

**An archaeological evaluation
at the staff and student car-parks,
Colchester Institute,
Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex
April 2006**

**report prepared by
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1 Summary

Six evaluation trenches were excavated at the staff and student car-parks at Colchester Institute in April 2006. The evaluation produced evidence on the site from the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Fifteen cut features, principally quarry pits and ditches dating from the Late Iron Age to the 1st century and the later Roman period, were identified. A spread of Roman pottery and building material indicate the site of a Roman building nearby, although no structural features were present. Some of the features were within the date range of the pre-conquest phase of the Sheepen site (c AD 5-43) and could be considered to be part of the pre-Roman site. These are significant because no definitely pre-conquest features have previously been recorded from the Sheepen site. Although no waterlogged features were identified, the depth of deposits and the water table in the student car-park trench suggest that waterlogged remains may be preserved. Three modern features were recorded, but modern disturbance to the archaeological remains was minimal.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological evaluation carried out at the staff and student car-parks, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex. The site is situated to the north of Colchester town centre and is centred on National Grid Reference TL 989 256. A planning application for the construction of new college buildings and two multi-storey car-parks is to be submitted to Colchester Borough Council. The Colchester Borough Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) requested an archaeological evaluation of the application site prior to the determination of any planning application.
- 2.2 The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 3rd and the 11th April 2006. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Colchester Institute.
- 2.3 The seven-hectare application site is on the eastern side of Colchester Institute where there are staff and student car-parks. It is bounded by Sheepen Road to the north, allotment gardens and Colchester Retail Park to the east, and footpaths to the south. Trenches were dug within a tarmac car-park, a paved pedestrian area and a grassed area forming the centre of a mini-roundabout. The site occupies the lower reaches of the Colne Valley. Ground-level varies between 7.8m and 8m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on the staff car-park. There is a noticeable slope downwards to the south so that the level of the grass roundabout in the student car-park is 7.38m. The paved pedestrian area is 8.24m. The drift geology of the area is glacial sands and gravels.
- 2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification written by CgMs Consultants and agreed with CBCAO. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practices of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site lies on the eastern side of the important Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement known as Sheepen (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 46). Extensive excavations there in the 1930s and smaller-scale work in 1970 have produced evidence of industrial and trading activity and a religious complex.

- 3.2** To the south-west of the current site, evidence has been found of workshops engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leather-working (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985; *CAR 11*, 130-36). A Roman timber-lined well was recorded in the 1930s, in an area which is now within the grounds of Colchester Institute (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 53).
- A watching brief carried out at Colchester Institute in 2001 produced an assemblage of 1st-century AD Roman amphoras and mostly 1st-century AD pottery. Several pits were recorded, one of which was datable to the early Roman period. A short stretch of mortared Roman tiles, presumed to be a wall or foundation to a Roman building, was found by the contractors after the watching brief had finished (CAT Report 131).
- A late 1st-century temple was excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee in 1935 on the site of St Helena School, to the north of the current site (Hull 1958, 224-34). The outer *temenos* wall of the temple precinct lies underneath Sheepen Road. This is one of four Roman temples known in the area of the river flood plain, and there was a religious sanctuary here (to the north-west of the Institute; Crummy 1980, 248-56).
- 3.3** A detailed archaeological background to the site can be found in the desk-based assessment of the site, which was carried out by CgMs (Chadwick & Dicks 2006).

4 Aim

The evaluation was designed to locate, identify and assess the quality and extent of surviving archaeological remains prior to a decision being taken on the preservation or otherwise of deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The trenches were dug using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket down to natural sand and gravel or the first archaeological horizon. Archaeological features were subsequently excavated by hand.
- 5.2** Potential archaeological deposits which were exposed were cleaned by hand. Individual records of layers were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.3** Section drawings were made at a scale of 1:10. Plans were made at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.4** Finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned find numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.5** Colour photographs of the trenches and the features within were taken with a digital camera.

6 Results

6.1 Evaluation trenches (Fig 3)

The evaluation consisted of six trenches. Trenches 1-4 were located in the staff car-park in the northern half of the site. Trench 5 was placed in a grassy mini-roundabout in the student car-park and Trench 6 was located in a pedestrian walkway to the north of the student car-park. All archaeological features cut natural glacial sand or sand and gravel (L6) unless otherwise stated.

6.2 Trench 1 (Figs 3-4 and 7)

T1 was 25m long by 2m wide and was located in the north-western part of the staff car-park. 230mm depth of tarmac and type 1 sub-base (Layer or L1 and L2) overlaid a previous car-park surface, 120mm thick, consisting of cinders (L4). As soon as these modern layers were removed, archaeological deposits were encountered at the northern end of the trench. A 200mm-thick and 10.5m-long spread of Roman tile and pottery in a hard dry silty matrix (L9) was recorded at 350mm below the current ground-level. The pottery from L9 was datable to the late 2nd/3rd century and included some stamped samian from the early to mid 2nd century. Slots were dug

through the spread of material, revealing that it formed the upper fill of two Roman ditches (Feature or F16 and F20). F20 was aligned north-south and at right-angles to F16 which was to the north of it. F16 did not continue into T2.

At the northern end of the trench was a fairly steep-sided but narrow ditch aligned north-east to south-west (F15). The upper fill of F15 contained a few sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and no tile. The pottery is typical of pre-conquest material from the Sheepen site.

At the southern end of the trench was a narrow gully (F8), somewhat irregular in plan and curving slightly. Three slots (Sx 1-Sx 3) were dug through F8 and only one artefact – a piece of Roman tile – was retrieved. F8 appeared to merge with a second linear feature parallel to it (F19). F19 contained some Roman tile and 2nd- to 4th-century pottery in its middle and lower fills and was partly covered by the spread of Roman material L9. Without removing all of L9, it was not possible to say whether F19 was a continuation of F20. The relationship between F8 and F19 also remains undetermined.

At the southern end of the trench, another feature was identified, ie a shallow pit or ditch terminal (F7) which was cut from high up. F7 was filled by medium to dark brown sandy silt with abundant gravel. One piece of Roman roof tile was retrieved from the surface.

At the northern end of T1, on excavating F16, another narrow gully could just be made out (F21) which appeared to have been partially cut into by F16. Although it was not proven, F21 may be a continuation of F8.

6.3 Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 6)

T2 was situated to the east of T1 and parallel to it. It measured 25m in length and 2m in width. 400mm of modern car-park surface similar to T1 was stripped off to expose a 150mm-thick layer of subsoil (L5). The northern part of the trench was dominated by a large deep pit (F13) which was presumed to be a layer until a clear edge was exposed to the south. The main fill (fill a) of F13 was a mid brown sandy silt which merged with L5 subsoil above. An amount of Roman tile was distributed within this main fill. On the southern edge of the pit, at 900mm below ground-level, was a charcoally lens which continued to the base of the trench (fill d). This material was packed with pottery including fragments of a Gallo-Belgic *terra nigra* platter, a ripple-shouldered bowl and some grog-tempered sherds. While some of these pieces could post-date the Roman conquest, most of the pottery was Late Iron Age. One piece of *tegula* came from this charcoally lens plus a few fragments of daub, some burnt flint and fragments of cremated animal bone. There were also fragments of uncremated animal bone surviving as the fill became wetter. The water table was reached at 1.73m below ground-level which prevented the feature being bottomed. However, at this depth the fill became more gravelly and still black in colour but with less charcoal (fill e). The most likely interpretation for F13 is that it was a sand quarry pit.

To the south of F13, a section was excavated across a south-east to north-west aligned ditch (F14). The feature was visible 400mm below ground-level; this had a U-shaped base and single fill with a patch of charcoal at the surface. A few sherds of grog-tempered ware were contained in the fill which is of the type found at Sheepen previously. This and the lack of Roman tile indicates a pre-conquest date for F14. F14 may be a continuation of F15 in T1 as the features resemble each other and are of the same date. They may have formed two sides of a rectangular enclosure. The remainder of the trench was archaeologically blank.

6.4 Trench 3 (Figs 3-4)

T3 was located in the centre of the car-park and was 2m wide by 15m long. The main feature of interest was a ditch on a north-south alignment found at the western end of the trench (F5). This contained a small amount of Roman tile and *tesserae* in its upper fill and daub and fragment of Roman pottery in its lower fill. The feature did not appear to continue into T1 unless F7 in T1 was part of it. Also at the western end of the trench, a medium-sized, sub-circular, shallow pit was revealed (F1) containing a small amount of daub in its fill. These two features were at 350mm-450mm below ground-level.

A small pit (F6) was seen in the eastern section of the trench underneath the car-park surface. Modern frogged brick seen in the pit's upper fill gives it a modern date.

Some anomalies in the natural sand at the eastern end of the trench were investigated but were found to be natural rather than man-made features.

6.5 Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 5)

T4 was located to the south of T3 and was the same length and width. A ditch containing a small amount of Roman tile and 1st- to 2nd-/ 3rd-century pottery (F3), which is a probable continuation of F5 in T3, was found at the western end of the trench.

Modern activity was attested by a small Victorian rubbish pit at the western end of the trench (F2) and a concrete pile at the eastern end (F10).

The eastern half of T4 was occupied by a large pit encountered 500mm below ground-level (F12). It was originally given more than one feature number as it appeared to be at least two different features. However, a slot dug all the way along it confirmed it to be one feature with several fills, presumably another Roman quarry pit. The top 300mm of F12 featured large amounts of Roman brick and tile. Brick, tile and daub continued throughout although the amount lessened towards the base of the pit. Some *tesserae* were also retrieved plus nine iron nails and very small amounts of animal bone and charcoal. Fragments of two shale objects were present in the fill (see Appendix 3). The fill was a brown sandy silt similar to the main fill of F13 in T2 although the stone content and hue varied. The pottery dated from the 1st century (possibly pre-Flavian) to the late 3rd or 4th century. Stamped samian was retrieved from the spoil heap, presumably from the fill of F12. F12 was 1.1m deep but its eastern extent was not determined. It did not continue into T3. The water table in this trench was reached at 1.5m below ground-level.

6.6 Trench 5

T5 was excavated in a grassy area forming a roundabout in the student car-park, to the south of the other trenches. It was 4m x 3m wide and 1.4m deep. 550mm of topsoil (L7) merged into a layer of loamy subsoil, 450mm thick (L12). At 1m below ground-level, a dark grey brown wet silty clay was encountered (L13). The trench was terminated at a depth of 1.4m due to lack of space for spoil and a lack of features. Water started seeping into the trench at this level. There were no finds within the lower layers and only sparse CBM fragments in L7 and L12. A hole was augered through the base of T5 to ascertain the depth of natural ground. The hole was augered to 750mm depth but natural was still not reached. The depth of natural here (over 2.15m below ground-level) is much lower than to the north where it occurs between 400mm and 1m below ground-level. There is the possibility that the layers within T5 were actually the fill of a large pit whose edges were outside the excavation area. However, a lack of finds from the fill makes this unlikely.

6.7 Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 8)

T6 was located in the pedestrianised area near A Block, in between the staff and student car-parks. The trench was 2.8m x 7.5m wide and between 900mm and 1.1m deep. 500mm of modern car-park surface and sub-base were removed and a layer of topsoil (L11). At 900mm below ground-level, within a Roman subsoil layer (L10), a spread of smashed Roman pottery was exposed (F24). The pottery consisted of body sherds from a Dressel 20 amphora and a flagon plus a few odd sherds of grey ware and a piece of vessel glass. Additionally, at the eastern end of the trench, was a narrow linear feature on a north to south alignment (F23) containing two sherds of Roman pottery. The pottery from both features was 1st century, possibly pre-AD 69, which means that they are probably concurrent with the main period of occupation at Sheepen (AD 5-60/61).

7 Finds

7.1 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

The excavation produced just under 12 kg (11,880 g, 698 sherds) of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The pottery from the evaluation includes material from the Late

Iron Age (c 75/50 BC-AD 43) and Roman pottery (1st-4th century). The material is listed Table 2 by numbered find bag for each of the contexts, together with an overall date. Where possible, pottery fabrics were recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for **CAR 10** in which all of the fabrics are recorded as two letter codes. The **CAR 10** pottery fabrics are almost entirely concerned with pottery of Roman date and do not cover pottery of Late Iron Age date or of Late Iron Age tradition adapting to Roman pottery techniques (Romanising wares). To include Late Iron Age and Romanising pottery fabrics additional to the **CAR 10** fabric series, some new codes have been used. These are grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW) and Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW). The additional fabrics are described below and full fabric names for each of the lettered fabric codes are given in Table 1. In addition for some fabrics, notably Gallo-Belgic wares, reference has been made to the fabric types described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). These have been included in the table of Roman pottery fabrics used in the report (Table 1) as well as, where possible, the corresponding fabric designation for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection.

The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958). Samian vessels were catalogued using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers and the Curle type series (Curle). The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each numbered find bag. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric together with the weight and the estimated vessel equivalent (eve).

Table 1: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after CAR 10 with additions).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection Fabric
AA	amphora, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium amphoras	
AA (CAM1)	Campanian (black sand) amphora 1	CAM AM 1
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	
BA	plain samian forms	
A	Arretine samian	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
BPW	butt-beaker parchment ware	NOG WH3
CB	Colchester red colour-coated roughcast ware	COL CC2
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware	VER WH
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and North Kent wares)	LON FR/UPC FR
GTW	grog-tempered wares	SOB GT
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
GT	large storage jars with prominent grog temper	
RCW	Romanising coarse ware	
TY	mortaria, other British (not Colchester or Verulamium)	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares	
GAB1	Gallia-Belgica (Vesle Valley) <i>terra nigra</i> 1	GAB TN 1
LTC	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares, local traded coarse ware	
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares	
WC	miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	
WPW	white pipe clay ware	NOG WH1

Fabrics and descriptions additional to **CAR 10** fabrics used in this report:

Fabric GTW Grog-tempered wares

Generally thick sherds, with patchy red-brown to dark-brown surfaces. Fabric contains various quantities of crushed fired clay (grog) and is grey to brown.

Fabric RCW Romanising coarse wares:

Sherd thickness is generally medium-thin. Fabric contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog, though can be sandy. The fabric is either grey-brown with dark grey-brown surfaces (this includes black surfaced wares (BSW)) which have a tendency to laminate, or pale brown to light grey and appearing abraded.

Table 2: the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by find bag for each feature (LIA = Late Iron Age).

context	Trench	find bag	fill location	Fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments/description	date
F3	T4	3	upper fill	DJ		1	8		1st-2nd/3rd century
F3	T4	12	upper fill	DJ FJ RCW		3	30	Fabric RCW sherd black surfaced fabric with some grog	1st-?early 2nd century
F12	T4	1	surface	DZ GB? GX		7	36	Fabric GB? small sherd possibly Fabric GB	Roman ?early 2nd to mid-late 3rd?
F12	T4	4		BA(CG) GB GX DJ	Cam 37	9	51	abraded	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F12	T4	5		AJ GX HZ(GT)		3	96		Roman ?1st-2nd century
F12	T4	6	spoil	DJ GB GX	?Cam 270B	7	103		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F12	T4	9		AJ BA(CG) BA(EG) CB CH DJ GA GB GX HZ HZ(GT) WA	Dr 31 Dr 33 Dr 38 Cam 37A Cam 37B? Cam 40A Cam 40B Cam 268 Cam 273 Cam 279 Cam 396?	194	2696	Fabric BA(EG) DR 33 potter's stamp MICCIO.F , stamp of the potter Miccio from Sinzig dated mid-late 2nd century, Fabric CH includes a Hadham? lid, Fabric GB one sherd (Cam 40A) burnt, Fabric GX includes an unusual bowl with vertical wipe or smoothing marks	late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
F12	T4	10		AJ GB HZ		4	118		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F12	T4	11		BA(EG) CH GA GB GX HZ	Dr 33? Cam 39	8	287		late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
F12		13		RCW		1	14		1st-?early 2nd century
F12	T4	21		CZ GB GTW? GX HZ	Cam 37B Cam 268 (2)	26	427	Fabric CZ sherd orange-brown fabric with traces of former red slip, Fabric GTW soft thick sherd with little visible temper	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

context	Trench	find bag	fill location	Fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments/description	date
F12	T4	22	mid fill	CZ DJ GB		3	19	Fabric CZ sherd probably from a folded beaker	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F12	T4	23	upper fill	AA DJ GX		15	96	Fabric GX, possibly early Roman, 3 are sherds burnt red	Roman ?1st century
F12	T4	27		AA HZ(GT) UR(LTC)		4	109		early Roman ?pre-Flavian
F12	T4	28	mid fill	AJ BA(CG) DJ GA GB GP? GX HZ(GT)	Cam 122/123? Cam 305A	27	320	Fabric GP? sherd in coarse fabric (possibly Fabric GX) but also possibly burnt and probably Fabric GP	mid 3rd-4th century
F12	T4	29	upper fill	AA CZ DJ GB GTW GX HZ TZ	Cam 270A? Cam 392 Cam 496/497	24	389	Fabric TZ variant Cam 496/497	mid-late 2nd-mid 3rd century
F13	T2	17	main fill	HZ(GT)	270/271	2	105		LIA/early Roman
F13	T2	18	lower fill	DJ GA? GTW GX WPW?	Cam 279A/B?	10	140	Fabric DJ some sherds possibly imported but also possibly just local Roman Fabric DJ, Fabric GA? sherd possibly BB, if so the open lattice pattern suggests a 2nd- to early 3rd-century date	overall LIA/?pre-Flavian note: one sherd possibly early 2nd to early-early 3rd century ?intrusive
F13	T2	19	lower fill	AA (CAM1) BA(A) CZ? GTW HZ HZ(GT) UR(GAB1)	Cam 8/14 Cam 117 Cam 229 Cam 264B Cam 270A	73	1932	Fabric AA handle in Campanian black sand fabric, Fabric BA(A) Arretine sherd from the central area of a rouletted platter, footring broken away, not slipped within area enclosed by the footring where there is only a smudge of slip, probably from a finger tip. Another Arretine dish from close by at St Helena School (trench 2, F2 find 8) had similarly not been slipped on its lower surfaces (CAT Report 351), Fabric CZ abraded sherd, does not appear to be usual Colchester fabric, Fabric GTW sherds from several pots, all grog-tempered, joining sherds on some pots, does not appear to be residual	pre-Flavian, probably LIA
F14	T2	16	mid-upper fill	GTW HZ(GT)		11	245	Fabric GTW includes sherds from 3-4 pots and one sherd from a butt-beaker in fine red-brown oxidised ware with fine grog	probably LIA
F15	T1	14		GTW HZ(GT)		14	289	Fabric GTW sherds from several pots including sherd from bowl with footring	LIA/early Roman

context	Trench	find bag	fill location	Fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments/description	date
F16	T1	15	upper fill	AA BA(SG) DJ FJ? GB GTW GX HZ(GT)TZ	Dr 15/17 Cam 37B Cam 306 (2) Cam 307	22	320	Fabric DJ one sherd possibly Fabric TZ/TY Fabric FJ? sherd possibly Fabric FJ, Fabric GX sherds include sherds from an indented beaker	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd/4th century
F19 Sx 1	T1	30		GA	Cam 304	3	42		late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th
F20 (L9)	T1	24	upper fill	AA AJ BA(CG?) CZ GB GX HZ TZ WC	Dr 33 Curle 21 Cam 40B Cam 268 Cam 392	89	1124	sherds from 3 pots, most from Cam 392 beaker	mid-late 2nd to mid/late 3rd century
F20 (L9)	T1	25		BA(CG)	Dr 33	6	79	find from above feature F20 potter's stamp CARVSSA , the potter Carussa of Lezoux	c AD 155-185
F20 (L9)	T1	26		AJ BA(EG) GA GX HZ TZ	Cam 268 Cam 277? Cam 304 Cam 504/505	43	729	Fabric TZ Cam 504/505 variant, flat topped bead under-cut bead rim, CAR 10 Fabric TZ form 110	late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century
F23	T6	35		AJ DJ RCW		3	19		Roman, ?1st century
F24	T6	37		DJ GTW GX UR(LTC)		13	84	Fabric GTW includes sherd from and inward sloping lid-seated rim from a bowl or jar flat Fabric UR(LTC) sherd from the interior of a platter? with poorly made small footing, unusual fabric similar to some local medieval coarse wares, possibly over fired or burnt	probably pre-Flavian
F24	T6	38		AJ DJ RCW	Cam 154/155	73	1973	Fabric DJ estimated 50 sherds and fragments, much of a ring-neck flagon although very fragmented, neck appears very upright and is probably pre-Flavian	Roman 1st century ?Claudio-Neronian

The pottery

The earliest pottery is of Late Iron Age date. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from features in Trench 1 (F15) and Trench 2 (F13, F14). The most significant group of pottery comes from the lower fill of F13 (85 sherds weighing 2,177 g) and includes sherds from Italian and Gaulish imports dating to after c 25 BC. There are sherds in North Gaulish white wares (Fabrics WPW & BPW) as well as a *terra nigra* platter of form Cam 8/14 (Fabric UR(GAB1)) and a sherd from an Arretine platter (Fabric BA(A)). With these were large sherds and groups of joining sherds from vessels in grog-tempered ware (Fabric GTW). The grog-tempered sherds form part profiles of several pots including two or three ripple shouldered vessels of form Cam 229, a cooking pot of form Cam 264B and a probable butt-beaker of form Cam 117. One or two sherds recovered from F13 could possibly date to the Roman period (Fabrics CZ, DJ & GA?), these could be intrusive; however, none of these small sherds are positively identified as post-conquest. Smaller quantities of pottery in Late Iron Age grog-tempered fabrics were recovered from F14 (11 sherds, weighing 245 g) and

F15 (14 sherds, weighing 289 g). The pottery assemblages from the remaining features are all of Roman date.

Pottery that can be dated to the early Roman period was associated with the features in Trench 6 (F23 and F24) and the pottery from these two features is probably pre-Flavian. Otherwise there is only one other feature with pottery which could indicate an early Roman date. This is F3 (Trench 4). The pottery from F3 would indicate 1st-century date. However, only a very small quantity of pottery (four sherds) was recovered from this feature.

All of the remaining features contain sherds of black-burnished ware (Fabrics GA & GB) which date to after *c* AD 120, although late Roman pottery (of late 3rd- to 4th-century date) was only associated with only one feature. The features F16, F19 and F20 (L9) can all be dated to the late 2nd-3rd century, but it should be noted that only a very small quantity of pottery (three sherds) was recovered from F19. The single largest quantity of pottery was recovered from F12 (331 sherds, weighing 4,747 g). The pottery from most of the numbered find bags from F12 can be dated to after the early 2nd century and several contexts contain sherd of oxidised Hadham wares (Fabric CH) which at Colchester begin to appear from the late 3rd century, but are characteristic of the 4th century (CAR 10, p 297).

The near absence of usually common Roman vessel types of the 1st-early 2nd century AD, especially the jar form Cam 266, the bowl form Cam 218 and the beaker form Cam 108, is worthy of comment. Given their usual ubiquity among Roman assemblages of 1st- to early 2nd-century date, and also as residual sherds among later Roman pottery groups, their absence may be indicative of a small sample or otherwise suggests a dearth of pottery relating to the early Roman period on this site. This is reflected in the samian, where the vessel types are either typical of the later 2nd and early 3rd century (Curle 21, Dr 31 and Dr 38), are stamped by potters of the later 2nd century (F12 find 9 & F20 find 25), or are in East Gaulish fabrics and could have been produced into the 3rd century.

Discussion

The primary interest in the pottery from the evaluation is as dating evidence for the site contexts, although there is also an intrinsic interest in relation to previous assemblages recovered from the Sheepen site.

A considerable amount of pottery has been recovered from the Sheepen site. This material represents an important collection of archaeological finds of the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. The main publications relating to this pottery are the report on the excavations during the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947) and the report on the excavation of 1970 (Niblett 1985). The main occupation at Sheepen is dated *c* AD 5-60/61 (Niblett 1985, p 3 & table 1).

The most interesting of the pottery from the evaluation is the Late Iron Age pottery from F13 (Trench 2). This pottery, though only datable to *c* 25 BC-AD 43, probably belongs to Sheepen period 1, dated *c* 5 BC-AD 43 (Niblett 1985, table 1). Despite the large quantity of Late Iron Age pottery previously recovered from the Sheepen site, much is residual in Roman contexts, and contexts which can be assigned to the pre-conquest period are limited (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pp 46-51; Niblett 1985, pp 5 & 48). In this respect the pottery from F13 is important as it appears to represent a pre-conquest group. While one or two small sherds from this feature could possibly be Roman, they are not certainly of post-conquest date, and as small sherds they could be intrusive. Also there is little Late Iron Age pottery residual among the later Roman pottery groups from the other features, and the condition of the pottery from F13 (large sherds with some joining sherd groups) suggests that the pottery is probably not residual in a later (Roman) context. Smaller groups of grog-tempered pottery from features F14 (Trench 2) and F15 (Trench 1) are also probably entirely of Late Iron Age date, and these contexts could also be pre-conquest.

Assuming a Late Iron Age date for F13, F14 and F15, then the main early Roman (pre-Flavian) phase of activity at the site is poorly represented; that is, *c* AD 43-69. Only three features (F3, F23, F24) are probably of this period and two of these (F23 & F24) are from one trench (Trench 6). Of the remaining features, the pottery from three (F16, F19, F20) can be dated to after the late 2nd century and probably to the

late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, while only one feature (F12) contained pottery which is probably 4th century.

That pottery of Roman pre-Flavian date is not well represented is unusual in the immediate area of the Sheepen site, and the absence of the common early Roman vessel forms Cam 266 (jar), Cam 218 (bowl) and Cam 108 (beaker) deserves comment. These forms are usually common among Roman assemblages of 1st- to early 2nd-century date and they were recovered in large numbers from the excavations at Sheepen (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pp 227-81). Also they are often present as residual sherds among groups of later Roman pottery. In respect of this there is perhaps surprisingly little pottery both in terms of fabrics or vessel forms of 1st-century date that is residual in the mid-late Roman features of the evaluation, exceptions being a locally produced copy of *terra nigra* form type (F12 find 27 Fabric UR(LTC)) and a small sherd of South Gaulish samian (F16 find 15 Fabric BA(SG)). The low number of early Roman pre-Flavian contexts may reflect the relatively small sample or a low level of occupation in this particular area in the early Roman period. The absence of common 1st- to early 2nd-century Roman pottery types and a date of the late 2nd century or later for the remaining features suggest little activity in the early-mid Roman period until the later 2nd/early 3rd century. In this respect it is noticeable that the small number of samian vessel forms which are closely datable (Curle 21, Dr 31 and Dr 38) are typical of the later 2nd and early 3rd century and the two samian potters' stamps both date to the later 2nd century.

A full list of the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery can be found in Appendix 2.

7.2 The cremated animal bone

by Julie Curl

(20), F13, T2

There are 2 g of bone, consisting of 11 pieces. All of the bone is cremated and fragmentary. One piece could be identified as probably being a fragment of sheep/goat rib; the other fragments are medium to large mammal pieces, but these could not be positively identified to species.

8 Discussion

8.1 Period-specific discussion

Fifteen features, consisting of two quarry pits, one spread of Roman material and twelve ditches/gullies, were recorded. No features were recorded in the trench in the student car-park.

The evidence from the evaluation indicates that this area was used for quarrying sand and gravel and possibly for settlement in the Late Iron Age. There appears to have been a low level of occupation in the early to mid Roman period, possibly signifying a hiatus in activity until after the late 2nd century when a further quarry pit and other ditches were dug. This is the type of activity that is expected in this area as large quarry pits were identified at the Sheepen site during excavations in the 1930s which had Roman pottery in their backfill.

Two features are of Late Iron Age date (25 BC-AD 43), as shown by the pottery in their fills (F14, F15). They are two fairly narrow ditches which may have formed two sides of a rectangular or square enclosure ditch or, alternatively, they may just intersect. Their purpose is unclear; perhaps they served as property boundaries. The presumed quarry pit F13 was probably dug in the same period (ie pre-conquest), although, to judge by the considerable amount of Roman CBM in the main (upper) fill, it appears to have been left open in the Roman period. Alternatively it may have been dug post-conquest and the Late Iron Age pottery is residual. If these three features are Late Iron Age, they are significant because no definitely pre-conquest features have been previously recorded from Sheepen. The Late Iron Age evidence from the 1930s' and 1970 excavations at the Sheepen site only consisted of residual pottery in later features.

Only three features date from the early Roman period (mid to late 1st century AD); the pottery spread and narrow linear feature in T6 (F23 and F24) and possibly the ditch in T4 (F3). Ditches F16, F19 and F120 in T1 date to the late 2nd or 3rd century AD. The spread of Roman pottery and brick/tile (L9) sealing these features can also be dated to the late 2nd to 3rd century, but its function is unclear. No actual structural features were located within the evaluation trenches, but the large quantity of brick and tile and the presence of *tesserae* indicates that at least one Roman building with a tiled roof and tessellated floors had existed in the vicinity. Only two small pieces of flue tile were retrieved (from F12 and F16). The second quarry pit (F12) dates from the late 3rd or more likely the 4th century AD. This later phase of activity on the site is perhaps best understood in the context of the religious sanctuary which was located to the north, rather than as part of the industrial area to the south-west.

There was no evidence of the Boudican destruction of Colchester from the evaluation. Daub found in some of the features may derive from burnt buildings but could equally be the remains of ovens or kilns. No religious or burial activity was identified.

The shale fragments found in Roman quarry pit F12 in T4 are rare finds and come from two separate items; the thinner piece is from a platter and the thicker piece is either from a table or is an unworked piece. If unworked, the fragment could possibly be evidence for shale working on the site. The location near a water source would be favourable for shale working, and Sheepen is a known industrial site. However, until further shale is found here this interpretation remains tentative.

If T5 is typical of the soil profile in the student car-park, then any archaeological features here are likely to be deeply buried (up to 1.5m) and waterlogged. Waterlogged wood was exposed during an evaluation at the Matalan store site to the south-east (Benfield 1997).

No features spanning the period between the Roman and Victorian eras were recorded. This may be to do with site levelling (see below) but also accords with historic map evidence which shows this area of the town being under agricultural usage.

Three modern features were recorded but modern disturbance to the archaeological remains was minimal. Even though the site of the staff car-park contained college buildings up to at least the 1960s (as seen on modern OS maps), the only remains of modern buildings found was the concrete pile in T4.

8.2 Evidence of site levelling

The height AOD of the student car-park where T5 was located is between 500mm and 750mm lower than the staff car-parking area to the north. The desk-based assessment states the ground-level in this (central southern area) has been significantly reduced by site levelling prior to the construction of the sports pitches in the 1930s and the buildings of Colchester Institute in the 1950s (Chadwick & Dicks 2006, sections 3.2.3 and 3.2.6). The desk-based assessment also says that the northern area appears to follow the natural topography of the river valley slope. However, the results of the evaluation show that the northern (staff car-park) area has been subject to some ground reduction. The absence of any topsoil here and, in some trenches, an absence of subsoil, must indicate that the ground was levelled before it was used as a car-park. As a result the features in the staff car-park were fairly shallow, ie between 250mm and 500mm below ground-level. Equally the results of the evaluation trench dug in the student car-park to the south seem to be somewhat at odds with the desk-based assessment. T5 was dug to 1.45m depth and natural ground was not reached. Neither did an hole augered a further 750mm down reach natural gravels. The water table was reached at 1.4m below ground-level. The trench was dug through loamy layers with very little differentiation between them and few finds. There is a possibility that the layers recorded in T5 were the fill of a large deep pit, but, without widening the trench, this could not be confirmed. The scarcity of artefactual material within the layers makes this explanation unlikely. The layers had the appearance of a gradual accumulation built up over time rather than backfill or dumped deposits. If this area had been subject to site levelling, then a rather different soil profile would be expected.

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11 Glossary

<i>amphora</i>	A large Roman storage jar for transporting wine or olive oil
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum, ie height above sea level
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick, tile and daub
<i>colonia</i>	an urban colony of Roman citizens
context	specific location on an archaeological site, usually a feature or layer
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
<i>imbrex</i>	a Roman roof tile connecting two <i>tegulae</i>
Iron Age	the period preceding the Roman conquest in Britain, c 700 BC to AD 43
modern	period from the mid 19th century to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>oppidum</i>	a Late Iron Age tribal centre defended by earthworks
post-medieval	c AD 1500-1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
<i>tegula</i>	a Roman roof tile
<i>tessera</i>	small cube of clay or stone forming part of a tessellated pavement or mosaic

12 Archive deposition

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Appendices

Appendix 1: site data

Table 3: table of contexts.

Context	Trench	Description	Datable finds	Date
L1	T1, T2, T3, T4	Tarmac, 100mm thick	-	modern
L2	T1, T2, T3, T4, T6	'Type 1' concrete sub-base, 150-250mm thick	-	modern
L3	T3, T4	Sand hogging under the type 1 in some places, 100mm thick	-	modern
L4	T1, T2, T3, T4	Previous car-park surface, 80mm thick, consisting of a black silty loam made up of cinders. Matting placed above . Seals some of the Roman/ Late Iron Age features	-	modern
L5	T3, T4	Subsoil, sealed by L4; mid brown gravelly sandy silt - seals some of the Roman/Late Iron Age features	-	post-Roman
L6	T1, T2, T3, T4, T6	Natural orange sand and gravel	-	Glacial
L7	T5	Turf and dark brown loamy topsoil with CBM fragments, 550mm thick	-	modern
L8	T5	Gravelly clayey grey layer at the base of T5; no artefactual material but does not appear to be natural - starts 1.45m below ground-level	-	?
L9	T1	200mm-thick spread of Roman tile and pottery in a dry medium brown silt, seals F16 and F20	Roman tile, later 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery including samian	Roman - later 2nd-3rd century
L10	T6	Subsoil sealed by L11; medium dark brown sandy silt with abundant gravel	amphora, flagon & vessel glass (F24)	Roman
L11	T6	Topsoil - medium brown sandy silt with infrequent small stones, seals L10	-	post-Roman to modern?
L12	T5	Subsoil - mid brown sandy silt with charcoal and CBM fragments, 450mm thick, sealed by L7 and sealing L13	-	?
L13	T5	Subsoil - wet, dark grey brown silty clay 470mm thick, sealing L8; starts 1m below ground-level - appears to be a gradual accumulation layer	-	?
L14	T6	Rubbly crush - sub-base for pedestrianised area	-	modern
F1	T3	Shallow pit: main fill - mid dark brown sandy silt with a low gravel content plus daub and charcoal flecks; lower fill - lighter brown sandy silt with higher gravel content	-	Roman?
F2	T4	Square rubbish pit - unexcavated	glass, china , Fabric 45m stoneware blacking bottle (CAR 7), brick, iron	Victorian or later
F3	T4	Ditch on a north-south alignment; two fills - possible continuation of F5 to the south	Roman tile, daub and small quantity of pottery in upper fill, one iron nail	Roman - 1st to early 2nd century?
F4	T4	<i>Large pit re-numbered F12</i>		

F5	T3	Ditch on a north-south alignment. Main fill - dark brown sandy silt with frequent rounded stones. Second (eastern) fill - light brown sandy silt with abundant stones - may be an earlier feature cut by F5?	Roman tile and <i>tesserae</i> in main fill; eastern fill - daub	Roman, possibly cutting an earlier feature
F6	T3	Small modern pit seen in section at eastern end of the trench. Filled by mid dark brown sandy silt with medium gravel content	frogged bricks in upper fill	modern
F7	T1	Shallow pit or terminal of a ditch. Filled by medium to dark brown gravelly sandy silt	1 piece of Roman tile on the surface	Roman
F8	T1	Narrow gully, slightly irregular in plan. Filled by medium to dark brown sandy silt with abundant gravel. Sealed by L9. Possibly merges with F19	1 piece of Roman tile or brick	Roman
F9		no F9		
F10	T4	Concrete pile drilled through F12 and sealed by modern car-park surfaces	-	modern
F11	T4	<i>Large pit re-numbered F12</i>		
F12	T4	Large pit 1.1m deep, with several different fills; brown sandy silt with varying hues and stone content. Roman brick and tile common in all but the lower fills. Western extent of F12 not ascertained. Very small amount of animal bone, a few charcoal pieces.	frequent Roman tile, brick, and pottery. Shale platter fragments. Some daub, glass, <i>tesserae</i> and nine iron nails	later Roman - the pottery is all after the early 2nd century with some late 3rd- to 4th-century sherds
F13	T2	Large pit more than 1.25m deep. Main fill is medium brown sandy silt (fill a). Pocket of sand (Fill b) and clay (fill d). Fill c on the southern edge is very charcoally and contains animal bone, cremated bone, ?burnt flint and pottery and rare tile. Fill at the base (fill e) is at the water table and very wet - contains animal bone and pottery and one piece of sandstone. Northern extent and depth of feature not ascertained	Roman tile mainly in upper fills; early Roman and Late Iron Age pottery in fills c and e	Late Iron Age or post-conquest
F14	T2	Ditch on a SE-NW alignment. Filled by dark brown sandy silt with pieces of charcoal and flecks of daub. 1 piece of cobble stone. May connect up with F15	Late Iron Age or very early Roman pottery, no tile	Late Iron Age
F15	T1	Ditch on a NE to SW alignment filled by dark brown sandy silt with a small amount of pottery	Late Iron Age pottery, no tile	Late Iron Age
F16	T1	Ditch on an east-west alignment or a pit, sealed by L9. Upper fill - mid brown sandy silt merging into L9 above. Lower fill - slightly lighter brown sandy silt with abundant gravel. Cuts F21. All the finds were from the top 200mm (L9)	late 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery; several pieces of roof tile, one small piece of flue tile and some daub; one iron nail	Roman - late 2nd to 3rd century
F17	T4	<i>Large pit re-numbered F12</i>		
F18	T4	<i>Large pit re-numbered F12</i>		
F19	T1	Irregular ditch, parallel to F8. Merges with F8 to the north. Relationship to F8 undetermined. Filled by mid brown sandy silt and some charcoal flecks and CBM fragments	early 2nd century to 4th century pottery	Roman - late 2nd to 3rd century

F20	T1	Ditch roughly north-south aligned. May be a continuation of F19 but not determined. Sealed by L9. All finds from upper 200mm (L9)	roof tile and late 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery including samian	Roman - late 2nd to 3rd century
F21	T1	A small gully only the base remaining, just perceptible at the bottom of F16 - cut away by F16. Possible continuation of F8 but undetermined	-	Roman or earlier?
F22	T4	Dark brown subsoil layer sealing F12 - same as L5	-	post -Roman
F23	T6	Narrow north-south aligned ditch filled by medium brown sandy silt with abundant small stones and pea grit	2 Roman pottery sherds and no tile	1st century
F24	T6	Spread/dump of Roman pottery within L10 - no signs of a cut	amphora and flagon sherds, one piece vessel glass, some tile	pottery is 1st century, pre-Flavian? but the glass is late 1st century to 2nd century

Appendix 2: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery table

by S Benfield

Table 4: the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric by numbered find bag for each context.

note: initial allocation of feature and layer numbers in brackets (LIA = Late Iron Age).

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T1	25	(F20)	L9		BA(CG)	Dr 33	6	79	0.55	find from above feature F20 potter's stamp CARVSSA , the potter Carussa of Lezoux	c AD 155-185
T1	26	(F20)	L9		BA(EG)		1	8	0.00		early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
T1	26	(F20)	L9		AJ		1	31	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T1	26	(F20)	L9		HZ		1	175	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T1	26	(F20)	L9		GX	Cam 268 Cam 277?	27	250	0.25		Roman, early-mid 2nd century+
T1	26	(F20)	L9		TZ	Cam 504/505	3	182	0.15	Cam 504/505 variant, flat topped bead under-cut bead rim, CAR 10 Fabric TZ form 110	later 2nd-3rd century

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T1	26	(F20)	L9		GA	Cam 304	10	83	0.15		late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th
T4	3	F3		upper fill	DJ		1	8	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	12	F3		upper fill	DJ		1	5	0.00		
T4	12	F3		upper fill	FJ		1	10	0.00		
T4	12	F3		upper fill	RCW		1	15	0.00	black surfaced with some grog	
	13	F12 (F4)			RCW		1	14	0.00		1st-early 2nd century
T4	1	F12		surface	DZ		2	9	0.00		Roman
T4	1	F12		surface	GX		4	23	0.05		Roman
T4	1	F12		surface	GB?		1	4	0.00	small sherd possibly Fabric GB	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd?
T4	4	F12			BA(CG)		1	6	0.00	abraded	2nd century
T4	4	F12			GB	Cam 37	2	17	0.05	rim	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T4	4	F12			GX		5	26	0.00		Roman
T4	4	F12			DJ		1	2	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	5	F12			AJ		1	14	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T4	5	F12			GX		1	35	0.00		Roman
T4	5	F12			HZ(GT)		1	47	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T4	6	F12		spoil	GX	?Cam 270B	4	63	0.03		Roman
T4	6	F12		spoil	DJ		2	5	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	6	F12		spoil	GB		1	35	0.00	base of bowl or dish	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T4	09	F12			BA(EG)	Dr 33	3	111	0.20	potter's stamp MICCIO.F. , stamp of the potter Miccio from Sinzig	mid-late 2nd century
T4	09	F12			BA(CG)	Dr 31 Dr 33	4	70	0.30		mid-late 2nd century
T4	09	F12			BA(EG)	Dr 38	4	23	0.03		mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd
T4	09	F12			CB		1	4	0.00		early 2nd-mid 3rd century
T4	09	F12			CH		3	31	0.00		late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T4	09	F12			CH?		1	8	0.05	Hadham? lid	late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
T4	09	F12			AJ		6	635	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T4	09	F12			HZ(GT)		2	44	0.00	thick, patchy, white calcareous deposit on inside of vessel	LIA-early Roman
T4	09	F12			HZ	Cam 273	3	247	0.15	sherds from 2 pots	1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	09	F12			DJ		3	15	0.00	3 medium-thin sherds in white fabric, abraded, possibly Nene Valley (Fabric EA)	1st-2nd century, but possibly mid 3rd-4th century
T4	09	F12			DJ		2	19	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	09	F12			GA	Cam 279	1	11	0.00	sherds from a jar	early 2nd-4th century
T4	09	F12			GB	Cam 37A Cam 40A Cam 40B	15	235	0.50	one sherd (Cam 40A) burnt	early 2nd-3rd century ?early 2nd-early 3rd century
T4	09	F12			WA	Cam 40B	1	23	0.10		2nd-3rd/?early 4th century
T4	09	F12			GX	Cam 268	61	732	1.00	includes unusual bowl with vertical wipe or smoothing marks	mid 2nd century+
T4	9	F12			BA(CG)	Dr 33	2	9	0.00		2nd century
T4	9	F12			BA(EG)		3	3	0.05		2nd-earlier 3rd century
T4	9	F12			CB	Cam 396?	6	12	0.05		early-late 2nd century
T4	9	F12			GB	Cam 37B? Cam 40B	6	120	0.15		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, ?late 2nd-3rd century
T4	9	F12			GA		3	12	0.00		early 2nd-4th century
T4	9	F12			DJ		5	15	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	9	F12			GX		60	332	0.10		Roman

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T4	9	F12			WC		1	4	0.00		Roman
T4	10	F12			AJ		1	84	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T4	10	F12			HZ		2	29	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	10	F12			GB		1	5	0.00	base of bowl or dish	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T4	11	F12			HZ		1	163	0.00	base sherd	1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	11	F12			BA(EG)	Dr 33?	1	12	0.05		early-mid 2nd to earlier 3rd century
T4	11	F12			CH		1	4	0.00		late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
T4	11	F12			GA	Cam 39	2	28	0.05		early 2nd-4th century
T4	11	F12			GB		1	17	0.00	bowl or dish base	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T4	11	F12			HZ		1	61	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	11	F12			GX		1	2	0.00		Roman
T4	21	F12			GB	cam 37B	7	148	0.05		late 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T4	21	F12			CZ		2	5	0.05	orange-brown fabric with traces of former red slip	Roman
T4	21	F12			GTW?		1	9	0.00	soft thick sherd with little visible temper	LIA?/Roman
T4	21	F12			GX	Cam 268 (2)	15	209	0.40		early-mid 2nd century+
T4	21	F12			HZ		1	56	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	22	F12		mid fill	GB		1	9	0.00	chamfered bowl	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T4	22	F12		mid fill	DJ		1	7	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	22	F12		mid fill	CZ		1	3	0.00	probably from a folded beaker	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T4	23	F12		upper fill	AA		2	50	0.00		probably 1st-earlier 2nd century
T4	23	F12		upper fill	DJ		7	13	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T4	23	F12		upper fill	GX		6	33	0.00	possibly early Roman, 3 sherds burnt red	Roman ?1st century
T4	23	F12		upper fill							
T4	27	F12			UR (LTC)		2	10	0.00		pre-Flavian
T4	27	F12			HZ(GT)		1	78	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T4	27	F12			AA		1	21	0.00		Roman, probably 1st-early 2nd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	BA(CG)		1	3	0.00		2nd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	AJ		1	70	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	GA	Cam 305A	1	34	0.10		mid 3rd-4th century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	GB		3	67	0.00	base of bowl or dish	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	HZ(GT)		1	29	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	DJ		3	16	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	GP?	Cam 122/123	1	5	0.00	sherd in coarse fabric (Fabric GX) but possibly burnt	late 1st-2nd century
T4	28	F12		mid fill	GX		16	96	0.05		Roman
T4	29	F12		upper fill	HZ	Cam 270A?	1	36	0.00		1st-2nd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	GTW		1	18	0.00		LIA
T4	29	F12		upper fill	GX		1	5	0.00		Roman
T4	29	F12		upper fill	CZ	Cam 392	1	3	0.05		mid-late 2nd-mid 3rd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	DJ		3	40	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	AA		2	48	0.00		probably 1st-earlier 2nd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	AA?		5	35	0.00	thick red-brown fabric, possibly Fabric DJ	1st-2nd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	TZ	Cam 496/497	2	76	0.05	variant Cam 496/497	mid 2nd-mid 3rd century
T4	29	F12		upper fill	GB		8	128	0.00	base of bowl or dish	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T2	17	F13		main fill	HZ(GT)	270/271	2	105	0.03		LIA/early Roman

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T2	18	F13		lower fill	GA?	Cam 279A/B?	1	10	0.00	sherds probably Fabric GA with an open lattice pattern of 2nd-early 3rd century date	probably early 2nd to early-early 3rd century
T2	18	F13		lower fill	GX		3	32	0.00		Roman
T2	18	F13		lower fill	GTW		2	63	0.00	one sherd all or partly handmade in a sandy fabric with some grog	LIA
T2	18	F13		lower fill	DJ		2	7	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	18	F13		lower fill	WPW?		1	20	0.00		pre-Flavian
T2	18	F13		lower fill	DJ		1	8	0.00	possibly imported but possibly just local Fabric DJ	?pre-Flavian
T2	19	F13		lower fill	BA(A)		1	19	0.00	sherd from the central area of a rouletted platter, footring broken away, not slipped within area enclosed by the footring where there is only a smudge of slip, probably from a finger tip. An Arretine dish from close by at St Helena School (trench 2, F2 find 8) had similarly not been slipped on its lower surfaces (CAT Report 351)	LIA, late 1st century BC to early-mid 1st century AD
T2	19	F13		lower fill	AA (CAM1)		1	202	0.00	handle	LIA-early Roman
T2	19	F13		lower fill	UR(GAB 1)	Cam 8/14	1	19	0.20		pre-Flavian, probably LIA
T2	19	F13		lower fill	GTW	Cam 117 Cam 229 Cam 264B	32	688	0.75	sherds from several pots, all grog-tempered, joining sherd on some pots, do not appear to be residual	LIA
T2	19	F13		lower fill	HZ(GT)	Cam 270A	2	78	0.00	one sherd probably	LIA-early Roman

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
										from a Cam 270A other sherd also combed	
T2	19	F13		lower fill	HZ		1	11	0.00	sherd in organic tempered grey ware, possibly Fabric GX	Roman 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	19	F13		lower fill	CZ?		1	6	0.00	abraded sherd, does not appear to be usual Colchester fabric	Roman
T2	16	F14		mid-upper fill	GTW		5	106	0.00	sherds from 3-4 pots	LIA
T2	16	F14		mid-upper fill	HZ(GT)		5	135	0.00	oxidised sherds	probably LIA
T2	16	F14		mid-upper fill	GTW		1	4	0.00	sherds from a butt-beaker in fine red-brown oxidised ware with fine grog	LIA
T1	14	F15			HZ(GT)		4	163	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T1	14	F15			GTW		10	126	0.03	sherds from several pots including sherd from bowl with footring	LIA
T1	15	F16		upper fill	BA(SG)	Dr 15/17	2	4	0.00		mid-late 1st century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	AA		1	39	0.00		probably 1st-mid 2nd century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	TZ		1	11	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	DJ		2	18	0.00	1 sherd possibly Fabric TZ/TY	1st-2nd/3rd century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	FJ?		1	5	0.00	possibly Fabric FJ	1st-mid 2nd century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	HZ(GT)		1	23	0.00		LIA/early Roman
T1	15	F16		upper fill	GB	Cam 37B	1	36	0.10		late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T1	15	F16		upper fill	GTW		1	4	0.00		LIA-early Roman
T1	15	F16		upper fill	GX	Cam 306 (2) Cam 307	12	180	0.25	sherds include an indented beaker	late 2nd/early 3rd-late 3rd/4th century
T1	30	F19 (Sx 1)			GA	Cam 304	3	42	0.00		late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill loc-ation	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/ description	date
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	CZ	Cam 392	21	103	0.15	sherds from 3 pots, most from Cam 392 beaker	mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	BA (CG?)	Dr 33 Curle 21	2	17	0.02		later 2nd century
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	GB	Cam 40B	1	7	0.05		early 2nd-mid-late 3rd
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	AA		1	36	0.00		Roman probably 1st to early-mid 2nd century
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	TZ		1	43	0.03	abraded flange	1st-2nd century
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	HZ		1	28	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T1	24	F20	L9	upper fill	WC		2	32	0.00	sherds from a bowl? in pale sandy grey fabric with dark surfaces	Roman
T1	24	F20	09	upper fill	GX	Cam 268	57	711	0.20	sherds from several pots	Roman, early-mid 2nd century+
T1	24	F20	09	upper fill	AJ		3	147	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T6	35	F23			AJ		1	12	0.00		1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T6	35	F23			DJ		1	5	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century
T6	35	F23			RCW		1	2	0.00		Roman, probably 1st century
T6	37	F24			UR (LTC)		1	20	0.00	flat interior of a platter? with poorly made small footing, unusual fabric similar to some local medieval coarse wares, possibly over-fired or burnt	probably pre-Flavian
T6	37	F24			GTW		2	17	0.15	inward sloping lid seated rim from a bowl or jar and one other sherd	LIA
T6	37	F24			DJ		9	33	0.00	sherds from a flagon	1st-2nd century
T6	37	F24			GX		1	14	0.00		Roman
T6	38	F24			AJ		20	1733	0.00		1st-2nd/3rd century

Trench	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T6	38	F24			DJ	Cam 154/155	50	226	0.10	estimated sherds and fragments, much of a ring-neck flagon although very fragmented, neck appears very upright and is probably pre-Flavian	Claudio-Neronian
T6	38	F24			RCW		3	14	0.00		1st century

Appendix 3: small finds and bulk ironwork list

by Nina Crummy

SF 1. (9) F12. Sherd, in four fitting fragments, from a large circular shale platter with rounded footring. The diameter of the footring is about 260 mm and it lies at the edge of the sherd, suggesting that the complete form was close to that of a large platter from Silchester, on which the footring lay at the outer edge of the base close to the junction with a low rounded wall (Lawson 1976, fig. 8, 79-80).

SF 2. (21) F12. Two sherds (each in two pieces) from a flat shale object, probably a table top, but also possibly debris from shale-working. Maximum dimensions 66 by 63 mm, and 44 by 38 mm. Fresh breaks on each sherd suggest that they were originally joined but that the damage caused sufficient abrasion to prevent a close fit now. One sherd is thinner than the other, but delamination has removed one of its original surfaces and also increased the thickness of the other sherd. The thinnest areas on each sherd are 11 to 15 mm respectively, while the thickest delaminated area is 20 mm. As trays are generally about 10 mm thick, and table tops 17 mm, the latter identification is most likely (Lawson 1976, 263, 268; CAR 2, 69).

(12) F3. Iron nail shank fragment, length 26 mm.

(13) F12. Two iron nails, lengths 77 mm and 19 mm; the shorter one may be a stud, but the shank is incomplete and its full length is unknown.

(9) F12, bag 1. Iron nail, length 68 mm.

(9) F12, bag 2. Iron nail, tip missing, length 38 mm.

(15) F16. Iron shank fragment, length 73 mm.

(29) F12. Three iron nails, all with most of the shank missing, and one shank fragment. Lengths 34, 28, 27, and 27 mm.

(28) F12. Two iron nails, one with the tip bent upwards at a sharp angle to the shank. Lengths 56 and 78 (bent) mm.

(9) F12. Colourless glass; base fragment from a cup with small circular trail as CAR 8, fig. 5.12, 521, dating to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century. 35 by 26 mm, 3 mm thick, 5 mm at moulding.

(24) L9/F20. Yellow-brown glass; body fragment. 23 x 17 mm, 1 mm thick.

(37) F24. Green glass; body fragment with raised rib and parallel slightly thickened area; probably from a large bowl or jar of late 1st or 2nd century date. 28 x 18 mm, 3.5 mm thick.

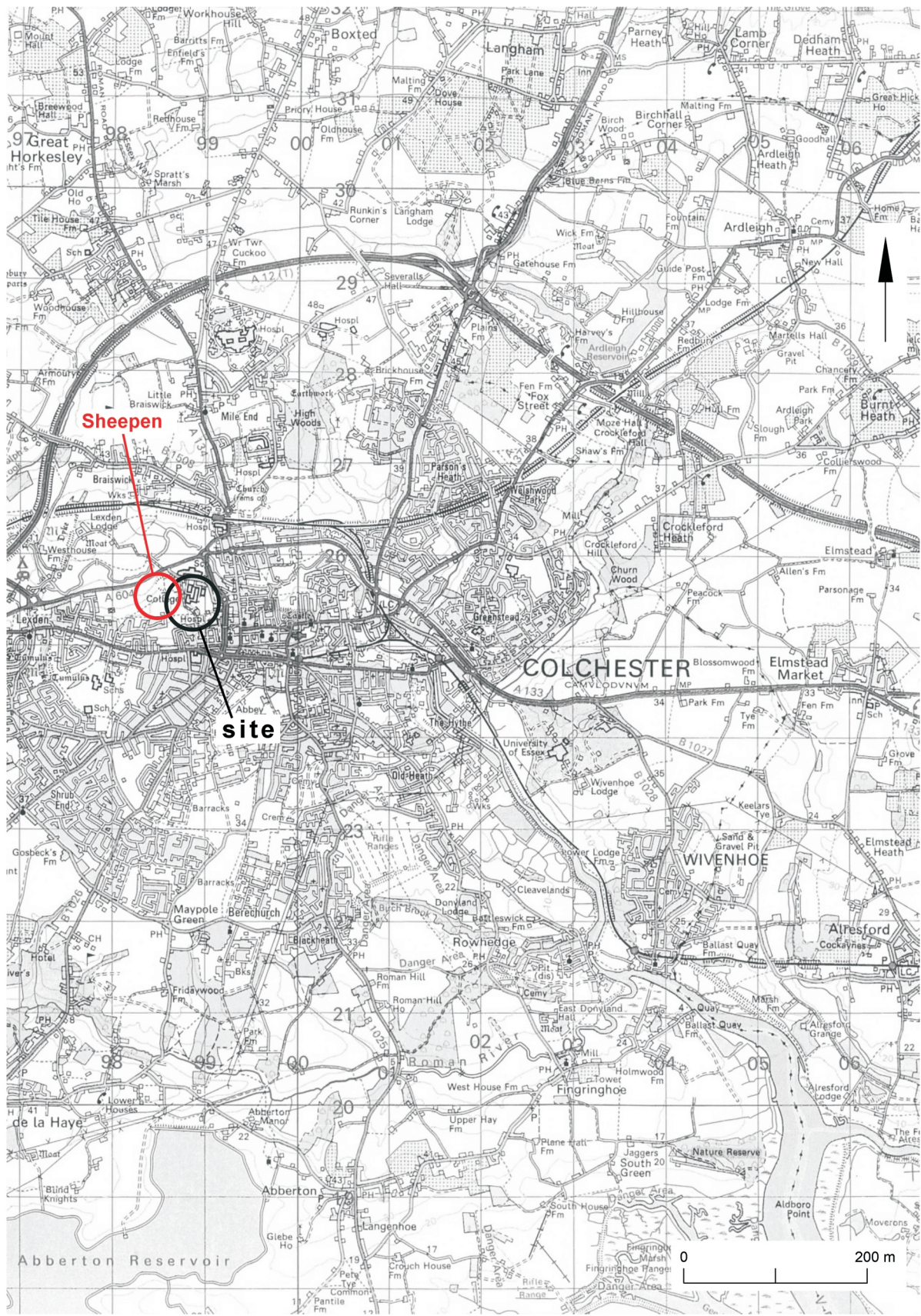
(37) F24. Yellow glass; body fragment from tubular vessel with the inner part of a rounded or everted rim; probably from a narrow-necked jug or flask. 39 x 20 mm, 2.5 mm thick.

(28) F12. Fragment of blue-green window glass with one edge broken in antiquity and the three recently broken. 47 by 41 mm, 4.5 mm thick.

Appendix 4: table of Roman ceramic building material

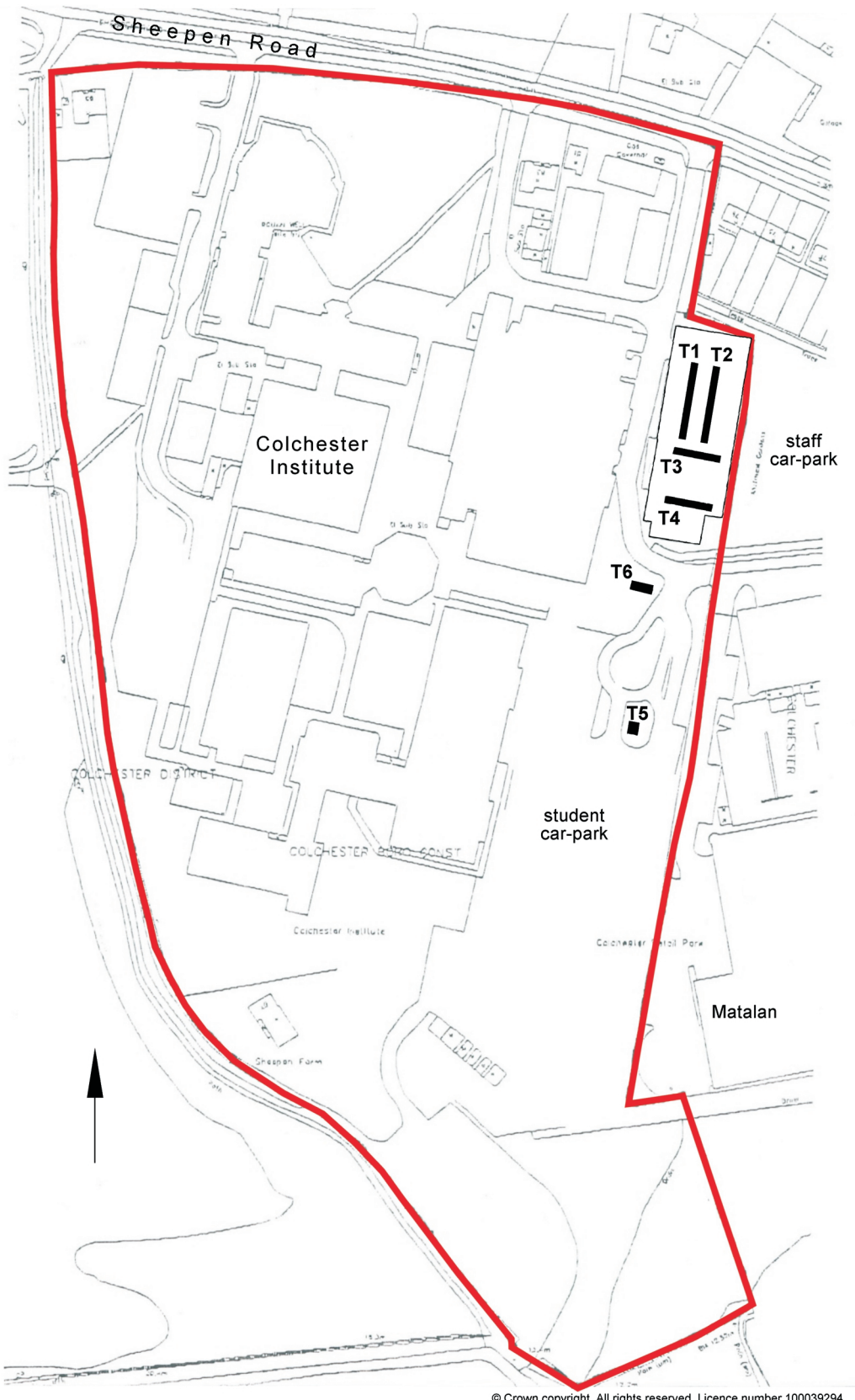
Table 5: Roman ceramic building material.

Find no	Feature or Layer no	Description	Weight (g)
12	F3 upper fill	Brick and tile, one piece of daub	86
3	F3 upper fill	Roman brick and tile	2,181
7	F5 main fill	2 pieces of tile and one <i>tessera</i>	143
31	F7 surface	1 Roman tile	205
32	F8	Brick or thick tile	662
13	F12 upper fill	Irregular chunks of tile, also some daub	157
21	F12 upper and middle fill	Tile, mainly roof tile plus brick	1,892
2	F12 upper fill	Tile including roof tile	412
9	F12 upper fill	Small fragments of tile/brick	9
10	F12 upper fill	6 <i>tesserae</i>	127
10	F12 upper fill	Roof tile and brick	12,000
11	F12 upper fill	Roof tile	3,000
11	F12 upper fill	2 <i>tesserae</i>	32
5	F12, surface	Mainly roof tile, 1 piece of brick	2,288
6	Spoil heap but probably from upper fill of F12	Tile, mainly roof tile plus one <i>tessera</i>	1,528
23	F12 upper + middle fill	Daub	292
23	F12 upper fill	Tile	207
29	F12 upper fill	5 <i>tesserae</i>	131
29	F12 upper fill	Small pieces of tile	388
23	F12 upper fill	1 piece of daub	154
28	F12 lower fill	Brick and roof tile	1298
22	F12 middle and lower fill	1 piece of brick/tile. 2 pieces of roof tile	242
17	F13 main fill	Brick and tile	830
19	F13 lower fill	Daub	134
18	F13 lower fill	1 large <i>tegula</i> plus smaller pieces of brick and tile	640
15	F16 upper fill	Several pieces of roof tile, one small piece of flue tile and some daub	712
30	F19, Sx 1	Roof tile	193
37	F24	1 piece of tile/ brick	47
26	L9	Roof tile	481
26	L9	1 <i>tessera</i>	16
24	L9/F20	4 pieces of roof tile	482
24	L9/F20	Roof tile	117
34	L11	1 piece of roof tile	42



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Plan of site, showing trench locations.
(Not to scale.)

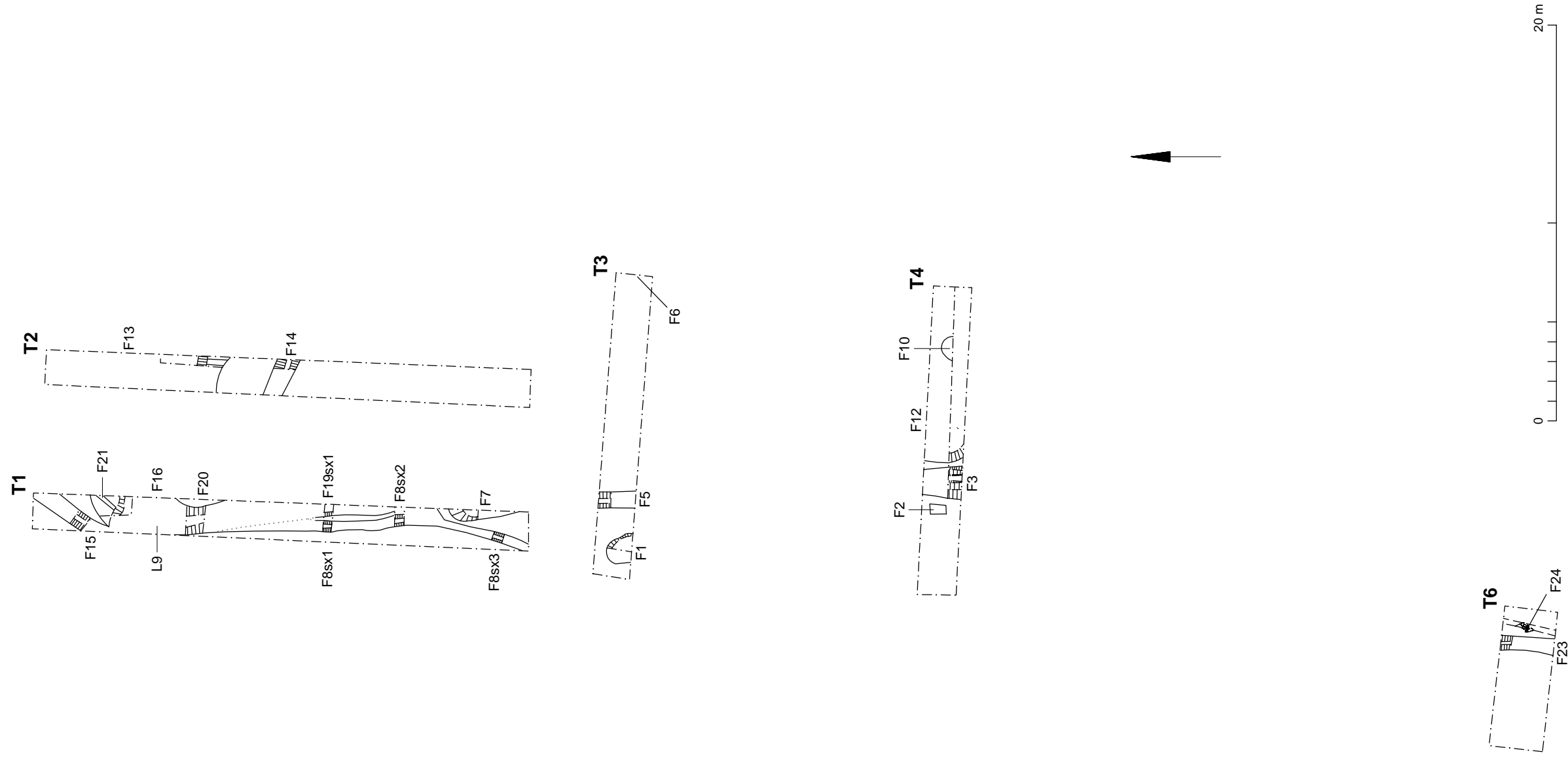
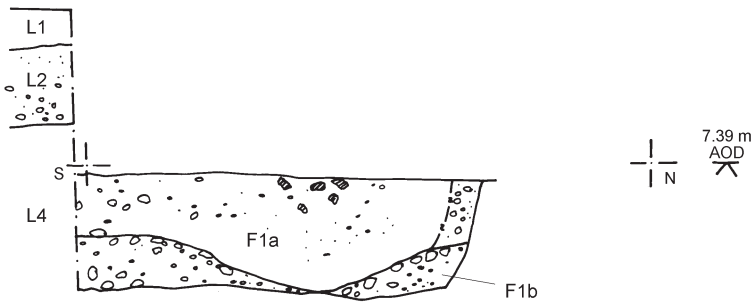
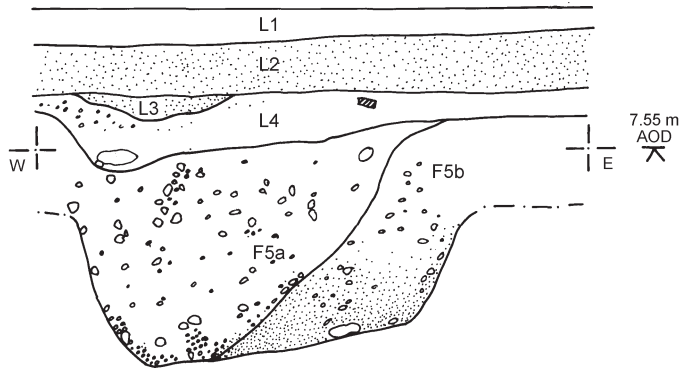


Fig 3 Plan of trenches.

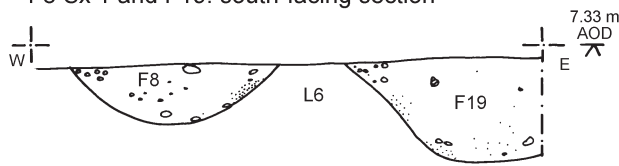
F1: east-facing section



F5: south-facing section



F8 Sx 1 and F19: south-facing section



F8 Sx 3: north-east - facing section

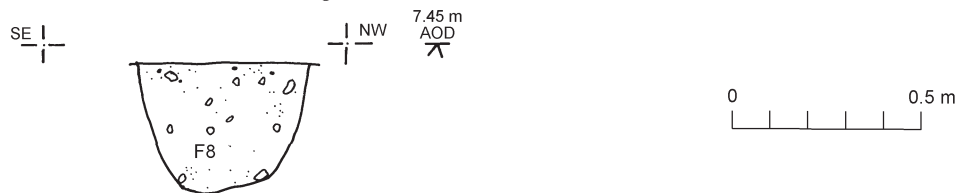


Fig 4 Sections of F1, F5, F8 and F19.

north-facing section

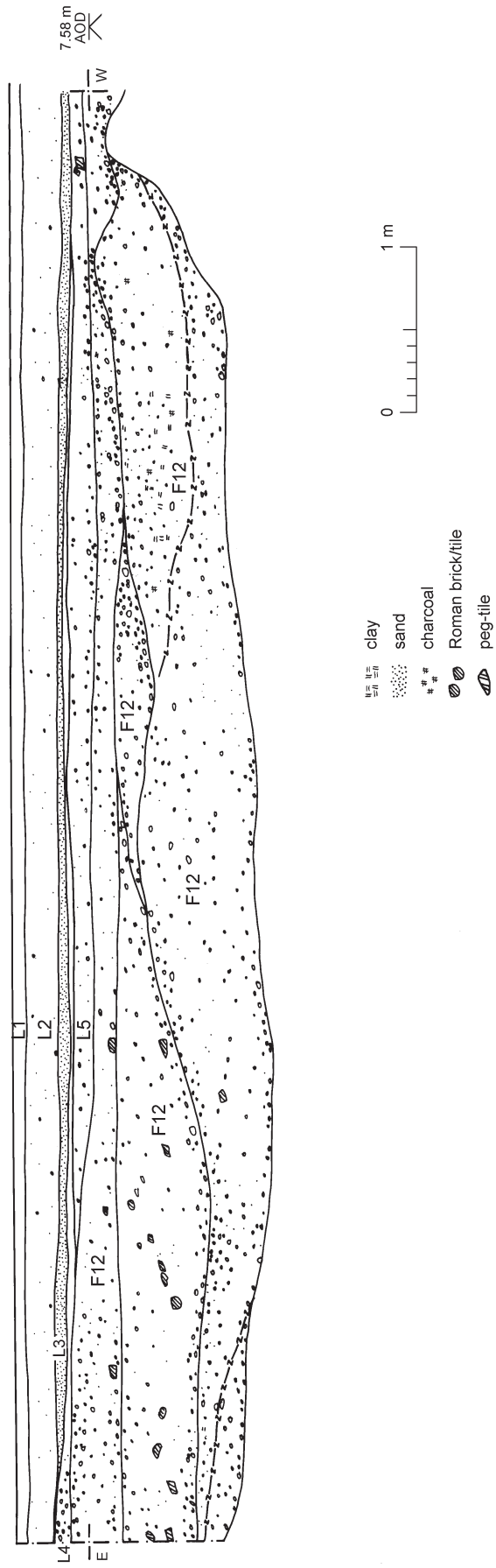
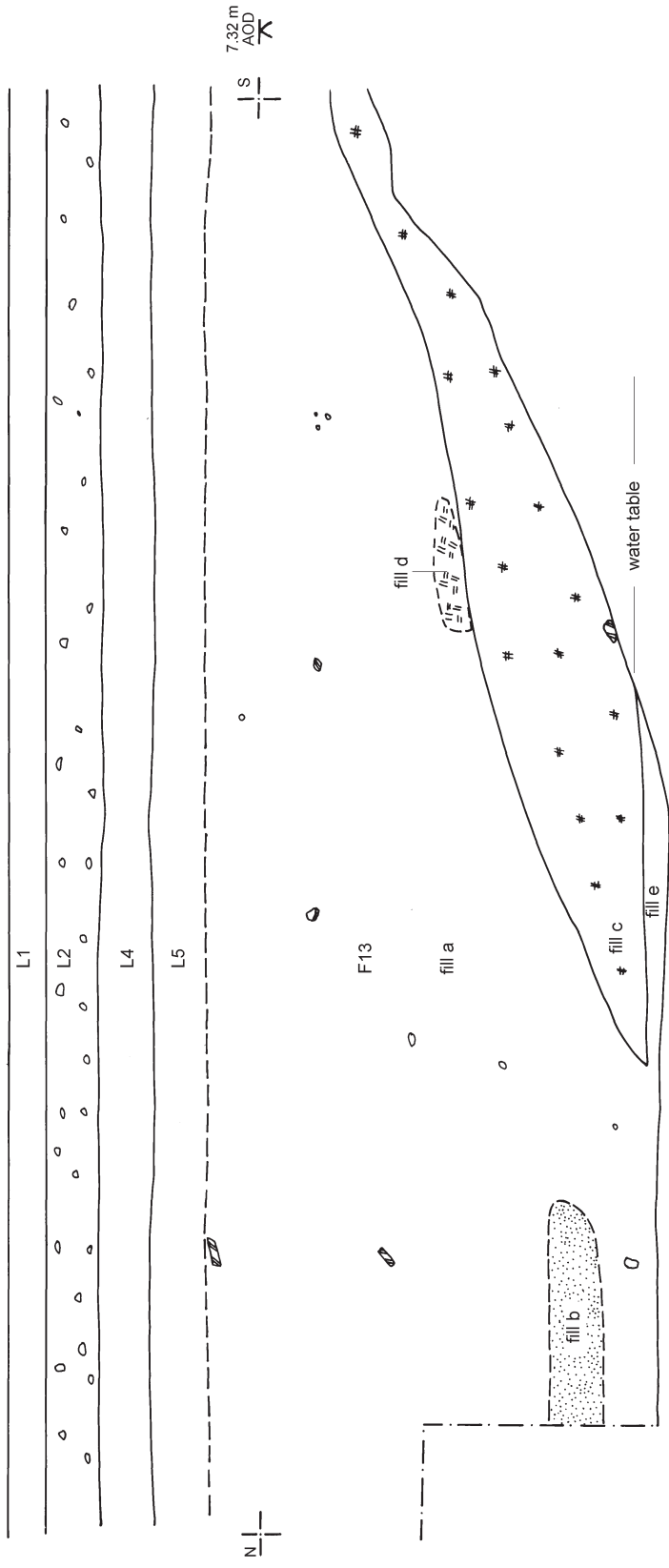


Fig 5 Section of F12.

F13: west-facing section



F14: west-facing section

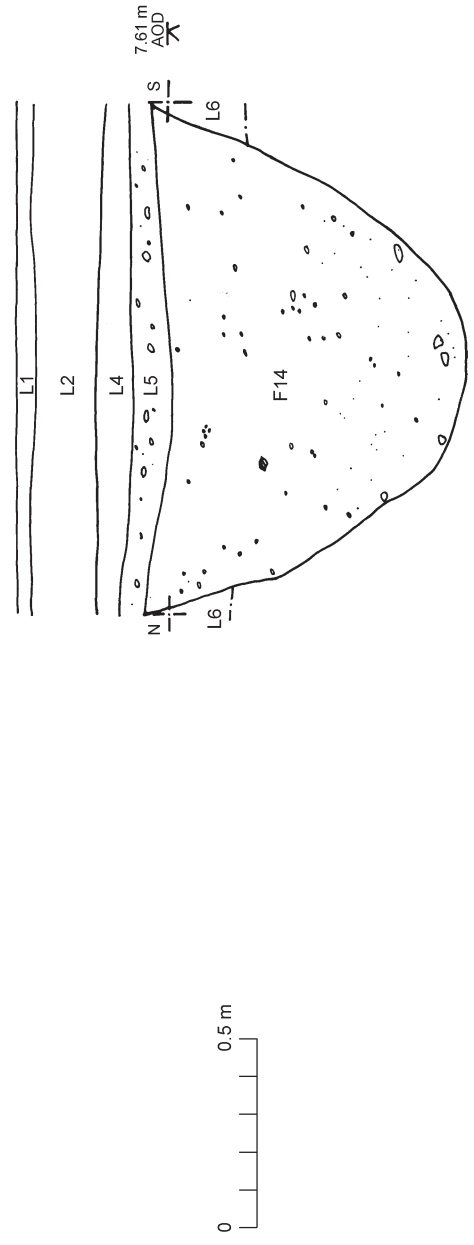
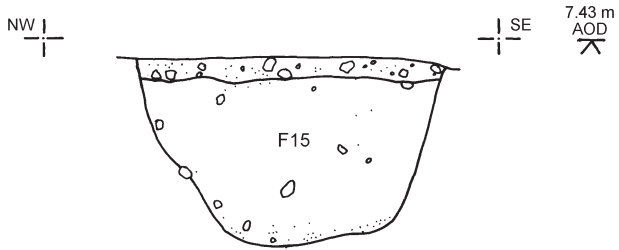
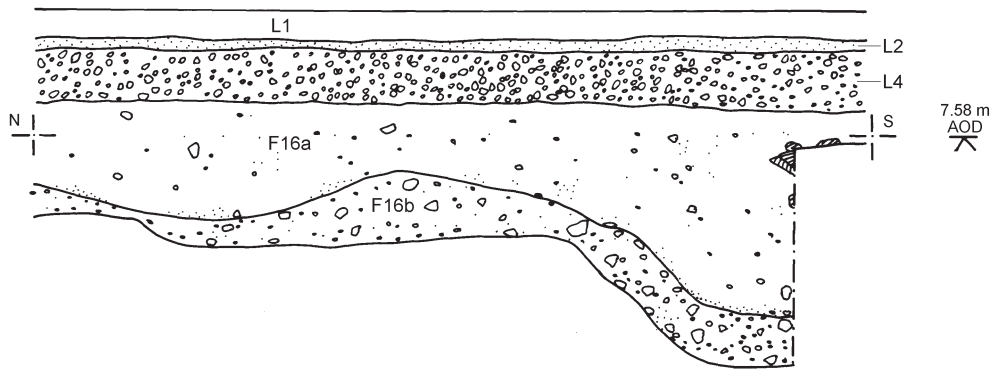


Fig 6 Sections of F13 and F14.

F15: south-west - facing section



F16: west-facing section



F20: north-facing section

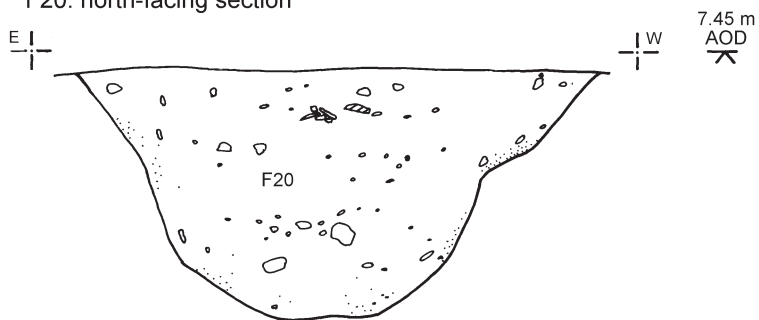
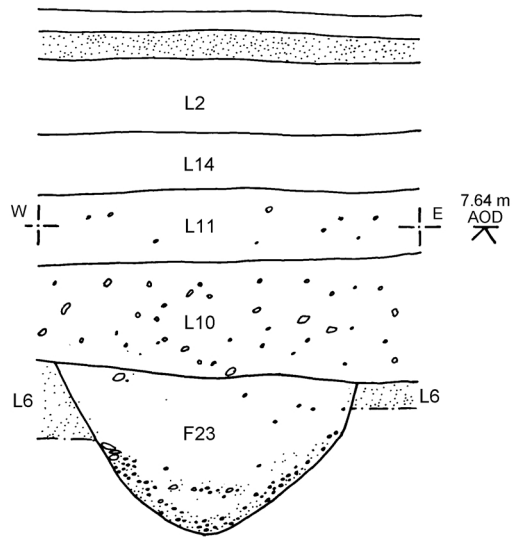
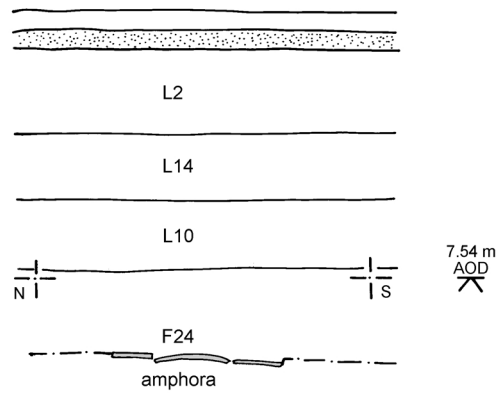


Fig 7 Sections of F15, F16 and F20.

F23: south-facing section



F24: west-facing section



F24: plan

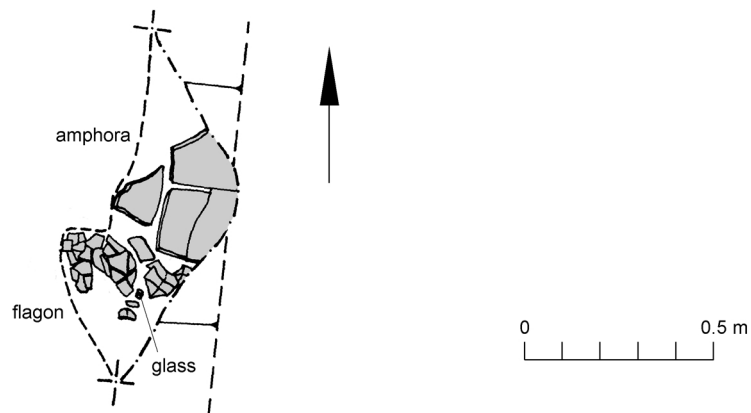


Fig 8 Sections of F23 and F24, and plan of F24.

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

Summary sheet

Site address: the staff and student car-parks, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 989 256	Site code: Museum accession code 2006.36
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: April 2006	Size of area investigated: 6 trenches equating to 193 sq metres
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Colchester Institute
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER/UAD nos:
Final report: CAT Report 368 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Late Iron Age and Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Six evaluation trenches were excavated at the staff and student car-parks at Colchester Institute in April 2006. The evaluation produced evidence on the site from the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Fifteen cut features, principally quarry pits and ditches dating from the Late Iron Age to the 1st century and the later Roman period, were identified. A spread of Roman pottery and building material indicate the site of a Roman building nearby, although no structural features were present. Some of the features were within the date range of the pre-conquest phase of the Sheepen site (c AD 5-43) and could be considered to be part of the pre-Roman site. These are significant because no definitely pre-conquest features have previously been recorded from the Sheepen site. Although no waterlogged features were identified, the depth of deposits and the water table in the student car-park trench suggest that waterlogged remains may be preserved. Three modern features were recorded, but modern disturbance to the archaeological remains was minimal.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 103, 131 and 259	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: May 2006