

**Excavations of
Late Iron Age and Roman features
and a Roman road
north of
Gosbecks Archaeological Park,
Colchester, Essex
1995-1996**

report by
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1 Summary

The excavations of 1995-96 (Sites A, B and C) were undertaken in advance of development on three sites to the north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park. These investigated areas of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and the Roman road.

On Site A, the excavation of the Roman road demonstrated the presence of four ditches in two pairs forming a central carriageway which was approximately 7m wide, with narrower tracks approximately 2m wide on each side of the central carriageway. None of the road surface itself survived.

There were a few residual prehistoric finds on Sites B and C, mostly of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date, although there was no evidence of any activity dating to the Middle Iron Age. The Late Iron Age and Roman occupation was located on two adjacent sites at the western end of Cunobelin Way, and finds indicate that the main phase of activity here corresponded with that at Sheepen. The earliest features were part of a large ditched enclosure and several smaller ditches of Late Iron Age-early Roman date. Some small pits or post-holes and three ovens were associated with these features.

In the early Roman period, a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures was established, bounded by a large ditch, and part of the enclosed area was occupied by a large number of substantial pits. The finds from these features were predominantly of Neronian date, and a small number of military objects was recovered. Some of the finds suggest possible ritual activity. There were two, possibly three, timber buildings which are probably all of Late Iron Age-early Roman date. A few finds of Flavian to 2nd- to early 3rd-century date from some of the features indicate continued activity, but at a much reduced level. At some point in or after the early 2nd century, a wooden water-main was laid across the area and a ditched track or droveway was constructed which connected to the large boundary ditch. A number of Roman burials, both cremations and inhumations, were focused around the large boundary ditch. One of the cremation burials was located in a small square ditched enclosure and may be pre-Flavian, while another probable cremation burial may date to the 4th century. The inhumation burials had all been provided with coffins and there were a few pottery grave goods, although almost no bone survived. All the inhumation burials lay beyond the large boundary ditch, and all but one were aligned along it. Although the burials are not well dated, one is of the mid 3rd-4th century, and all probably date from the late Roman period.

Identifiable post-Roman activity was limited to a few post-medieval features, mostly ditches.

2 Background to the excavations (Fig 1)

This report covers three excavations carried out in 1995 and 1996, in advance of road construction and housing development by Galliford Homes Ltd on part of the northern area of Gosbecks Farm. This development took place as part of a wider restructuring of the Gosbecks area and allowed the release of a large area of land, including the scheduled archaeology, from agricultural use to form Gosbecks Archaeological Park, which opened in 1995. The excavations followed from the results of two evaluations by the Colchester Archaeological Trust or CAT (Benfield 1994 and Brooks & Benfield 1994, summarised in Brooks *et al* 1995). The 1995 excavations took place on two sites which would be affected by the construction of the road Cunobelin Way. Site A (centred at TL 973 227) investigated a section of the Roman road; Site B (centred at TL 968 228) investigated part of a larger area of Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement at the western end of Cunobelin Way, near Maldon Road. Work on the western area was completed in 1996 on Site C, prior to construction of the final phase of house building. During 1995 and 1996, a watching brief was also maintained on the area of the housing development north of Cunobelin Way (centred at TL 971 229), although this produced no finds or features of archaeological significance (CAT archive note, reference 7/96a).

The current report was originally completed prior to 2002.

At a general level, the archaeology of the Gosbecks area in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods is well known. Knowledge of the area is based on an extensive aerial photographic record supported by some small excavations (concentrated on the major Roman monuments), which together have enabled a relatively detailed plan of the area to be pieced together. Much of the area is covered by the remains of field systems bounded by a number of substantial earthwork dykes to the south and west. At the heart of Gosbecks is a large Late Iron Age enclosure, and just to the east of this are the remains of an extensive Roman religious complex. Known structures here include a Romano-Celtic temple set within a large portico, other walled enclosures, and a theatre which survives as a slight earthwork. The course of a Roman road can be traced from the *colonia* as far as the east side of this complex. To the west is the site of a Roman fort which is known only from aerial photographs, as are several ring-ditches to the east of this area which are presumably of Bronze Age date. All of the cropmark sites are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monument 57, and previous work here is summarised in *Roman Colchester* (Hull

1958) and *Camulodunum 2* (CAR 11). However, in the absence of more extensive excavation, more detailed understanding of this area is not possible.

The three sites (A, B, C) covered in this report were within the scheduled area on the northern edges of the main concentration of cropmarks, and they were visible as cropmark sites. The subsoil is free-draining acid gravel and sand which adversely affect the preservation of many finds, especially organic material such as bone. The whole of this area has been under arable cultivation for many years, resulting in a ploughsoil about 0.3m thick, so that no stratigraphy survives on these sites. There are also general patchy deposits of cover loam below the ploughsoil, often about 0.2-0.3m thick, in which the archaeology is frequently obscured. As a consequence, the machine-stripping of sites may necessitate the removal of up to about 0.5m of soil on some areas; and, in general, few shallow or insubstantial features were likely to survive for excavation. In this report, Site B and Site C at the western end of Cunobelin Way are considered together as they are adjacent.

3 The Late Iron Age and Roman features on Site B and Site C (Figs 2-14 & 16)

The most common features encountered were various pits and ditches, although there were also three ovens, two or possibly three poorly-preserved buildings or post structures, a Roman water-main, and a small number of cremation and inhumation burials of Roman date. No stratigraphy survived on these sites, so that dating relies on finds from individual features and a few direct relationships. The feature types are considered separately. Feature (F) numbers are prefixed by the excavation site code letter B or C for each site.

3.1 Ditches (Figs 3-5)

On Site B, there were several shallow ditches. Some of these, because of their small size, might possibly represent palisade trenches. The alignment and similarity between three of these features on the western part of the site (BF5, BF36, BF129) suggest that they could possibly be related as components of a large enclosure (Enclosure 1; Fig 16), although this is very speculative. The remains of the ditches were quite slight, being up to 0.15m deep and between 0.4m and 0.5m wide, with single fills (Fig 4 sections). It is probable that the western end of BF5 was lost prior to excavation. However, the abrupt termination at the south end of BF36 probably represents a real terminal, possibly one side of a south-east entrance (Fig 3). The small amount of coarse pottery from these ditches is mostly of Late Iron Age type, although a small sherd from a comb-decorated beaker (Cam 108) was recovered from BF5. To the east, BF15 is similar to the ditches of the enclosure postulated above (Fig 4 section), although it is poorly dated and produced only a small quantity of finds, including a fragment of *tegula*. However, it appears to share a similar alignment to the east side of a large ditched enclosure (Enclosure 2) and a deep rectangular pit (BF31). The finds from both of these features were of Late Iron Age-Claudian date. A more substantial ditch feature (BF74) had been mostly cut away by a later ditch BF8 (Fig 4 section), but the short length that remained included its southern terminus. This feature was about 0.5m deep, and its remaining profile at the western end indicated a steep narrow ditch or trench.

Cropmarks on aerial photographs indicate that the ditches BF2, BF13 and BF14 on Site B are part of the north and east sides of a large enclosure (Enclosure 2; Fig 16). The ditches were about 2m wide and up to 1m deep, filled with slightly stony sandy loam (Fig 4 sections). The most closely-datable material from these ditches is almost exclusively Gallo-Belgic pottery, the latest of which is of Claudio-Neronian date but with most being pre-AD 50. Other pottery finds included some sherds of amphoras (Dressel 20 and Iberian salazon) and one pre-Flavian samian sherd. The only dated small find was a Colchester brooch of Tiberio-Neronian date. General finds include a small amount of Roman tile and a few fragments of both imported lava and other quern stones. There was also some iron-working debris with pieces of hearth-lining and smithing slag. A small number of charred plant remains included cereal fragments of oat, spelt and bread wheat. The quantity and range of finds suggest that the enclosure may have been used for settlement; however, almost all of the interior of the enclosure lay to the south of the site, and there were no features within the small part available for excavation which could be identified as being contemporary with it. At the north-east corner of this enclosure, a small shallow feature (BF115) protruded beyond the ditch line, and the fill of this feature was the same as the upper fill of the main enclosure ditch.

On Site B, the ditch BF8 post-dates the ditch BF74, and was itself partly cut away by another ditch BF6 (Fig 4 section), so that BF8 could only be traced where its path diverged from the later feature. As it approached the southern edge of Site B, it became progressively shallower, and here it was similar to the other small ditches on the site (Fig 4). This shallowing could suggest that it is related to Enclosure 2, or possibly to BF5. The material from BF8 was very similar to that from the ditches of Enclosure 2, and the finer pottery was dominated by Gallo-Belgic ware, mostly of pre-conquest date. However, of only two samian sherds, one is dated Neronian, although this could be contamination from BF6. As with the

ditches of Enclosure 2, there was evidence of iron-working in the form of two smithing-hearth bottoms. A piece of lead sheet also suggests possible lead-working here.

A substantial ditch (CF16/BF138) can be traced as a cropmark for several hundred metres as far as the area just east of the Roman temple portico, and it clearly marks an important boundary in the Roman landscape at Gosbecks (Fig 1). To the west there are numerous cropmarks of fields ditches with tracks or droveways defined by ditches, most of which are certainly of Late Iron Age and Roman date. In contrast to the north and east, only a few cropmark ditches are known, and those that have been sampled are post-medieval (Brooks *et al* 1995). The ditch CF16/BF138 was about 1m deep and between 2m and 3m wide (Fig 5). The lowest fills contained no closely datable material, and finds were restricted to sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman coarse wares. However, the ditch had been cut through two ovens on Site C (CF78, CF79); these are poorly dated, but one may be of early Roman date. The mid-upper fill of ditch CF16 contained pottery of 2nd- or earlier 3rd-century date, and there were also two 2nd-century coins (an *as* of Antoninus Pius dated AD 154-155 and a *dupondius* or *as* of Faustina II dated AD 161-176). The latest datable find from the small section of this ditch on Site B (BF138) was a sherd of Neronian samian. Amongst the other finds from CF16 was a fragment of tile which may represent waste from the manufacture of *tesserae*.

The ditches BF6/CF196, BF39, BF40, BF86 and BF106, in the western part of Site B, appeared to form part of a series of rectilinear enclosures. These were orientated approximately east-west and north-south and they were bounded by the ditch CF16 to their east. Most of the interiors of these enclosures lay beyond the edges of Site B. The ditch BF86, just to the north of BF40 and approximately parallel to it, suggests that these two features formed a possible track or droveway. Aerial photographs appear to show that the ditch BF6 continued across Site C as CF196 to join the boundary formed by CF16. Both Enclosure 2 and the small shallow ditches in the western part of Site B were cut by the ditches of these new enclosures: BF6 cut the enclosure ditch BF2, the small ditch BF5 and the ditch BF8, while BF106 cut the small ditch BF36. All of the rectilinear ditches were very similar to each other at about 1m wide and 0.3m deep, generally with a single sandy loam fill (Fig 4 sections). A large quantity and range of finds came from BF6, including pre-Flavian samian with some Claudio-Neronian sherds, but dominated by Neronian material. There were sherds from three types of amphora (Dressel 20, Kingsholme 117 and Catalan wine amphora) and sherds from mortaria. The small finds (approximately 20 in all) included four mid 1st-century brooches, a fragment from a mirror, and a 1st-century iron arrow- or bolt-head. There were also two coins, ie a *denarius* of Caesar of 44 BC and an issue of Cunobelin dated AD 20-43. Other finds included fragments of coloured glass, smithing slag and a smithing-hearth bottom. Wheat and barley were identified among a small amount of carbonised plant remains. The material from the other ditches of this rectilinear system was of the same date and range but appeared to be much less abundant.

Across the central part of Site B, an irregular ditch BF87 (Fig 4 section) appeared to be related to the enclosure ditch BF40 and probably also to enclosure ditch BF6 (Fig 3). For much of its length, BF87 was of similar size and fill to these enclosure ditches, although it became shallow and narrow toward its southern end near BF5. Here it faded into two small discrete pits BF49 and BF50, although possibly BF50 was also a part of the ditch BF87. BF87 appeared to cut the small ditch BF5, and also a large pit BF17. While most of the finds from BF87 were of the same date and range as from the other rectilinear ditches, the latest-dated find was a decorated samian bowl dated c AD 150-180; however, as an almost-complete (although broken) single vessel, the possibility that this may represent the presence of an unrecognised separate feature cannot be excluded. A coin found early in the excavation while cleaning the general surface area of BF17 (an *as* of Vespasian dated AD 72-73) is possibly also from this ditch. The finds associated with ditch BF87 and also the relation of BF87 to the other ditches of the rectilinear system suggest that it is a later addition.

In the south-west part of Site B, a number of features were rapidly sampled in advance of the installation of a storm drain. Amongst these was a ditch BF91 (Fig 4 section) which followed a slightly irregular course south, cutting the ditch BF2 of Enclosure 2. Two coins came from its surface, ie a *dupondis* of Nero dated AD 64-66 and an *as* of Vespasian dated AD 69-70 which is the latest datable object associated with it. To the east of this ditch, BF95 (Fig 4 section) appeared to be the northern end of another ditch which showed signs of possible re-cutting.

3.2 The ditched track or droveway (Figs 3 & 5)

On the eastern side of the excavated areas of both Site B and Site C there was a ditched track or droveway BF32, BF33 (Fig 5 sections), CF59, and CF70, which was approximately 6m wide. This feature was secondary to the boundary ditch CF16 (Fig 5 section) which had silted considerably before the track or droveway was initially constructed, and so it probably dates to some point in the 2nd century or later. The area of the intersection of these two features on Site C shows that the western track or droveway ditch CF59 had been recut as CF70, and profiles of both the track or droveway ditches on Site B (BF32, BF33; Fig 5) suggest probable recutting. Finds from these ditches were limited,

and the latest datable material associated with them was a sherd of Trajanic samian from BF33 and a 2nd-century Colchester colour-coated roughcast beaker sherd from BF70. A notable individual find was a small copper-alloy figurine of a crouching hare of 1st- or 2nd-century date from CF70 (see section 8.2 and Fig 19.10).

3.3 Pits (Figs 3 & 6-9)

There was a large number of pits, most of which were concentrated in the western part of Site B. These ranged in size from small scoops to large features. No indication was found for the original purpose of most of them, although a few with traces of *in situ* burning could be hearths or related to clearance. Apart from one very deep rectangular pit, almost all of the larger pits were confined to the area of Site B between the ditches BF6, BF40 and BF106, which appeared to define a zone used for pitting. Some of the pits also appeared to respect the position of the earlier small ditch BF5, and two large adjacent pits (BF76, BF77) were cut by BF6. Most of the large pits contained finds of Neronian or early Flavian date, although a few contained some small amounts of material which was Flavian-early 2nd century. Many of the smaller pits produced only limited finds and so are difficult to date, except where they had a direct relationship to other features. However, the material from these smaller pits is almost exclusively of the Late Iron Age or earlier Roman period, while features of certain post-Roman date are rare. A selected number of pit sections are illustrated and these show the range of various pit types present (Figs 7-9).

None of the pits were cut by the small shallow ditches or the ditches of Enclosure 2, although some were probably contemporary with them. These pits were generally small and shallow with single sandy loam fills, although one or two, such as BF76 and BF77 (Fig 8 section), were more substantial features. Pottery from pit BF160 is of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. The small pits near this feature, ie BF83, BF132 (Fig 7 section) and BF154, may also be early. These small pits appeared to pre-date the ditches of the rectilinear enclosures, and they were similar to a group of features just to the west which possibly represented a structure or building (Building B1; Figs 3 & 12); this also appeared to pre-date the rectilinear ditches. However, a fragment of peg-tile was recorded from the fill of BF83, and this feature at least may be much later (possibly post-medieval) in date. In addition, several pits were cut by the ditches of the rectilinear enclosures; pits BF29 and BF116 were cut by ditch BF106, and pits BF76 and BF77 by ditch BF6. A sherd of Gallo-Belgic pottery dated Neronian-Flavian was recorded from the upper fill of pits BF76/BF77, although this might possibly derive from ditch BF6. Otherwise these pits contained little closely datable material, with the main finds from them being fragments of triangular loomweights. The intercutting of pits was rare, and the most notable group of pits (BF134, BF144, BF150) all contained material of Neronian-Flavian date. However, in one or two instances, intercutting may indicate the presence of early pits. The pit BF119 was probably a separate earlier feature, cut by pit BF28 which contained material dated Claudio-Neronian. Also pit BF137 (Fig 7 section) was almost certainly a separate earlier feature mostly cut away by pit BF42, the material from which is dated Neronian-early Flavian. On Site C, the pit CF53 was cut by the oven CF79. Two similar features (CF3, CF56), which also produced only single sherds of Late Iron Age or Roman pottery, are poorly dated but may be of similar early date. A poorly-defined shallow feature (CF80), which had a pale charcoal-flecked fill, contained several fragments from triangular loomweights; it is also likely to be of Late Iron Age or early Roman date.

In the central western part of Site B, there was a large number of pits, and these were often between 0.6m and 0.9m deep and of varying dimensions between about 1m and 3m across. The sides were normally very steep (often flaring slightly towards the surviving top) with a flat or slightly dished base, although a few had a more V-shaped profile. In a few of the largest of these pits, ie BF18 (Fig 7 section), BF22 and BF98, one of the sides of each was less steeply inclined and sloped down into the feature at an angle of about 45 degrees. Most of the pits had several fills, although, in some pits, only two or three fills could be distinguished. The samian from these pits is dominated by material of Neronian date, with only a few sherds which are definitely Flavian or later. Only three of these pits, ie BF63 (Fig 9 section), BF109 and BF137, contained material which could indicate a possible pre-Neronian date. Gallo-Belgic ware from pit BF63 is dated to the Late Iron Age or Claudian period; pit BF109 (which had been cut by the Roman water-main BF25) contained samian dated Claudio-Neronian. Although it is not well dated, pit BF137 had been cut by pit BF42. Nine of the pits had finds of samian and Gallo-Belgic ware of Neronian date, ie BF9, BF19, BF21, BF23, BF37, BF48, BF111 (Fig 8 section), BF141 and BF146, and a coin (*as*) of Nero dated *c* AD 65 came from the fill of BF9. A further eleven pits contained one or two sherds which could only be dated as Neronian-early Flavian or Neronian-Flavian, ie pits BF22, BF42 (Fig 7 section), BF47, BF79, BF97, BF121 (Fig 8 section), BF126, BF134, BF139 (Fig 8 section), BF144 and BF150. Three pits contained Flavian sherds, ie pits BF10, BF11 (Fig 7 section) and BF127 (Fig 9 section). Coins (*asses*) of Vespasian dated AD 72-73 came from pits BF17 and BF134, although, in the case of pit BF17, the coin could have come from the ditch BF87. The pits BF92 and BF99 appeared to post-date the ditch BF91 which contained a coin (*as*) of

Vespasian dated AD 69-79, while a few pits contained one or two sherds of Trajanic-Hadrianic-Antonine date, ie pits BF18, BF41, BF45 and BF96.

All of these pits contained various quantities of refuse, and generally showed little obvious variation either in date or type. Of significance, however, was a small number of military items which are consistent with a mid 1st-century date. There was a spearhead from pit BF63, a cavalry pendant in pit BF42, and a piece of *Lorica segmentata* from pit BF121, while some hobnails from the fill of pit BF134 are identified as probably being from military boots. Iron-smithing debris was also present in the form of smithing slag and clinker. Only one of the pits (BF42) contained finds which were comparatively unusual, these being the skulls of two horses and the forepart of a kitten's body, located in the lower fill. It is not certain if part or all of the kitten had originally been present. The horse skulls (both without mandibles) were towards the north-west corner of the pit in silt just above the base, and the articulated remains of the kitten were a little higher in the fill to the east of these. Samples of carbonised material from pits BF22 and BF42 produced very little identifiable organic material, although oat was noted in the sample from BF42.

Three small pits had traces of *in situ* heating and may represent either clearance features or the site of small sunken hearths, ie pits BF35 (Fig 8 section), BF46 and CF17. None could be properly phased, although BF46 post-dates the ditch BF5 of Enclosure 1. On Site B, the base of pit BF35 was uneven and had been reddened by heat, while the lower fill was flecked through with charcoal. This feature also contained a loomweight fragment. BF46 was a similar feature which had been cut through the shallow ditch BF5 of Enclosure 1, and it seems unlikely to represent clearance unless it is very much later in date. On Site C, a shallow pit (CF17), which had been disturbed by ploughing, contained a charcoal-flecked fill over a very uneven base which had been slightly reddened by heat. Sherds from the side of a large storage jar seem to have been placed just above the base of the pit, probably to form a lining. A sample of the carbonised material from the fill proved to be almost exclusively charcoal, although there were some fragments of cereal amongst which oat was identified.

There was also a number of mostly small pits, ie CF57, CF63 (Fig 9 section), CF76, BF128 (Fig 9 section), BF145, BF147, BF158 and CF202, some of which were irregular in shape and contained quantities of burnt organic (charcoal) material, although there was no indication of any *in situ* burning. Most of these pits did not produce any finds and all are undated, although some small pottery sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman date came from BF158 and a few small fragments of undated pot or tile from CF76. In addition, the pit BF122 (Fig 7 section) was extensive but shallow and may represent several intercut or conjoined scoops, although the fill was undifferentiated throughout. It may therefore represent some form of limited quarrying, but its purpose is not definitely known.

3.4 The deep pit/shaft (Fig 3 & Fig 8 section)

To the west of Enclosure 2, a deep rectangular pit or shaft (BF31) appeared to share the alignment of this enclosure's east ditch (BF14). The feature BF31 was 3m deep, and had been cut through the upper sandy gravel subsoil into a deposit of fine sand below. If it was open for any length of time then its near-vertical sides would probably have required some form of support, and its rectangular shape may have been designed to facilitate a lining, although no trace of one survived. The very top of the feature was oval in shape, possibly representing the faint remains of a weathering cone, and material from the upper fill contained a fragment of flue-tile dated to the Hadrianic period and a 2nd- to earlier 3rd-century colour-coated pottery sherd. However, pieces from a dozen or so Gallo-Belgic vessels in the lower fill (dated as Tiberian-c AD 50-85) with a single sherd of pre-Flavian samian, all suggest an earlier date of Late Iron Age-early Roman, and it is likely that the 2nd-century material higher in the fill results from settling and infilling. The depth of BF31 necessitated excavation in two parts, the lower half being cut back to accommodate shoring. This point corresponded with a change in the fill, with the upper half consisting of a dark stony sandy loam, and the lower of a homogeneous, rather plastic, dark silty sand. There was a small amount of clean sand slump in the base. Both the main fills were flecked through with charcoal, but this was much more common in the lower fill which also contained a quantity of carbonised plant remains including hazel, broom, spike rush, nettles, cabbage and mint, as well as the cereals oat, barley and spelt wheat.

3.5 Ovens (Figs 10 & 13)

There were three oven structures on Site C, two of which (CF78, CF79) were cut by the large boundary ditch CF16, and CF79 is probably of Roman date. There was no dating evidence for the third oven (CF108), but it seems likely that it was contemporary with the other two. All three ovens are of a different type or construction, although both CF79 and CF108 had a small pit-like bowl or furnace chamber at one end. Examination of carbonised material associated with CF79 and CF108 produced some fragments of hazelnut shell and grasses (goose grass and meadow grass) which may be residue from fuel. However, there were almost no other finds from these features, and the processes that they were used for could not be identified. None of them seem to have been associated with very high

temperatures as, although the subsoil had frequently been scorched red by heat, there were no signs of vitrification.

The southern half of the oven CF78, presumably where the stoking area was located, had been almost entirely removed by the ditch CF16. The oven appears originally to have been partly enclosed by a ring of stakes. The settings for eight stakes remained, and these were set back a little from the edge of the surviving furnace bowl. This was hardly more than a broad circular depression with the remnants of a thin reddened clay lining and scorched subsoil below. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, and this soil fill only contained occasional charcoal flecks.

A second kiln or oven (CF79) had been dug into fill at the southern end of an earlier pit (CF53). Here, scorched and reddened soil preserved the remains of a funnel-shaped flue, although the south side of this had been mostly cut away by the ditch CF16. The flue led to a small pit serving as a furnace bowl at its west end, and at the back edge of this were the charred remains of an upright wooden stake identified as being of oak. The scorching in the pit appeared to be stronger towards the top, suggesting that a firing chamber may have been located above. Material filling the oven was flecked with charcoal and contained numerous small fragments of burnt daub which possibly derive from its structure. Some loose fragments of Roman tile located on top of the southern side of the flue were probably also part of the oven structure.

A little to the east of these features was the site of another oven (CF108). This had two distinct phases of construction and use; each phase consisted of a small pit providing a furnace bowl situated at the northern end of an elongated pit, and the later of these small pits had partly cut away the earlier. The scorching was strongest in these chambers, but extended with less intensity away from them toward the centre of the pit.

3.6 The Roman water-main (Figs 3, 11, Fig 5 section & Plate 1)

A Roman water-main (BF25) ran diagonally north-south across the western part of Site B. It was constructed at some point in or after the early 2nd century, as the latest datable find from the construction trench was a sherd of Trajanic or Hadrianic samian. The water-main had originally consisted of hollowed wooden pipes jointed by a series of iron collars set below ground in the base of a trench, although only the iron collars remained. Roman water-mains of this type have been found previously in the Colchester *colonia* (CAR 3, 115-17). A 28m-long stretch of the Gosbecks water-main

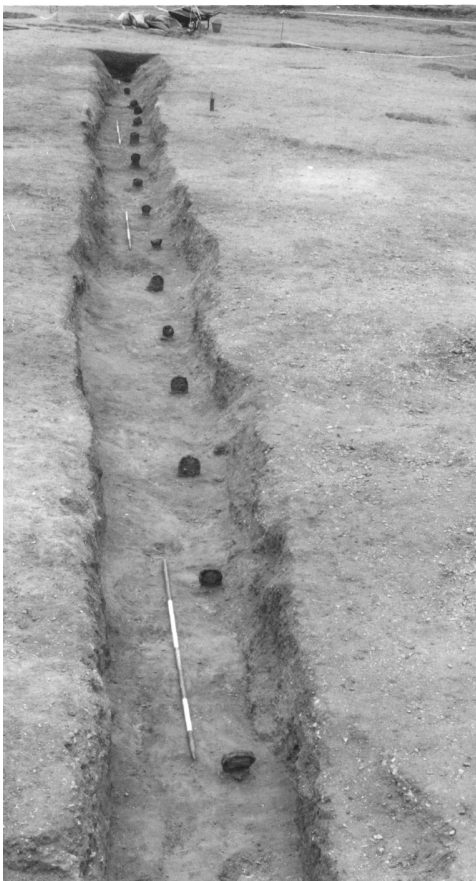


Plate 1: Roman water-main on Site B, looking south.

was excavated as a single section and this length contained 16 iron collars. The collars were all upright in their original positions, although some had been distorted by fracture causing slight vertical collapse. Where they could be measured, the collars were between 10cm and 11cm internal diameter, which is the same as those from Balkerne Lane (CAR 3, 117), although one whole example measured only 8.5cm. However, all the iron collars from Gosbecks were between 3cm and 3.5cm wide parallel to the bore; this is shorter than those at Balkerne Lane which were up to 5.7cm wide. The surviving trench in which the water-main had been laid was about 0.6m-0.7m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The pipe itself had been laid against the south side of the trench, and a small amount of gravel spoil had either accumulated back into the trench or had been placed to bed the water-main before it was laid. The trench had then been backfilled. The spacing of the iron collars indicates that the lengths of wooden pipe had been generally similar, varying from about 1.63m to 1.83m long, although most were within the range 1.65m-1.75m with an average of 1.70m. This is shorter than the lengths of wooden pipe at Balkerne Lane which were between 2m and 2.5m long. Relative heights of the collars show that overall it was constructed as a level pipe and the water must have been under pressure to flow through it. The direction of this flow can only be assumed, although it seems most likely that the water-main was built to carry water into the centre of the Gosbecks complex to the south. The path of the pipe trench can be traced for about 200m beyond the southern edge of Site B towards the religious complex at Gosbecks.

3.7 Buildings or structures (Fig 12)

The poorly-preserved remains of two probable buildings were located, one on Site C (Building C1) and another on Site B (Building B2). Also a number of small pits in the western part of Site B, which appear to be related, could represent the post-holes of a third building or structure (Building B1). The remains of the buildings consist of stake-holes and settings for posts, although features interpreted as being beam-slots were associated with one of them. These building numbers refer to Sites B and C at Gosbecks and are not part of the numbered Colchester Buildings series.

3.7.1 Building B1

The group of small pits (BF171, BF175, BF176, BF180) appear to be related in such a way that they may represent post-settings for a possible structure or building. Two of these features (BF176, BF180) each had deeper sections toward one of their edges, suggesting possible post-settings. The features were all relatively small, between 0.4m and 0.7m across and about 0.1m deep, but parts of BF176 and BF180 were up to 0.25m deep. All had a single sandy loam fill, and small pieces of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were found in BF171 and BF180. Their locations, on either side of the ditch BF40, suggest that they pre-date the rectilinear ditched enclosures, and are of Late Iron Age-early Roman date.

3.7.2 Building B2

In the angle between the ditch BF106 and BF6, there was a complex of small ditches or shallow trenches and a number of post-holes which appear to form a related group. These are interpreted as being the remains of a structure or building which extended beyond the northern site edge, although how or if these elements interact is not clear and more than one structure or phase could be represented. Similar cross- or X-shaped arrangements of shallow trenches, representing pyre sites, have been excavated at Westhampnett in Sussex (Fitzpatrick 1997, 18-32). However, at Westhampnett these features were smaller than those excavated at Gosbecks, being normally up to about 2m in length, and with quantities of pyre debris associated with them. No pyre debris was associated with the features at Gosbecks which were filled with fairly clean yellowish-brown clay-silt. The shallow ditches or trenches BF130 and BF107, which appeared to be related to the structure, cut the ditch BF129, and the building axis shares the alignment of the ditch BF6. There were no surviving floor-levels. However, there was a concentration of charcoal along the north edge and into the lower fill of the ditch BF6 adjacent to the area of the building and which, by its appearance here, is possibly connected with it. All of the trenches associated with the area of the building were very similar, being between 0.35m and 0.5m wide and around 0.1m deep, with clean yellowish-brown silty fills. The small groups of pottery from these are poorly dated, although mostly of Late Iron Age type with some early Roman pieces. It seems probable that the shallow trenches BF153 and BF164 (which is at right-angles to BF153) are beam-slots, although no stratigraphical relationship could be established between them. To either side of trench BF153, south of trench BF164, there was a row of large stake holes or post-holes. Three of these (BF159, BF192, BF193) were in a line parallel to BF153 on its east side, and there was a more numerous group to the west of which four (BF165, BF161, BF167, BF196) defined a similar alignment. The post-holes to the west also appeared to be related to the end of the slot or ditch BF130, and another possible slot or ditch (BF205) continued the line of this feature east beyond the site edge. The orientation of the building in relation to the ditch BF6, and the concentration of charcoal in the fill of this ditch alongside the area of the building, suggest that they may be contemporary.

3.7.3 Building C1

On Site C, to the north of the ditch CF16, there was a rectilinear setting of stake holes or small post-holes (CF109-CF127 and CF133). The majority of these were about 0.2m deep and 0.15m in diameter, although five were only about 0.1m deep and 0.1m in diameter (CF110, CF113, CF115, CF122, CF127). The northern end of the building was more heavily reduced during machining and the arrangement of posts was only clear at the western end. The building appears to have been a rectangular structure measuring approximately 2.5m-3m wide by 5m long. No material evidence was found associated with the building, nor did any floor-levels survive, so that its date is conjectural. Its rectangular shape indicates a probable Late Iron Age/Roman or possibly later date, and the very small number of post-Roman features suggest that it is almost certainly Late Iron Age or Roman. The orientation of the building appears to reflect the line of the ditch BF6/CF196, and the proximity of the inhumation CF100 indicates that it probably was not standing when that burial was made. As it lies beyond the boundary ditch CF16, the building may pre-date this feature and is probably associated with the Late Iron Age-early Roman activity here represented by the ovens, two of which were cut by the boundary ditch CF16.

4 The Roman burials (Figs 13-15 & Plate 2)

4.1 Cremation burials

In the northern half of Site C, a small number of cremation burials were located on either side of the boundary ditch CF16. Only three cremation burials could be identified with certainty (CF12, CF37, CF42), and all had suffered some damage prior to excavation. Close dating is difficult but all of these burials are post-conquest. The burial CF37 can be dated to the end of the 1st-early 2nd century, and CF12 is probably of 1st-century date, and possibly pre-Flavian. In addition, there was a number of shallow features with some fragments of cremated bone, most of which also contained the base of a grey ware vessel, and these are probably the remnants of further very badly damaged cremations. Most of these cannot be dated more closely than Roman as they had been almost entirely removed prior to excavation, although one (CF40) is probably of 4th-century date.

CF12

The cremation burial CF12 (Fig 14 & Plate 2) is possibly the earliest of the burials, and it was located east of the boundary ditch CF16. It was surrounded by a small square ditched burial enclosure about 5m across, and the burial was in a rectangular pit at its centre. The bone fragments, probably of an adult, were contained in a grey ware bowl or jar (Fig 15.4) of probable early Roman date set against the north edge of the burial pit. In the centre and southern part of the burial pit there were five iron nails, suggesting that the burial had also originally contained a constructed wooden object which filled much of the grave. Sherds from two other pottery vessels were found in the fill, although their location and relation to the other objects is not known. The pieces from one of these, a pre-Flavian fine ware cup of form Cam 62, were in extremely poor condition. It is not known if the whole vessel was originally



Plate 2: burial enclosure (CF12) on Site C, looking south.

present or whether its fragmented state was the result of funerary rites. The few other sherds present were probably from a flagon and could be an accidental inclusion. The surrounding ditch survived as a slot or gully just under 0.5m wide and about 0.12m deep. Most of the southern ditch had been removed by a recent pipe-trench, and two gaps in the west ditch probably represent shallower sections lost prior to excavation. Just to the south of the enclosure ditch, a natural feature had been affected by heating from a source above the excavation surface and could represent the site of a funeral pyre.

CF37

The burial CF37 (Fig 14), also situated to the east of the ditch CF16, was the least damaged of the cremation burials and contained the largest group of grave goods, consisting of three vessels. These were a samian dish of form Dr 18 dated c AD 85-100, with the surviving lower parts of both a glass flask and a flagon (Fig 15.1-3). These goods had all been placed upright in the grave and were arranged in a row along the east side of the sub-rectangular grave pit. The unurned cremated bone, probably that of an adult, had been placed just to the west of the vessels in the centre of the pit.

CF42

The only other certain cremation burial, CF42 (Fig 14), was located to the west of the boundary ditch CF16 in the north angle formed by this ditch and the ditch CF196. It cannot be closely dated. A sandy grey ware jar (Fig 15.5) containing the cremated bone had been partly cut away by a contractor's trench prior to excavation and the upper part of the vessel had been lost. The remaining part of the grave pit was a rough semi-circle.

Other cremation burials and possible cremation burials

A number of badly disturbed features also contained a few fragments of cremated bone. Although this material could not be positively identified as human, it is well calcinated and no probable animal remains were identifiable among any of the fragments. It therefore seems likely that most, if not all, of this material represents, or derives from, further cremation burials. Three of the features also each contained a grey ware pottery jar base, ie CF41, CF40 and CF43 (Fig 14). In CF40, most of a bowl also survived, as the vessel was relatively low in height and had escaped the plough damage sustained by taller vessels indicated in the other features. Two of the features (CF40 and CF43) were located adjacent to the cremation burial CF42, and CF41 lay only a short distance to the west. These four features CF40, CF41, CF42 and CF43 appear to form a related group, although only CF40 can be dated as it contained a near-complete (although broken) Oxford red ware bowl of form CAM 317 (Fig 15.6) which is of 4th-century, probably later 4th-century, date (but see CF40 in section 8.7.4). It seems likely that all of these features represent the remains of cremation burials. This may also be the case for CF39 (Fig 14), as fragments or flecks of cremated or burnt-bone fragments were recorded as being present in the fill together with the base of a grey ware jar (although the bone could not be located during post- excavation). In addition, a few fragments of cremated bone were recovered from features CF28 and CF88. The possible small pit CF28 appeared to be a distinct feature cut into the fill of the ditch CF16 indicating a date in or after the late 2nd-3rd century, although the very small amount of bone in relation to the size of the excavated feature suggests that this material could be an accidental inclusion. The accidental inclusion of disturbed or residual bone may also be the case for CF88. However, although their status is uncertain, it is possible that any of these features could represent unaccompanied cremation burials.

4.2 Inhumation burials (Figs 13-15)

A small number of inhumation burials were located immediately to the east of the boundary ditch CF16. In all, seven graves were found, ie CF69, CF75, CF91, CF96, CF97, CF99 and CF100. Six of these were aligned along the east side of boundary ditch CF16, giving them an approximate north-south orientation, although CF100 at the north end of the row of graves was orientated approximately east-west. All of the inhumation burials had been contained in coffins. Three of these burials had been accompanied by grave goods which can generally only be broadly dated to the 2nd-4th centuries, although one vessel is of mid 3rd-century date or later. The depths of the graves as they survived on the site were quite shallow and varied between about 0.3m and 0.4m, although CF75 was 0.7m deep. Almost no bone survived from the inhumations, having been dissolved in by the acid gravel soil; the only exception was part of a human jaw (mandible) at the south end of grave CF91 identified as being that of a young adult or middle-aged individual.

4.2.1 Grave goods with the inhumation burials

Three of the burials were each accompanied by a single pottery vessel. Two of the pots were located outside of the coffin at one end of the grave in burials CF96 (Fig 14) and CF100 (Fig 14). At the south end of CF96, a Nene Valley folded beaker of form CAM 408-410 (Fig 15.8) is of mid 3rd- to 4th-century date. The major part of the pot was lying on its side with its base toward several other pieces a short distance away. At the south end of CF100, most of the lower part of a buff fabric vessel, which was

almost certainly a flagon (Fig 15.7), stood nearly upright in one corner of the grave. The top of the vessel had been removed, but the grave was quite shallow and this is almost certainly recent damage. The vessel is probably of local manufacture but it can only be broadly dated as Roman. The third pottery vessel, a BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 dish of form CAM 39 (Fig 15.9), which can only be dated as Antonine-4th century, was found with grave CF75 (Fig 14). This vessel was in the base of the grave near the centre and inside the line of the coffin. It was in two pieces, and these were in a normal base-down position next to each other but with the rim of each piece to the west.

There were also single fragments from two iron finger-rings from grave CF100 and a fragment from a copper-alloy finger-ring from grave CF99, although none of these could be shown to have been deliberate grave inclusions and their condition also suggests that this may be unlikely (see small finds report, section 8.2).

4.2.2 Coffins

All of the inhumation burials had been contained in coffins, although only the iron nails used in their construction remained and no other metal fittings were present. In the majority of the graves, most of the nails were concentrated at each end with only a few along the sides. However, in grave CF100 (Fig 14), there were more numerous and regularly-spaced nails in upright position along the base of the coffin which had attached the sides and base. Unfortunately nothing is known about the construction at the ends of this coffin as these were originally excavated as two separate pits. Although the evidence is limited by poor preservation, the sizes of nails used appeared to cluster in two groups, where measurements could be made. These can tentatively be related to some of the individual coffins. The group of smaller nails varied between about 5cm and 7cm in length. Although the group of larger nails ranged between about 8cm and 12cm in length, they were frequently about 10cm-11cm long. The heads of the nails, where present, appeared to be flat and round. Coffins identified as constructed using the smaller-sized nails were with burials CF69, CF91 and CF96, and those using larger nails with burials CF75 and CF97.

5 Post-medieval features (Fig 3)

Only a small number of certain post-Roman features were found, and all of these were of post-medieval date. On Site B, the northern end of a ditch or trench BF30 (Fig 5 section) with steep (vertical) sides contained pottery which can be dated no closer than 17th-19th century. Just to the east of this, there was a curious narrow rectilinear trench BF75 (Fig 5 section), again with vertical sides and a stepped or crenellated plan. This also contained pottery of 17th- to 19th-century date and may have extended beyond the edge of the site. The purpose of this unusual feature is entirely unknown. At the eastern end of Site B, a small ditch BF133 cut across the excavated section of the large boundary ditch BF138/CF16 (Fig 5 section); this can clearly be seen on aerial photographs to be part of an extensive system of post-medieval ditches which were encountered in the 1994 evaluations of this area (Brooks *et al* 1995). The small east-west ditch CF60 on the northern part of Site C is also almost certainly part of this system of post-medieval ditches.

6 Site phasing (Site B and Site C)

As there is no general stratigraphy on these sites, the phasing relies on dated finds with some direct relationships between individual features. In some cases, less certain phasing can be inferred from spatial relationships. The main periods primarily reflect overall changes to and within the landscape, although Period 2 is further sub-divided, based on the large quantity of finds of Neronian date from Site B. The main periods of occupation at Gosbecks, Period 1 and Period 2.1, can be compared to that at Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985), although at Gosbecks this extends into the early Flavian period.

Period 1 Late Iron Age-early Roman (late Augustan-Claudian)

Period 2 Roman (Claudio-Neronian to 4th century)

Period 2.1 early Roman (Claudio-Neronian)

Period 2.2 later Roman (Flavian-4th century)

Period 3 post-Roman (post-medieval)

6.1 Period 1

As with the 1970 Sheepen excavation (Niblett 1985), Late Iron Age occupation is represented almost entirely by residual material, and none of the features can be shown to certainly pre-date the Roman period. The earliest possible beginning of the pre-conquest phase is based on the dating of the Gallo-Belgic wares and some of the small finds. Apart from one sherd dated Augustan, the earliest

Gallo-Belgic wares are late Augustan, and all of this material comes from Site B. Gallo-Belgic ware remains the main dating source through Period 1, and there is almost no samian. Some features contained finds which were of Late Iron Age-Claudian date, or need not be later than Claudian. Specifically Neronian or later finds associated with these contexts are limited to a few individual sherds, some of which were clearly intrusive. Almost all of the ditches and some of the pits of this period were cut by the ditches of Period 2.

6.2 Period 2.1

This period is defined by the large amount of finds of early Roman, predominantly Neronian, date from features on Site B. This is indicated most clearly by samian (Table 1) and the small finds, while the other finds groups also support this. This material was concentrated in a number of large pits and several ditches which cut features of Period 1.

Table 1: Site B samian, approximate number of vessels and % of assemblage by period date.

Claudian	Claudio-Neronian	Neronian	pre-Flavian	Nero-early-Flavian	Flavian	other 1st century	earlier 2nd century
1	37	115	23	18	6	29	6
<1%	15.7%	48.9%	9.8%	7.6%	2.5%	12.3%	2.5%

6.3 Period 2.2

A few finds from Site B are of Flavian-mid 2nd-century date, although the very small amount of definite 2nd-century material is almost exclusively samian. The coarse pottery lacks any significant quantities of clearly identifiable late 1st- to earlier 2nd-century material, and black-burnished wares and late Colchester colour-coated ware (apart from one sherd) are absent from the Site B assemblage. Apart from one samian vessel, finds that are Antonine or later are only certainly represented on Site C. Pottery accumulating in the upper fills of the large boundary ditch CF16 is of mid to late 2nd- to earlier 3rd-century date, and there are two coins from this feature dated AD 154-155 and AD 161-176. Dated finds certainly later than the early 3rd century are only present in two of the burials on Site C.

7 The Roman road (Site A)

7.1 Introduction

The course of this road between the Roman town and as far as the Gosbecks complex is well known. It originates from the major Roman road junction beneath the Colchester Royal Grammar School, and runs directly to the east side of the religious complex at Gosbecks. Aerial photographs show four ditches in two pairs, creating a main central carriageway with ancillary tracks to each side. Previous investigations have been carried out on the road at Rayners Farm in 1936 by Rex Hull (Hull 1958, fig 2.1; *CAR 11*, p 138, 73) and by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in 1989 (*CAR 11*, p 121, 39). However, neither of these small excavations has proved to be really satisfactory in defining the road. Hull's section appears to show all four ditches, but the overall road width defined by these is too narrow in comparison with the excavation here, and probably only three of them are of the Roman road. The 1989 section was also confused by the presence of what can now be shown to be a post-medieval ditch. The excavation in 1995 gave the first clear view of the road layout which conforms with the aerial photographic evidence.

7.2 The Roman road (Fig 17 & Plate 3)

Excavation confirmed the presence of four ditches on Site A (AF4-AF7) set out as two pairs, defining narrower areas or footways, each just over 2m wide, on either side of a central carriageway which was about 7m across. Although no road surfaces survived, they can be inferred to have been made of gravel, as there were distinct concentrations of stones across the road area at the base of the ploughsoil, especially in the top of the ditches and on the footways. The largest of these stones were irregular, naturally rounded flints of cobble size.

The ditches themselves were slightly irregular, although generally they were all about 1m wide and between 0.6m and 0.7m deep, with steep sides and broad, slightly uneven bottoms. They contained a fairly uniform silty sand over a gravelly fill in their base, and this sequence probably represents silting over an accumulation of gravels eroding from the ditch edges or road surface. Finds from the ditches were very few, and provided no evidence which could be used to suggest the date at which the road was constructed, or at what point it fell out of use. A few tiny fragments of probable Late Iron Age or



Plate 3: Roman road on Site A, looking north-east.

Roman pottery were recovered from the silt fills of two of the ditches, as well as some small Roman tile fragments. The presence of the patchy stone concentrations in the top of the surviving ditch fills, just below the base of the modern ploughsoil, may suggest that they had silted to at least this level prior to the destruction of the road surfaces by ploughing.

The overall distance between the outer edges of the outer ditches is approximately 15.7m, which would probably have been slightly greater at the road surface. They are also slightly irregular in their course, and in relation to each other, which makes this figure variable. However, it could be suggested that the overall layout of the road may have been intended to approximate with that of the streets in the Roman town (CAR 6, fig 2.7) with an original setting out at 55 pM (16.26 m) for the full width of the road area.

In addition to the Roman road, there were three small pits AF1-AF3, on the east side of the site. They were very similar to each other, being between about 0.7m and 0.8m across, and 0.2m-0.3m deep, with fills of sandy silt containing some charcoal above a stonier base fill. They are probably all contemporary with one another. Of these, only the northern pit AF3 contained any finds, and these were a tiny unidentifiable piece of tile and a small pottery fragment. The pottery is thin and soft, and is of the same fabric, possibly the same vessel, as fragments in the lower silt of the western road ditch (AF4). The fragments from both features are in identical condition which suggests that they were deposited at about the same time, indicating that the pits could be contemporary with some stage in the life of the Roman road. However, the high visibility of the pits just below the ploughsoil suggests they are more likely to be of relatively recent origin and suggests that the pottery from the pit AF3 may be mis-attributed.

8 The finds

The finds reports here are concerned with the material from Site B and Site C. There were only a few finds from Site A (mostly fragments of tile), none of which were intrinsically interesting or useful for dating. These are listed in the archive and are not considered here apart from the worked flint. The finds from the sites are deposited with the Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession codes 1995.15 (Site A), 1995.16 (Site B), and 1996.48 (Site C). It should be noted that there is no report for animal bone from the sites: this was lodged with the specialist soon after the excavation, but neither a report nor the material have been recovered from the specialist. The quantity of animal bone recovered amounted to approximately 0.6 cubic metres. Two horse skulls and the remains of a kitten (not included in this figure) were lifted separately and are held at Colchester and Ipswich Museums. Earlier

identification and comments by the specialist on the latter have been incorporated into the first section of this report (p 5).

8.1 The coins

by John Davis

Twelve coins were recovered from Gosbecks. Nine come from Site B and three from Site C. The two groups can be considered separately.

The nine coins from Site B comprise one Iron Age and eight Roman issues. The Iron Age coin is a bronze unit of Cunobeline, dating from the pre-conquest period, between AD 20 and AD 43. The Roman coins contain two silver *denarii* and six *aes* of the 1st century AD. Both *denarii* are Republican types, struck before AD 43 but which would have been introduced to Britain during the immediate post-conquest years. The remaining issues are low-denomination bronzes, which are predominantly *asses*, the lowest denomination that was used in Britain. A summary of the Roman coins recovered is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: summary of Roman coin denominations from Site B.

	<i>Denarii</i>	<i>Sestertii</i>	<i>Dupondi</i>	<i>Asses</i>
Republic	2			
Nero			1	1
Vespasian				4

The coins from Site B comprise a tight chronological group. Apart from the *denarii*, all the coins were struck between AD 20 and AD 79. Both Republican issues would have belonged to the same years, despite having been struck much earlier. The group as a whole compares with that from the Sheepen site, which similarly contained coins from the Iron Age, Neronian and Flavian periods.

The coin group from Site C is much smaller and its composition is very different. All the coins are Roman and date to later years. The two earlier issues are *aes* of the mid 2nd century Antonine period. The latest is an *antoninianus* of the late 3rd century. Such radiates are very common on most Roman sites and this is an issue of one of the emperors most commonly represented.

8.2 The small finds

by Nina Crummy

with additional comments and identifications by Martin Henig and Justine Bayley
(Figs 18-19)

The assemblage from Site B is particularly important in that it represents the first sizeable excavated group of native and early Roman material from the agricultural part of the British settlement of Camulodunum. However, comparisons with the small finds from the industrial zone at Sheepen can only be general rather than statistical, given the paucity of pre-conquest stratigraphy at Gosbecks and the vast quantity of small finds from Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 308-349; Niblett 1985, microfiche 3: B6-D6). The 1930s Sheepen assemblage was also subject to considerable selection for publication. For example, of 400 1st-century brooches recovered in the 1930s, only 195 were included in the site report (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 308), as were only a small number of copper-alloy and iron objects (*ibid*, 332, 341).

The Site B assemblage is dominated by 24 bow and five plate brooches and brooch fragments, all from Site B. In the majority of cases, the type can be identified. A full catalogue is given below. All are of 1st-century date, most post-conquest but two pre-conquest, as may be some examples of native types that continued to be manufactured after the invasion, such as Colchester, Langton Down derivative, and Nauheim derivative. Colchester and Nauheim derivative brooches are common in both pre- and post-conquest levels at Sheepen (*ibid*, 308-319), and are also well-represented in the Roman fortress, *canabae*, and early *colonia* (CAR 2, 7-12; CAR 6, 140-42, 206-8). The date-range of the assemblage is concentrated on the 40s and 50s, as was that of Sheepen, where occupation effectively ceased with the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1.

The iron Nauheim derivative brooch (B SF 130; not illustrated) is certainly pre-conquest in manufacture, if not deposition, as the type probably died out at the conquest (Hull forthcoming, Type 12B). Also pre-conquest is a Colchester brooch (Fig 18.1) with the long thin bow characteristic of early examples of the type (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 90, 15; Hull forthcoming, Type 90). This came from a Phase 2 ditch (F13) which pre-dates the main period of pitting. It does not, however, indicate a pre-conquest date for the fill of the feature, as the ditch also contained a small Colchester (Fig 18.2), which is probably late Claudian or Neronian (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 91, 31-3; Hull forthcoming, Type 91).

Langton Down brooches and the derivative form represented at Gosbecks (B SF 154; not illustrated) are absent from the Roman fortress, suggesting that these native types were never taken up by the military (Hull forthcoming, Types 21 & 22). The types probably ceased to be manufactured around the time the *colonia* was founded. Confirmation of this can be found in the late M R Hull's brooch corpus (forthcoming), in which he lists 48 Langton Down and two Langton Down derivative brooches from Colchester, most from Sheepen, with three from the Lexden cemetery (in grave 325, dated c 40-5; Hull 1942, 59-61) and one from a sand-pit nearby in Glen Avenue, on the fringes of Sheepen. Only one Langton Down appears to have come from the area of the Roman town, from the Botanic Gardens, now Roman Road and Castle Road (Hull forthcoming, catalogue no 0325; Wire's Diary 22/5/1852). Although intra-mural once the town wall was built, the Botanic Gardens site was well outside the fortress and its annexe (CAR 6, fig 2.11). It was only taken into the *colonia* sometime after the Boudican revolt, some fifteen years or more after Langton Down brooches had gone out of production.

While native brooches predominate in the Site B collection, at least five are of types introduced by the army of conquest, one Aucissa, three Hod Hill, and a lozenge-shaped tinned plate brooch (Fig 19.5). Distribution of the latter on the Continent concentrates on military sites, and in Britain is similarly limited, with most examples coming from Colchester, Richborough and Hod Hill (Hull forthcoming, Type 225), and smaller military bases (eg Brown 1986, fig 24, 174). There are three from Sheepen, one in a context dated 49-60/1 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 98, 165) and two in Boudican destruction contexts (Hull forthcoming, nos 0583, 0584), and a pair from an unstratified context on the Culver Street site in the town-centre (CAR 6, fig 5.1, 29-30). The other tinned plate brooches (Fig 18.6-8) are almost certainly also invasion imports, particularly the latter which is most closely related to Continental forms (Hattatt 1987, 158-9).

Although the main collection of brooches is consistent with the main period of occupation on Site B ceasing, like Sheepen, with the Boudican revolt, some post-Boudican activity is demonstrated by the presence in the assemblage of two Colchester BB derivatives, which have a date-range of c 65-80 (Fig 18.3-4). Only three are known from the Sheepen site (Hull forthcoming, Type 93, 0147, 0151, 0167), of which one is a stray find from Sheepen Farm, the second is unstratified, and the third is related to Temple II, built in the late 1st century (Hull 1958, 227). Colchester BBs only occur in very low numbers within the *colonia* (CAR 6, 142; Hull forthcoming, Type 93, 0149), but the type appears to be favoured by the native population, being more common on extra-colonial sites such as Balcerne Lane, St Mary's hospital, and the early cemetery (CAR 2, 12; CAT Report forthcoming; Hull forthcoming, Type 93, 0155, 0158, 0175, 0164, 0144, 0145).

One of the Colchester BB brooches, from the ploughsoil on Site B, is complete, with the pin fixed into the catchplate to attach a plain silver finger-ring (Fig 18.3). A plain silver hoop similar to that attached to the Colchester brooch was found at Dragonby, Lincolnshire, although it may be of later date (Knowles & May 1996, fig 11.20, 15).

There are six other finger-rings in total from Site B. One is an iron finger-ring of Henig Type 2 (Henig 1974), set with an intaglio showing a mask of comedy. Martin Henig has dated this ring to the mid 1st century (Fig 19.7). It may be unwise to place any emphasis on the recovery of a theatrical mask design of this date at Gosbecks, with its 2nd-century theatre. However, Dunnett suggested that an earlier wooden theatre preceded the later 2nd-century part-masonry construction, though she dates it to later than AD 100 (Dunnett 1971, 34). Two rings have plain bezels, a Henig Type III of iron (B SF 102; not illustrated), and a Henig Type 1 of copper-alloy (B SF 6; not illustrated), and there is also a fragment of an iron ring-key (B SF 39; not illustrated). A silver ring has a simple bezel decorated with a very slightly raised hatched lozenge (Fig 19.1). The identification of the last finger-ring is less certain. A fragment of copper-alloy wire from pit BF42 (SF 66; not illustrated) may be from a finger-ring with twisted join as CAR 2, figure 60, 1756, which came from a context dated c AD 43-9 in the *canabae* at Balcerne Lane.

Seven finger-rings is a high proportion for an assemblage of this size, and could be an indication that the ritual nature of the Gosbecks area extended this far. A high proportion of pieces of jewellery, in particular brooches and finger-rings, is considered diagnostic of the Romano-Celtic temple sites of Woodeaton and Lowbury Hill, Oxfordshire (Bagnall Smith 1996, 191-2, 195). The Gosbecks brooch with its attached ring (Fig 18.3) may be a disturbed votive deposit, which leads to the possibility that other items on Sites B and C may also be deliberate deposits, not the result of casual loss. The 'killing' of an object is a good indicator that it was votive, but this practice cannot be positively identified on any of the Site B brooches and finger-rings. Most are damaged, but show the type of damage associated with wear and post-depositional decay that would be seen on a similar collection on an intra-mural occupation site, eg missing springs and pins, and thin areas of metal such as catchplates and ring hoops worn away.

Hobnails from nailed Roman shoes or boots occur in some number from Site B. At this early period they are probably likely to be of military origin, but with no leatherwork surviving it is impossible to tell if

they derived from nailed openwork legionary *caligae* or from civilian shoes (van Driel-Murray 1983, 17-18). Where only one or two were found together they are probably indicative of loss through wear and tear, but two contexts produced sufficient hobnails to suggest that whole pieces of footwear may have been present: 12 hobnails from ditch BF7/pit BF10 and 41 hobnails from pit BF42. However, the presence in BF42 of debris from iron-smithing may suggest that these nails were collected for recycling.

The Site B assemblage includes at least six toilet articles, and several fragments such as copper-alloy shafts that may be from toilet instruments. The collection is composed of a small toilet spoon, two pairs of tweezers, two nail-cleaners, and a small fragment from a mirror. The mirror, both nail-cleaners, and one pair of tweezers derive from Period 2.1 ditches, and the spoon and the second pair of tweezers from pits. One of the nail-cleaners is of Colchester Type 2a (SF 84; not illustrated) which dates from the mid 1st century possibly into the 2nd (CAR 2, 58). None of the other pieces is sufficiently well-preserved to be dated, although several similar pieces come from Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 100).

Again matching the Sheepen assemblage (*ibid*, 349), textile manufacture in the area of Site B is represented by a large numbers of fragmentary loomweights of Iron Age type (section 8.9), and also by three spindlewhorls made from pottery sherds of native coarse and fine wares and a unfinished whorl that has been partly rounded and partly pierced. Four pottery sherd roundels that have edges trimmed to shape but not smoothed may also be unfinished whorls. Most derive from Period 2.1 ditches and pits and need not be earlier than the AD 40s in date, but one roundel (SF 244), made from the base of a Gallo-Belgic vessel, is from the Period 1 ditch BF2.

No other specific craft tools were recovered, but a well-preserved knife of Manning Type 24 (Manning 1985, fig 29, 24) came from the large pit BF42 (Fig 19.2). The type is Iron Age in origin, surviving into the mid 1st century (*ibid*, 118-19). There are three other possible blade fragments and three whetstones from Site B. One of the latter (Fig 19.3) was used for point as well as blade sharpening, and, like the knife, all three appear to be of native origin. A Roman introduction, however, is a linch pin of Manning's spatulate-headed Type 2a, from the Period 2.1 ditch BF162 (SF 182; not illustrated).

The brooch types associated with the invading army (see catalogue) and the hobnails possibly from military boots (see catalogue) are matched by seven items of military equipment from Site B: an iron lancehead of Scott's Group 1 Hod Hill type (Scott 1980; Fig 19.4); a fragmentary iron catapult bolt-head (SF 91; not illustrated), an iron arrowhead or small bolt-head (Fig 19.5); an iron spiral ferrule (SF 42; not illustrated), similar to examples from pre-Flavian Longthorpe (Goodburn 1974, fig 41, 13-14); a cavalry harness pendant (Fig 19.6) of Bishop's lunulate Type 9 (Bishop 1988, fig 47); a harness strap-mount (SF 31; not illustrated) of Bishop's Type 6 (*ibid*, fig 52); and a fragment from a *lorica segmentata* hinged copper-alloy fitting (SF 36; not illustrated). This is a high proportion of weapons to horse harness to armour fittings compared to sites within the fortress (CAR 2, 129-36; CAR 6, 187-90, 233-40), and probably reflects troop exercises from the nearby 1st-century Gosbecks fort (Wilson 1977, 185-7), or possibly from the fortress. All the equipment is consistent with a mid 1st-century date. The strap-mount has traces of silver plating and niello inlay, and is paralleled by two pre-Flavian examples from Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 103, 20; CAR 2, fig 151, 4219). Most of the pieces derive from pits, apart from the arrow- or bolt-head from the Period 2.1 ditch F6 and the spiral ferrule from the Period 2.2 ditch BF87.

The laying of a water-main sometime in the 2nd century, possibly later, provides the latest-dated small finds from Site B, with several iron junction collars occurring at fairly regular intervals along its length. Collars of this type, with pronounced external median ridge, are common in Roman Britain (Manning 1985, 128-9), with other examples from Colchester coming from the group of four water-mains entering the *colonia* through the Balkerne Gate (CAR 3, 115-17), from a main along the north side of the street between Insulas 27 and 35 (CAR 6, 72), from within Room 10 of Building 123 in Insula 35 (*ibid*, 101), and from a main that may have served the Temple of Claudius (*ibid*, 355).

The predominantly mid 1st-century date of the majority of small finds from Site B is not reflected in the Site C assemblage, where none of the few small finds recovered is necessarily of 1st-century date.

The only pieces of metalwork from the cremation cemetery are a few iron nails and nail shaft fragments from CF12 and CF37. The nails from CF12 were found in a cluster, which appears to suggest that they all derive from a single object, probably a box or small piece of furniture.

From inhumation CF99 is the bezel of a copper-alloy ring filled with red paste. It is unlikely that this fragment was a deliberate grave deposit. The bezel is filled with red paste, now much crazed and partly missing (Fig 19.8). A similar, though slightly smaller, bezel also filled with red paste came from the Roman villa site at Gestingthorpe, Essex where it is dated to the 2nd or 3rd century (Henig 1985, fig 12, 60). Two fragmentary iron rings were found in grave CF100, and again it is unlikely that they were deliberate inclusions. One has a convex oval glass setting in three colours (Fig 19.9). The setting of the second is missing.

There were groups of hobnails in CF16 (eleven nails) and the ditch CF70 (approximately 45 nails). The high number in the ditch suggests that at least two, and possibly more, nailed shoes were originally deposited.

The most notable object from Site C is a small heavily-leaded copper-alloy figurine of a crouching hare, from the fill of a Roman field ditch (CF70). The body of the animal is well-modelled, though the ears are rather short and the delineation of the eyes, nose and mouth is quite rudimentary (Fig 19.10). The fur is shown by small nicks over the body. The quality of its naturalistic execution suggests that this is an imported early Roman piece.

Other imported well-modelled pieces include the pre-Roman boar figurine from Colchester's Lexden Tumulus (Pitts 1979, 86, pl 2, 166), the 2nd-century Silchester eagle (*ibid*, 92, pl 27, 198), and the animals accompanying the 2nd-century Verulamium Mercury (Pitts 1979, 57, pl 12, 39; Lindgren 1980, 58-9). A particularly similar piece is a late 1st-century crouching mouse from Exeter (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991, fig 116, 104).

The hare is not recorded as a live adjunct of a particular god or goddess, so the solid ground-base of this figurine is unlikely to suggest that it was soldered to a pedestal as part of a figure group, as were the three animals with the Verulamium Mercury (Lindgren 1980, pl 19). Like the Exeter mouse, it may have been nothing more significant than a child's model.

To the Romans, the hare was both a popular food item and a pet. As a pet it occurs on tomb-reliefs from Lincoln and, probably, Housesteads (Toynbee 1973, 202), but it chiefly occurs in Roman, including Romano-British, art as a hunted beast. Hares were hunted both in the field and in private game reserves (*leporaria*), and there are many scenes showing hares hunted by dogs (Toynbee 1973, 16, 24, 200-202). In later Roman Britain, the theme of the hunted hare occurs on knife handles (Hattatt 1989, fig 36, 242-3; Rees *et al* forthcoming, SF VR 701, SF HA 72), and on colour-coated beakers (Hull 1963, fig 52, 6; Henig 1998, fig 12). The hare was depicted at Chedworth, Gloucestershire as the dead prey both of the hunter-god (Toynbee 1962, catalogue no 78; Green 1976, p 174) and of the personification of Winter (Henig 1995, 159).

In direct stylistic contrast to the Gosbecks hare is one of pre-Roman date from the Roman fort at Saham Toney, Norfolk. It appears to have been a fitting, rather than a free-standing model (Brown 1986, fig 26, 192), and is clearly of native, rather than Continental, manufacture. Though not necessarily considered to be a specifically religious item, the recovery of this piece in the heartland of the Iceni indicates that it is likely to have been a powerful symbol.

Caesar notes that the Britons bred hares as a source of 'pleasure and amusement', but also that they considered it 'unlawful' to eat them (*The conquest of Gaul*, V.12), and Dio Cassius confirms their sacred nature when recording the hare as the chosen sacrifice of the Icenian war-goddess Andraste (*Roman history*, LXII, 2; Green 1976, 34; 1997, 185). Tangible evidence is provided by hare bones found in a ritual well at Jordan Hill, Weymouth, Dorset (Green 1976, 201) and in a ritual pit at Ewell, Surrey (*ibid*, 221), while hare fur was found in two ritual shafts at Ipswich, Suffolk (*ibid*, 218). A number of hare representations have been found in votive contexts in Britain: a small copper-alloy hare figurine found with 3rd-century pottery in a pit on the temple site of Thistleton Dyer, Rutland (Green 1976, 167); a stylised copper-alloy hare from Lincoln (*ibid*, pl 22c); and a hare shown on a repoussé-decorated copper-alloy strip from Winterborne Kingston, Dorset (Farrar 1953, 74-7). Of less immediate relevance, though important in that they, too, come from Colchester, are a damaged 4th-century jet hare figurine found in the fill of a 4th-century grave at Butt Road (*CAR 2*, fig 175; *CAR 9*, 130), and a 1st-century red jasper intaglio showing a small rodent, possibly a hare (BM 70.4-2.87; Henig 1974, catalogue no 623).

It is uncertain whether or not the 2nd-century enamelled brooches in the form of running hares had any religious significance. They developed from mid 1st-century examples: a tinned brooch from Sheepen (Hull forthcoming, Type 211, no 0606); and one, probably from East Anglia, fitted with a spring styled on Colchester B derivatives (Hattatt 1989, 171-2). It may be no coincidence that both these early hare brooches come from eastern Britain, and might suggest that in origin, at least, they matched the symbolic importance of 2nd-century horse-and-rider brooches (Bagnall Smith 1996, 192). This idea cannot be sustained, however, by the findspots of enamelled hare brooches, most of which come from the urban centres of southern Britain (Hull forthcoming, Type 211).

Similarly, while the hare clearly had a symbolic importance to the native Britons, it is uncertain how much the Gosbecks figurine shared that emphasis, though its standard of manufacture suggests that, like the Exeter mouse, it was a purely Roman object.

Catalogue of brooches and small finds

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 60, 597 BF6. Ditch. Period 2.1. A bronze Nauheim derivative brooch with reverse curve to the fairly narrow bow (Hull forthcoming, Type 10b). Complete, apart from slight damage to the catchplate, with a distinctive glossy grey-green patina found on several of these brooches (eg *CAR 2*, fig 2, 1). Length 41 mm. This type is pre-conquest in origin, dying out in the pre-Flavian period.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 130, 110 BF11. Pit. Period 2.1. Iron strip-bow brooch with bow of flat section (Hull forthcoming, Type 12B). The pin and catchplate are missing. The spring is of six turns. There appear to be traces of reeding on the bow. Length 55 mm. This native type appears to cease at the conquest.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 154, 1003 BF134. Pit. Period 2.1. A poorly-preserved brooch with cylindrical spring-cover, a plain derivative (Hull forthcoming, Type 22) of the Langton Down brooch. The pin and most of the catchplate are missing. Length 38 mm. Characteristics of the type are the narrow bow of V-shaped section and the large, chiefly open, triangular catchplate. This example is of Hull's sub-type C, with plain bow (cf Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 95, 110). Pre-conquest in origin, the type dies out by c AD 50.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 65, 415 BF92. Pit. Period 2.1. A damaged keyhole-shaped brass Rosette brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 27), lacking the spring and pin. The type usually has a plain backplate to which an applied moulded plate was soldered. On this example most of the decorative plate is missing, though the little that remains had repousse-decorated foils and covered the whole backplate, not just the disc. Traces of the lead-zinc solder remain. The catchplate has a single circular perforation. Length 41 mm. A pre-conquest import, mainly found in the southern oppida, this type is commonest in the Claudian period and dies out by c AD 50.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 101, 764 F139. Pit. Period 2.1. A corroded keyhole-shaped Rosette brooch in two pieces (Hull forthcoming, Type 27). The pin and most of the spring are missing and the catchplate is damaged.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 67, 599 BF6. Ditch. Period 2.1. The foot and part of the bow of an Aucissa brooch. Length 38mm. Also a hinged brooch pin, probably, though not necessarily, from the same brooch. Imported by the Roman army in AD 43, and discontinued by c 60/5.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 56, 518 BF28. Pit. Period 1/2.1. A Hod Hill brooch with a single lug set in the middle of each side of the short bow (Hull forthcoming, Type 62). The hinged pin is missing. Traces of white-metal plating survive on the bow and foot. There is a ridge down the centre of the bow, which is separated from both the head and the foot by transverse mouldings. The foot has further mouldings below a small plain triangular panel. Length 52 mm. Like Aucissa brooches, Hod Hills are an invasion import, going out of use c AD 60/5.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 99, 782 BF18. Pit. Period 2.2. An openwork Hod Hill brooch that has been completely flattened. The pin, head and part of the bow are missing. The brooch is of Hull's Type 65 (Hull forthcoming), with a single lug set at each side of the base of the triangular bow and a thin curved arm rising from the lug to the top of the bow, with bow similar to Hattatt 1989, fig 182, 55). Each side of the bow is marked by a pair of ridges, and it is separated from the narrow foot by transverse mouldings. Length 55mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 78, 457 BF17. Pit. Period 2.1. A fragment of the bow and foot of a Hod Hill brooch, possibly of the simplest form (Hull forthcoming, Type 60). The bow has a high plain central ridge, and probably a ridge down each edge. A single sharp transverse moulding separates bow and foot, on each of which there are traces of parcel tinning. Length 28mm.

Fig 18.1. GOSB SF 83, 524 BF13. Ditch. Period 1. A Colchester brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 90) with the lower part of the bow, most of the pin and catchplate missing. Colchester brooches date from Tiberius-Nero, but on this example the bow is straighter than usual, with a sharper angle where it meets the head, indicating a date early in the series. Length 50mm.

Fig 18.2. GOSB SF 18, 37 BF13. Ditch. Period 1. A small plain Colchester brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 90/91), with the tip of the bow, most of the pin and catchplate missing. Length 40 mm. Small examples such as this are likely to be Claudio-Neronian.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 86, 528 BF31. Pit. Period 1. A plain Colchester brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 90), with the lower part of the bow, the pin and catchplate missing, and one side of the spring separate. Length 44mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 81, 423 BF96. Pit. Period 2.2 A large brooch spring of ten turns with an external chord, now mostly missing. Probably from a Colchester brooch or a Colchester B derivative.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 53, 450 BF87. Ditch. Period 2.2 A well-preserved Colchester B brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 92), complete apart from the pin, part of the spring, and the top of the catchplate. The central ridge is marked with a zig-zag scribed line. Length 39mm. Colchester B derivatives date c AD 50-c 70.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 13, 257 BF10. Pit. Period 2.1 A small Colchester B brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 92) in three fragments, complete apart from the missing pin. The brooch is not well-preserved, but the only decoration appears to be a groove down the central ridge. Length 28mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 145, 1094 BF63. Pit. Period 1/2.1 Corroded complete iron brooch, probably a Colchester B derivative. Length 50mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 138, 849 BF150. Pit. Period 2.1. A small corroded Colchester B brooch, complete apart from the pin. The central ridge is split by a groove and knurled. Length 36mm.

Fig 18.3. GOSB SF 77, 487 L2. Ploughsoil. A complete Colchester BB brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 93), with a plain silver finger-ring threaded onto the bow. The junction of head and cross-bar is flanked by two small ridges. Length 43mm. BB derivatives are post-Boudican in date, c AD 65-c AD 80.

Fig 18.4. GOSB SF 71, 451 BF18. Pit. Period 2.2. A tiny Colchester BB brooch, complete apart from the pin and part of the catchplate. Like SF 77 this brooch is plain apart from two ridges flanking the junction of head and cross-bar. Length 25mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 34, 385 BF87. Ditch. Period 2.2. A sprung Dolphin brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 94), lacking the spring and pin and part of the catchplate. The cross-bar is decorated with knurled and plain mouldings, and the bow has a split central rib. There is a single circular perforation in the catchplate. Length 37mm. Sprung Dolphins date to the Claudian period.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 9, 142 BF6. Ditch. Period 2.1. A sprung Dolphin brooch, the pin and catchplate are missing. The bow is decorated with a narrow groove with raised zigzag band. The short cross-bar is plain. Length 35mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 29, 350 BF45. Pit. Period 2.1. Corroded sprung Dolphin brooch, complete apart from the pin. No decoration is visible. Length 35mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 90, 634 BF42. Pit. Period 2.1. A fragment of a hinged bow brooch, type uncertain, surviving as a narrow bent strip along the length of the head and bow, slightly wider at the foot on which traces of the catchplate remain, and at the cross-bar, each end of which is missing. Length 37mm. A date in the middle to later 1st-century date is probably appropriate.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 174, 887 BF127. Pit. Period 2.1. A fragment of the spring and pin of a bow brooch.

Not illustrated. GOSB SF 55, 492 L2. Ploughsoil. A keyhole-shaped hinged plate brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 238), which follows Hull Type 27 in the Rosette brooch series (Hull forthcoming). Parts of the bow, foot, pin and catchplate are missing. The bow and foot are tinned, and an iron cupped stud in the centre of the disc was filled with red glass. A coarse zigzag scribed line runs down the centre of the foot. Length 32mm. A similar brooch from Burgh Camp in Suffolk came from a stratified destruction layer of AD 60/1 (Hull forthcoming, catalogue no 2420). The type in general can be dated to the mid 1st century.

Fig 18.5. GOSB SF 175, 961 BF6. Ditch. Period 2.1. A tinned brass hinged plate brooch (Hull forthcoming, Type 225), lozenge-shaped with incurving sides. Part of the pin, and part of the catchplate are missing. On many examples the four points of the lozenge are extended into lugs, which may be split by incised lines. On this brooch the lugs are all damaged, but incised lines over the hinge and catchplate show that the upper and lower lugs were split. In the centre of the brooch are two concentric circles of enamel (?red) around a central cupped stud which probably also held enamel. Length 29mm. Three other brooches of this type are known from Colchester, an unstratified pair from the Culver Street site (CAR 6, fig 5.1, 29-30), and one, very similar to the Gosbecks brooch, from the 1930s excavations at Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 98, 165). The type is Claudian in date, introduced into Britain by the army of conquest in AD 43.

Fig 18.6. GOSB SF 206, 1063 BF22. Pit. Period 2.1. A circular hinged plate brooch with eight small domed lugs set around the edge. Three lugs, the pin and most of the catchplate are missing. The tinned disc is decorated with concentric mouldings and has a small flat-topped central stud. Diameter, excluding lugs, 29 mm. It is similar to brooches from the Continent (Hattatt 1987, 158-9), and belongs in the third quarter of the 1st century. A fragment of a disc from a context dated 49-60/1 at Sheepen may be from a similar brooch (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 98, 174).

Fig 18.7. GOSB SF 15, 255 BF41. Pit. Period 2.2. A tinned bronze/gunmetal circular hinged plate brooch with large lugs over both hinge and catchplate. The disc has a raised rim and two raised ?lunar motifs in the centre. There is no trace of enamel in the field. Each lug is damaged, but both appear to have consisted of two roughly bead-shaped elements defined by notches. The sides of the disc are damaged. Length 27 mm. The thin metal of the plate points to a mid 1st-century date for this brooch, which should be seen in the context of the wide variety of similarly early brooches (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 98; Hattatt 1989, figs 201-2). In general form it appears to foreshadow the 2nd-century equal-ended series, though it is possible that the damage at the sides was caused by the removal of side lugs.

Fig 16.8. GOSB SF 117, 706 BF18. Pit. Period 2.2. A brass/gunmetal hinged plate brooch with eight peripheral lugs, here flat and with an elongated neck. The rim of the brooch between the lugs is curved,

making the lugs an integral to the design. This is consolidated by a tiny row of punched dots that follows the outer edge, coming to a point on the lugs. Most of the lugs are damaged, but those above the hinge and catchplate appear to have been bifurcated like those on the lozenge-shaped SF 225, while the one complete side lug has a tiny central stud that appears to have a dot of red enamel set in the head. The disc has a hole for a central stud, now missing, around which are fine concentric mouldings, the outer one of which is larger and knurled. In the triangles formed by this moulding and the line of punched dots are slightly larger punched dots. Diameter, including lugs, 30 mm. There is no close parallel for this brooch, but there is no reason to suppose that it does not belong in the mid 1st century with the rest of the assemblage.

Fig 18.3. GOSB SF 77, 487 L2. Ploughsoil. Silver hoop finger-ring with plain hoop of circular section. Internal diameter 16mm. Attached to a Colchester BB derivative brooch.

Fig 19.1. GOSB SF 97, 128 BF42. Pit. Period 2.1. Silver finger-ring with flat oval bezel marked with a slightly raised hatched lozenge. Internal diameter 15.5mm.

Fig 19.2. GOSB SF 2, 272 BF42. Pit. Period 2.1. Fragment of a small iron knife of Manning's Type 24 with S-shaped profile to the back and tang. On this example the edge is less convex than most examples, and most resembles an unprovenanced variant of the form in the British Museum (Manning 1985, fig 29, pl 56, Q85). Length 95mm.

Fig 19.3. GOSB SF 94, 518 BF42. Pit. Period 2.1. Weathered sandstone hone tapering from rectangular section at one end to a blunt point at the other. One face has longitudinal grooves (at right angles to plane of bedding) indicative of point-sharpening, while the other is dished from edge-sharpening. Length 129mm.

Fig 19.4. GOSB SF 26, 137 BF63. Pit. Period 1/2.1. Socketed iron lancehead of Hod Hill type (Scott 1980, 333; Manning 1985, 161-5). Tip of blade missing. Length 111mm.

Fig 19.5. GOSB SF 141, 1087 BF6. Ditch. Period 2.1. Iron arrowhead or small catapult bolt-head of Manning Type IIB (*ibid*, 177). Length 48mm.

Fig 19.6. GOSB SF 119, 727 BF121. Pit. Period 2.1. Copper-alloy cavalry harness pendant of Bishop's Type 9 (Bishop 1988, fig 47). The thickness of the round terminals has been increased by rivetting on a domed 'washer'. The loop for attachment has broken off. Height 41mm.

Fig 19.7. GOSC SF 17, 135 CF100. Inhumation burial. Period 2.2. A corroded iron finger-ring of Henig Type 2 (Henig 1974, fig 2) with a convex intaglio of yellowish glass showing a mask of comedy (too badly damaged to allow illustration or photograph) closely comparable to two Continental examples (Vollenweider 1979, pl 97, 317, 321). Also from Colchester is a similar iron finger-ring with a yellow glass intaglio showing a satyr mask (BM 70.4-2.88; Henig 1974, catalogue no 150). The back part of the thin hoop is missing. Internal diameter 15mm.

Fig 19.8. GOSC SF 57, 280 CF99. Inhumation burial. Period 2.2. Bezel of a copper-alloy finger-ring filled with red paste/enamel, now crazed and partly missing. The bezel is more or less circular, but has a worn flattened area on both slightly longer edges.

Fig 19.9. GOSC SF 52, 270 CF100. Inhumation burial. Period 2.2. A fragment of an iron finger-ring with an oval bezel set with a convex piece of tricolour glass, its narrow outer ring very dark blue, surrounding a band of white and an inner oval of red. Maximum length of setting 6mm.

Fig 19.10. GOSC, SF 31, 178 CF70. Ditch. Period 2.2. Copper-alloy figurine of a crouching, very slightly curled, hare. The ears, which are rather short, are laid back against the head and have the inner part shown by a groove in the metal. The eyes are staring, delineated by a shallow oval groove, possibly stamped, and the nose and mouth are also defined by grooves. The scut is a small inverted triangle in low relief on the rump. The fur is shown by small nicks over the body. The animal rests on a flat base, trimmed to fit the edges of the figure except at the back, where it projects slightly, while at the front the head projects beyond the base. Placing the creature on a base has enabled the hare's paws to be well-modelled without losing stability. Length 35mm, height 15mm.

Not illustrated. GOSB, SF 42, BF87. Ditch. Period 2.2. Iron spiral ferrule, similar to examples from pre-Flavian Longthorpe (Goodburn 1974, fig 41, 13-14).

8.3 The querns

by Hilary Major

with a report on stone samples by R W O'B Knox and Dr G K Lott

The querns from Site B form a small but interesting group, derived predominantly from well-dated early Roman contexts, and giving a good indication of the types of stone coming into the Colchester area during this period.

The earliest quern from this site was a fragment from a sarsen saddle quern, residual in a Period 1 context BF2, and possibly deliberately re-shaped into a rough cube. It is not possible to date the quern more closely than prehistoric. Natural sarsen boulders occur as erratics in Essex, and were frequently used for making saddle querns.

The remainder of the querns were rotary, in four different types of stone; Hertfordshire puddingstone, Rhenish lava, fine-grained sandstone, and shelly calcareous sandstone.

The three small fragments of puddingstone quern came from Period 2.1 and Period 2.2 contexts. The complete querns would have been bun-shaped, following the Iron Age rotary quern tradition, but virtually all stratified examples have come from Roman contexts, and these are no exception. While production of these querns must have started pre-conquest, they were probably still used until at least the end of the 1st century AD. By then, the standard stone used for querns in Essex was imported Rhenish or Niedermendig lava, initially introduced by the Legions. Pieces of lava came from eighteen contexts, dated Period 1 onwards. The lava from this site was in an exceptionally poor state of preservation, and the only piece of note was a lump from context BF134, from a stone at least 90mm thick. This is thicker than any lava quernstone from the county known to the writer, suggesting that this may have been from a millstone.

The two other types of stone present are of more interest. The sandstone fragment from BF45 (no 3, below) is an addition to the small number of fine-grained sandstone querns with no identified source from Roman contexts in Essex, a total of twenty-one. Of these, seventeen are from Mucking, two from Elm's Farm, Heybridge, one from Crondon Park, and one from Stansted. It is unlikely that they are all from the same source. Such querns evidently formed a very small component of the quern trade into Essex during this period.

The two pieces of shelly calcareous sandstone (nos 1 and 2, below) are potentially of considerable importance. They were not securely sourced (see reports by Dr R W O'B Knox and Dr G K Lott), and the possibility exists that the stone no 1 (catalogue) is foreign. Apart from lava, there are no Roman querns made from imported stone known from Essex, and perhaps from the country as a whole. It is certainly not impossible that this quern was imported, and unless a British source for this stone can be identified, it must be considered a possibility. It is, however, outside the scope of this report to investigate this idea further.

Finally, the absence of querns in Millstone Grit should be noted. This type of stone occurs in quantity at many Roman sites in the county (eg Chignall St James villa; Major & Buckley 1998), and although mainly from later Roman contexts, can occur as early as the 1st century AD. While the complete absence of Millstone Grit from the early Roman contexts on this site is not exceptional, it is worth noting that compared with the rest of the area, Millstone Grit querns appear to be rare in Colchester and its immediate environs throughout the Roman period. A number of other quern assemblages from Colchester have been examined by the author (Buckley & Major 1983; Buckley & Major 1992), and they contained only a single Millstone Grit quern, the bulk of the material being lava.

Catalogue

1. (Not illustrated) Lower stone fragment, surfaces eroded, with a perforating central hole. The edge of the stone is slightly lipped, and the underside irregular. Max thickness 52mm, diameter 352, weight 1,250g. Finds no 701, pit BF42; Period 2.1.
2. (Not illustrated) Fossiliferous sandstone. An eroded lump, probably from a quern, as it evidently had one flat surface. Max thickness 48mm, weight 1,200g. Finds no 988, ditch/gully BF74, Period 1.
3. (Not illustrated) Fine-grained sandstone, source unidentified; probably not greensand (pers comm C Ingle, not thin-sectioned). Edge fragment, probably from an upper stone with a slightly concave top and a vertical edge, fairly well finished. The grinding surface has worn pecking, and is slightly concave. Thickness at edge 42mm, diameter not measurable. Wt 316g. Finds no 1114, pit BF45; Period 2.1.

8.3.1 Report on stone sample

by Dr R W O'B Knox

(finds no 701 from BF42; see catalogue no 1 above)

Petrology

The stone is a grey, very shelly calcareous sandstone, weathering to a pale brown. The sand grains consist of angular to subangular, well-graded quartz grains and scarce K-felspar grains set, along with relatively large shell fragments, in a cement of coarsely crystalline ferroan calcite. The shell fragments are dominated by bivalves (including oysters), accompanied by gastropods and less common echinoderms fragments. Rare phosphatic (?fish) fragments and very rare glauconite grains are also present.

Stone identification

The thin-section petrology allows comparison with rock types previously reported from sandstone artefacts in England, which include Millstone Grit and Kentish Ragstone, Hertfordshire Puddingstone, sarsen stone and ?Purbeck sandstone (Kempe & Harvey 1983). The general appearance and fossil content of this rock indicate derivation from Jurassic or Lower Cretaceous sediments, and thus eliminates the Millstone Grit (which, in any case, is primarily found in Millstones). The remainder of these stone types, all of which are sourced from south-east England, display distinctive petrological features that are not matched in the sample under study. These are listed below:

- The Lower Greensand, which crops out along the northern flank of the Weald, includes the extensively quarried Kentish Ragstone, which is a sandy limestone rather than a calcareous sandstone. Fossil constituents are more varied than in the Gosbecks specimen, including foraminifera and sponge spicules. The cement commonly includes secondary silica (chert). The Ragstone is accompanied the more sand-rich Hassock, but this is typically poorly cemented and friable. Although the Lower Greensand is highly variable in lithology, glauconite is consistently common to abundant; its virtual absence in the Gosbecks specimen appears therefore to preclude a derivation from the Lower Greensand.
- Hertfordshire Puddingstone is a silica-cemented conglomerate, and sarsen stones are silica-cemented sandstones found derived from Lower Tertiary strata and found around the margins of the London Basin. Neither includes fossils.
- Purbeck sandstones are generally friable and clay rich, and the fossil assemblage rather distinctive in being dominated by brackish to freshwater bivalves and gastropods, commonly accompanied by ostracods. However, there are reports in the literature (Sylvester Bradley 1940) of sands and sandstones at the top of the Purbeck Beds in the Swindon area that possess fossil assemblages transitional to the marine Portland Beds. These sandstones were not exposed in 1940 and no specimens exist in the BGS collections. However, the Purbeck sands are consistently poor in glauconite, and must therefore be considered as a potential source for the Gosbecks quern.

No alternative English sources for the stone exist. The only other possibility to be considered is that the stone was imported, either as a quern or as unshaped blocks of ships' ballast.

In conclusion, precise identification of the stone is thus not possible, although one possible indigenous source is the uppermost Purbeck sandstone of the Swindon area.

8.3.2 Report on stone sample

by Dr G K Lott

(finds no 988 from BF74; see catalogue no 2 above)

The hand specimen is a hard, fossiliferous, carbonate cemented, pebbly sandstone. It has a ferruginous, orange-brown weathered surface coating and a mid grey unweathered core. The quartz grains present are highly polished and very well-rounded, and range from medium- to very coarse-grained. The pebbles present range up to 20mm and include quartz and a wide variety of other darker-coloured rock fragments. The macrofossils present are dominated by abundant, thin- and thick-walled bivalve shells which are long-ranging and not diagnostic. However, they can probably be assigned to the Jurassic or early Cretaceous periods.

Stone identification

The coarse nature of this sample has made identification of the source somewhat problematical. In order to narrow down the likely source areas, a colleague has looked at the microfossil content of the sample. The sample yielded few microfossils but did contain some species that could be assigned to the Middle Jurassic succession. The closest outcrop area that includes sandstones of Middle Jurassic age is probably the East Midlands. However, in general these successions do not contain pebbly sandstone horizons.

The best I can say, in conclusion, therefore, is that the sample is of Middle Jurassic age, probably from the East Midlands, but a more precise source location is not possible on the present evidence.

8.4 The glass

by Hilary Cool

The recent excavations at Gosbecks produced one glass vessel deposited with a cremation burial, 28 other fragments of Roman vessel glass from a variety of contexts (summarised in Table 3), and one fragment of cast window glass.

Table 3: distribution of glass by site, excluding the vessel in grave F37.

Site	Purple	Deep blue	Dark brown	Yellow/green	Blue/green	Window	Total
B	1	6	1	2	16	1	27
C	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Totals	1	6	1	2	18	1	29

The high proportion of strong colours (the first three columns of Table 3) indicate a Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian episode of rubbish-dumping. Similarly, the absence of any fragments from blue/green bottles or colourless vessels suggests that the episode finished well before the end of the 1st century, as the former vessel type especially was very common by that time.

The smallness of the fragments makes it impossible to identify many of the forms precisely but, where this can be done, the forms are common ones that have often been found in Colchester and its environs. Mid 1st-century to early Flavian forms represented include the Hofheim cup (Isings Form 12 in Isings 1957; *CAR* 8, 64) and the tubular unguent bottle (Isings Form 8; *CAR* 8, 159). The former is represented by three pale blue/green wheel-cut body fragments from BF42, and the latter by a blue/green body fragment from BF45. A blue/green neck fragment from BF18 could also have come from a tubular unguent bottle. A handle fragment with central rib from BF96 comes from a jug of Isings Form 55 (*CAR* 8, 120). The form itself continued in use until the mid 2nd century, but the dark yellow/green colour of this fragment suggests a mid Flavian or earlier date for the jug it came from. There are also two lower body and base fragments which are most likely to have come from collared jars (Isings Form 67c; *CAR* 8, 106). The one from BF17 is blue/green and therefore could belong to any point within the mid 1st- to early 2nd-century period. The fragment from BF11, by contrast, is deep blue and thus again indicates a mid Flavian or earlier date.

The only unusual form is a blue/green rim fragment from BF18. This is possibly from a fairly rare form of mould-blown bowl. A horizontal rib below the rim hints that the vessel might have been mould-blown, but the fragment is broken in such a way that insufficient remains to be certain of this. If it is mould-blown, it is much bigger than the common range of mid 1st-century mould-blown cups and beakers (see *CAR* 8, 42-9, 51-5). The size of the rim diameter would be appropriate for the enigmatic class of vessels with vegetal designs (*ibid*, 50) if these were open forms, but, at present, what form they took is unknown.

The vessel deposited in cremation burial CF37 is a small blue/green globular-bodied vessel. Post-depositional damage has resulted in breakage and the rim and shoulder are now missing. It seems most likely that originally it came from a long-necked flask, though one body fragment retains a miniscule fleck of additional glass as if from the edge of an attachment like a handle. Although unguent bottles are more commonly found in cremation burials at Colchester, larger flasks are not unknown. Pairs of flasks may be noted in burial 4 at Sheepen (Niblett 1985, fig 17, MF 1:A8) and in the famous 'child's grave' with figurines (May 1930, 251, pl LXXV.3a), while a single example was found in Joslin grave 51 (*ibid*, 267, pl LXXXI no 51). As the vessel lacks its rim, it is not possible to date it closely, but a date within the 1st- to 2nd-century period would be most likely.

The small fragment of window glass from BF87 is of particular interest. It is clear that there were glazed windows within the *colonia* in the pre-Boudican period as fragments have been found stratified in contexts of that date on various Colchester sites (*CAR* 8, 437). The fragment from Gosbecks now joins that from Sheepen (Harden 1947, 306) in suggesting that some structures outside of the city may also have been glazed at an early date.

With the exception of the vessel in cremation burial CF37, the glass at Gosbecks was mainly found in the pits, and in the majority of the pits only one vessel was represented, generally by a single fragment. This pattern suggests normal rubbish-disposal, and suggests further that vessel glass was in relatively common use in the settlement from which the rubbish was derived. This was a pattern that was also seen at Sheepen in the area excavated in the 1930s (Harden 1947). It contrasts with the situation in the area of Sheepen excavated during the 1970s, where the glass was found concentrated in relatively few pits (Niblett 1985, 136). In these pits, not only were several glass vessels found, but large parts of the vessel were included, unlike the situation at Gosbecks, and it is tempting to see some process other than normal rubbish-disposal at work.

Catalogue

Given the small size of the fragments found and their lack of diagnostic features, it has not been thought appropriate to provide a full catalogue of the material here, but one is available in the archive.

- a Flask (illustrated Fig 15.2). Complete base and majority of body in many shattered fragments. Blue/green with some large bubbles and occasional impurity. Globular body; shallow concave base without pontil scar. One body fragment (possibly from near the junction with the neck) retains tiny fragment of additional glass. Present height as reconstructed 72mm, base diameter 39mm. CF37, Period 2.2.
- b Rim fragment of ?bowl, blue/green. Curved rim, edge cracked off smoothly and ground along outer margin; side broken at chipped(?) horizontal rib on exterior with corresponding hollow on interior. Rim diameter 160mm, present height 18mm, wall thickness 2.5mm. BF18, Period 2.2.

8.5 The worked flint

Identifications and comments by Peter Berridge

The excavations produced a total of 70 pieces of worked flint all of which was either residual in later contexts or unstratified. None need be from sources other than local surface gravel. Most of the flint is waste flakes, four of which showed signs of use. There were also three scrapers, a core fragment, flaked flake, and a flake from a polished axe in blue-grey flint. Almost all of this is of Neolithic-Bronze Age date; however, there was some indication of Mesolithic activity including a single later Mesolithic microlith, a Mesolithic blade, and a retouch piece probably from microlith manufacture. There was also a lower Palaeolithic hand-axe (brown patinated and rolled, made from a gravel cobble) and a post-medieval gun-flint. All of the flint, apart from three waste flakes from Site A, was from Site B and Site C.

8.6 The prehistoric pottery

by Nigel Brown

The excavations produced a small quantity of prehistoric pottery (55 sherds weighing 298g, of which two sherds were from Site A) which has been recorded according to a system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988). The material is of small sherd size and over half of the sherds are heavily abraded; since most of the pottery was recovered residual in later features, this is unsurprising.

The earliest pottery present is a few small but unabraded sherds of Grooved Ware from a pit (BF206) close to Olivers Lane (Brooks *et al* 1995). An unabraded rim sherd of a round shouldered jar with a short upright rim was recovered from BF2. Such pots are typical components of Late Bronze Age assemblages (Brown 1988), and the range of fabrics present in BF2 are also likely to be of Late Bronze Age date. A shoulder sherd from a small angular bowl BF127 is likely to be of similar or slightly later, Early Iron Age date. The remaining material is not closely datable but might also be of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

8.7 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Approximately 250 kg of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery of all types came from the excavations, of which the vast majority, approximately 240kg, came from Site B. Most of this material can be compared in date and range of forms to much larger assemblages from the Sheepen site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). The general condition of the pottery was variable, though often fair to poor, with colour-coated/slipped vessels having suffered quite badly with much of the coat flaking or entirely missing.

8.7.1 The Gallo-Belgic wares

by Val Rigby

Gallo-Belgic imports – catalogue of potters' stamps

Name stamps

The name stamps are numbered and referred to as GB1-GB6.

Illustrated Fig 20.1. GB1 BF7 (finds no 16). Bordered die: **(B)OLL** (reversed L), an abbreviation of BOLL(OS). Radial, large platter with broad foot-ring. TR1(C) fine sandy matrix, orange ware, extremely abraded, no finish survives.

BOLLOS die 3C2: a unique die, the closest parallel, BOLL, with correct L, and also on a TR platter, has already been recorded at Camulodunum (CM 6117.21, RA 118). Judging by the fabric, the likely source was near Rheims in the Marne-Vesle potteries (for discussion of the sources see Rigby in Blockley *et al* 1995, p 669) The platter was certainly imported before AD 20.

Illustrated Fig 20.2 GB2 BF6 (finds no 636). **AVOTIS/IVLIOS**. Central within a pair of incised circles 4 mm distant. Small platter with narrow, tall foot-ring, highly domed at centre. TN heavily burnt and discoloured, no finish survives.

JULIOS die 2K3, a unique die, related in style to GB4.

Illustrated Fig 20.3 GB3 BF40 (finds no 681). **IVLIOS/AVOTIS**. Central. Small platter, domed at the centre. TN, heavily burnt and discoloured, no finish survives.

JULIOS die 2K2, a unique die, a stamp from a similar related die has already been recorded at Camulodunum and two in Cemetery S at Nijmegen, all on TN platters Cam 8 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 107; Holwerda 1941, 88b).

Julios is the most commonly recorded name on Gallo-Belgic products, particularly TN, yet no production centre has been firmly identified. The name occurs at both Haltern and Hofheim and so was current for well over 50 years, and must reflect the working life of more than a single potter (for detailed discussion of the potters Julios, see Rigby 1981). The range and variety of dies represented at Camulodunum, and also Chichester, suggest that the potters Julios were major suppliers of TN from the Marne-Vesle potteries to Britain in the period AD 2-65 (Rigby in Cunliffe *et al* 1996, 123).

Uncertain readings

Illustrated Fig 20.4 GB4 BF22 (finds no 1068). Double-line die: **AI/AI** or **AV/AI** or **AV/AV** ligatured, the A has a vertical central stroke instead of a crossbar. Central, cup Cam 58, small version. TN, fine-grained smooth matrix, grey core, blue-black surfaces, polished interior, matt, flaked exterior.

A unique die. AI or AV could each be an abbreviation for a name, while AV could equally be an abbreviation of AVOTIS, the Gaulish word for 'made by' see above GB 2-GB 3.

The stamp provides no dating evidence. The cup form was not standardised until after AD 40. In Britain, the distribution is markedly military and Neronia-early Flavian in date (Rigby 1977).

Illustrated Fig 20.5 GB5 BF6 (finds no 212). **MEII** [..]. Central, within one inscribed circle. Small platter with applied foot-ring. TN, smooth white matrix, dove grey polished surfaces.

Name and die is unrecorded. Few names commencing ME... are recorded; Meddira, Medilo and Medilios. Probably from the Marne-Vesle potteries. Claudio-Neronian.

Illustrated Fig 20.6 GB6 BF126 (finds no 642). **...IIO**, possibly a retrograde die. Central, within double incised circle. Small platter, domed at centre. TN, heavily burnt and discoloured.

The name is uncertain, but the die could be one used at Courmelois, in the Marne-Vesle potteries (Tuffreau-Libre 1981, fig 7 no 39; Chossenot & Chossenot 1987, fig 5). Without a rubbing or impression of the Courmelois stamp the identification remains uncertain, but the die shape, spacing, and angle of the surviving letters almost exactly fit the illustration. The solid O will have been the last letter, unfortunately the letters at the beginning of the stamp are poorly shaped. If the die was retrograde then the reding of the Courmelois die could be ACVTIO a common name previously recoded at Camulodunum, but a new and hitherto unrecorded die. If the die is not retrograde then the name is unrecognised, and could be an illiterate copy. The date of manufacture lies between AD 40 and AD 65.

Discussion

When *Camulodunum* was published (Hawkes & Hull 1947), the lists of Gallo-Belgic and coarse ware stamps far outweighed the total of all other Late Iron Age or early Roman settlements in southern Britain; moreover, the list of Gallo-Belgic stamps was second in length only to Nijmegen, in the Rhine delta, where a series of early Roman cemeteries had been found (Holwerda 1941). No archaeological event in the past half-century has overturned the pre-eminence of Camulodunum in the literature.

Thanks to excavations at Puckeridge and Braughing, the Late Iron Age settlement there has an impressive list of late Augustan stamps, but Camulodunum has more (Rigby 1988). The King Harry Lane cemetery outside Verulamium provides the largest published collection of Gallo-Belgic imports found in cremation burials of the Late Iron Age and early Roman period; however, the publication of the Stanway cemetery at Colchester has redressed the balance (Stead & Rigby 1989; Crummy *et al* 2007). As for stamps on coarse ware, post-war excavation in the City means that Londinium has mounted a spirited challenge with a total of 56 stamps, most unpublished; however, Colchester is still out in front (Rigby 1999). Probably the most interesting feature is that, as yet, no die is represented in both lists, although the settlements were on the same bank of the same river and less than 100km distant. The roots of the divide presumably go back to the pre-Roman tribal trading patterns. Londinium has direct die links with Chichester/Fishbourne in Sussex, while Chichester/Fishbourne has one with Braintree in Essex, leap-frogging Londinium and almost reaching Camulodunum (Rigby 1996; Rigby 1998). Perhaps the answer lies with politics, rather than economics, and Cogidubnus, or his descendants, had estates in Essex.

The position of Camulodunum in Gaulish pottery trade from the last decade of the 1st century BC is illustrated by a study of the dies used on TR and TN; most dies in use in the Claudian period and recorded elsewhere in southern Britain are paralleled at Camulodunum. Sometime around AD 60 the pattern changed and parallels with Camulodunum are drastically reduced.

The trading connections with Gallia Belgica established before the Roman invasion survived and flourished for a time, supplying the native population. Once the South Gaulish samian industry really took off in the Claudian period, and supplies were no longer confined to the Roman army and administration, samian was the preferred table ware of all and Gallo-Belgic imports declined in quantity and range. The Boudican revolt of AD 60/1 dislocated supplies and, once broken, the connections did not recover. Having once been the preferred table ware of the native population of south-eastern Britain, by the Neronian period, Gallo-Belgic TN – now a much rarer commodity – was distributed to military establishments north and west of the Fosse Way, apparently being delivered to Flavian forts in Scotland, Wales and the south-west.

Potters' marks on coarse wares

The sherds are so abraded that it has not been possible to illustrate any stamps; however, they deserve study because of their relevance to the developments in Roman pottery production at Colchester in the decades immediately succeeding Roman occupation. Three were found together in the same feature, a rare occurrence even at Colchester.

A number of stamped platters in grey quartz sand-tempered coarse wares have been found at Colchester which are so exact in their typological detail that they must have been made by potters who previously produced TN and TR fine wares in the Marne-Vesle potteries in Gallia Belgica. Two examples are published here, ie copies of Cam form 8 (Cam form 24A and B) and 16. The question is whether these products were also imported alongside the fine wares, or whether the potters moved to the Colchester area to be near a major market, bringing the forms and Roman kiln-firing techniques, but not the precise fine fabrics. No Continental parallels have been identified, which supports the hypothesis that potters moved their workshops to Camulodunum. Unfortunately, since the dies are 'Copies' of 'Names', they are notoriously difficult to identify when abraded and in the hand, and impossible when only illustration is available.

Illegible impressions

XS 1 BF42 (finds no 82 base, 290 rim and 400) Illegible mark. Central. Small platter Cam 24. Dark grey quartz sand tempered ware, no finish survives.

The shape of the mark, combined with the form, which copies the imported Cam 8 exactly, and the grey fabric, suggest that this is a common die at Camulodunum; for the full discussion of the source and date, see Rigby 1999 (CAR 10, 223), LTC 27-30. Local, Neronian.

Vessel illustrated Fig 20.7

XS 2 BF150 (finds no 880 base and 883 rim) Illegible mark. Central. Small platter close copy of the imported Cam 16. Fabric as XS 1.

The shape of the mark, combined with the form and fabric, suggest that this die has already been recorded at Camulodunum: for the full discussion see Rigby 1999 (CAR 10, 222), LTC 7.

Vessel illustrated Fig 20.8

XS 3 BF42 (finds no 234) Illegible mark. Central. Small platter with moulded foot-ring. Fabric as XS 1, brown-buff, with traces of a darker burnished finish.

The fabric suggests that this vessel too was produced locally in the Neronian period.

XS 4 BF42 (finds no 1103) Illegible mark. Central within one incised circle. Small platter with functional foot-ring. Fine matrix with sparse-medium mica, tempered with coarse quartz sand.

Technologically and typologically this platter is yet another close copy of a Gallo-Belgic import, the final fired colour is similar to good-quality imported TN. Presumably produced locally in the Neronian period.

8.7.2 The samian

by Brenda Dickinson

The samian assemblages from Site B and Site C, although from adjacent sites, are largely different (see Tables 4-6).

The samian from Site B

The excavations at Site B produced 362 samian sherds, from a maximum 235 vessels.

The bulk of the material pre-Flavian, with a handful of later 1st-century sherds and a little 2nd-century ware, the latest being mid-Antonine. The forms present are:

Table 4: samian forms recorded from Site B.

The abbreviations are:

SG South Gaulish

CGMV Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre)

CGLZ Central Gaulish (Lezoux)

EG East Gaulish.

Form	SG	CGMV	CGLZ	EG	TOTAL
Ritt. 1	1	-	-	-	1
Ritt. 1 or 18	1	-	-	-	1
Ritt. 12	2	-	-	-	2
15/17	22	-	-	-	22
15/17 or 15/17R	1	-	-	-	1
15/17 or 18	7	-	-	-	7
15/17R	3	-	-	-	3
15/17R or 18R	4	-	-	-	4
18	30	-	1	-	31
18R	3	-	-	-	3
18/31	1	1	-	-	2
18/31 or 31	-	1	-	-	1

24	14	-	-	-	14
27	25	-	-	-	25
29	38	-	-	-	38
29 or 37	2	-	-	-	2
30	11	-	-	-	11
30 or 37	1	-	-	-	1
33a	1	-	-	-	1
37	2	-	1	-	3
67	1	-	-	-	1
Hermet 15	1	-	-	-	1
Curle 23	-	1	-	-	1
Dec. bowl	3	-	-	-	3
Dish	15	-	-	-	15
Dish or bowl	1	-	-	-	1
Rouletted dish	4	-	-	-	4
Cup	7	-	1	-	8
Handled vessel	1	-	-	-	1
Uncertain form	26	-	1	-	27
TOTAL	229	3	3	0	235

Unlike the two previously published assemblages from Camulodunum, this one contains no typologically pre-Claudian samian, such as the cup Ritt. 5 or the Tiberian type of form 29. Two bowls of form 29 have the over-large bead-rows found on some Claudian examples, or on the *crater* Dr 11. Several cups of form 27 have flat-topped rims, as found in the Claudian and early Neronian periods. Some of the potters' stamps, too, could belong to the AD 40s.

However, the bulk of the 1st-century samian is Neronian, falling within the period c AD 50-65. While none of the decorated ware is assignable to particular mould-makers, the motifs and figure-types are paralleled on bowls stamped after moulding by some of the more prolific Claudio-Neronian potters of La Graufesenque, such as Crestio, Labio, Licinus (whose wares are particularly common at Colchester), and Murranus. For the most part, the identified South Gaulish stamps (eight out of a total of fourteen) also belong to potters whose careers began under Claudius, but who were mainly active in the AD 50s and early 60s, such as Ardacus, Crestio, Licinus, Mando and Murranus. The exception is Damonus, who was a Tiberio-Claudian potter, but the stamp in question is from one of his later dies.

The later 1st-century samian comprises six Flavian vessels, including a jar of form Déch 67 and two bowls of form 30, in the styles of Calvus i and M. Crestio. The latest South Gaulish pieces are a dish of form 18/31, of Flavian-Trajanic date, and a large handle, perhaps from a canteen, which could be Trajanic.

The South Gaulish samian is almost entirely from La Graufesenque, but there are two sherds from Montans, the other main South Gaulish factory, whose 1st-century output was largely confined to Gaul. In Britain, examples occur in London, but only in relatively small quantities, and sporadically elsewhere in the province; these may be the first recorded examples of 1st-century Montans ware from Camulodunum. There are also two, or perhaps three, 1st-century Lezoux vessels. These are not quite so rare in Britain, and have been noted as far apart as Scotland and south Wales, but, again, there are very few examples in the Colchester area.

The 2nd-century samian is all Central Gaulish. The Trajanic period is represented by three plain ware vessels from Les Martres-de-Veyre. The two latest pieces from the excavation, a cup and an almost complete stamped decorated bowl of Cinnamus ii, were made at Lezoux.

This site differs from the previously excavated areas of Camulodunum in showing no evidence of pre-conquest occupation, but a distinct bias towards the Neronian period. From the ratio of decorated to plain ware, approximately 1:3, it would appear that the community was a relatively prosperous one in the 1st century. The 2nd-century material is too sparse to offer any clues to the history of the site then, but there seems to have been activity in the area down to at least AD 150.

The samian from Site C

This much smaller assemblage comprises 42 sherds from a maximum of 16 vessels. The forms present are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: samian forms recorded from Site C (abbreviations as for Table 4).

Form	SG	CGMV	CGLZ	EG	TOTAL
18	1	-	-	-	1
18/31	-	2	1	-	3
18/31R	-	1	1	-	2
29	1	-	-	-	1

33	-	-	3	-	3
36	-	-	1	-	1
79R or TgR	-	-	-	1	1
Dish	-	-	-	1	1
-	1	1	1	-	3
TOTAL	3	4	7	2	16

The samian has a wider date-range than that from Site B, extending from the pre-Flavian period to the late 2nd century, or possibly down to the earlier 3rd century.

On Site C, South Gaulish ware from La Graufesenque, so prominent on Site B, plays a minor role. Central Gaul is represented by four sherds from Les Martres-de-Veyre, all Trajanic, and seven from Lezoux of Hadrianic and Antonine date. This site also produced two East Gaulish vessels, an Antonine dish from one of the Argonne factories, and the latest piece from the excavation which is a dish with a stamp of the Rheinzabern potter Florentinus.

The stamped vessels comprise:

- 1 CF37 Period 2.2 (finds no 117), Form 18 (vessel illustrated Fig 15.1). South Gaulish, largely complete, with stamp **OF[MLSC]LI: L** Tr-Masc(u)lus of La Graufesenque, Die 4a. This stamp is known from Newstead (Curle 1911, 238, 62) and stamps from some of the potter's other dies have been noted at sites founded in the AD 80s and 90s, such as Cannstatt, the Saalburg, Wilderspool and the main site at Corbridge. c AD 85-110.
- 2 CF16 Period 1/2 (finds no 46), Form 79R or TgR, East Gaulish, stamped **F ORE TI V F:** Florentinus of Rheinzabern, Die 5a (Ludowici 1927, 215, b). While there is no very satisfactory dating for the potter's output, the form of the Gosbecks dish, the occurrence of the stamp at Niederbieber (Oelmann 1914, taf 9, 23) and the style of his decorated ware all suggest that he was active in the late 2nd or the early 3rd century.
- 3 CF70 Period 2.2 (finds no 183), Form 33, Central Gaulish, stamped **REBVRRI×OFI:** Reburus ii of Lezoux, Die 2a. This is one of the less-common stamps of Reburus ii and it has not yet been noted in a dated context. His general record makes Antonine date certain, with stamps on forms 31R, 79, 80 and Tx, but a number of examples on form 27 suggest that he began work early in the period. Site evidence includes Birdoswald, Great Chesters and, perhaps, Croy Hill. c AD 140-170.

8.7.3 Other Late Iron Age and Roman coarse pottery

by Stephen Benfield

The amphoras

Identification and comments by Dr Paul R Sealey

There were 29.4kg of amphoras from Site B and Site C of which 27.4 kg was from Site B. Most of the sherds were of Dressel 20, and all of the identified sherds from Site C were of this amphora type. On Site B there was a minimum of six of these vessels, although at least two were from a single context (BF42). Of four rims, three were of Claudio-Neronian type, with one dated c AD 75-125 from BF45. One Dressel 20 handle carried a stamp but this was too worn to be legible. There were only a few sherds from other amphoras and these represent only one or possibly two vessels of each type. These, with the minimum number of each represented, were: Kingsholme 117 (1), Haltern 70 (2), Dressel 2-4 (2), Iberian Salazon (1), Gaulish wine amphora (1), and Catalan wine amphora (1). The degree of domination of the assemblage by Dressel 20 amphoras is unusually high.

Mortaria

The mortaria sherds from Site B weighed 4.6kg and represent a minimum of about fifteen vessels, with a further 0.42kg from Site C from five different vessels. There were no stamps present. Only four of the mortaria were of the early wall-sided type Cam 191, three of which were from Site B and one from Site C. The incidence of this form at Gosbecks is low in relation to the numbers found at Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hartley 1985 in Niblett 1985, 92-3) where it is proportionately approximately twice as common, though this may be related to the substantially greater pottery assemblages from the Sheepen site and/or the continued activity at Gosbecks into the Flavian period. Early flanged mortaria are represented by sherds from seven vessels of forms Cam 192 and Cam 194, six of which were from Site B. There were four examples of CAM 195 with gritting over the flange, one of these from Site C, and two others of CAM 195 both from Site B. A single example of a Verulamium region mortarium (CAR 10, Fabric TD) came from the ditch CF16.

Pompeian red wares

There were a small number of sherds of Pompeian red ware (CAR 10, Fabric CS) and all except one sherd were from Site B. Of these most were in Peacock fabric 3 (Central Gaulish Pompeian red ware),

pieces of lids in this fabric coming from Period 2 features BF7 and BF74 and base sherds from BF122. Two other fragments from BF2 (Period 1) were in Peacock fabric 5 and are probably of local manufacture (CAR 10, 238), as was the single sherd from Site C.

Pre-Flavian colour-coated wares

A few sherds from early colour-coated vessels formed a minor part of the assemblage and were present in contexts dated to Period 2. Three vessel sherds were noted in Lyon colour-coated fabric (CAR 10, Fabric EB): one from BF10, and two of Cam 94B, one from BF6 and another from BF28. Early Colchester colour-coated fabric (CAR 10, Fabric EC) is represented by a rim sherd of Cam 94B from BF41. Only two cups of Cam 62 were noted, ie a base sherd from from BF42 in Colchester fabric, and the other is that found with the burial CF12 which is also probably a local (Colchester) vessel. A beaker of Cam 94B in grey fabric with red streaked surface and traces of a white slip on all surfaces came from BF22. This vessel is possibly also a Colchester product (Greene 1979, fig 24 no 1).

Later colour-coated wares

Apart from the Nene Valley folded beaker in burial CF96, only a few sherds of later colour-coated wares were present and these were all from roughcast beakers of CAM 391 in Colchester colour-coated fabric (CAR 10, Fabric CB). All except one, from the upper fill of the deep pit BF31, were from Period 2 or later contexts on Site C.

Verulamium region wares (excluding mortaria)

Only four sherds of Verulamium region white ware (CAR 10, Fabric FJ) were identified. Two stratified sherds came from the Period 2 pit BF134 on Site B, while the remaining two were unstratified in a remnant soil patch or disturbance close to BF134.

Black-burnished ware

There were a number of sherds from 2nd- to early 3rd-century bead-rim bowls (CAM 37) representing approximately seven vessels. These came from the upper fills of the ditch CF16. Of these one vessel was in BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 (CAR 10, Fabric GA), while the remainder were all in BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (CAR 10, Fabric GB). The only other vessel in Fabric GA was that from the inhumation burial CF75.

Vessel with painted decoration

In addition, there were a few fragmentary sherds from a vessel decorated with a painted circular motif in BF17 (Period 2). These were four joining sherds in pale orange, vesicular, slightly micaceous fabric, 0.3cm thick, with a closely-spaced circular or spiral design of brownish-red painted on the surface.

Other pottery

Contexts on Site B are dated by Gallo-Belgic ware, samian and small finds, which are mostly of Late Iron Age to Claudio-Neronian and Neronian date, although a small proportion of finds date from the Flavian period-mid 2nd century. The other pottery reflects this dating, and almost all of the vessel forms are paralleled in the large assemblages of Late Iron Age-Neronian date from excavations at Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). The coarse wares are dominated by grogged or 'Romanising' fabrics, while hard sandy grey ware sherds are uncommon. While some Flavian material is present, no late 1st- to earlier 2nd-century fine wares were noted on Site B (other than samian), and the quantity of Verulamium region products, most common in the Flavian and Trajanic periods (CAR 10, 347), was very small, which reflects the substantially reduced level of activity on Site B after the Neronian period. Forms and fabrics of 2nd-century date (after AD 120), such as black-burnished wares or late Colchester colour-coated (apart from one sherd), were not present in the Site B assemblage, though these were present on Site C in the later fills of the ditch CF16. The only certain 2nd-century or later coarse ware sherd from Site B was of form CAM 268B, and was clearly intrusive in the excavation surface of the ditch BF2.

Many of the features on Site C produced little pottery. There was little material from contexts dated earlier than the 2nd century, and only a few Cam form types (Hawkes & Hull 1947) could be identified. The largest groups of pottery came from the upper fills of the boundary ditch CF16 and are dominated by 2nd- to earlier 3rd-century forms. These can be paralleled in the later sequence of Camulodunum form types (CAM types) in *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958).

Pottery forms

In respect of the quantity of comparable material already published, the coarse pottery from Gosbecks is presented as summary form tables: Table 6 lists the number of vessels for early Camulodunum forms adapted from Hawkes and Hull 1947 (pp 277-81) and Table 7 lists the number of vessels for later Camulodunum forms (Hull 1958), both prefixed Cam. This presents a broad comparison between the Camulodunum and Gosbecks assemblages. The Cam vessel types identified by context are listed in (Appendices 1-2).

Table 6: early Camulodunum forms by vessel numbers for Site B and Site C compared with the Camulodunum excavation (Hawkes & Hull 1947, the chronological table of incidence by forms, pp 277-81).

Cam form	total at Camulodunum	total from Site B	Site B Period 1 contexts	Site B Period 2 contexts	total from Site C
1	75	1		1	
2	334	3	1	2	
3	132	2		2	
4	29				
5	376	2		2	
6	36				
7	197	1	1		
7/8		4	3	1	
8/7		2	1	1	
8	393	10	2	8	
9	14				
10	4				
11	19	1		1	
12	409				
12/14		1		1	
13	151				
13/14		1	1		
14	342	4	1	3	
15	57				
16	277	13	1	12	
17	270				1
17A	104	3	2	1	
21	161	6	2	4	
23	23				
24	54				
26	40				
27	42				
28	124	8	3	5	
29	8				
30	3				
31	13				
32	18				
33	5				
41	12				
42	21				
43 & 44	7	1		1	
45A & B	6	1		1	
46	4				
47	9				
48	35				
49	4				
50	15				
51A	18				
51B	9				
51C	65				
52A	1				
52B	16				
53	30				
54	22				
55	1				
56	675	4	4		
57	10				
58	67	1		1	
59	27	1		1	
60	8				
61	9				
62		1		1	
62A	83				

Cam form	total at Camulodunum	total from Site B	Site B Period 1 contexts	Site B Period 2 contexts	total from Site C
62B	18				
63	19				
64	119				
65	1				
66	1				
67	1				
68	2				
69	4				
70	1				
72B		?1		?1	
73	3				
74	38				
75	7				
76	104	1	1		
77	4				
79	19	3	1	2	
82	8	1		1	
83	1				
84	275	4	1	3	
85A	57				
88	1				
91	53				
91D	4				
92	60				
93	20				
94	334	4		4	
94B	6	4		2	
95	2				
96	5				
97	4				
98B	4	1	1		
99	5				
100	5				
101	13				
102	72				
103	1				
104	12				
105	3				
108	549	31	4	27	
109	22			1	
111	1	3			
112	597		1	2	
112O	12				
113	2,750	41	18	23	
114	262	8	3	5	
115	1,365	2	1	1	
117	4				
118	4				
119	704	6	1	5	
120	37	?1		?1	
133	1				
134	3				
135	1				
136A	9				
136B	9				
136C	12				
137	1				
139	11				
140	59	3	1	2	
140A	9				
140B	9				
140C	9				

Cam form	total at Camulodunum	total from Site B	Site B Period 1 contexts	Site B Period 2 contexts	total from Site C
140D	32				
141	8				
143	3	1		1	
144	40				
146	4				
147	45				
148	2				
149	3				
150	2				
153	14				
154	67				
155	32	1		1	
154/155					1
157	4				
158	6				
159	13				
161-163		1		1	
161	880	1	1		
162	9				
163	123	1		1	
165	284	2	1	1	
166	18	1		1	
167	68	1	1		
168	12				
170	21				
171	1				
172	51				
173	4				
174A	1				
174B	1				
175	57				
176	15				
177	39				
181	25				
182/183	250				
184	31	1		1	
185A	59				
185B	13	1		1	
186	16	1	1		
186B	7				
186sp	122				
187	387	6+	1	4	
188	3				
189	153				
K 117		1		1	
191	320	3		2	1
192	140	4	1	3	1
193	57				
194	73	2		2	
195	68	5		5	1
196	6				
197	7				
198	25				
199	7				
201	2				
202/203	30				
204	271	4	1	3	
205	1				
206	2				
210	7				
211	17	3	2	1	
212-217	174	11	1	10	

Cam form	total at Camulodunum	total from Site B	Site B Period 1 contexts	Site B Period 2 contexts	total from Site C
218	1,000	41	13	28	
219	37				
220	37	1		1	
221/222	129	46	6	40	
223	3				
224	2				
225	2				
226	1				
227	7				
228	2				
229	34				
230	8	?1		?1	
231	345	5	1	4	
232	151				
233	12				
234	51	1		1	
235	1				
241	15	1		1	
242	243				
243-246	313	6		6	3
249	24	2		2	
250	5	1		1	
251	10				
252	15				
253	56	4	1	3	
254	238	8	2	6	
255	33				
256	140	12	1	11	
257	22	1	1		
258	58	2	1	1	
259	648	35	7	28	
260	174	5	1	4	
260B		1	1		
262	28				
263	10				
264	36	2	1	1	
265	217				
266	1,000	52	17	35	
267	81	9	4	5	
270	1,000	23	7	16	1
271	1,000	44	12	32	1
272	14	1	1		
273	37	5		5	
274	2				
275	4				

Table 7: later Camulodunum forms by vessel numbers for Site B and Site C.

Cam forms	total from Site Site B	total from Site C (excluding burials)
37 (BB1)		1
37 (BB2)		6
122/123		1
249	2	
268B	1	2
281	1	
326/331	?2	
391	1	3

8.7.4 Pottery from the Roman burials

by Stephen Benfield

Cremation burials

CF12

Fig 15.4. Jar or bowl with upright rim used to contain the cremated bone. Soft brownish red sandy fabric with dark grey exterior, burnished on shoulder and rim exterior. Badly fragmented and sherd edges degraded so cannot be properly reconstructed. Probably 1st century.

Not illustrated. Cup in pre-Flavian fine ware (Cam 62) from fill of burial pit. It is not certain if this is a deliberate or accidental inclusion in the grave fill, but its provision as a grave good seems very likely. Pale buff fabric, surface coating entirely missing, indications of rouletted or stroke design on surface. Very badly fragmented and degraded and so cannot be properly reconstructed, and it is possible that there may be more than one vessel represented among the sherds. Fabric suggests possibly a local Colchester product.

CF37

Fig 15.1. Samian bowl with stamp. Dr F18, stamp dated c AD 85-110. See samian report (section 8.7.2 above), catalogue of stamps entry no 1.

Fig 15.3. Flagon base. Most of upper part missing. Pale red fabric, with buff core in thicker sherds toward base. Degraded surface though probably originally burnished. Probably a local product.

Fig 15.2 Glass flask. See glass report (section 8.7.2), catalogue entry no 1.

CF39

Not illustrated. Fragments of base of jar in sandy grey ware, and two other buff sherds possibly from a flagon.

CF40

Fig 15.6. Bowl CAM 317, form dated late 3rd-4th century (Hull 1963, 187; *CAR 10*, 482-3), badly degraded and surface coat entirely missing. Possibly Oxford red colour-coated ware (*CAR 10*, Fabric MP), Young Type C49 dated AD 240-400+ (Young 1977), and, if so, then 4th century, probably late 4th century here. However, it should be noted that bowls of similar form are also recorded among kiln products at West Stow (West 1989, fig 58 no 229) dated c AD 80 to mid 2nd century (*ibid*, 91-3).

Not illustrated. Base of grey ware jar in hard, very sandy (gritty) fabric.

CF41

Not illustrated. Fragments of base and side of jar in sandy grey ware.

CF42

Fig 15.5. Jar used to contain the cremated bone. Sandy grey ware, area above base roughly smoothed or burnished with broad turning marks or shallow broad grooves.

CF43

Not illustrated. Fragments of base of jar in sandy grey ware.

Inhumation burials

CF75

Fig 15.9. Dish CAM 39. BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 (*CAR 10*, Fabric GA). Antonine-4th century.

CF96

Fig 15.8. Folded beaker CAM 408-410. Nene Valley colour-coated (*CAR 10*, Fabric EA), dark grey-brown matt surface exterior with red-brown firing mark to 2 cm above base and brownish red interior, mid 3rd-4th century.

CF100

Fig 15.7. Flagon. Neck missing, buff fabric, surface degraded though probably originally smoothed or burnished. Probably a local product.

8.8 Roman tile

by Ernest Black

The majority of fragments came from Site B. Here, 42 features produced Roman tile fragments. In all but five cases this was fewer than ten pieces. The ditch BF13, the water-main trench BF25, and a pit BF96 produced 10-20 fragments, and two pits (BF11 and BF123) produced 26 and 73 fragments respectively. The overall distribution was fairly even across Site B, and the individual distributions of *tegula* fragments and of bricks (including all fragments with a thickness greater than 40mm) reflects this pattern. Pit BF123 was unusual in the relatively large quantity of tile it contained and in the absence of datable finds. It produced fragments of *tegula*, *imbrex* and brick, including specimens 60-70mm in thickness.

Eleven different *tegula* types were identified from Site B (with a twelfth type from Site C). The classification was based on flange, thickness of base and surface treatment, and, given the variability of such details, it must be regarded as flexible. Most of the types were represented by only a single specimen, but where this was not the case, specimens of the same type were found in the same general area of Site B (ie Type 3 from BF42 and BF121, with a further specimen from BF11; Type 5 from BF25 and BF86; Type 6 from BF2 and BF97). In addition, while recognisable *tegula* fragments came from fourteen features, *imbrices* were represented from only four. These observations suggest that the distribution of tile may not be entirely fortuitous and that there was a bias in the selection of types brought to the site. The assemblage is insufficient in quantity and too diverse in range to support a primary use on the site itself.

Preliminary (and as yet incomplete) examination of *tegula* types represented at the nearby Gosbecks temple precinct has so far identified six types (Types 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11) that are also present at Site B and Site C. In addition, among five box flue-tile fragments recovered in fieldwalking (Brooks & Benfield 1994, appendix 2) during the 1994 evaluation and excavation are three with relief-patterned keying (Brooks & Benfield 1994). One of these (from CF43 on Site C) is too small to be identified. Another (from BF31 on Site B) is keyed with Die 8, and the third (from the fieldwalking area) with Die 5A (Lowther 1948). The last two dies are both of Hadrianic date, and both are represented among the assemblage at the temple complex. The origin of most of the tile fragments found at Site B and Site C was, therefore, probably the Gosbecks temple and associated buildings. However, there are some *tegula* types which are not yet recorded from the temple excavations, and hints that another source may have been utilised comes from a fragment of scored tile from BF134 on Site B, probably part of a keyed flat tile used with ceramic spacers or a *tegula hamata* (half-box tile). Neither type has yet been identified among the material from the Gosbecks temple. Both types of tile would have been used in the wall-jacketing of a hypocaust, and a *tegula hamata* would be appropriate for a pre-Flavian bath-building. The presumed 1st-century auxiliary fort at Stanway, less than 600m to the west, may have had such a facility.

The earliest tile fragments from Site B were found in features of Period 1 of Claudian date (BF2, BF5, BF8, BF13) and include one certain specimen of *tegula* Type 6 and another of either Type 1 or Type 6. Types 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10 all came from contexts of Period 2.1 (Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian), while Types 2 and 11 were from features that date to Period 2.1 or later. The implication is that some structure with a tiled roof was present in the neighbourhood in the Claudian period and that fragments of tiles from it or another structure were available in the early Flavian period. It is not certain that this or these structures were part of the Gosbecks temple complex, but it must be a strong possibility that this was the case.

A *tegula* fragment of Type 1 from pit BF123 had been cut (probably sawn) across the base from the top-right corner. This had probably been done after firing, since no sanding was present on the sawn surface as it was on the base and the external surface of the surviving flange. It is suggested that this treatment occurred after the tile had been broken, resulting in a triangular shape suitable for use in a composite column, examples of which are known from the Gosbecks temple. The same pit produced two further specimens of Type 1, one of Type 4 and one probable fragment of Type 12 or Type 14. This assemblage may derive from building activity at the Gosbecks temple. So far, no certain specimens of the relatively heavy Type 1 have come from the temple but Types 12 and 14 are well represented there, and the Type 4 fragment from BF123 shares the less substantial base and flange of these types. A possible fragment of debris from *tessera* manufacture from CF16 on Site C could have derived from the same or another episode of construction.

Catalogue of tile types for Site B

Type 1

Type 1a. *Tegula*, base 38-40mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 25:75, rear of tile with slightly sloping cut-away to flange, also there is an intentional 45 degree angled cut or smooth filed break through the base of the tile from the back corner. From pit BF123, finds number 750.

Type 1b. *Tegula* base 25mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 50:50, front of tile with lower cut-away, the cut-away is dog-legged, exiting through side of the flange. From pit BF123, finds number 762.

Type 2. *Tegula*, base 15-16mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 50:50, front of tile with lower cut-away, the cut-away is a single angled cut exiting through top of flange. From BL3 (unstratified in subsoil), finds number 1012.

Type 3. *Tegula*, base 28mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 50:50. From pit BF42, finds number 278.

Type 4. *Tegula*, base 15-17mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 75:25, rear of tile with sloping cut-away to flange. From pit BF123, finds number 750.

Type 6. *Tegula*, base 26-27mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 50:50. From pit BF97, finds number 426.

Type 7. *Tegula*, base 32mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 25:75, tile abraded. From Roman water main BF25, finds number 846.

Type 8. *Tegula*, base 18mm thick, approximate ratio of height of flange above the base to the thickness of the base 75:25, rear of tile with start of upper cut-away, cut-away probably flat along surface of tile, tile abraded. From pit BF141, finds number 802.

A full catalogue of the tile is contained in the archive.

8.9 The fired clay

by *Stephen Benfield*

Approximately 17kg of fired clay material came from the excavations on Sites A and B, of which 16kg was from Site B. Much of this was of very fragmentary nondescript pieces; however, several categories of material could be distinguished, either as objects such as loomweights and bricks or as types such as briquetage. The material from Site B was scattered throughout the features. However, five pits which contained the largest quantities of general unidentified fired clay fragments were in two groups: BF11 (1.2kg), BF23 (1.5kg) and BF63 (2.4kg) form one group, while BF79 (1.1kg) and BF134 (1.4kg) form another. The ditch BF2 (1.7kg) also contained another concentration. The pit BF73 contained just over 3kg of material, most of which can be identified as fragments of triangular loomweights, and on Site C the pit CF80 also contained 0.9kg, most or possibly all of which is again of loomweight fragments.

Of identifiable pieces of fired clay, fragments of loomweights or probable loomweights were by far the most common. All appear to be of the triangular type, although there were no whole or nearly whole examples and many were only clearly identified when surfaces and single angled perforations were present. The fabric was either a moderate or poorly wedged, fairly clean clay with some organic temper, or finer and slightly sandy. Only one measurement could be taken on any of the loomweights; this was a fragment from BF73 which was 6cm wide.

A small number of small fragments of briquetage were identified, all from Site B, though this material was not very common. The pieces were between 1cm and 2cm thick in a clay fabric heavily tempered with coarse organic material, and the colour varied from red to grey, although some were pale red or reddish-brown. One larger slab piece was recovered from BF13.

There were two shaped slabs or bricks in fired clay. The fabric of these is moderate-poorly wedged and is tempered with some organic material which is much finer than in the briquetage. The surfaces are a red or yellowish-brown in colour, and they are darker than the interior which is red or brownish-red. Surfaces are smoothed and organic material is visible on them, most especially on the underside. The edge of one piece, a curved brick, has marks where this material has been dragged diagonally across it when it was shaped or trimmed. A fired clay fragment from BF47 in a slightly sandy clay is possibly part of a pedestal or stopper (Major 1998, fig 70 nos 16 & 17).

A number of pieces of daub were noted with a cream-coloured flat surface contrasting with the red or brown colouration of the rest of the clay body. This pale colouration was only observed to affect the immediate area of the surface, extending up to 1mm-2mm into the clay matrix; however, the cause of this colouration is not known. All these pieces were in a sandy clay fabric.

Catalogue of fired clay pieces other than loomweights

BF13 Ditch. Period 1.

Briquetage slab, one surface smoothed with impressions of finger-wiping, other smoothed but rougher. Curving along one side. One edge chamfered, other surviving edge rounded and slightly damaged. 2.0cm thick, greatest surviving length 8.9cm.

BF40 Ditch. Period 2.1.

Rectangular corner of brick slab, clay fabric moderate – poorly wedged with some fine organic temper, upper surface smoothed, lower surface rougher with striations from dragged temper material. All surfaces have traces of organic matter though much denser on underside. 3.6 cm thick, longest surviving side 9.0cm.

BF47 Pit. Period 2.1.

Two fragments of a rounded clay bun (possibly a stopper fragment) in slightly sandy clay with smoothed surfaces. Flat underside, rounded top and curving edge. Greatest surviving thickness 2.8cm and approximate radius 6.5cm.

BF92 Pit. Period 2.2a.

Fragment of brick with curved vertical face, clay fabric moderate – poorly wedged with some fine organic temper. Upper surface smoothed, lower more uneven, both have traces of organic material though much denser on underside, edge face has striations from dragged organic matter. 3.4cm thick with radius of between 8cm and 9cm.

8.10 The slag

Identifications by Justine Bailey

Just over 6kg of metallic slag came from Sites B and C, of which a little over 4.5kg was from Site B. Almost exclusively this material was associated with iron-smithing and was present as rubbish-deposits features of both Period 1 and Period 2. The remains consisted of smithing-hearth bottoms and smithing slag, hearth-linings and clinker. Some hammer scale was identified from BF18. A small trace of copper associated with hearth lining and clinker from BF31 provided only the faintest hint of possible copper-working. Also a single lump of clay-pipe kiln debris weighing 0.29kg came from the post-medieval (Period 3) ditch BF133 at the eastern end of Site B.

8.11 The human remains

by Marlin Holst

8.11.1 Introduction

Background to the sites

There were eleven cremation burials which were dated by their pottery to the 1st century AD. One of the cremation burials (F12) was placed centrally within a small square ditched burial enclosure. Furthermore, seven inhumations were found in the same area, although almost no bone survives of these. A number of the inhumations contained coffin nails, but none of the wood of the coffins had been preserved.

According to Hull (1958, 259), evidence for burials in the Gosbecks area was first discovered when some urns were disturbed to the west of the temple at Site C during deep ploughing of the site in 1943. However, until very recently, most people were oblivious to the fact that any information about the lives of people in antiquity could be gained from cremated bone. Consequently, in many cases in the past only the artefacts from the burials were kept, while the bone was discarded (McKinley 1994c, 132; CAR 9, 257). During excavations in Colchester in the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century, burials were often not even recorded (Hull 1958, 252), which has resulted in the loss of valuable information.

Aims and methods

The aim of the work was to provide a report on the cremated bone recovered. The objectives to achieve this aim were to separate any non-human remains from the human bone, and to identify the skeletal element distribution, the age at death and sex for each individual. Any pathological conditions observed on the skeletal remains were to be recorded and interpreted. A further objective was to study the degree of fragmentation of the cremated bone from the urned and unurned contexts and to compare the two.

Considering that bone from only one inhumation was present in the assemblage from Site C, it was treated in the same way as the cremation burials, as necessary.

Once the non-human bone had been identified, the same consistent strategy was employed as with all cremated human bone analysed by the Calvin Wells Laboratory. Initially an attempt was made to identify any of the skeletal fragments from each of the cremation burials. The remaining bone and residue was then separated by stacked sieves (10mm, 4mm and 2mm), a method applied by McKinley (McKinley 1993) to sort cremated remains. The bone recovered in each category was subsequently weighed and bagged separately. The identifiable remains were split into five different categories:

cranial (skull)
axial (spine, shoulders, ribs, hips)
upper limb (arms and hands)
lower limb (legs and feet)
long bone (unidentifiable as to upper or lower limb)

These fragments were then weighed and counted, and all fragments present in each of the categories were described in further detail. Furthermore, an attempt was made to determine the sex and age of each of the individuals analysed and to identify any pathological lesions visible on the cremated bone. The results were finally documented on a recording sheet.

8.11.2 Physical anthropology

Preservation

The grading of the preservation of the cremated remains was carried out subjectively and was based on a comparison of the cremated remains from Site C with each other and to those of cremated human bone from other sites. It relied on the severity of erosion, fragment size and on the quantity of identifiable remains.

In several cases, only the bases of the urns remained in the burial pit and preservation of the human skeletal material was poor (Table 8), especially when compared with the Turner Rise skeletons from North Station (Holst *et al* forthcoming). This is probably due to several factors: firstly, the acidic soil

conditions, consisting of sandy gravel, were encouraging bone destruction, and much of the bone showed evidence for moderate to considerable erosion, confirming the effect of the soil conditions. Additionally, the site had been ploughed, and often deep ploughed, for at least 50 years, which further contributed to the degradation of the bone. Most recent factors exacerbating fragmentation consisted of pipe-laying through at least one of the urns (F42) and machine disturbances during the excavation.

Table 8: preservation of human bone from the cremation burials and the inhumation burial.

Grade of preservation	Number of individuals	Per cent
Moderate	4	36%
Poor	7	54%

Except for F42, there was almost no residue with the cremated bone. The residue from F42 weighed 199.82g (including bone fragments smaller than 2mm), making up 79% of the total weight of the cremation. The residue consisted almost entirely of sand and gravel.

The weight of the cremated bone from Site C varied considerably, from 0.23g (F66) to 161.60g (F37) (Table 9). This is much less than the cremated bone produced in a crematorium, which consists of 1,600 to 3,600g (McKinley 1989a, 66). Wahl (1982, 25) found that cremated remains from an archaeological context tend to weigh between 200g and 2,500g. This is considerably heavier than even the heaviest cremated remains from Site C. The entire skeleton does actually survive after cremation is completed (McKinley 1989a, 66), although normally only some bone fragments are selected after burning from the pyre site for burial (Wahl 1982, 24). It is unlikely, however, that only 0.23g of the remains (in the case of the lightest cremation) would have been chosen for interment in the urn. Consequently, it can be assumed that the particularly low bone weight of the Gosbecks cremated remains is caused by the soil conditions and disturbances, rather than the selection of less bone for burial in the urn.

Table 9: weight and fragment size of bone in relation to preservation.

Burials	Weight in g	Urned or unurned?	Type of preservation	Average fragment size (in mm)	Percentage of identifiable fragments
F12	62.18	Urned	Moderate	4	35%
F28	1.12	Unurned	Poor	2	—
F37	161.60	Urned	Moderate	4	40%
F40	2.34	?Urned	Poor	2	—
F41	2.71	Unurned	Poor	2	—
F42	51.91	Urned	Moderate	4	2%
F43	2.49	?Urned	Poor	2	—
F66	0.23	Unurned	Poor	2	—
F78	0.77	Unurned	Poor	2	—
F88	0.84	Unurned	Moderate	4	92%
F91	10.45	Inhumed	Poor	4-10	97%

Human bone could only be recovered from one of the seven inhumation burials from the site (F91). The bone from this inhumation only weighed 10.45g, much less than normal inhumed skeletons. Usually, inhumed skeletons weigh roughly the same as a total cremation (McKinley 1989a, 68). However, in the case of F91, only the tooth enamel of six teeth and two skull fragments from the ear region survived. This illustrates the greater resilience of cremated bone in contrast to that of inhumed bone to acidic soil conditions (McKinley 1989b, 241).

When comparing the urned to the unurned cremated remains, it becomes obvious that the skeletal material recovered from the vessels was generally better preserved than that which was simply laid on the base of the burial pit. This suggests that the urns had aided in protecting the bone. The bone fragments from burials which included urns was on average between 4mm and 9mm in size, except for F40, although it was not certain whether this burial had included an urn. The bone fragment size of all but one of the unurned burials (F88) was only 2mm. This illustrates once more the fact that the skeletal remains which were buried in urns were much less vulnerable to the post-mortem damage at the site; additionally, it demonstrates the impact these forces can have on the cremated bone. Alternatively, movement of the hot and therefore brittle bone immediately after the cremation may have partially caused the considerable fragmentation of the bone (McKinley 1994a, 340).

Five (or 45%) of all burials contained identifiable skeletal elements; these consisted of skull and long bone fragments only. None of the axial parts of the skeletons or hand and foot bones had survived. Fifty-three percent of all the bone from these burials was identifiable, which is roughly the same as McKinley's (1989a, 68) results, where between 20% and 50% of bone was identifiable.

The colour of the cremated remains varied only very slightly, from white to white-beige. The majority (80%) of the cremated bone was well calcined and had lost its organic properties completely. Two cremation burials contained light brown or beige bone, as well as white bone, the former of which can be the result of haemoglobin or soil discolourations (Mayne Correia 1997) or may have been produced by using low burning temperatures (Mueller 1964).

Minimum Number of Individuals

Although seven inhumation graves were found, skeletal material only survives from one of them. This may suggest either that the remaining graves were actually empty, or that the skeletal material was simply not preserved, the latter being the more likely interpretation considering the poor state of preservation of skeleton F91. However, as one cannot be certain about either interpretation, one has to assume that there is a minimum number of one inhumed skeleton.

When analysing the cremated bone, each one of the ten burials was scanned for evidence of more than one individual. This was carried out by examining whether any identifiable fragments occurred more than once or, alternatively, whether juveniles were interred together with adult bones. None of the cremation burials did contain more than one individual. However, according to Holck (1986, 63), double cremation burials are often not recognised because of a lack of identifiable fragments. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that there are 10 cremated individuals as well as one inhumed skeleton.

Age at death

Age estimation is undertaken by assessing the development and degeneration of both skeletal elements and teeth. As few fragments with characteristics normally used to estimate age survived in this population, it could only be assessed approximately. In two of the cremated skeletons, age estimation had to rely on the size and thickness of the bone fragments, suggesting that they were probable adults, while the age of the inhumed skeleton was estimated by dental attrition (Brothwell 1981). In total, only three of the eleven individuals could be aged, but none of the methods which could be used were very reliable (Table 10).

Table 10: age at death.

Age	Number of individuals	Percentage of total
?Adult (2 of the cremated individuals)	2	18%
Young to middle adult (inhumation)	1	9%

Determination of sex

Sex determination of cremated remains relies on the preservation of bone elements which display sexual characteristics of a skeleton, such as the skull and pelvis, particularly the latter. The sex estimation methods normally used are described in Bass (1987), Ubelaker (1989), and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). According to McKinley (1989a, 70), sex can usually be attributed to 45% of adults but in an assemblage, but none of the skeletal traits which sex estimation relies on were present in this material and, consequently, sex could not be ascribed to the individuals from Site C.

Estimation of stature

It was not possible to estimate the stature of the cremated remains for two reasons: firstly, human bone shrinks at a rate of between 12 to 15% (Wahl 1982), therefore not allowing any measurement calculations, and none of the long bones survived intact enough to be able to measure their lengths.

Palaeopathology

No evidence for palaeopathological conditions could be found on any of the skeletal remains analysed from this site. This is not surprising considering the particularly fragmentary nature of the Site C remains. The dentition of the inhumed skeleton did not display any evidence for dental disease.

8.11.3 Discussion

The skeletal remains from ten cremation burials dating to the earlier part of the post-conquest period were recovered from the northern part of Site C, in addition to bone recovered from one of seven inhumations, which probably dated to the 3rd or even 4th century AD.

Burial varied from simple pit or grave interments, to burial in an urn or coffin. Two of the cremation burials (F12 and F37) contained grave goods, as well as fragments of hazel.

Compared to skeletal material from other sites, the bone from Site C was in a particularly poor state, which can be attributed to the acidic soil conditions, as well as plough-damage and recent pipe-laying, which cut F42 in half. Erosion and disturbance contributed to bone loss by fragmentation and resulted in the complete loss of the cancellous bone, which survives commonly in other cremation burials (McKinley 1994b, 83). The remaining bone consisted entirely of skull and long-bone fragments, with no axial or hand and foot representation.

It is interesting to note that the petrous parts of the temporal bone were the only bone part surviving in the inhumation burial (F91), as this is one of the skeletal elements which usually survives best in cremation burials (Mayne Correia 1997, 278). This may be due to the thickness of the that bone.

The fragmentary nature of the bone consequently limited the osteological information which could be gained from them. Sex could not be established in any of the individuals and age could only be determined in three, who were all adults. McKinley (1989b, 242) argues that the bones of cremated children tend to be very fragile and could therefore be absent from an assemblage, but Holst *et al* (1998, 5) found the opposite to be true for the cremated bone of subadults at Biddenham Loop. Nevertheless, inhumed subadult skeletons are prone to deterioration as a result of many factors, suggesting that there may have been inhumations burials which have now completely deteriorated.

Although the bone which had undergone cremation was generally well calcined, suggesting thorough cremation, two contained several bone fragments which were either less well burnt or showed a haemoglobin discolouration (Mayne Correia 1997).

8.11.4 Conclusion

Despite the fact that the burials had suffered considerably from the soil conditions and disturbances on the site, one can make several inferences about the people who were buried at Site C and their funerary rituals.

During the 1st century AD, the corpses of at least two individuals were mostly well cremated. Subsequently, a person who must have had some anatomical knowledge sifted through the pyre debris and selected bone fragments for later burial. The fragments were eventually either placed in an urn, or simply placed in a burial pit. The grave of F12 was within the small square ditched burial enclosure and was set apart from the rest of the burials. Another one of the individuals (F37) was provided with grave goods, consisting of a glass cup, a samian dish and part of a flagon. Remains of eight other individuals were recovered, one dating to the 4th century.

In the course of the 3rd-4th century AD, seven inhumations were interred nearby. One of them was buried in a north to south direction, while the remainder were orientated east to west. A number of similarities between the cremation and inhumation burials can be observed, despite the gap of time between the different types of burial.

It is interesting to note that the cremation and inhumation burials generally occurred within the same area, to the immediate north and south of the north-eastern corner of the large boundary ditch (F16). There were three different groups:

- The westernmost group consisted of seven cremation burials and two inhumations, which were located to the south and north of the ditch F16.
- The central group comprised the remaining five inhumations, as well as two cremation burials which were spread along the northern side of the ditch F16.
- The easternmost group included two cremation burials, which were relatively isolated from each other. One of them was F12, which was located in the northernmost corner of the excavated area. The distribution of the burials illustrates, that the later inhumations respected the cremation burials and, additionally, were buried within the same area, suggesting the continuity of funerary purpose and respect for this site. The fact that none of the inhumations cut any of the earlier burials suggests that these must have been marked in some way above ground.

A further parallel which could be drawn between the two rituals is that of burial containers. Some of the cremation burials were interred in urns, while others were simply placed on the base of the burial pit. Although almost none of the inhumed skeletons survive, it appears that some were buried in coffins, as indicated by nails, while others were either buried without anything, or wrapped in a shroud.

The osteological evidence suggests that all individuals analysed from Gosbecks were adults, where age could be determined. However, it is possible that some of the particularly fragmentary individuals may have been children, especially those who were inhumed.

The evidence discussed above suggests funerary continuity from the early to the late Roman period, despite the fact that two different burial rituals are represented in this cemetery. The cremation of the dead and disposal of a selection of their skeletal remains, including or excluding an urn, was the most common funerary rite during the 1st and 2nd century AD in Roman Britain (Salway 1981, 693). During the 2nd century AD, this slowly changed to inhumations becoming the more popular form of

disposing of the dead (Wacher 1986, 271) and, by the mid-3rd century AD, cremation becomes almost obsolete. Inhumations were usually supine in a coffin, or wrapped in a shroud (*ibid*, 274). The question of why inhumation was adopted in the later part of the Roman era, in preference to cremation, is still very much debated. Salway (1981, 693) is of the opinion that this development was due the adoption of Christianity as a widely held belief, while Wacher (1986, 242) supports the view that it was merely a change of fashion.

8.11.5 Detail of cremations

Cremation no F12

Urned: Urned, disturbed
 Weight: 62.18g
 Spits: mainly in Spit 2
 Fragmentation: in 4mm sieve
 Preservation: Moderate
 Additional bones: —
 Age: ?Adult
 Sex: —

Identifiable fragments: 1 skull, 17 long-bone fragments: total 18 fragments, 22.28g

Bone condition: White, well calcined, slightly eroded.

Skeletal part	Spit 1 (1)	Spit 2 (2)	Total
Skull g		0.57	
Skull %		1	
Axial g			
Axial %			
UL g			
UL %			
LL g			
LL %			
LB g	4.62	17.09	21.71
LB %	25.5	39	35
NID g	13.46	26.44	39.90
NID %	74.5	60	65
Total g	18.08	44.10	62.18
Total %	100	100	100

Cremation no F28

Urned: Unurned
 Weight: 1.12g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: in 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —

Identifiable fragments: None

Bone condition: Very well calcined. Eroded. White.

Cremation no F37 (cremation vessel fill and fill to west of grave goods)

Urned: Urned
 Weight: 161.60g
 Spits: mainly in Spit 2
 Fragmentation: in 4mm sieve
 Preservation: Moderate
 Additional bones: —
 Age: ?Adult
 Sex: —

Identifiable fragments: 1 lower limb, 28 long-bone fragments: total 29 fragments, 34.47g

Bone condition: Very well calcined. White-beige, eroded.

Skeletal part	Spit 1 pit fill	Spit 2 vessel fill	Total
Skull g			
Skull %			
Axial g			
Axial %			
UL g			
UL %			
LL g		3.47	3.47
LL %		2	21
LB g		31.00	31.00
LB %		20.5	19
NID g	10.41	116.72	127.13
NID %	100	77.5	60
Total g	10.41	151.19	161.60
Total %	100	100	100

Cremation no F40

Urned: ?Urned
 Weight: 2.34g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: only 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: None
 Bone condition: Very well calcined. Eroded.

Cremation no F41

Urned: Unurned
 Weight: 2.71g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: only in 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: None
 Bone condition: White-beige, well calcined. Slightly eroded.

Cremation no F42 (vessel fill, fill around vessel)

Urned: Urned
 Weight: 251.80g
 Weight without residue: 51.68
 Spits: mainly in Spit 2
 Fragmentation: in 4mm sieve
 Preservation: Moderate
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: 3 skull fragments, 1.12g
 Bone condition: White, well calcined.

Skeletal part	Spit 1 vessel fill	Spit 2 fill around vessel	Total
Skull g		1.12	1.12
Skull %		2	2
Axial g			
Axial %			
UL g			
UL %			
LL g			
LL %			
LB g			
LB %			
NID g	0.89	50.79	51.68
NID %	100	98	98
Total g	0.89	51.91	52.80
Total %	100	100	100
Total	0.89	250.91	251.80

Cremation no F43

Urned: ?Urned
 Weight: 2.49g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: only in 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: None.
 Bone condition: White, well calcined. Eroded.

Cremation no F66

Urned: Unurned
 Weight: 0.23g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: only in 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: None
 Bone condition: White, well calcined. Eroded.

Cremation no F78

Urned: Unurned
 Weight: 0.77g
 Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: only in 2mm sieve
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: None
 Bone condition: White, well calcined. Eroded.

Cremation no F88

Urned: Unurned
 Weight: 0.84g

Spits: only one spit
 Fragmentation: mainly long bone
 Preservation: Moderate
 Additional bones: —
 Age: —
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: 2 long-bone fragments, 0.77g
 Bone condition: White, well calcined. Slightly eroded.

Skeletal part	Total
Skull g	
Skull %	
Axial g	
Axial %	
UL g	
UL %	
LL g	
LL %	
LB g	0.77
LB %	92
NID g	0.07
NID %	8
Total g	0.84
Total %	100

Inhumation no F91

Urned: Inhumed
 Weight: 10.45g
 Fragmentation: mainly skull
 Preservation: Bad
 Additional bones: —
 Age: Young to middle adult
 Sex: —
 Identifiable fragments: 8 skull fragments, 9.89g
 Bone condition: Bones very badly eroded. Only the enamel is left of the teeth.

Skeletal part	Total
Skull g	9.89
Skull %	97
Axial g	
Axial %	
UL g	
UL %	
LL g	
LL %	
LB g	
LB %	
NID g	0.56
NID %	3
Total g	10.45
Total %	100

8.12 Charred plant macrofossils and other material from baulk samples

by Peter Murphy and Val Fryer

8.12.1 Samples from Site B

Samples were processed from the fills of ditches BF2 and BF6, pits BF22 and BF42, and the deep pit BF31. Cereal grains and/or chaff were present at a very low density in all but the sample from BF22. The only grains identified were those of *Hordeum* sp. (barley). Chaff included awn fragments of *Avena* sp. (oat) and glume bases of *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer wheat) and *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat). A single rachis node of *Triticum aestivum/compactum* (bread wheat) type was present in BF2 (Table 11). Seeds/fruits of common weed species were also present at very low density in all samples. Other plant macrofossils included abundant charcoal fragments in all samples and included *Bromus* sp. (brome), *Chenopodium album* (fat hen), *Galium aparine* (goose grass), *Mentha* sp. (mint), indeterminate grasses, *Rumex* sp. (dock), *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle), *Urtica urens* (small nettle), and *Vicia/Lathyrus* (vetch/vetchling). Fruits of wetland plants were also noted and included *Carex* sp. (sedge) and *Eleocharis* sp. (spike rush). Fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell were noted in BF31 and BF42. Other plant macrofossils included abundant charcoal fragments in all samples and a low density of fragments of charred root, rhizome or stem and indeterminate buds, culm nodes and seeds.

Other materials included burnt and unburnt bone fragments, mineralised concretions, small pot fragments, and small mammal or amphibian bones. Metallic globules and fragments of coal, vitrified material and possible slag are probably the residues of nearby industrial activities. Fragments of black porous 'cokey' material are probably the result of the combustion of organic material including cereal grains at very high temperature.

Because of the small number of samples and the low density of plant macrofossils in them, it is not possible to define any specific activity which occurred on the site. The assemblages are probably composed of charred material dispersed from a variety of sources in the vicinity. It is unlikely, therefore, that they relate to the intended use of the features.

Table 11: identified charred plant macrofossils from Site B.

name	common name	BF2	BF6	BF22	BF31 lower fill	BF31 lower fill	BF42
herbs							
Brassicaceae indet	cabbage				+		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	bromes	+			+		
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	fat hen						+
Chenopodiaceae indet	goose foots				+		
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	goose grass			+			
Lamiaceae indet.	labiates				+	+	
<i>Mentha</i> sp.	mint				+		
Poaceae indet.	meadow grasses	+			+		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	docks	+			+		
<i>Urtica</i> sp.	nettles					+	
<i>U. dioica</i> L.	stinging nettle				+		
<i>U. urens</i> L.	small nettle				+		
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	vetch		+				
Trees/Shrubs							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel				+	+	+
Wetland plants							
<i>Carex</i> sp.	sedge	+			+		
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	spike rush				+		
Cereals							
<i>Avena</i> sp. (awn)	oat				+	+	+
Cereal indet. (caryopses)		+	+		+	+	
(detached sprouts)					+		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (caryopses)	barley		+		+	+	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (glume bases)	wheat	+	+		+	+	
(spikelet bases)		+			+	+	
<i>T. aestivum/ compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)		+					
<i>T. dicoccum</i> schubl. (glume bases)					+		
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)	spelt wheat	+			+	+	

8.12.2 Samples from Site C

Samples were processed from cremations CF12, CF37 and CF42, and possible cremations CF40 and CF43. Samples were also submitted from the ovens CF79 and CF108, and the possible oven/hearth CF17. With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils were present at extremely low densities in both the cremations and other samples; frequently only single specimens were noted. Preservation was poor to moderate with puffing and distortion of the grains and abrasion and fragmentation of the other macrofossils. A single grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) was recovered from soil adjacent to the vessel containing the cremation in CF42, and a single awn fragment of *Avena* sp. (oat) was noted in the fill of the hearth/oven CF17. Fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell were found in cremations CF12 and CF37, and from the fill of ovens CF79 and CF108. Other seeds/fruits noted as single specimens included *Galium aparine* (goose grass) and *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel). Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate buds, culm nodes, fruit stone fragments and seeds (Tables 12-13).

Other materials were noted at varying densities in all samples. Black porous 'cokey' material, black tarry material and siliceous globules are probably the residues from the combustion of organic materials, including straw/grass, at very high temperatures. Small coal fragments are probably modern contaminants from recent agricultural activity (steam ploughing).

The extremely low density of material precludes the identification of either specific cremation practices or any activity associated with the ovens. The presence in the cremations of both indeterminate root and stem fragments, and a possible fragment of heather stem, may suggest that dried grass, etc was used as kindling to ignite the pyres, but the evidence is very sparse.

The charred material from the small oven/hearth CF17 was predominantly charcoal, and it is possible that any less durable macrofossils were destroyed during charring. The assemblages from the ovens CF79 and CF108 contained nothing to suggest a possible use for these features although, as with CF17, it is possible that more delicate macrofossils did not survive charring.

Table 12: identified charred plant macrofossils from cremation burials on Site C.

name	common name	CF12	CF12	CF37	CF37	CF42	CF42
Cereals							
Cereal indet. (grain)		+					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)	barley						+
Wild flora							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	+	+	+			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	sheeps sorrel	+					
Other plant macrofossils							
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	heather						+

Table 13: identified charred plant macrofossils from ovens on Site C.

name	common name	BF79	CF108	CF108	CF17
Cereals					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (awn)	oat				+
Cereal indet. (grains)					+
Wild flora					
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	+		+	
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	goose grass	+			
Lamiaceae indet.	labiates	+			
Large Poaceae indet.	meadow grass			+	

8.13 Identified wood charcoal remains

by Anne-Marie Bojko

Site B

The charcoal fragments from the Periods 1 and 2 features were twiggy in nature and do not appear to comprise the remains of artefacts. The vast majority of the 31 samples identified were oak (*Quercus* spp.), but maple (*Acer* sp.) in BF3 and holly (*Ilex*) in BF7 were represented by single examples.

Site C

Three pieces of charcoal were examined from Site C. That from CF53 is a large piece of knotted oak-branch wood. The surviving dimensions are approximately 120 x 80 mm. The grain structure is compressed and distorted, but it is still identifiable. The pieces from the Period 1 ovens CF79 and CF108 appear to be smaller pieces of oak branch wood.

A full catalogue is provided in the archive.

9 Discussion

9.1 Pre-Period 1: prehistoric

Prehistoric activity was represented by small amounts of flint and pottery residual in later contexts. Most of this material can be dated to the later Neolithic-Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. A single fragment of sarsen saddle quern from Site B may be associated with these finds. There was also a very small amount of Mesolithic flint, and a lower Palaeolithic hand-axe was found on Site C. Previously, one feature from the 1994 road-line evaluation had been assigned to this period, and that was a poorly-defined pit which contained some small fragments from a Late Neolithic Grooved ware vessel (Brooks *et al* 1995). The remaining part of this feature was re-examined in 1995 when the portion of surviving fill produced a small sherd from a Late Iron Age or Roman large storage jar. There was no material from any of the sites of Middle Iron Age date.

9.2 Period 1: Late Iron Age-early Roman

The Late Iron Age-Claudian period is the first for which there is a substantial quantity of material remains associated with archaeological features. However, while it seems likely that some of the features pre-date the early Roman period, as at the 1970 Sheepen excavation (Niblett 1985), there are none which are of certain Late Iron Age date. All of the dated Late Iron Age material comes from Site B, and Gallo-Belgic pottery indicates that the earliest occupation could date from the late Augustan period, possibly contemporary with the beginning of that at Sheepen dated to around AD 5 (Niblett 1985, 3). However, other dated finds which can be certainly attributed to the Late Iron Age are limited, although there were two pre-conquest brooches together with several of native type which span the conquest period.

The focus of activity was on the western part of Site B, where, in addition to the possible building or structure (Building B1), there was a number of small ditches and part of a large ditched enclosure (Enclosure 2). The quantity and range of finds from the enclosure ditch suggest its use for occupation, although no contemporary features were found within the limited interior area available to the excavation. Some of the small ditches could represent palisade trenches, although there was no direct evidence for this other than their size. Several of the small ditches appear to be related and may indicate the presence of a second enclosure of circular or sub-rectangular form (Enclosure 1), though this is very speculative. The small number of pits which could be assigned to this period were mostly small shallow features, and most contained few closely dated finds, although a 3m-deep rectangular pit or shaft (BF31) is possibly of this period. The shaft can be compared with a number of similar deep pits at Baldock, some of which were considered to be wells, but others there appear possibly to have functioned as cess-pits (Stead & Rigby 1986, 61 & fig 25). The feature on Site B is possibly a well shaft. The area of Site C appears to have been marginal to the main settlement focus, although Building C1 is possibly of this period. Three ovens were situated here, which suggests that the area was given over to light industrial processes, although the nature of these is unknown.

The largest groups of finds were from the ditches of Enclosure 2 and the shaft BF31, while finds from most of the other features were comparatively few. Amongst these, the range of imported Roman material at Gosbecks appears limited compared with finds from the other major known site within the *oppidum* of Camulodunum at Sheepen (approximately two miles to the north). This is most clearly seen in samian pottery, as almost none was recovered from the Period 1 features at Gosbecks. Mortaria, amphoras and metal small finds were also rare occurrences at Gosbecks, although there were imported lava querns as well as some from regional sources. Evidence for metal-working was almost entirely restricted to iron-smithing, although there were indications that lead and possibly copper may also have been worked here.

The overall impression is essentially one of continuity from the Late Iron Age into the early Roman period. Gallo-Belgic ware appears to dominate the finer pottery into the Claudian period, and little other imported material appears to have been reaching the site or was immediately introduced following the conquest, which can be contrasted with a wider range of imports found at Sheepen.

9.3 Period 2.1: the early Roman period

The early Roman period saw the replacement of the earlier enclosure and ditches by a new arrangement of more rectilinear ditched enclosures, orientated approximately north-south and east-west, and included a possible track or droveway, defined by two ditches. However, in places, this possible track or droveway seemed to be quite narrow for a functioning trackway. Finds from these enclosure ditches suggest that they were open features in the Claudio-Neronian period. The extent of these enclosures was marked by a large boundary ditch to the east which is probably of early Roman date. Within one of the enclosures there was a number of large pits. The finds from all these features

(other than the boundary ditch) are dominated by material of Neronian date, which includes quantities of samian. Only one possible building was located (Building B2).

There is a greater quantity and range of finds in Period 2.1 from Site B, though it is difficult to be certain to what extent material may be residual. However, samian pottery only appeared in any quantity in Period 2.1, and the increase in the range and numbers of some other find types points to a significant change in aspect of the occupation of the site at this time. Mortaria were more common, and there is a noticeable lack of the early wall-sided variety from the site in relation to Sheepen. The range of amphora types, although very heavily dominated by Dressel 20, is also wider from this period. Metal small finds also increased, most easily noted in the large number of brooches, and almost all of the imported lava quern material is from Period 2.1. There were also several finds of military objects from Period 2.1 contexts and, though few in number (seven definite military objects), they form a significant proportion of the small finds assemblage. These include weapon tips, fragments of armour, and cavalry fittings. Also some of the hobnails are probably from military footwear, and some of the brooches may also be of military origin. These items would almost certainly seem to reflect some military involvement with the Gosbecks site in this period, possibly either a direct military presence associated with the Roman fort (approximately 500m to the west) or perhaps connected with the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1. Coins were rarer finds from the site. Prior to the Neronian-early Flavian period there are three; however, from the post-Boudican period there are six (two of Nero and the four others of Vespasian), the earliest minted c AD 65 and the latest AD 72-73.

The large amount of finds from Site B indicates intensive settlement in the early Roman period, while the large amount of Neronian samian and the subsequent sharp fall in the quantity of later material possibly represents the effects of the Boudican revolt. The relatively poor aspect of the one possible building on the site during this time (Building B2), and the intensive pitting over most of the excavated area, both suggest that the settlement itself, although close to Site B, remains unlocated. Indications of possibly more substantial buildings are limited to Roman tile fragments, and a single fragment of window glass from a later context hints at a well-appointed building in the vicinity.

The early Roman ditches, though not necessarily all contemporary (and one at least appears to be a later addition), are clearly related and form a system which suggests more intensive control over agriculture. The large pits which occupy one of the enclosed areas may be associated with this. Although the function of these pits is unknown, and not necessarily all of the same or one purpose, their ultimate use appears to have been for rubbish-disposal.

One context for the new arrangement of land division represented by the creation of the rectilinear ditches could be events surrounding the foundation of the Roman *colonia* in AD 49. The large boundary ditch CF16 is not closely dated but is possibly of early Roman date and can be traced as far as an area east of the Roman temple. It was clearly an important boundary in the landscape, dividing areas of field enclosures with tracks or droveways to the west from apparently open unenclosed areas on its east side. Where it crosses Site C, its course may reflect a marginal or existing boundary aspect to that area implied by the lack of settlement debris and the location of the earlier ovens there. However, the development of the early Roman features is not clear. There are indications that some at least of the large pits could pre-date the early Roman ditch system. Some of these pits appear to respect the Period 1 ditch BF5, and also the possible building (Building B1), both of which are cut by the rectilinear ditches. Also two pottery sherds associated with features cut by one of the enclosure ditches are dated as Neronian and Neronian-Flavian. Although both could be intrusive, possibly deriving from the ditch itself, a later, Flavian, date for the ditches is possible. Although the pits appear to be confined to one of the ditched enclosure areas, it is possible that the ditches were dug around an area of pre-existing pits which either continued in use for this purpose or had mostly gone out of use by that time. The ditches were clearly connected to an agricultural function and may imply a more rural aspect to the area following the intensive Late Iron Age-early Roman settlement.

There are some indications that at least some of the finds material from Period 2 may represent activity other than the general disposal of rubbish, while some of the objects hint at possible selection for deliberate deposition. This possibility has been noted in the small finds assemblage, which includes a surprising number of finger-rings, one of which was attached to a brooch threaded through the closed pin. Also one of the large pits (BF42) contained two horse skulls together in its base at the north-west corner, and later the articulated forepart of a kitten had been put into the pit (although see p 5), though it should be noted that the horse skulls were both missing the jaws (mandibles). Beyond this, a small figurine of a hare was recovered from one of the ditches of the ditched track or droveway on Site C, and there is the presence of the cemetery area located there. It can be noted that the Roman religious complex at Gosbecks is situated approximately 300m to the south-west.

9.4 Period 2.2: Flavian-4th century

Although some finds on Site B (mostly samian) can be dated to the Flavian period-mid 2nd century, the quantity of material is very small. By the early 2nd century, if not before, the activities which resulted in the excavation of pits on Site B appear to have ceased altogether. The intensity of activity represented

by the closely-dated finds was very much reduced on this area of Gosbecks after the Neronian period, which suggests that settlement here had declined dramatically. However, material continued to accumulate in the upper fills of the large boundary ditch CF16 on Site C. Pottery from this can be dated to the 2nd-earlier 3rd century and includes black-burnished wares and roughcast beakers in late Colchester colour-coated ware. Possibly this material is related to activities associated with the burials around this ditch.

Features which are dated to Period 2.2 are much fewer in number than those dated to Period 2.1. Most are burials located around the boundary ditch on Site C, and there is no evidence for any overall change to the landscape structure. It seems likely that the land divisions established in Period 2.1 may well have been retained throughout the later Roman period, possibly defined by established hedgerows. A few of the pits on Site B probably date to early in Period 2.2, although, at some point after the mid 2nd century, this area was divided by a ditch (BF87). The only significant change to this area of the landscape at Gosbecks after Period 2.1 appears to have been the creation of the ditched track or droveway connected to the boundary ditch CF16. This took place in or after the 2nd or early 3rd century, as the primary northern ditch of this feature was cut into the upper fills of the boundary ditch. The ditches of this track or droveway seem to have been maintained as an integral element of its function as they all appear to have been re-cut. The track appears to have provided controlled access between the fields to the west of the boundary ditch and the open areas beyond it to the east. This suggests the movement of livestock, and it was possibly primarily a droveway.

The water-main which crossed Site B is also of early 2nd-century date or later, though it is related to activity on the main Gosbecks site to the south rather than the sites here. While pressurised mains of this type (hollowed lengths of wooden pipe jointed by iron collars) have been excavated previously close to the *colonia* at Balcerne Lane (CAR 3, 26), this is the first to be found situated away from the Roman town itself and not directly concerned with the provision of water to the town. It seems most likely that it carried water towards the centre of the Roman religious complex at Gosbecks, and its line can be traced for an overall distance of approximately 300m as far as the area just east of the Roman temple portico. The necessity for such a constant supply of water suggests that it was probably installed to supply a bath building or fountain. Although it cut directly across Site B, there seems no reason to suggest that its physical impact would necessarily have been other than that of a modern pipeline, and once completed it seems possible for the area affected to have continued as before.

Most of the small number of cremations and inhumation burials located around the boundary ditch on Site C are poorly dated, although almost all are probably of this period. The condition of these was generally poor, and the severe damage to some possible cremations makes certain identification difficult. Some burials have almost certainly been entirely destroyed without trace. None were particularly richly furnished. All of the seven inhumations were equipped with coffins and three had single pottery vessels as grave goods. Three finger-rings (two iron and one copper-alloy) which were found in two of the burials are probably not deliberate inclusions (see section 4.2.1), although their presence is rather unusual. All of the objects (grave goods) accompanying the burials were damaged or broken, but there was no clear indication that this was anything other than post-depositional damage.

The earliest burials appear to be two cremations located on the east of the boundary ditch. One of these contained a samian dish of late 1st-century date, a flagon and a glass flask. The other was at the centre of a small square ditched enclosure, and appears isolated in relation to the other certain cremations. The cremated bone in the enclosure was contained in a grey ware jar and the burial may have been provided with a small nailed object, possibly a piece of furniture such as a box, in the centre of the grave. Most of a fragmented pre-Flavian fine ware cup from the fill was probably also a deliberate inclusion. Examples of a single cremation burial inside a small square enclosure are dated to the Late Iron Age date at Baldock (Stead & Rigby 1986, fig 25) and to the 2nd century at Roughground Farm, Oxfordshire (Allen *et al* 1993, fig 30). The cremation burials at Gosbecks may have continued into the 4th century, as one probable cremation burial west of the ditch contained an Oxford red colour-coated bowl which can be dated to the 4th century, probably the later 4th century here (but see section 8.7.4).

All the inhumations were located north of the boundary ditch and aligned along it, giving an approximate north-south orientation, apart from one which was orientated approximately east-west. All had been provided with coffins. The grave goods were limited to single pottery vessels which had all been placed outside of the coffin, two at the west end of burials and one probably on the coffin lid. Two of these can only be dated to the 2nd century or later, while the other, a folded colour-coated beaker from the Nene Valley potteries, is of mid 3rd- to 4th-century date. Apart from a section of jaw (mandible) at the east end of one of the graves, no bone had survived.

The indications are of a small cemetery possibly serving a restricted number of people, possibly a family group. However, the possible practice of both inhumation and cremation in the later Roman period, alongside each other, could suggest ideological or social differences and may indicate two separate groups here. It is interesting to note that while the late Roman inhumations were all beyond the boundary ditch, the one identified late Roman cremation was located inside this boundary.

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**Appendix 1:
Site B (1995.16) – list of features and associated finds**

BF 1	Small pit, undated
BF2	Ditch (same feature as BF13/F14, BF78, BF112), cut by BF6/F7, BF91
Amphoras	Dressel 20. Unidentified.
Gallo-Belgic	Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian. 1st century. Mostly pre-AD 50.
Samian	1 pre-Flavian (F18).
Fired clay	Structural daub, fragments of possible loomweight and briquetage (1,725g).
Nails	Nails and fragments (35g).
Quern	Sandstone. Lava fragments.
Slag	Vitrified clay. Clinker.
Tile	<i>Tegula</i> flange (Type 6) and fragments.
Shell	Oystershell fragment.
Burnt flint	1 piece (20g).
Small finds	Pottery counter. Iron needle (modern?). Copper-alloy strip/fragments. Iron strip.
Environmental	Baulk sample: <i>Bromus</i> sp. (brome), Poaceae indent., <i>Rumex</i> sp. (dock), <i>Carex</i> sp. (sedge), Cereal indent., <i>Triticum</i> sp. (wheat), <i>Triticum aestivum</i> , <i>Triticum spelta</i> (spelt).

Pottery: Post-AD 43. Late Iron Age-mid 1st century. Gallo-Belgic ware and samian suggest a 1st-century date of Late Iron Age to early Roman up to about AD 50. Also there is only 1 amphora sherd (Dressel 20). However, there is one sherd of samian dated Hadrianic-Antonine from F78 surface (F2 east of F45) which was excavated after rapid machine-clearing of topsoil, so is dubious. Part of a Cam 268 (2nd century +) is labelled as coming from F2, but from the area of F91; though there are also some sherds of Roman grey ware from another ditch section on F2. There is also a rim sherd of Going Type G5 (lid-seated jar; Going 1987, 23) in soft possibly early fabric, but as the early forms are normally shell-tempered it would suggest that this could also be later 1st-early 2nd century. 1 unidentified colour-coated. Fern-leaf type rouletted sherd, late Augustan-Tiberian (CAR 11, 119).

Mix of grog-tempered and early Roman soft fabrics, Late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Probably more of the latter. Dominated by upright rimmed jars, pre-Flavian, Flavian, to early 2nd century; with several storage jars, some platters and beakers (mostly in Gallo-Belgic – almost no samian), some flagons and tall convex lids. Hofheim flagon-CAM 140 (1). Pompeian red ware CAM 17A (1). Cam 108 (1). Cam 218 (2). CAM 212-16 (1). Cam 254 (1). Cam 270A (3). 270B (1). CAM 266 (6). CAM 259 (4). CAM 222 (1). CAM 221 (1). CAM 267 (3). CAM 256 (1). CAM 268 (1) (Possibly from F91). Flask CAM 231 type (1). Pottery very broken up, much almost minimum sherd size, which may point to a high degree of residuality (and a later date for F2). Only a few pots could be drawn, not enough for a worthwhile group illustration by themselves.

BF3	Pit (see BF84)
Amphoras	Dressel 20. Gaulish wine amphora.
Fired clay	Structural daub, fragments of possible loomweight and briquetage (155g).
Nails	Fragments (20g).
Quern	Small fragments of lava quern.
Small finds	Iron shaft ?stylus.

Pottery: Mostly early Roman/Romanising post-conquest fabrics, dark grey wares and burnished grey wares from jars/bowls and storage jars. Some Late Iron Age.
CAM 270B (1). CAM 212-216 (1). CAM 218 (1). CAM 259 (1). CAM 266 (1). ?CAM 222 (1).

BF4 Part of BF5
Period 2
Pottery: 1 sherd Late Iron Age/?early Roman.

BF5	Small ditch/palisade slot
Fired clay	Fragment of possible loomweight (15g).
Nails	Fragments (10g).
Tile	1 fragment.

Pottery: Late Iron Age (and possibly ?early Roman, one sherd CAM 108 ?intrusive), fabrics dark brown and red browns. 1 tall lid. ?CAM 260B (1) (nearest form type but soft Late Iron Age type fabric). CAM 254 (1). CAM 108 (1).

BF6	Ditch (same as BF7, see also BF118 & BF162). Cut F2, F5
Period 2.1	
Amphoras	Dressel 20.

Gallo-Belgic late Augustan-Claudian. Claudio-Neronian. AD 50-85. Mostly pre-Flavian.
 Samian 1 pre-Flavian (f18).
 Mortaria 1 vessel - small burnt fragments.
 Small finds Nauheim derivative brooch, Late Iron Age to pre-Flavian.
 Aucissa brooch, AD 43-60/65.
 Iron arrow or small catapult bolt-head, Manning Type IIB, 1st century or later.
 Fired clay Fragments of possible loomweights and briquetage, possible briquetage vessel base (171g).
 Nails Nails and fragments (85g).
 Tile Fragment of Roman brick, other fragments.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Nauhiem derivative 10A, pre-Roman-pre-Flavian.
 Copper-alloy brooch, Aucissa, AD 43-60/65.
 Pierced pot counter, Late Iron Age/Roman.
 Copper-alloy nail-cleaner, mid-late 1st century.
 Iron arrow/bolt head (Manning IIB), 1st century or later.
 Pot spindlewhorl. Iron shaft fragment, second fragment possibly drop handle.
 Worked sandstone fragment.
 Pottery: Cam 271 (4). Cam 270B (1). Cam 218 (4). CAM 256 (3). CAM 108 (1). Cam 260 (1). Cam 259 (1). CAM 266 (3). Flask CAM 231 type (1). CAM 249 (1).

BF7 Ditch (same as BF6)
 Amphoras Dressel 20 (rim Claudio-Neronian). Kingsholme 117. Catalan wine.
 Gallo-Belgic late Augustan-Claudian. Claudio-Neronian. AD 50-85. Mostly pre-Flavian.
 Samian Claudio-Neronian. Neronian.
 Mortaria CAM 194 type, pre-Flavian.
 Coin Cunobelin AE unit, AD 20-43.
 Fired clay Several fragments of possible loomweights and briquetage. Some daub with cream surfaces (575g).
 Nails Nail and fragments (80g).
 Glass 2 coloured fragments, 1st-mid 2nd century.
 Slag Smithing slag and smithing-hearth bottom.
 Tile Roman brick fragment, other fragments.
 Shell Oystershell fragments.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Dolphin, Claudian.
 Copper-alloy brooch, Hull Type 225, Claudian.
 Copper-alloy mirror fragment, 1st century.
 Lead flanged disc, Roman ?lead-working.
 Copper-alloy shaft fragment and other fragments.
 Iron nail and stud/hobnail fragments.
 Iron hobnails (?military).
 Iron joiner's dog.
 Environmental Bulk sample: Vicia/Lathyrus sp. (vetch), Cereal indent., Hordeum sp. (barley), Triticum sp. (wheat).
 Pottery: Hofheim flagon-CAM 140 (1). Cam 271 (1). Cam 270B (2). Pompeian red ware CAM 17A (1). Cam 254 (2). Cam 218 (6). Cam 266 (6). CAM 222 (2). CAM 59 (1). CAM 165 (1). Cam 259 (6). CAM 256 (3). CAM 212-216 (1). Flask CAM 231 type (2). CAM 108 (2). CAM 221 (1). CAM 260 (1). CAM 253 (1). ?CAM 72B (1). CAM 119 (1).

Pottery: from BF6 and BF7: Post-AD 43, mid 1st century-Neronian/Flavian. Other pottery and small finds would suggest a date in the mid 1st century of Neronian-Flavian. The fine wares are dominated by Gallo-Belgic wares. Mix of ?Late Iron Age and early Roman, mostly the latter. There are no hard-fired sandy grey wares, though there are one or two harder-fired pieces. Dominated by jars/storage jars, one large flagon. A few well-burnished pieces. Noticeably fewer lids than F2/F13/F14. Overall sherd size is medium though mostly quite broken up, but some larger pieces.

BF8 Ditch
 Amphora Dressel 20.
 Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan. Tiberio-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian. Mostly pre-AD 43.
 Samian Pre-Flavian. Neronian.
 Mortaria CAM 194 type, pre-Flavian.
 Fired clay 60g.
 Nails Nail and fragments (20g).
 Slag Two smithing-hearth bottoms, one with attached hearth lining.
 Tile Fragments.
 Small finds Iron strip.
 Lead sheet, possible lead-working.

Pottery: Samian suggests a date of Neronian/Flavian. Jars and storage jars in Late Iron Age-early

Roman fabrics, some early Roman lighter grey wares. CAM 259 (1). CAM 266 (1). CAM 218 (1). + 1 pedestal form.

BF9 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20. Haltern 70. Iberian salazon.
Samian Neronian-early Flavian. Stamp **MANDO.F**, Die 2b, AD 40-60.
Mortaria Base sherd.
Coin As of Nero, c AD 65.
Fired clay Structural daub, fragments of possible loomweight and briquetage (460g).
Nails Nails and fragments (35g).
Glass Coloured fragment, 1st century-Flavian.
Tile Roman brick fragment, other fragments.
Small finds Pot counter.
Pottery: Samian Neronian-early Flavian. One Gallo-Belgic platter missed in early sorting. Fabrics Late Iron Age-early Roman. Base of large flagon, lid with knob. CAM 222 (1). CAM 221 (1). CAM 270B (2). CAM 271 (1). Flask CAM 223-225 (1). CAM 45 (1). CAM 266 (3). CAM 114 (1) (later version with orange paint/slip).

BF10 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20.
Samian Neronian. Flavian.
Fired clay 417g.
Nails Nails and fragments (45g).
Tile Fragments.
Small finds Copper-alloy strap mount, military, 1st century probably pre-Flavian.
Copper-alloy fragments.
Iron shaft with ?lead head.
Pottery: Samian-Neronian. Flavian. Some Late Iron Age, mostly early Roman fabrics jars/bowls and storage jars. 1 early colour-coated, probably Lyon ware jar, 1 flagon handle. CAM 271 (1).

BF11 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20. Haltern 70. Unidentified.
Gallo-Belgic Augustan-Claudian. Late Augustan-Tiberian. Claudio-Neronian.
AD 50-80. Flavian +. AD 60-120.
Samian Neronian-early Flavian. Flavian. 1st century. Dr 29 stamp **OFCRESTIO** (Crestio), Die 5b, AD 50-65.
Mortaria Two sherds from 2 vessels.
Fired clay Structural daub, fragments of possible loomweight and briquetage (1675g).
Nails Nails and fragments (120g).
Glass Coloured fragment of jar/jug. AD 50-Flavian.
Slag Clinker.
Tile *Tegula* (Types 1 & 3), Roman brick fragment, quantity of other fragments.
Small finds Iron brooch strip-bow, Late Iron Age.
Copper-alloy ?phalera strap (not military).
Copper-alloy toilet spoon fragment.
Copper-alloy tweezers.
Whetstone, Iron Age.
Iron shaft of ?stylus.
Iron nail and ?chain.
Pottery: (Neronian-Flavian) Samian Neronian-Flavian. Gallo-Belgic later 1st-?early 2nd century (60+). Early colour-coated vessel (probably Colchester), 1 tall lid. Sherds and handles from three-four other flagons present. Fabrics mainly early Roman. Hofheim flagon-CAM 143 type (1). CAM 246 (1). CAM 108 (2). CAM 273 (3). CAM 221 (3). CAM 267 (2). CAM 266 (1). CAM 259 (2). ?CAM 260 (1). CAM 271 (1). CAM 258(1). CAM 109 (1).

BF12 Pit
Nails Fragments (5g).
Pottery: Late Iron Age to ?early Roman fabrics, jars. CAM 218 (1).

BF13 Ditch (same as BF14, same as BF2 & BF114)
Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberio-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian.
Fired clay Fragments of possible loomweight and slab/brick with chamfered edge (473g).
Slag 2 pieces of hearth lining
Nails Fragments (65g).
Tile *Tegula* (Type 1 or 6), possible second piece.
Burnt flint 1 piece (45g).

Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Tiberio-Neronian.
Iron ?strap hinge.

BF14 Ditch (same as BF13, same as BF2 & BF114)
Amphora Iberian Salazon.
Gallo-Belgic Augustan/Tiberio-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian. Claudio-Neronian.
Fired clay 60g.
Nails Fragment (14g).
Slag Smithing slag and vitrified clay.
Small finds Iron ?strap hinge.

Pottery: F13/F14 Post AD 43. Late Iron Age-mid 1st century ?Claudio-Neronian. Gallo-Belgic ware suggests a date of Late Iron Age to early Roman. There is no samian from this section of the ditch which correponds with its low incidence from F2, and only 2 amphora sherds (some Baetican fabric probably Dressel 20). Overall the pottery from this section appears to have a larger proportion of Late Iron Age fabric than F2 and generally larger sherds; there is no hard-fired sandy gray ware and flagons are also hardly represented. Fern-leaf type rouletted sherd late Augustan-Tiberian (CAR 11, 119) and some tall convex lids.

As F2 and F13/F14 are different areas of the same ditch, this would confirm an early date for its fill.

Pottery: Cam 258A (1). Cam 271 (4). CAM 211 (2). Cam 253 (1). Cam 218 (5). Cam 266 (5). CAM 267 (1). CAM 260 (1). CAM 259 (1). Cam 221 (1).

There are slightly more pots which could be drawn and would make a group of around 10 vessels of Late Iron Age-early Roman, though most of the pottery is comparable with Camulodunum/Sheepen.

BF15 Ditch/palisade slot
Gallo-Belgic ?Late Augustan (DANNO MARUS ware).
Tile *Tegula* (Type 2), other fragments.
Pottery: Late Iron Age fabrics and Roman sandy grey ware sherds, 1 large
flagon base.

BF16 Ditch section, part of BF87
Amphora Dressel 20 (rim Claudio-Neronian).
Samian Flavian. Hadrianic-Antonine. Dr 37, stamp **CINNAMI** retro (Cinnamus ii), Die 5b,
AD 150-180.
Mortaria ?CAM 195, flat flange with grits over rim. AD ?50-85.
Glass Two coloured fragments 1st century-Flavian. Piece of window glass, 1st-3rd
century.
Nails Fragments (35g).
Tile Fragments.
Small finds Copper-alloy shaft fragment.

Pottery: Roman. Samian, mid 2nd century. ?Late Iron Age fabrics, mostly Roman. ?Early Roman and Roman sandy grey ware sherds. CAM 243-246 (1) rim

F16 and F87/F90/F100/F105

Only relatively small amounts of pottery from this feature, mostly small ?residual sherds from ?Late Iron Age and ?early Roman to Roman sandy grey wares. No fabrics or recognisable types indicative of a date up to or as late as the latest samian AD 150-180 (ie BB wares or types, late 1st-2nd century fine wares or Brockley Hill/St Albans), only the sherds of Roman sandy grey wares.

F87
Fabrics, mostly Roman. ?Early Roman and Roman sandy grey ware sherds.

F90
Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics.

F100
No pottery

F105
Early Roman-Roman sandy grey ware fabrics.

BF17 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20.
Samian Pre-Flavian. Neronian. 1st century. Pre-AD 85. Dr 15/17 or 18, stamp **LOI** .
Mortaria CAM 191, pre-Flavian.
Coin Vespasian as, AD 72-73.
Glass Coloured fragment of jar/jug, 1st-3rd century.
Quern Large flaking pieces and fragments of lava.
Fired clay 10g.

Nails Nail and fragments (65g).
 Slag Smithing slag.
 Tile *Imbrex* fragment.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Hod-Hill 60, AD 43-60/65.
 Copper-alloy shaft.
 Iron ring.
 Iron strip.

Pottery: Later 1st+ (?earlier 2nd) century. Coin of Vespasian, AD 72-73. Samian, pre-AD 85.
 Fabrics, mostly Roman. ?Late Iron Age-early Roman and Roman sandy grey ware sherds. Small pieces, ?many residual. 1 colour-coated sherd with red-brown circles in paint on orange-cream fabric. No BB wares or types, late 1st-2nd century fine wares or Brockley Hill/St Albans, only local Roman sandy grey wares. CAM ?281 (1), narrow-necked flask doubtfully ?Neronian+ or c AD 100+ (Hull 1958, 285) from lowest fill.

BF18 Pit (see BF110)
 Amphora Dressel 20. Iberian salazon. Unidentified.
 Samian Pre-Flavian. Neronian. 1st century. 1 sherd Hadrianic-Antonine.
 Dr 18 stamp LJ or MJ .
 Small finds Colchester or Dolphin brooch, AD 50-70. Brooch of unusual form, probably Claudian.
 Fired clay Structural daub, fragments of possible loomweight (240g).
 Nails Nails and fragments (245g).
 Glass Several fragments, coloured, part of unguent bottle, 1st-3rd century.
 Slag Smithing-hearth bottom and hammer scale.
 Tile *Tegula* (Type 1), and fragments.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Hod Hill 65, AD 43-60/65.
 Copper-alloy brooch (hinged plate), mid-late 1st century.
 Copper-alloy brooch, ?Colchester BB, AD 65-80.
 Copper-alloy ?box fitting.
 Copper-alloy sheet, ?shield boss.
 Copper-alloy shaft fragments of ?toilet instrument.
 Iron ?strap hinge.
 Iron ?nail.

Pottery: Samian pre-Flavian, 1 sherd Hadrianic-Antonine (earlier 2nd century). Fabrics, mostly Roman. ?Late Iron Age-early Roman and Roman sandy grey ware sherds. 1 large flagon. No BB wares or types, late 1st- to 2nd-century fine wares or Brockley Hill/St Albans, only local Roman sandy grey wares. CAM 273 (1) c AD 60+ (Hull 1958, 285). CAM 108 (4) one with barbotine dots (as Going 1987, 28) H1.6, late Neronian-Flavian). CAM 218 (1). CAM 246A (1). CAM 266, 1 and probably several others. ?CAM 331 (1) possibly up to c AD 100 (pit 1, Hull 1958, 126).

BF19 Pit
 Samian 1 sherd Neronian.
 Fired clay ?Loomweight fragments (220g).
 Nails Nails and fragments (70g).
 Slag Smithing slag.
 Small finds Pot counter.
 Iron sheet fragments.
 Copper-alloy binding.
 Iron sheet.

Pottery: Samian Neronian. Fabrics, mostly Roman. ?Late Iron Age-early Roman and Roman sandy grey ware sherds jars and bowls. Quantity of cream/orange buff ware from the CAM 331s. 1 flagon. No BB wares or types, late 1st- to 2nd-century fine wares or Brockley Hill/St Albans, only local Roman sandy grey wares. CAM 266 (1). CAM 221 (1). Probable CAM 331 (2), possibly up to c AD 100 (pit 1, Hull 1958, 126).

BF20 Natural disturbance
 Fired clay 20g.
 Pottery: From cleaning area: 2 sherds grey ware, 1 grog-tempered light grey, other Roman light sandy grey.

BF21 Pit
 Samian 1 sherd Neronian.
 Fired clay 65g.
 Nails Fragments (10g).
 Slag Smithing slag.
 Pottery: Samian Neronian. Late Iron Age-early Roman type fabrics. CAM 108 most of pot. CAM 108 (1). CAM 218 (1). CAM 221 (1). CAM 204 (1) type, pedestal base.

BF22 Pit (see BF146)

Amphoras Dressel 20 (rim Claudio-Neronian, handle stamp not legible). Iberian salazon. Unidentified.

Gallo-Belgic Claudian. AD 43-60, AD 50-75.

Samian Neronian. 1st century. Ritt 1 stamp **LICIN[VS]** (Licinus), Die 46b, AD 40-65. (Graffito X under base.)

Mortaria CAM 194, pre-Flavian.

Small finds Disc brooch, possibly as late as 2nd century.

Fired clay Structural daub fragments with cream surfaces (206g).

Nails Nails and fragments (115g).

Glass Coloured fragments, 1st-early 2nd century. 1st-3rd century.

Slag Clinker.

Tile Fragments

Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Hull 262, mid 1st century.
Copper-alloy sheet fragment.
Iron fragment.
Iron nail (?modern).

Environmental Bulk sample: Galium aparine L.

Pottery: Samian Neronian. Reasonably large quantity of pot Late Iron Age-early Roman. 1 flagon handle, 2 lids, possibly part of CAM 69 (f30 bowl). CAM 270A (1). CAM 270B (3). CAM 271 (2). CAM 259 (2). CAM 256 (1). CAM 108 (3). CAM 94 (2) (1 ?unusual: with fine grey fabric, streaky rusty orange surface, roughcast with white slip, 1 early colour-coated roughcast base and sherd very worn, ?Colchester). CAM 218 (2). CAM 222 (3). CAM 221 (2). CAM 254 (1). CAM 266 (4). CAM 241 (1).

BF23 Pit

Amphora Haltern 70.

Gallo-Belgic ?Tiberian. Tiberio-Claudian. Claudian. Claudio-Neronian.

Samian 1 sherd Neronian.

Fired clay Structural daub fragments with cream surfaces (2193).

Small finds Iron nail and fragment.

Pottery: Samian Neronian. Late Iron Age-early Roman. 1 early colour-coated base. 1 white-slipped red fabric base. 1 tall Late Iron Age lid. CAM 222 (1). CAM 267 (1). CAM 220 (1). CAM 212-216 (1). CAM 204 (1). CAM 218 (1).

BF24 Pit

Amphora Unidentified.

Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian. Pre-AD 43.

Samian Neronian. Pre-Flavian. Neronian-early Flavian. 1st century.
Dr 24 stamp **ARDACI** (Ardacus), Die 12b, AD 45-65. Dr 18 burnt.

Mortaria ?CAM 195A, AD ?50-85. One other vessel probably pre-Flavian.

Fired clay 90g.

Nails Nails and fragments (100g).

Small finds Iron catapult bolt head (military), Manning Type 1, 1st century.
Fired clay counter (part perforated), 1st century.

Pottery: Samian Neronian-early Flavian. Late Iron Age-early Roman jars/bowls, storage jars. CAM 270B (1). CAM 222 (2). CAM 108 (1). CAM 256 (1). CAM 266 (1).

BF25 Water-main

Amphora Dressel 20. Haltern 70. Unidentified.

Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian/Neronian. Tiberio-Claudian. ?Post-AD 43.

Samian Neronian. Pre-Flavian. 1st century. 1 sherd Trajanic-Hadrianic.

Mortarium 1 vessel, sherd and base sherd.

Fired clay Fragments of possible loomweight and briquetage vessel base and a Belgic brick (505g).

Nails Nails and fragments (240g).

Glass Handle of jug/bottle, coloured, 1st-3rd century.

Slag Hearth lining and slag fragment/overfired clay.

Tile Several fragments/pieces of *tegula* (Types 5 & 7), *imbrex* and Roman brick.

Small finds Iron water-pipe junction collars.
Iron blade fragment.
Iron rod.
Iron nails.

Pottery: Samian Trajanic-Hadrianic. Reasonably large quantity of pot Late Iron Age-early Roman, quite broken up so probably much residual. 1 early colour-coated rim in red fabric, 2 lids, 1 lid-seated jar as per F2. No Verulamium products, BB or recognisable early 2nd-century fine wares.

CAM 254 (2). CAM 259 (3). CAM 218 (1). CAM 221 (2). CAM 222 (1). CAM 250 (1). CAM 266 (2). CAM 108 (2). CAM 43A (1). CAM 113 (1).

BF26 ?Natural hollow or scoop
Nails Fragments (10g).

BF27 Small pit
Fired clay 40g.
Nails Fragments (5g).
Pottery: 1 sherd Late Iron Age/Roman.

BF28 Small pit cut BF119
Amphora Dressel 20.
Gallo-Belgic 1 vessel, probably Tiberian.
Fired clay 1,865g.
Nails Fragments (30g).
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Hod Hill 62, AD 43-60/65.
 Hob-nail (possibly military).
 Copper-alloy sheet fragments.
Pottery: Early Roman (Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics), most of beaker, some large sherds.
CAM 167 (1) flagon. Pedestal form probably CAM 204 (1). CAM 98A (1), early roughcast
colour-coated beaker.

BF29 Pit probably cut by BF106
Fired clay 230g.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-early Roman. Mostly jars/storage jars, butt-beakers. CAM 270A (1). CAM
270B (1). CAM 113 (1). CAM 266 (1). CAM 165 (1). CAM 108 (1) in Late Iron Age/early Roman
type fabric.

BF30 Ditch (post-medieval)
Tile Fragments of Roman and peg-tile.
Clay pipe Clay-pipe stems.
Slate Fragment of ?roofing slate.
Pottery: 17th-19th century. Few sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman and sherd of post-medieval pot,
Fabric 40 glazed, 17th-19th century (identified by Howard Brooks).

BF31 Pit/shaft
Amphora Dressel 20.
Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Neronian. Tiberian. Tiberio-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian.
 Claudian. Pre-Flavian. AD 50-85.
Samian One vessel, pre-Flavian.
Fired clay Loomweight fragment (870g).
Nails Nail and fragments (117g).
Quern Small amount of lava quern fragments.
Slag Hearth lining. Smithing slag attached to hearth lining. Hammer-scale. Clinker.
 Small trace of copper.
Tile Fragment of flue-tile, Lowther Die 8 (probably Hadrianic).
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Colchester, Tiberio-Neronian.
 Copper-alloy strip fragments.
Environmental Bulk sample (15): Brassicaceae indet. (cabbage); Bromus sp. (brome);
 henopodiaceae indet. (goosefoot); Lamiaceae indet. (Labiates); Mentha sp. (mint); Poaceae
 indet.; Rumex sp.; Urtica dioica L. (stinging nettle); Urtica urens L. (small nettle); Corylus avellana
 L. (hazel); Carex sp. (sedge); Eleocharis sp. (spike rush); Avena sp. (oat); Hordeum sp. (barley);
 Triticum sp. (wheat); Triticum spelta (spelt wheat).
Baulk sample (16) Lamiaceae indet. (Labiates); Urtica sp. (nettles); Corylus avellana L. (hazel);
Avena sp. (oat); Avena sp. (oat); Hordeum sp. (Barley); Triticum sp. (wheat); Triticum spelta
(spelt wheat).
Pottery: Samian, etcpre-Flavian. Late Iron Age-?mostly early Roman fabrics jars/bowls, several
storage jars. GB platter and TN cup not seen by Val Rigby. Unidentified straight-necked early
flagon, bowl/jar with post-firing base hole, 1 tall lid, cornice-rim beaker colour-coated probably
Colchester (?CAM 391) AD 120+ (finds no 249). No Verulamium products, BB or other
recognisable early 2nd-century fine wares. CAM 271 (3). CAM 266 (1). CAM 221 (1). CAM 257
(1). CAM 114 (1). CAM 218 (1).

BF32 & BF33 Ditched track or driveway ditches (see also BF69)
Period 2

BF32 Ditch (ditched track or driveway pair with F33)
 Samian 1 vessel, Trajanic.
 Fired clay 20g.
 Nails Fragments (5g).
 Tile Fragment.
 Clay pipe Clay-pipe stem.
 Pottery: S-MQ Late Iron Age-early Roman, jar/storage jars. No Verulamium products, BB or recognisable early 2nd-century fine wares. CAM 270B (1).

BF33 Ditch (ditched track or driveway pair with F32)
 Mortaria CAM 194, pre-Flavian.
 Fired clay Loomweight fragment (110g).
 Tile Fragment.
 Pottery: Small quantity of Late Iron Age-early Roman, 1 Roman sandy grey ware sherd.

BF34 Topsoil patch

BF35 Hearth/pit
 Fired clay ?Loomweight fragment (80g).

BF36 Small ditch/palisade slot.
 Pottery: Probably Late Iron Age. S-MQ Late Iron Age pottery. Butt-beakers and simple rims. CAM 259 (1). CAM 271 (1).

BF37 Pit
 Samian 1 vessel Neronian.
 Pottery: Few sherds of Late Iron Age-early Roman. Storage jar and rilled storage jar.

BF38 Wheel-rut (modern)

BF39 Ditch
 Nails Fragments (15g).
 Fired clay Loomweight fragment and some structural daub (40g).
 Small finds Copper-alloy tweezers and ?nail-cleaner.
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-early Roman. MQ Late Iron Age-early Roman, jar/storage jars, 1 large flagon base. Possible fragment of TN vessel (finds no 391). CAM 221 (1). CAM 222 (1). CAM 266 (1). CAM 271 (1).

BF40 Ditch
 Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberio-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian to post-AD 43.
 Samian 1 vessel, Neronian.
 Mortaria CAM 195A, grits over rim, AD 50-85.
 Fired clay Belgic brick (60g).
 Nails Fragments (40g).
 Slag Vitrified surface on clay fragment.
 Small finds Copper-alloy tack from ?furniture.
 Pottery: Samian Neronian. Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics (probably more of latter) jars/bowls, several storage jars. Vessel possibly CAM 218 (1 other), and white-coated base sherd in early fabric, 1 ?butt-beaker base. CAM 271 (1). CAM 270B (2). CAM 218 (2). CAM 259 (2). CAM 260 (1). CAM 119 (1). CAM 249? (1). CAM 266 (1). CAM 222 (1). CAM 256 (1).

BF41 Pit
 Amphora Dressel 20. Haltern 70.
 Gallo-Belgic Tiberio-Neronian. Neronian-Flavian. AD 80+.
 Samian Claudio-Neronian. Neronian. One vessel Trajanic.
 Fired clay ?Loomweight fragments (225g).
 Nails Nails and fragments (65g).
 Glass Coloured fragment, jug handle, 1st-3rd centuries.
 Tile Fragments of tile and brick.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch (hinged plate) mid-late 1st century.
 Iron finger-ring, 1st century.
 Pottery: Samian 1 sherd Trajanic. Gallo-Belgic 1 sherd AD 80+. Mostly Claudio-Neronian.
 Small-medium group of Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics. 1 white-coated red fabric sherd, part of ?base of pedestal form (?or lid). No pottery other than above fine wares obviously as late as late 1st-2nd century. No other fine wares of that date, no Verulamium region wares and no BB types. CAM 108 (1). CAM 94 (2) or equivalent early colour-coated. 1 vessel possibly Colchester.

BF42	Pit
Amphora	Large Q of Dressel 20 sherds, more than one vessel. Unidentified.
Gallo-Belgic	Late Augustan-Claudian. Claudio-Neronian. Neronian-Flavian.
Samian	AD 40-55. Neronian. AD 50-65. 1st century. Dr 29 stamp OFCRESTIO (Crestio), Die 5c, AD 50-65. Dr 15/17R or 18R stamp [MV.RAN][V.S.F] (Murranus), Die 21a, AD 50-65.
Mortaria	CAM 192, AD 40-65, sherds from two other vessels.
Fired clay	Belgic brick. Loomweight fragments. Shaped briquetage. Cream-surfaced daub (880g).
Nails	Nails and fragments (420g).
Glass	Body fragments from 2 coloured beakers, mid 1st century. 2 other coloured fragments, 1st century-Flavian.
Quern	Small fragment of lava. Fossiliferous (?Purbeck bur) top stone.
Slag	Hearth lining and fragment of iron-working slag. Smithing-hearth bottom and smithing slag.
Tile	Fragments/pieces of <i>tegula</i> (Type 3) and brick.
Small finds	Copper-alloy brooch (hinged), mid 1st century. Iron knife (Manning Type 24), Iron Age-mid 1st century. Iron hobnails, possibly military. Iron strip and nail fragments. Iron shaft ?chain. Copper-alloy strip and rivet from <i>Lorica segmentata</i> , mid 1st century. Copper-alloy fragments from ?finger-ring, ?mid 1st century. Copper-alloy fragments (some scrap?). Copper-alloy loop(s). Copper-alloy ?tuning peg. Whetstone, Late Iron Age/early Roman.
Environmental	Baulk sample: <i>Chenopodium album</i> L. (fat hen), <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazel), <i>Avena</i> sp. (oat).
	Pottery: Samian Claudio-Neronian. Gallo-Belgic Neronian-Flavian. S/F mid 1st century/1st century. Large group of Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics. Jars, storage jars, flasks, flagons (ring neck and Hofheim type), beakers-some early colour-coated type. Two or three pots with post-firing holes through base. Several unclassifiable or difficult to classify sherds. CAM 271 (5). CAM 270B (1). CAM 234 (1) 1 other flask plain unclassified. CAM 259 (3). CAM 218 (2). CAM 155B (1). CAM 140 (1). CAM 161-163 (1) two handled flagon. CAM 94 (1). CAM 108 (2). CAM 253 (1). CAM 222/221 (1). CAM 221 (3). CAM 266 (1). CAM 113 (1).
BF43	Small pit, undated
BF44	Natural
BF45	Pit
Amphora	Dressel 20, 1 rim, AD 75-125. Iberian salazon.
Gallo-Belgic	Late Augustan-Claudian. 1 vessel AD 80+.
Samian	Neronian. Flavian. Flavian-Trajanic. Antonine. Dish stamp DAMONVS (Damonus), Die 11c, burnt, AD 45-55.
Fired clay	Daub fragments (545g).
Nails	Nail and fragments (40g).
Glass	Fragment of tubular unguent bottle, mid 1st century-Flavian.
Quern	Sandstone (partly burnt).
Slag	Smithing slag.
Shell	Oystershell fragment.
Small finds	Copper-alloy brooch, ?Dolphin; Claudian. Iron shaft fragment.
	Pottery: Samian Trajanic-Antonine. Gallo-Belgic, AD 80+. Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics, little obvious difference to other probably earlier contexts; however, storage jar CAM 273 60+, probably Verulamium region white ware ?flagon sherd (probably CAM 155; finds no 182). 1 unusual bowl form with small flange/bead rim and small upright bead on top of rim. Probably at least 3 flagons present and 1 large high lid in Late Iron Age fabric + at least 1 other. CAM 273 (1). CAM 211-216 (1). CAM 119 (1). CAM 204 (1). CAM 259 (1). CAM 108 (1). CAM 221 (1).
BF46	Hearth/pit cutting BF5
Period 2	
Amphora	Dressel 20.
Fired clay	5g.
	Pottery: Small amount Late Iron Age-?mostly early Roman. Two jar/bowl rims also. CAM 259 (1).

BF47 Pit cutting BF5

Period 2

Amphora Dressel 20.

Gallo-Belgic 1 vessel, Neronian-early Flavian.

Samian Neronian. Neronian-early Flavian. 1st century.

Mortaria CAM 191, pre-Flavian.

Fired clay Shaped daub, some with cream surface (165g).

Nails Fragments (15g).

Slag Clinker.

Small finds Silver finger-ring, 1st century.
Copper-alloy shaft from pin/toilet instrument.

Pottery: Samian/Gallo-Belgic: Neronian-Flavian. S-MQ Late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, mostly jars/bowls. Small handle from ?honey jar, base from flagon. CAM 256 (1). CAM 253 (1). CAM 266 (1). poss CAM 222 (1). possibly CAM 230(1).

BF48 Pit

Samian 1 vessel, Neronian

BF49 Pit/post-hole

Pottery: SQ (?Late Iron Age-early Roman) Roman, mostly buff-pinkish flagon sherds, couple of grey ware sherds.

BF50 Pit, possible continuation of BF87

Pottery: Small quantity of Roman grey ware sherds.

BF51 Post-hole, part of BF3

Amphora Dressel 20.

Fired clay Daub (75g).

Pottery: Small quantity of Roman grey and buff ware sherds.

BF52 Layer (presumed part of topsoil)

Fired clay 20g.

Nails Fragments (5g).

Pottery: SQ ?Late Iron Age-Roman grey ware sherds. Probable identifications: CAM 221 (1). CAM 266 (1).

BF53 Natural

Pottery: 1 small chip of Late Iron Age/Roman grey ware.

BF54 Trial-trench (evaluation 1994)

BF55 Natural pit/hollow

BF56 Natural feature

BF57 Natural feature

BF58 Natural feature

BF59 Possible small pit, undated

BF60 Natural pit/hollow

BF61 Natural pit/hollow

BF62 Small pit, wrongly labelled as BF64, undated.

BF63 Pit

Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Tiberian. Late Augustan-Claudian.

Fired clay Fragments of briquetage and daub (some with cream surface) and possible loomweight fragment.

Nails Fragments (15g).

Small finds Spearhead (iron) Hod Hill type (Group 1), mid 1st century.

Pottery: Gallo-Belgic pre-conquest-?Claudian. MQ Late Iron Age and early Roman fabrics. 1 perforated colander. CAM 211-216 (2). CAM 271 (1). CAM 254 (1).

BF64 Number not used (see BF62)

BF65 Natural

BF66	Natural
BF67	Natural, possible burrow
BF68	Natural feature
BF69	Slot/gully (part of way BF32 & BF33) Pottery: 3 sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery. CAM 271 (1).
BF70	?Stake hole but probably natural
BF71	Pit (excavated in 1994 evaluation as BF101) Prehistoric Grooved ware fragments, residual. Coarse ware Roman sherds from 1995 re-excavation. Pottery: Contained small sherds of Late Neolithic grooved ware (identified by Nigel Brown of ECC). 1995 excavation on remaining part: 1 small-medium sherd, Late Iron Age-Roman storage jar fabric.
BF72	probably not a real feature (in base of BF7 Sx 4)
BF73	Pits (F number given to tops of BF76 & BF77, cut by BF6 Sx 4) Amphora Catalan wine. Gallo-Belgic 1 vessel, Neronian-Flavian. Fired clay Parts of loomweights and some other daub. Nails Fragments (15g). Pottery: 1 sherd late stoneware, 19th century+ (identified by Howard Brooks), presumed intrusive. Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics, dominated by jars/bowls and storage jars. CAM 271 (2). CAM 221 (1). CAM 266(2).
BF74	Ditch or slot/gully Quern Fossiliferous ?quern stone. Nails Fragments (5g). Pottery: S-MQ of Late Iron Age-?mostly early Roman fabrics. Mostly jars/bowls and storage jars. CAM 17A (1) with lid fragment CAM 270B (1).
BF75	Stepped linear feature, post-medieval. Clay pipe Clay-pipe stem. Pottery: Small quantity of modern pottery. 2 sherds Fabric 48D, 19th-20th century. 1 sherd Fabric 40 (unglazed), 16th-19th century (identified by Howard Brooks).
BF76	Pit (sealed by BF6) Pottery: 1 sherd Late Iron Age-early Roman grey ware.
BF77	Pit (sealed by BF6) Pottery: SQ ?Late Iron Age-probably early Roman grey ware. Probably CAM 272 (1).
BF 78	Ditch (part of BF2) Samian Hadrianic-Antonine (?intrusive from rapid cleaning)
BF79	Pit Amphora Dressel 20. Gallo-Belgic 1 vessel Neronian-Flavian Samian Neronian. Neronian-early Flavian. 1st century. 1 Neronian vessel burnt. Fired clay Daub fragments, some with cream surfaces. Possibly fragments from loomweights and Belgic brick. Nails Nail and fragments (35g). Pottery: Samian Neronian-Flavian. Late Iron Age-early Roman fabrics jars/bowls. CAM 212-217 (2). CAM 108 (1). CAM 271 (1). CAM 266 (1).
BF80	Machine disturbance Contained 2 sherds of Claudio-Neronian samian and brick/tile fragment. Pottery: 2 sherds of Claudio-Neronian samian and SQ (approx 20 sherds, many small) of Late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, jars/storage jars.
BF81	Machine disturbance Contained 2 tile fragments.
BF82	Machine disturbance

- BF83 Small pit/post-hole
Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan. Latest early Claudian.
Pottery: May be post-medieval – see peg-tile. SQ Late Iron Age or possible ?early Roman sherds. Most (if not all - 1 probable Roman grey ware sherd) looks possibly Late Iron Age. 3 sherds from red softish thick ?pot base with parts of two large holes. One small-medium fragment of ?peg-tile from 'lower fill', ?intrusive. CAM 259 (1).
- BF84 Part of BF3
Samian Flavian (burnt). AD 70-90 (style of Calvus I).
Pottery: 1 large sherd Late Iron Age/Roman storage jar.
- BF85 Natural feature
- BF86 Ditch
Samian 1st century.
Mortaria CAM 195, AD 55-85.
Fired clay Daub fragments.
Nails Fragments (5g).
Quern Q lava quern fragments and fragment of conglomerate quern.
Tile *Tegula* (Type 5) and fragments.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Q mostly small sherds, mostly jars/storage jars. 1 *dolia* with inward-facing flat rim, some small beaker/flagon fragments. 1 beaker sherd with ?fern-leaf type rouletting, ?late Augustan.
- BF87 Ditch (see also BF16, ?BF50, BF90, BF100, BF105)
Samian Neronian
Tile Fragment.
Small find Copper-alloy brooch, Dolphin, Claudian.
- BF88 Small pit/post-hole, undated
- BF89 Pit
Pottery: 1 sherd storage jar-type fabric and thickness.
- BF90 Ditch (Part of BF87)
Small finds Iron spiral ferrule, probably military (cf Longthorpe; Goodburn 1974), mid 1st century.
- BF91 Ditch cut BF2
Gallo-Belgic Sherds from 1 vessel, late Augustan.
Samian 1 sherd pre-Flavian.
Coins Nero, *dupondis*, AD 64-66. Vespasian *as*, AD 69-79.
Nails Nail and fragments (10g).
Tile 2 fragments.
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. Q small-medium sherds, mostly Roman. Jars/storage jars. 1 flat-base miniature vessel. CAM 108 (1) CAM 271 (1).
- BF92 Pit ?cut BF99
Amphora Dressel 20. Iberian salazon. Haltern 70.
Gallo-Belgic Claudian.
Samian Claudio-Neronian. Neronian.
Fired clay Some briquetage, 1 fragment with curved face and possible loomweight fragment.
Nails Fragments (10).
Tile Fragments.
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Rosette, pre-conquest, c AD 50.
Pottery: Early Roman, ?Late Iron Age-Roman. LQ sherds medium-large. Mostly jars/storage jars, 1 flagon neck, 1 large jar with three holes in base post-firing, 1 rouletted sherd ?butt-beaker or ?colour-coated, 1 fragment of early colour-coated. CAM 108 (1). CAM 259 (1). CAM 231 (1). CAM 221 (1). CAM 271 (1).
- BF93 Pit
Pottery: 2 sherds - Late Iron Age/Roman.
- BF94 Pit
Nails Fragments (10g).
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. SQ small-medium sherds. 1 bead-rim in Roman grey ware, also 1 vessel soft red fabric with white colour-coat.

BF95 Ditch part of BF103
Mortaria 1 vessel, probably 1st century.
Fired clay Loomweight fragment.
Nails Fragments (10g).
Tile Fragment.
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. SQ small-medium sherds. Some probable flagon sherds. CAM 212-217 (1).

BF96 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20. Gaulish wine.
Samian Neronian. 1 sherd Hadrianic, burnt.
Glass Coloured jug handle probably Isings 55, mid-late 1st century. Second vessel fragment probably modern.
Nails Fragments (20g).
Quern SQ lava quern fragments.
Tile Fragment.
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Colchester or derivative. Tiberio-Neronian (-AD 80?).
Pottery: Roman Q medium-larger sherds, jars/storage jars. 2 early colour-coated vessels (1 rouletted, 1 barbotine drops). CAM 271 (1).

BF97 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20. Unidentified.
Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian.
Samian 1 sherd Neronian-early Flavian, repaired.
Tile *Tegula* (Type 6), and other fragment.
Pottery: Roman S-MQ medium-sized sherds. Jars/storage jars and probable flagon base. CAM 221 (1). CAM 270B (1).

BF98 Natural (pottery probably from BF39 ditch)
Samian 1 sherd Neronian.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. S-MQ jars/storage jars. 1 small ?flagon handle. CAM 211 (1).

BF99 Shallow pit (possibly cut BF91, possibly cut by BF92)
Samian 1 sherd Neronian.
Pottery: 4 sherds of Roman grey ware.

BF100 Ditch (part of BF87)

BF101 Pit (part excavated)

BF102 Ditch (same as F103, possible recut)

BF103 Ditch (see also BF95, BF102 & BF104)
Samian 1 sherd Neronian-early Flavian.
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. Small group of grey sherds.

BF104 Ditch (same as BF103)
Samian 1 sherd Neronian.

BF105 Ditch (section part of F87)
Samian 1st century. AD 150-180.
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Colchester B, AD 50-70.

BF106 Ditch (see BF108)
Amphora Dressel 20/Halter 70. Kingsholme 117.
Gallo-Belgic Tiberian. Tiberio-Claudian. Claudian. Tiberio-Neronian.
Nails Nails and fragments (40g).
Small finds Iron pierced plate with ?dome-head rivets - ?box fitting.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Q jars/storage jars with some finer sherds. CAM 271 (2). CAM 264 (1).

BF107 Ditch or slot/gully, cut BF116
Amphora Unidentified.
Gallo-Belgic 1 sherd Tiberio-Neronian.
Nails Nail and fragments (20g).
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. MQ smallish sherds. 1 ?beaker sherd with ?fern-leaf type rouletting, ?late Augustan. Sherds probably from flagon, otherwise jars/storage jars.

BF108 Ditch (part of BF106)
Pottery: 1 sherd, probably early Roman.

BF109 Pit, cut by BF25
Amphora Dressel 20.
Samian Claudio-Neronian.
Nails Fragments (10g).
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. MQ small-medium and large sherds, mostly jars/storage jars.
CAM 259 (1).

BF110 Small pit (in side of BF18)
Nails Fragments (5g).
Pottery: Roman. SQ small sherds, one larger base sherd.

BF111 Pit
Amphora Dressel 2-4.
Samian 1 sherd Neronian, stamp]CAS[? .
Mortaria Large base sherd.
Pottery: Probably Roman. ?Late Iron Age-Roman. 2 small sherds - 1 jar/bowl, 1 butt-beaker.

BF112 Ditch (part of BF2)
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. SQ medium-large sherds. CAM 270B (1). CAM 108 (1).

BF113 Small pit
Pottery: SQ of Roman grey ware sherds mostly from one vessel.

BF114 Ditch (same as BF13/BF14)
Small find Copper-alloy brooch, Colchester, Tiberio-Neronian.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. MQ medium-sized sherds, jars/storage jars. CAM 218 (1). probably
CAM 113 (1). CAM 271 (1).

BF115 Small ditch or slot/gully. Cut by BF13/BF14

BF116 Pit (cut by BF107 & BF106)
Period 2
Amphora Italian Dressel 2-4.
Gallo-Belgic 1 sherd probably Tiberian.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. MQ small-medium sherds, jars/storage jars. CAM 218 (2).

BF116/BF107 Ditches, 3 sherds from jars and a storage jar.

BF117 Small pit/post-hole.
Tile Fragment.
Pottery: Roman. SQ of grey ware jar and pink/buff ?flagon sherds.

BF118 Ditch (same as BF6/BF7)

BF119 Pit (cut by BF28)
Nails Fragments (5g).
Small finds Whetstone, Late Iron Age/early Roman.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. ?Roman. SQ of large sherds from a large flagon and a pedestal
form. 1 sherd probably Roman grey ware.

BF120 (number not used)

BF121 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20.
Gallo-Belgic Neronian-Flavian. AD 50-85.
Samian Claudio-Neronian. Neronian (some burnt), 1st century.
Nails Nails and fragments (60g).
Tile *Tegula* (?Type 3), other brick and tile fragments.
Small finds Copper-alloy lunula pendant (military cavalry), Bishop Type 9, AD 43-1st century.
Pierced pottery counter, Late Iron Age/early Roman.
Iron loop fragment of ?buckle/nail.
Copper-alloy stud.
Copper-alloy fragments (scrap).

Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-early Roman. LQ medium-large sherds jars/storage jars. CAM 108 (1). CAM 266 (3). CAM 218 (1).

BF122 Large shallow pit (see BF136)
Pottery: Late Iron Age-early Roman. Q jars/storage jars. 2 sherds of thick ?Pompeian red ware which are ?burnt, and rim from early colour-coated vessel in red fabric.

BF123 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20.
Tile Pit full of various Roman tile pieces. *Tegula* (Types 1, 4, 12/14), 1 unusual *tegula*-type tile (Type 1).
Pottery: Late Iron Age-early Roman. Small group of early grey ware sherds.

BF124 Natural

BF125 Pit
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Small group of early red/grey ware sherds.

BF126 Pit
Gallo-Belgic Claudian. AD 50-75.
Nails Fragments (16g).
Tile ?*Imbrex* and fragments.
Small finds Pottery counter, 1st century.
 Iron rod from ?beam balance.
Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. SQ jars/bowls. 1 lid. 1 bowl in grey ware with curved side and slightly reeded rim possibly ?1st- to earlier 2nd-century form. CAM 241/242. CAM 266 (1).

BF127 Pit (see also BF141 which is part of this feature)
Amphora Dressel 20.
Samian Neronian. Neronian-early Flavian. AD 75-100.
Nails Fragments (35g).
Tile *Tegula* (Type 9), other fragments.
Small finds Copper-alloy brooch pin fragment.
 Iron ring fragment from chain.
 Iron ?ring/nail fragment.
Clay pipe Clay-pipe stem.
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. LQ mostly medium-sized sherds from jars/storage jars, some few finer jars/beakers. One vessel with pedestal base, 1 early colour-coated beaker in buff fabric with traces of red coat. CAM 271 (1). CAM 259 (1). CAM 108 (1). CAM 221 (1).

BF128 ?Pit, undated

BF129 Small ditch (continuation of BF36)
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. SQ small-medium sherds from storage jars/jars-beakers.

BF130 Slot/gully
Amphora Dressel 20.
Nails Fragments (10g).
Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Small group of medium-sized sherds. 1 pedestal base. CAM 221 (1).

BF131 Pit (irregular poorly-defined feature, most excavated, possibly natural)
Nails Fragments (5g).
Pottery: Roman. Few medium-large sherds from jars and storage jar.

BF132 Small pit base/burnt area
Small finds Copper-alloy scraps.

BF133 Ditch (post-medieval)
Tile Peg-tile fragments.
Slag Contained clay-pipe kiln debris.
Clay pipe Clay-pipe stems.

BF134 Pit
Amphora Dressel 20.
Samian Claudio-Neronian. Neronian. Neronian-early Flavian. AD 45-65. 1st century. Dr 27 stamp J/S .
Mortaria CAM 192 spout, AD 40-65.

Coin Vespasian as, AD 72-73.
 Fired clay Fragments of probable loomweights.
 Nails Fragments (75g).
 Quern Fragments of lava quern.
 Slag SQ smithing slag and clinker.
 Tile Piece from scored half box or flat tile, other fragments of Roman brick/tile.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Hull 22 (pre-conquest in origin, the type dies out by c AD 50).
 Iron hobnails (?military).
 Copper-alloy waste (speculum), ?mirror-manufacturing debris.
 Iron rod, ?bucket handle.

Pottery: Roman. LQ medium-large sherds, with 1 vessel broken but complete (CAM 212). Mostly jars/storage jars with some probable flagons and jars/beakers in finer fabric. Rouletted beaker ?early colour-coated in orange fabric. Also 2 sherds from a Verulamium region ?flagon in pink/white ware so probably latter half of 1st century, ?Flavian+. CAM 212 (1). CAM 271 (1). CAM 267 (1). CAM 256 (1). CAM 259 (1). CAM 221 (1).

BF135 Pit
 Nails Nail and fragments (25g).
 Small finds Lead fragments - ?lead-working.
 Pottery: ?Late Iron Age. 2 sherds, 1 probably Late Iron Age, other small in softish orange fabric.

BF136 Small pit (probably part of BF122)
 Nails Fragments (5g).
 Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. Small group of sherds. One storage jar.

BF137 Pit (cut by BF42)
 Amphora Dressel 20.
 Fired clay Fragment of probable loomweight.
 Tile Fragment of Roman brick.
 Small finds Iron hobnails possibly military.
 Pottery: ?Late Iron Age-Roman. Quantity of medium-large sherds from bowls, jars and storage jars. 1 CAM 221 with strainer base, 1 pedestal base form. CAM 221 (1). CAM 271 (2). CAM 266 (1).

BF138 Ditch (same as CF16)
 Samian Neronian. 1st century.
 Pottery: Roman Q small-medium-large sherds from jars, storage jars and bowls. CAM 246 (1).

BF139 Pit
 Period 2
 Amphora Dressel 20.
 Gallo-Belgic Neronian-Flavian.
 Samian AD 40-55. Neronian-early Flavian. AD 50-65.
 Mortaria CAM 192, AD 40-65.
 Fired clay Briquetage, part of evaporation vessel. Probable loomweight fragments, and other daub with cream surfacing.
 Nails Fragments (35g).
 Tile Probable brick and *tegula* fragments.
 Shell Oystershell fragment.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Rosette, pre-conquest, c AD 50.
 Iron finger-ring with intaglio, 1st century.
 Pottery: Roman LQ medium-large sherds from jars, storage jars. 1 Hofheim flagon, 2 pedestal base forms. Copy of a Dr 22 in grey ware. CAM 140 (1). CAM 218 (1). CAM 267 (1).

BF140 Natural pit/hollow or machine damage.
 Samian 1 sherd, Neronian.
 Pottery: 2 sherds in orange fabric, Late Iron Age-early Roman.

BF141 Pit (part of BF127)
 Amphora Dressel 20.
 Samian 1 sherd, Neronian
 Mortaria CAM 195A grits over rim, AD 50-85.
 Fired clay Fragment of daub with cream surface.
 Glass Modern bottle fragment.
 Nails Nails and fragments (30g).

Tile *Tegula* (Type 8), other Roman tile fragments. Possible post-Roman tile.
 Small finds Iron chain loop.
 Pottery: Roman. M-LQ small-medium-large sherds mostly jars/storage jars/bowls, some finer jar/beaker sherds (small everted rim jar in buff ware). Probable flagon handle. CAM 271 (2). CAM 246 (1). CAM 266 (2). CAM 108 (1). CAM 221 (1).

BF142 Remnant soil patch
 Glass Modern bottle fragment.
 Pottery: Roman. SQ sherds, small to medium-sized. Roman grey ware and 2 sherds of Verulamium region white ware.

BF143 Pit
 Nails Fragment (5g).
 Pottery: Roman. SQ early Roman grey ware sherds, small-medium in size. Mostly from a jar, one everted rim beaker/jar probably form CAM 108 type.

BF144 Pit
 Samian Claudian. Neronian-early Flavian.
 Nails Fragments (15g).
 Pottery: Early Roman. S-MQ sherds from jars/storage jars and probable flagon.

BF145 Small pit/post-hole, undated
 Charcoal fill.

BF146 Part of or possible earlier cut of BF22
 Amphora Dressel 20.
 Samian One sherd, Neronian.
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Two sherds early Roman grey ware. One probable CAM 221.

BF147 Small pit, undated
 Charcoal and bone flecks.

BF148 Disturbance-natural pit/hollow
 Nails Fragments (15g).
 Pottery: SQ early Roman grey ware sherds - small sherds only.

BF149 Natural

BF150 Pit
 Gallo-Belgic Neronian-Flavian.
 Samian Neronian. Neronian-early Flavian.
 Fired clay Fragment of daub with cream surface.
 Nails Fragments (25g).
 Slag Some smithing slag and clinker.
 Small finds Copper-alloy brooch, Colchester B, c AD 50-70.
 Iron hob-nails (?military).
 Iron tack/hobnail.
 Pottery: Roman. S-MQ sherds, size small-medium. Jars/storage jars, bowls and probable flagon. CAM 221 (1). CAM 266 (1).

BF151 Pit or gully (part of BF157)
 Slag Part burnt coal (?modern).
 Nails Fragments (10g).
 Tile Several peg-tile fragments and unclassifiable fragment.
 Clay pipe Clay-pipe stem.

BF152 Post-hole

BF153 Slot (beam slot)
 Pottery: SQ Late Iron Age-Roman pot. CAM 246 (1).

BF154 Pit/post-hole
 Pottery: Roman. S-MQ sherds, size small-medium. Jars/storage jars, bowls and probable flagon. CAM 221 (1). CAM 266 (1).

BF155 Pit, undated

BF156 Natural hollow

BF157 Stepped slot (see BF151)
 Post-medieval. Period 5.
 Clay pipe Clay-pipe stem.
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. 2 sherds of Late Iron Age/Roman pot in storage jar fabric.

BF158 Small pit, undated
 Pottery: Late Iron Age/Roman. 3 small sherds/fragments of Late Iron Age/early Roman pot.

BF159 Post-hole

BF160 Pit (same as F18 from 1995 evaluation)
 Gallo-Belgic Late Augustan-Claudian. Tiberian. Tiberio-Claudian.
 Fired clay Fragment of daub with cream surface.
 Nails Fragment (5g).
 Pottery: Late Iron Age/?Roman. Small group of sherds jars/storage jars bowls.
 BF18 (1995 evaluation): Late Iron Age. Large group of sherds of small, medium and large jars/storage jars and butt-beakers. CAM 113 (1). CAM 271 (1). ?CAM 112 (1). CAM 264 (1).

BF161 Post-hole

BF162 Ditch (same as BF6/BF77)
 Amphora Dressel 20. Catalan wine.
 Gallo-Belgic Tiberio-Claudian. Claudian. AD 50-80.
 Samian 1 sherd Neronian.
 Fired clay Probable loomweight fragments.
 Nails Fragments (40g).
 Small finds Copper-alloy globular stud and iron sheet (?box-fitting).
 Iron linch-pin, Manning Type 2a, Roman.
 Iron ?knife-blade.
 Iron shaft and rod fragments. Iron loop ?chain.
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-early Roman. Large quantity of jars/bowls/storage jars. Sherds mostly medium-large. One sherd of abraded early colour-coated fabric, greenish so possibly Lyon ware. One bowl/jar base with hole through it. Probable flagon sherds. CAM 259 (2). CAM 271 (1). CAM 218 (3). CAM 108 (1).

BF163 Post-/stake hole

BF164 Slot
 Tile Tile fragment. Roman.
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. Small group of sherds, ?probably early Roman. CAM ?218 (1). CAM ?218B (1).

BF165 Post-/stake hole

BF166 ?Slot (probably not a real separate feature)

BF167 Post-/stake hole
 Pottery: Late Iron Age-Roman. 1 tiny sherd.

BF168 Post-/stake hole

BF169 Post-/stake hole

BF170 Natural

BF171 Pit/post-hole cut into natural feature
 Pottery: Late Iron Age. 2 sherds (1 rim).

BF172 Post-/stake hole

BF173 Post-/stake hole

BF174 Natural (in base of BF148)

BF175 Post-hole/pit

BF176 Post-hole/pit

BF177 Pit/post-hole

BF178	Pit/post-hole
BF179	Probably natural
Nails	Fragment (5g).
BF180	Pit/post-hole
Pottery:	Late Iron Age-?Roman. 1 sherd from lid (see lid 3, <i>Camulodunum</i>) or ?bowl form.
BF181	Recorded for building, not on plan, possibly re-numbered
BF182	Possible post-/stake hole
BF183	Natural
BF184	Natural
BF185	Natural
BF186	Natural
BF187	Post-/stake hole
BF188	Recorded post-hole (not on plan)
BF189	Post-/stake hole
BF190	Post-hole
BF191	Post-/stake hole
BF192	Post/stake hole
BF193	Post-/stake hole
BF194	Post-/stake hole
BF195	Post-/stake hole (labelled as BF186)
BF196	Post-/stake hole
BF197	Natural
BF198	Natural
BF199	Natural
BF200	Natural
BF201	Natural
BF202	Natural
BF203	Natural (hole in base of BF12)
BF204	Post-/stake hole
BF205	Slot or post-hole/pit (?continuation north of BF130)
BF206	Post-/stake hole
BF207	Natural
BF208	Natural
BF209	(number given to exploratory cut into baulk)

Appendix 2:
Site C (1996.42) – list of features, layers and associated finds

CF1	Ditch	
	part of main boundary ditch	CF16.
CF2	Natural (CL3 fill)	
CF3	Possible pit	
CL4 fill	Pottery	One small soft grey ware sherd (Late Iron Age/Roman).
CF4	Natural (CL5 fill)	
CF5	Natural (CL7 fill)	
CF6	?Natural (CL9 fill, CL10 fill)	
CF7	?Natural (CL12 fill)	
CF8	Modern plough-mark	
CL17 fill	Pottery	1 soft grey ware sherd (Late Iron Age/Roman).
	Tile	fragments, <i>tegula</i> and ?peg-tile.
	Clay pipe	stem.
CF9	Modern plough-mark	
	Tile:	Fragments of brick and other.
CF10	Modern plough-mark	
	Tile	fragments.
CF11	Modern plough-mark	
	Tile	fragments.
	Pottery	1 sherd, post-medieval.
CF12	Cremation burial (see CF23 surrounding square ditch)	
	Small finds	5 iron nails and fragments.
	Cremated bone	62g, ?adult.
CL32 lower fill	Pottery	SQ sherds from ?Roman grey ware, much of lower part of pot
	Environmental	A. Fill of cremation vessel: unidentified cereal, <i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazelnut shell), <i>Rumex acetosella</i> (dock). B. Adjacent to vessel: <i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazelnut shell).
CF13+ CF14 (CF19)	Heat-affected area south of CF12 and ditch CF23	
	CF13 natural	CL23 fill. CL24 fill. CL25 fill
	CF14 natural	CL22 lower fill. CL133 upper fill
CF15	Natural	
CF16	Ditch	
	Main boundary ditch.	
	Other feature nos allotted to sections on this ditch are:	CF1, CF18, CF20, CF22, CF27, CF29, CF30, CF48, CF59 (?recut of CF16 from ditched track or driveway CF58), CF77 (section not fully excavated at F78), CF200.
	CF1	
	CL11 upper fill	
	Small finds	11 iron hobnails.
	Pottery	BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century)
	CL13 lower fill	
	Pottery	Q badly degraded sherds from CAM 195B mortarium with spout, and small soft grey ware sherd.
	CL14 upper fill	
	CL15 fill	
	CL16 fill	
	CF16	
	U/S Pottery	SQ BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century) and small group of Roman sandy grey ware.
	Tile:	Brick and <i>imbrex</i> fragments.
	CL28 upper fill	

Pottery 1 badly decayed sherd from ?Colchester colour-coated beaker (2nd-3rd century).
CL29 upper fill
Tile Fragments, cut, ?*tesserae* manufacture.
CL30
Nails Nail fragment (10g).
CL132 fill.
Tile Brick and other fragments.
Pottery SQ rim sherds of 2 jars and CAM 271 (1) (Roman).
CF18
CL26 upper fill
Pottery 2 - BB type bowl with chamfered base (2nd-4th century) and storage jar sherd.
CL27 fill
Nails Nail fragments (5g).
Tile *Tegula* (Type 11).
Pottery SQ BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century).
CL30 fill
CL41 fill
Fired clay Clay brick fragment (30g).
Pottery Q BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century) and dish (2nd-4th century), mortarium sherd, Roman and ?Late Iron Age grey ware.

CF20
CL33 fill
Tile Burnt brick fragment.
Small finds ?Iron strap hinge.
Pottery Q ?CAM 123 (1) poppy head beaker (late 1st-earlier 2nd century), other Roman grey ware including vessel with everted rim.
CL74 fill
CL76 fill
Pottery SQ ?Late Iron Age-Roman grey ware.
CL77 fill
CL78 fill

CF22
CL38 fill
Pottery SQ BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century), ?flagon base, storage jar sherds.
CL48 fill
Pottery 1 - ?Late Iron Age-Roman. CAM 270A (1).
CF27
CL52 upper fill
Tile Burnt brick fragments, other fragment.
Pottery Q BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century), CAM 243-246 (1), soft grey ware sherds.
CF28
Cremated bone 1g.
CL54 fill
Nails Nail fragments (10g)
Pottery VSQ Roman grey ware sherds.
CL56 fill
Pottery 1 storage jar.
CF29 (recorded as F28)
CL55 fill
Nails Nail fragments (10g).
Small finds Iron square-section shaft, curved at end.
Pottery VSQ Roman grey ware sherds.
CF30
CL57 fill
Pottery SQ BB-type flanged bowl (3rd-4th century), other grey ware. (CL62 fill. CL70 fill. CL71 fill. CL72 fill. CL73 fill)
CF48
CL81 fill
Pottery Q ?CAM 268 (1) (2nd century+), other grey ware sherds.
CL84 fill
CL85 primary fill
Tile Fragment.
Pottery 1 soft grey ware sherd.
CF59 CL100 fill. CL101 upper fill. CL107 lower fill.
CL100 upper fill

Fired clay Fragments (5g).
 Tile Fragment, burnt on surface.
 Pottery SQ ?CAM 268 (1) (2nd century+), ?flagon handle, storage jar sherd in soft red fabric.

 CL108 lower fill
 Pottery VSQ grey ware.
 CL110 primary fill
 CF77
 CL126 fill
 Nails Nail fragment (10g).
 Pottery SQ BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century), CAM 243-246 (1).
 Coins As of Antoninus Pius, AD 154-155. *Dupondis* / as of Faustina II, AD 161-176.
 CL128 fill
 CL140 fill
 Nails Nail fragment (5g).
 Pottery Q BB-type bead-rim bowl (2nd century), CAM 243-246 (1), colour-coated sherd, ?early colour-coated sherd, ?flagon, other grey ware.

 CF200
 Pottery SQ Verulamium region mortarium (mid 1st-early 2nd century), storage jar and white-coated thick red vessel.

 ?Part of CF16
 CL50 fill
 Nails Nail fragment (2g).
 Tile Fragments.
 Pottery SQ - mortarium CAM 191 (1), other grey ware sherds.
 CF65 (number given to ?possible recut of F1 in F22)
 CL 38 fill. CL48 fill. CL53 lower fill.
 CF85 (part of CF16)
 Tile Fragments.
 CF198 ditch ?re-cut (part of CF16 F1/F58)
 Tile Fragments, one peg-tile.

 CF17 Pit
 Small finds Iron nail shaft
 CL124 fill
 Pottery Q storage jar, Late Iron Age/early Roman.
 Environmental Avena sp. (oat), other unidentified cereal.

 CF19 Natural
 CL31 fill. CL35 fill. CL40 fill. CL44 fill. CL130 fill.
 Pottery 2 sherds - soft red fabric.

 CF21 Natural
 CL 36 fill. CL37 fill.

 CF23 Ditch enclosing cremation F12
 Comprised CF33 CF34 CF35 CF46.
 CF33 CL63 fill
 CF34 CL64 fill
 CF35
 CL61 fill
 Pottery VSQ badly decayed sherds in soft fabric.
 CF46
 CL45 upper spread of F46.
 Pottery 1 soft grey ware sherd.
 CL46 mixed redeposit of F46.
 CF24 modern sewer-pipe trench
 CF25 Natural
 CF28 Pit, possible cremation (cut CF16)
 Cremated bone 1g.
 CL54 fill. CL56 lower fill.
 CF31 Small pit
 CL58 fill

 CF32
 CL59 upper fill
 Tile Fragment.
 Pottery 1. Post-medieval.

CL60 lower fill	
Nails	Nail fragments (5g).
CF36	Natural
CF37	Cremation burial
Cremated bone	161g, ?adult.
Glass	Ovoid flask, complete base and body, 1st-3rd century.
Small finds	Iron nail head and shaft.
CL65 fill	
Pottery	SQ - lower part of ?flagon in red/buff fabric.
Environmental	Cremation area, Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell).
CF38 (part of CF100 inhumation burial, not a separate feature) (CL66 fill)	
CF39	Possible cremation or small pit
CL67 fill	
Tile	Fragment.
Pottery	SQ Roman base of grey ware jar and ?flagon sherds.
CF40	Probable cremation
Cremated bone	2g.
CL69 fill	
Nails:	Nail fragment (2g).
Pottery	Shallow bowl in micaceous, probably Oxford, fabric (orange brown with grey core), probably 4th century (but see section 8.7.4), and base of grey ware jar. SQ of other sherds of ?flagon and grey ware including bowl with undercut bead rim.
CF41	Probable cremation burial
Cremated bone	3g.
CL68 fill	
Pottery	SQ, all from base of grey ware jar or bowl.
CF42	Cremation burial
Cremated bone	252g.
CL79 fill	
Tile	Fragments.
Environmental	Adjacent to cremation vessel, Hordeum sp. (barley).
CF43	Probable cremation burial
Cremated bone	2.5g.
CL80 fill	
Tile	?Part of box-tile and other fragment.
CF44	Overall number for above - redundant
CF45	Part of CF100 inhumation burial)
CF47	Natural (CL75 fill)
CF49	Small depression in base of F35 (CL82 fill)
CF50	Small depression in base of F46 (CL83 fill)
CF51	Depression in base of F1 (CF20)
CF52	Natural (description no intersection CF16/CF25)
CL97 fill	
CF53	Pit (cut by CF79)
CL89 fill. CL90 fill. CL91 fill. CL92 fill. CL93 fill.	
CL143 lower fill	
Pottery	1 pottery fragment.
CF54	Small pit
Pottery	Q - lower part of jar ?Late Iron Age/Roman. 1 thick grog-tempered/storage jar sherd.
CF55	Natural (CL94 fill, CL96 fill)
CF56	Possible pit
CL86 fill	
Pottery	1 small storage jar sherd.
CF57	Pit, possible clearance feature
CL99 fill	

CF59 North ditch of ditched track or driveway - see CF70
 CL100 fill
 CL101 upper fill
 Fired clay Fragments (5g).
 Pottery SQ soft grey ware (red and grey sherds) ?Late Iron Age-Roman.
 L107 lower fill
 CF198 (?part of F59)
 Pottery VSQ grey ware. Roman.
 CF70 North ditch of ditched track or driveway - see CF59
 L116 upper fill
 Small finds Copper-alloy hare, 1st-2nd century (imported).
 45 iron hobnails.
 Pottery SQ - Colchester colour-coated roughcast beaker (2nd century), ring-necked
 flagon, ?flagon in orange fabric, other grey ware.
 L119 lower fill
 Pottery SQ - mortarium with gritted rim (?pre-Flavian), other grey ware.

CF60 Small ditch
 Other feature nos CF61 (CF62) (CF93 not planned!), CF95.
 Pottery 1 grey ware rim.
 CF61 CL105 fill
 CF93 CL138 fill. CL139 lower fill.

CF63 Pit, possible clearance feature (CL103 fill)

CF64 Possible cremation or small pit
 CL104 fill (cremated bone fragments recorded, none now present)
 Pottery VSQ Roman grey ware.

CF66 Possible cremation or pit
 Cremated bone 0.2g.
 CL112 fill
 Tile Fragments.
 CL113 fill

CF67 Natural (CL109 fill)
 CL111 ?redeposited fill
 Pottery 1 soft grey ware.

CF68 Natural (CL102 fill. CL106 fill. CL118 fill)

CF69 Inhumation burial
 CL114 fill
 Pottery VSQ grey ware.
 CL115 lower fill

CF71 1994 evaluation trench

CF72 Natural/disturbance (CL121 fill)

CF73 Natural
 CL122 primary fill
 Pottery 1 soft grey ware.

CF74 Ditch (part of CF196)
 CL123 fill
 Tile Brick (?tegula), burnt fragment, other large fragments.

CF75 Inhumation burial
 CL125 fill.
 Glass 2 fragments, 1st-3rd century.
 Pottery Q - most of BB1 dish (2nd-4th century), other grey ware.

CF76 Pit, possible clearance feature
 CL120 fill
 Pottery VSQ - fragments of pot/tile.
 CL147 below F76

CF78 Oven/kiln
 Small finds Iron nail and fragment.
 CL121 fill
 Pottery 1 grey ware base.
 CL127 fill. CL141 fill. CL144 fill. CL151 stoke hole. CL152 mixed kiln debris.

CF79	Oven/kiln (see CF92)
CL51 fill	
CL88 fill	
Pottery	1. ?Late Iron Age/early Roman.
CL131 fill	
Environmental	Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell), Galium aparine (goose grass), Lamiaceae (libiates).
CL134 fill	
CF80	Pit
CL137 fill ?redeposited	
CL129 fill	
Fired clay	Burnt fragments from large ?loomweight (820g).
Tile	Small fragments.
Pottery	VSQ - fragments of pottery.
CF81	Natural
CF82	Natural
CF83	Natural
CF84	Natural
CF86	Probably natural (part of F19)
CL39 fill. CL42 fill. CL47 fill.	
CF87	Natural
CF88	Possible cremation or small pit
Cremated bone	0.8g.
CF89	Natural
CF90	Natural
CL135 fill	
Pottery	2 sherds - grey ware.
CF91	linhumation burial
Bone	10g, young-middle-aged adult
CL136 fill	
Tile	Fragment.
Pottery	SQ - bowl with bead (almond-shape) rim (probably 2nd century), other grey ware.
CF94	Natural
Tile	?Tessera
CF96	Inhumation burial
Pottery	SQ - most of a Nene Valley folded (dimples and folds) colour-coated beaker (3rd-4th century)
CF97	inhumation burial
Nails	Nail fragment (2g).
Pottery	1 ring-necked flagon (probably later 1st-2nd century)
CF98	1994 evaluation trench
CF99	Inhumation burial
CL146 fill	
Nails	Nail fragments (5g).
Small finds	Copper-alloy finger-ring fragment with red paste inset (2nd-3rd century).
Pottery	VSQ soft grey ware sherds.
CF100	Inhumation burial
CL98 fill	
CL148 fill	
Small finds	Fragments of 2 iron finger-rings, one with glass setting (late Roman).
CF38	
Pottery	SQ base of probable flagon in buff fabric, 2 sherds in soft thick fabric.
CF101	Modern sewer-trench
CF102	Natural
Tile	Fragment.
CF103	Natural
CL149 fill. CL150 fill.	

CF104	Natural
CF105	Natural
CF106	Natural
CF107	Natural
CF108	Oven/kiln
CL154	
CL161	
Environmental	Corylus avellana (hazelnut shell), large Poaceae (?meadow grass).
CL162 lower fill	
CF109-CF128	Post-holes. Also CF133. All part of CF158 - structure Period 3.
CF129	Natural
CL153 fill. CL163 fill.	
CF130-CF134	Natural
CF135-CF141	Post-/stake holes (part of/associated with CF78)
CF142-CF170	Probably natural. (CF147 tile: fragment) (CF154-CL157 fill. CL158 fill. CF166 and CL159 fill)
CF171	Pit
CL160 fill (contained animal teeth)	
CF172-CF175	Natural
CF176 ditch fill CF16	
CF178 ditch fill CF16	
CF179-CF183	Natural
CF184	Ditch fill CF16
Pottery	1 - probably Colchester colour-coated (2nd-3rd century)
CF185	Ditch fill CF16
Pottery:	VSQ grey ware
CF186-F189	Natural
CF190	Ditch fill CF16
CF191	Ditch fill CF16
CF192	Ditch fill CF16
CF193	Ditch fill CF16
Pottery	1 grey ware sherd)
CF194	Natural (164 fill. CL165 lower fill.)
CF195	Natural
CF196	Ditch (see CF74 and CF85)
CF74	
CL123	
Pottery	VSQ grey ware, 1 base sherd.
CF85	
Pottery	SQ grey ware, some soft fabric sherds.
CF197	Natural
CF199	Possible pit (cut into CF70/CF198)
CF201	Part of ditch F58 ?natural
CF202	Small pit
Pottery	VSQ fragments of undated pot prehistoric-Late Iron Age.
CF203	Probably natural
CL154 fill. CL155 fill. CL156 lower fill. CL161 fill/base.	
CF204	Natural

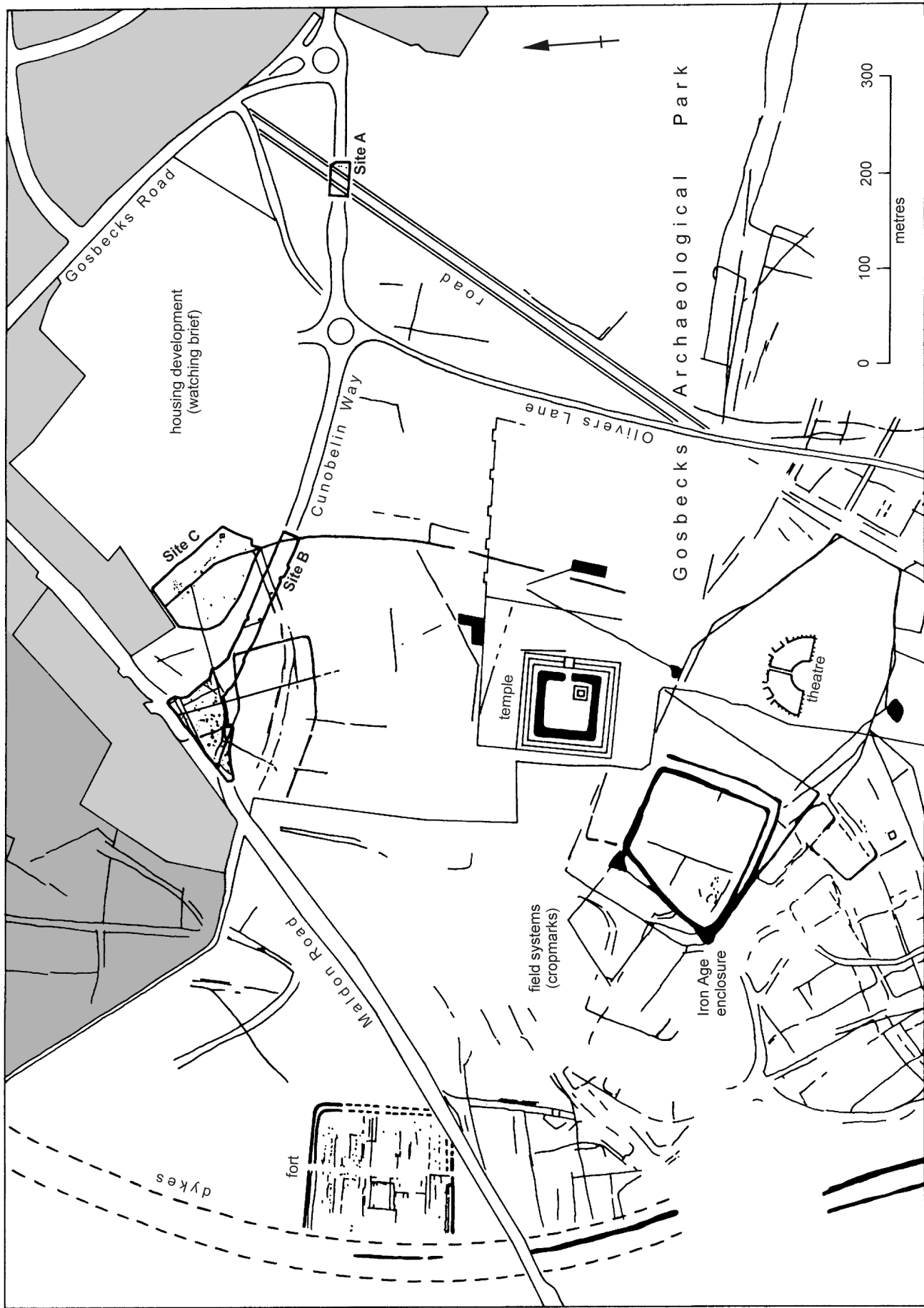


Fig 1 Location of sites (pale tone: built-up areas; dark tone: quarried areas).

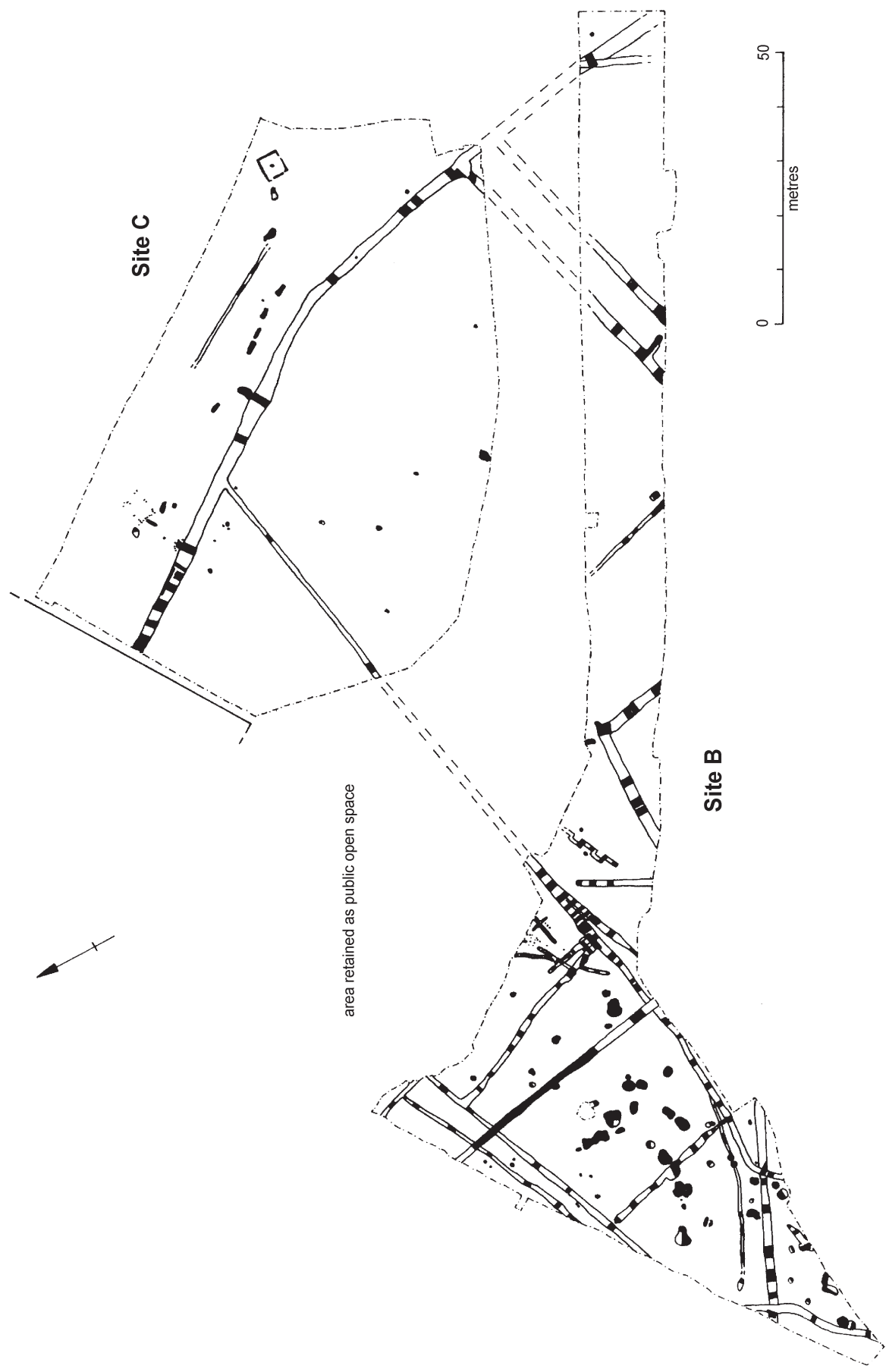


Fig 2 Sites B and C, showing extent of excavation of features.

Figure 13
detail

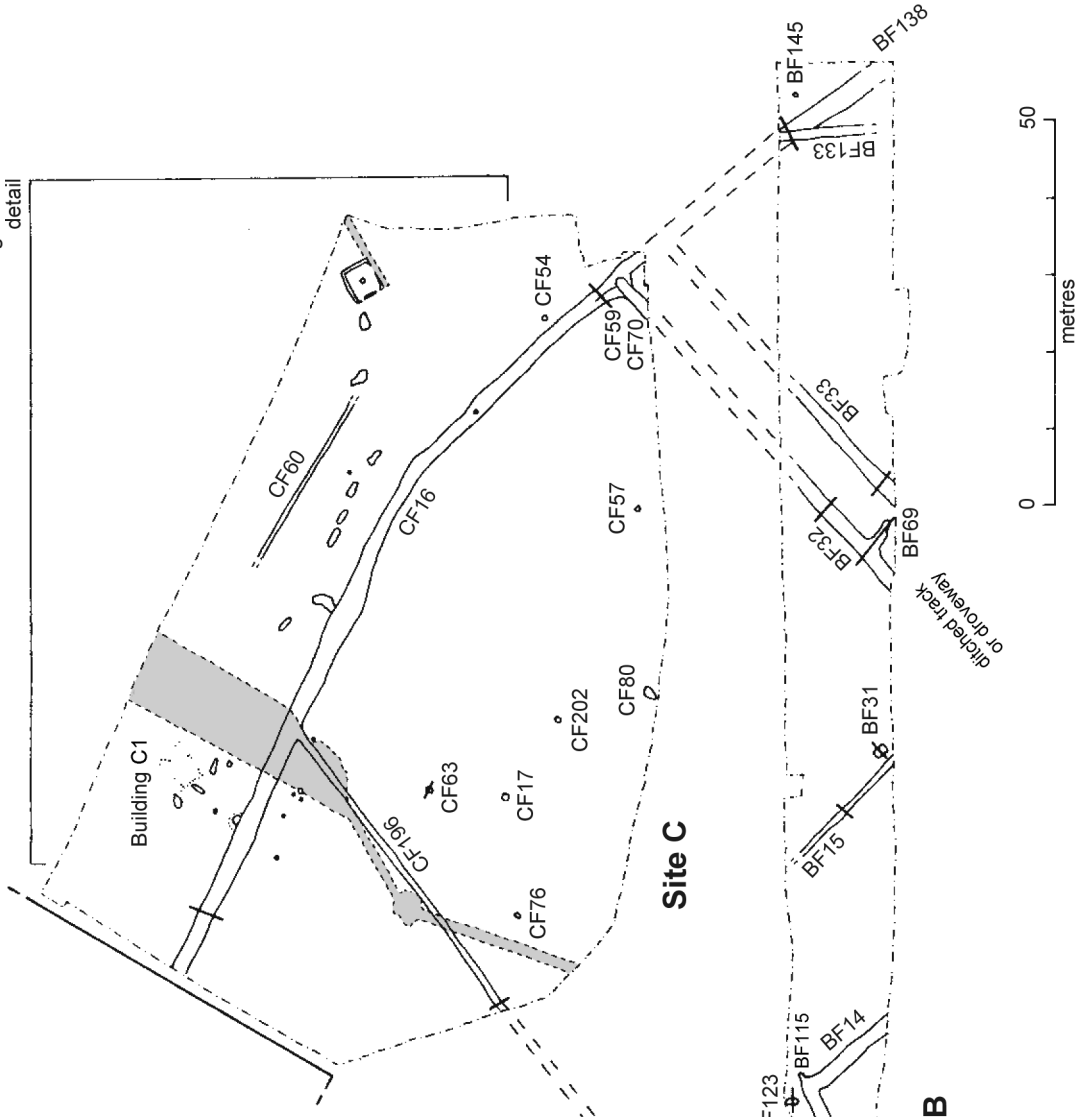


Figure 6
detail

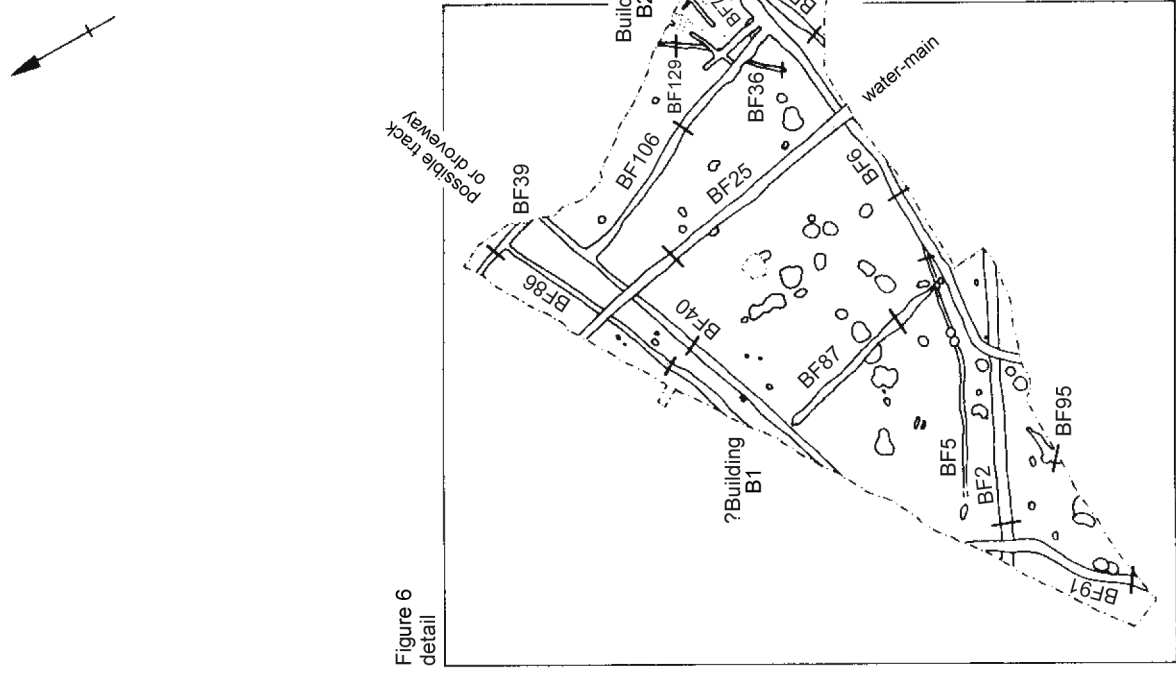


Fig 3 Sites B and C, showing areas of detailed plans (Figs 6 and 13), numbered features, and locations of sections.

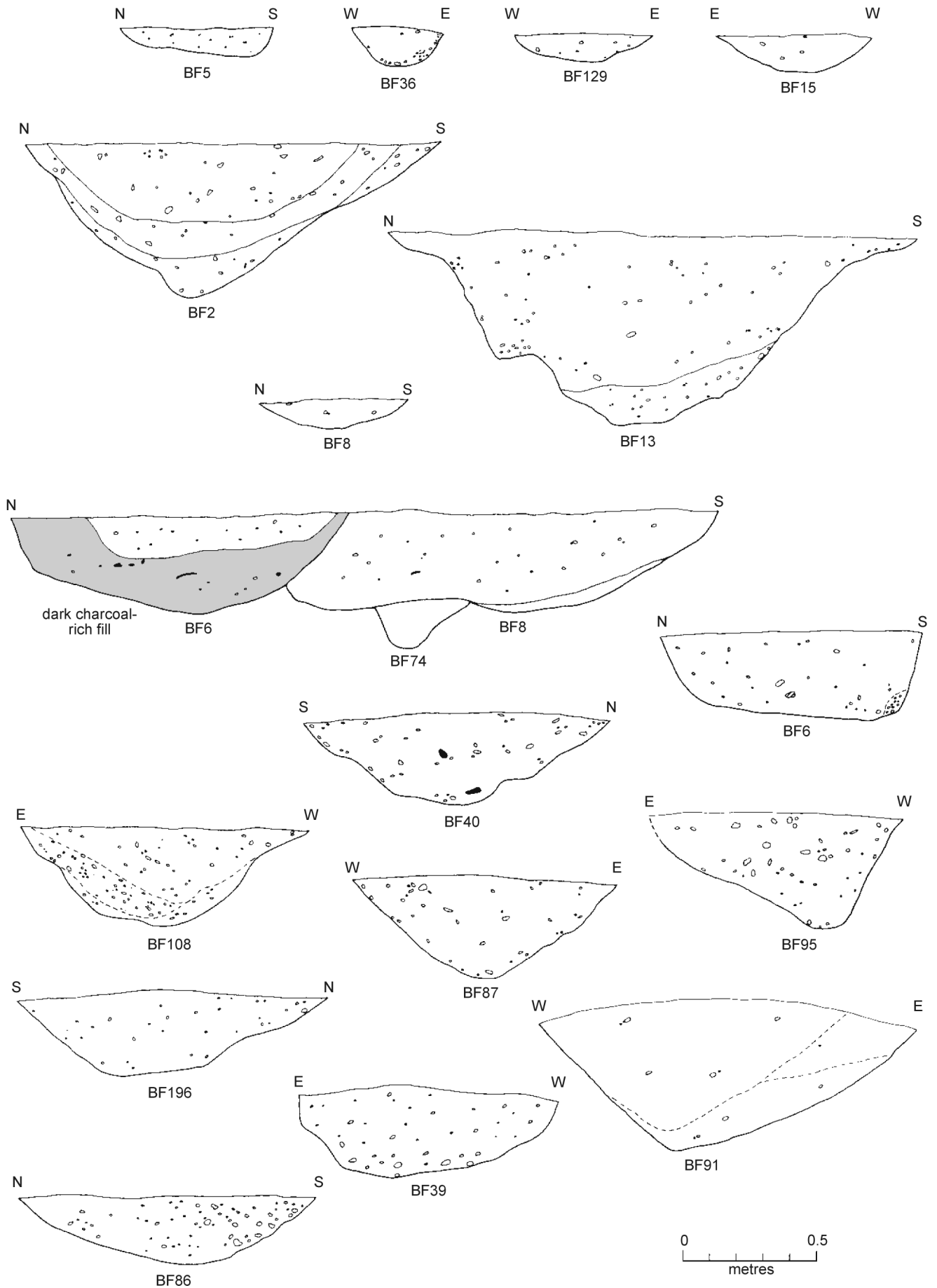


Fig 4 Sections of ditches.

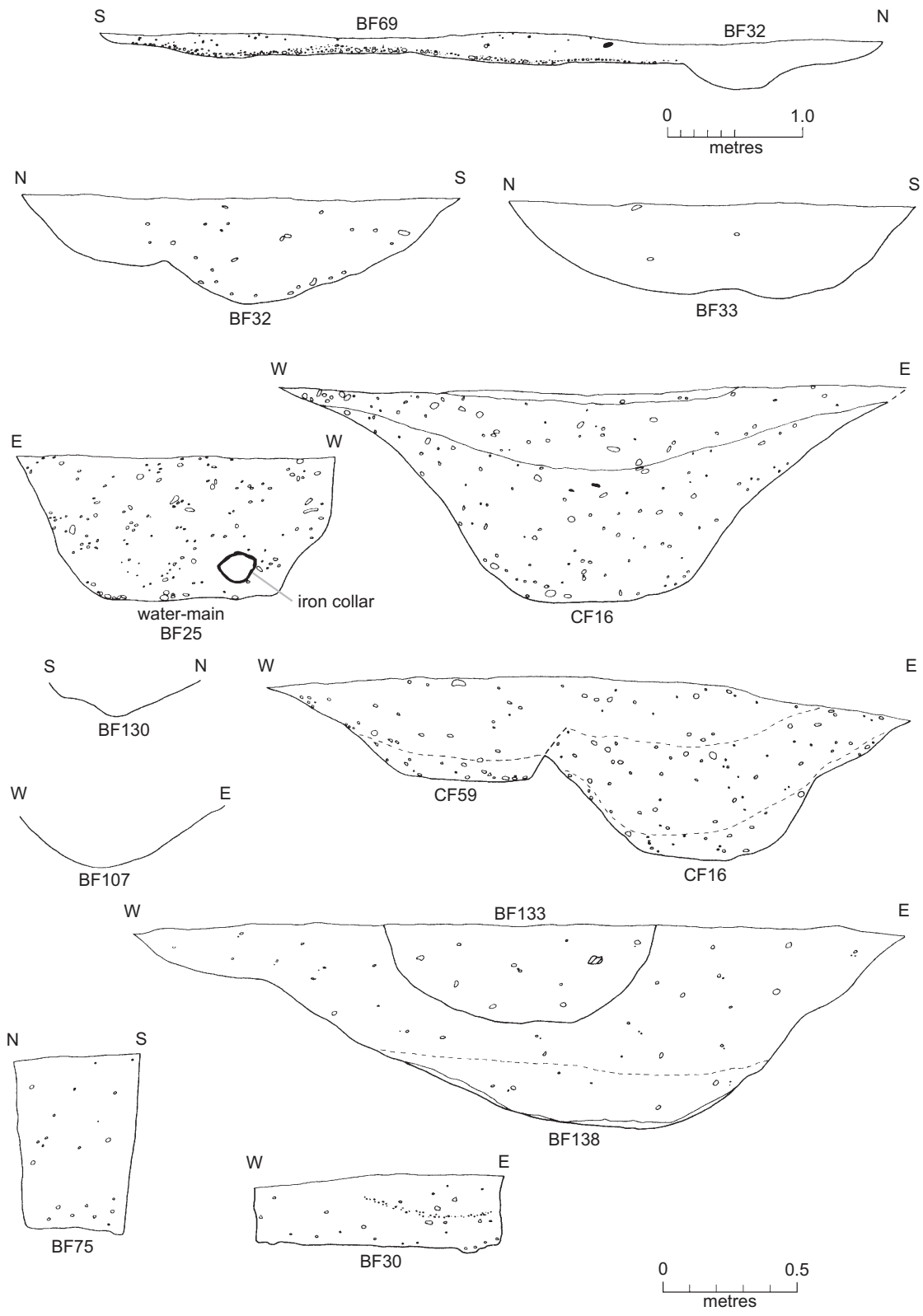


Fig 5 Sections of ditches, including Roman water-main.

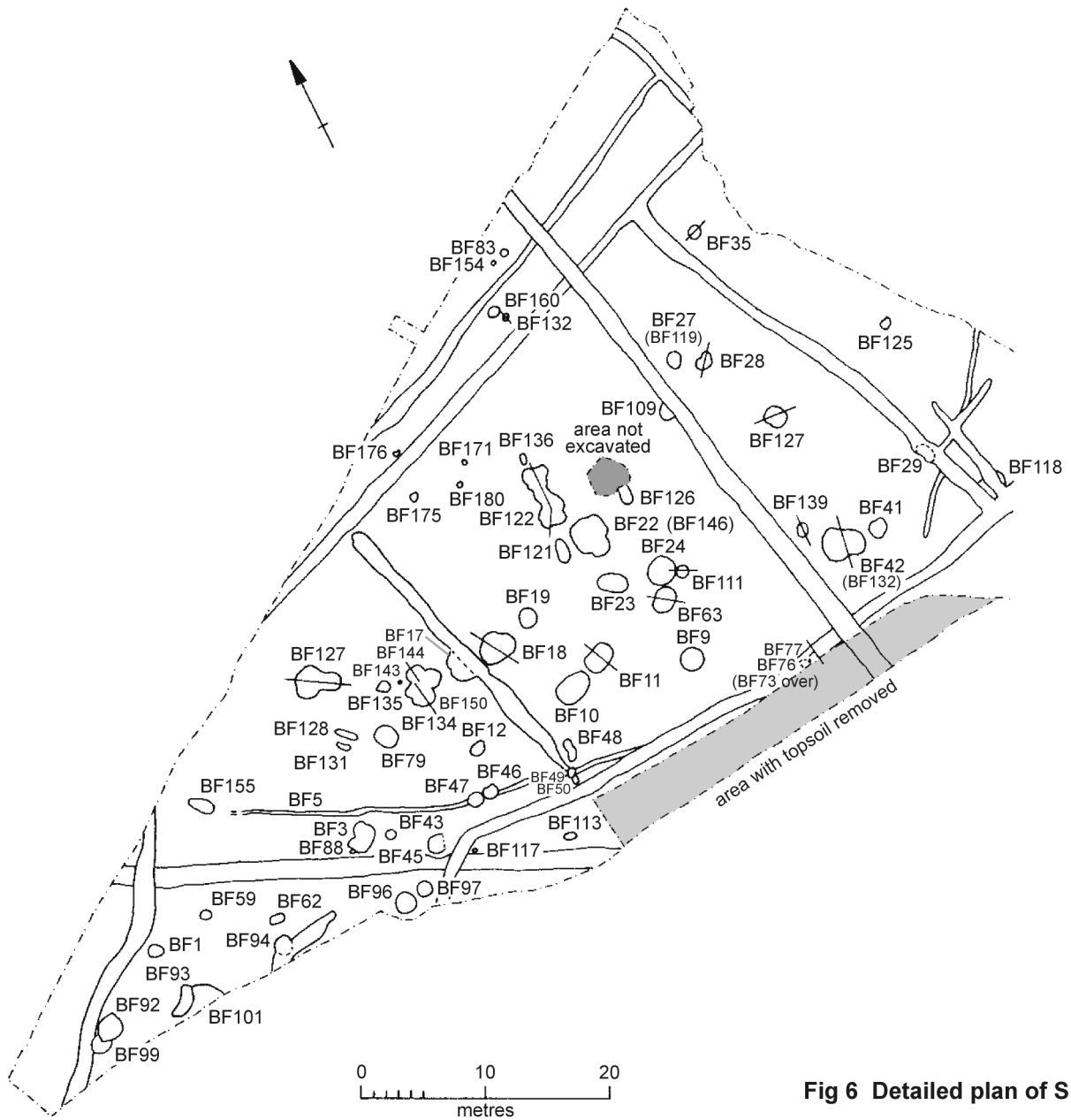


Fig 6 Detailed plan of Site B.

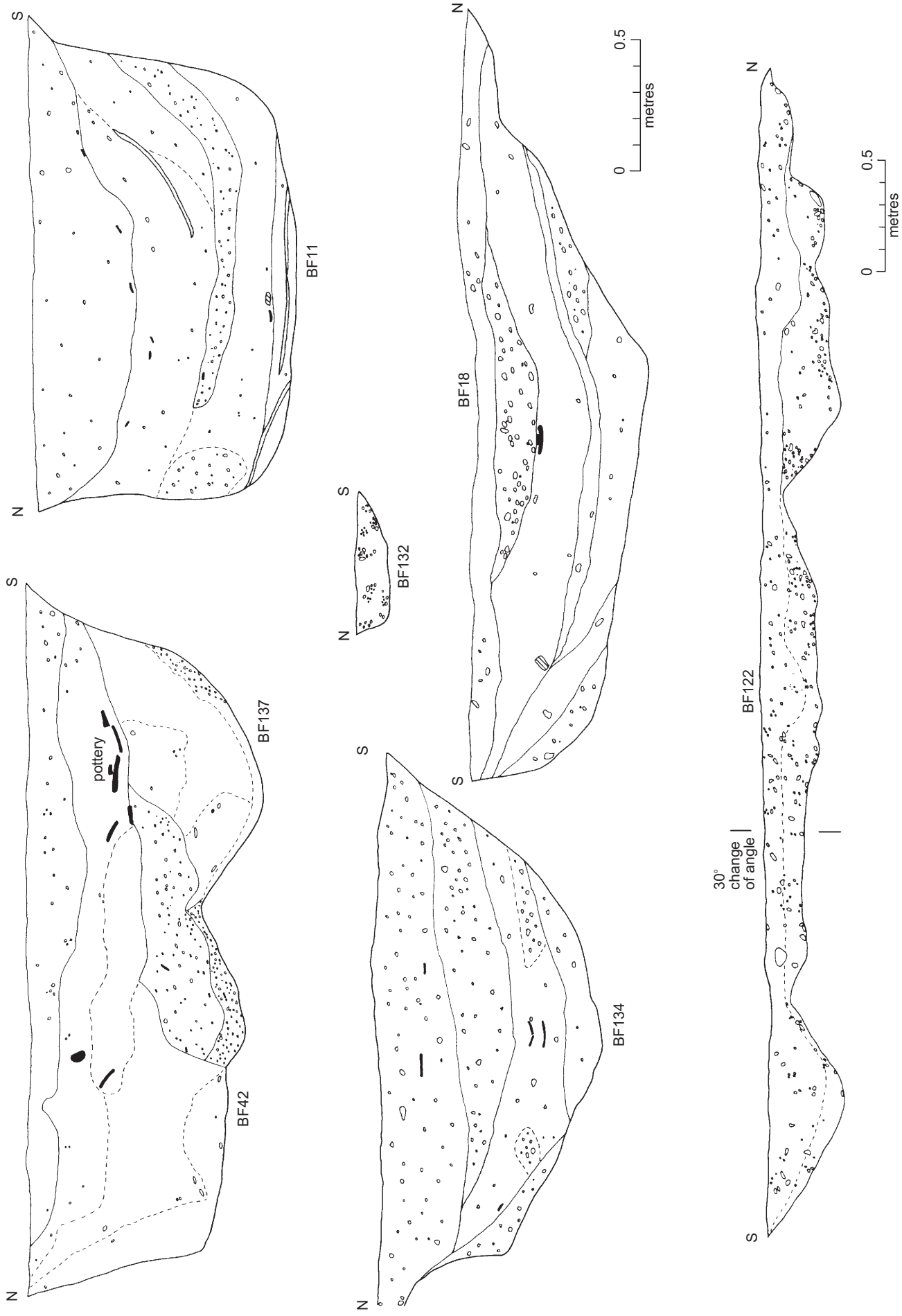


Fig 7 Selected sections of pits.

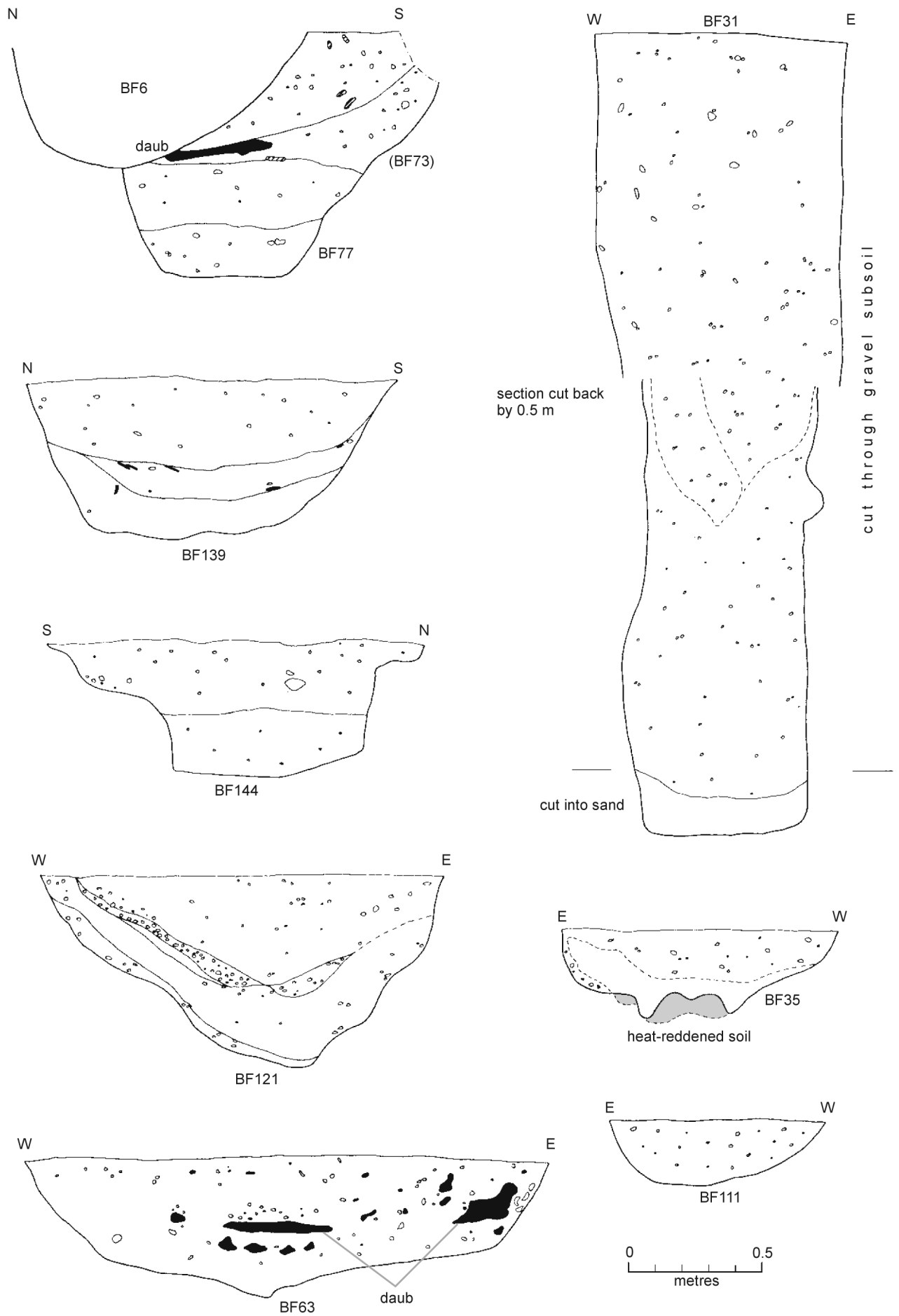


Fig 8 Selected sections of pits, including shaft.

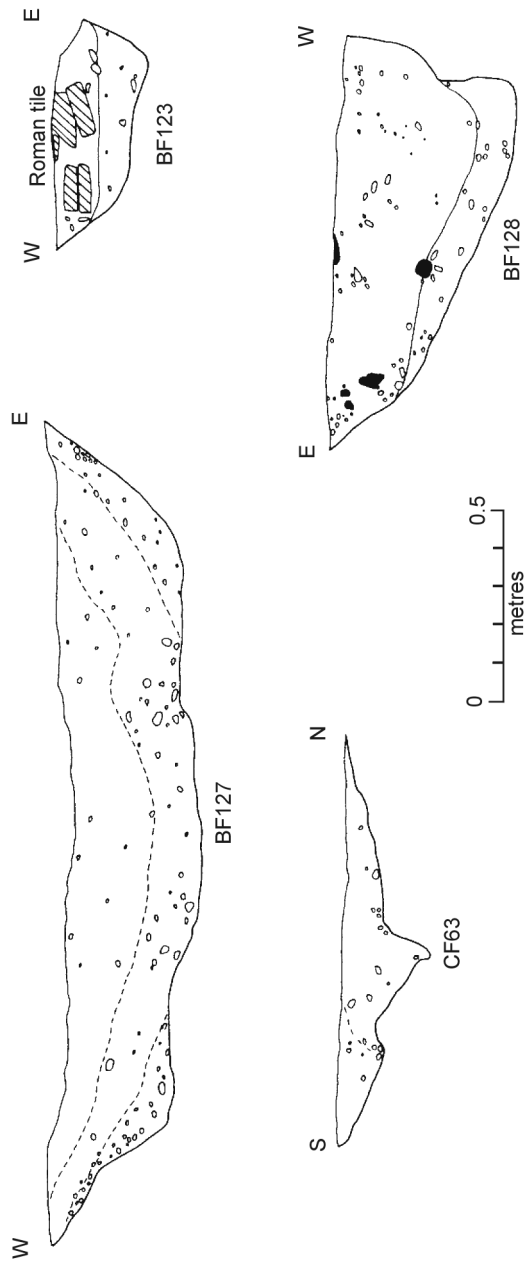


Fig 9 Selected sections of pits.

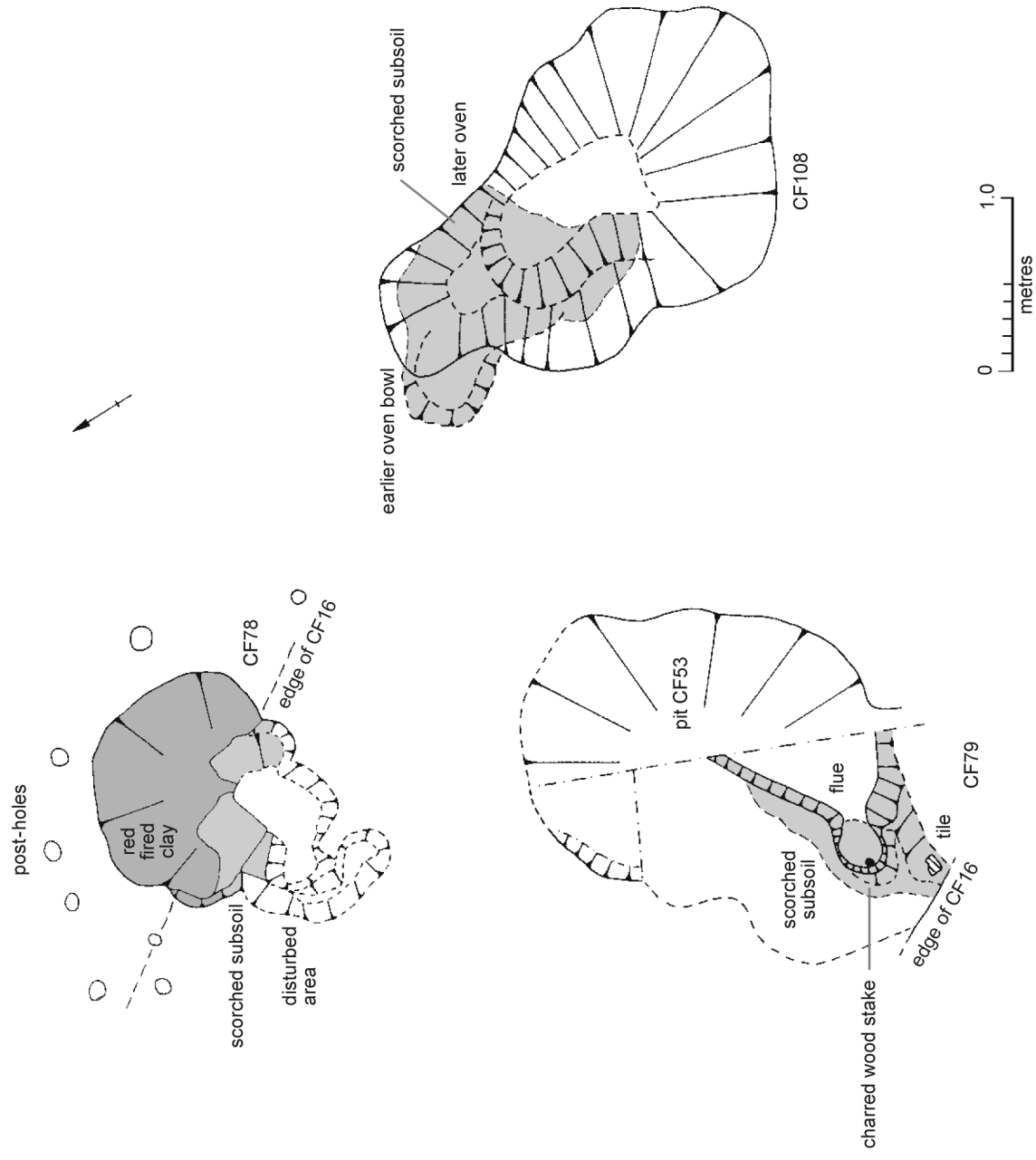


Fig 10 Detailed plan of ovens on Site C.

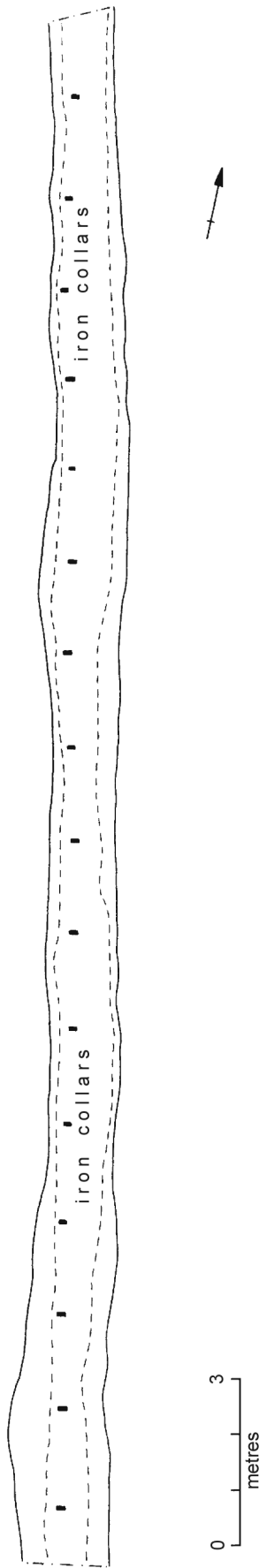


Fig 11 Detailed plan of Roman water-main.

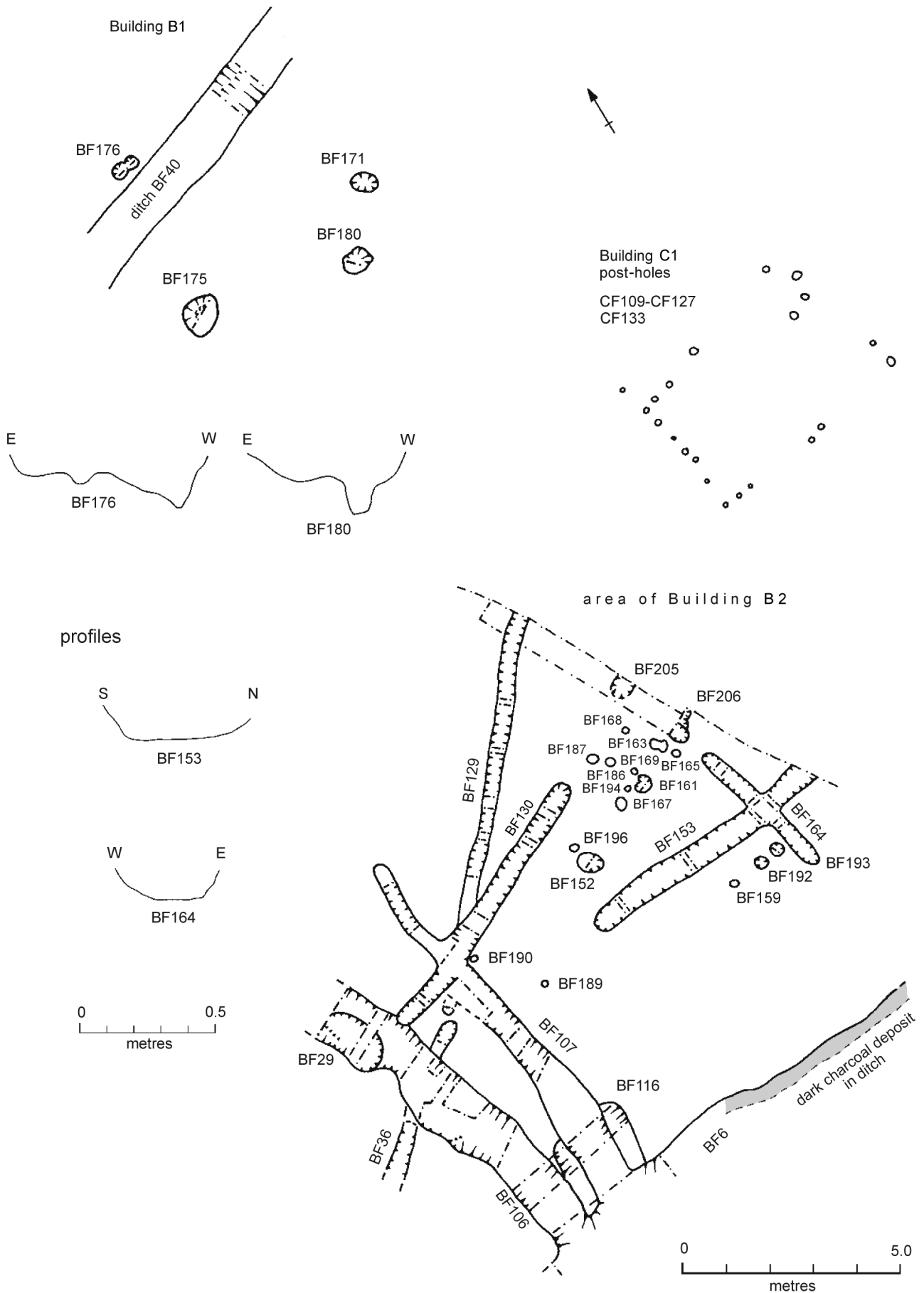


Fig 12 Detailed plan of buildings.

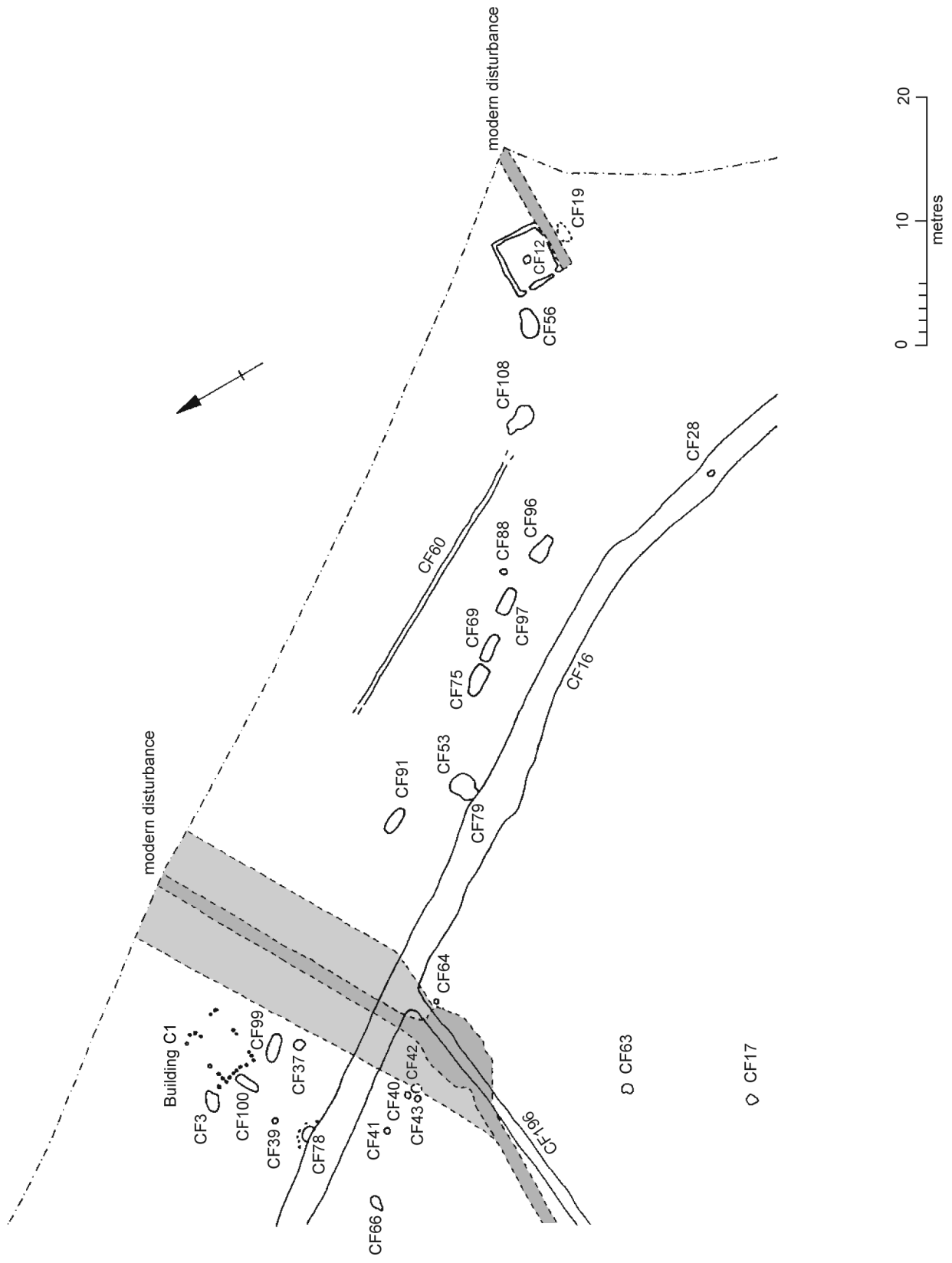


Fig 13 Plan of burials on Site C.

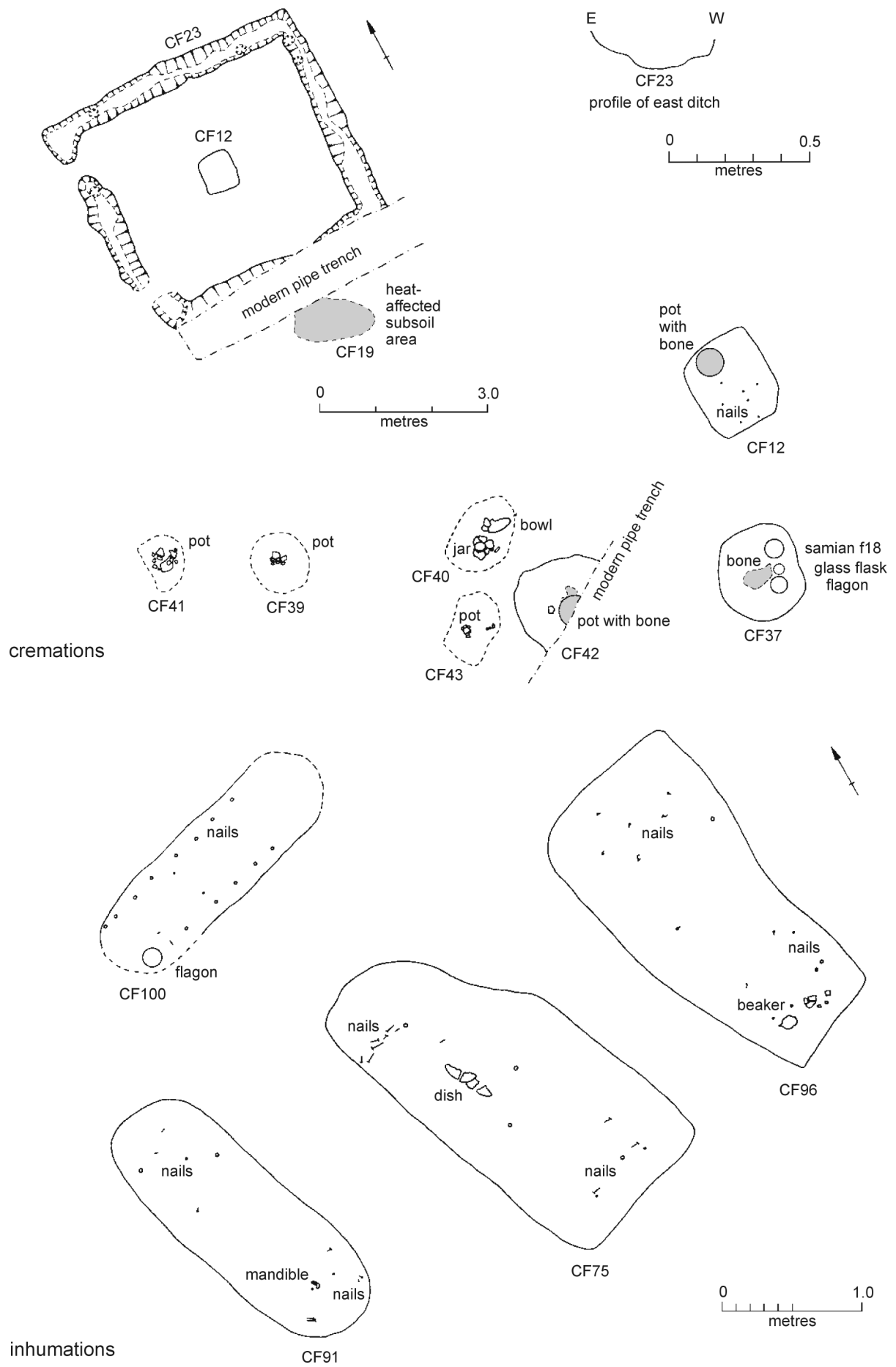


Fig 14 Detailed plan of selected burials on Site C.

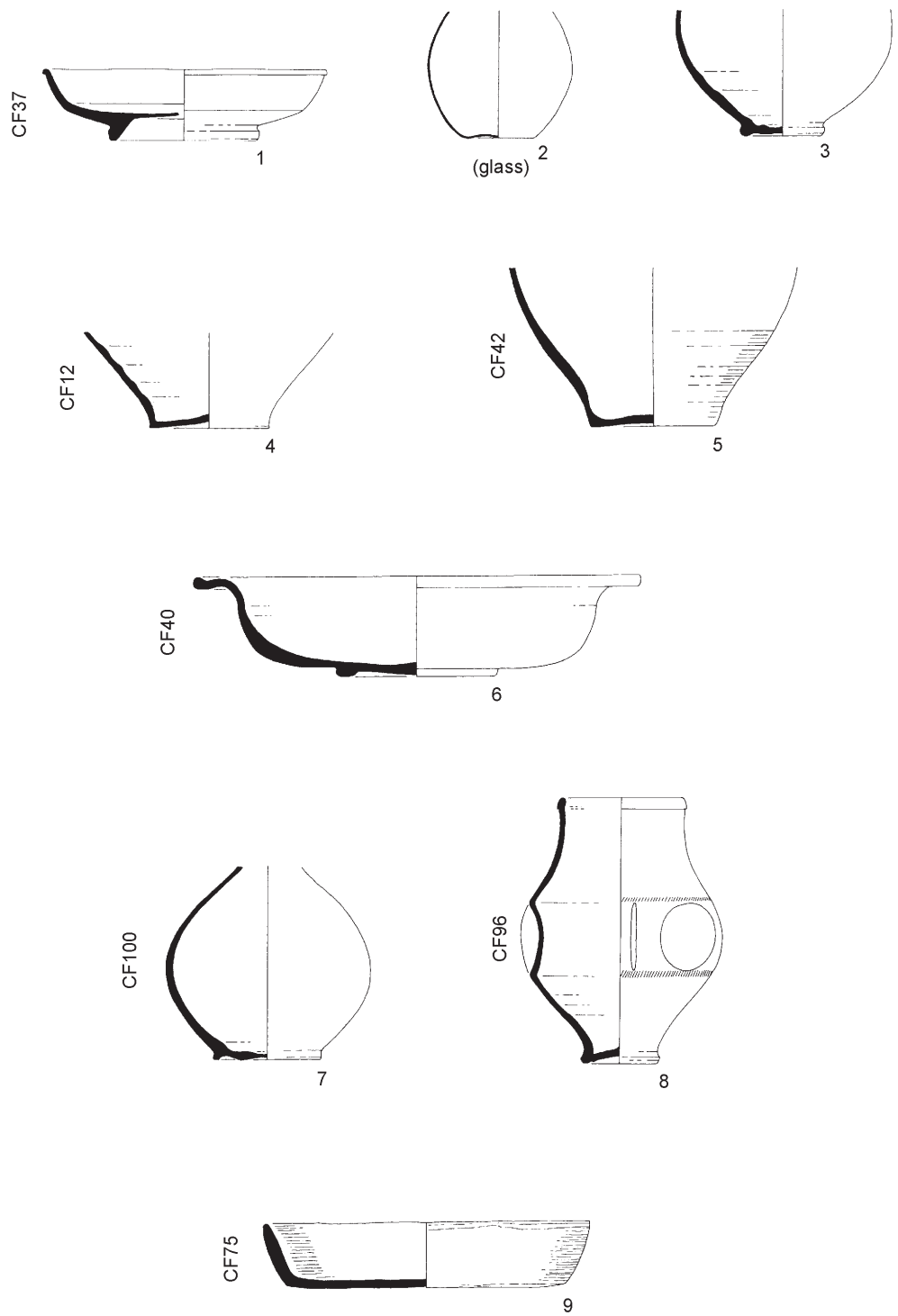


Fig 15 Pottery and glass from the Roman burials (scale 1:4).

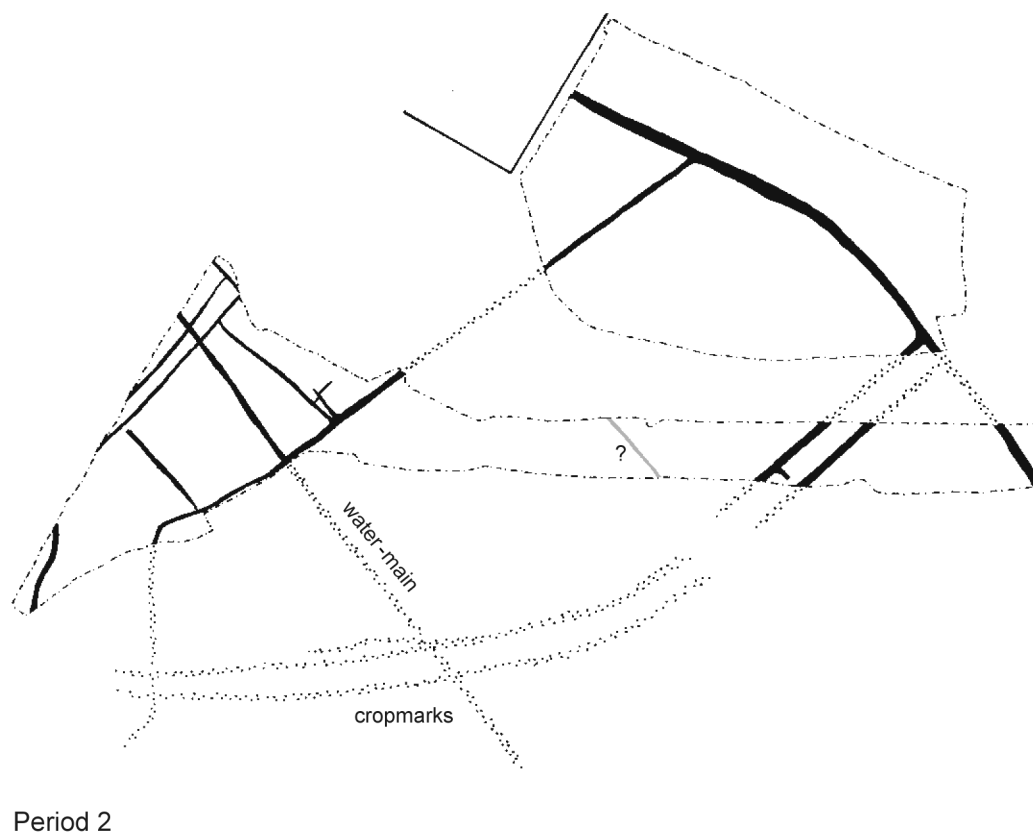
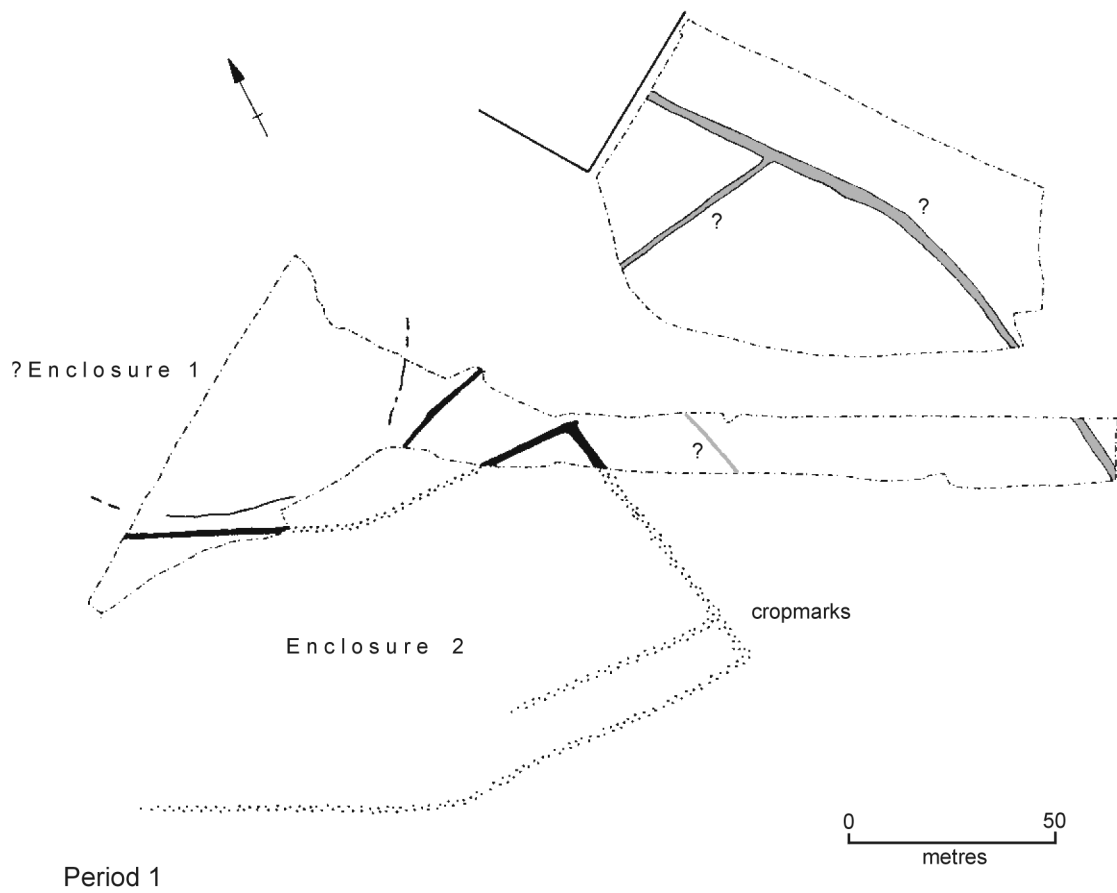
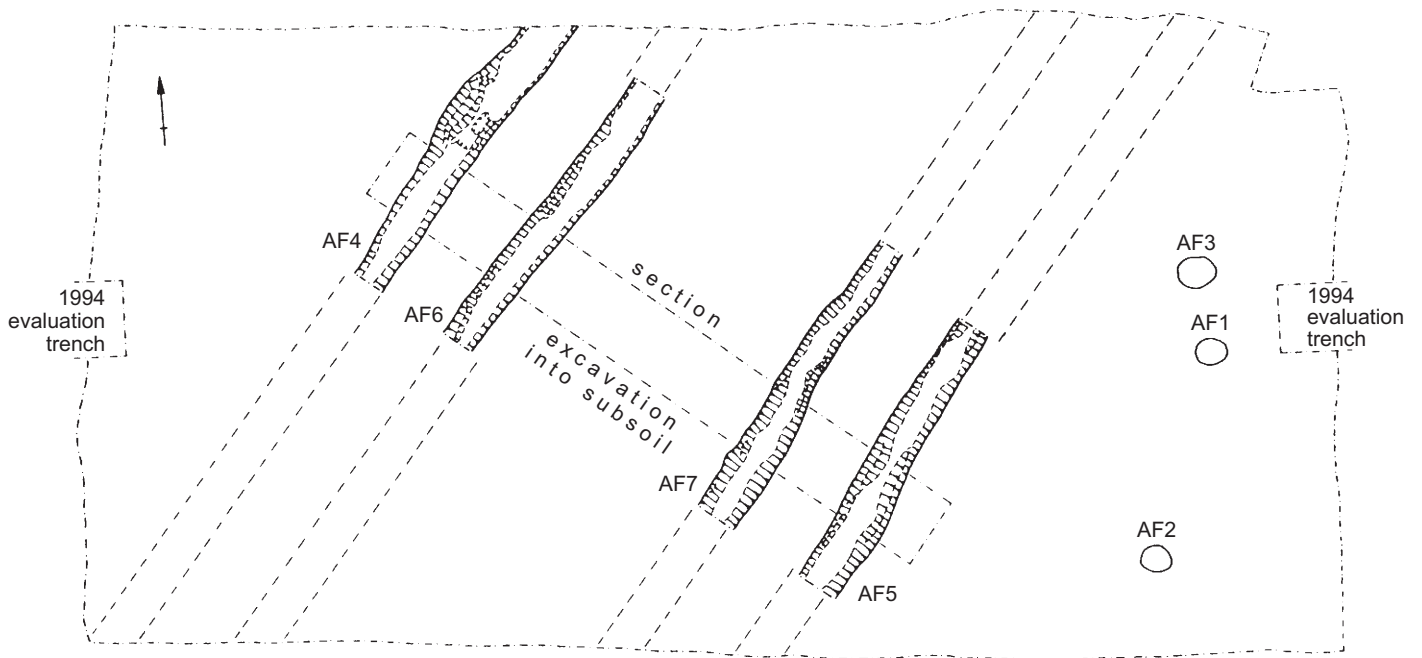
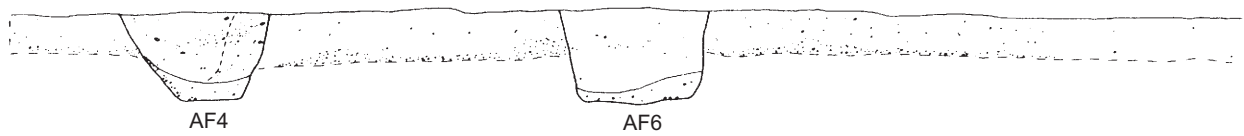


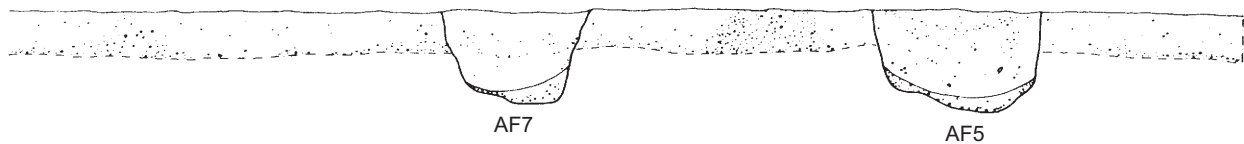
Fig 16 Phase plan of ditches (Period 1 and Period 2).



site plan



road section



pit profiles

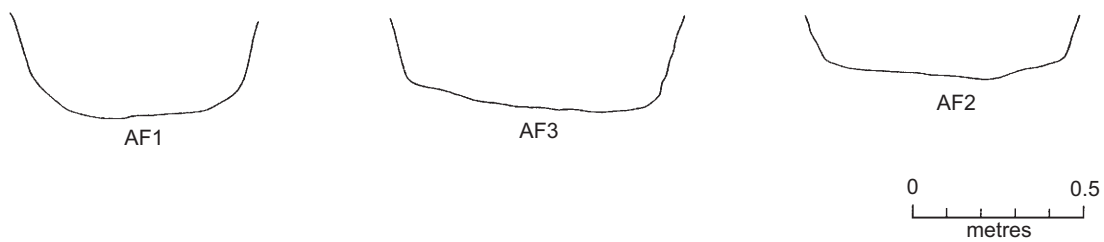


Fig 17 Plan and sections of Roman road (Site A).

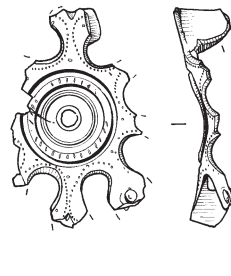
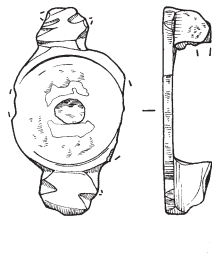
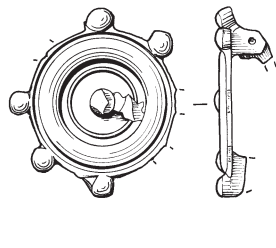
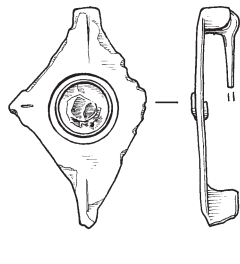
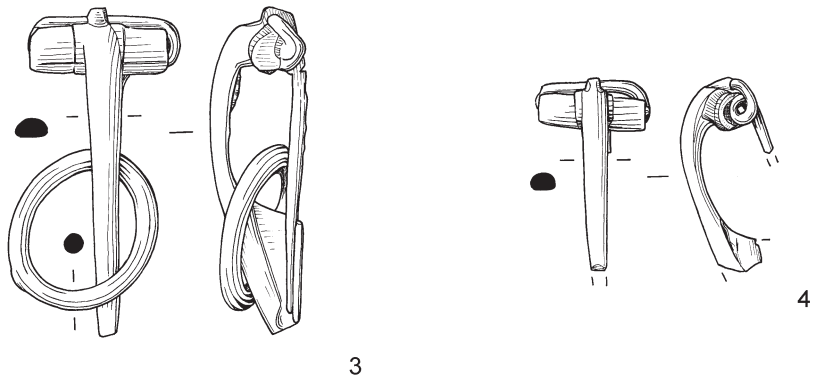
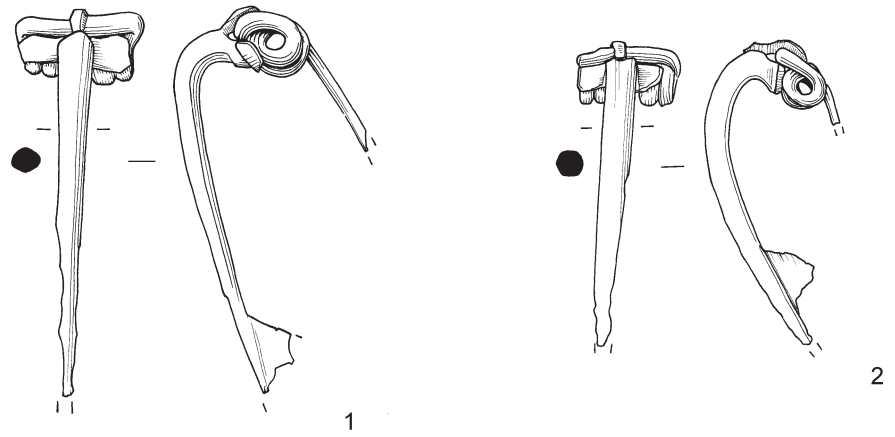


Fig 18 Small finds: illustrated brooches (scale 1:1).

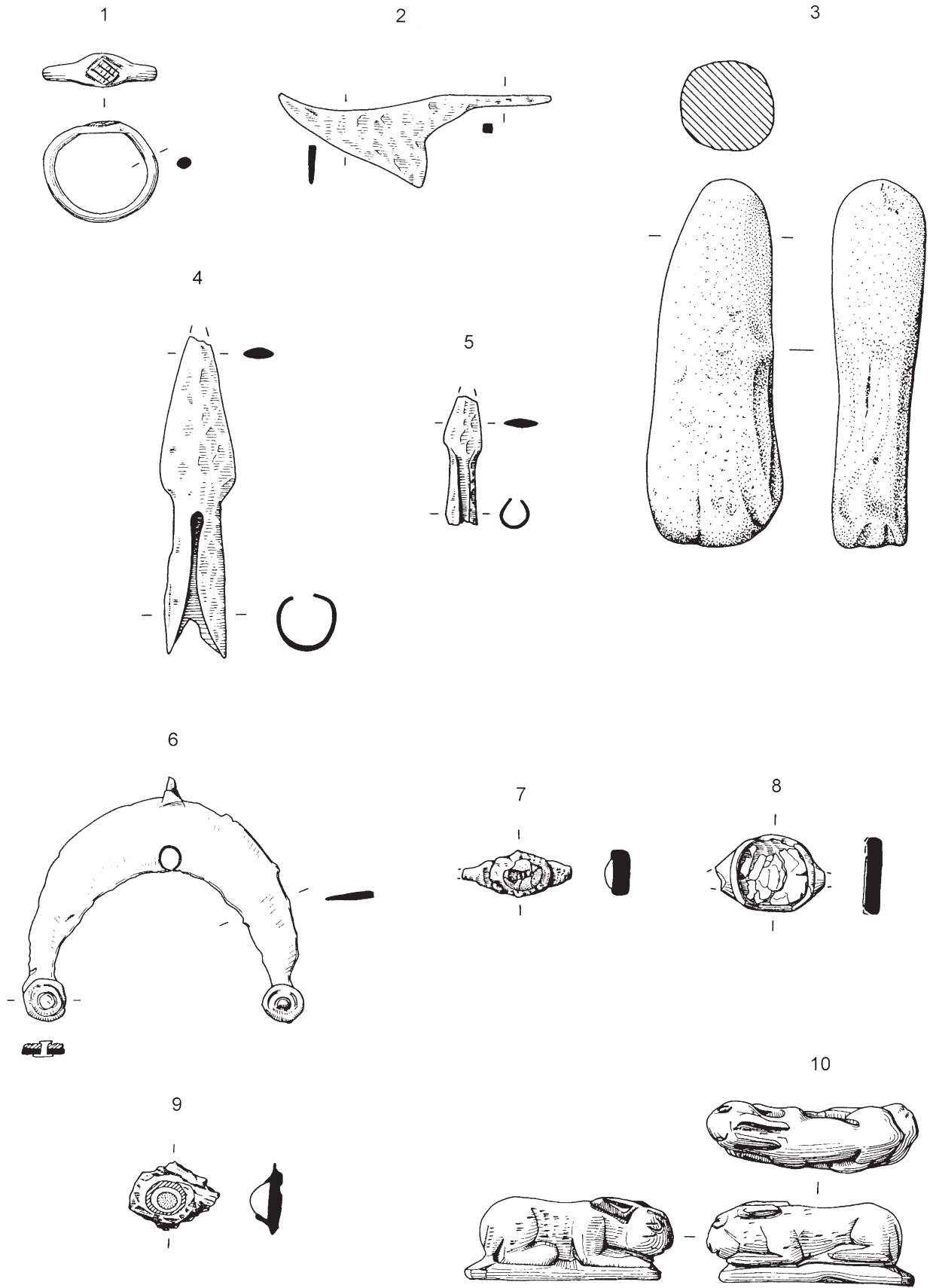


Fig 19 Other illustrated small finds
 (scale 1:1 - nos 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; scale 1:2 - 2, 3, 4, 5).

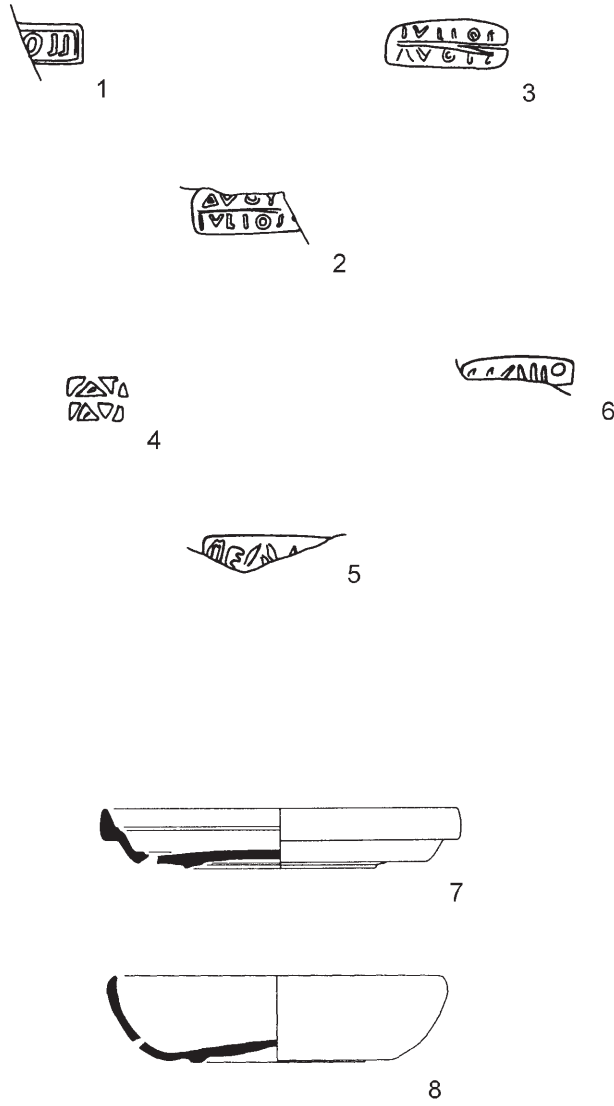


Fig 20 Gallo-Belgic ware: illustrated stamps and selected vessels (pottery scale 1:4, stamps scale 1:2).

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

Summary sheet

Site address: north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Shrub End	District: Colchester
NGR: Site A - TL 973 227 Site B - TL 968 288 Site C - TL 971 229	Museum accession code: Site A - 1995.15 Site B - 1995.16 Site C - 1996.48
Type of work: Excavations	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May-June 1995 and October-November 1996	Size of area investigated: 1.2 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Galliford Homes Ltd
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 12551, 12641, 11645, 11649
Final report: CAT Report 127	
Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The excavations of 1995-96 (Sites A, B and C) were undertaken on three sites to the north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park. These investigated areas of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and the Roman road.</i></p> <p><i>On Site A, the excavation of the Roman road produced evidence of four ditches in two pairs forming a central carriageway which was approximately 7m wide, with narrower tracks approximately 2m wide on each side of the central carriageway. None of the road surface itself survived.</i></p> <p><i>There were a few residual prehistoric finds on Sites B and C, mostly of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date, although there was no evidence of any activity dating to the Middle Iron Age. The Late Iron Age and Roman occupation was located on two adjacent sites at the western end of Cunobelin Way, and finds indicate that the main phase of activity here corresponded with that at Sheepen. The earliest features were part of a large ditched enclosure and several smaller ditches of Late Iron Age-early Roman date. Some small pits or post-holes and three ovens were associated with these features.</i></p> <p><i>In the early Roman period, a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures was established, bounded by a large ditch, with part of the enclosed area occupied by a large number of substantial pits. The finds from these features were predominantly of Neronian date, and a small number of military objects was recovered. Some of the finds suggest possible ritual activity. There were two, possibly three, timber buildings which are probably all of Late Iron Age-early Roman date. A few finds from some of the features indicate continued activity after the Neronian period, but at a much reduced level. At some point in or after the early 2nd century, a wooden water-main was laid across the area and a ditched track or driveway was constructed which connected to the large boundary ditch. Several Roman burials, both cremations and inhumations, were focused around the large boundary ditch. One of the cremation burials was located in a small square ditched enclosure. The inhumation burials had all been provided with coffins and there were a few pottery grave goods, although almost no bone survived. All the inhumation burials lay beyond the large boundary ditch, and all but one were aligned along it. Although the burials are not well dated, one is of the mid 3rd-4th century, and all probably date from the late Roman period.</i></p> <p><i>Identifiable post-Roman activity was limited to a few post-medieval features, mostly ditches.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Stephen Benfield	Date of summary: June 2008