*), but is it possible that some of this material (especially glass and samian) is a redeposited burial group?

It is evident, especially when looking south from this trench towards Pope's Lane, that there has been some lowering of the ground surface here. The result of this is that the Roman, and/or post-medieval or modern topsoil layers have already been removed, leaving the Roman material immediately below the modern surface.

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 28.40 | 28.60 |
| Roman stratified deposits | 28.00 | 28.10 |
| Pre-Roman finds | - | 27.55 |
| Natural ground | - | 27.20 |

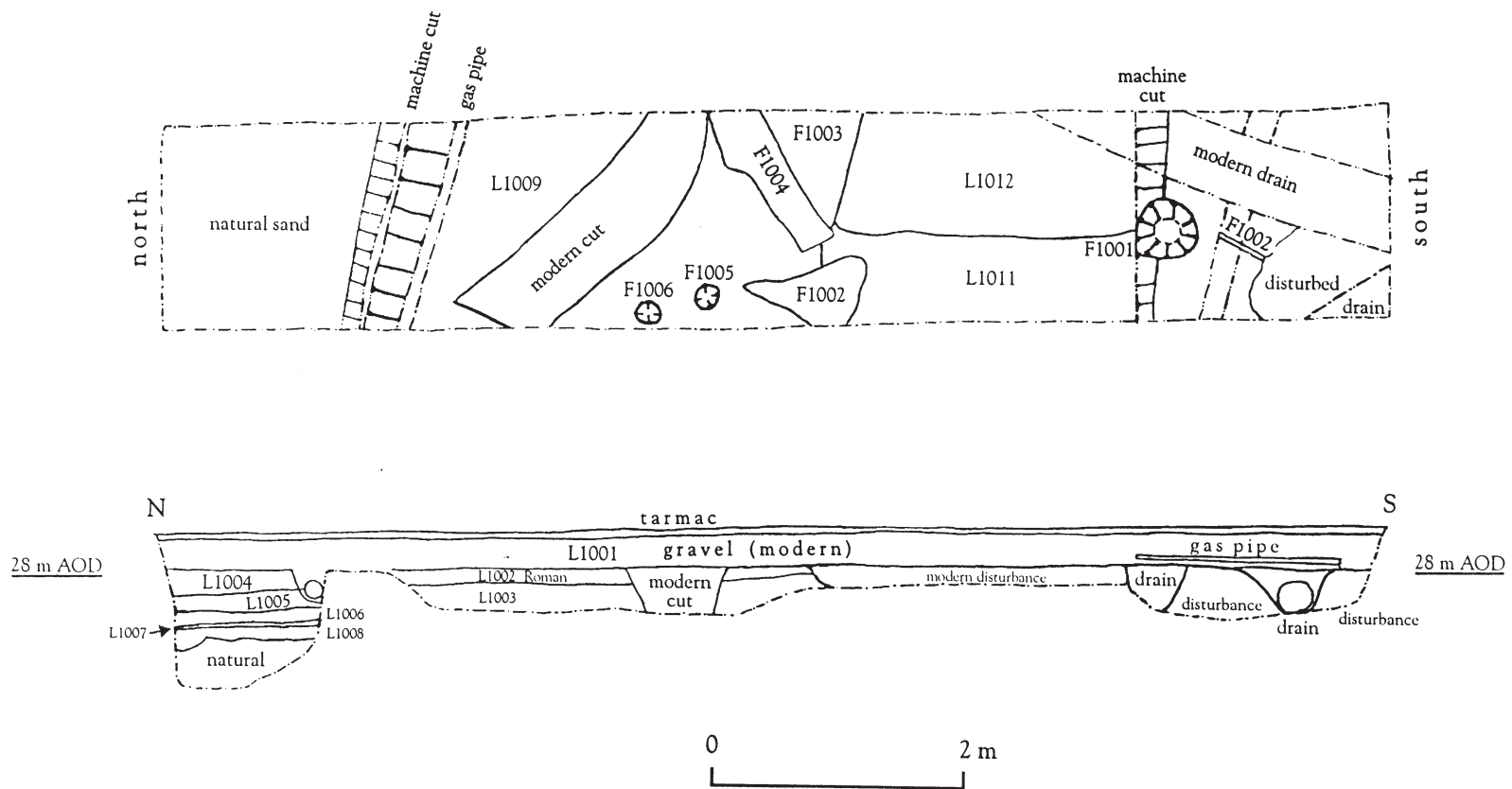


Fig 14 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 10

6.15 TRENCH 11 (figure 15)

Summary

Modern tarmac and its base (L1101-2), and post-medieval soil (L1109) were removed by machine, as was part of the Roman topsoil level (L1103). Roman topsoil was cut by a single inhumation burial F1108. This was an unaccompanied burial, aligned W-E with the head (beyond the trench edge) to the west. The body was fully extended, with the arms crossed so that both hands rested on the stomach. There did not seem to be much post-depositional disturbance, except that the lower left leg bones were slightly out of alignment. Finds in the backfill of the burial (not separately numbered, and technically residual to the date of the inhumation) are Colchester rough-cast colour coated of the 2nd century, and three sherds of brown fabric which might be burnt Hadham ware - if so they are probably late 4th century. Another factor to take into consideration is the date of the layer (1103) cut by the burial. This had a very large number of finds and a good group date of 3rd to 4th century for the pottery. Therefore, a date of 3rd to 4th, and if the Hadham is correct, then the 4th century would seem the most sensible *terminus post quem*⁷ for the date of the burial. Several cuts through L1103 revealed a rough surface consisting of gravel, tile, bone and oyster (L1106/L1107). Finds extracted from this are also late Roman, 3rd to 4th century. In view of the date of the burial, a 3rd century date is preferred here for the surface, and if the single possible Hadham sherd is ignored, the date could be late 2nd or 3rd. The surface L1106/7 rested on reworked natural L1104 over pure natural L1105. If it is possible to judge direction from such a narrow trench, then the surface is apparently a pathway heading approximately NE towards the Old Fever House. Roman remains are recorded from this area (No. 78, 79) - specifically Roman floors. There was no sign of these in trench 11, except for the fact that L1107 did have a little *opus signinum* content, which may have been mistaken for flooring.

| | Heights | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>Central</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 28.10 | | 26.75 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 27.60 | | 26.35 |
| Late Roman topsoil | 27.40 | | 25.85 |
| Roman stratified deposits | | 27.00-26.50 | |
| Natural ground | 27.20 | | 25.70 |

6.16 TRENCH 12 (figure 16)

Summary

After removal of modern tarmac (L1201) and a cobbled (strictly "set") surface (L1202) it could be seen that the east edge of the trench was cut by a modern pipe trench (F1202) which was also present in trench 11 (F1101). On the west side, the sequence was as follows, at the bottom, two Roman features (F1203, 1204) cut reworked natural (L1203/04) over natural sand L1207. The Roman pits were sealed by rammed post-medieval road deposits (F1201).

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 29.75 | 28.90 |
| Post-medieval gravel | 29.30 | 28.45 |
| Late Roman topsoil | - | 28.10 |
| Natural ground | - | 27.75 |

⁷ earliest possible date

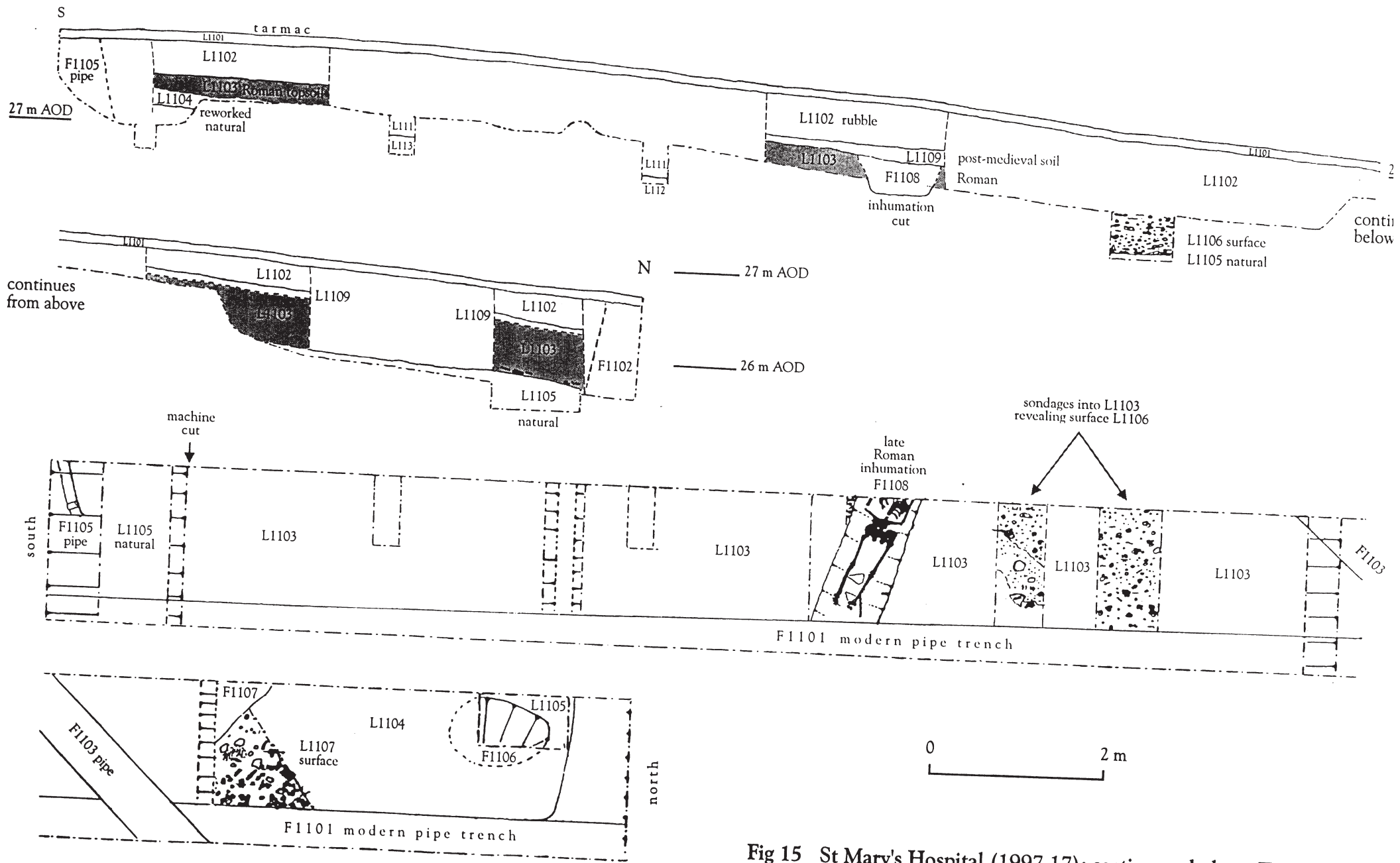


Fig 15 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 11

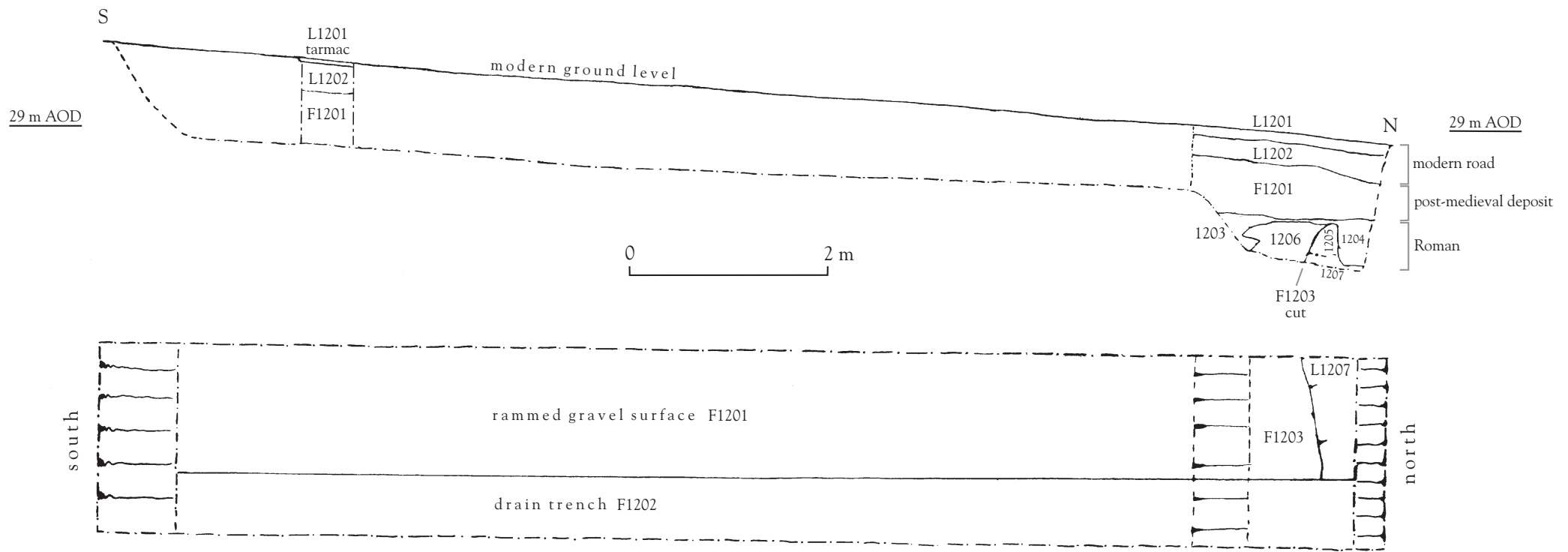


Fig 16 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 12

6.17 TRENCH 13 (figure 17)

Summary

Modern tarmac and foundation (L1301-2) and post-medieval topsoil (L1303) were removed by JCB down onto the top of the highest significant deposit L1304, a Roman topsoil. This was cut by a number of pits, F1301-6. One, F1305, was post-medieval and must have cut down from higher up the sequence, but was not recognised during machining. Roman finds were recovered as follows: F1301 - brick, oyster, Roman pottery; F1303 - animal bone, tile, pottery after AD 120; F1306 - animal bone, brick, tile, pottery after AD 120. This would seem like a credible group of Roman rubbish pits cutting Roman topsoil, though the topsoil date of 2nd century is slightly earlier than in trench 11, where it is happily 3rd century. L1304 seals natural sand L1306.

| | Heights |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 29.50 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 29.10 |
| Late Roman topsoil | 28.50 |
| Natural ground | 28.20 |

6.18 TRENCH 14 (figure 18).

Summary

Under modern tarmac and its foundation (L1401-2) were two 19th/20th century pits (F1402-3) whose dating was defined by fabric 48d sherds (after Cunningham 1985), and which cut natural sand L1405. There was a large brick wall F1401 on the eastern end of the trench. There has clearly been severe truncation of archaeological deposits here, in contrast to trench 13 to the south.

| | Heights |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 28.55 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 28.30 |
| Redeposited natural | 28.00 |
| Natural ground | 27.90 |

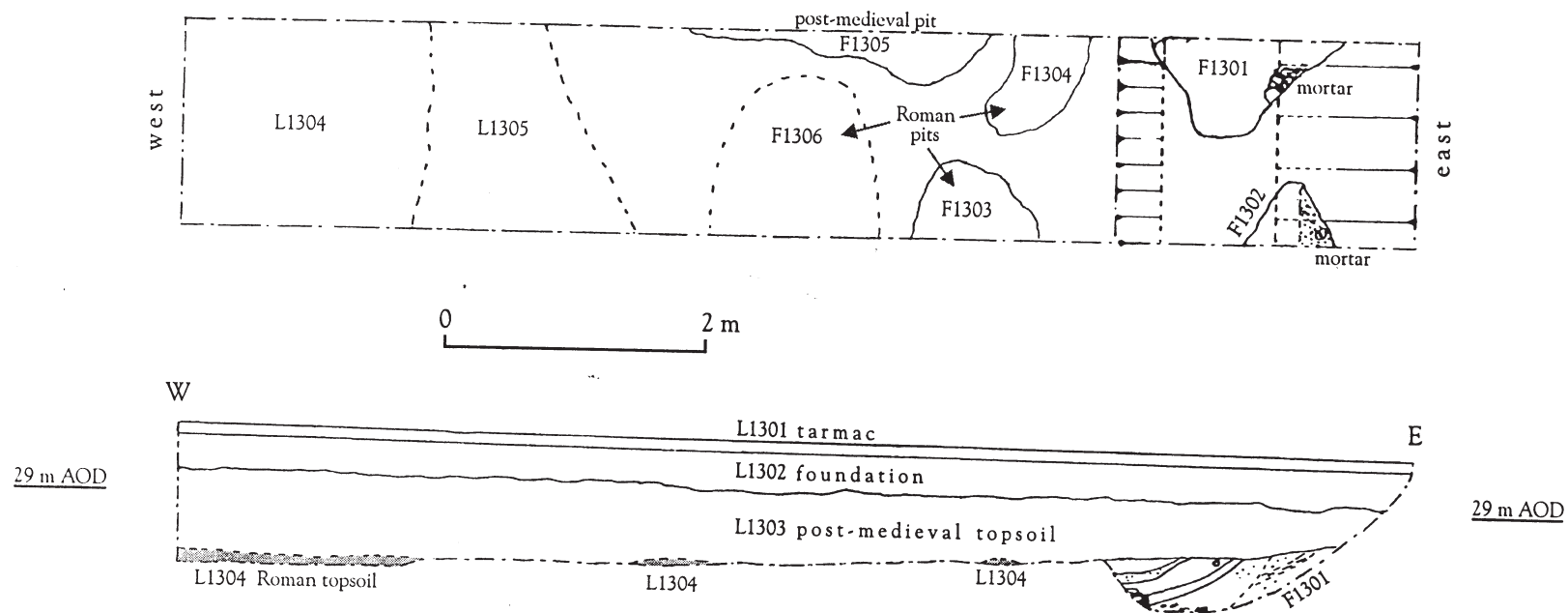


Fig 17 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 13

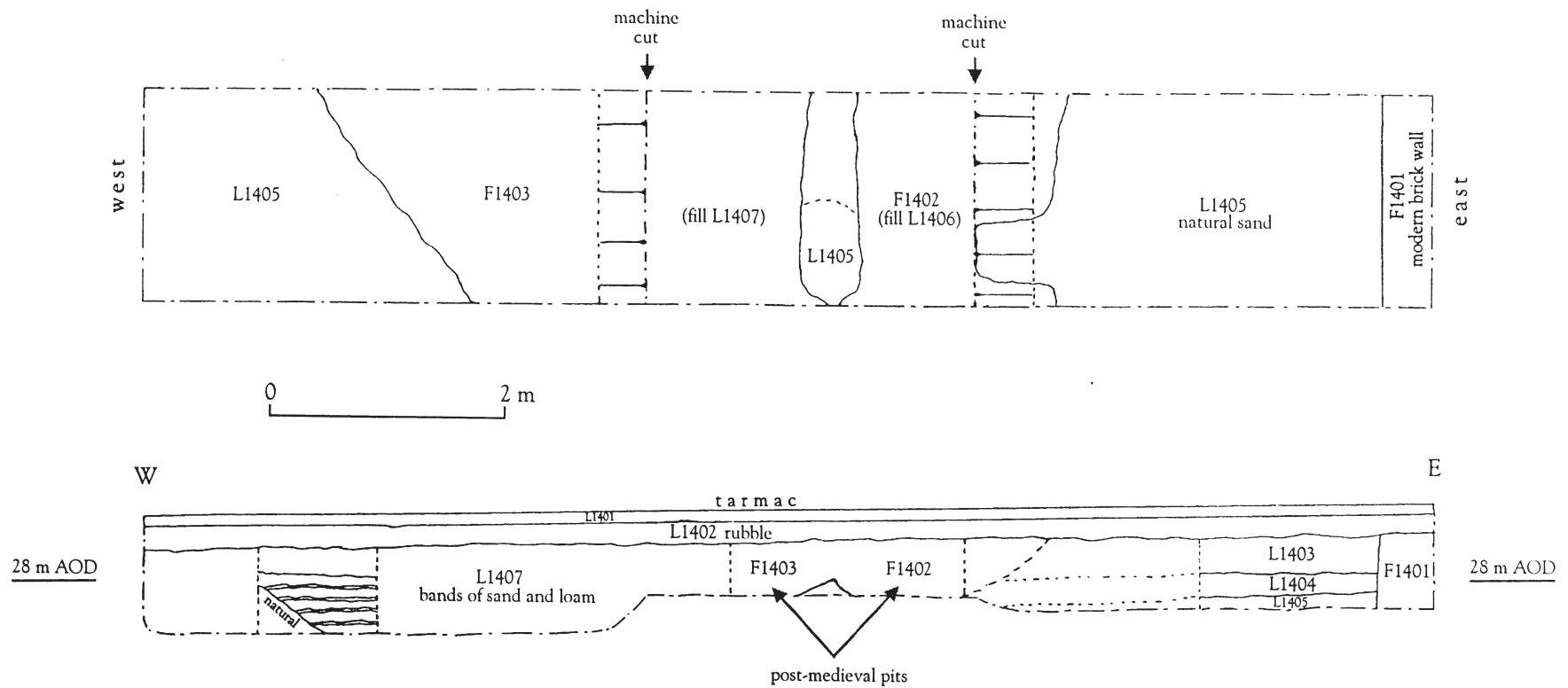


Fig 18 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 14

6.19 TRENCH 15 (figure 19)

Summary

The situation here is similar to trench 10. When comparing the trench position to the height of Popes Lane and the top of the hill where trench 16 is located, one would expect that some of the later deposits have already been removed. This is precisely what has happened, and Roman material is found directly below road level. Layers 1501-2 are modern road foundation, and 1503 is a redeposited topsoil. The Roman deposits (i.e. layers 1504-1510) consist of 1.8m of dumped gravelly soils and sand, lying over a cut feature F1502 in natural sand L1511. The top of the Roman sequence is cut by a large modern pit F1501. Hadham colour-coats from 1509 indicate that the dumping activity is 3rd or probably 4th century.

| | Heights |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Central</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 29.10 |
| Roman stratified deposits | 28.80 |
| Natural ground | 26.95 |

6.20 TRENCH 16 (figure 20).

Summary

After removal of tarmac and its foundation L1601-2, and post-medieval topsoil L1615, the following features were revealed: a post-medieval pit F1606 (fills L1620, L1618) cutting 1602; F1605 a Roman pit; a soft-red brick wall F1601; and (in section only) F1602 a recent cable trench. The post-medieval pit F1606 occupied most of the northern half of the trench, and cut two brick features F1607-8 which are certainly Victorian and probably a drain run. South of the pit, another large pit was visible, labelled F1605 north of the baulk and F 1603 south of it, but in reality the same feature. This feature was cut down on its south edge to determine the depth of deposits, where it was found to cut an earlier pit F1604. F1604 in turn lay over two layers which may have been the top fills of an earlier pit (L1613, 1616). L1616 sealed natural sand L1622. Dated material from these pits was F1603: 2nd century; F1604: Roman. However, the crucial dating evidence is the 3rd century BB⁸ fragment from L1616 at the lowest point in the sequence, which suggests that F1603-4 are later Roman pits (the dumping activity in adjacent trench 15 is also late Roman). At the north end of the trench, a sondage through L1615 revealed a rather laminated deposit L1617, producing pottery of 1st to early 2nd century date. The laminations did not have any occupation dirt on them - this suggests that they were not floor levels, but simply dumped layers (as in trench 15). L1617 sealed natural sand L1621.

| | Heights | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>South end</u> | <u>North end</u> |
| Modern ground level (tarmac) | 31.20 | 30.30 |
| Post-medieval topsoil | 30.70 | 30.00 |
| Roman stratified deposits | 30.50 | 29.60 |
| Natural ground | 29.75 | 29.20 |

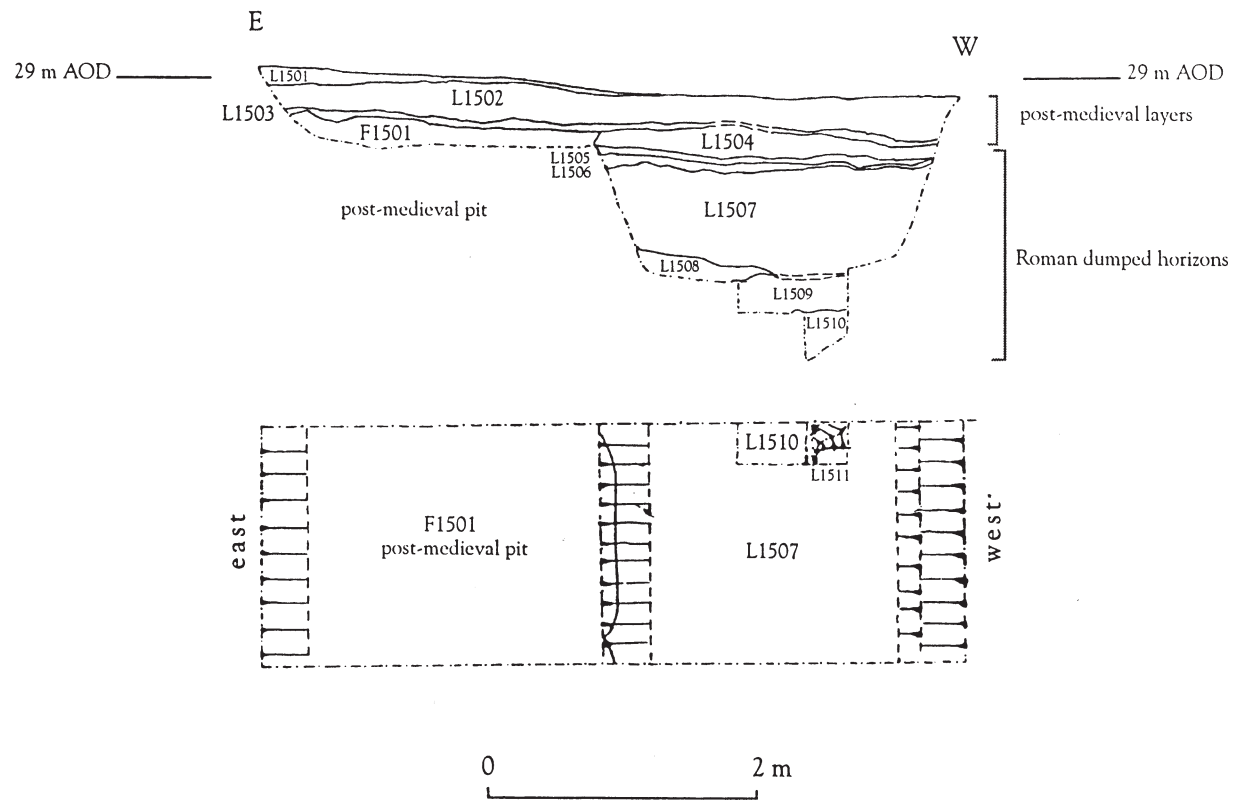


Fig 19 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 15

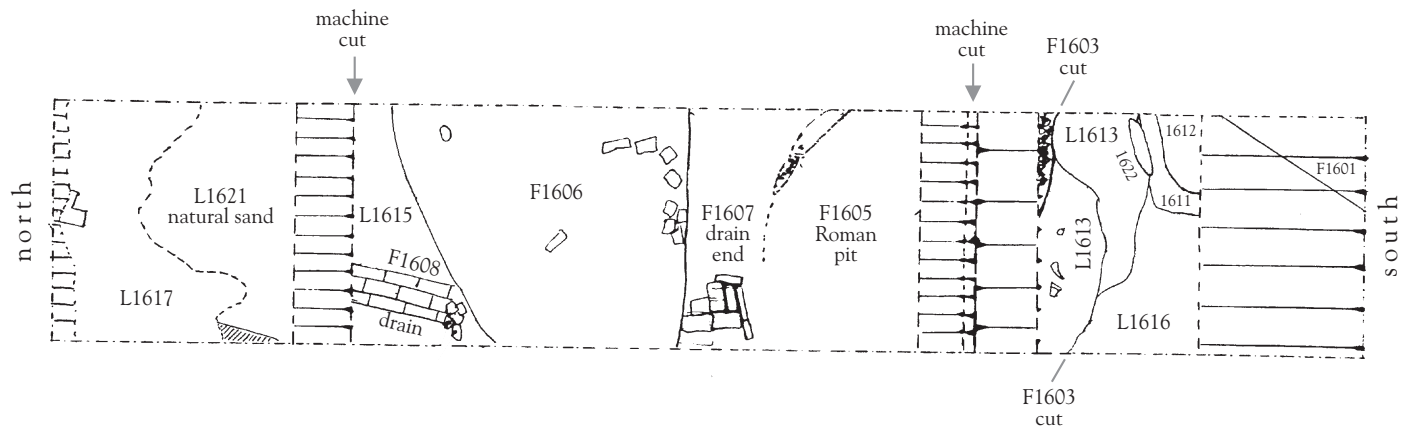
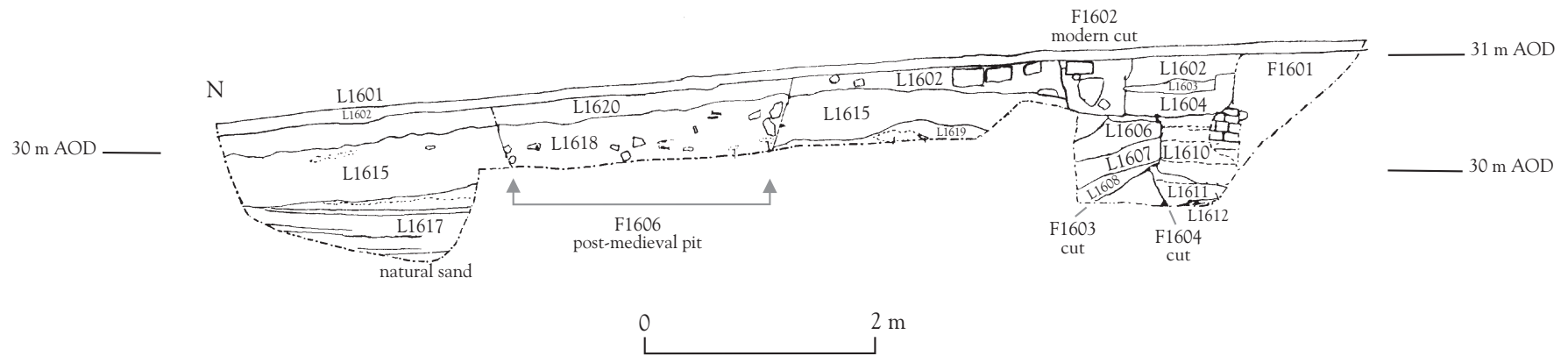


Fig 20 St Mary's Hospital (1997.17): section and plan - Trench 16

7 FINDS

7.1 General

Finds are fully listed and quantified at the end of the report (Section 11.4). Given here are a report on the Small Finds (7.2), and a brief note on the stamped amphora (7.3). Note: all context numbers begin with the trench number: for example F1603 is in trench 16, L201 in trench 2.

7.2 The small finds

Bag 5: F1603: Late Roman pit

Fe object with spatulate end. 60mm long, squarish in section 6x7mm; one end beaten to a 12x14mm flatter and tapering end. This is a fragmentary stylus or writing implement of Manning's type 1 (Manning 1985). There is an almost exact parallel from Culver Street site G (Crummy 1992, figure 5.27, catalogue 980).

Bag 14: L1617: Roman dump layer

Fourteen pieces and crumbs of lava quern. No surfaces. 550 grammes.

Bag 23: L1103: Roman topsoil

Roman grey ware pot base cut into round counter 40mm diameter and 5-6mm thick. 15 grammes.

Bag 26: L1103 Roman topsoil

Almost complete bone hairpin of Crummy type 1 (Crummy 1983). Length 90mm - apparently only a few mm missing from complete length. Tapers gently towards a point - no clearly defined head. Maximum diameter 4mm. Dating probably Flavian to 4th century.

Bag 27: L1103: Roman topsoil

Almost complete bone hairpin of Crummy type 2 (Crummy 1983). Incomplete at 70mm long: maximum diameter 3.5mm. Two grooves beneath head (as in Crummy type 2 pins). Shaft is smooth and polished, and stained green. Dating probably AD 50 to 200.

Bag 43: L1304: Roman topsoil

Fragment of Crummy type 2 bone hairpin (Crummy 1983). Very similar to Crummy 1983 figure 18 number 183. Broken off at 53mm, 4mm maximum diameter. Conical head. Longitudinal knife cuts are visible despite shaft being quite polished. Not stained. Dating probably AD 50 to 200.

Bag 45: L1507: Late Roman dumped layer

Copper alloy stud 8mm long, with flat circular head *circa* 13mm diameter. 4 grammes.

Bag 46: L1507: Late Roman dumped layer

Bone fitting. 58 mm long, 15mm wide tapering to 13mm. Thickness 6.5mm. 6x10mm tab on one end. Pierced through by 3mm diameter drilled hole which slightly intrudes on upper surface and one of two grooves 8m apart on upper surface. There is a very close parallel for this object from Culver Street (Crummy 1992, page 203-4, figure 5.69 number 2217), where it is described a similar to the back plate of a scabbard chape, but much thinner.

Bag 60: F305: Later Roman pit.

Fragment of folded sheet bronze or copper alloy. 12 grammes. No decoration. Perhaps 65x25mm if unfolded. Less than 1mm thick.

Bag 74: L103: Medieval/post-medieval topsoil

Single piece of lava quern. 60 grammes. Residual.

Bag 97: F302: Later Roman pit

Fragment of open ceramic lamp, part of base and whole depth of wall. Base tapers from 7 to 4mm; wall is 4-5mm thick. Pale orange fabric (Munsell 5yr 6/6 reddish yellow). This was originally in bag 88, but was extracted and given its own bag number.

Bag 98: L1304: Roman topsoil

Broken stone hone. Fine-grained grey schist. 26x19mm and subrectangular in section at big end, tapering to 26x13mm at broken end. Maximum length 45mm. Weight 45 grammes.

Bag 99: L1303: Post-medieval topsoil

Broken point end of bone hairpin. 34m long. Crummy type cannot be established. Residual

7.3 The stamped amphora handle, Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums)

A stamped amphora handle was recovered unstratified from this site (either trench 16, 12, or 11).

Paul Sealey writes: The form is Dressel 20, and the amphora is Baetican - i.e. a South Spanish olive oil amphora, dating from the first to the third century A.D. The stamp reads PQM..(at least 2 letters illegible).

This stamp is not listed in Callender (1965), but is one of the large body of PQ stamps found on Dressel 20 amphorae.

8 SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Aims

The specification defined the following aims for this evaluation: to establish, as fully as possible, given the site constraints, the horizontal and vertical extent, character, condition and quality of archaeological deposits within the site. The horizontal extent of the remains, as well as their character and quality, will be commented on below, and is summarised on figure 21. The vertical extent is shown by the figures given for each trench (figures 3-20), and is shown in schematic form in figure 22

The horizontal extent of the archaeological remains.

The results of the evaluation confirm the general impressions of the archaeological and historical development of the site outlined in Paul Chadwick's Desk-based study, without confirming many of the details. With the exception of trenches 9 and 14, where deposits were truncated or not well defined, the evaluation revealed archaeological deposits over the whole of the site. With the exception of the prehistoric sherd (T10) and two flint flakes (T1, T10), these deposits were exclusively Roman in date, and break down into five broad categories:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Roman topsoil only | T4, 5, 8 |
| 2 | Roman topsoil and cut Roman features | T1, 3, 12, 13 |
| 3 | Stratified Roman material | T7, 10, 11, 15, 16 |
| 4 | Roman building | T2 |
| 5 | Destroyed or unclear | T6, 9, 14 |

The buildings

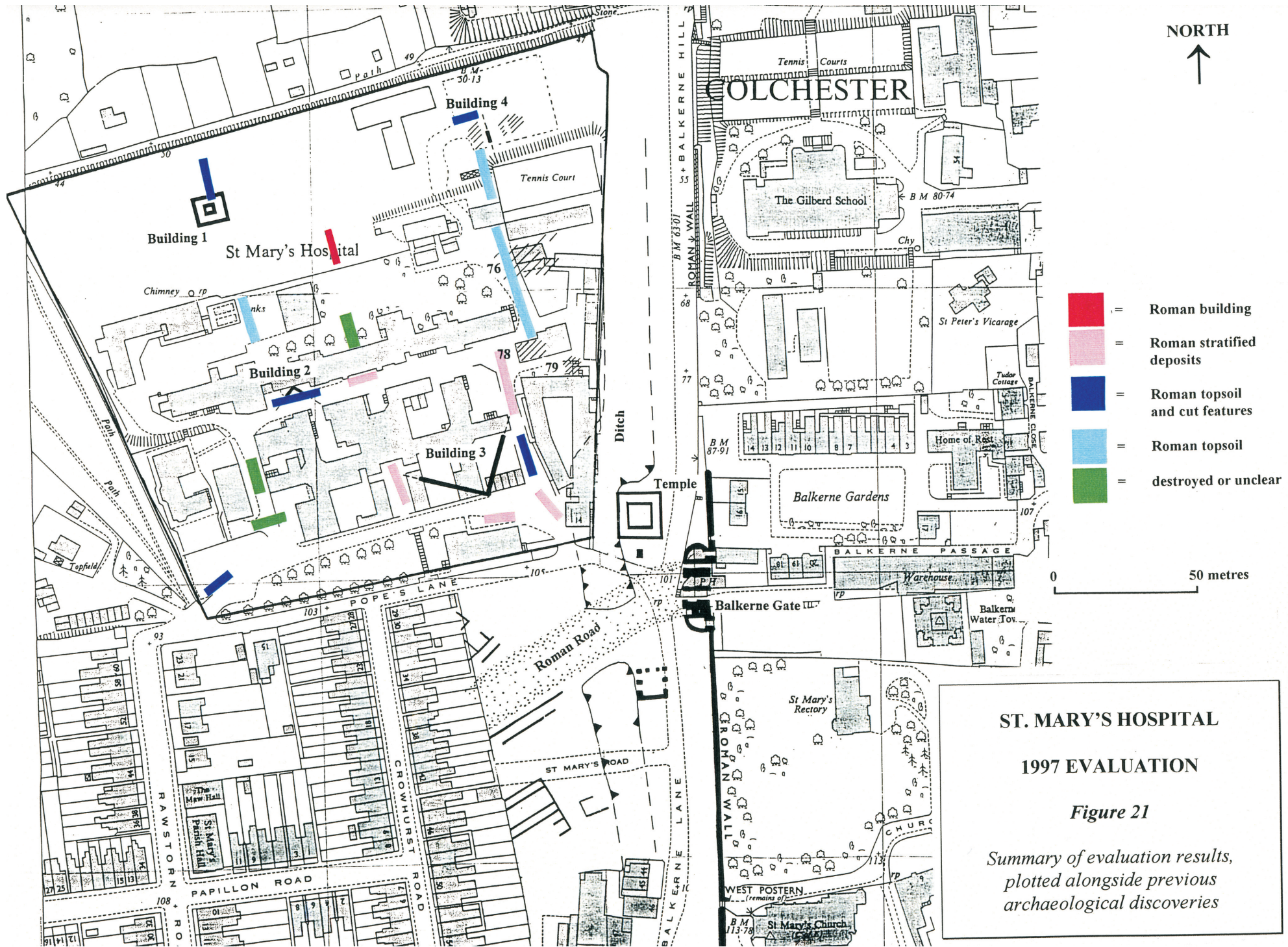
Previously recorded structures (**Buildings 1-3**) were elusive. **Building 2** was not picked up in trench 7, nor was **Building 3** in either 10 or 11. **Building 1** was not detected by geophysical survey, but a stone structure was located in trench 2, some distance south and east. Has **Building 1** been recorded incorrectly, and is this it? This stone structure, which has masonry *in situ*⁹, must be regarded as a high quality archaeological deposit. Resistivity survey results might be interpreted as showing that there is more of this structure in the ground to the west of trench 2.

Despite the elusiveness of the previously recorded buildings, there is other evidence of buildings on the site. The burnt deposits in T7 (and a fragment from 6), presumably Boudiccan destruction, point to the existence of a building slightly east of Hull's **Building 2**. The lumps of burnt Boudiccan debris from T6, although apparently redeposited, help to define its spread to the north-east. On the same point, if the normal sequence of stone structures replacing wooden ones in the second century is true in this instance, then we have the beginnings of a sequence of buildings here: first, the Boudiccan destruction of a building, then a rough surface (both trench 7 and 11), and finally Hull's stone building (**Building 2**).

Minor structural evidence

Apart from the stone structure found in T2, and the buildings discussed above, there are other signs of activity which may be associated with buildings. Specifically, the pathway in T11 may be heading towards the Fever Ward, where there are records of remains including a tessellated floor (nos. 78, 79 of Paul Chadwick's fig. 3).

⁹ i.e. in its original position



**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
1997 EVALUATION**

Figure 21

*Summary of evaluation results,
plotted alongside previous
archaeological discoveries*

The site in general

Moving away from buildings to the site in general, what is the overall impression of the archaeological remains? First, that with the exception of two prehistoric struck flints (T1, 10) and a probable prehistoric potsherd (T10), we appear to be dealing exclusively with Roman remains, and there is no evidence of significant prehistoric or medieval deposits.

Except where it has been removed by later truncation (T6, T9, T14-16) there is a consistent blanket of Roman topsoil over the whole site. Roman rubbish pits cut the Roman topsoil in T1, 3, 12, 13, and a late Roman burial cuts it in trench 11.

There is always a difficulty in interpreting the evidence from a series of narrow trenches - inevitably, each trench will throw light on a slightly different aspect of the story. However, a reasonable sequence for the remains exposed in this evaluation might be as follows:

Prehistoric

Although previous discoveries might have led us to expect more prehistoric material from this site, there were only a struck flint and a potsherd in a potentially prehistoric context in T10, and a residual struck flint in T1.

Roman

In many cases, there are contexts on this site which are only dateable as "Roman", and to go beyond that would be stretching the evidence. However, there is reasonably good dating evidence from the central and south-eastern part of the site - from (clockwise) T7, T11, T16, T15, and T10 - and it is on those trenches that we can base a reasonable dating scheme for the Roman remains.

First and second centuries

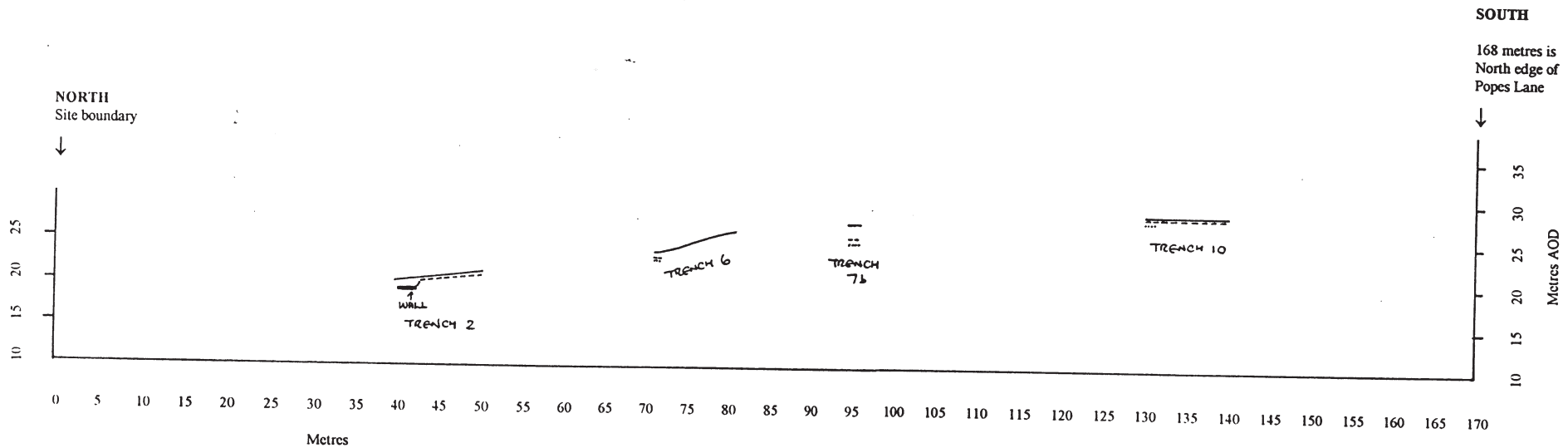
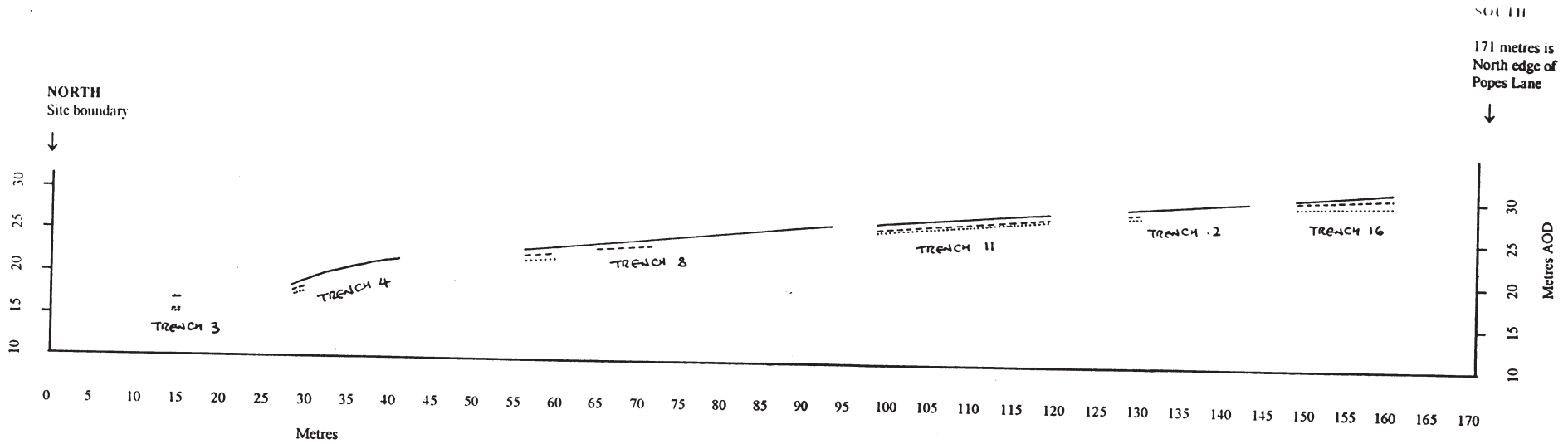
There are certainly early Roman deposits on site. In T7, the burnt horizon is probably Boudiccan, and similar material came from trench 6 north of the hospital building. In T10, a pit at the top of the sequence dates no later than the early 2nd century, therefore the stratified material below it (a yard surface and possible clay floor) must necessarily be later 1st century or early 2nd.

Second and third centuries

The rough surface overlying the Boudiccan deposits in T7 is early 2nd century in date, and the rough surface in T11 is later 2nd or 3rd. Clearly, we can infer activity of a minor constructional type from this evidence, but the real difficulty here is that the previously recorded masonry buildings 1-3, should (if they are typical) date to the second century. And yet no trace of them was found in the evaluation. Certainly, there was the odd unstratified tessera, and piece of painted wall plaster (T6), but these merely bear witness to the same structures which are evident from the large amount of brick and roof tile. It is conceivable that the trace of *opus signinum* in the rough pathway in T11 could have been mistaken for a floor, and even a tessellated pavement base, but this is a difficult area of speculation. It is not our place here to discount previous records wholesale, but one must question the accuracy of some of them. Especially difficult is building 2, which should have shown up in T7 as either a lump of masonry or a robber trench, but was simply not visible. However, there is one piece of evidence which makes sense. We will argue below that the Roman topsoil layer, found over large parts of the site, is 3rd to 4th century in date. In trench 2, the newly-discovered masonry wall appeared to be sealed by this topsoil horizon, therefore a 2nd century date for that wall (and the building of which it is a part) would seem appropriate. The rough surface in T7 above the Boudiccan deposits is probably early second century, and the gravel surface in T11 belongs to the later 2nd or third century.

Third and fourth centuries

The Roman topsoil blanket over the site seems to belong to this period. Certainly, it is well dated in T11 to the 3rd or 4th century. Similarly, where the Roman pits are well dated (T16) they are 3rd or 4th century. The deep dumping activity in T15 is also 3rd or probably 4th century. The Roman inhumation burial was inserted into the topsoil horizon in the fourth century or later.



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL 1997 EVALUATION Figure 22

*North-South site transect, across east edge (above), and centre of site (below)
(solid line=modern ground; broken line = Roman ground; dots = natural*

General comment

It is difficult to make definitive statements from evaluation results, but there does seem to be a distinction between the early and later Roman remains here. The first and second century remains speak of construction and renewal, whereas the third and fourth tell a different story- topsoil growth, pit digging, dumping, and burials. It is as if the site were part of the town proper in the early period, but had become marginal land later on. In a recent discussion of the development of the town (Crummy 1992, figure 2.11) it has been suggested that the St Mary's site was included within the town until approximately AD 100 or 125 (period 4), but thereafter was excluded, principally by the construction of the masonry town wall (periods 5 and 6). Although the St Mary's evidence might suggest that it was "town" a little later than AD 125, it generally fits in well with this interpretation.

Later Remains

With the exception of a few identifiable modern pits (T16, T14, T7) the evidence for post-Roman activity on the site consists entirely of topsoil layers. Whatever combination of circumstances one accepts for the accumulation of soils (natural growth, dumping, cultivation, etc., after the date of the inhumation burial, the site seems to have become a field until Victorian times. Whether the field was a series of small or large parcels, and whether it was or cultivated or not is difficult to demonstrate from the evidence here. The impression is that the increasing depth of topsoil on the site the farther down slope (to the north) may be evidence that cultivation encouraged hill wash, with the resultant greater depth of soil on the north side of the site.

Terracing

One of the main surprise results of the evaluation is that, with two exceptions, there has been no widespread terracing of the site. First, a lot of ground has been removed on the immediate south edge of the site, with the result that Roman remains lie almost directly below ground in T10 and T15. Second, T6 and T5 show that the northerly road line has been terraced into the hill slope, and natural ground is closer to modern ground level than (for instance) in T7 on the south side of the main building. The recent rather irregular fall of the land can therefore be put down to the construction of various buildings down the slope, and subsequent building up of deposits against those points.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Wyncote Developments for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, through the good offices of Paul Chadwick of CgMs Archaeological and Environmental Consultants.

The excavation was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust - Director Philip Crummy, St. Mary's Hospital site manager Howard Brooks. All the hard work (digging and recording) was done cheerfully by Colin Austin, Nigel Rayner and Stewart Gibson. The resistivity survey was carried out and reported on by Peter Cott.

Martin Winter and Mark Davies of Colchester Museums (CM) provided curatorial advice throughout the site work.

Thanks to the site owners Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust for providing access to the site, and allowing us to use office accommodation, storage space and toilet facilities of unparalleled comfort for an excavation. Thanks also to the site security staff at the Hospital, especially Colin, who made us so welcome.

Thanks to Paul Sealey of CM for advice on Roman amphora, and to Stephen Benfield of CAT for spot-dating the Roman pottery. Original illustrations by site staff, tidied by HB and scanned by Gillian Andrews. Conservation of finds by Anne-Marie Bojko of CM. This report by Howard Brooks.

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Site context list

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL 1997 CONTEXT LIST

| Context | Trench | Description | Cut by | Cuts | Context date |
|---------|--------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 101 | 1 | Topsoil | | 102 | Modern |
| 102 | 1 | Dump | 101 | 103 | Modern |
| 103 | 1 | Dumped soil | F102 | 104 | Post-med |
| 104 | 1 | Soil | 103 | F102 | Roman |
| 105 | 1 | Redeposited natural | F102 | | Roman |
| 106 | 1 | Layer | 105 | 107 | Roman |
| 107 | 1 | Layer | 106 | 108 | Roman |
| 108 | 1 | Layer | 107 | | Roman |
| F101 | 1 | Trench | 102 | 103 | Post-medieval |
| F102 | 1 | Cut feature | 104 | 105 | Roman |
| 201 | 2 | Turf | | 202 | Modern |
| 202 | 2 | Topsoil | F201, 201 | 203 | Modern |
| 203 | 2 | Topsoil | F201, 202 | F203, 207 | Roman |
| 204 | 2 | Redeposited natural | F204, F202 | 207 | Roman |
| 205 | 2 | Gravelly patch | 202 | 203 | Roman? |
| 206 | 2 | Oyster patch | 202 | 203 | Roman |
| 207 | 2 | Natural | 203-4, F202 | | |
| F201 | 2 | Pit | 201 | 202, F203 | Modern |
| F202 | 2 | Cut feature | F203 | 204, 207 | Roman |
| F203 | 2 | Masonry Wall | 203 | F202 | Roman |
| F204 | 2 | Cut feature = F202 | | 204 | Roman |
| 301 | 3 | Tarmac and foundation | | 302 | Modern |
| 302 | 3 | Topsoil | 301 | F301 | Modern |
| 303 | 3 | Topsoil | F301 | F303-4 | Post-medieval |
| 304 | 3 | Topsol | F302, F305 | 305 | Roman |
| 305 | 3 | Natural | F303-4, 304 | | |
| F301 | 3 | Trench | 302 | 303, F302, F305 | Modern |
| F302 | 3 | Cut feature | F301 | 304 | Roman |
| F303 | 3 | Scoop | 303 | 305 | Undated |
| F304 | 3 | Scoop | 303 | 305 | Undated |
| F305 | 3 | Cut feature | F301 | 304 | Roman |
| 401 | 4 | Topsoil | | 402, 405 | Modern |
| 402 | 4 | Rubble | 401 | 403 | Modern |
| 403 | 4 | Tarmac | 402 | 404 | Modern |
| 404 | 4 | Demolition debris | 403 | F401-2 | Modern |
| 405 | 4 | Topsoil | F401-2, 401 | 406 | Mod/post-med |
| 406 | 4 | Topsoil | 405 | 407 | Post-med/med |
| 407 | 4 | Topsoil | 406 | 408 | Roman |
| 408 | 4 | Natural | 407 | | |
| F401 | 4 | Concrete slab | 404 | 405 | Modern |
| F402 | 4 | Concrete slab | 404 | 405 | Modern |
| 501 | 5 | Tarmac | | 502 | Modern |
| 502 | 5 | Dump | F501 | 503 | Modern |
| 503 | 5 | Topsoil | F501, 502 | | Post-med |
| 504 | 5 | Topsoil | 503 | 504 | Roman |
| 505 | 5 | Disturbed natural | 504 | | Roman? |
| 506 | 5 | Natural | 505 | | |
| F501 | 5 | Service trench | 502 | 503 | Modern |
| 601 | 6 | Dump | | 602 | Modern |
| 602 | 6 | Dump | 601 | 603 | Mod/post-med |
| 603 | 6 | Dump | 602 | F603 | Mod/post-med |
| 604 | 6 | Make up | | 605 | Modern |
| 605 | 6 | Make up | 604 | 606 | Mod/post-med |
| 606 | 6 | Dump | 605 | 608 | Roman? |
| 607 | 6 | Demolition debris | F601, F606 | 608 | Roman |
| 608 | 6 | Reworked natural | 608 | | Roman? |
| F601 | 6 | Cut | | 607 | Modern |
| F602 | 6 | Dump | | 602 | Modern |
| F603 | 6 | Dump | F604 | 607 | Mod/post-med |
| F604 | 6 | Dump | 603 | F603 | Mod/post-med |
| 701 | 7b | Tarmac | | 702 | Modern |

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL 1997 CONTEXT LIST

| Context | Trench | Description | Cut by | Cuts | Context date |
|---------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 704 | 7b | Demolition debris | F702-3, 703 | 705 | Mod/post-med |
| 705 | 7b | Debris | F702-3, 704 | 706 | Mod/post-med |
| 706 | 7b | Layer | F702, 705 | 707 | Post-med |
| 707 | 7b | Layer | F702-3, 706 | 708 | Post-med |
| 708 | 7b | Mortar layer | F702 707 | 709 | Post-med |
| 709 | 7b | Layer | 708 | 710 | Post-med |
| 710 | 7b | Mortary layer | 708 | 711 | Post-med |
| 711 | 7b | Layer | 710 | 712 | Post-med |
| 712 | 7b | Topsoil | 710, 711 | 713 | Post-med |
| 713 | 7b | Surface | 712 | 715 | Roman |
| 714 | 7b | Crushed opus signinum | 712 | 713 | Roman |
| 715 | 7b | Make up | 713 | 716 | Roman |
| 716 | 7b | Make up | 715 | 717 | Roman |
| 717 | 7b | Destruction debris | 716 | 718 | Boudiccan |
| 718 | 7b | Dirty natural | 717 | 719 | Roman |
| 718 | 7b | Dirty natural | 717 | 719 | Roman |
| 719 | 7b | Natural | 718 | | |
| 720 | | Not used | | | |
| 721 | 7a | Tarmac | | 722 | Modern |
| 722 | 7a | Concrete slab and gravel | F723-4, 721 | 723-4 | Modern |
| 723 | 7a | Topsoil | 722 | F721, 724 | Post-medieval |
| 724 | 7a | Topsoil | 723 | F722, 726 | Roman |
| 725 | 7a | Natural gravel | F721-2, 724 | | |
| 726 | 7a | Demolition debris | 724 | | Boudiccan? |
| F701 | 7b | Trench | F702 | | Modern |
| F702 | 7b | Pit | 702 | F701 | Modern |
| F703 | 7b | Drain trench | 702 | 703-5,707 | Modern |
| F704 | 7b | Not used | | | |
| F705 | 7b | Not used | | | |
| F706 | 7b | Drain cut | | 714 | Modern |
| F707 | 7b | Pipe | 702 | | Modern |
| F708 | 7b | Pipe trench | F703 | | Modern |
| F721 | 7a | Cut feature | 723 | 725 | Roman? |
| F722 | 7a | Cut feature | 724 | 725 | Roman |
| F723 | 7a | Drain trench | 721 | 722 | Modern |
| F724 | 7a | Drain trench | 721 | 722 | Modern |
| F725 | 7a | Drain trench | 722 | F728, F726 | Modern |
| F726 | 7a | Brick wall | F725, 722 | F727 | Victorian |
| F727 | 7a | Concrete slab | F726 | 724 | Victorian |
| 801 | 8 | Tarmac | | 802 | Modern |
| 802 | 8 | Dump | 801 | 803 | Modern |
| 803 | 8 | Topsoil | 802 | 804 | Post-medieval |
| 804 | 8 | Topsoil | 803 | 805 | Roman+ |
| 805 | 8 | Lens in 803 | | | Post-medieval |
| 806 | 8 | Dirty natural | 805 | 807 | Roman |
| 807 | 8 | Natural | 806 | | |
| 901 | 9 | Tarmac | | 902 | Modern |
| 902 | 9 | Brick rubble | 901 | 903 | Modern |
| 903 | 9 | Topsoil | 902 | 904 | Post-medieval |
| 904 | 9 | Dumped soil | 903 | 905 | Post-medieval |
| 905 | 9 | Dumped soil | 904 | | Post-medieval |
| F901 | 9 | Well cut | 903 | 905 | Victorian |
| F902 | 9 | Unexcavated pit | 903? | 905 | Post-med |
| F903 | 9 | Unexcavated pit | 903? | 905 | Post-med |
| 1001 | 10 | Tarmac and gravel | | 1002, 1004 | Modern |
| 1002 | 10 | Layer | 1001 | 1003 | Roman? |
| 1003 | 10 | Layer | 1002 | F1003 | |
| 1004 | 10 | Layer | 1001 | 1005 | |
| 1005 | 10 | Layer | 1004 | 1006 | |
| 1006 | 10 | Yard surface | 1005 | 1007 | Roman |
| 1007 | 10 | Surface | 1006 | 1008 | Roman |

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL 1997 CONTEXT LIST

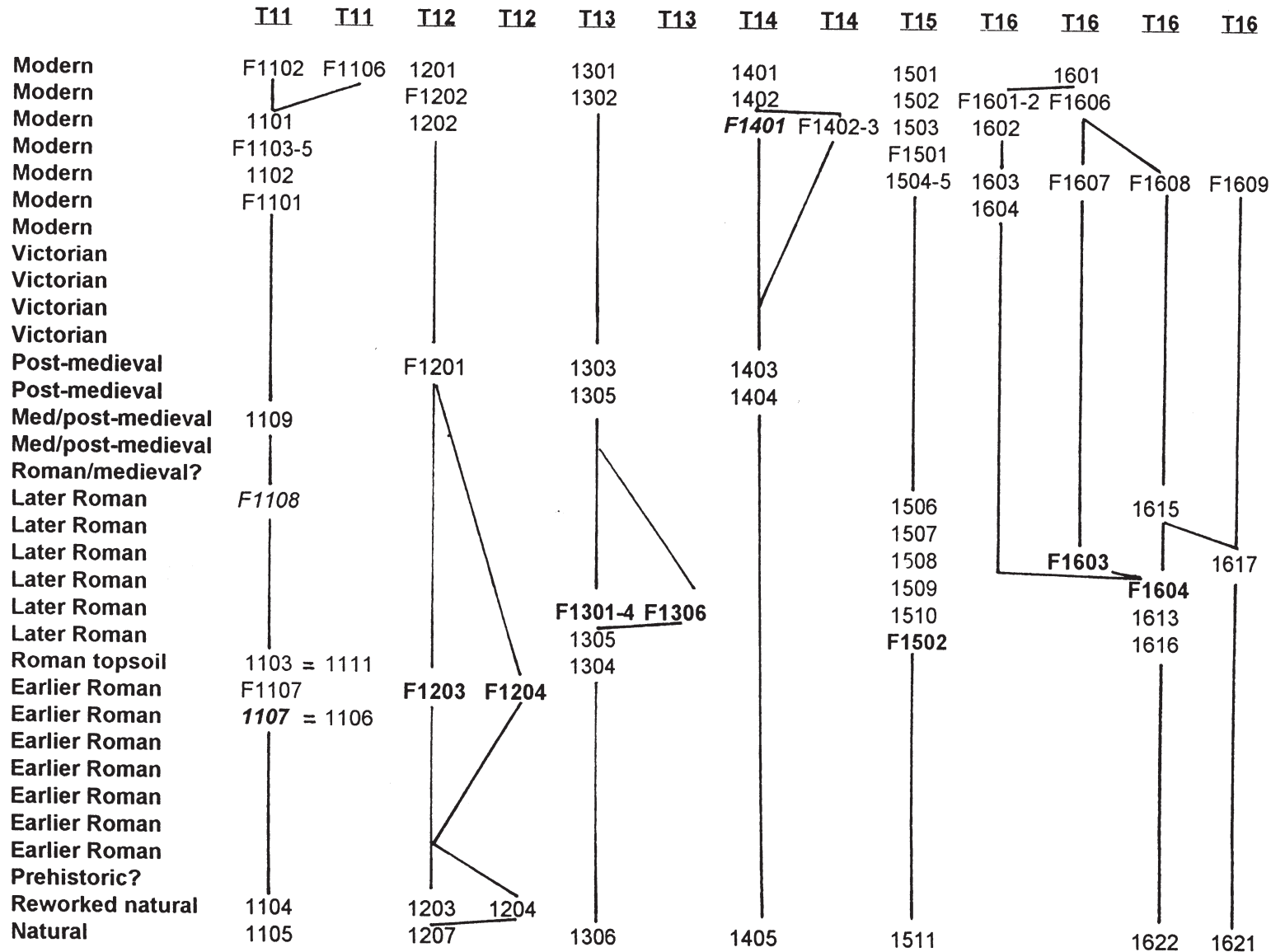
| Context | Trench | Description | Cut by | Cuts | Context date |
|---------|--------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1008 | 10 | Layer | 1007 | 1010 | Prehistoric |
| 1009 | 10 | Natural | F1004-6, 1012 | | |
| 1010 | 10 | Natural | F1004-6, 1012 | | |
| 1011 | 10 | Dump | F1002 | 1012 | Roman |
| 1012 | 10 | Dump or fill | 1011 | | Roman |
| F1001 | 10 | Small pit | | 1011 | Roman |
| F1002 | 10 | Small cut | | 1010 | Roman |
| F1003 | 10 | Layer | 1003 | F1004-5 | Roman |
| F1004 | 10 | Small cut | F1003 | 1010 | Roman |
| F1005 | 10 | Stake hole | F1003 | 1010 | Roman |
| F1006 | 10 | Stake hole | | 1010 | Roman |
| F1007 | 10 | Lined cut - burial? | F1001 | | Roman |
| 1101 | 11 | Tarmac | | 1102 | Modern |
| 1102 | 11 | Dump | 1101 | 1109 | Post-med |
| 1103 | 11 | Topsoil | 1109 | | Roman |
| 1104 | 11 | Redeposited natural | 1103 | 1105 | Roman |
| 1105 | 11 | Natural | 1104 | | |
| 1106 | 11 | Surface | 1103 | 1110 | Roman |
| 1107 | 11 | Surface (= 1106) | 1103 | | Roman |
| 1108 | 11 | Fill of F1107 | | | |
| 1109 | 11 | Layer | 1102 | 1103 | Post-med |
| 1110 | 11 | Repair to surface 1106 | 1102 | 1106, 1103 | Roman |
| 1111 | 11 | Layer = 1103 | 1109 | 1112-3 | Roman |
| 1112 | 11 | Redeposited natural = 1104 | 1111 | 1105 | Roman |
| 1113 | 11 | Layer | 1111 | | Roman |
| 1114 | 11 | Repair to 1106 | 1110 | | Roman |
| F1101 | 11 | Pipe trench | 1101 | | Modern |
| F1102 | 11 | Subsidence hollow | | 1101 | Modern |
| F1103 | 11 | Pipe and cable trench | 1101 | 1102 | Modern |
| F1104 | 11 | Pipe trench | 1101 | 1102 | Modern |
| F1105 | 11 | Pipe trench | 1101 | 1102 | Modern |
| F1106 | 11 | Subsidence hollow | | 1101 | Modern |
| F1107 | 11 | Cut feature | 1108 | 1107 | Roman |
| F1108 | 11 | Inhumation burial | 1109 | 1103 | Late Roman++ |
| 1201 | 12 | Tarmac | | F1202,1202 | Modern |
| 1202 | 12 | Road surface | F1202, 1201 | F1201 | Modern |
| 1203 | 12 | Layer | F1203 | 1207 | Roman |
| 1204 | 12 | Layer | F1201 | 1205 | Roman |
| 1205 | 12 | Redeposited natural | 1204 | 1207 | Roman |
| 1206 | 12 | Fill of F1203 | | | Roman |
| 1207 | 12 | Natural | F1203,1204-5 | | |
| F1201 | 12 | Gravel surface | 1202 | F1203, 1204 | Post-medieval |
| F1202 | 12 | Pipe trench | 1201 | 1202 | Modern |
| F1203 | 12 | Pit | F1201 | 1207 | |
| 1301 | 13 | Tarmac | | 1302 | Modern |
| 1302 | 13 | Dump | 1301 | 1303 | Modern |
| 1303 | 13 | Topsoil | 1301, 1302 | 1304 | Post-medieval |
| 1304 | 13 | Topsoil | F1301-5 | 1306 | |
| 1305 | 13 | Fill of unex feature | 1303 | 1306 | Roman |
| 1306 | 13 | Natural | F1301-2, 1304 | | |
| F1301 | 13 | Pit | 1303 | 1304 | Roman |
| F1302 | 13 | Small pit | 1303 | 1304 | Roman |
| F1303 | 13 | Pit | 1303 | 1304 | Roman |
| F1304 | 13 | Pit | 1303 | 1304 | Roman |
| F1305 | 13 | Pit | 1303 | 1304 | Post-medieval |
| F1306 | 13 | Pit with animal bone | 1303 | 1304 | Roman |
| 1401 | 14 | Tarmac | | 1402 | Modern |
| 1402 | 14 | Brick rubble foundation | 1401 | 1403 | Modern |
| 1403 | 14 | Topsoil | 1402, F1402 | 1404 | Post-medieval |
| 1404 | 14 | Topsoil | F1401-2,1403 | 1405 | Roman |
| 1405 | 14 | Natural | F1401-2,1404 | | |

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL 1997 CONTEXT LIST

| Context | Trench | Description | Cut by | Cuts | Context date |
|---------|--------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1406 | 14 | Fill of F1403 | | | |
| 1407 | 14 | Fill of F1402 | | | Roman |
| F1401 | 14 | Brick wall | 1402 | 1405 | Roman |
| F1402 | 14 | Large pit | F1406, 1402 | 1403-5 | Modern |
| F1403 | 14 | Large pit | 1402, 1405 | 1403-5 | Post-medieval |
| 1501 | 15 | Tarmac | | 1502 | Modern |
| 1502 | 15 | Rubble | 1501 | 1503 | Modern |
| 1503 | 15 | Truncated topsoil | 1502 | F1501 | Post-med? |
| 1504 | 15 | Dump | F1501 | 1505 | Roman |
| 1505 | 15 | Dump | 1504 | 1506 | Roman |
| 1506 | 15 | Dump | 1505 | 1507 | Roman |
| 1507 | 15 | Dump | 1506 | 1508 | Roman |
| 1508 | 15 | Dump | 1507 | 1509 | Roman |
| 1509 | 15 | Dump | 1508 | 1510 | Roman |
| 1510 | 15 | Dump | 1509 | F1502 | Roman |
| 1511 | 15 | Natural | F1502 | | Roman |
| F1501 | 15 | Pit | 1503 | 1504 | Modern |
| F1502 | 15 | Cut feature | 1510 | 1511 | Roman |
| 1601 | 16 | Tarmac | | 1602 | Modern |
| 1602 | 16 | Foundation | F1601-2, 1602 | 1615 | Modern |
| 1603 | 16 | Dump | 1602 | 1604 | Victorian |
| 1604 | 16 | Redeposited topsoil | 1603 | 1610 | Victorian |
| 1605 | 16 | Fill of F1602 | | | Modern |
| 1606 | 16 | Fill of pit F1603 | 1609 | 1607 | Roman |
| 1607 | 16 | Fill of pit F1603 | F1607, 1606 | 1608 | Roman |
| 1608 | 16 | Fill of pit F1603 | 1607 | 1610 | Roman |
| 1609 | 16 | Fill of pit F1603 | 1602 | 1606 | Roman |
| 1610 | 16 | Fill of pit F1604 | 1608 | 1611 | Roman |
| 1611 | 16 | Fill of pit F1604 | 1610 | 1612 | Roman |
| 1612 | 16 | Fill of pit F1604 | 1611 | 1613 | Roman |
| 1613 | 16 | Layer | 1612 | 1616 | Roman |
| 1614 | 16 | Uncertain | | | ??? |
| 1615 | 16 | Topsoil | F1608, 1602 | 1617, 1619 | Post-medieval |
| 1616 | 16 | Layer | 1613 | 1622 | Roman |
| 1617 | 16 | Dump layers | F1609, 1615 | 1621 | Roman |
| 1618 | 16 | Fill of F1606 | 1620 | | Modern |
| 1619 | 16 | Fill of pit F1605 | 1615 | | Roman |
| 1620 | 16 | Fill of F1606 | | 1618 | Modern |
| 1621 | 16 | Natural | 1617 | | Natural |
| 1622 | 16 | Natural | 1616 | | Natural |
| F1601 | 16 | Wall | 1601 | | Victorian |
| F1602 | 16 | Cable trench | | | Modern |
| F1603 | 16 | Cut feature | | 1610-11, 1613 | Roman |
| F1604 | 16 | Cut feature | F1603 | 1613 | Roman |
| F1605 | 16 | Cut feature = F1603 | F1606 | | Roman |
| F1606 | 16 | Pit | | 1602, 1605, 1615 | Post-med |
| F1607 | 16 | Brick feature | F1606 | | Victorian |
| F1608 | 16 | Drain | F1606 | | Victorian |
| F1609 | 16 | Drain | | | Victorian |

11.2 Site matrices

St Mary's Hospital Archaeological Evaluation (1997.17: SMH 97)



Notes: F=feature; (number only)=layer. Bold=Roman cut feature; Underline=burnt deposit; italic=inhumation
 underline italic=op sig content; bold italic=hospital period; bold underline italic=Roman wall

11.3 Magnetometer and Resistivity results

GEOPHYSICS SURVEY REPORT

St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester

Peter J. Cott

1. Introduction.

This report covers the geophysical survey made at St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester, at the request of the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

The site (NGR TLxxxxx) is approximately 500m to the west of the Roman Balkerne Gate in Colchester.

2. Site plan.

The site plan is shown in Figure 1. An area of 60m x 40m was laid out on a north facing grassy slope on the northern edge of the hospital grounds.

3. Survey Methods.

The survey was carried out in May 1997. The site is free from magnetic disturbance from electricity wires and railways, but to the north of the pegged area there was an iron fence running east-west, and to the south of the surveyed area there was a large iron water main running east-west.

The survey area comprised six squares, each of which had sides 20m in length.

The survey was carried out using a Geoscan Research Fluxgate Gradiometer FM18. In each 20m square, readings were taken at 0.5m intervals in the north-south direction, and 1m intervals in the east-west direction, using a parallel method of survey, walking always in the south to north direction. There were therefore 800 readings per square. The data from each grid was dumped into a laptop computer on site, and finally processed on a Pentium 100 desktop machine off site. The computer program used was the InSite program from GeoQuest of Durham.

The survey plot uses a gray scale method of presentation, in which the computer program allocates a particular shade of grey to the position of each of the 800 readings per square, depending on the value of the reading at that point.

Each 20m square in the raw data plot has been plotted without any upper or lower cut-off value, and by means of the program, each square has been matched in contrast as nearly as possible to its neighbour. No contrast factor has been used, so the plot density in each square varies linearly from the minimum to the maximum value according to the magnetic response..

4. Results and Discussion.

Figure 2 shows the raw data as a grey scale plot, at a scale of 1:500. It can be seen that the site is "noisy" from the magnetic point of view, with some large magnetic responses in the south-east corner of the plot. The dark edge on the south side of the plot is due to the influence of the water main previously mentioned. Similarly the

lighter responses at the northern edge of the plot are due to the iron fence about 5m away.

As it is not easy to distinguish archaeological anomalies from the plot of the raw data, the information has been processed by the computer program, and the result is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows the result, at a scale of 1:500 when the raw data is passed through a low pass filter, and an edge-enhance filter. This has the advantage of improving somewhat the visibility of the anomalies. In Figure 3, item A is a ring feature approximately 10m in diameter, which can also be seen in Figure 2. There appears to be a central anomaly within the ring, and the northern edge of the ring has some positive magnetic responses, which may be due to a ditch.

Item B is a large number of high magnetic responses running NW/SE on the eastern side of the plot. These could possibly be due to debris from the excavation of the level ground to the east for the nurses home.

Item C covers the large disturbances in the south-east of the plot. Such responses are generally caused by pieces of ferrous material close to the surface, but in this case it should be noted that adjacent to the south-east corner of the surveyed area is a small building which is described as a kiln. These large responses could therefore be due either to pieces of iron or pieces of discarded fired clay.

Item D is from a large magnetic disturbance, the centre of which is to the south of the plot, as may be seen from Figure 2.

Item E appears to be a second ring shaped feature about 8m in diameter, although the response is very faint. Again there appears to be a central feature within the ring.

It must be noted that the site plan, Figure 1, includes a small ring feature in the area marked for the geophysical survey. However, this feature does not coincide with the position of the two ring anomalies mentioned above.

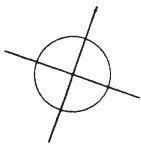
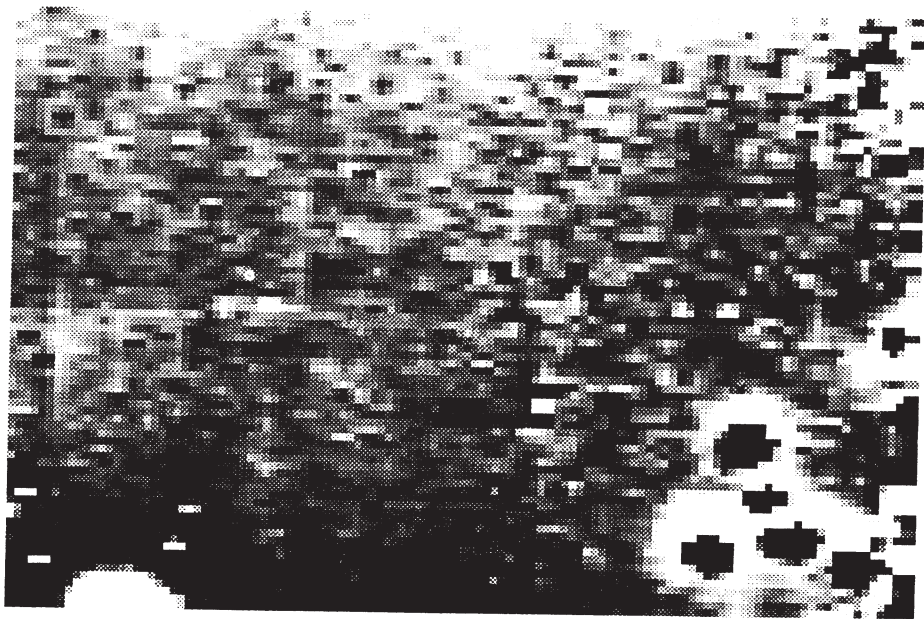
5. Conclusions.

Although there were no large responses which could be easily identified, the two ring features described in section 4 would be worth further investigation.

6. Acknowledgements.

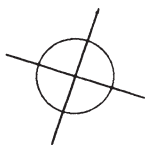
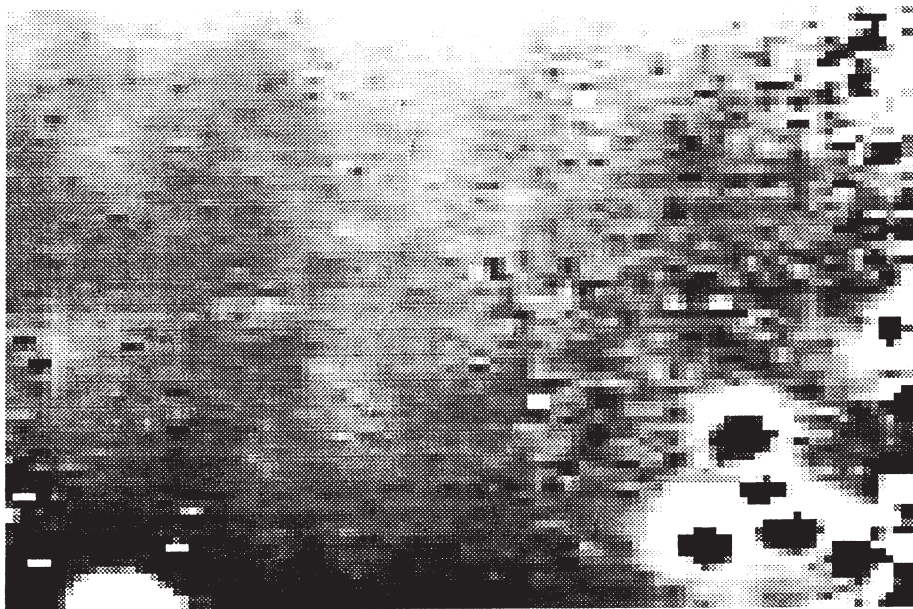
Thanks are due to Steve Benfield and Howard Brooks for setting out the survey area, and to Colchester Museum for the loan of the magnetometer.

St. Mary's Hospital



Raw data

St. Mary's Hospital



Filtered data

COTTCONSULT

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Tel: +44 1371 811043

Fax: +44 1371 810748

11th May 1997

PJC/518/97

Howard Brooks,
Colchester.

Dear Howard,

Resistivity survey at St. Mary's Hospital.

I am sending you this letter as an addendum to my recent fluxgate gradiometer survey at St. Mary's.

I carried out a resistivity survey of squares 1 and 4 on 10th June 1997. These squares are the two most south-easterly of the set previously reported upon.

In square 1 you had taken out a wide trench, which was filled in by the time I arrived on 10th June.

The attached plot shows the main features of interest. The large dark area in square 4 is caused by my being unable to take readings around a large cupressus shrub.

Feature A, of low resistivity, represents the trench, or that part of it encompassed by the plot.

Feature B appears to be a series of individual stone or brick items, which form a circle.

Feature C is an area of high resistance running NW/SE, with feature D appearing to be the return

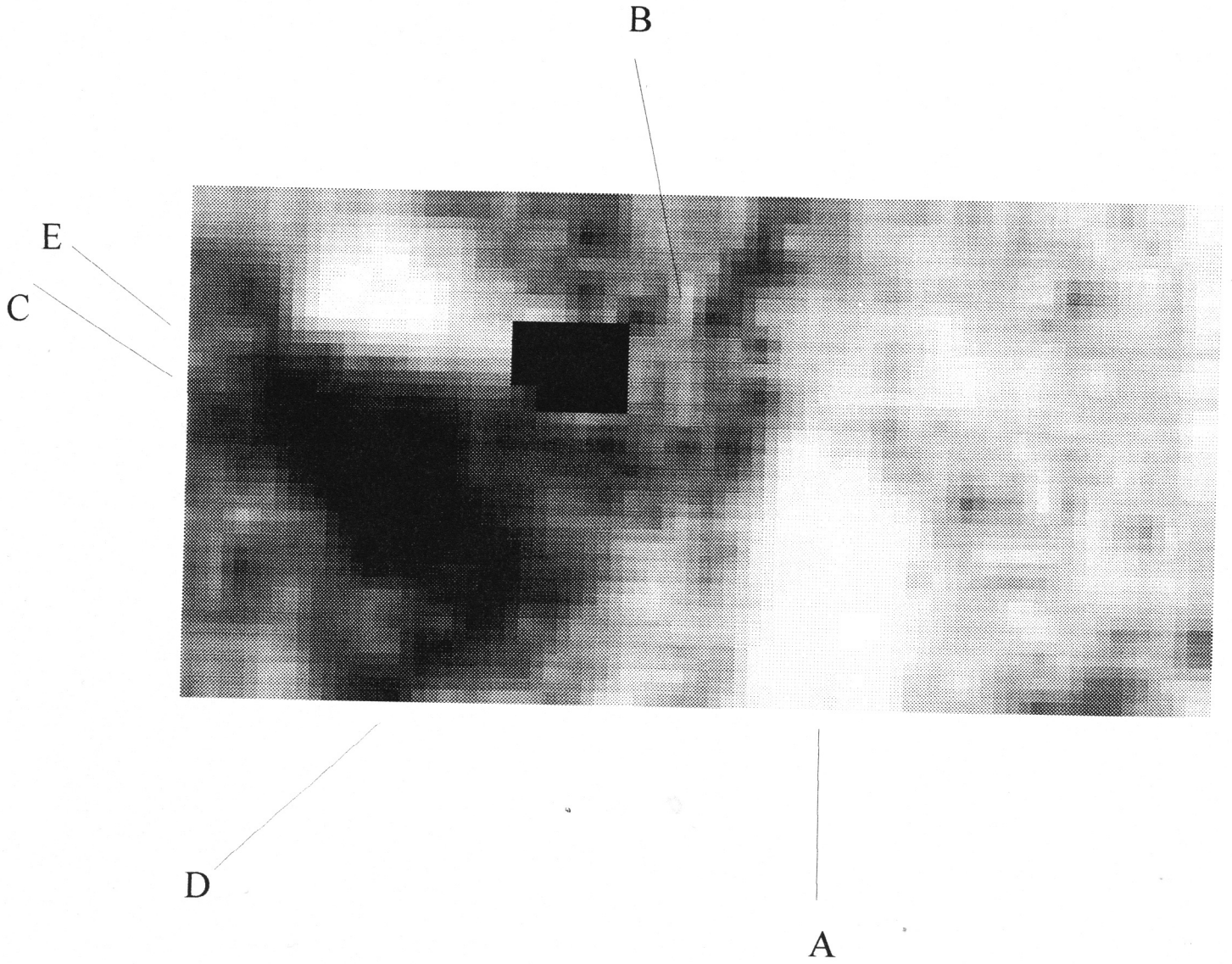
Feature E is a separate line of high resistance, which could be the extension of the foundations you found in the trench.

Regards

PJC

Down Ampney, Bendlowes Road, Gt. Bardfield, Essex. CM7 4RR

St. Mary's Hospital Resistivity



PJC

June 1997

11.4 Site finds list by context

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|-------|---------------------|----|------|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| 72 | F0101 | Mortarium sherd | 1 | 60 | | Cut into counter? | | |
| 77 | F0102 | Amphora bodysherd | 1 | 55 | | Dressel 20 | | |
| 77 | F0102 | Oyster | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| 77 | F0102 | Tile. R? | 1 | 35 | | | | |
| 77 | F0102 | Greyware | 7 | 85 | | Undiagnostic | | |
| 77 | F0102 | Animal bone | 1 | 15 | | Phalange. Probably bos | Roman | |
| 88 | F0302 | R brick | 1 | 365 | 40 | | | |
| 97 | F0302 | Small find | 1 | | | Ceramic open lamp fragment | | |
| 60 | F0305 | Small find | 1 | 12 | | CuA sheet 65x25mm, folded | Roman | |
| 29 | F0701 | Modern brick | 2 | 125 | | | | D |
| 29 | F0701 | Unident tile | 1 | 30 | | | ? | D |
| 29 | F0701 | Oyster shell | 2 | 30 | | | | D |
| 29 | F0701 | Coke | 1 | 5 | | | | D |
| 29 | F0701 | Coal | 1 | 10 | | | | D |
| 29 | F0701 | Slate | 1 | 15 | | | | |
| 29 | F0701 | Samian | 1 | 15 | | Drag 37 C Gaul | 2nd | R |
| 28 | F0702 | Slate | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 28 | F0702 | Fabric 48d | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| 28 | F0702 | Modern brick | 2 | 75 | | | | D |
| 28 | F0702 | Glazed fabric 40 | 1 | 2 | | | 17-19th | |
| 28 | F0702 | R tile/brick | 2 | 90 | | | | RD |
| 28 | F0702 | Burnished sherd | 1 | 15 | | | | |
| 28 | F0702 | Greyware sherds | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| 28 | F0702 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Grey ware | 92 | 1405 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Amphora sherds | 3 | 960 | | Dressel 20 and Gaulloise | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Buff flagon | 2 | 230 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Buff/orange flagon | 4 | 110 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Stamped samian | 1 | 100 | | Drag 29 CERMANI | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Samian sherds | 8 | 80 | | Drag 37, drag 30? | post 70 | |
| 71 | F1001 | R shelly ware | 3 | 90 | | S Essex/N Kent | 1 or early 2nd | |
| 71 | F1001 | R red-coated | 1 | 4 | | | group 1st/ e 2nd | |
| 71 | F1001 | R plain glass sherd | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | R brick | 1 | 200 | 37 | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | R mortar + op sig | 3 | 770 | | | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Animal bone | 2 | 120 | | Bos vertebrae | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Animal bone | 1 | 25 | | Bos humerus proximal fragment | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Animal bone | 2 | 105 | | Bos metacarpus | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Animal bone | 3 | 25 | | Unidentifiable long bone fragment | | |
| 71 | F1001 | Animal bone | 1 | 5 | | Cockspur. Gallus metacarpus frag | | |
| 70 | F1007 | Samian sherd | 1 | 15 | | Drag 37 | 70-100 | |
| 70 | F1007 | Gypsum piece | 1 | 85 | | | | |
| 18 | F1106 | Very modern brick | 1 | 10 | | | Modern | |
| 18 | F1106 | R buff ware | 3 | 35 | | | | R |
| 18 | F1106 | R grey ware | 2 | 5 | | Nothing diagnostic | 1st-2nd | R |
| 20 | F1108 | Greyware | 19 | 195 | | BB2 sherd | | |
| 20 | F1108 | Brown sherds | 3 | 50 | | Burnt hadham | 4th, prob late 4th | |
| 20 | F1108 | Colour coat | 1 | 2 | | Colchester rough cast | 2nd | |
| 19 | F1201 | R tile | 1 | 125 | 20 | | Roman | |
| 49 | F1301 | Greyware | 13 | 225 | | BB types. BB2 rim | Roman | |
| 49 | F1301 | R brick | 1 | 320 | 54 | | | |
| 49 | F1301 | R imbrex? | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 49 | F1301 | Oyster | 1 | 35 | | | | |
| 49 | F1301 | Animal bone | 1 | 125 | | Bos metacarpus proximal frag | | |
| 49 | F1301 | Animal bone | 2 | 10 | | Unident | | |
| 49 | F1301 | Animal bone | 1 | 140 | | | | |

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|-------|----------------------|----|------|------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| 47 | F1303 | grey ware | 2 | 60 | | BB2 base chamfered | 120+ (poss 2) | |
| 47 | F1303 | buff sherd | 1 | 20 | | dressel 20 amphora | | |
| 47 | F1303 | Animal bone | 1 | 235 | | Bos jaw | | |
| 47 | F1303 | R tile frag | 1 | 390 | | | | |
| 52 | F1305 | Clay pipe stem | 1 | 1 | | | 17th + | |
| 52 | F1305 | Post-med tile | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 52 | F1305 | Oyster | 1 | 5 | | | | D |
| 52 | F1305 | Fabric 40 | 1 | 5 | | | 16-19th cent | |
| 52 | F1305 | Slate | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 52 | F1305 | Grey ware | 4 | 10 | | | | R |
| 53 | F1306 | R tegula flange | 1 | 215 | | | | |
| 53 | F1306 | R tile | 1 | 45 | | | | |
| 53 | F1306 | R brick | 1 | 185 | 34 | | | |
| 53 | F1306 | Greyware | 1 | 15 | | | | |
| 53 | F1306 | Lustrous base shd | 1 | 10 | | CC beaker base | 120+, 2nd | |
| 53 | F1306 | Animal bone | 1 | 65 | | Bos metacarpus distal | | |
| 53 | F1306 | Animal bone | 3 | 52 | | ?bos phalanges | | |
| 63 | F1402 | Tarmac | 1 | 65 | | | | D |
| 63 | F1402 | Tile | 1 | 40 | | Post-med | | D |
| 63 | F1402 | Very mod brick | 2 | 15 | | | | D |
| 63 | F1402 | Fabric 48d | 1 | 4 | | 19-20 cent | | |
| 63 | F1402 | Buff orange fabric | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 63 | F1402 | Grey ware sherds | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| 63 | F1402 | Tegula flange | 1 | 105 | | | | D |
| 63 | F1402 | Bottle base | 1 | 10 | | Post-med | | |
| 62 | F1403 | Glazed fabric 48d | 1 | 2 | | | 19th-20th | |
| 62 | F1403 | Glazed fabric 40 | 2 | 30 | | | 16th-19th | |
| 62 | F1403 | R brick | 1 | 90 | | | | R/D |
| 62 | F1403 | White ware | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 62 | F1403 | Grey ware | 1 | 10 | | | | R |
| 62 | F1403 | Grey sherd, brown | 1 | 5 | | | | R |
| 58 | F1501 | Modern brick | 5 | 200 | | | | 4D |
| 58 | F1501 | Post-med tile | 1 | 130 | | | | |
| 58 | F1501 | R brick | 1 | 80 | | | | R |
| 4 | F1603 | Storage vessel large | 2 | 160 | | | Roman | |
| 5 | F1603 | Small find | 1 | 15 | | Fe chisel? | | |
| 7 | F1603 | Sherd | 1 | 2 | | Nene Valley colour coat | 4th | |
| 7 | F1603 | R tile/brick | 2 | 170 | | | | |
| 7 | F1603 | Animal bone | 1 | 2 | | Rib frag. Homo? | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Amphora | 2 | 1350 | | Dressel 20 | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Tegula flange | 1 | 450 | | | | |
| 10 | F1603 | R tile | 3 | 200 | | | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Rouletted sherd | 1 | 15 | | Colchester Colour Coat | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Burnished rim | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Greyware | 3 | 15 | | BB2 bead rim bowl | mid-late 2nd | |
| 10 | F1603 | Animal bone | 1 | 190 | | Bos scapula | | |
| 10 | F1603 | Animal bone | 1 | 20 | | Phalange, bos? | | |
| 2 | F1604 | Storage vessel | 1 | 35 | | Roman | Roman | |
| 8 | F1604 | Grey ware | 1 | 2 | | Roman | Roman | |
| 8 | F1604 | Daub pieces | 2 | 30 | | | | |
| 8 | F1604 | Animal bone | 1 | 1 | | Rib unidentified | | |
| 66 | us/10 | R storage vessel | 4 | 680 | | Roman | Roman | |
| 66 | us/10 | Grey ware | 1 | 20 | | includes combed decorated beaker | | |
| 41 | us/13 | amphora flakes | 2 | 145 | | | | D |
| 41 | us/13 | buff sherds | 3 | 110 | | | | |
| 41 | us/13 | colour-coated | 2 | 40 | | folded beaker Colchester | 3rd century | |
| 41 | us/13 | grey ware | 8 | 100 | | | group Roman | |

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|--------|----------------------|----|------|------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----|
| 15 | us/16 | Samian | 1 | 25 | | E gaulish? | | |
| 15 | us/16 | Greyware | 19 | 250 | | BB, cc | us group | |
| 93 | us/6 | large storage vessel | 3 | 420 | | | | |
| 93 | us/6 | R brick | 1 | 70 | 33 | | | |
| 93 | us/6 | Samian sherds | 5 | 80 | | | | |
| 93 | us/6 | Buff flagon | 1 | 20 | | | | |
| 93 | us/6 | Buff ?tile frag | 1 | 60 | | | | |
| 94 | us/6 | Painted wall plaster | 1 | | | 3cm2 of red, 3cm2 of white | | |
| 38 | us/7 | Amphora | 1 | 515 | | Dressel 20 handle | | |
| 38 | us/7 | Tegula flange | 1 | 1100 | | | | D |
| 38 | us/7 | R brick | 1 | 50 | | | | D |
| 38 | us/7 | Tessera+mortar | 1 | 30 | | plain red | | |
| 38 | us/7 | Stone tessera? | 1 | 10 | | no mortar, white | | |
| 91 | us/9 | R brick | 2 | 145 | | | | D |
| 91 | us/9 | Greyware | 2 | 12 | | | | |
| 91 | us/9 | Fabric 51a | 1 | 5 | | late kitchen earthenware | | |
| 92 | us/9 | Greyware sherds | 6 | 80 | | | | |
| 92 | us/9 | Brown/buff sherd | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 92 | us/9 | Samian sherd | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 92 | us/9 | R glass, rolled rim | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Amphora handle | 1 | 685 | | stamp POMF... | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Amph. body sherds | 3 | 915 | | all Dressel 20 | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Orange ware | 3 | 120 | | some colour coats | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Samian | 2 | 45 | | platters + Drag 27? | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Grey ware | 25 | 810 | | inc late BB rim | group Roman | |
| 95 | us/gen | R brick frags | 2 | 185 | | | | |
| 95 | us/gen | R tile frags | 2 | 50 | | | | |
| 95 | us/gen | Greyware, white dec | 1 | 2 | | Nene valley | | |
| 81 | 101 | R brick | 1 | 45 | | | | |
| 81 | 101 | Glass frag | 1 | 4 | | 19-20 cent | | |
| 81 | 101 | Bone | 1 | 2 | | Skull frag. Homo? | | |
| 81 | 101 | Greyware sherd | 1 | 25 | | BB2 type flange bowl | later3-4th | |
| 80 | 102 | Fabric 48d | 1 | 2 | | 19-20 cent | 19-20 cent | |
| 80 | 102 | R brick | 3 | 125 | | | | D |
| 80 | 102 | R sherds | 3 | 25 | | | | |
| 80 | 102 | Animal bones | 2 | 25 | | cant find these | | D |
| 73 | 103 | Amphora | 2 | 75 | | Spanish? | | R |
| 73 | 103 | Oxford? | 1 | 15 | | | later 4th | R |
| 73 | 103 | Greyware | 10 | 85 | | BB type bead-rim bowl | 2nd cent | R |
| 73 | 103 | R tile | 2 | 145 | | | group 2nd-3rd+ | RD |
| 73 | 103 | Fe nail | 1 | 10 | | Roman or post-med? | | |
| 74 | 103 | Small find | 1 | 60 | | Lava Quern | | |
| 75 | 104 | Greyware | 5 | 65 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Colour coats | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Brick/tile | 2 | 80 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Imbrex? | 1 | 80 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Pale gritty mortar | 1 | 25 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Animal bone | 3 | 15 | | Rib frags. 1 bos.2 sus/ovis | | |
| 75 | 104 | Animal bone | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| 75 | 104 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 76 | 104 | buff ware | 2 | 55 | | | | |
| 76 | 104 | R tile frag | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| 76 | 104 | Animal bone | 1 | 25 | | Bos vertebra | | |
| 79 | 104 | Flint flake | 1 | 12 | | hard-hammer flake | | |
| 78 | 105 | R brick | 2 | 205 | | | | |
| 78 | 105 | R tile | 1 | 190 | | | | |
| 78 | 105 | Amphora sherd | 2 | 125 | | ? | | |

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|------|----------------------|----|------|------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 78 | 105 | Animal bone | 2 | 15 | | Unident | | |
| 78 | 105 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | Footbone unidentified | | |
| 82 | 106 | R tile | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 82 | 106 | R brick | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 82 | 106 | R grey ware | 2 | 95 | | | | |
| 83 | 107 | R flagon top | 1 | 30 | | splayed ring neck | later 2nd | |
| 87 | 304 | R brick | 1 | 60 | | | | |
| 87 | 304 | R tile | 1 | 85 | | | | |
| 87 | 304 | Samian | 1 | 2 | | Drag 27 S Gaulish | prob 1st | |
| 89 | 405 | Fabric 48d | 1 | 6 | | | 19-20 cent | |
| 90 | 407 | Grey ware | 2 | 30 | | | prob 1-early 2nd | |
| 84 | 606 | Roman flagon neck | 1 | 95 | | Long ring-neck flagon | 1st-early 2nd | |
| 85 | 606 | Painted wall plaster | 5 | 60 | | 12cm2 white, 10cm2red,2cm2both | | |
| 30 | 703 | Post-med brick | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 30 | 703 | Coal | 2 | 20 | | | | D |
| 30 | 703 | Coke | 1 | 5 | | | | D |
| 30 | 703 | Slate | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| 30 | 703 | Animal bone | 1 | 2 | | | | D |
| 31 | 704 | R brick | 1 | 205 | 33 | | | R/D |
| 31 | 704 | R brick/tile | 1 | 110 | | | | R/D |
| 31 | 704 | Samian | 1 | 10 | | Drag 37 C Gaulish | 2nd | R |
| 34 | 705 | Modern brick | 2 | 45 | | | | |
| 34 | 705 | Post-med brick | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 32 | 707 | Slate | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 32 | 707 | Oyster | 1 | 20 | | | | D |
| 32 | 707 | Modern brick | 2 | 260 | | | | |
| 33 | 708 | Pamment or brick | 1 | 395 | | | Post-med | |
| 36 | 712 | Post-med tile | 1 | 35 | | | | |
| 36 | 712 | Stone tesserae | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 36 | 712 | Greyware | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 35 | 715 | R grey ware | 1 | 4 | | Roman | Roman | |
| 39 | 716 | R tile | 13 | 485 | | | | |
| 39 | 716 | R grey ware | 15 | 200 | | BB2 type bowl | mid 2nd | |
| 39 | 716 | Amphora body | 2 | 70 | | Type? | | |
| 39 | 716 | Samian | 2 | 10 | | Drag 27 | prob 2nd | |
| 39 | 716 | Daub pieces | 9 | 160 | | | group mid 2nd | |
| 39 | 716 | Fe nail frags | 4 | 50 | | | | |
| 39 | 716 | Molten glass | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| 39 | 716 | Oysters | 2 | 45 | | | | |
| 39 | 716 | Animal bone | 1 | 85 | | Bos metacarpal proximal | | |
| 39 | 716 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | Canis? mandible frag | | |
| 39 | 716 | Animal bone | 2 | 15 | | Unident rib frags | | |
| 40 | 717 | Amphora | 1 | 105 | | Dressel 2-4 | 1st-e2nd | |
| 40 | 717 | Daub | 4 | 90 | | | | |
| 96 | 806 | Tegula flange | 1 | 325 | | | | |
| 67 | 1008 | Potsherd | 1 | 5 | | Sandy. MIA? | Prehistoric? | |
| 67 | 1008 | Struck flint | 1 | 10 | | | Prehistoric | |
| 68 | 1011 | R brick | 1 | 1000 | | | Roman | |
| 69 | 1012 | Glass bodysherd | 1 | 12 | | Is this Roman? | | |
| 16 | 1103 | R brick | 1 | 265 | 40 | | | |
| 16 | 1103 | Colour coat | 1 | 5 | | Colchester cc | 2nd-3rd cent | |
| 16 | 1103 | Greyware | 11 | 195 | | BB1 and 2 types | 3rd-4th | |
| 16 | 1103 | Brown sherds | 3 | 115 | | | group 3-4th | |
| 16 | 1103 | Animal bone | 1 | 175 | | Bos femur distal | | |
| 16 | 1103 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | Unident long bone | | |
| 17 | 1103 | Painted wall plaster | 1 | 10 | | 4cm2 of red colour | Roman | |
| 22 | 1103 | Tegula flange | 2 | 480 | | | | |

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|------|-----------------------|----|-----|------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| 22 | 1103 | Greyware | 8 | 150 | | inc 1 or 2 BB - 120s+ | Mid2+, poss 3rd+ | |
| 23 | 1103 | Small find | 1 | 15 | 4 | greyware sherd cut into counter | Roman | |
| 24 | 1103 | Stamped mortarium | 1 | 320 | | Hartley group 2 | later 1st | |
| 24 | 1103 | Mortarium rim | 1 | 225 | | Brockley Hill type | to 120 | |
| 24 | 1103 | Amphora body | 1 | 70 | | | | |
| 24 | 1103 | Storage vessel | 1 | 145 | | | | |
| 24 | 1103 | Samian sherds | 7 | 40 | | | | |
| 24 | 1103 | Buff flagon sherds | 6 | 80 | | | | |
| 24 | 1103 | Colour coat | 1 | 5 | | Colchester, 2nd-3rd | 2nd-3rd | |
| 24 | 1103 | Colour coat, rough | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 24 | 1103 | Greyware sherds | 21 | 665 | | | group 2nd-3rd | |
| 25 | 1103 | E Gaul samian base | 1 | 90 | | Drag 31, stamp MARCI... | mid 2-3 | |
| 26 | 1103 | Small Find | 1 | | | Bone hairpin 90mm long | | |
| 27 | 1103 | Small Find | 1 | | | Bone hairpin 70mm long | | |
| 21 | 1106 | Samian | 2 | 30 | | Drag 45, late 2nd - 3rd | | |
| 21 | 1106 | Amphora | 3 | 315 | | Dressel 20 | | |
| 21 | 1106 | Greyware | 1 | 10 | | inc chamfered BB dish | | |
| 21 | 1106 | Grey/orange sherd | 1 | 5 | | Hadham? | | |
| 21 | 1106 | R tile | 4 | 315 | | | group 3rd - 4th | |
| 21 | 1106 | Animal bone | 1 | 65 | | Bos metacarpal proximal | | |
| 21 | 1106 | Animal bone | 1 | 40 | | Bos molar | | |
| 54 | 1303 | Brick frag | 1 | 100 | | Roman or later? | Post-med | |
| 54 | 1303 | tile frags | 2 | 145 | | post-med | | |
| 54 | 1303 | undatable brick frags | 3 | 40 | | | | D |
| 54 | 1303 | grey ware | 3 | 60 | | Roman | | |
| 54 | 1303 | Fe nail frag | 1 | 5 | | Roman? | | |
| 54 | 1303 | Oyster shell | 1 | 20 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | R tile | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | Mortarium base | 1 | 110 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | samian | 4 | 40 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | R glass sherd | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | R orange ware | 2 | 70 | | | | |
| 42 | 1304 | Greyware sherds | 29 | 495 | | | group later2nd | |
| 42 | 1304 | Animal bone | 1 | 90 | | Bos metatarsus proximal | | |
| 42 | 1304 | Animal bone | 1 | 15 | | Unident metatarsus | | |
| 42 | 1304 | Animal bone | 6 | 60 | | Rib frags. Bos/equus size | | |
| 43 | 1304 | Small Find | 1 | | | Bone hairpin 53mm long | Roman | |
| 98 | 1304 | Small find | 1 | 45 | | Stone hone, 45mm long | | |
| 99 | 1304 | Small find | 1 | | | Broken end of bone hairpin, 34mm | | |
| 51 | 1305 | R orange sherd | 1 | 20 | | | | |
| 51 | 1305 | Samian sherd | 1 | 5 | | platter, S Gaulish? | | |
| 51 | 1305 | Grey ware | 26 | 655 | | BB types | group mid-late2 | |
| 51 | 1305 | R brick frag | 1 | 220 | | | | |
| 51 | 1305 | R glass, rolled rim | 1 | ??? | | | | |
| 51 | 1305 | Bone | 1 | 4 | | Rib. Homo? | | |
| 51 | 1305 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | Long bone. Ovis/sus? | | |
| 64 | 1403 | Piece coal | 1 | 4 | | Post-med | Post-med | |
| 64 | 1403 | Greyware sherds | 3 | 40 | | | | |
| 64 | 1403 | Buff fabric bits | 2 | 15 | | Post-med brick?? | | |
| 65 | 1404 | Fabric 40 sherd | 1 | 5 | | | 16th-19th cent | |
| 65 | 1404 | Animal bone | 1 | 15 | | Ovis tibia distal | | |
| 57 | 1506 | R brick | 1 | 95 | 35 | | | |
| 57 | 1506 | Mortared septaria | 1 | 285 | | | | |
| 57 | 1506 | Oyster shell | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 57 | 1506 | Unident tile/brick | 1 | 10 | | | | D |
| 57 | 1506 | Imbrex? | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 44 | 1507 | Samian | 1 | 30 | | Drag 27. S Gaulish | 1st century | |

St Mary's Hospital 1997. Finds list by context number

| Bag | Con | Finds type | No | Wt | Size | Comments | Date | R/D |
|-----|------|----------------------|----|-----|------|------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| 44 | 1507 | Animal bone | 1 | 20 | | Cervus metacarpal complete | | |
| 45 | 1507 | Small find | 1 | 4 | | CuA stud, flat circular head | Roman | |
| 46 | 1507 | Small find | 1 | | | Bone fitting. Chape? | Roman | |
| 59 | 1507 | Oyster | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 59 | 1507 | Brick | 2 | 230 | | | | |
| 59 | 1507 | Septaria frag | 1 | 85 | | | | |
| 59 | 1507 | Greensand frag | 1 | 40 | | | | |
| 59 | 1507 | Samian | 1 | 20 | | Central Gaulish Drag 35-6 | 2nd | |
| 59 | 1507 | Fe nail | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 59 | 1507 | Animal bone | 1 | 35 | | Bos vertebra | | |
| 37 | 1509 | Grey ware sherds | 5 | 35 | | BB rim 120+ | 120+ | |
| 37 | 1509 | Buff sherds | 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 37 | 1509 | R tile? frag | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 37 | 1509 | R brick/tile frag | 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 37 | 1509 | Painted wall plaster | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| 37 | 1509 | Fe nail? frag | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| 37 | 1509 | Animal bone | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 55 | 1509 | R large vessel | 1 | 155 | | | | |
| 55 | 1509 | R colour coat | 1 | 5 | | Hadham | 3 or prob 4th | |
| 55 | 1509 | R brick | 1 | 300 | | | | |
| 55 | 1509 | R tile | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 55 | 1509 | Fe nail | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 6 | 1607 | R brick | 1 | 200 | 33 | | | |
| 6 | 1607 | T tegula flange | 1 | 75 | | | | |
| 6 | 1607 | R tile? | 1 | 30 | | | | |
| 6 | 1607 | Samian | 1 | 25 | | | | |
| 6 | 1607 | Grey ware | 2 | 5 | | | Roman | |
| 9 | 1612 | R brick/tile | 2 | 125 | | Roman | Roman | |
| 3 | 1613 | Tegula flange | 2 | 480 | | | | |
| 3 | 1613 | Greyware sherds | 3 | 55 | | BB1 bead-rim bowl | 2nd (120+) | |
| 11 | 1616 | R brick | 1 | 85 | | | | |
| 11 | 1616 | R sherd | 1 | 15 | | BB dog dish | 3rd + | |
| 11 | 1616 | R sherd | 2 | 15 | | Grey ware | Roman | |
| 11 | 1616 | Animal bone | 1 | 10 | | Unident long bone | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Samian sherds | 4 | 70 | | Ritterling 12 | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Brown ware | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Buff ware | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Mortarium rim | 1 | 70 | | 1st-2nd cent | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Amphora body shds | 2 | 180 | | Dressel 20, 1st-2nd cent | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Grey ware | 6 | 45 | | No BB or Colour Coat | 1st-early 2nd | |
| 12 | 1617 | Animal bone | 1 | 175 | | Bos scapula | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Animal bone | 3 | 15 | | Rib frags. 2 bos. 1 ovis/sus | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Animal bone | 1 | 25 | | Bos phalange | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Animal bone | 2 | 20 | | vertebra. Bos? | | |
| 12 | 1617 | Animal bone | 1 | 45 | | Scapula. Ovis/sus size | | |
| 14 | 1617 | Small find | 1 | 550 | | Lava quern frags | | |
| 13 | 1619 | Grey ware | 2 | 25 | | | Roman | |