An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Area C at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex

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on behalf of RMPA Services for the MoD

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1 Summary

This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in Area C of the Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in May and June 2002. This is part of a programme of archaeological evaluation at the Garrison that began with fieldwalking and geophysical survey in January 2002 (CAT Report 184: An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex).

Eighteen trenches were excavated in Area C (Figs 1-2). In total, 136 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Discounting 48 topsoils or subsoils, the majority of the excavated archaeological contexts were modern or post-medieval in date (39%). The next largest group of features was undated (23%) or of natural origin (20%).

With regard to 'pre-modern' archaeological features, there were eleven Roman ditches or pits, one Iron Age ditch, and five prehistoric pits. Together, these constituted 18% of all excavated features.

For the most part, there were few significant Roman or later prehistoric features and no Anglo-Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval remains. The main findings are:

- *a Middle Iron Age (MIA) ditch occurred in Trench C7 and produced the largest significant stratified group of finds (48 sherds, 368 grammes of MIA pottery).*
- *Trenches C15 and C16 revealed a pair of ditches defining a potential trackway (corresponding to similar cropmark features in Areas DR, R, M and P) and a Roman boundary ditch. These, and another isolated ditch in Trench C11, form part of a fragmented Roman (or possibly late prehistoric) rectilinear landscape aligned approximately S-W/N-E, which survives best in the south-east part of Area C but probably originally spread more extensively across the whole of Area C.*

Four points demonstrate a significant level of disturbance to archaeological strata caused by recent land use. First, 30% of modern or post-medieval contexts contained residual Roman or prehistoric finds. Second, the largest group of Roman finds (7.9kg of tile and pottery) was residual material in an imported modern construction layer. Third, modern ploughing had produced a homogeneous ploughsoil and had clearly truncated late prehistoric and Roman features. Fourth, an apparently extensive Roman field system survived only in a very fragmented form.

The character of the archaeological remains identified in Area C are low-density Roman or prehistoric linear features and isolated pits, containing few artefacts, which have been heavily truncated. The Middle Iron Age ditch is of interest as it indicates the presence of a substantial boundary predating the Late Iron Age dykes which define the pre-Roman oppidum *of Camulodunum. The Late Iron Age and Roman evidence from trial-trenching broadly confirms the early presumptions based on cropmark and geophysical surveys, revealing that this part of the* oppidum *was unoccupied and rural in character, forming part of a farm estate which most probably operated from the site of the Roman buildings previously identified to the west of Area C in Kirkee McMunn Barracks.*

2 Introduction

2.1 The proposed development of the Colchester Garrison PFI site involves the building of a new 101 hectare Garrison in the centre of the existing Garrison lands (south of Abbey Field, north of Roman Barracks, and east of Kirkee McMunn Barracks), the demolition and refurbishment of existing barracks, and the redevelopment of the areas released by demolition, primarily for residential use.

2.2 A programme of archaeological evaluation has been agreed between the MoD, RMPA Services, English Heritage, Colchester Borough Council, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) and RPS, the project archaeological consultants.

2.3 The archaeological evaluation comprising fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching was commissioned by RMPA Services and carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The design of the evaluation work is detailed in RPS *Colchester Garrison PFI Archaeological Project Strategy Proposal* (June 2002).

2.4 The initial stage of the evaluation was a fieldwalking survey which was conducted from January to March 2002, and which has been reported on in CAT Report 184 (An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex).

2.5 Running concurrently with the fieldwalking survey was a geophysical survey carried out by Bactec International Ltd. The results were combined with the fieldwalking results in CAT Report 184.

2.6 This is the report on Stage 1a archaeological evaluation trial-trenching in Area C.

2.7 All work was carried out according to *Colchester Garrison redevelopment: method statement and risk assessments for archaeological fieldwalking survey, geophysical survey and evaluation trenching* (March 2002), drawn up jointly with RPS and agreed with the Archaeology Officer of Colchester Borough Council (CBCAO). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, revised 1999).

2.8 The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.

2.9 Current land use of Area C is generally pasture, with mown grass borders on the north edge (close to the Married Quarters), and a sports pitch.

2.10 The National Grid Reference location for the centre of Area C is TL 9940 2335.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, interpretation, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which would be impacted by the development.

3.2 This assessment will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.

3.3 Specific aims were to establish the character of Iron Age/Roman occupation within the *oppidum*.

4 Archaeological background

4.1 Introduction

The archaeological and historical setting of the proposed development area has already been comprehensively explored in a desk-based assessment or DBA (CAT Report 97: An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site), and will only be summarised here. In relation to the evaluation of the Garrison site, it is convenient to summarise the archaeological and historical remains in two categories: archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age *oppidum*, and the cropmark sites.

4.2 Archaeological remains of the Iron Age *oppidum*

4.2.1 Much of the land south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre falls within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. The Garrison area occupies the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, and one of the defensive dykes (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison (on the east edge of Roman Barracks and between Areas S1 and S2 of the PFI site). Although some parts of the Berechurch Dyke are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument, the length that passes through the Garrison is not scheduled. Design proposals for the new Garrison include a green

corridor along the line of the Berechurch Dyke, which will prevent any impact on the monument from the proposed development.

4.2.2 As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the *oppidum* and await discovery.

4.2.3 Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum* which also await discovery. The cropmarks in the survey Area (described below) may represent the fields and droveways associated with such sites.

4.2.4 Archaeological potential for the Late Iron Age was for the discovery of features and sites relating to the *oppidum*.

4.3 The cropmark sites

4.3.1 Over the southern part of the Garrison area (south of a line drawn between Kirkee McMunn Barracks and the modern Colchester Cemetery), a large area of cropmarks is recorded. Geophysical survey has partially confirmed and also added to the pattern of linear cropmark features (CAT Report 184). An informed interpretation based on previous limited excavation would indicate that they are late prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date, and represent the trackways, paddocks and field boundaries of a rural settlement of that period. In some areas, the overlapping of the cropmarks suggests that more than one period or phase of activity is represented. At least one circular mark could represent an earlier prehistoric site. Other smaller discoveries are listed in the DBA (CAT Report 97).

4.3.2 Although there was only one convincing cropmark crossing Area C (Fig 2), the archaeological potential for the discovery of surface finds relating to occupation sites associated with the cropmarks and also for the recovery of finds which might date the cropmark ditches was considered in the evaluation methodology and was one of the criteria used to select trench locations.

5 Trial-trenching

5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

Eighteen trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision (Trenches C1-C18). Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, and heights above Ordnance Datum for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area C in section 7.

Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length (metres)	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
C1	NNW: 599501.87; 223696.84	40	33.75-33.97	33.30
	SSE: 599513.69; 223680.71			
C2	NNW: 559525.41; 223711.72	35	33.80-33.92	33.44-33.65
	SSE: 559545.74; 223687.45			
C3	NNW: 599583.12; 223634.83	35	33.66-33.93	32.93-32.98
	SSE: 599560.95; 223661.11			
C4	NNW: 599535.10; 223654.39	50	33.66-33.93	33.04-33.13
	SSE: 599565.86; 223614.99			
C5	WSW: 599488.02; 223501.77	45	34.05-34.37	33.44-33.57
	ENE: 599528.12; 223522.23			
C6	WSW: 599468.36; 223463.81	85	32.95-34.37	33.44-33.62
	ENE: 599542.25; 223505.83			
C7	NNW: 599442.67; 223493.03	113	34.12-34.48	33.21-33.77
	SSE: 599502.87; 223403.00			
C8	NE: 5995447.14; 223426.74	130	33.72-34.62	33.81-33.88
	SW: 599441.49; 223348.60			
C9	NNW: 599383.01; 223474.54	115	34.46-34.62	33.80-33.98
	SSE: 599452.45; 223382.21			
C10	SSE: 599346.83; 223355.18	100	34.61-34.97	33.97-34.11
	NNW: 599293.07; 223439.50			
C11	NNW: 599225.27; 223437.97	115	34.66-34.97	33.99-34.20
	SSE: 599288.07; 223343.10			
C12	WSW: 599197.26 223366.71	60	34.83-34.90	33.95-34.22
	ENE: 599249.18; 223397.38			
C13	SW: 599228.84; 223338.67	25	34.67-34.78	34.01-34.13
	NE: 599248.11; 223354.62			
C14	WNW: 599324.95; 223329.95	63	34.66-34.88	34.00-33.74
	ESE: 599386.28; 223316.97			
C15	NW: 599384.57; 223287.11	56	34.36-34.54	33.66-33.99
	SE: 599415.85; 223239.88			
C16	NW: 599413.77; 223337.68	115	34.34-34.58	33.53-33.93
	SE: 599486.51; 223248.61			
C17	N: 599506.36; 223380.96	145	34.26-34.40	33.57-33.70
	S: 599508.61; 223235.98			
C18	E: 599512.68; 223216.79	123	33.75-34.41	33.68-33.78
	W: 599389.59; 223217.90			

5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Fig 3)

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

5.2.1 Trench C1: summary

No significant archaeological remains were identified in this trench, only foundations from a building belonging to the old Military Hospital (CF101) plus one modern shallow linear feature (CF102).

Table 2: Trench C1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF101	wall foundation	no finds	modern
CF102	linear	no finds	modern
CL101	turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
CL102	subsoil	no finds	modern
CL103	natural	no finds	-

5.2.2 Trench C2: summary

There were no significant archaeological remains in this trench. As in Trench C1, the principal archaeological remains were Military Hospital foundations (CF203). Other features included a tree bowl (CF204), a modern linear feature (CF205: not sectioned), and two shallow linear cuts (CF201-CF202: Fig 4).

Table 3: Trench C2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF201	shallow linear	no finds	-
CF202	shallow linear	clay pipe	modern
CF203	wall foundation	no finds	modern
CF204	tree bowl	peg-tile	post-medieval
CF205	shallow cut	peg-tile	post-medieval
CL201	turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
CL202	cover loam	no finds	recent
CL203	natural	no finds	-
CL204	natural	no finds	-
CL205	layer	no finds	recent
CL206	layer	no finds	recent

5.2.3 Trench C3: summary

The archaeological remains here included one very wide and deep post-medieval or modern pit (CF302, possibly a sand-extraction pit), and two other modern pits (CF301 and CF303: not sectioned).

Table 4: Trench C3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	dated finds	Phase
CF301	pit	brick, coal	modern
CF302	large cut – sand-pit?	peg-tile, brick	modern
CF303	pit	no finds	modern
CL301	turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
CL302	layer	no finds	post-medieval or later

5.2.4 Trench C4: summary

The principal archaeological remains were three modern Army practice trenches (CF401, CF403, CF404). The trenches were stepped at each side and were flat-bottomed; they were clearly of modern origin, and their fills contained modern glass and 'china' (ie Fabric 48d, modern ironstones). There were also a tree bowl (CF405) cut by the Army trench and one undated possible pit (CF402).

Table 5: Trench C4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF401	Army practice trench	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone) sherds, modern glass	19th-20th centuries
CF402	pit	no finds	undated
CF403	Army practice trench	no finds	modern
CF404	Army practice trench	gramophone record fragments, Fabric 48d (modern ironstone) sherds, glass	20th century
CF405	tree bowl	no finds	undated
CL401	turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
CL402	layer (over Army practice trenches)	no finds	modern
CL403	layer	no finds	
CL404	natural	no finds	
CL405	layer	no finds	
CL406	layer	no finds	

5.2.5 Trench C5: summary

This trench contained several features which are probably of natural origin (group number CF501), but it also had a large quantity of Roman tile and pottery occurring residually in a modern make-up layer (CL503). CL503 was 0.3m thick and lay across the eastern end of the trench (up to 23m from the east end). It was found directly below several modern concrete slabs, where it had been dumped as a modern make-up layer. Similar material is noticeably absent from the topsoil at this or any neighbouring trenches.

The inference is that the Roman finds in CL503 must have been removed from an unknown location, beyond Area C, and were dumped here in the recent past.

Table 6: Trench C5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF501	topsoil	no finds	modern
CL501	topsoil	modern tile, brick	
CL502	reworked natural	Roman brick	post-Roman
CL503	construction make-up	residual Roman pot and tile, late Roman flanged bowl rim	modern

5.2.6 Trench C6: summary

This trench contained one modern pipe-trench (CF604), and several other features which are probably archaeological, including two ditches (CF601-CF602), and five pits (CF603 and CF605-CF608). Only one pit (CF605) contained any finds, ie two sherds of later prehistoric pottery, which is not sufficient to confidently date the group.

Table 7: Trench C6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF601	ditch	modern sheet glass	modern
CF602	ditch	no finds	-
CF603	pit	none	-
CF604	service/pipe-trench	no finds	modern
CF605	small pit	later prehistoric pottery	later prehistoric
CF606	pit	no finds	undated
CF607	pit	no finds	-
CF608	shallow pit	no finds	-
CL601	topsoil	Fabrics 48d (modern ironstone) and 51b (flowerpot), residual Roman brick/tile	modern
CL602	reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

5.2.7 Trench C7: summary

The principal archaeological discovery in this trench was a large ditch, dated by pottery finds (48 sherds, 368 grammes) to the Middle Iron Age (CF703: Fig 5), and a late prehistoric or Roman pit (CF702: Fig 4). Ditch CF703 also contained a fragment of post-medieval clay pipe and Roman ceramics, which are clearly intrusive.

The MIA pottery represents a relatively significant prehistoric finds group. It is also of interest that the same MIA pot is found in the primary silts at the ditch bottom (CL708) as in the top fill (CL703). The whole life of this ditch, from digging to infilling, therefore seems to be a single MIA phase. One context, the rather charcoally layer CL705, may be indicative of very low-density deposits of refuse, possibly derived from either domestic or small-scale agricultural activities.

Pit CF702 contains ten sherds of Middle Iron Age (MIA) or possibly Late Iron Age (LIA) pottery, a piece of probably Roman tile, and a piece of 18th-century pottery (Fabric 49, 'Basalt ware'). The later material is presumed to be intrusive in a MIA/LIA context.

Apart from ditch CF703 and pit CF702 above, other features in this trench were undated (ditch CF701, pit CF707: Fig 4), modern (ditches CF706 and CF709), post-Roman (pit CF704), and possibly Roman (pit CF705: Fig 4).

Table 8: Trench C7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF701	ditch	no finds	undated
CF702	pit	intrusive Fabric 49 (Basalt ware), with prehistoric pot and Roman tile	late prehistoric
CF703	large ditch	intrusive clay-pipe stem, MIA pot	MIA
CF704	small pit	Fe nails	post-Roman
CF705	pit	Roman tile	Roman?
CF706	ditch	post-medieval/ modern brick	post-medieval/ modern
CF707	pit	no finds	
CF708	ditch	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), peg-tile	modern
CF709	ditch	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone)	modern
CL701	topsoil	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone)	modern
CL702	reworked natural	Fabric 45 (stoneware), with residual Roman pot and tile	17th-18th centuries
CL703	sinkage	prehistoric pottery	MIA
CL704	upper fill of ditch CF703	prehistoric pottery	MIA
CL705	upper fill of ditch CF703	prehistoric pottery	MIA
CL706	lower middle fill of ditch CF703	no finds	MIA
CL707	lower fill of F703	no finds	MIA
CL708	primary fill of ditch CF703	prehistoric pottery	MIA

5.2.8 Trench C8: summary

This trench contained six undated ditches and pits, and several natural features. Except for the topsoil layer, there were no finds from this trench.

Feature correspondence with cropmarks/geophysical anomalies

This trench identified an element of variability in correlating cropmark and trial-trenching evidence. A single linear cropmark which was anticipated to cross this trench (shown as blue line on Fig 2) was not present. Several other undated linear features were identified (ditches CF803-CF805), more than 10m from the cropmark position and in the wrong orientation.

Table 9: Trench C8 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF801	ditch	no finds	modern
CF802	pit?	no finds	-
CF803	narrow ditch	no finds	-
CF804	ditch	no finds	-
CF805	pit	no finds	-
CF806	natural features?	no finds	-
CF807	pit, natural?	no finds	-
CL801	topsoil	Fabrics 48d (modern ironstone) and 40 (post-medieval red earthenware), clay pipe, peg-tile, residual Roman pot and *tessera*	modern
CL802	reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

5.2.9 Trench C9: summary

This trench contained two post-medieval or modern ditches (CF902, CF904), a modern service-trench (CF903), and a scatter of natural features (CF901, CF905).

Feature correspondence with cropmarks/geophysical anomalies
A cropmark (shown as blue line on Fig 2) corresponds with the position of CF903 in Trench C9. This feature is a modern service-trench.

Table 10: Trench C9 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF901	pit – natural?	no finds	
CF902	ditch	peg-tile, post-medieval brick	post-medieval/ modern
CF903	service-trench	no finds	modern
CF904	ditch?	peg-tile, Fabric 45d (stoneware)	late 16th-17th centuries +
CF905	pits – natural	no finds	
CL901	topsoil	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), residual Roman pot	modern
CL902	reworked subsoil	no finds	

5.2.10 Trench C10: summary
This trench contained post-medieval or modern ditches and a pit (CF1001-CF1003), an undated ditch (CF1004), and one pit of possible prehistoric date (CF1005). There was also a scatter of natural features (CF1006).

Table 11: Trench C10 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1001	narrow ditch	Fabric 40, clay pipe and peg-tile	post-medieval/ modern
CF1002	pit	no finds	modern
CF1003	ditch	no finds	post-medieval/ modern
CF1004	ditch	no finds	-
CF1005	pit	prehistoric pot sherd	prehistoric
CF1006	pits – natural?	no finds	
CL1001	topsoil	Fabrics 51b (flowerpot) and 48d (modern ironstone)	modern
CL1002	reworked subsoil	no finds	

5.2.11 Trench C11: summary
This trench contained one prehistoric pit (CF1105: Fig 6), a Roman ditch (CF1101: Fig 6), two post-medieval or modern ditches (CF1102, CF1103), and natural features (CF1104-CF1105, CF1107-CF1109). In addition, context CF1106 comprised a deposit of possibly natural ferro-manganese, associated with a few finds and occurring in patches on either side of ditch CF1102 (undated, presumed to be modern). The associated finds consisted of 9 grammes of highly fragmentary burnt bone (unidentified animal bone), one lump of probably Roman brick, and a probable Roman sherd (Fig 6).

Table 12: Trench C11 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1101	ditch	Roman pot	Roman, 1st to early 2nd centuries
CF1102	ditch	no finds	modern
CF1103	ditch	peg-tile, residual LIA/early Roman grog-tempered sherds	modern
CF1104	pit	no finds	-
CF1105	pit	MIA sherd	MIA
CF1106	area of staining – burnt?	Roman brick, Roman pot	Roman
CF1107	pit – natural?	no finds	
CF1108	shallow gully – natural?	no finds	
CF1109	pits – natural	no finds	
CL1101	topsoil	residual Roman finds	modern
CL1102	reworked natural	no finds	

5.2.12 Trench C12: summary

This trench contained one possible Roman pit (CF1203: Fig 6), one modern linear gully (CF1201: possibly of agricultural origin), and a scatter of natural features (group number CF1202).

Table 13: Trench C12 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1201	narrow gully – agricultural?	no finds	post-medieval or modern
CF1202	natural pits	no finds	?
CF1203	pit	Roman *tegula*	Roman
CL1201	topsoil	modern glass and brick	modern
CL1202	reworked subsoil	no finds	

5.2.13 Trench C13: summary

This trench contained only natural features (CF1301: not planned).

Table 14: Trench C13 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1301	natural pits	no finds	-
CL1301	topsoil	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), clay pipe	modern
CL1302	reworked subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.14 Trench C14: summary

This trench contained two modern ditches (CF1401-CF1402) and a scatter of natural features (not numbered). CF1401 could be the butt end of an Army ditch or trench.

Table 15: Trench C14 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1401	ditch – Army?	peg-tile (not recovered), residual Roman pot	modern
CF1402	ditch	no finds	modern
CL1401	topsoil	peg-tile, post-medieval glass	modern
CL1402	reworked subsoil	no finds	

5.2.15 Trench C15: summary

This trench contained three post-medieval ditches, with residual Roman finds in at least two (CF1501, CF1503), a possible prehistoric pit (CF1502: Fig 6), a Roman ditch (CF1504: Fig 6), and two natural features (CF1505-CF1506).

Table 16: Trench C15 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1501	ditch	slate, glazed pot, Roman tile	post-medieval
CF1502	pit	?prehistoric pot	prehistoric
CF1503	ditch	Roman brick and tile	post-medieval/modern
CF1504	ditch	Roman pot and brick, modern glass (intrusive)	Roman
CF1505	feature – natural	no finds	-
CF1506	feature – natural?	no finds	-
CL1501	topsoil	no finds	modern
CL1502	reworked subsoil	no finds	-
CL1503	natural	no finds	-

5.2.16 Trench C16: summary

This trench contained five Roman and probable Roman ditches (CF1601-CF1602, CF1606-CF1608: Fig 7), one undated narrow ditch (CF1604), an undated small pit or post-hole (CF1605), and a natural feature (CF1603).

Table 17: Trench C16 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1601	ditch	Roman tile (*imbrex*)	Roman
CF1602	ditch	Roman pot and brick	Roman
CF1603	natural pit	no finds	-
CF1604	narrow ditch	no finds	undated
CF1605	small pit	no finds	undated
CF1606	ditch	Roman tile (*tegula*)	Roman
CF1607	ditch	Roman pot	Roman
CF1608	ditch	Roman brick	Roman
CL1601	topsoil	peg-tile and clay pipe with residual Roman tile and prehistoric pottery	modern
CL1602	reworked subsoil	Roman pottery	Roman

5.2.17 Trench C17: summary

This trench contained a group of narrow ditches (CF1703-CF1707: Fig 8), which may be of recent (post-medieval or modern) agricultural origin (perhaps deep plough-marks). Most of these produced finds, but CF1707 is well dated to the 19th/20th centuries. There are also two natural features (CF1701-CF1702).

A faint cropmark (Fig 2) should have crossed this trench, but it was not apparent.

Table 18: Trench C17 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1701	natural feature	no finds	-
CF1702	natural feature	no finds	-
CF1703	narrow ditch	no finds	post-medieval/ modern?
CF1704	narrow ditch	no finds	post-medieval/ modern?
CF1705	narrow ditch	no finds	post-medieval/ modern?
CF1706	natural feature?	no finds	-
CF1707	narrow ditch	Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), clay pipe, Roman pot and tile	modern
CL1701	topsoil	no finds	modern
CL1702	subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.18 Trench C18: summary

This trench contained one undated (?LIA/early Roman) ditch (CF1801: Fig 8), and a scatter of natural features (group number CF1802, and CF1803).

Ditch CF1801 is undated, but it coincides with the position of a geophysical anomaly. A second geophysical anomaly, which should have crossed Trench C18, was not observed in the trench.

Table 19: Trench C18 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
CF1801	ditch	no finds	LIA/early Roman?
CF1802	natural features	no finds	-
CF1803	natural feature	no finds	-
CL1801	topsoil	Fabrics 40 (post-medieval red earthenware) and 48d (modern ironstone), and clay pipe	modern
CL1802	reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

6 The finds

6.1 General

Finds are listed in Appendices 1 and 2. Appendix 1 (Table 23) gives quantities, weights, descriptions and dates for stratified finds, and Appendix 2 (Table 24) lists unstratified finds. Where comments on groups of finds are justified, these are given below in sections 6.2 and following.

6.2 The prehistoric pottery

examined by Nick Lavender and Dr Paul R Sealey

We are grateful to both Nick Lavender of Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (Braintree) and to Dr Paul R Sealey of Colchester Museums for examining and commenting on the Area C prehistoric pottery. Their comments are given here.

There are two main fabrics present in this group. One is flint-gritted, and the second group is sand-tempered. Without diagnostic features, these body sherds can only be dated loosely to the later prehistoric period.

Given the small number of sherds, there is limited scope for detailed interpretation. However, preliminary assessment of the assemblage from ditch CF703 indicates that these sherds are primarily sandy fabrics. Whilst it is impossible to give precise dating for undiagnostic body sherds, this material is probably Middle Iron Age in date, rather than any earlier. It is of interest that the material from the primary silts is the same as that from the upper fills, indicating that the ditch was not open for long before being infilled.

Weights, quantities and spot dates are given in Table 23 (Appendix 1).

6.3 The Roman pottery

examined by Stephen Benfield of CAT

This is a small group of Roman material dominated by grey ware (Fabric GX). One or two sherds were datable, but the lack of stratified material or larger groups precludes detailed comment. Fabric descriptions are after Symonds and Wade (1999).

Weights, quantities and spot dates are given in Table 23 (Appendix 1).

6.4 The medieval and later pottery

by Howard Brooks of CAT

This is a small group of material, dominated by modern ironstones (Fabric 48d) and post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40). There are one or two German stonewares (Fabric 45). The only interesting piece is an inkwell in modern stoneware (Fabric 45m). Fabric descriptions are after Cotter (2000).

Weights, quantities and spot dates are given in Table 23 (Appendix 1).

6.5 Policy on environmental material

CAT are advised by Peter Murphy (English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science) and his associate Val Fryer. Any potentially rich environmental layers or features are appropriately sampled as a matter of course, with processing and reporting undertaken by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then Peter Murphey and/or Val Fryer attend site to assist in sampling.

Peter Murphy attended work in Area C. In accordance with his advice, samples from the MIA ditch CF703 were recovered and processed for assessment. The results of the assessment are given in section 6.6 below.

6.6 Environmental material from Area C

by Val Fryer [1]

6.6.1 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

6.6.1.1 Introduction

Trial-trenching in Area C revealed features of Middle Iron Age to modern date. Samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the fill of a Middle Iron Age ditch (CF703), and were submitted for assessment.

6.6.1.2 Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 20. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were preserved by charring. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots and seeds/fruits were noted in all samples. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm-mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ ecofacts were not present.

Key to table:
x = 1-10 specimens
xx = 10-100 specimens
xxx = 100+ specimens

Table 20: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains.

Area	**C**
Bag	**7017**
Feature no	**CF703**
Cereals	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x
Triticum sp. (grains)	x
(spikelet bases)	x
T. spelta L. (glume base)	
Herbs	
Chenopodium album L.	
Chenopodiaceae indet.	
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) Love	
Small Poaceae indet.	
Polygonum aviculare	x
Other plant macrofossils	

[1] Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF

Charcoal <2mm	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem	xx
Indet. seeds	
Indet. twig fragments	xx
Other materials	
Black porous 'cokey' material	
Black tarry material	x
Small coal fragments	x
Vitrified material	
Sample volume (litres)	**16**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**

6.6.1.3 Results of assessment

Plant macrofossils

With the exception of charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils were extremely rare. Preservation was poor to moderate, with both cereal grains and seeds puffed and distorted due to high temperatures during combustion.

Cereal grains, including barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were present in samples 7017. Chaff elements were also recorded including a wheat spikelet base and a spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base.

Seeds of common segetal weed species including knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) were recovered.

Charcoal fragments were common. Other plant macrofossils included pieces of charred root, rhizome or stem, and small twig fragments.

Other materials

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at extremely high temperatures. The small coal fragments may possibly be modern in origin.

Discussion

The extremely low density of material recovered precludes the identification of any specific activities which may have been conducted on or near the site. However, the composition of samples 7017 may be indicative of very low-density deposits of refuse, possibly derived from either domestic or small-scale agricultural activities.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In conclusion, the low density of material recovered may indicate that the areas of the site from which the samples were taken were largely peripheral to any main centres of activity. However, domestic, agricultural and possibly industrial refuse appears to be present.

At present, it is not recommended that any further analysis of this material be undertaken. However, if further samples should become available, this decision may be subject to review.

6.7 Small finds listing

by Nina Crummy [2]

SF 1. (302) unstratified. Trench C3. Two large cast (machine-made) copper-alloy hooks, each roughly trimmed at the inner end but to exactly the same length. Probably door or shutter hooks. Length 140 mm. 19th to 20th century.

SF 2. (9003) F903. Trench C9. Bone toothbrush handle, with expanded, slightly arched handle and bud-like terminal. The back of the brush is plain, lacking the channels for the copper-alloy wire holding the bristles in place found on early brushes. Length 142 mm. The area of the bristles is long compared to more recent types of toothbrush, but examples with heads of similar length are known, for example, from Aldgate, London (Grew 1984, fig 63, 115). The lack of wire and the form of this brush suggest it dates to the late 19th or early 20th century.

[2] 2 Hall Road, Copford, Essex

6.8 Other finds

No other finds categories merit assessment. Full details of all finds are given in Table 23 (Appendix 1).

7 Discussion

7.1 The archaeological sequence

7.1.1 In total, 136 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Discounting the 48 which were topsoils or subsoils, most of the archaeological contexts were modern or post-medieval in date (34 = 39% of all cuts: see Table 22). Among these were service-trenches (two), the foundations of modern Army buildings (two), and modern Army practice trenches (four). A statistically large number of contexts was undated (23%) or of natural origin (20%). The large number of undated features reflects the paucity of archaeological finds and the lack of stratigraphical relationships between features. Both observations imply a relatively low level of early activity at the site and an absence of early settlement remains at or in the immediate vicinity of Area C.

7.1.2 In the absence of any Anglo-Saxon or medieval features, the archaeological deposits are entirely later prehistoric and Roman in date, ie eleven Roman ditches or pits, one Iron Age ditch, and five prehistoric pits. Together, the significant archaeological features constituted 18% of all excavated features.

7.1.3 A Middle Iron Age ditch (CF701) produced the largest significant stratified group of finds (48 sherds, 368 grammes of MIA pottery).

7.1.4 The quality and quantity of prehistoric material from other contexts was generally poor, and the dating of many deposits by single sherds needs to be considered as tentative. No prehistoric flints were retrieved.

7.1.5 There was a surprisingly small amount of stratified Roman material. In fact, the largest group of Roman brick/tile and pottery was residual in later contexts. Ditches are the commonest feature of the dated Roman contexts.

7.1.6 Table 22 shows that these ditches form the largest proportion of excavated contexts. These are generally to be interpreted as field boundaries, which in turn suggest a rural landscape. The absence of any groups of pits, structural units (indicated by post-holes) or spreads of occupation debris supports the apparent lack of finds and accords well with the interpretation that Area C was primarily a rural location throughout prehistory and into the historic period. The current status of Area C as pasture would appear to be a continuation of a long agricultural tradition.

Table 21: Summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts

(3) that number as a percentage of cuts only (ie discounting layers).

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric features	Roman features	Anglo-Saxon features	medieval features	post-medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	48	5	11	0	0	34	20	18
(2) as % of all contexts	35	4	8	0	0	25	15	13
(3) as % of all cuts		6	12	0	0	39	20	23

Table 22: Linears as a proportion of all cuts (discounting layers and natural features).

	all linears	all pits and other cuts	all others
number	28	14	8
as % of all cuts	56	28	16

7.2 Distribution of archaeological remains

7.2.1 There is a very low intensity of significant Roman or later prehistoric features and the nature of the cropmark, geophysical, stratigraphic and finds information is, with the possible exception of the Middle Iron Age ditch in Trench C7, entirely consistent with a long history of agricultural land use, with later ploughing eroding evidence of early field boundaries.

7.2.2 The Roman ditches preserved in the south-eastern part of Area C (specifically in Trenches C15 and C16) appear to define Roman fields laid out in a rectilinear system (Fig 2).

7.2.3 In Trench C16, a pair of ditches (CF1601-CF1602), spaced 6m apart, appear to define a trackway. This interpretation is consistent with the existing evidence. Several cropmark trackways are known in the Garrison area, and the report on the fieldwalking and geophysical survey characterised the later prehistoric and Roman landscape as one which included rectilinear fields joined by double-ditched trackways (CAT Report 184, 10).

7.2.4 The ditches show two alignments; one practically N-S and E-W (south end of Trenches C15 and C16) and one rotated slightly anticlockwise from that position to SW-NE (the trackway). The second alignment is shared by an isolated ditch in Trench C11.

7.2.5 Very low levels of Roman material in later contexts occur widely and have been recovered from Trenches C9-C9, C11-C12 and C14-C16. Residual Roman material occurs in the topsoil layers of 50% of the Area C trenches. However, the quantity and character of residual Roman finds from CL503 in Trench C5 is anomalous. A discrete and relatively large quantity of brick, tile and box tiles, ie classic Roman building debris, was encountered. This material must be derived from the site of a Roman building in the general vicinity. It was presumably dumped during groundworks connected with the laying of the concrete slabs which were found over Trench C5. There is no obvious source in the immediate vicinity and the material must have been imported.

7.3 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits

7.3.1 The archaeological deposits in Area C are badly disturbed.

7.3.2 This disturbance takes two forms. First, recent Garrison buildings, Army practice trenches and digging in general have locally damaged archaeological deposits to such an extent that significant (ie Roman) material only occurs residually in the topsoils [3], and does not survive as (or in) cut features. This is particularly so in the north-eastern corner of Area C, in the area tested by Trenches C1-C4. This is the area formerly occupied by the Military Hospital (built 1894-8, and parts demolished as recently as 1995 [4]), so the discovery of wall footings, services and disturbed ground is not surprising. In addition, the fact that the largest group of Roman finds (7.9kg of tile and pottery) was residual in a modern dumped layer in Trench C5 further reinforces the impression that the north-east corner of Area C is badly disturbed.

7.3.3 Second, plough damage has truncated all the surviving features, leaving a fragmentary pattern of later prehistoric or Roman field boundaries. This is apparent in several ways: the shallowness of surviving ditches and other cuts (which must have been deeper to function effectively as field-drains), and the lack of cut lines showing the original level from where the features were cut (the features must have been cut from a higher level than the natural subsoil, but the cut lines have been removed by ploughing).

[3] 30% of modern or post-medieval contexts contained residual Roman or prehistoric finds
[4] CAT Report 97, 46-7

7.4 Chronological discussion

7.4.1 Prehistory to the Early Iron Age

7.4.1.1 The absence of struck flints from the Area C trenches points to an extremely low level of flint-manufacture or use (and therefore prehistoric activity in general). Being an area of pasture, Area C was not fieldwalked, and so there is no background information on flint levels against which the trenching results can be compared. Small quantities of both struck flints and burnt flints were found during fieldwalking of surrounding areas (Areas E, F, Q). In comparison with this data, there is an even lower incidence of flint occurring in Area C.

7.4.1.2 There is also an absence of evidence for any activity in the late Bronze Age or Early Iron Ages, periods which are characterised by assemblages of heavily flint-gritted pottery. None of this material was found either *in situ* or in residual contexts.

7.4.2 Middle Iron Age

7.4.2.1 The earliest significant material from Area C dates to this period. A large ditch (CF703) contained a group of the sand-tempered pottery typical of the Middle Iron Age in Essex (Drury 1978). Both the primary fill and top fill of the ditch contain material of this date, so it would appear that the ditch was excavated and infilled during a single localised phase of MIA activity.

7.4.2.2 The ceramic evidence places the ditch at least a century or two before the earliest of the Late Iron Age dykes of Camulodunum, which may predate 50 BC (Hawkes & Crummy 1995, 175-8), and is earlier again than the nearby Berechurch Dyke (600m south-east) which is post-Boudican (*ibid*).

7.4.2.3 In terms of function, it initially appears reasonable to compare the ditch to the defensive dykes of the *oppidum*. However, there are significant differences. The Berechurch Dyke ditch is 4.8m across at the highest measurable point and 3.4m at trench bottom (Hawkes & Crummy 1995, 159), while ditch CF703 at 2.8m wide is smaller and would represent a far less effective barrier. Perhaps a reasonable interpretation is that CF703 was a landscape boundary or large field-ditch.

7.4.2.4 There were also a few possible prehistoric pits which contained very small quantities of pottery dated to either the later prehistoric period in general or the Middle Iron Age in particular (Fig 2). These show that there was sparse prehistoric activity over the whole of Area C, but at very low levels of intensity. Nowhere does occupation debris or evidence of structural units such as post-holes accompany these isolated pits, so none could realistically be classified as settlement. However, there is one interesting link; one pit was found directly on the west side of ditch CF703. This association may indicate an activity focus.

7.4.3 The later Iron Age and the *oppidum*

7.4.3.1 By the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, Area C lay within the defended *oppidum* of Camulodunum. As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two centres of activity: Gosbecks (the rural farmstead, and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (the industrial and trading centre). Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum* which await discovery.

7.4.3.2 As previously noted, the cropmarks and geophysical anomalies in the Garrison area may represent the fields and trackways of one such farm or farms. Though Area C is not well represented by cropmarks or linear geophysical anomalies, additional ditches were revealed during trial-trenching. The features revealed in Area C are consistent with evidence from elsewhere (especially in Areas E, F, Q, DR, M, P, R), which suggests that the landscape within the *oppidum* contained large unoccupied areas of fields connected by trackways. The apparent variations in alignment between rectilinear field boundaries and those boundaries marking the droveways may also imply that these elements were not originally set out to a single plan, perhaps representing more than one phase in the development of the Late Iron Age/early Roman agricultural landscape.

7.4.3.3 Before the current project, the cropmarks had not been tested by excavation, but the presumption was that they were contemporary with the *oppidum* and therefore Late Iron Age or Roman in date. Direct dating of cropmark and geophysical anomalies has proved difficult, but in Area C the fragmentary rectilinear field system and possible trackway are apparently Roman in date. The initial impression from

Area C is that the pattern of linear cropmarks and geophysical anomalies across the Garrison are likely to be Roman rather than Iron Age. This is not necessarily at variance with the general dating of the *oppidum*. Although the earliest dykes are Late Iron Age in date, others are undoubtedly Roman, including Grymes Dyke on the west and more significantly Berechurch Dyke on the east (Hawkes & Crummy 1995, 175-8).

7.4.3.4 The fieldwalking survey (CAT Report 184) suggests that the location of farm-buildings could be indicated by spreads of *tesserae* or other building debris, although a low incidence of material is more likely to represent debris incidentally imported through manure spreading. Area C produced no convincing evidence for the presence of buildings, and the discovery of four isolated Roman pits is hardly evidence for an extensive Roman habitation site. The redeposited Roman building debris in Trench C5, which suggests that there was a Roman building in the general vicinity, is different in character from the typical collection of Roman residual finds and is clearly imported. In addition to the debris from Trench C5, the other residual Roman building material appears to be the result of manure spreading, derived from Roman farms beyond Area C, with the site to the west - near Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Shimmin 1998) - being the most probable source.

7.5 Anglo-Saxon

There were no Anglo-Saxon finds or deposits in Area C. Although Anglo-Saxon pottery is very friable, and Anglo-Saxon buildings do not leave evidence as durable and obvious as that from Roman buildings, there is nevertheless insufficient evidence to argue for any Anglo-Saxon activity.

7.6 Medieval

The almost complete absence of medieval material is quite surprising. The fieldwalking survey collected medieval pottery at very low weights, which is evidence that the area was primarily pasture or waste in medieval times (and not arable, where pottery might be released onto the fields as manure scatters). The excavated sequence, where only three sherds of medieval pottery were found (all in residual contexts) entirely supports this interpretation.

7.7 Post-medieval and later

The post-medieval and modern features and finds formed a major component of the archaeological record. However, with the exception of specialist interest (for instance, in Army practice trenches), the material is not significant.

8 Conclusions

With reference to the aims, the following conclusion has been drawn. For the most part, there were few significant Roman or later prehistoric features and no Anglo-Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval remains. The main findings are:

- *a Middle Iron Age ditch occurred in Trench C7, which produced the largest significant stratified group of finds (48 sherds, 368 grammes of MIA pottery).*
- *Trenches C15 and C16 revealed a pair of ditches defining a potential trackway (corresponding to similar cropmark features in Areas DR, R, M and P) and a Roman boundary ditch. These, and another isolated ditch in Trench C11, form part of a fragmented Roman (or possibly late prehistoric) rectilinear landscape aligned approximately S-W/N-E, which survives best in the south-east part of Area C, but probably originally spread more extensively across the whole of Area C.*

Four points demonstrate a significant level of disturbance to archaeological strata caused by recent land use. First, 30% of modern or post-medieval contexts contained residual Roman or prehistoric finds. Second, the largest group of Roman finds (7.9kg of tile and pottery) was residual material in an imported modern construction layer. Third, modern ploughing had produced a homogeneous ploughsoil and had clearly truncated late prehistoric and Roman features. Fourth, an apparently extensive Roman field system survived only in a very fragmented form.

The character of the archaeological remains identified in Area C are low-density Roman or prehistoric linear features and isolated pits, containing few artefacts, which have been heavily truncated. The Middle Iron Age ditch is of interest as it indicates the presence of a substantial boundary predating the Late Iron Age dykes which define the pre-Roman oppidum *of Camulodunum. The Late Iron Age and Roman evidence from trial-trenching broadly confirms the early presumptions based on cropmark and geophysical surveys, revealing that this part of the* oppidum *was unoccupied and rural in character, forming part of a farm estate which most probably operated from the site of the Roman buildings previously identified to the west of Area C in Kirkee McMunn Barracks.*

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11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (*circa* 2000 BC-700 BC)
Boudican	(same date as) the native rebellion led by Boudica in AD 60/1
box tile	tile from a hypocaust (underfloor heating) system
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EIA	early Iron Age (*circa* 700 BC-400 BC)
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
imbrex	Roman curved roof-tile
LBA	late Bronze Age (*circa* 1000 BC-700 BC)
LIA	Late Iron Age (*circa* 200 BC-AD 43)
make-up	soil dumped to raise ground-level, usually before construction work
manure scatter	broken pot sherds spread out when manure is carted out onto the fields
MIA	Middle Iron Age (*circa* 400 BC-200 BC)
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th and 20th centuries
NGR	National Grid Reference
pit	a hole dug principally for the disposal of rubbish
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Victorian
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
quern	grinding-stone to convert grain to flour
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *circa* AD 430
Anglo-Saxon	the period from *circa* AD 430 to AD 1066
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
tegula	Roman roof-tile
tessera	red baked clay cube from Roman floor

12 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held at the Colchester Archaeological Trust, 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2002.8.

13.1 Appendix 1

For Tables 23-24, D = discarded.

Table 23: Stratified finds.

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
02002	CF0204	C	1	5		peg-tile?		post-medieval
02003	CF0205	C	2	113		peg-tile		post-medieval
03003	CF0302	C	1	54		glass	post-medieval or later	medieval/ post-medieval
03004	CF0302	C	1	42		tile	prob Roman	modern
03004	CF0302	C	2	19		peg-tile		modern
03004	CF0302	C	2	40		brick	post-medieval/ modern	modern
03004	CF0302	C	1	4		coal		modern
03004	CF0302	C	1	12		burnt coke		modern
03004	CF0302	C	1	4		oystershells		modern
03004	CF0302	C	1	2		glass	post-medieval	modern
04001	CF0401	C	2	26		peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
04001	CF0401	C	2	23	✔	brick	post-medieval or modern	19th-20th centuries

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
04001	CF0401	C	3	31		glass bottle sherds	20th century	19th-20th centuries
04001	CF0401	C	2	42		charcoal bits		19th-20th centuries
04001	CF0401	C	1	22		coal		19th-20th centuries
04001	CF0401	C	1	18	✔	rusty Fe piece		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	20	428		Fabric 48d sherds		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	1	39		tile	Roman	19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	6	144	✔	peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	2	234	✔	brick	post-medieval or modern	19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	1	1		clay-pipe stem		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	2	316	✔	animal bone		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	1	7	✔	bit of wood		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	3	125	✔	coal		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	3	164	✔	slate		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	1	14	✔	modern glass		19th-20th centuries
04002	CF0401	C	1	18		*tessera*		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	1	4		Fabric 48d pot sherd		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	1	294		brick	Roman	19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	1	29	✔	peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	1	341		shaped slate floor-tile?		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	2	34	✔	coal		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	1	29	✔	Fe lump		19th-20th centuries
04007	CF0401	C	3	160	✔	modern glass		19th-20th centuries
04005	CF0404	C	8	392		Fabric 48d pot sherds		20th century
04005	CF0404	C	1	584		engineering brick		20th century
04005	CF0404	C	1	1		clay-pipe stem fragment		20th century
04005	CF0404	C	1	11	✔	animal bone		20th century
04005	CF0404	C	1	20	✔	oystershells		20th century
04005	CF0404	C	1	61	✔	modern glass		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	1	383		most of a Fabric 48d plate		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	1	21	✔	peg-tile		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	1	650	✔	brick	post-medieval or modern	20th century
04006	CF0404	C	4	1721		green glass beer bottles, 3 with stoppers, embossed 'Nicholl and Co Ltd. Colchester. East Hill, Brewery'		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	1	5		Fabric 45m (modern stoneware)		20th century

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
04006	CF0404	C	1	30	✔	oystershells		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	4	1067	✔	slate		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	4	83	✔	modern glass		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	3	50		gramophone record bits (not playable)		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	1	14		bottle stopper – plastic? – stamped 'Colchester Brewery'		20th century
04006	CF0404	C	much	1319	✔	rusted iron fragments (no ordnance)		20th century
06002	CF0601	C	1	7		sheet glass	modern	modern
06003	CF0605	C	2	5		MIA sherds	MIA	MIA
06003	CF0605	C	6	1		charcoal bits		MIA
07006	CF0702	C	1	3		Fabric 49 (Basalt ware) – intrusive	1780+	MIA
07006	CF0702	C	1	9		tile – intrusive	probably Roman	MIA
07006	CF0702	C	9	53		MIA sherds	MIA	MIA
07004	CF0703	C	1	4		grey ware sherd	Roman	MIA
07009	CF0703	C	1	2		clay-pipe stem		MIA
07013	CF0703	C	1	3		pot	Roman?	MIA
07013	CF0703	C	3	11		daub		MIA
07003	CF0704	C	6	37		Fe nails with wood adhering		post-Roman
07005	CF0705	C	1	22		thick tile	probably Roman	Roman?
07007	CF0706	C	1	17		brick lump	post-medieval/ modern	post-medieval/ modern
07010	CF0708	C	1	3		Fabric 48d		19th-20th centuries
07010	CF0708	C	1	2		Fabric 48d (ironstone)	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
07012	CF0708	C	1	39		peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
07011	CF0709	C	1	1		Fabric 48d spall	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
09004	CF0902	C	3	154		tile	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
09004	CF0902	C	2	70		peg-tile		post-medieval/modern
09004	CF0902	C	1	214		brick	post-medieval/ modern	post-medieval/ modern
09005	CF0902	C	1	33		peg-tile, rather thick		post-medieval/ modern
09006	CF0904	C	1	23		stoneware sherd (Frechen ware)		post-medieval
09006	CF0904	C	1	62		brick	Roman	post-medieval
09006	CF0904	C	2	132		tile	Roman	post-medieval
09006	CF0904	C	3	33	✔	peg-tile		post-medieval
09006	CF0904	C	3	39		Fe nail		post-medieval
09007	CF0904	C	1	16		tile	Roman	post-medieval
10003	CF1001	C	1	41		Fabric 40 pot sherd		post-medieval
10003	CF1001	C	1	13		peg-tile		post-medieval
10003	CF1001	C	1	4		clay-pipe stem		post-medieval
10004	CF1005	C	1	2		prehistoric sherd	late prehistoric	late prehistoric
11006	CF1101	C	1	1		grog-tempered LIA/early Roman sherds	LIA/early Roman	post-medieval/ modern

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
11008	CF1103	C	1	11		peg-tile		post-medieval/ modern
11001	CF1105	C	1	3		MIA sherd	MIA	prehistoric
11002	CF1106	C	1	65		brick lump	Roman?	Roman
11007	CF1106	C	1	2		pot sherd, probably Roman	Roman	Roman
11007	CF1106	C	many	9		animal bone		Roman
12002	CF1203	C	1	508		*tegula*		Roman
14002	CF1401	C	1	2		sand- tempered grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	modern
14002	CF1401	C	2	1		daub	?	modern
15001	CF1501	C	1	7		reeded rim bowl, form Cam 243-4/6	1st to early 2nd centuries AD	post-medieval/ modern
15001	CF1501	C	6	33		Fabric 20	medieval	post-medieval/ modern
15005	CF1503	C	16	12		fragments of animal tooth		post-medieval/ modern
15005	CF1503	C	1	42		brick	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
15005	CF1503	C	2	63		*imbrex*	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
15005	CF1503	C	1	6		tile	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
15004	CF1504	C	1	47		pot chamfered bowl	after AD 120	Roman
15004	CF1504	C	1	148		brick	Roman	Roman
15004	CF1504	C	1	3		glass – intrusive?	modern	Roman
16003	CF1601	C	1	188		*imbrex* in peculiar grog-filled fabric	Roman	Roman
16007	CF1602	C	1	9		pot sherd, grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	Roman
16007	CF1602	C	1	291		brick	probably Roman	Roman
16006	CF1606	C	1	55		burnt *tegula*	Roman	Roman
16011	CF1607	C	1	3		pot sherd, grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	Roman
16009	CF1608	C	3	50		brick	probably Roman	Roman
17001	CF1707	C	12	51		pot sherd, grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
17001	CF1707	C	1	274		brick	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
17001	CF1707	C	1	144		*tegula*	Roman	post-medieval/ modern
17001	CF1707	C	2	30		tile bits	probably Roman	post-medieval/ modern
17001	CF1707	C	2	34		Fabric 48d pot sherd		post-medieval/ modern
17001	CF1707	C	1	8		clay-pipe stem/foot fragment		post-medieval/mod ern
17001	CF1707	C	2	19	✔	animal bone		post-medieval/ modern

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
05001	CL0501	C	1	372		large brick	undated	19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	1	282		tile	Roman	19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	1	6		blue and white tile	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	1	1		clay-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	1	8	✔	animal bone		19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	4	9	✔	burnt coally bits		19th-20th centuries
05001	CL0501	C	1	7		grey ware sherds, rim of jar	Roman	19th-20th centuries
05003	CL0501	C	1	11		Fabric 20	medieval	19th-20th centuries
05003	CL0501	C	1	31		?peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
05004	CL0502	C	1	238		brick lump	prob Roman	Roman?
05002	CL0503	C	2	958		bricks	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	2	280		tile	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	11		tile - Roman?	Roman?	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	3	18		oystershells		modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	2	9		1 grey ware (Fabric GX); 1 prob Roman	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	3		animal bone		modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	4		tile scraps		modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	94		box tile fragment	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	11	1688		brick fragments	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	8	1050		tile	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	268		*tegula*	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	2	288		*imbrex*	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	53		grey ware flanged bowl rim (Cam form 305)	mid 3rd-4th centuries AD	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	1	13		orange ware sherd	?	modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	3	41		oystershells		modern, with residual Roman
05002	CL0503	C	4	195		animal bones (inc teeth)		modern, with residual Roman
05008	CL0503	C	1	257		*tegula* flange fragment	Roman	modern, with residual Roman

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
05008	CL0503	C	4	381		*imbrex* fragments	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05008	CL0503	C	2	179		combed flue tile fragments	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05008	CL0503	C	5	789		tile fragments	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
05008	CL0503	C	11	1595		brick fragments	Roman	modern, with residual Roman
06001	CL0601	C	1	261		brick	Roman	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	1	80		*tegula* flange	Roman	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	3	39		tile/brick fragments		19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	6	155		peg-tiles	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	1	16		flowerpot Fabric 51b		19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	2	36		Fabric 40 glazed	16th-19th centuries	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	1	61		glass bottle base	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	1	16		Fabric 45 (modern stoneware)	17th-18th centuries?	19th-20th centuries
06001	CL0601	C	5	45		Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
07001	CL0701	C	1	2		Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
07001	CL0701	C	2	101		brick lumps	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
07001	CL0701	C	1	29		peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
07001	CL0701	C	1	79		brick lump	Roman?	19th-20th centuries
07001	CL0701	C	1	22		sandy orange ware?	13th-16th? centuries	19th-20th centuries
07002	CL0701	C	1	9		Fabric 45c (stoneware, Raeren)	15th-16th centuries	19th-20th centuries
07002	CL0701	C	1	4		grey ware sherd	Roman	19th-20th centuries
07002	CL0702	C	1	10		Fabric 45 (stoneware)	17th-18th centuries	post-medieval
07002	CL0702	C	1	5		grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	post-medieval
07002	CL0702	C	2	68		peg-tile	post-medieval	post-medieval
07002	CL0702	C	2	187		Roman tile	Roman	post-medieval
07002	CL0702	C	1	82		enormous sherd	Roman	post-medieval
07002	CL0702	C	1	132		indeterminate brick lump	?	post-medieval
07013	CL0704/ CF703	C	14	64		MIA pot sherds	MIA	prehistoric
07016	CL0705/ CF703	C	10	44		MIA sherds	MIA	prehistoric
07019	CL0708/ CF0703	C	9+ scraps	116		prehistoric pot sherd		MIA
07020	CL0708/ CF703	C	4	24		MIA sherds	MIA	
08001	CL0801	C	2	85		peg-tiles	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	21	✔	animal bone		19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	2	5		clay pipe stem	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	15		indeterminate tile		19th-20th centuries

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
08001	CL0801	C	2	32		black glazed Fabric 40	17th-19th centuries	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	11		Fabric 20	medieval	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	17		*tessera*	Roman	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	2		Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
08001	CL0801	C	1	14	✔	Fe nail		19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	1	24		brick/tile indeterminate		19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	1	8		Fabric 40 glazed	16th-19th centuries	19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	1	26		clay-pipe stem and plain bowl	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	1	8		Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	1	12	✔	animal bone		19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	2	2		Roman grey ware (Fabric GX)	probably Roman	19th-20th centuries
08002	CL0801	C	5	270		peg-tiles	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
09001	CL0901	C	3	134		peg-tile with hole	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
09001	CL0901	C	2	24		peg-tile	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
09001	CL0901	C	1	9		bituminous lump	modern?	19th-20th centuries
09001	CL0901	C	1	6		burnished grey ware sherd, BB?, poss *c* 2nd century AD +	probably Roman	19th-20th centuries
09001	CL0901	C	1	2		clay-pipe stem	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
09002	CL0901	C	2	13		clay-pipe stem	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
09002	CL0901	C	2	21		Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
09002	CL0901	C	1	48		tile lump	Roman	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	1	73		flowerpot Fabric 51b	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	1	36		peg-tile	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	2	8		clay-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	2	29		Fe lump		19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	4	20		Fabric 48d sherd	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	1	69		flowerpot Fabric 51b	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
10001	CL1001	C	4	19		Fabric 48d (ironstone)	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
10002	CL1001	C	1	40		tile	Roman?	19th-20th centuries
10002	CL1001	C	2	46		Fe objects		19th-20th centuries
10002	CL1001	C	5	28		Fe nails		19th-20th centuries
11003	CL1101/ CL1102	C	1	2		sand-tempered grey ware	Roman	
11003	CL1101/ CL1102	C	1	7		reeded rim bowl (Cam form 243-4/6)	*c* 1st to early 2nd century AD	
12001	CL1201	C	4	528		tiles	Roman	19th-20th centuries
12001	CL1201	C	1	32		brick lump		19th-20th centuries

Finds no	Context	Area	Qty	Wt in g	D	Find type	Find date	Context date
12001	CL1201	C	1	16		modern glass rim	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
13001	CL1301	C	1	20		clay-pipe stem and bowl	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
13001	CL1301	C	1	2		clay-pipe stem	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
13001	CL1301	C	1	11		peg-tile	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
13001	CL1301	C	1	5		sherd Fabric 48d	19th-20th centuries	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	2	19		clear glass	modern	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	3	24		burnt septaria		19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	1	1		dark green glass	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	2	31		peg-tile	post-medieval	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	1	5		sherd, probably Roman	Roman	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	1	24		tile	possibly Roman	19th-20th centuries
14001	CL1401	C	1	31		peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
16001	CL1601	C	2	264		*tegula* flange pieces	Roman	post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	2	61		tile	Roman	post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	3	42		tile fragments, Roman or peg-tile	Roman or later	post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	1	60		*imbrex*	Roman	post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	4	43		prehistoric sherd	prehistoric	post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	1	2		oystershells		post-medieval
16001	CL1601	C	2	5		clay-pipe stem fragments	post-medieval	post-medieval
16004	CL1601	C	1	28		peg-tile		post-medieval
16002	CL1602	C	1	7		rim sherd in very sandy fabric (possibly Cam form 266)	Roman, possibly *c* 1st century AD	medieval or Roman
16008	CL1602	C	1	26		tile	Roman	medieval or Roman
18001	CL1801	C	2	52		Fabric 40 pot sherd		19th-20th centuries
18001	CL1801	C	1	7		Fabric 48d pot sherd		19th-20th centuries
18001	CL1801	C	2	207		peg-tile		19th-20th centuries
18001	CL1801	C	1	97		brick	post-medieval or modern	19th-20th centuries
18001	CL1801	C	1	5		clay-pipe stem		19th-20th centuries
18001	CL1801	C	1	40		glazed floor- tile		19th-20th centuries
07015	CL704/ CF703	C	2	57		MIA sherds	MIA	
07019	CL708/ CF703	C	9	83		MIA sherds	MIA	

13.2 Appendix 2

Table 24: Unstratified finds.

Find no	Area	Qt	Wt in g	D	Finds type	Finds date
00003	C	2	14		Fe nails	
00003	C	1	32		Fe corrosion lump	
00003	C	1	3		clay-pipe stem	
00003	C	3	257		tiles	probably Roman
00003	C	1	8		grey ware rim sherd (Fabric 20)	medieval
00003	C	1	2		Fabric 20 sherd	
03001	C	1	115		inkpot in Fabric 45m (modern stoneware)	
03001	C	1	83		rusted Fe key	
05005	C	3	27		grey ware sherds	
05005	C	1	7		skull fragment	
05005	C	1	32		peg-tile	post-medieval
05005	C	2	203		tile	probably Roman
11005	C	1	5		pot	medieval?
11005	C	3	64		peg-tile	medieval or post-medieval
11005	C	1	11	✔	animal bone	
11005	C	2	29		glass	post-medieval
11005	C	3	8	✔	indeterminate tile scraps	
11005	C	1	42		burnt tile or drain fragment	?
15002	C	3	155		tile	Roman
15002	C	2	70		peg-tile	
15002	C	1	213		frogged brick	post-1850
15002	C	1	18		clay-pipe bowl fragment	
16005	C	1	4		pot sherd	medieval
16005	C	3	10		Fabric 40 pot sherds	
16005	C	1	161		tile	Roman
16005	C	1	12	✔	animal bone	
16010	C	1	247		box flue tile	

13.3 Appendix 3

Table 25: Tabulation of report numbers and evaluation stages.

Evaluation type	Report number
Desk-based assessment	CAT Report 97
Fieldwalking survey	CAT Report 184
Geophysical Survey (Bactec)	CAT Report 184
Area C	this report (CAT Report 197)

Howard Brooks, July 2002; amended 16th August 2002

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Adams c:/reports02/garrieval02/trial-trenching/AreaC/report197final.doc

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Area C at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 9940 2335 (centre)	***Site code:*** Museum accession code 2002.8
Type of work: Evaluation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May-June 2002	***Size of area investigated:*** 13.26 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes: trenching in adjacent areas, and possible excavation (tbc)	***Related EHCR nos:*** 11921
Final report: CAT Report 197, summary in *EAH*, final report tbc	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval, modern	

Summary of fieldwork results:

Eighteen trenches were excavated in Area C. The majority of the excavated archaeological contexts were modern or post-medieval in date (39%). The next largest group of features was undated (23%) or of natural origin (20%). There were eleven Roman ditches or pits, one Iron Age ditch, and five prehistoric pits; together these constituted 18% of all excavated features. Much disturbance had been caused by recent digging (30% of modern or post-medieval contexts contained residual Roman or prehistoric finds, and the largest group of Roman finds (7.9kg of tile and pottery) was residual in a modern dumped layer).

The significant Roman or later prehistoric features were widely spaced. However, in one part of the area (Trenches C15 and C16) there was a pair of ditches defining a potential trackway (like those seen as cropmarks in Areas DR, R, M and P). Other ditches were part of a Roman (and later ?prehistoric) rectilinear landscape aligned approximately N-S/E-W. The alignment of these ditches is shared by a ditch in Trench C7 which produced the large stratified group of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Trenching work continues in adjacent areas.

Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	***Date of summary:*** 15th July 2002

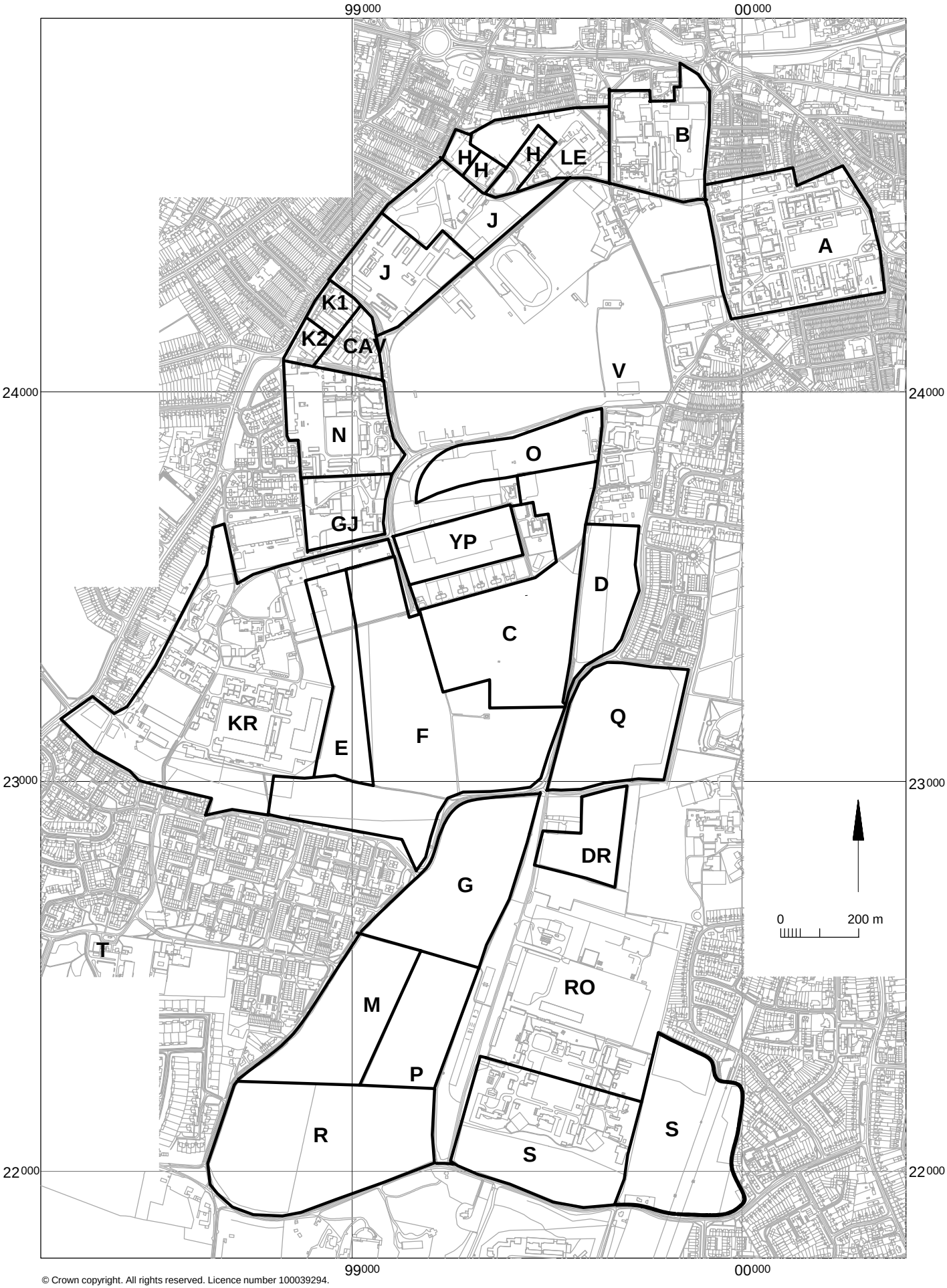

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Fig 1 Area locations.

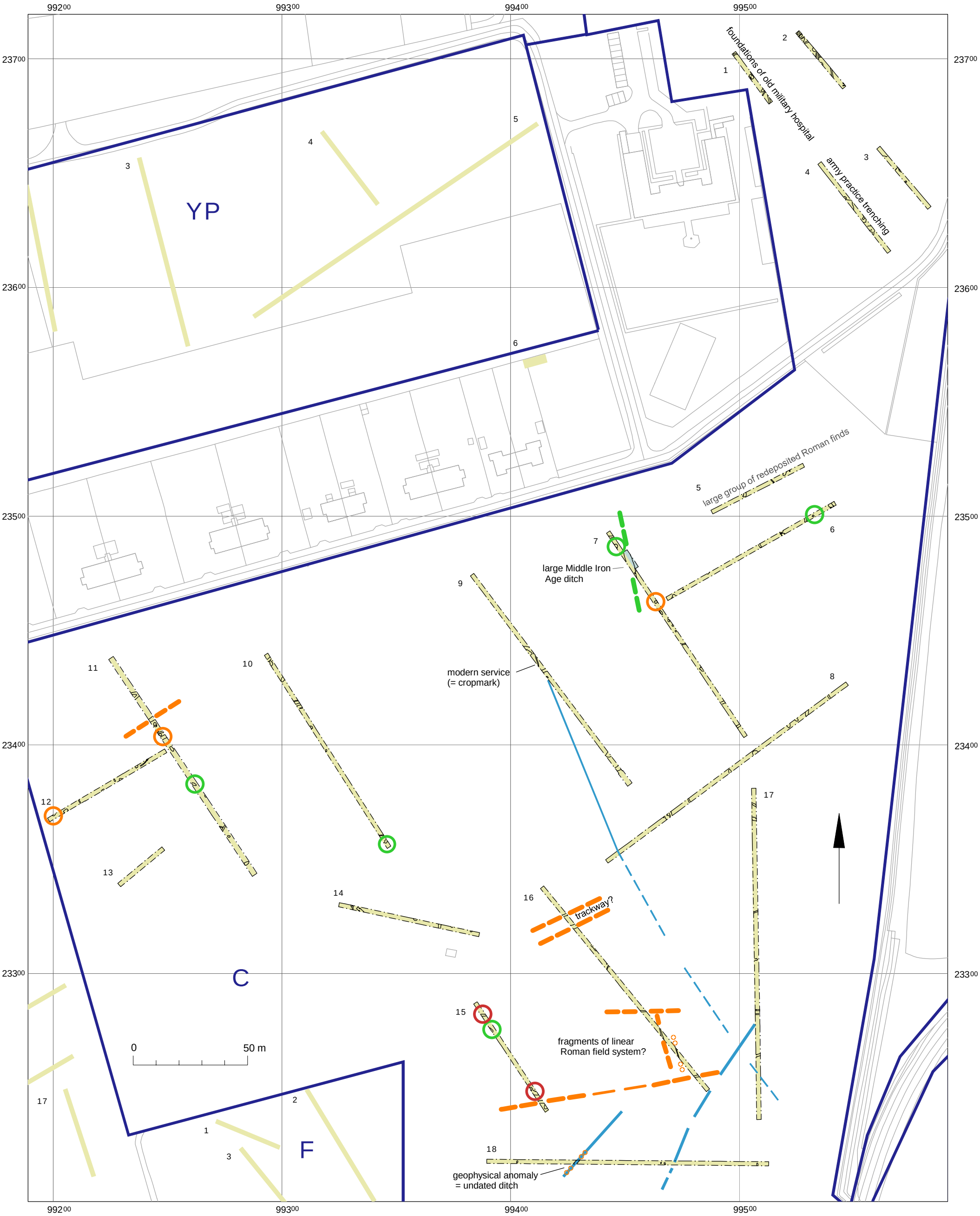

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Fig 2 Area C: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

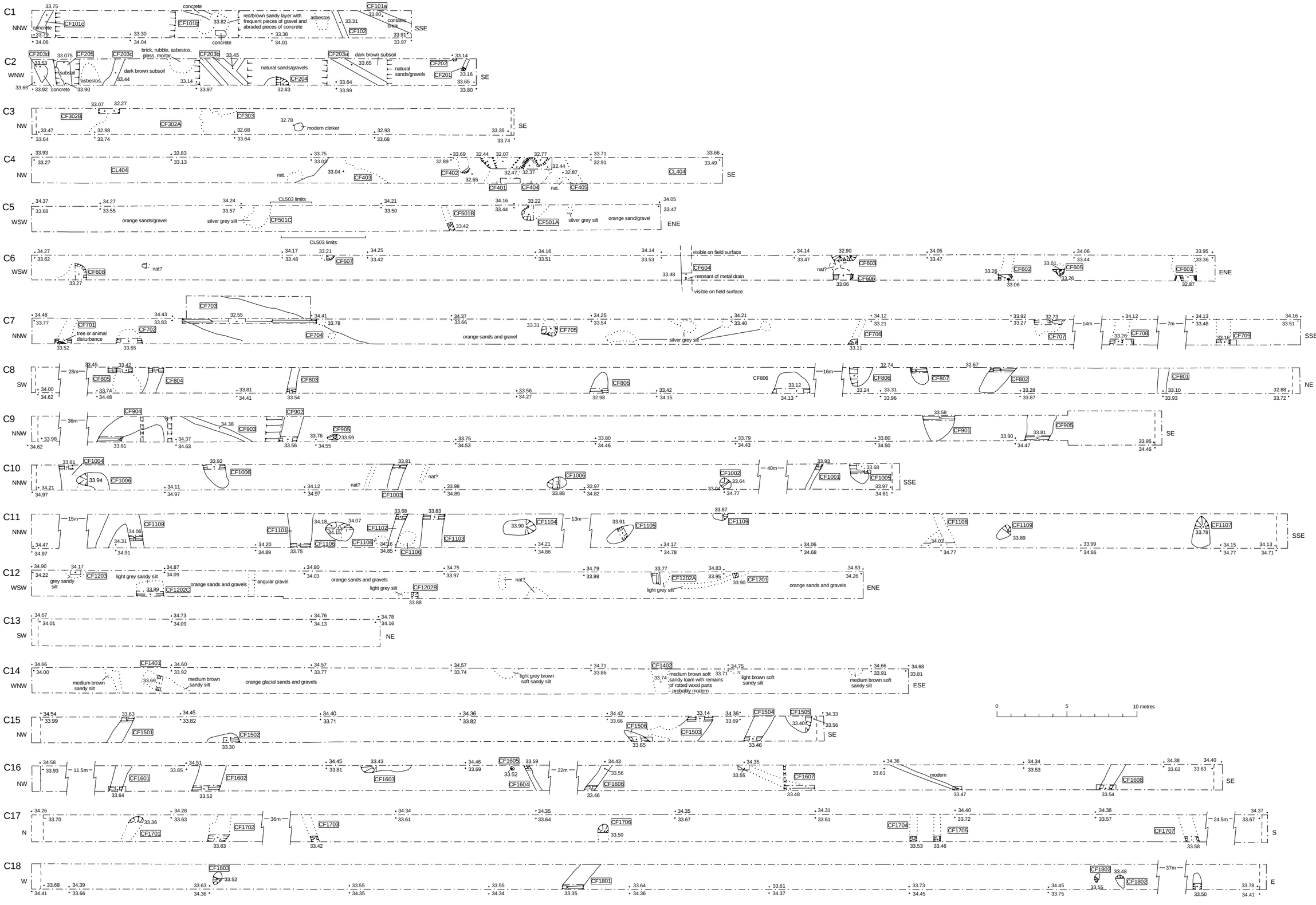

Fig 3 Area C: trench plans.

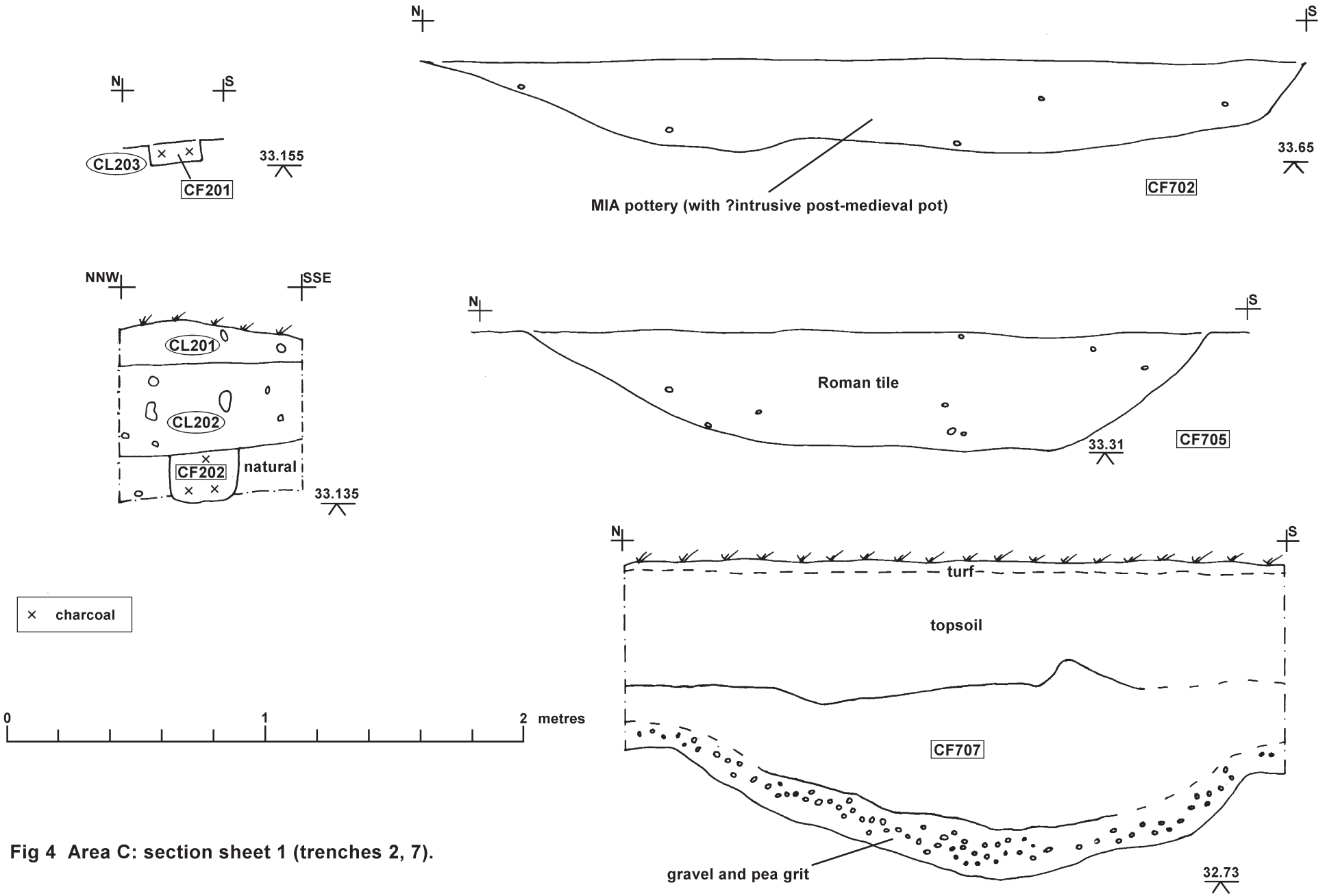

Fig 4 Area C: section sheet 1 (trenches 2, 7).

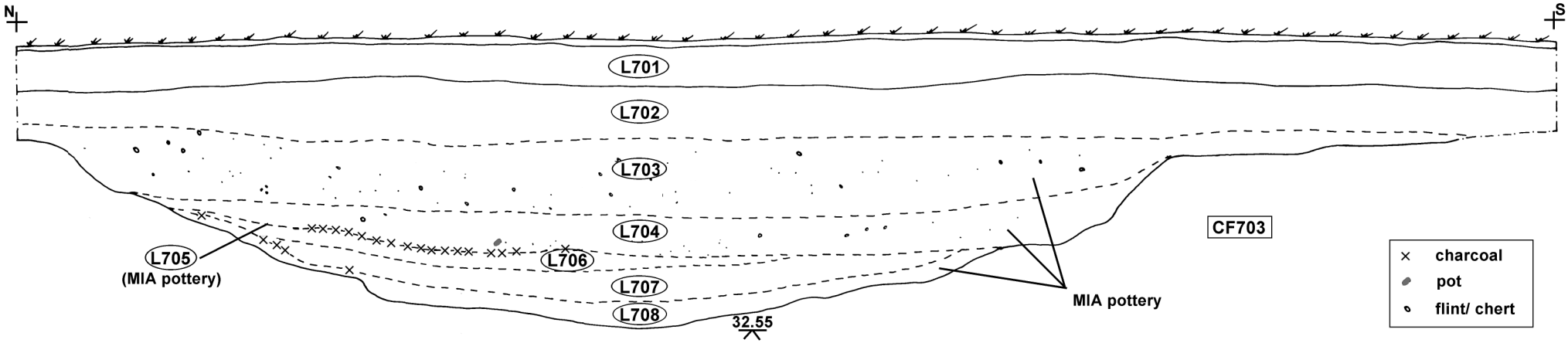

Fig 5 Area C: section sheet 2 (trench 7).

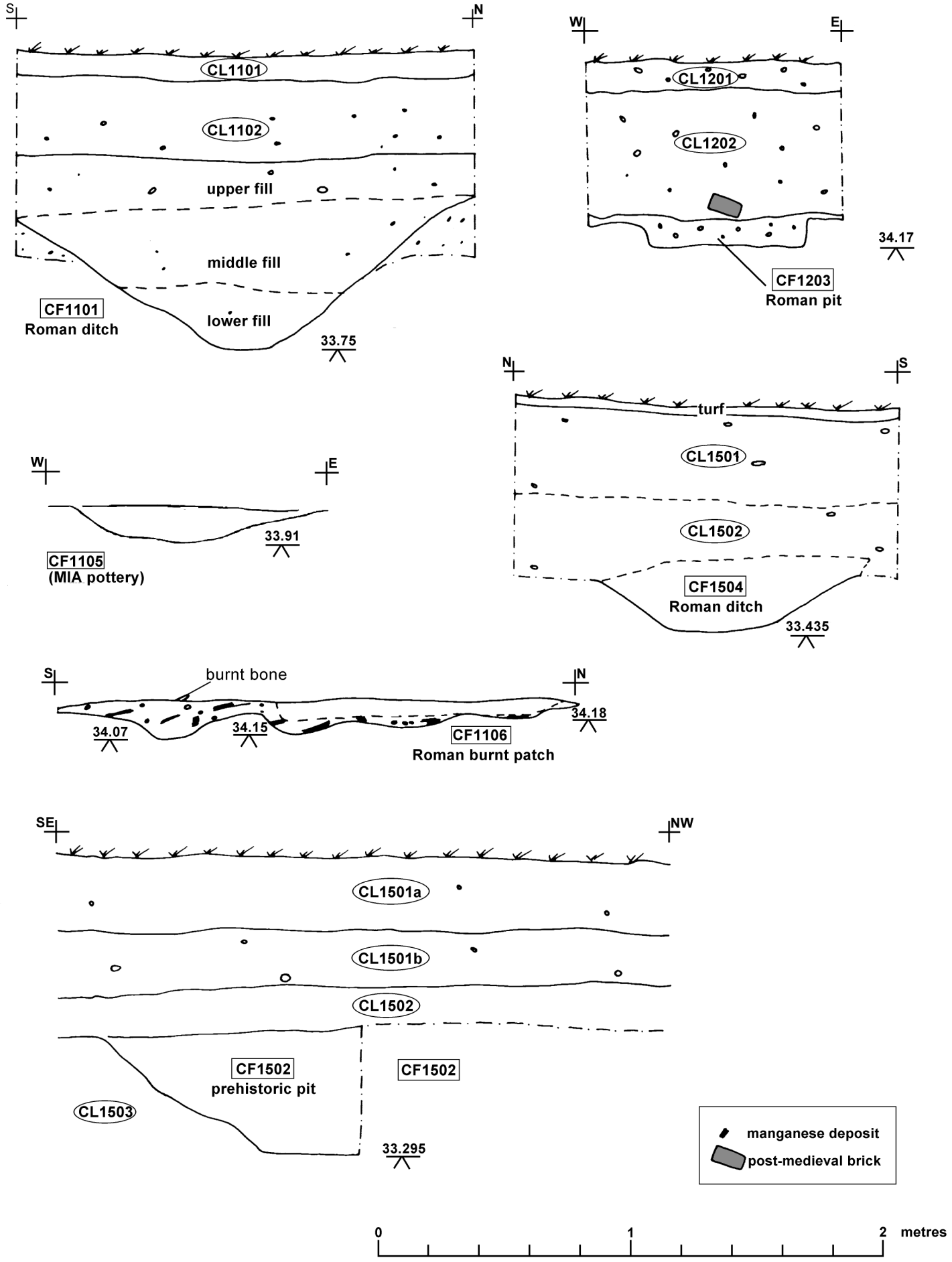

Fig 6 Area C: section sheet 3 (trenches 11, 12, 15, 16).

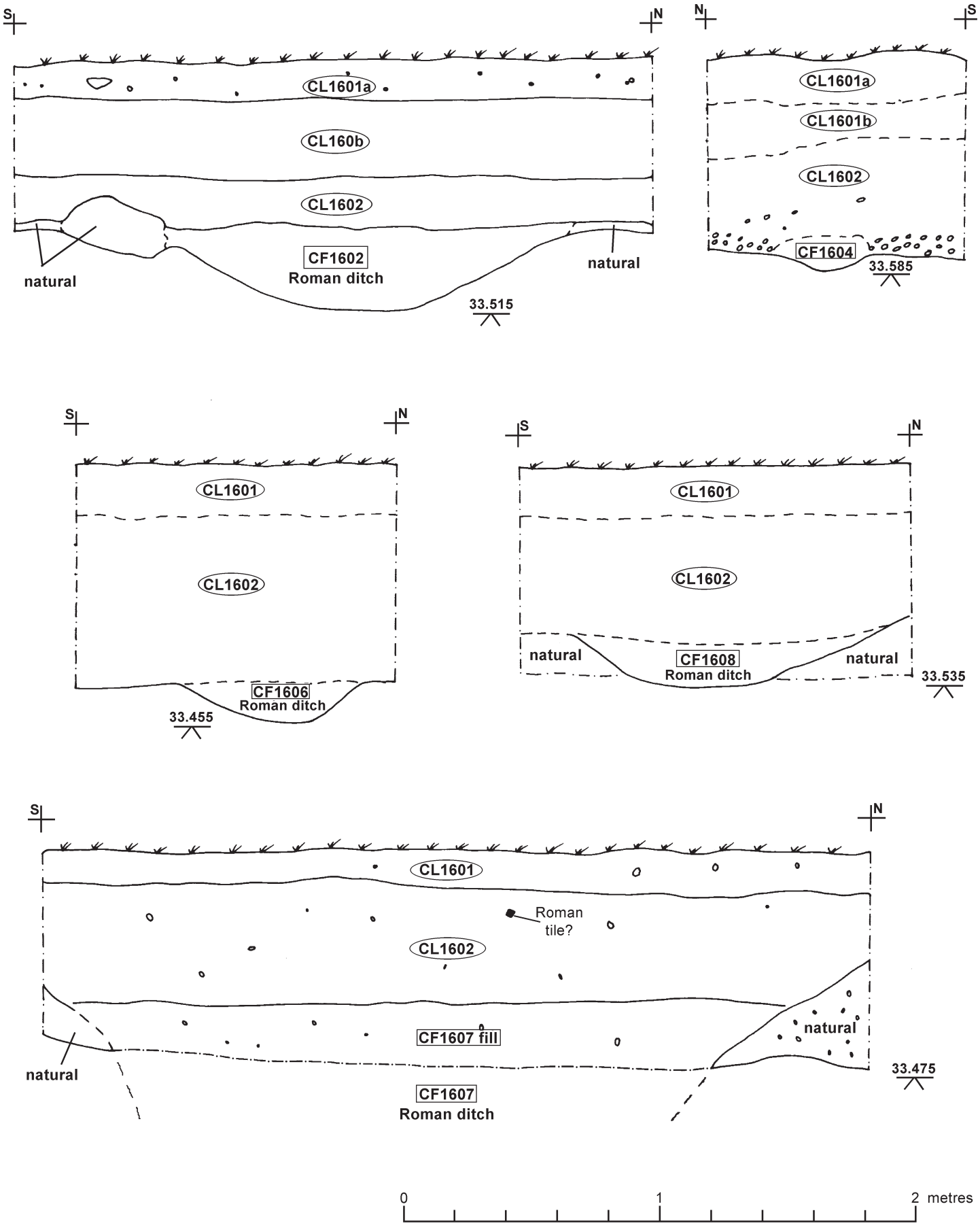

Fig 7 Area C: section sheet 4 (trench 6).

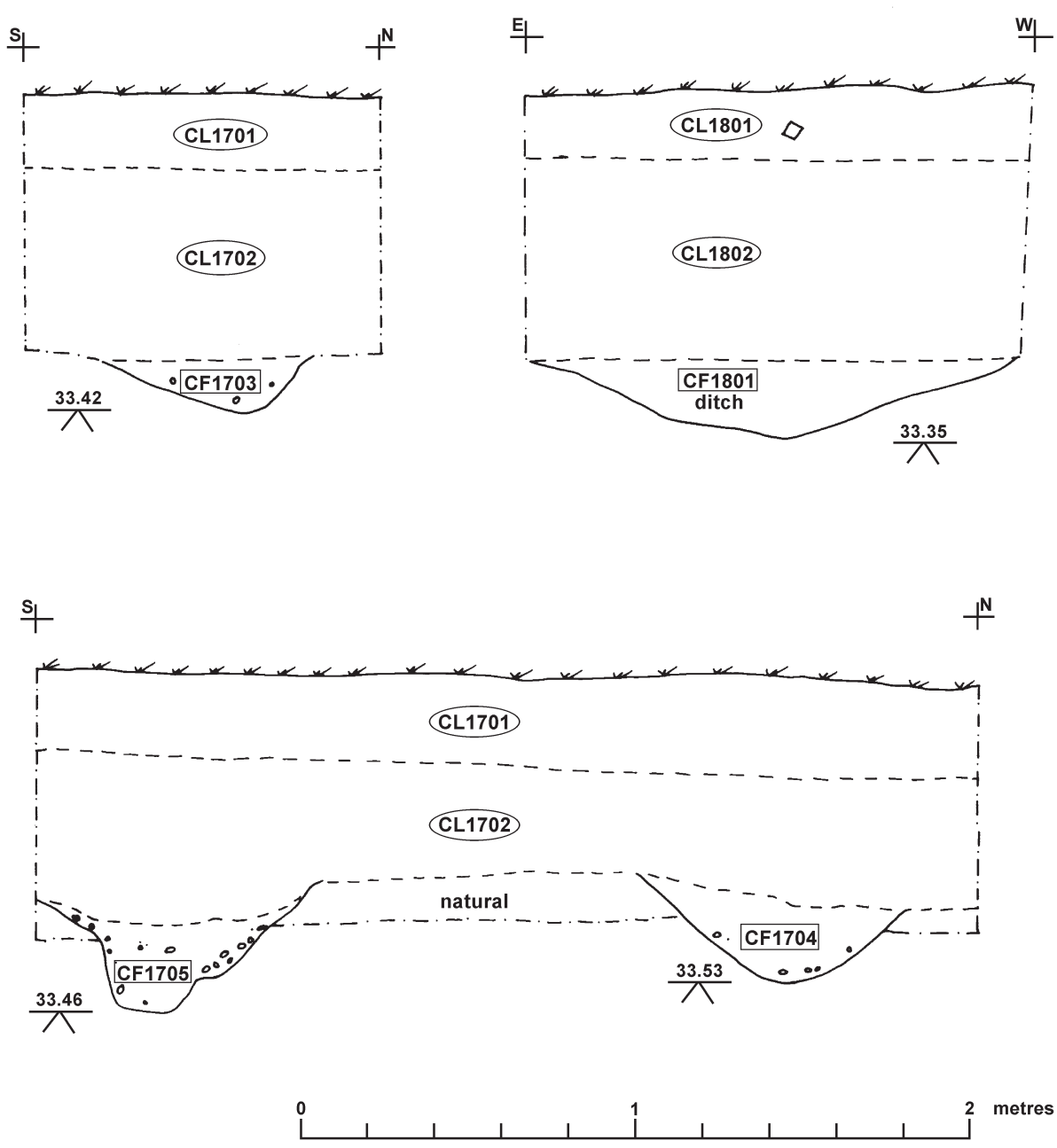

Fig 8 Area C: section sheet 5 (trenches 17, 18).