

**Roman houses and streets
in Insulas 31/32 of Roman Colchester:
excavations in advance of the
construction of the Visual Arts Facility,
East Hill, Colchester, Essex
November 2006-December 2007 and June 2008**



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**on behalf of
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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	2
4	Results	3
5	Finds	12
5.1	The small finds, bulk ironwork, fired clay and slag <i>by Nina Crummy</i>	12
5.2	The Roman pottery <i>by S Benfield</i>	16
5.3	The medieval and later pottery <i>by Howard Brooks</i>	29
5.4	The clay tobacco-pipe <i>by Nina Crummy</i>	35
5.5	The floor tile <i>by Howard Brooks</i>	39
5.6	The glass <i>by Howard Brooks</i>	39
5.7	The <i>tesserae</i> <i>by Howard Brooks</i>	41
5.8	The flints <i>by Adam Wightman</i>	42
5.9	The faunal remains <i>by Julie Curl (NAU Archaeology)</i>	43
5.10	Other finds <i>by Howard Brooks</i>	46
6	Discussion and conclusions	46
7	Archive deposition	48
8	Acknowledgements	48
9	References	48
10	Glossary and abbreviations	50
11	Context list	51

Figures after p 56

List of plates

Plate 1	TPB1 in the grounds of East Hill House (St James' Church behind), view north-east.	front cover
Plate 2	Decorated samian ware sherd from Trench E (L74).	28

List of figures

Fig 1	Insulas 31/32 and Insulas 39/40, showing location of 2006-2008 work (TA-TF), and previous work of 1955, 1958, 1983-84, and 2003.
Fig 2	TA, TB and TE: plan, with ground-plan of Building 215 (Roman ?town-house).
Fig 3	TP6 and TP11: plan (inset to Fig 2).
Fig 4	TP1: south-facing section.
Fig 5	TP1, TP9, and trench between TP6 and TP11: sections.
Fig 6	TPB1, TPB2, TPC1, TPC2: plans.
Fig 7	TPB1, TPB2, TPC1, TPC2: sections.
Fig 8	TB, TE and TF: plan showing post-medieval cess-pits, and robbed-out walls and floors of Building 215 (inset to Fig 2).
Fig 9	TB: sections across robbed Roman wall foundation and floor, post-medieval cess-pit and medieval robber trench.
Fig 10	TC, TD and TPC1, TPC2: plan.
Fig 11	TE, TF: sections of wall foundation, robber trenches, cess-pit and post-hole.

1 Summary

The site lies in Insulas 31/32 of the Roman town. In advance of the installation of services to the new Visual Arts Facility in the grounds of East Hill House and on the site of the former bus station, test-pitting and a combination of machine-dug and hand-dug trenches revealed parts of a Roman building, presumably a town-house. The metalled street on the southern side of Insulas 31/32 was exposed in three places, and thus we were able to plot the line of the street more accurately, ie its eastern end is now approximately 3m to the north of the earlier projection. In this new position, medieval Bastion 1 on the external face of the Roman town wall now aligns precisely with the northern side of the Roman street. An interesting group of finds was 1.07 kg of unused Roman stone tesserae. These were found in a redeposited layer of Roman debris sandwiched between post-medieval topsoil layers, where they were presumably dumped during modern landscaping. These may indicate the presence of a workshop which produced or stored tessera for use in mosaic floors.

Interpretation of some of the later strata on the site is complicated by the fact that there has been much movement of soil here, mainly due to landscaping associated with the grounds of East Hill House. After the Roman period, there is no evidence of any activity until the 13th century, when fragments of pottery may be associated with the medieval robbing of the Roman buildings. Finds of 15th- to 16th-century pottery may be associated with houses to the north which fronted onto the southern side of East Hill. Three clay tobacco-pipe 'wasters' indicate that a clay tobacco-pipe maker was at work nearby in the later 17th century. The kiln site could have been on the open ground south of the East Hill frontage, and the maker was presumably resident or tenant of one of the East Hill houses which were subsequently demolished for the construction of East Hill House in the mid 18th century.

Later finds - both cut features and loose finds in soil layers - are associated with East Hill House. Of particular interest is a group of cess-pits in which sewage from East Hill House was disposed of until the later 19th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report describes the archaeological work carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Colchester Borough Council (CBC) prior to the laying of cables and other services connecting to the Visual Arts Facility (VAF) which is currently under construction in the grounds of East Hill House (EHH) and on the site of the former bus station, off East Hill, Colchester, Essex.

The work was carried out in a number of stages, as follows.

- (1) in November and December 2006, twelve test-pits (TP1-TP12) were dug along the eastern side of the grounds of East Hill House, close to the western boundary wall of St James' Church.
- (2) from December 2006 to March 2007, these test-pits were connected by Trench A, which was dug mechanically under archaeological supervision.
- (3) in May 2007, four new test-pits (TPB1-TPB2 and TPC1-TPC2) were dug in an approximately east to west line through the East Hill House grounds.
- (4) from October to December 2007, TPB1 and TPB2 were connected by Trench B, and TPC1 and TPC2 were connected by Trench C, both dug mechanically under archaeological supervision.
- (5) in June 2008, Trench D was dug in a south-easterly direction off the western end of Trench C, Trench E was dug in a southerly direction off the eastern end of Trench B, and Trench F was dug in a westerly direction off the southern end of Trench E, and to connect with the southern end of Trench A.

In some cases, these trenches were referred to differently in the original site record, so a concordance is given in Table 1 below.

All archaeological work was done in accordance with briefs written by the CBC Curator of Archaeology (Philip Wise), with advice from Dr Simon Collcutt of Oxford Archaeological Associates, and with Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) written by CAT and agreed with the CBC Curator of Archaeology.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* by English Heritage (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

Table 1: concordance of final trench numbers and names with original site record.

Test-pits and trench labels in this report	Test-pits and trench labels in original site record
TP1-TP12	TP1-TP12
Trench A or TA	cable trench
TPB1-TPB2, TPC1-TPC2	TPB1-TPB2, TPC1-TPC2
Trench B or TB	storm-water drain (ie western end)
Trench C or TC	storm-water drain (ie eastern end)
Trench D or TD	Trench 08 1
Trench E or TE	Trench 08 2
Trench F or TF	Trench 08 3

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

3.1 Summary

A combination of chance finds of tessellated pavements, both decorated and plain (eg UAD no 321), together with archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east (UAD no 3033) and the bus station to the west (UAD nos 3069-3070), revealed traces of buildings indicating that this was a residential area in the Roman town.

This residential area appears to have included a number of houses with stone-in-mortar foundations dating probably to the 2nd century AD. Some of the houses were probably large and well-appointed with hypocaust under-floor heating, painted wall-plaster and mosaic floors.

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the west (UAD no 307) and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east (UAD no 3033). Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House.

No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or the former bus station, although Hull (1958) suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the current boundary separating the grounds of East Hill House from the former bus station. An evaluation in 2006 on the site of the Central Clinic (now the Secret Garden block of flats; not on plan) located a north-south street, the continued line of which would extend between the Roman houses excavated in 1955 and 1958 (Fig 1), and would pass directly through the position of the 2003

evaluation trench Trench D. There was a layer of compacted gravel in Trench D, but it seemed conclusively post-medieval and was almost certainly associated with East Hill House. In retrospect, it is clear that the 2003 trench was not deep enough to confirm or refute the line of the Roman street which it was excavated through, as discovered in 2006.

3.2 Evidence

- 3.2.1** In 1928, a Roman skeleton (female) was found on top of a Roman tessellated pavement in an area then known as the 'Berry Field' or 'Bury Field' or 'Berryfields', which now coincides with the grounds of East Hill House. Although this was originally taken to be evidence of a violent end to Roman Colchester, it is much more likely that this burial is later Roman or post-Roman, and was laid in a grave, the base of which happened to be close to a Roman floor level (Crummy 1997, 130).
- 3.2.2** Excavations in 1955 and 1958 uncovered the remains of a number of Roman buildings in Lewis's Gardens (later the bus station). These were numbered as 'houses i-v' by the excavator (Richardson 1961), but probably represent three buildings and not five.
- 3.2.3** When the Mulberry Tree Family Centre was built on what was then the vegetable garden of East Hill House in 1983-84, a watching brief recorded Roman street gravel, buildings and burials (CAR 6, 374-8). CAT also excavated two Roman inhumation burials at this site, ie on the eastern side of Insula 40, in 1983-84 (CAR 6, 375-6). The discovery of one loose skull on the same site shows that there was a third, presumably Roman, burial somewhere in the vicinity.
- 3.2.4** A Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave, accompanied by a small beaker, was also discovered during an evaluation in 1990 on the south side of the bus station (just to the south of the area shown in Fig 1: Crossan 1990; Johnson *et al* 2003, 25).
- 3.2.5** The area has also been subject to geophysical survey: magnetometry in April 2003 by Oxford Archaeotechnics, and resistivity and ground-penetrating radar by Stratascan in July 2004 (Johnson 2003; Sabin 2004). In particular, the work in the northern lawn area of East Hill House suggests the presence of possible structural remains.
- 3.2.6** A series of nine evaluation trenches was excavated by CAT in 2004 (CAT Report 305). Roman levels were found to lie at depths of between 15 cm and 60 cm, beneath soils which support the hypothesis that the trenched area, known from the later medieval period as the 'Berryfield', probably remained open from the end of the Roman period onwards. The archaeological evidence has been summarised by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd (Johnson *et al* 2003).

3.3 The Visual Arts Facility site

As well as the 2004 evaluation, two previous archaeological projects have been carried out in connection with the VAF project. These are the 2003 evaluation trenching in the garden of the Minorities art gallery and in the bus station (CAT Report 234), and the 2006 watching brief on a sewer-trench and test-pits in the bus station (CAT Report 385).

4 Results

4.1 General points

Earlier phases of archaeological work on this site were intended to provide data on the depth of modern overburden and the height of the uppermost significant archaeological horizons. These data have been worked into the design of the VAF and, which is more relevant here, into the proposed depth to which service runs will be excavated. The intention was to lay the services, where feasible, in the top 1 m of ground. This generally coincides with the modern topsoil cover over the northern part of the site, but, as the ground drops away to the south (especially where it has been terraced), then the service runs have inevitably cut down more and more into the archaeological horizons.

This is apparent in the fact that the more northerly test-pits (TP1-TP5) were not dug deep enough to penetrate topsoil cover or post-medieval horizons, whereas the more

southerly test-pits (TP11/TP6, TP7, and especially TP8-TP10, and TP12) exposed significant archaeological horizons.

All the test-pits were 1.5 m², unless otherwise stated. In the list below, the test-pit descriptions are given in order from north to south (ie TP11 was dug in between TP5 and TP6). All heights given here are in metres above Ordnance Datum.

4.2 The excavation of TP1-TP12 (along the eastern edge of the grounds of EHH) and the excavation of Trench A (Figs 2-5)

Trench A between TP1 and TP2 (Fig 2)

In this length of excavated trench, the upper horizon was modern topsoil L1. At 2 m south of the southern edge of TP1, a right-angled modern wall foundation (F22) was seen along the western side of the trench, extending south for a distance of 6.5 m to the south and 2 m to the west. Wall foundation F22 sealed a modern deposit of slate and tile (F23) which is dated to the 19th or 20th centuries by sherds from a Fabric 51b flowerpot. The top surface of F23 was at 23.72 m. F22 sealed a post-medieval pit (F24) filled with oyster shells.

TP1 (plan, Fig 2; sections, Figs 4-5)

TM 00129 25249

Trench dimensions: 2.35 m x 2 m

Surface level: 24.70 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 2.2 m bgl (= 22.50 m)

This test-pit was dominated by a large modern service trench (F3/F11/L5) which contained a recent gas pipe (F14) and fragments of plastic sheeting. The (unnumbered) north retaining wall of East Hill House was visible at the northern end of the test-pit, along with a post-medieval or modern brick footing (F17) in a construction cut (F13).

There were fragments of significant stratigraphy surviving at the edges of this test-pit. These were a gravel band (F2) sealing a silty clay layer (L6). The top of F2 was at 1.04 m bgl, and it was 0.3 m thick. The east-west Roman street defining the northern side of Insulas 31/32 should extend through this point (see Fig 1), so it seems overwhelmingly likely that F2 is indeed the gravel of a Roman street. It is, perhaps, not as thick as would be expected, in which case it may be inferred that the upper part of the street has been truncated by modern activity.

Dating evidence for the street is as follows. From L6, sealed by the street gravel, came sherds of Roman pottery of 2nd- to 3rd-century date.

L6 sealed natural deposits F12 which sealed L65, which were jointly 0.60 m thick to the limit of excavation at the base of this test-pit.

Where the stratification (ie the Roman street F2 and underlying L6) was undisturbed, it was sealed by a layer of modern topsoil (L1) containing fragments of clay tobacco-pipe and post-medieval bricks. A service trench (F11) was sealed by modern demolition debris (L2) and cut the street surface (F2).

TP2 (plan, Fig 2)

TM 00129 25237

Surface level: 24.94 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 1 m bgl (= 23.94 m)

Post-medieval or modern deposits were visible from ground-level to the base of this test-pit. Modern topsoil (L1) sealed post-medieval or modern dump (L3), which sealed post-medieval or modern demolition debris or dump (L4). The recent nature of all these deposits is shown by the fact that L4 contained very recent, ie 19th- or 20th-century, mortar, and peg-tile.

Trench A (between TP2 and TP3) (Fig 2)

Modern topsoil (L1) was visible for the full depth of the trench (to 1 m bgl).

TP3 (Fig 2)

TM 00131 25225

Surface level: 24.91 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 1 m bgl (= 23.91 m)

Modern topsoil L11 sealed modern ?demolition debris L12. L12 sealed a post-medieval layer L13 and also a modern pit F6 which in turn cut a post-medieval gravelled surface F5 and a post-medieval/modern pit F7. The top of F5 was at 0.80 m bgl. The bottom of the excavated F7 was at 0.95 m bgl. The top of F6 was at 0.82 m bgl. F6 was only excavated to 1m bgl, not to the full feature depth.

Trench A (between TP3 and TP4) (Fig 2)

Modern topsoil (ie L1) for full depth (to 1 m bgl).

TP4 (Fig 2)

TM 00131 25218

Surface level: 24.91 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 1 m bgl (= 23.91 m)

Modern topsoil (L1) sealing post-medieval or modern dump (L3) were visible for the full depth of this test-pit (ie to 1 m bgl).

Trench A (between TP4 and TP5) (Fig 2)

Modern topsoil (L1) sealing post-medieval or modern dump (L3) were visible for the full depth of this trench (ie to 1 m bgl).

TP5 (Fig 2)

TM 00132 25208

Surface level: 24.88 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 1.1 m (= 23.78 m)

The upper layers (L1, modern topsoil and L3, post-medieval or modern dump) had been disturbed by the digging of two modern (unnumbered) cables. Below these, at between 1 m and 1.1 m bgl, was L18, a layer of soft medium brown sandy silt containing chunks of mortar and patches of gravel, ie demolition debris resulting from the medieval demolition of Roman buildings.

Trench A (between TP5 and TP11) (Fig 2)

Modern topsoil (L1) was visible for the full depth of this trench (to 1 m bgl).

TP11 (Figs 2-3)

TM 00133 25203

Trench dimensions: 1 m x 1 m

Surface level: 25.10 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 00.90 m (= 24.20 m)

This test-pit was dug in between TP5 and TP6. It was not dug for archaeological reasons, but following a request by the contractors (Banner) in order to locate a low-voltage (LV) electricity cable. Therefore it was a smaller and shallower than the other test-pits.

The top surface was unnumbered turf, under which was the cable trench (backfill L19). The LV cable was exposed at less than 1 m depth, so excavation stopped at this depth. The cable seemed to cut into (unnumbered) modern fill.

On the southern side of TP11, the foundations (F15) of a brick wall were seen extending east-west on the same alignment as St James' churchyard wall, which lies only 3.5 m to the east of TP11. The 1st edition 1:2,500 OS map of 1875 shows the west wall of the churchyard in its present position, so it seems unclear whether or not these foundations represent an earlier churchyard wall.

TP6, and Trench A (between TP6 and TP11, and to the south of TP6) (Figs 2-3, 5)

TM 00132 25198

Surface level: 24.99 m

Limit of excavation/observation: 00.90 m (= 24.10 m)

TP6 was later extended to the south and north. It is, therefore, sensible to discuss TP6 and its associated trenches together, rather than separately. The northern end of this trench (ie where it joined TP11) was heavily cut by cable trenches and service runs, one of which was labelled L19 in TP11, and another of which extended NW-SE through the northern end of the trench.

Under the tarmac top and base (L7) was post-medieval/modern topsoil (L8). This sealed a modern pit (F21) and a post-medieval pit (F16), both of which cut an *opus signinum* floor (F4). The surface of the *opus signinum* floor was at 24.10 m, approximately 0.9 m below modern ground-level). Where cut by F16, the surface of F4 had been disturbed, but it survived in better condition, ie with an intact surface, in two large slabs to the north and south of that point.

It seems reasonable to interpret F4 as the floor of a Roman room, the position of the southern wall foundation of which was masked by a layer of post-medieval robbing debris (L9). L9 contained fragments of clay tobacco-pipe and sherds of Fabric 42 (Border ware) which date to the mid 16th or 17th century (CAR 7, 225). It would seem, therefore, that at least the lower part of this wall (whether its foundation only, or part of the foundation and the upper wall) was robbed out in the 16th or 17th century.

To the south of this Roman wall foundation line, a 2 m extension showed that a layer of post-medieval demolition debris (L10) underlay the modern topsoil (L1). L10 sealed F20, a layer of demolition debris containing *opus signinum*, mortar and septaria; this was presumably medieval robbing debris.

Trench A (between TP6 and TP7) (Fig 2)

The 2 m length of trench immediately south of TP6 has been discussed above. From this point (south) to the northern edge of TP7, the sequence was as follows: the tarmac top and base (L7) sealed post-medieval/modern topsoil (L8) to the limit of excavation.

TP7 (Fig 2)

TM 00133 252186

Surface level: 24.73 m OD

Limit of excavation/observation: 24.00 m OD

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed post-medieval/modern topsoil (L8) which sealed a medieval robber trench (F8) and, next to it, a layer of demolition debris (L14).

Trench A (between TP7 and TP8)

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed post-medieval/modern topsoil (L8).

TP8 (Fig 2)

TM 00134 25177

Surface level: 24.50 m OD

Limit of excavation/observation: 24.00 m OD

The tarmac top and base (L7) directly sealed demolition debris (L15), which was still visible at 500 mm below ground-level.

Trench A (between TP8 and the southern end of Trench A, and between TP 8 and TP9) (Fig 2)

A layer of demolition debris (F29) was exposed at the limit of excavation. As with other demolition debris exposed in Trench A, this was presumably the remains of Roman buildings robbed out in the medieval period, and possibly disturbed later. F29 extended south to the end of Trench A (ie due south of TP8), and also along the other part of Trench A as far south as unmortared Roman flint wall foundation F25. This wall

line appears to be roughly parallel to the side of the metalled street (F9) exposed further south in Trench A (TP9) and also with robber trench F8 in TP7.

TP9 (Figs 2, 5)

TM 00128 25168

Surface level: 23.70 m OD

Limit of excavation/observation: 23.15 m OD

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8. This topsoil lay on a layer of gravel which was the surface of the metalled street (F9) also uncovered between TP10 and TP12 (below, where it is numbered F27). The Roman metalled street surface was cut by a modern service trench F10.

Trench A (between TP8 and TP10) (ie to the south-east of TP8; Fig 2)

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8.

TP10 (Fig 2)

TM 00141 25177

Surface level: 24.45 m OD

Limit of excavation/observation: 23.80 m OD

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8. This topsoil sealed demolition debris (L17), which is equivalent to post-medieval demolition debris L15, F28 and F29.

Trench A (between TP10 and TP12) (Fig 2)

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8. This topsoil sealed demolition debris (F28), which is equivalent to post-medieval demolition debris L15, L17 and F29. Roman metalled street F27 was also exposed in this length of trench.

TP12 (Fig 2)

TM 00146 25164

Trench dimensions: 1 m x 1 m

Surface level: 24.23 m OD

Limit of excavation/observation: 23.58 m OD

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8. This topsoil sealed L21, a possible Roman lens into which were cut two robber trenches (F18, F19). F18 extended north to south and joined F19, which extended east to west. Presumably these jointly represent a robbed-out right-angle of Roman wall foundations. But there is a problem here; there should not be Roman walling in the same location as Roman street gravel.

Trench A (south of TP12) (Fig 2)

The tarmac top and base (L7) sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L16/L20), which was probably equivalent to L8. This sealed Roman gravel (?street metalling, F26), which may be associated with F27 north of TP12 and F9 in TP9.

4.3 Test-pits TPB1, TPB2, TPC1, TPC2 (through the centre of the grounds of EHH)
(Figs 6-7)

These test-pits measured 1 m x 1 m, unless stated otherwise.

TPB1 (on the eastern side of the grounds of East Hill House) (Figs 6-7)

TM 00114 25181

Stratification consisted of 480 mm of modern turf and topsoil (L22) above a tarmac surface (L23) with hogging base (L24), which lay on post-medieval/modern topsoil

(L25). Pit F31, on the northern side of the test-pit but not on the other sides, was sealed by L25. At 480 mm below ground-level, a light brown silty clay layer (L31), dated by the presence of post-medieval glass, was cut by a post-medieval cess-pit (F31). F31 was straight-sided and at least 660 mm deep but not bottomed. Its fill contained residual Roman pottery, tile, and oyster shells, but it had the greenish tinge reminiscent of cess. F31 was the first to be recognised of a group of cess-pits later revealed to a greater extent in Trenches B and E. Pit F60 was observed in section only, to the north-west of pit F31; pit F60 was 1.85 m wide and 0.23 m deep, and had a green cessy fill. For that reason it is interpreted as a post-medieval cess-pit and almost certainly Victorian, as is pit F31).

L31 was 270 mm thick, and sealed a less mottled, more clayey layer (L40), which was undated clay dump. L31 sealed natural sand and gravel L30 at 1 m bgl.

TPB2 (in the grounds of East Hill House) (Figs 6-7)

TM 00102 25180

Stratification consisted of 950 mm to 1 m of modern turf and topsoil (L22), sealing another post-medieval topsoil (L26). In the northern side of this test-pit, a layer of modern hogging (L27, the base for tarmac L23) was also seen; it was also seen in TPB1, but is not shown in the illustrated section (Fig 7). This whole sequence can be dated to the 19th century or later by the presence of modern ironstone pottery in L26. L26 sealed L32, a deposit which is probably post-medieval ?make-up.

There were no features in this test-pit, and natural sand and gravel L30 was reached at 940 mm bgl. The trench was dug down to 1.1 m bgl, to confirm that L30 was a natural layer. It would appear that any early, ie Roman, archaeological layers here had been removed, perhaps during landscaping of the grounds.

TPC1 (in the car-park) (Figs 6-7)

TM 00051 25169

This test-pit was entirely machine-dug. A capping of 300 mm-thick reinforced concrete was broken out using a mechanical excavator. This was underlaid by 150 mm of brick rubble and steel bars. A foundation consisting of a brick wall (F33) and a concrete base (L39) formed the western edge of the test-pit. Over a metre of topsoil (L37) was excavated through until a lighter layer with oyster shells and Roman tile was reached at 1.65 m bgl (L38). The depth of the trench prevented hand-cleaning of this layer, but it is interpreted as a layer of Roman demolition debris. Excavation ceased at 1.75 m bgl. The surface of the car-park through which this test-pit was dug was over a metre higher than the land to the east and west.

TPC2 (in the grounds of East Hill House) (Figs 6-7)

TM 00069 25174

TPC2 was cut through 650 mm of modern turf and topsoil (L22) and post-medieval topsoil (L29). There was also a tarmac path with a hogging base (L28) on the northern side of the test-pit. This is a continuation of the path seen in test-pits TPB1 and TPB2. Natural sand and gravel (L30) was encountered at 650 mm bgl. The depth of the test-pit was 840 mm.

At the western end of the test-pit were two cut features, ie a post-medieval or modern flowerbed (F30) and a post-medieval ditch (F32). F32 was a north-south aligned post-medieval ditch terminating on the northern side of the test-pit. It was half-sectioned and found to contain septaria, clay tobacco-pipe, animal bone and slate, and showed a little disturbance by tree roots. F32 was at least 950 mm deep and it was not possible to dig it out completely. F32 was cut by F30, an oval flowerbed containing slate. As in TPB2, it would seem that any Roman layers have been removed by landscaping here.

4.4 Trenches B and C (connecting TPB1-TPB2 and TPC1-TPC2) (Figs 8-10)

Trench B (connecting test-pits TPB1 and TPB2) (Figs 8-9)

This trench was 25.5 m long, 1.2 m wide and 1 m deep, and was dug on the eastern side of the East Hill House D-shaped garden. It confirmed that there were well-preserved Roman remains at the eastern end of Trench B (in the shrubbery of the garden and beyond), but that 19th-century landscaping had completely destroyed archaeological remains at the western end of Trench B, in the grassed area of the D-shaped garden.

Stratification was as follows. At the eastern end of Trench B, 500-750 mm depth of modern deposits consisting of modern turf and topsoil (L22) overlying tarmac (L23, the former car-park surface) and modern hogging (L24, its base). In this modern sequence, there were also layers of redeposited gravel (L63, L64) and, perhaps more interestingly, a layer of redeposited Roman *tesserae* (F37, F38). These *tesserae*, presumably part of an artisan's stock-in-trade, indicate that there was a workshop nearby, from where mosaics were laid or repaired. Unfortunately, as this material is redeposited, then the exact location of the workshop cannot be identified. Having said that, it is unlikely that this soil has been moved far from its source, so the workshop would have been in Insula 32. Pottery associated with the *tesserae* was of early 2nd-century date. This date may fall within the period of activity of the workshop. F37 and F38 were separated by a modern pipe trench (F56), the upper fill of which may be L41.

The modern deposits sealed post-medieval/modern topsoils (L25, L26), which in turn sealed a layer of Roman demolition debris (F40, probably disturbed in the post-medieval period) and a group of mainly rectangular post-medieval or 19th-century shallow linear pits, typified by a green cassy fill (F39, F41, F44-F46, F50-F54, F59-F60). These features were almost certainly Victorian (and ?earlier) cess-pits. The largest pit (F39) was not fully bottomed. A group of similar trenches has been excavated at Great Maplestead, Essex where they lay down-slope, in a secluded corner of the garden of a Victorian rectory (Corbishley 1976). At East Hill House, the location of these features, presumably once concealed by shrubbery, shows where the 'night soil' was dumped by domestic staff or was piped from water-closets. The practice presumably became redundant after the mains sewers were laid in Colchester in the 19th century (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22005&strquery=sewer>, consulted 20/10/08).

At the western end of Trench B, a similar stratification was recorded, as follows. Modern turf (L46) sealed a layer of modern hogging (L24, L27, L28), which sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer (L44) which overlaid a layer of redeposited Roman demolition debris (L43) or a single post-medieval topsoil layer (L29), above post-medieval topsoil (L47). L47 sealed an earlier but still post-medieval topsoil (L42), which sealed either a post-medieval layer (L31) or Roman material which was probably make-up (L45). Where L45 was absent, L42 sealed Roman layer L48. L29 sealed natural sand and gravel (L30).

Apart from the Victorian cess-pits, other post-medieval features were as follows. In the centre of Trench B was a circular post-medieval cess-pit (F31), partially excavated in TPB1 in May 2006 and completed in Trench B, which was probably an isolated Victorian cess-pit. To the north of F31 was a group of two post-holes (F47-F48) and a small pit (F49), and to its west was a small circular pit (F35) and a circular cut feature with stepped sides (F34), almost certainly a 19th-century ornamental flowerbed. F35 was possibly a shrub-planting pit. Apart from the edge of a large pit (F36, also a ?flowerbed) which was clipped by Trench B, the absence of archaeological features to the west of F34 indicates the depth of modern disturbance.

Medieval and Roman remains at the eastern end of the trench were at levels between 700 mm and 850 mm bgl, and had been cut by the Victorian cess-pits. The principal remains were two robber trenches by which the wall foundations of a Roman building had been robbed out (F43, F57). There is sometimes a difficulty in dating these robber trenches, as they sometimes only contain Roman finds (as in the case of

F43). However, they are normally considered to be medieval in date, and are dated as such elsewhere in the town. There is a problem with this medieval dating for F57, which contains post-medieval glass. However, it is suggested here that this glass is actually derived from the overlying cess-pit (F45, almost certainly Victorian), and not from the robber trench, and so it is not material to the dating of the robbing. The alignments of the robber trenches F43 and F57 gives us a position of two robbed-out wall foundations which are at right-angles to three other robber trenches in Trench E (below). Together these would appear to define at least four rooms of a Roman building, presumably a town-house. A layer of make-up (F58) for an *opus signinum* floor (F42) was found in the room to the east of robber trench F57. F42 showed impressions of missing *tesserae* in its surface, and large quantities of loose *tesserae* found here indicate that this room at least had a tessellated floor. In the room to the west was a layer of redeposited Roman *tesserae* (F37, F38), which may indicate that *tessera* manufacture took place in the vicinity. F55 was a septaria rubble spread which may have been part of a floor base.

Trench C (connecting test-pits TPC1 and TPC2) (Fig 10)

This trench was dug on the western side of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House and into the car-park to the west. It was between 1 m and 1.2 m wide (wider at the top in places, where broken through concrete), 21 m long and between 1 m and 1.9 m deep.

The ground through which the eastern 7 m of the trench was cut had been heavily landscaped during the construction of the D-shaped garden. Therefore, all Roman layers and features had been destroyed. Here, there was 650 mm of modern stratification, as follows: a concrete car-park surface (F61) with attached brick wall (F68) and concrete foundation (F62), on a base for the car-park surface (L52) which sealed a modern landscaped soil (L53). This sealed a layer of modern brick rubble which was demolition debris (L54) lying over a tarmac layer (L55) with its hogging base (L56). L56 sealed a post-medieval or modern topsoil (L50, probably broadly equivalent to L26 and L29 in TPC2), which sealed two post-medieval pits (F63, F64; these are most likely to be cess-pits). Elsewhere the topsoil (L50) sealed a layer of natural sand and gravel (L30), demonstrating the depth of truncation here.

In the western 13 m of the trench, a greater depth of stratification had survived. Here, topsoil (L50) sealed demolition debris (L51) which sealed a Roman silty clay layer (L57), which sealed natural sand and gravel (L30, at 1.9 m bgl). Elsewhere, L50 sealed a post-medieval redeposited sand (L59), a post-medieval cessy lens (L60), and a post-medieval cess-pit F66 (which had a green cessy fill, and is almost certainly Victorian).

Here was the only surviving Roman sequence in Trench C or Trench D, as follows: post-medieval L59 sealed a charcoally deposit (L61), which sealed a burnt stump of daub wall (F67). This is probably of Boudican date and, therefore, would be the most easterly occurrence of evidence of Boudican destruction in the Roman town (see *CAR 6*, fig 2.1). L61 also sealed Roman layer L62 which, in turn, sealed natural L30.

4.5 Trenches D, E, F (Figs 8, 10-11)

Trench D (Fig 10)

This trench was dug in June 2008, extending south-eastwards off the western end of Trench C. There was no significant stratification in this trench. Concrete and hogging (L68) sealed a post-medieval or later topsoil (L69). L69 sealed two Roman horizons: L70 sealing L71. These were probably both demolition debris or dumped material used to make up the ground-level underneath floor surfaces which have now been robbed away. L70, directly sealed by a post-medieval topsoil, may be a disturbed horizon at the top of the Roman sequence. L71 overlay natural L72.

Trench E (Figs 8, 11)

This was excavated in a southerly direction off the eastern end of Trench B. As in Trench B, the archaeological features consisted of Victorian cess-pits, medieval robber trenches, and surviving Roman wall foundations.

The stratified sequence in this trench indicates that there has been regular movement of soils in the grounds of East Hill House, presumably due to gardening and landscaping, and, more recently, construction works.

It is easiest to describe the stratigraphical sequence from bottom to top. The lowest layer was Roman (L77, = L78), probably of 3rd- to 4th-century date. This contained domestic debris, ie animal bones and pottery, and a glass *tessera*, showing that it post-dates the demolition of a nearby high-status building.

L77 was sealed by two layers of mortary demolition debris (L74, L75). These only contained Roman finds, but their association with robber trenches indicates that they are most likely to be medieval in date, and associated with the robbing out of the Roman buildings on this site. L74 and L75 were cut by robber trenches F84, F86 (surviving wall foundation F87), F74 (surviving Roman wall foundation F75), and F73.

These robber trenches were sealed by deep soil layers (L81 and/or L66). L66 directly underlay tarmac or concrete surfaces at East Hill House, and was, without question, a modern topsoil. L81 contained Fabric 40 pottery, and dates to the 17th or 18th centuries. The absence of any earlier, ie medieval, soil layers may be due to either modern truncation, from landscaping, or intrusive cultivation associated with the grounds of East Hill House.

L81 was cut by a group of Victorian cess-pits at the northern end of the trench (F70, F71, F76, F77, F82, F83), which are part of the same group of cess-pits as those found in Trench B. The extent of landscaping is shown by the fact that some of these cess-pits were sealed by layers of redeposited Roman material, ie demolition debris (L67) and sandy clay (L73).

The highest horizon was a tarmac surface and its base (L76), which sealed modern topsoil (L66).

Four Roman wall foundation lines were identified as either robber trenches or surviving wall foundations, as follows (from north to south): robber trench F86 over wall foundation F87, robber trench F74 over wall foundation F75, robber trench F73, and wall foundation F85. F85 seemed to be the terminal end of a length of wall foundation rather than a continuous stretch. Given that it aligns with unmortared flint wall foundation F25 in Trench A, the two may be parts of a discontinuous portico foundation extending along the northern side of the Roman street. F85 was cut by later Roman pit F78 although (this may be part of a post-Roman robber trench).

As these Roman wall foundations were at the base of the excavated trench, they were not examined in detail, because they are now preserved *in situ* under the VAF. Taken in conjunction with the robbed wall foundations and surviving footings seen in Trench B, the northern three wall foundation lines define a Roman town-house with at least four or five rooms, and the southern wall foundation line probably defines a footway with a discontinuous wall on its southern side (ie on the street).

The layout of a Roman house flanked by a footway on the roadside is matched by the results of the 1983-84 watching brief which CAT carried out on a site immediately to the east (on the site of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre; *CAR 6*, 375). Street metalling and Roman foundations were recorded, one of which was on the side of the Roman street. From these fragments, the alignment of the street dividing Insulas 31 and 39 was calculated. However, when the position of wall foundation F85 - assumed to be on the northern side of the gravel street - was compared with this alignment, the two did not match. In view of the fact that the 2008 results were plotted with an EDM to an accuracy not available in 1983-84, the plotted eastern end of the street has been moved north by a few metres to fit in with the 2008 results.

Two residual prehistoric flints came from this trench, from cess-pit F70 and from near to wall foundation F85.

Trench F (Figs 8, 11)

This was excavated in an approximately east-west direction off the southern end of Trench E. Stratification was as follows. For the greater part of the length of this trench, a modern service trench (F79), lying parallel with the trench, had cut away all stratification. Elsewhere, a tarmac surface and [its] base (L76) sealed a modern topsoil (L66). The stripping-off of L66 revealed a metallised surface (L79), which is the surface of the Roman street on the southern side of Insulas 31/32. L79 was cut by an undated pit (F81). F81 must be post-Roman because it cuts the Roman street. It is probably a post-medieval pit, perhaps associated with the cess-pits revealed at the northern end of Trench A. L80, the make-up for L79, was cut by an undated post-hole (F80).

5 Finds

Finds not reported on below are listed in the archive.

5.1 The small finds, bulk ironwork, fired clay and slag (Table 2)

by Nina Crummy

This small assemblage ranges in date from early Roman to modern. The objects are catalogued below in four sections: the general Roman items; the general medieval to modern items; the slag; and the nails, which are listed in Table 2 in feature and layer number order.

Many of the Roman objects are residual in medieval or later contexts. The earliest piece is probably a fragment of fired clay, perhaps part of the superstructure of a kiln, furnace or oven, which came from a possible mid 1st-century deposit (L61), and a fragment of a white-ware open lamp which could also be pre-Flavian (SF 21). A round-bowled copper-alloy spoon bowl (SF 2) may be another early item, but the type was in use into the 2nd century, perhaps even as late as AD 200. It was residual in post-medieval topsoil, as was a fragment of an olivary probe and a toilet spoon, both of which may derive from the same double-ended spoon-probe (SFs 7-8). Other Roman finds include part of a spindle whorl, a piece of bone inlay, and some possible glass-working waste. A single piece of smelting slag may be from a Roman context, and a small number of nails come mainly from Roman dump and make-up deposits. The largest group of Roman material consists of architectural stone – some pieces of Purbeck marble veneer and part of a tapering block of tufa. The latest item is a copper-alloy coin of the House of Theodosius, dated to AD 388-402. This material, therefore, broadly covers the entire Roman period, and is very diverse in terms of function, ranging from toilet or medical instruments to structural fragments, with some evidence for industrial processes.

The later objects consist chiefly of ironwork from post-medieval or modern pits and topsoil, with nails forming the major part of the group and many of them unlikely to be residual as they have the small head typical of late post-medieval to modern nails. Noteworthy items include a 19th- or early 20th-century worn slate pencil, made from a softer grade of slate than the school tablets that were made of hard-grade slate, and a knife with bone handle, probably of 18th-century date, which has decorative white-metal plating on the handle end of the blade, including what is probably a cutler's mark. A trade token of Samuel Salter of Dedham, dated to 1656, comes from the period when there was a shortage of low-denominational coinage and traders minted their own tokens, which also acted to some extent as advertising material. Samuel is mentioned in the will of his widowed mother, Elizabeth, dated to 1663 (ERO D/ABW 62/45).

A small quantity of iron and copper slag was scattered across the site in several post-Roman contexts. It included some iron-smelting slag and, in view of the stratified piece of Roman smelting slag, all or most of these pieces may also be residual Roman.

Roman

SF 24. (174) L34. Crushed modern concrete. Illegible copper-alloy issue of the House of Theodosius, rev. ?*Victoria Augg(g)*. Diameter 12 mm, weight 0.87 g. Date range AD 388-402.

SF 2. (78) L16. Post-medieval topsoil. Damaged bowl and short part of the handle of an early Roman copper-alloy Type 1 round-bowled spoon (CAR 2, 69, fig 73, no 2008). Length 25 mm, diameter 22 mm.

SF 7. (79) L16. Post-medieval topsoil. Copper-alloy olivary probe, with very little of the shaft remaining. Length 25 mm. The similarity of surface appearance of the metal and the shared context of this piece and SF 8 below suggest that they are part of a double-ended spoon-probe.

SF 8. (80) L16. Post-medieval topsoil. Copper-alloy toilet spoon with long narrow scoop; the shaft is broken above a baluster moulding. Length 41 mm. (See SF 7 above.)

SF 25. (-) F73. Medieval robber trench. Fragment of a ceramic spindle whorl made from a red-ware body sherd. Diameter 32 mm, 8 mm thick.

SF 14. (164) F64. Post-medieval/modern pit. Roman bone inlay fragment of exaggerated oval form. One face is highly polished. The sides retain saw marks. Inlay pieces of this shape often have a large double ring-and dot at the rounded end (Greep 1986, 74; Rees *et al* 2008, 111-12).

SF 21. (134) F38. Layer of redeposited Roman *tesserae*. Rim fragment from the wall of an open lamp in a white-ware fragment. There is smoke damaged from contact with the wick on the upper wall and rim. Diameter approximately 73 mm, height 29 mm.

SF 23. (181) L78. 2nd- to 3rd-century dump. Self-coloured (blue/green) glass tube fragment, possibly glass-working waste. Length 31 mm, diameter 3.5 mm.

(159) L61. Roman charcoally deposit. Fragment of fired clay, probably from the outer face of a kiln, oven or furnace. The external surface is smooth but irregular and is hard-fired to a pinkish-buff colour. The internal surface, which is not all original, has some vegetable tempering and ranges in colour from orange (oxidised) to black (reduced), with one reduced area being particularly high-fired. Weight 27 g.

(160) L60. Post-medieval cessy lens. Fragment of fired clay in a sandy fabric, orange-brown in colour; probably burnt daub rather than part of a loomweight or similar object. Weight 8 g.

(149) L31. Post-medieval layer. Fragment of a tapering tufa block, with one end missing. Length 140 mm, maximum section size 80 by 105 mm.

SF 16. (94) F36. Post-medieval ?flowerbed. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer, with only a very short piece of a curved edge surviving. Maximum dimensions 57 by 92 mm, 26 mm thick; curved edge 22 mm long.

SF 22. (140) F43. ?Medieval robber trench. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer, with one original edge surviving. Maximum dimensions 22 by 51 mm, 13 mm thick; original edge 22 mm long.

SF 20. (31) L45. Roman ?make-up. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer, with no original edges surviving. Maximum dimensions 41 by 72 mm, 35 mm thick.

Medieval-modern

SF 1. (22) L12. Modern ?demolition debris. Copper-alloy trader's token, obverse: SAMUELL SALTER IN, around a horse galloping left; reverse: DEDHAM ESSEX 1656, around S and S flanking a rose. Williamson no 165 (Williamson 1889-91). Diameter 15 mm, weight 0.90 g.

SF 6. (77) L16. Post-medieval topsoil. Copper-alloy needle with pointed head and rectangular eye, bent near the tip. Length 136 mm.

SF 9. (58) F21. Modern pit. Stub of a slate pencil with faceted shaft and no casing. Length 32 mm. 19th-early 20th century.

SF 11. (20) L12. Modern ?demolition debris. Iron knife fragment with part of a plain bone handle of pistol-grip form. The upper, thicker, part of the blade is decorated with white-metal inlay in a geometric design with what may be a cutler's mark near one side. The back of the blade is straight, the edge is damaged. Length 112 mm, maximum width 12 mm. 18th century.

SF 13. (81) L8. Post-medieval/modern topsoil. Small iron pintle. Length of round section pivot 40 mm (incomplete), length of rectangular section attachment spike 62 mm.

SF 4. (55) L8. Post-medieval/modern topsoil. Bent copper-alloy strip. Length 16 mm, width 7 mm.

SF 5. (45). Unstratified. Convex stud head or washer with irregular polygonal edge and oval slot for a shank. Diameter 24 mm.

SF 17. (100) F31. Post-medieval cess-pit. Iron strip fragment, tightly coiled at one end. Length 79 mm, diameter of coil 49 mm. Probably from ornamental ironwork. Modern.

SF 12. (5) L1. Modern topsoil. a) Thick narrow iron plate, tapering to a point at one end. Length 116 mm, width 53 mm, 19 mm thick. Modern. b) Bent iron strip fragment. Length 51 mm, width 30 mm.

SF 15. (95) F31. Post-medieval cess-pit. Iron strap fragment, probably from a hinge, with two nail holes for attachment, one with the nail head still in place. Length 125 mm, maximum width 26 mm.

SF 10. (60) F21. Modern pit. Iron boss in two fragments. Diameter 72 mm, height 30 mm. Modern.

SF 18. (164) F64. Post-medieval/modern pit. Iron bar fragment. Length 37 mm, width 16 mm, thickness 7 mm.

SF 19. (164) F64. Post-medieval/modern pit. Iron/steel barbed wire fragment. Length 53 mm (bent). Modern.

Slag

(133) F59. Post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit. Fragment of iron tap slag. Weight 1.05 kg.

(68) F23. Modern slate and tile deposit. Fragment of undiagnostic iron slag. Weight 135 g.

(87) F31. Post-medieval cess-pit. Two fragments of iron tap slag. Weight 195 g.

(140) F49. Post-medieval pit. Fragment (broken) of undiagnostic iron slag. Weight 98 g.

(156) F56. Modern pipe trench. Fragment of undiagnostic iron slag. Weight 20 g.

SF 3. (38). Unstratified. Copper-alloy slag fragment. Weight 25 g.

Nails

Nails are listed in Table 2, below.

Table 2: nails.

Finds no	Layer/ Feature	Context description	Object description	Length (mm)
25	F7	post-medieval/modern pit	incomplete nail	38
64	F21	modern pit	1 complete nail; 1 incomplete nail; 1 nail shank fragment	80, 49, 34
108	F25	Roman flint wall foundation	complete nail/tack	18
87	F31	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1 complete nail; 1 incomplete nail	69; 46
95	F31	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	complete nail	60
100	F31	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	incomplete nail	26
124	F38	layer of redeposited Roman <i>tesserae</i>	4 complete nails; 3 incomplete nails	51, 50, 45 x 2; 37 (clenched), 37, 30 (clenched)
134	F38	layer of redeposited Roman <i>tesserae</i>	complete nail	73
109	F40	Roman demolition debris, post-medieval disturbance	complete nail/tack	20
122	F40	Roman demolition debris, post-medieval disturbance	incomplete nail; modern	35
98	F44	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	nail shank fragment	60
102	F45	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	complete nail	35
140	F49	post-medieval pit	6 complete nails; 4 incomplete nails; 2 nail shank fragments	90, 60, 58, 55, 50, 48; 40, 28, 24, 15; 42, 18
157	F51	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1 complete nail; 1 nail shank fragment	51; 31
129	F57	post-medieval robber trench	incomplete nail	46
164	F64	post-medieval/modern pit	1 complete nails; 3 incomplete nails; 4 nail shank fragments	74, 58; 48, 37 (clenched), 29; 79, 47, 50, 35
164	F64	post-medieval/modern pit	2 incomplete nails	48, 45
165	F64	post-medieval/modern pit	1 incomplete nail; 1 nail shank fragment	40 (clenched); 33
7	L4	post-medieval or modern demolition debris or dump	incomplete nail	42
15	L8	post-medieval/modern topsoil	nail shank fragment	55
27	L8	post-medieval/modern topsoil	incomplete nail	22
16	L10	post-medieval demolition debris	complete nail	50
17	L11	modern topsoil	incomplete nail	27
26	L14	post-medieval demolition debris	2 incomplete nails; 3 nail shank fragments	45, 39; 26, 22, 20
70	L16	post-medieval topsoil	complete nail	45
75	L16	post-medieval topsoil	1 nail, in fragments	77 (minimum)
40	L19	modern cable trench fill	nail shank or bolt	84
82	L26 + L27	post-medieval topsoil + modern hogging base	complete nail	65
86	L29	post-medieval topsoil	incomplete nail	35
138	L31	post-medieval layer	2 complete nails; 1 incomplete nail	50, 49 (clenched); 44

130	L44	post-medieval topsoil	incomplete nail	52
121	L45	Roman ?make-up	incomplete nail	45
131	L45	Roman ?make-up	1 complete nail. 5 incomplete nails; 3 nail shank fragments	57; 48, 47 x 2, 45, 29; 52 38, 36
132	L49	post-medieval cassy deposit	2 incomplete nails	33, 30
154	L50	post-medieval/modern topsoil	2 nail shank fragments	54, 40
162	L58	modern cassy deposit	complete nail	52
158	L60	post-medieval cassy lens	1 complete nail; 1 incomplete nail	47; 31

5.2 The Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Pottery fabrics and recording

In total, just under 25 kg (24,824 g) of Roman pottery was recovered. The pottery was processed in three groups: that from TP1-TP12 and Trench A (a total of 8,846g); that from Trenches B-C (14,085g); and that from Trenches D-F (1,893g).

The Roman pottery was recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10* in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 3). These letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 3 (below). Where appropriate, the fabric code for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection has been included (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms were recorded, where possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels were recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references, eg Ritterling (Ritt), following those used in Webster 1996 and Tyers 1996. Dating of the pottery broadly follows the dating of pottery fabric and forms in *CAR 10*. The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each finds number (see Catalogue below). For each fabric type, the number of sherds and the identifiable pottery forms were recorded. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot-date was recorded for each finds number.

Table 3: Roman pottery fabrics.

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric code
AA	amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras	
AJ	amphora, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 3
AU	Miscellaneous amphoras, including amphoras possibly from the Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras	
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
MV	Les Martres-de-Veyre	LMV SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
BX	decorated samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian	LGF SA
MV	Les Martres-de-Veyre	LMV SA
CG	Central Gaulish decorated samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish decorated samian	
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	COL CC2
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares	

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric code
NF	Trier fabric	MOS BS
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LVN CC
EB	Lyon colour-coated ware	LYO CC
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	
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)	
GQ	East Anglian stamp-decorated and similar London-type wares	
GR	fine grey wares imitating samian and <i>terra nigra</i> forms	
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	
MQ	white slipped fine wares and parchment wares	
E	Lower Nene Valley parchment ware	LVN PA
ON	mica-gilt wares	
SM	glazed ware	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares	
LTC	local traded coarse wares	
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares	
WB	grey slipped wares	
WC	miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	

Discussion

In total, approximately 1,700 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Most of this pottery, about 76% by numbers of sherds, was recovered from post-Roman contexts and is residual. Overall, about 16% of the recorded contexts are dated as Roman. This increases to about 20% if contexts which are possibly of Roman date are also included. Not all of the Roman contexts produced pottery. Those that did amount to about 9% of all the site contexts, and these are: F1 (TP1), F27, F37 (TB), F38 (TB), F59 (TB), F66 (TC), F78 (TE), F80 (TF), L6 (TP1), L45 (TB), L61 (TC), L70 (TD), L71 (TD), L77 (TD), L78 (TD), and L79 (TD). In terms of numbers of sherds, the pottery from these contexts (approximately 400 sherds in total) amounts to some 24% of the Roman pottery recovered from the site.

Most of the Roman contexts produced between 10 and 40 sherds, with the lowest number for any one context being 7 (F35) and the largest being 105 (L45), so that there is a reasonable quantity of pottery associated with each context. All these groups of pottery include closely-datable sherds. The latest-dated pottery from the majority of the contexts falls within the period of the 2nd-3rd century. Only one (L77) produced pottery with a date range within the period of the 3rd-4th century. Two related contexts (F37, F38) are of interest as these consisted of a quantity of unused black and white mosaic *tesserae*. The most closely-datable pottery associated with both of these contexts is of 1st- and early 2nd-century date. The latest of the closely-

dated pieces is from F38. This is a Central Gaulish samian flanged bowl of form Curle 11 from Les Martres-de-Veyre, which can be dated to c AD 100-120, so that, overall, an early 2nd-century date for the pottery from these two contexts seems most likely.

The residual Roman pottery is not discussed in detail, but should provide a sample of the Roman pottery in use in this part of the Roman town, and a few general points or impressions can be made based on the assemblage as a whole. The proportions of the various fabric types and recorded forms are set out in Table 4 (below). While there is pottery which can be closely dated to the 1st century, there is very little that need be pre-Flavian. A few sherds which are probably pre-Flavian are associated with F37 and F38, but, otherwise, there is little or nothing which is specifically of that period. Given that the area is outside, or on the fringes, of the early Roman fortress and town, this is probably only to be expected, although the upper (later) Roman layers would probably have suffered more post-Roman disturbance. Also, late Roman pottery, that is pottery types dating from period of the early-mid 3rd to 4th century, does not appear to be strongly represented. The relative quantity of the late Roman pottery in relation to other assemblages from the town is not demonstrated, but there are very few clearly identified late Roman vessel forms, while late Roman fabric types are either represented by a few sherds or are absent. Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA), which is the most common fine ware imported into late Roman Colchester from the early-mid 3rd century onwards (*CAR 10*, 278), and late 3rd- to 4th-century oxidised Hadham wares (Fabric CH), also usually a well-represented late fine ware (*CAR 10*, table 1.6), are both represented by only four sherds. Pottery forms of certain late Roman date are limited to one example of the flanged bowl Cam 305B, dated mid-late 3rd to 4th century (L8, finds no 53), and an oxidised Hadham ware hooked lid of late 3rd- to 4th-century date (F70, finds no 170). However, there are five sherds of shell-tempered pottery (Fabric HD) which are probably of mid or late 4th-century date, and some of the BB1 (black-burnished ware, category 1, Fabric GA) jars of form Cam 279 might well date from after the early 3rd century. One interpretation of this low quantity of distinct Late Roman pottery might be that the site became more peripheral in the late Roman period.

Of note are two sherds of samian from Les Martres-de-Veyre, ie a Curle 11 bowl, from F38 (finds no 114) and a Dr 37 bowl, illustrated (Plate 2, below) from L74 (finds no 117). It can be noted that assemblages recovered from excavations in Colchester and reported on in *CAR 10* suggest that Colchester, together with London, has a higher proportion of samian from Les Martres-de-Veyre than other British sites (*CAR 10*, 75).

Table 4: fabrics as an approximate % of the assemblage by sherd numbers and recorded vessel forms by fabric.

(Note: where there is more than one example of a particular vessel form recorded the total is given in brackets after the form number.)

Fabric code	approximate % of assemblage by number of sherds	instances of vessel forms recorded (if more than one record total number recorded in brackets)
AA	1.1	Dressel 2-4, Gaulish type(2)
AJ	2.0	Dressel 20(1)
AU	0.1	
BA		
SG	3.0	Dr 18(8), Dr 18/3(1), Dr 27(8), Dr 35 or 36(2), Ritt 11, Ritt 12, Ritt 13
MV	<0.1	Curle 11
CG	0.8	Dr 18/31(2), Dr 31, Dr 31R
EG	0.4	Dr 18/31, Dr 33(2)
BX		
SG	0.5	Dr 29(3), Dr 30 or 37, Dr 37

Fabric code	approximate % of assemblage by number of sherds	instances of vessel forms recorded (if more than one record total number recorded in brackets)
MV	<0.1	Dr 37
CG	0.1	37(2)
EG	<0.1	37
CB	0.6	
CH	0.2	hooked lid (CAR 10, Fabric CH, Type 91)
CL		
NF	<0.1	
CZ	0.8	folded beaker
DJ	13.1	Cam 154/155, Cam 155(3), Cam 243-244/246, Cam ?326, Cam 389
DZ	<0.1	
EA	0.2	
EB	<0.1	Cam 94
EZ	<0.1	
FJ	0.2	
GA	0.9	Cam 39A(2), Cam 279A/B, Cam 279(4)
GB	5.1	Cam 37(1), Cam 37A(9), Cam 37B(3), Cam 39B(5), Cam 40(1), Cam 40A(3), Cam 40B(2), Cam 278(13), Cam 407(1)
GP	0.1	Cam 122/123
GQ	0.1	
GR	<0.1	
GX	63.6	Cam ?119C, Cam 108(8), Cam 120B, Cam 218(3), Cam 243-244/246(10), Cam 266(6), Cam 268(7), Cam 307
HD	0.3	
HZ	2.0	Cam 270B, Cam 273
KX	0.5	Cam 37A/38A(2), Cam 39/40, Cam 278(2), Cam 305B
MQ	0.4	
E	<0.1	
ON	0.6	Cam 17, Cam 41, Cam 157-159/366
SM	<0.1	
TZ	1.3	Cam 195(3), Cam 497(2), Cam 501(2)
UR	<0.1	
LTC	<0.1	Cam ?16, Cam 28
WA	1.1	Cam 46/311
WB	<0.1	
WC	<0.1	

Catalogue of Roman and prehistoric pottery

Date of numbered vessel forms for each particular fabric given in brackets.

Number of examples of vessel types for each fabric type in one finds number, where more than one, given in brackets after the vessel form number.

Test-pits (TP1-TP12)

TP1

F1, finds number 2; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, joining, thin sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 10 g.

F11, finds number 39; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 2 g.

F11, finds number 42; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 5 g.

L1, finds number 1; Fabric AJ, 2 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, Cam 37A, early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century, Cam 39B, early

2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 407, early 3rd-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 8 sherds, Roman. 326 g.

L5, finds number 14; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, Cam 273, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 58 g.

L6, finds number 13; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 53 g.

L11, finds number 17; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 8 g.

U/S, finds number 36; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 10 g.

TP2

L1, finds number 5; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 74 g.

L3, finds number 6; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 10 g.

L4, finds number 7; Fabric GX, 10 sherds, Roman; Fabric HD, 1 sherd, probably mid-late 4th century. 175 g.

L4, finds number 8; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 5 g.

L12, finds number 19; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 40 g.

TP3

F6, finds number 24; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 6 g.

F7, finds number 25; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century. 13 g.

L12, finds number 18; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, ?burnt, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 50 g.

L12, finds number 21; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Cam ?307, late 2nd/early 3rd-4th century. 22 g.

L13, finds number 34; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 14 g.

TP4

L3, finds number 4; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, oxidised, Roman. 12 g.

TP5

U/S, finds number 38; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 20 g.

TP6

L8, finds number 15; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman. 20 g.

L10, finds number 16; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, scale decorated, probably late 3rd-4th century; Fabric ?GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278, early-mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 17 g.

U/S, finds number 37; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, probably 1st-2nd century. 16 g.

TP7

L8, finds number 27; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, early/mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 44 g.

L8, finds number 53; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 305B, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman. 34 g.

L14, finds number 26; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 49 g.

TP8

L15, finds number 28; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century. 69 g.

L15, finds number 30; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 278 rim, mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, Cam 195, 1st-early/mid 2nd century. 661 g.

L15, finds number 65; Fabric ?GB, 1 sherd, ?early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 19 g.

TP9

F10, finds number 32; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century. 10 g.

F10, finds number 75; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 2 sherds, Cam 39A, early-mid 2nd to 4th century; Fabric GX, 18 sherds, Cam ?108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric ?MQ, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric HD, 1 sherd, possibly mid-late 4th century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 512 g.

L16, finds number 31; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, 1 sherd from a lid, Roman. 7 g.

L16, finds number 75; Fabric BA(SG), 3 sherds, Dr 18 or possibly 18/31, 1st or late 1st/early 2nd century, Dr 36, Flavian-early Trajanic; Fabric DJ, 13 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, bowl, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 81 sherds, sherd from a lid, everted rim beaker, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 266, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric ON, 4 sherds, Cam 17, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, 1 sherd probably from Cam 195, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric WC, 1 sherd, Roman. 1,190 g.

L16, finds number 76; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric AJ, 2 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, probably Dr 36, Flavian-early Trajanic; Fabric BA(?EG), 1 sherd, Dr 33, early/mid 2nd-early 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, bowl, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, bowl, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GQ, 1 sherd with scored chevron line pattern, part of vessel from Trench A, finds number 75, late 1st/early 2nd-mid 2nd century; Fabric GX, 54 sherds, lid, Cam ?266, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, 1st-mid 3rd century; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Roman. 1,308 g.

TP10

L17, finds number 35; Fabric BX(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 30 or 37, ovolo, mid-late 1st century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 11 g.

L17, finds number 35; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 22 g.

TP11

L8, finds number 61; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, lid, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century. 86 g.

L9, finds number 43; Fabric AA, 1 sherd from base of handle of Gaulish amphora, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, late 3rd-4th century. 80 g.

L9, finds number 44; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, rim, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GA, 2 sherds, Cam 39A, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 4 sherds, Cam 39B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 37B, late 2nd/early 3rd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278 rim, mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 19 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 403 g.

L19, finds number 40; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 18/31, mid-late 2nd to early 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37A, early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 43 g.

Trench A between the test-pits

F21, between TP6 and TP11, finds number 64; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Cam ?307, late 2nd/early 3rd-4th century. 55 g.

?F21 (recovered from spoil-heap), finds number 64; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 25 g.

F27, finds number 73; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, probably Cam 307, late 2nd/early 3rd-4th century. 11 g.

F28, finds number 71; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, flange probably from form Ritt. 11, Claudio-Neronian or early Flavian; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric ?GB, 2 sherds, 1 oxidised and 1 from a bowl of form Cam ?39B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 11 sherds, Roman. 370 g.

L1, finds number 57; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 39 g.

L8, finds number 72; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric FJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman; Fabric ?MQ, 1 sherd, Roman (?late Roman). 128 g.

L8, finds number 74; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 4 g.

L10, between TP6 and TP7, finds number 47; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 36, 2nd century; Fabric BA(?EG), 3 sherds, 1 sherd unusual form, curved flange with spout made from break in rim similar to Ritt 12/Curle 11, early/mid 2nd to ?mid 3rd century; Fabric CL(NF), 1 sherd, 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, rouletted, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 4 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, base of bowl, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, 5 sherds, Cam 37B, late 2nd/early 3rd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 39B, mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 40, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 25 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century, includes a lid-seated jar. 727 g.

L10, between TP6 and TP7, finds number 49; Fabric GB, 5 large sherds, all joining, from a Cam 37B, about 25% of pot, partial vessel, late 2nd/early 3rd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 39 or Cam 40, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. 300 g.

L10, between TP6 and TP7, finds number 52; Fabric BX(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 37, early/mid 2nd-mid 3rd century. 16 g.

L16, finds number 70; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 8 sherds, Dr 18, 1st century, Dr 27g with fragment of potters' stamp, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 20 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 38 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, Cam 195, 1st-early 2nd century. 695 g.

L16, finds number 75; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, neck and handle, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 14 sherds, lid, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 266 (3 examples), 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric GQ, 1 sherd, with scored chevron line pattern, part of vessel from TP9, finds number 76, late 1st/early 2nd-mid 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 834 g.

Unstratified pottery recovered from the spoil-heap

U/S, finds number 62; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 12 g.

U/S, finds number 64; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 5 g.

Other

L8, finds number not known; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 37A/38A, late 2nd/early 3rd-3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman; Fabric HD, 1 sherd, probably late Roman (?mid-late 4th-early 5th century). 111 g.

Trench B

F31, finds number 95; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 31, later 2nd century; Fabric CZ, 4 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam ?279C, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GB, 6 sherds, Cam ?37B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 21 sherds, Roman. 321 g.

F31, finds number 100; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 34 g.

F31, finds number 150; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 29 g.

F34, finds number 92; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric BX(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 37, 2nd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century. 345 g.

F35, finds number 93; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 4 g.

F37, finds number 135; Fabric BA(SG), 2 samian sherds, Dr 18, Dr 27 - burnt, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 8 sherds, Cam 154/155, large flagon, Claudio-Neronian; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st century. 193 g.

F38, finds number 114; Fabric ?AU, 1 sherd, 1st-?early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(MV), 1 sherd, Curle 11 flange, c AD 100-120; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EB, 1 base sherd, Cam 94, pre-Flavian; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, one in silty fabric, Roman. 85 g.

F38, finds number 124; Fabric AJ, 2 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 2 sherds, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 6 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 25 sherds, Roman. 316 g.

F38, finds number 128; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 58 g.

F38, finds number 134; Fabric ?AU, 1 sherd, 1st-?early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 4 sherds, one other from a shallow possible open lamp, burnt/sooted on rim, ?1st century; Fabric GX,

24 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 266, 1st-early 2nd century, and sherd from a lid; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century; Fabric UR, 1 sherd, platter base with small foot-ring, burnished internally, probably form Cam 16, Claudian-Flavian. 527 g.

F39, finds number 96; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 4 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 21 sherds, Roman; Fabric MQ(E), 1 sherd, slightly reddish-brown paint on surface, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric HZ, 3 sherds, Cam ?270B, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century. 444 g.

F39, finds number 97; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 27 with internal groove, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, Cam 155, Claudio-Neronian to early Antonine; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 39B, late 2nd/ early 3rd-late 3rd century; Fabric WB, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric GX, 24 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, and sherds from 2 lids. 229 g.

F39, finds number 123; Fabric ?AA, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 27, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman. 50 g.

F39, finds number 139; Fabric AA, 2 sherds, probably 1st-2nd century; Fabric AJ, 3 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 39B or 40, early/?late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 19 sherds, Roman. 478 g.

F40, finds number 109; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. 16 g.

F40, finds number 122; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 40B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, Cam 497 variant, 2nd-3rd century. 55 g.

F43, finds number 144; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 2 g.

F44, finds number 98; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, Roman. 45 g.

F45, finds number 99; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 2 g.

F45, finds number 102; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 14 g.

F46, finds number 101; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, Cam 501, Antonine. 162 g.

F47, finds number 103; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century. 5 g.

F48, finds number 104; Fabric GX, 1 rouletted sherd, Cam ?119C. Roman. 10 g.

F48, finds number 151; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 69 g.

F49, finds number 140; Fabric AA, 3 sherds, Dressel 2-4, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric AJ, 3 sherds, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 8 sherds, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric BX(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 37, Flavian; Fabric CB, 1 sherd, early 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric DJ, 46 sherds, Cam ?326, 1st century, also small bowl or lid, burnt or sooted around edge; Fabric FJ, 3 sherds, 1st-mid 2nd century; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, Cam 40A, early 2nd century to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278 (earlier type), early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX,

about 100 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 120B, 1st century, and sherds from 4 lids, Roman; Fabric ON, 2 sherds, probably 1st-2nd century; Fabric HZ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Roman. 2,288 g.

F50, finds number 147; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 4 g.

F51, finds number 107; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 23 g.

F52, finds number 108; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric CB, 1 sherd, early 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279, early/mid 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds, Cam 37?B, early/?late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman. 161 g.

F53, finds number 117; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric ?GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 16 g.

F54, finds number 111; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric ON, 1 sherd, Roman (?1st-2nd century). 8 g.

F56, finds number 110; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 266 (?2 examples), 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric ON, 1 sherd, Cam 41, 1st-?early 2nd century. 102 g.

F59, finds number 133; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279A/B, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, micaceous, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds including sherd from a lid, Roman. 178 g.

F67, finds number 129; Fabric BA(SG), 4 joining sherds, Dr 27g, 1st century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, folded beaker, Cam 406 or 407, late 2nd-3rd/4th century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric EZ or SM, 1 sherd, from a closed pot, yellow slip that could be a glaze on surface, ?1st century; Fabric GB, 5 sherds, Cam 37, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 16 sherds, includes lid sherd, Roman; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 37/38, early 2nd- to 3rd century. 258 g.

L26 + L27, finds number 82; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century. 46 g.

L31, finds number 106; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, thin and fine from a ?beaker, Roman. 1 g.

L31, finds number 113; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century. 23 g.

L31, finds number 125; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 18/31, late 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric DJ, 5 sherds, 1st-2nd/early 3rd century. 52 g.

L31, finds number 138; Fabric DJ, 8 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 13 sherds, Cam 218, 1st-early 2nd century, and sherds from a lid. 159 g.

L31, finds number 141; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, Roman. 30 g.

L41, finds number 115; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 2 sherds, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century. 196 g.

L41, finds number 130; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 12 sherds, Cam ?108, 1st-early 2nd century. 117 g.

L41, finds number 143; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, Roman. 69 g.

L45, finds number 121; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, probably Cam 37A, early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 6 sherds, early 2nd-?3rd century. 61 g.

L45, finds number 131; Fabric BA(SG), 6 sherds, Ritt. 12, Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian, Dr 27, 1st century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, mid 2nd to mid 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 24 sherds, Cam 154/155 or 155, Claudio-Neronian to Antonine, and a sherd from a lid; Fabric DZ, 1 sherd, mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric ?GA, 1 sherd, 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 4 sherds, Cam ?278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, and sherds from bowls; Fabric GP, 2 sherds, Cam 122 or 123, ?late 1st-2nd century; Fabric GR, 1 sherd, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric GX, about 50 sherds, Roman; Fabric KX, 3 joining sherds, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric MQ, 2 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century; Fabric WA, 2 sherds, Roman. 1,266 g.

L49, finds number 132; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, ?1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric DJ, 3 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman; Fabric HZ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 227 g.

L51, finds number 157; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, 1st century; Fabric BX(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 29, Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278 (earlier form), early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 20 sherds, Cam 218, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HD, 1 sherd, Roman (Roman, probably either 1st or 4th century). 403 g.

Trench C

F63, finds number 153; Fabric BA(?SG), 1 sherd, closed form, possibly part of an inkwell - Ritt. 13, ?1st century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, mid 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. 43 g.

F64, finds number 155; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. 34 g.

F64, finds number 164; Fabric AJ, 6 sherds, mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric BA(CG), 8 sherds, Dr 18/31, 2nd century, Dr 31R, later 2nd century; Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 33, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric CB, 3 sherds, early 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 16 sherds, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GB, 3 sherds, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century, Cam 40A, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 328, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, about 50 sherds, Roman; Fabric ON, 1 sherd, flagon handle, Cam 157-159/366, probably 1st-2nd century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, Cam 501, Antonine; Fabric WA, 1 sherd, Roman. 1,777 g.

F64, finds number 165; Fabric CB, 2 sherds, Cam 391, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, one from a handle, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, with handle, Roman. 64 g.

F66, finds number 156; Fabric CZ, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GB, 5 sherds, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century, Cam 40A, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278, early 2nd

to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 13 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric HZ or GX, large storage jar(s), 10 sherds, Cam 270B, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric WA, 4 sherds all from one pot, Cam 46/311, Claudio-Neronian to early 2nd century. 727 g.

L50, finds number 154; Fabric CB, 2 sherds, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 18 sherds, Roman. 102 g.

L57, finds number 161; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd/late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GX, 11 sherds, Roman. 98 g.

L58, finds number 162; Fabric AA, 2 sherds, 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 27, internal groove, 1st century; Fabric BX(SG), Dr 29, 1 sherd, Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian; Fabric DJ, 10 sherds, Cam 154/155 or 155, Claudio-Neronian to ?Antonine; Fabric EA, 1 sherd, early-mid 3rd-4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GP or GQ, 1 sherd, Cam 330, probably Flavian-2nd century; Fabric GX, 33 sherds, Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century, Cam ?266, 1st-early 2nd century, and sherd from a lid; Fabric HD, 1 sherd, ?later 4th century; Fabric TZ, 2 sherds, 1st-3rd century. 626 g.

L60, finds number 158; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/early 3rd century. 52 g.

L60, finds number 160; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman. 26 g.
Also 1 flint-tempered prehistoric sherd, 7g.

L61, finds number 159; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 28 g.

Trench D

L70, finds number 169; Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, 1st-early 3rd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, handle, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 15 sherds, Roman. 491 g.

L70, finds number 167; Fabric ?AA, 1 sherd, probably from a Gaulish amphora, 1st-3rd century; Fabric BA(SG), 1 small sherd, Dr 35 or 36, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279, early 2nd-4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278, decorated with acute burnished lattice, early 2nd-early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 25 sherds, one probably from a Cam 108, 1st-early 2nd century; Fabric HZ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric ON, 1 sherd, probably 1st-2nd century. 246 g.

L71, finds number 168; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century. 34 g.

Trench E

F70, finds number 170; Fabric CH, 1 sherd, hooked lid (*CAR 10*, Type 91), burnt on interior and exterior surfaces, turned under 'hooked' lower edges, late 3rd-4th century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 31 g.

F71, finds number 173; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 39B, mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, one sherd from a roller-stamped vessel, probably 3rd century. 54 g.

F73, finds number 175; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 24 g.

F74, finds number 176; Fabric AA, 1 sherd, probably 1st-early/mid 2nd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd with white mortar on edge of sherd, Roman. 28 g.

F76, finds number 178; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman. 24 g.

F77, finds number 179; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, probably Cam 243-244/246, 1st-2nd/3rd century. 4 g.

F78, finds number 184; Fabric GA, 2 sherds, early 2nd-4th century. 13 g.

F82, finds number 188; Fabric GX, 4 sherds, Roman. 16 g.

F83, finds number 189; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, almost certainly from an unguent pot, Cam 389, 1st-2nd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 9 g.

F84, finds number 191; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, early 2nd to 4th century. 11 g.

F86, finds number 192; Fabric BA(SG), 1 sherd, Dr 18, 1st century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century. 48 g.

L74, finds number 177; Fabric BX(MV), 1 sherd from a decorated bowl, Dr 37, dated c AD 100-120, illustrated as Plate 2, below); Fabric GB, 2 sherds, from two jars form Cam 278, decorated with acute burnished lattice, early 2nd-late 2nd century; Fabric GX, 9 sherds, Roman; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, Roman. 191 g.



Plate 2: Decorated samian ware sherd from Trench E (L74).

L77, finds number 180; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37A, early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 5 sherds, includes form Cam 218, late 1st-early 2nd century. 35 g.

L77, finds number 187; Fabric BX(CG), 1 sherd, rim from a Dr 37 bowl, 2nd century; Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam ?279C with ?obtuse burnished lattice decoration, early-mid 3rd to 4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 278 with acute burnished lattice decoration, early 2nd to late 2nd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Roman; Fabric ?UR(LTC), 1 sherd from a Cam 28, pre-Flavian. 60 g.

L78, finds number 193; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GA, 1 sherd from a lattice-decorated bowl form, probably early 2nd-3rd century; Fabric GX, 41 sherds, Cam 243-244/246, 1st-early 2nd century. 188 g.

L78, finds number 194; Fabric BX(SG), 4 sherds, Dr 29, Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian; Fabric GX, 7 sherds, Roman; Fabric WA, 9 sherds from a carinated bowl with horizontal grooves above the carination, Roman. 95 g.

L78, finds number 196; Fabric DJ, 2 sherds, 1st-2nd/3rd century; Fabric GB, 2 sherds from the base of a dish or bowl, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 20 sherds from five or more pots, includes Cam 243-244/245, 1st-early 2nd century. 160 g.

L81, finds number 190; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, 1st-3rd century. 102 g.

Trench F

F79, finds number 183; Fabric BA(SG), 2 sherds, Dr 27, 1st century, Dr 36, 1st century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Cam ?266, 1st-early 2nd century. 16 g.

F80, finds number 186; Fabric GX, 2 sherds, Roman. 10 g.

L79, finds number 185; Fabric GX, 1 sherd, Roman. 3 g.

5.3 The medieval and later pottery

by Howard Brooks

Introduction

This is the report on a small assemblage (253 sherds, 414 g) of post-Roman pottery from excavations on the site, which includes part of the grounds of East Hill House and firstsite:newsite, off East Hill in Colchester.

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR 7*): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 23 (medieval white ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware - PMRE); Fabric 41 (Tudor Green ware); Fabric 42 (Border ware); Fabric 44 (German slipware); Fabric 45b (Siegburg ware); Fabric 45c (Raeren stoneware); Fabric 45d (Frechen ware); Fabric 45f (Westerwald ware); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone); Fabric 51b (flowerpot).

Discussion

There are no large or well-stratified medieval or post-medieval groups here, so detailed comment is not appropriate. The range of fabrics is typical of a Colchester urban site. The medieval and medieval transitional fabrics make up 23% of the assemblage, and post-medieval fabrics the remaining 77%. The largest groups of medieval material are Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware), which forms 16% of the total pottery assemblage by weight, and Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), which forms 5% of the total. Post-medieval fabrics dominate this assemblage, with Fabric 40 (PMRE) forming 46% of the total pottery assemblage by weight. Other post-medieval fabrics are Fabric 51b (flowerpot), 8%; Fabric 45 (German stonewares), 7%; Fabric 46 (tin-glazed earthenware), 5%; and Fabric 42 (Border Ware), 3%.

This pottery group relates well to the known documentary and cartographic evidence for the site. John Speed's map of 1610 shows housing along the East Hill frontage, with open land to its south. The pottery relates to this housing in the following ways. There was only a single sherd of Fabric 13 (12th century) and a small group of 13th-century pottery (Fabric 20). Whereas this may be due to casual loss or

cultivation of the land here, there is another reason why this pottery may be here. We know that there was substantial robbing of the Roman walls on the sites later occupied by East Hill House and the bus station, but no dating evidence for this event came from the robber trenches excavated in this project. Perhaps the 13th-century pottery here is contemporary with the robbing activity.

The group of Colchester-type ware is probably to be associated with the housing which Speed shows along East Hill in 1610, and which presumably existed in the 15th century, if not earlier.

Map coverage after John Speed (Morant 1748; Chapman and André 1777) show a continuation of the open land, which was also known as 'Berryfields'. The mid 18th-century East Hill House is identifiable on Morant's 1748 map.

The large groups of post-medieval pottery (PMRE, German stonewares, and tin-glazed earthenwares) are all undoubtedly to be associated with East Hill House, and the flowerpots are debris from horticultural operations in its grounds.

Catalogue of medieval and later pottery

F3

Finds number 10

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 8 g
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 19 g
Fabric 51b, 1 sherd, 40 g

F5

Finds number 33

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 22 g
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 5 g
Fabric 45, 1 sherd, 7 g

F6

Finds number 24

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 10 g
Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 11 g

F7

Finds number 25

Fabric 21a, 3 sherds, 19 g
Fabric 41, 1 sherd, 1 g
Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 5 g
Fabric 45, 1 sherd, 49 g
Fabric 51b, 1 sherd, 1 g

F11

Finds number 42

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 12 g
Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 36 g
Fabric 51b, 2 sherds, 11 g

F16

Finds number 41

Fabric 40, 10 sherds, 402 g
Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 12 g
Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 43 g

Finds number 63

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, nice lid, slight glaze, 59 g
Fabric 40, 2 sherds, includes pancheon rim, 90 g

F21

Finds number 56

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 17 g
Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 42 g

F23

Finds number 68
Fabric 51b, 2 sherds, 157 g

F34

Finds number 92
Fabric 40, 11 sherds, 116 g
Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 29 g
Fabric 46, 4 sherds, 24 g

F35

Finds number 93
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 10 g

F36

Finds number 94
Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 39 g

F39

Finds number 96
Fabric 20, 4 sherds, 40 g
Fabric 40, 2 sherd, 7 g

F40

Finds number 122
Fabric 20 or possibly Fabric 13, 1 sherd, 4 g

F41

Finds number 112
Fabric 48d, 2 sherds, 8 g
Fabric 45m, 1 sherd, 8 g

F44

Finds number 98
Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 6 g
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 2 g

F46

Finds number 101
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 10 g

F48

Finds number 104
Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 4 g

Finds number 151
Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 2 g

F49

Finds number 140
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 11 g

F52

Finds number 108
Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 2 g

F63

Finds number 153
Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 1 g

F64

Finds number 155
Fabric 51b, 1 sherd, 6 g

F70

Finds number 170

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 17 g

F76

Finds number 178

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 4 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 7 g

F77

Finds number 179

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 7 g

F79

Finds number 183

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 12 g

Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 8 g

Fabric 48d, 1 sherd, 9 g

F82

Finds number 188

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 3 g

F83

Finds number 189

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 1 g

Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 1 g

L1

Finds number 1

Fabric 20, 1 sherd, 7 g

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 3 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 7 g

Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 2 g

Finds number 3

Fabric 21a, 2 sherds, 27 g

Fabric 40, 3 sherds, 33 g

Fabric 51b, 1 sherd, 12 g

Finds number 5

Fabric 21a, 2 sherds, 25 g

Fabric 40, 6 sherds, 53 g

Fabric 51b, 3 sherds, 48 g

Fabric 45m, 1 sherd, stamped 'BLACKING BOTTLE', 68 g

Finds number 57

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, inc large jar rim, 17th-18th centuries, 78 g

L3

Finds number 4

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 18 g

Fabric 31, 1 sherd, bright glaze on orange fabric, so probably Low

Countries ware, 15 g

Fabric 40, 6 sherds, 131 g

Fabric 44, 1 sherd, German slipware with green partly sgraffito
decoration on white slip, 16th-?17th century, 42 g

Finds number 6

Fabric 20, 3 sherds, 38 g

Fabric 45b, 1 sherd, 3 g

L4

Finds number 8

Fabric 20, 3 sherds, 44 g

L5

Finds number 14

Fabric 51b, 2 sherds, 7 g

L8

Finds number 15

Fabric 40, 7 sherds, 110 g

Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 16 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 6 g

Fabric 46, 4 sherds, 66 g

Finds number 27

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 7 g

Finds number 48

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, handle, 21 g

Finds number 53

Fabric 40, 4 sherds, 79 g

Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 9 g

Fabric 46, 2 sherds, 78 g

Fabric 51b, 1 sherd, 36 g

Finds number 61

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 72 g

Finds number 72

Fabric 20, 2 sherds, 16 g

Fabric 21a, 2 sherd, 21 g

Fabric 40, 3 sherds, 15 g

Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 24 g

Fabric 45c, 1 sherd, 9 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 14 g

Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 14 g

Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 1 g

Finds number 74

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 30 g

L11

Finds number 17

Fabric 21a, 3 sherds, 46 g

Fabric 40, 5 sherds, 41 g

Fabric 45b, 1 sherd, 5 g

L12

Finds number 18

Fabric 21a, 6 sherds, 156 g

Fabric 23, 1 sherd, green-glazed ?cup rim; not Tudor Green,
14th-15th centuries, 7 g

Fabric 40, 7 sherds, 164 g

Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 17 g

Fabric 48d, 1 sherd, 5 g

Finds number 21

Fabric 21a, 2 sherds, 13 g

Fabric 40, 5 sherds, 64 g

Fabric 45c, 2 sherds, 19 g

Finds number 23

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 25 g

L13

Finds number 34

Fabric 20, 2 sherds, 16 g

Fabric 21a, 4 sherds, 76 g

L15

Finds number 30

Fabric 20 or ?Roman grey ware, 3 sherds, 20 g

L16

Finds number 69

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 18 g

L17

Finds number 35

Fabric 46, 1 sherd, 4 g

L19

Finds number 40

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 12 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 75 g

L25

Finds number 81

Fabric 48d, 1 sherd, 6 g

Finds number 146

Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 1 g

Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 19 g

1 sherd, post-Roman, 37 g, and 1 thin tile, ?peg-tile.

Finds number 148

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 58 g

L26 + L27

Finds number 82

Fabric 40, 5 sherds, 29 g

Fabric 42, 3 sherds, 98 g

Fabric 45d, 1 sherd, 6 g

Fabric 48d, 1 sherd, 3 g

Fabric 51b, 4 sherds, 23 g

Fabric 45m, 2 sherds, 21 g

L28 + L29

Finds number 85

Fabric 13, 1 sherd, 21g, shelly fabric: or is this Fabric 10?

Fabric 42, 1 sherd, 13 g

L41

Finds number 115

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 5 g

L50

Finds number 154

Fabric 21a, 1 sherd, 8 g

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 19 g

L58

Finds number 162

Fabric 40, 1 sherd, 6 g

Fabric 51b, 2 sherds, 15 g

L81

Finds number 190

Fabric 40, 2 sherds, 16 g

Fabric 45f, 1 sherd, 2 g

5.4 The clay tobacco-pipe (Table 5)

by Nina Crummy

The bowls are catalogued below; the stems are listed in Table 5.

Of the 25 bowls in the assemblage, nineteen (76 %) are of Colchester Type 7, which dates to c 1670-1700, and four (16 %) are of Type 6, which has a slightly earlier but overlapping date range of c 1660-80 (CAR 5, 49). Of the remaining two, one is Type 9, dated c 1700-40, and one is a fragment with raised rib that belongs to the early-mid 19th century. A stem fragment retains the beginnings of a rib of raised vegetal ornament that also dates to the early-mid 19th century (CAR 5, 51-2, 56). Two stem fragments with decorative bands belong to the early 18th century. The chief period of deposition, therefore, appears to lie in the later 17th century, before the construction of East Hill House in the mid 18th century, with a limited amount of deposition in the early 18th century and again in the early to mid 19th century.

Only one marked pipe was found, a Type 7 bowl bearing the initials SN or NS. Another example of these initials, although the mark differs somewhat, occurred on a Type 7 pipe from the Balkerne Lane site in the western suburb of the town (CAR 5, 49, fig 55, 2634). The initials may be those of Samuel Nodwell, a London maker who is recorded as working in 1700, although the late Leonard Gant, a Colchester clay-pipe specialist, believed that they should be read as NS for Nathaniel Spurgin, who was a Colchester burgess but is not recorded as a pipe-maker (Le Cheminant 1981, fig 5, 52; CAR 5, 63).

That pipes were probably made in the vicinity of the excavation is suggested by three wasters, one stem fragment from L29 (post-medieval topsoil) and two from L50 (post-medieval or modern topsoil), although no record of a pipe-maker in that part of the town has yet been found (CAR 5, 63-6).

(41) F16. Post-medieval pit. Six Type 7 bowls. Date range c 1670-1700. 1) Rouletted rim. Lined foot. 2) Rouletted rim. Rouletted foot. 3) Rouletted rim. Lined foot. 4) Rouletted rim. Rouletted foot. 5) Rouletted rim. Plain foot. 6) Rouletted rim. Plain foot.

(56) F21. 1) Type 7 bowl fragment with rouletted rim. Plain foot. Date range c 1670-1700. 2) Type 9 bowl. Plain foot. Date range c 1700-40.

(64) F21. Type 7 bowl, with rouletted rim. Lined foot. Date range c 1670-1700.

(92) F34. Post-medieval flowerbed. Type 7 bowl with rouletted rim. Rouletted foot. Date range c 1670-1700.

(96) F39. Type 7 bowl, with rouletted rim. Plain foot. Date range c 1670-1700.

(163) F63. Type 6 bowl, with rouletted rim. Plain foot. Date range c 1660-80.

(15) L8. 1) Type 6 bowl with rouletted rim. Lined foot. Date range c 1660-80. 2) Type 7 bowl with rouletted rim. Lined foot. Date range c 1670-1700. 3) Type 7 bowl with rouletted rim. Partly lined foot. Date range c 1670-1700.

(53) L8. Two Type 7 bowls. Date range c 1670-1700. 1) Rouletted rim. Plain foot. 2) Rouletted rim. Lined foot.

(54) L8. Four Type 7 bowls. Date range c 1670-1700. 1) Rouletted rim. Relief stamp SN or NS on the underside of the foot, with three pellets above and below the initials (CAR 5, 63). 2) Fragment with full profile. Rouletted rim. Plain foot. 3) Rim rouletted. Plain foot. 4) Rouletted rim. Plain foot.

(43) L9. Type 6 bowl, with rouletted rim. Plain foot. Date range c 1660-80.

(82) L26 + L27. Bowl fragment with plain raised rib on the seam, as CAR 5, 56. Early to mid 19th century.

(154) L50. Type 6 bowl with rouletted rim. Lined foot. Date range c 1660-80.

(38). Unstratified. Type 7 bowl, with rouletted rim. Lined foot. Date range c 1670-1700.

Table 5: clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments.

Finds no	Context no	Context description and date	Number of stem fragments	Features	Length (mm)	Bore diameter (mm)
32	F10	modern service trench	1	-	24	3.0
41	F16	post-medieval pit	4	-	1) 115 2) 118 3) 95 4) 65	1) 3.0 2) 3.0 3) 2.5 4) 3.0
56	F21	modern pit	5	1) with spiralled rouletted band	1) 74 2) 59 3) 49 4) 49 5) 35	1) 3.0 2) 2.5 3) 2.5 4) 2.0 5) 2.0
64	F21	modern pit	1	bands of rouletting and beading	79	2.5
108	F25	Roman flint wall foundation	1	-	42	3.0
89	F32	post-medieval ditch	1	-	21	1.5
92	F34	post-medieval flowerbed	14	1) with plain foot and part of bowl 2) with plain foot	1) 56 2) 48 3) 53 4) 49 5) 54 6) 50 7) 50 8) 38 9) 47 10) 49 11) 40 12) 32 13) 34 14) 30	1) 3.0 2) 3.0 3) 2.0 4) 2.0 5) 2.5 6) 3.0 7) 2.0 8) 3.0 9) 3.0 10) 2.5 11) 2.0 12) 3.0 13) 2.0 14) 2.5
93	F35	post-medieval pit	2	-	1) 31 2) 32	1) 2.5 2) 2.5
98	F44	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1 (split section)	-	23	-
99	F45	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1	-	21	2.0

Finds no	Context no	Context description and date	Number of stem fragments	Features	Length (mm)	Bore diameter (mm)
102	F45	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1	-	25	2.0
101	F46	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1	-	55	2.5
107	F51	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1	part of a plain foot	33	3.0
111	F54	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	2	1) relief plant leaf on seam close to bowl 2) -	1) 26 2) 19	1) 3.0 2) 3.0
110	F56	modern pipe trench	2	1) small part of bowl	1) 20 2) 46	1) 2.0 2) 2.0
3	L1	modern topsoil	3		1) 49 2) 47 3) 44	1) 3.0 2) 2.0 3) 2.5
5	L1	modern topsoil	1	-	45	3.0
6	L3	post-medieval or modern dump	1	-	32	2.0
15	L8	post-medieval/modern topsoil	27	-	1) 77 2) 94 3) 51 4) 67 5) 53 6) 46 7) 42 8) 43 9) 47 10) 51 11) 31 12) 63 13) 54 14) 54 15) 49 16) 47 17) 77 18) 37 19) 42 20) 46 21) 47 22) 41 23) 36 24) 31 25) 31 26) 35 27) 25	1) 3.0 2) 3.0 3) 3.0 4) 3.0 5) 3.0 6) 3.0 7) 3.0 8) 3.0 9) 3.0 10) 3.0 11) 3.0 12) 3.0 13) 3.0 14) 3.0 15) 2.5 16) 2.5 17) 2.5 18) 3.0 19) 3.0 20) 2.5 21) 3.0 22) 3.0 23) 2.0 24) 3.0 25) 3.0 26) 2.5 27) 2.5
27	L8	post-medieval/modern topsoil	8	1) with plain foot	1) 44 2) 47 3) 41 4) 38 5) 37 6) 30	1) 2.0 2) 3.0 3) 2.5 4) 2.5 5) 3.0 6) 3.0

Finds no	Context no	Context description and date	Number of stem fragments	Features	Length (mm)	Bore diameter (mm)
					7) 31 8) 19	7) 2.0 8) 2.0
53	L8	post-medieval/ modern topsoil	7	-	1) 86 2) 50 3) 46 4) 44 5) 37 6) 48 7) 36	1) 2.5 2) 2.5 3) 3.0 4) 2.5 5) 2.5 6) 2.0 7) 3.0
61	L8	post-medieval/ modern topsoil	2	-	1) 58.5 2) 70	1) 2.0 2) 3.0
74	L8	post-medieval/ modern topsoil	1	-	61	2.5
43	L9	post-medieval robbing debris	1	-	47	3.0
17	L11	modern topsoil	5	-	1) 44 2) 37 3) 60 4) 29 5) 39	1) 3.0 2) 3.0 3) 3.5 4) 3.0 5) 3.0
18	L12	modern ?demolition debris	1	-	32	3.0
40	L19	modern cable trench fill	6	1) with small part of foot and bowl	1) 30 2) 60 3) 48 4) 40 5) 39 6) 37	1) 2.5 2) 2.0 3) 2.0 4) 3.0 5) 2.0 6) 3.0
81	L25	post-medieval/ modern topsoil	1	-	35	2.0
83	L26	post-medieval topsoil	1	-	55	2.0
82	L26 + L27	post-medieval topsoil and modern hogging base	3	-	1) 49 2) 32 3) 36	1) 2.0 2) 3.0 3) 2.5
85	L28 + L29	modern hogging base and post- medieval topsoil	1	-	27	2.5
86	L29	post-medieval topsoil	3	1) waster	1) 32 2) 38 3) 25	1) 2.5 2) 1.0 3) 2.5
154	L50	post-medieval/ modern topsoil	4	1) waster 2) waster	1) 25 2) 14 3) 72 4) 26	1) 1.5 2) 1.5 3) 3.0 4) 3.0
38	-	unstratified	1	-	24	1.5
62	-	unstratified	1	-	70	2.5
189	F83	post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	1	-	37	2.5
190	L81	post-medieval soil	1	-	36	1.5

5.5 The floor tile

by Howard Brooks

A fragment (126 g) of the corner of a medieval or later floor tile was found in post-medieval/modern topsoil L8 in TP1 on the East Hill frontage (finds no 15). It was 20 mm thick, and was quite worn. No glaze survived.

In this position, it probably derives from the houses shown standing here on John Speed's 1610 map. These houses were demolished to make way for the construction of East Hill House in the mid 18th century.

5.6 The glass

by Howard Brooks

Introduction

The glass can be considered in three groups, ie Roman glass from Roman contexts, Roman glass from post-Roman contexts, and post-medieval and modern glass. The description of the Roman glass is based on *CAR 8*.

5.6.1 Roman glass from Roman contexts

Trench B

L45, Roman ?make-up

Finds number 131

2 Roman green glass bottle fragments, 20 g

1 good-quality Roman white frosted glass with external burnishing or polishing; from a ?cup, 3 g.

1 rolled rim of Roman vessel, 3 g

Group of very fine glass sherds from delicate vessels, 2 g

5.6.2 Roman glass from post-Roman contexts

Trench B

F34, post-medieval flowerbed

Finds number 92

1 small fragment (2 g), of slightly frosty green glass, 4mm thick. Difficult to date. Could be post-medieval, but, given the presence of Roman glass on this site, could well be residual Roman.

F43, ?medieval robber trench

Finds number 144

1 tiny fragment of good-quality thin green glass with slight bubbling; almost certainly Roman, 1mm thick, 1 g.

Trench C

F64, post-medieval pit

Finds number 164

5 fragments from Roman square bottle, 35 g

1 pale green Roman glass, from a square ?bottle, 5 g

1 pale green Roman glass bottle fragment, 12 g

F66, post-medieval cess-pit

Finds number 156

1 pale green glass bottle fragment, 12 g

L51, post-medieval demolition debris

Finds number 157

1 green glass Roman bottle fragment, 6 g

Trench E

F71, post-medieval cess-pit

Finds number 173

1 pale green glass, from ?omphalos base, looks Roman, 3 g

5.6.3 Post-medieval and modern glass

F6

Finds number 24

1 'Babycham'-type bottle, 175 g

1 shaped piece of 'old' (ie pre-Victorian) window glass, 12g. (This looks like some of the fragments from the site of St John's abbey. It must be from an ecclesiastical context, so it is presumably from St James' Church, and dates from a period of refenestration, presumably in the Victorian period.)

F34

Finds number 92

1 green glass bottle; neck fragment, slightly thick, so probably pre-Victorian, 12 g

F57

Finds number 129

1 very modern glass fragment; ?intrusive, 3 g

1 slightly frosted window glass fragment, post-medieval, 2mm thick, 3 g

F63

Finds number 153

1 Victorian or later green (?beer) bottle, fragment, 2 g

L1

Finds number 1

1 modern wine glass base, fragment, 20 g. D

Finds number 5

4 modern window glass and Victorian and later green bottle fragments, 50 g. D

L3

Finds number 6

1 omphalos wine bottle base, fragment, 18th century, 68 g

L11

Finds number 17

4 Victorian bottle and window glass fragments, 15 g

L12

Finds number 18

1 old window glass fragment; Victorian or earlier?, 2 g. D

1 post-medieval or modern thin glass fragment, 4 g. D

L16

Finds number 76

1 post-medieval or modern glass bottle fragment, 10 g

L22

Finds number 84

2 very modern moulded glass and post-medieval bottle fragments,

21 g

L26

Finds number 82

1 omphalos wine bottle base, fragment, 18th century, 53 g

L31

Finds number 106

1 tiny green glass fragment, almost certainly post-Roman, 1 g

Finds number 138

1 post-medieval or modern moulded glass fragment, 2 g. D

L58

Finds number 162

1 frosted green glass fragment, probably modern, 4 g

U/S (Trench C)

1 clear glass Victorian 'fairy light' fragment, 145 g

Comment

This group, consisting of fragments of window glass and wine or beer bottles, is not of particular interest. The exception is the Victorian fairy-light fragment; this evokes images of parties in the grounds of East Hill House.

5.7 The tesserae

by Howard Brooks

Plain red tesserae

Comment

A group of 205 plain red *tesserae* (weighing 3,603g) was found during this project. Although a small proportion (11 *tesserae*, 220g) did not seem to have any adhering mortar, it is assumed here that they are all *tesserae* robbed off tessellated pavements in one of the Roman buildings in Insulas 31/32. By trench, the quantities were as follows.

Trench A, northern end, and test-pits TP1-TP5

1 *tessera*, 25 g

Trench A, southern end, and test-pits TP6-TP12

21 *tesserae*, 395 g

Trench B, and test-pits in Trench B

135 *tesserae*, 2,456 g

Trench C, and test-pits in Trench C

24 *tesserae*, 322 g

Trench E, and test-pits in Trench E

24 *tesserae*, 405 g

The relatively small number of *tesserae* from the northern end of Trench A is due to the fact that the trench did not cut down so deeply into Roman deposits as the other trenches. The largest group came from Trench B. In contrast, the southern end of Trench A to its immediate east produced relatively few. Although interpretation will always be compromised by the movement of soil on this site by later landscaping, it is attractive to suggest that this contrast is due to the fact that Trench B cut through the position of a suite of Roman rooms in Building 215, whereas Trench A (southern end) cut through the site of an open central courtyard, where there would be few or no *tesserae*.

Stone tesserae blanks

The discovery of this 1.073 kg group of *tessera* blanks is of some interest, even though they were in an unstratified position. Some comparison of this material with that from Gosbecks temple (Crummy *et al* forthcoming) is useful here. There were two colours (white and grey) and three types:

Type 1: much larger than would be used in floor. Typically 30 mm square and 25 mm deep, weighing 50-60 g. Presumably to be worked down into smaller *tesserae*. There are no pieces of this size from the Gosbecks temple.

Type 2: long, probably used in this form, but could be cut down to type 3. This type is generally longer than the pieces from the Gosbecks temple.

Typically 10 mm to 12 mm square, but 25 mm deep, weighing 6-8 g.

Type 3: usable, roughly rectangular. Typically 15 mm x 12 mm x 10 mm, weighing 4-6 g. This type is generally similar to the pieces from the Gosbecks temple.

Quantities were as follows:

Type 1 white - 9 *tesserae*, 378 g

Type 2 white - 31 *tesserae*, 273 g

Type 3 white - 17 *tesserae*, 56 g

Type 1 grey - 4 *tesserae*, 93 g

Type 2 grey - 19 *tesserae*, 206 g

Type 3 grey - 14 *tesserae*, 67 g

The white pieces are all made of chalk, and also a harder material, ie limestone. This assemblage includes more chalky pieces than that from the Gosbecks temple (Crummy *et al* forthcoming). Although there was one Type 2 grey from TP6 (22 g), this group came entirely from Trench B, and mainly from its eastern end. It is, of course, impossible to know the original context of this material before it was moved during recent landscaping, but it seems reasonable to suggest that it came from somewhere on the western side of Building 215.

If it is accepted that this is a working group of material belonging to a worker or worker connected with the construction or repair of mosaic floors in Roman Colchester, it is reasonable to suggest that Building 215 was either his home or his workshop, or both.

5.8 The flints (Table 6) *by Adam Wightman*

The nine worked flints collected included 2 retouched flakes, 1 multiple tool, 1 utilised flake, 2 axe thinning flakes, 2 secondary waste flakes, and a piece of burnt flint that had not been worked.

Some of these artefacts, though few in number, are products of good-quality flint knapping. The multiple tool (retouched notch and scraper retouch) is quite large in size but exhibits fine scraper retouch (L12, finds no 21). The two retouched flakes are both greater in length than twice their width although characteristics of the flakes preclude their having been struck from a blade core (F46, finds no 101; F70, finds no 171). Both have a curved arris down the centre giving the pieces a crested appearance with retouch up the lateral edges and at the distal ends to form a point. The smaller of the two has serrated edges that are more characteristic of Mesolithic pieces and could make it a microdenticulate. The long thin flake that converges at a point has a prepared platform and evidence of use on the edges making it a utilised flake (F9, finds no 70).

Four of the other flakes are debitage from knapping sequence. Two of these are axe-thinning flakes that are Neolithic and the other two are small flakes from the core reduction process that exhibit numerous previous removals and retain cortex.

Although primarily residual, these flints provide evidence that prehistoric activity occurred in the area that is now Colchester town centre. Studied in isolation, they do not suggest the type of land use in this area in prehistory, although the mixture of formal tool types and debitage suggests that tool production as well as use took place in this area.

Table 6: catalogue of flints.

Finds no	Context	Description	Date
21	L12, TP3	1 large tertiary flake with semi-abrupt retouch on the dorsal face and use-wear scars on the ventral face. Retouch on both lateral edges and scraper retouch on proximal edge. Retouched notch on left lateral edge.	Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age
101	F46, Trench B	1 small, long tertiary flake with uninvasive retouch on both lateral edges forming a slight point. Retouch on dorsal and ventral faces. Curved central arris gives a crested appearance.	?Mesolithic/ Neolithic
171	F70	1 large, long secondary flake with sporadic and uninvasive retouch primarily on the ventral face. Retouch on both lateral edges. Invasive retouch on distal end forming a point. Curved central arris gives a crested appearance.	Neolithic
131	L45	1 small secondary flake, evidence of previous removals and one possible utilised edge. Possible axe-thinning flake.	
195	F85	1 small secondary waste flake.	
195	F85	1 small secondary axe-thinning flake (cortex on left lateral and distal).	Neolithic
195	F85	1 small, long secondary flake that converges to a point. No retouch but probable use-wear. Prepared platform. Different patinated flint to others in assemblage.	Neolithic
70	F9	1 piece of slightly burnt flint not intentionally shaped or formed in any way.	
70	F9	1 small tertiary an axe-thinning flake.	Neolithic

5.9 The faunal remains (Tables 7-10)

by Julie Curl (NAU Archaeology, Report 1896, August 2008)

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context that was examined in more detail. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992).

The assemblage

A total of 1.382 kg of bone, consisting of 155 pieces, was produced from eight contexts, with remains in one test-pit and two trenches (see Tables 7-10). Remains were in reasonable condition, although fragmentary as a result of butchering and gnawing. It is probable that all the bone originates from the Roman period and that the remains in TP8 (L15) and in TC (F66 and L60) are residual.

Canid gnawing was noted on a pig phalange and other fragments of mammal bone from Trench B (L45, finds no 131). Two pieces of burnt bone were found in Trench B (F38, finds no 114); these pieces of bone had been burnt black, indicative of burning for a short period or at low temperature.

Table 7: weights of faunal remains from features, layers and trenches (all in g).

Context number	Type and date	Trench B	Trench C	TP8
F37	Layer of redeposited <i>tesserae</i> – Roman	65		
F38	Layer of redeposited <i>tesserae</i> – Roman	208		
F66	Post-medieval cess-pit		181	
L15	Demolition debris – post-medieval			243
L45	?Make-up – Roman	538		
L51	Demolition debris – post-medieval		18	
F59	Pit – post-medieval, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	22		
L60	Cessy lens – post-medieval		107	
Total weights		833	306	243

Observations and discussion

Much of the assemblage was fragmentary and with no diagnostic zones to allow species identification. Of the identifiable species, cattle are the most frequent, with sheep/goat and pig found in slightly lower numbers. Several bird bones were found, with two species being identifiable, ie domestic fowl and teal. One Roman context produced remains of dog/wolf. Most remains were of adult animals, indicative of other uses such as milking, prior to culling for meat. A neonatal piglet was found in Trench B, F38 (finds no 134); such a young animal is normally indicative of on-site breeding.

TP8 yielded a heavily-cut cattle cuboid from L15 (finds no 30), the cuts would have occurred when the animal was skinned. The cattle cuboid also shows lesions on the articular surface that can be attributed to Osteochondritis dissecans and are likely to have occurred due to stress from a young age, possibly an early life in traction or a poor diet while developing.

Trench B produced sections of chopped and cut ribs, with lengths between 50 mm and 90 mm; these pieces of rib are likely to have been used in a soup - the chopping into smaller sections allows the marrow to enrich the soup.

Three bones from a dog were recovered from a post-medieval cess-pit F66 (finds no 156) in Trench C. The calculations from the measurements of the tibia indicates a dog with a shoulder height of approximately 25 inches (approximately 63 cm), which suggests a breed the size of a collie, wolf or small deerhound. The dog (or wolf) was an adult with some signs of arthritis or joint disease on the proximal ulna.

Remains of birds were recovered from five contexts. Four Roman fills produced bones of domestic fowl, some of which had been butchered; a variety of fowl are likely to have been kept on or close to the site for a supply of eggs and meat. F38 also produced a single radius from a teal (*Anas crecca*; finds no 124); this bird may have been an addition to the diet.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

This is a small assemblage that consists of primary and secondary waste with evidence of skinning and food use. The quantity of bird bone would suggest that fowl, at least, were kept on or close to the site for a supply of eggs and meat. The neonatal pig is indicative of breeding on site in the Roman period. Teal was also recorded in Colchester at Head Street (Curl 2004) and must have been readily available locally.

The dog in the assemblage may have been used for hunting or as a guard dog, but may have been a pet. The presence of a joint disease is not a certain indication of age and human care, as this type of pathology has been noted on wild animals.

Table 8: Trench B faunal remains catalogue.

(F37 and F38, layer of redeposited Roman *tesserae*; F59, post-medieval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit; L45, Roman ?make-up)
NISP = number of individual specimens

Context/ finds no	qt	wt (g)	species	NISP	age	butchering	comments
F37, 123	4	21	mammal	4			
F37, 127	1	16	mammal	1			
F37, 135	4	28	mammal	4			
F38, 114	2	11	mammal	2		butchered	burnt black
F38, 124	18	107	cattle	1	adult		proximal phalange
F38, 124			sheep/goat	1	adult	butchered	radius
F38, 124			bird - fowl	1	adult	chopped/cut	tibiotarsus
F38, 124			bird - Teal	1	adult		radius
F38, 124			mammal	14		butchered	
F38, 134	18	90	cattle	1	adult		intermediate phalange
F38, 134			pig	2	neonatal		mandible, no wear on Dp4; phalange
F38, 134			mammal	15		butchered	
F59, 133	2	22	cattle	1	juvenile		proximal phalange
F59, 133			mammal	1			
L45, 121	2	18	sheep/goat	1	adult		molar
L45, 121			pig	1	adult		canid gnawing
L45, 131	59	520	cattle	3	adult	chopped/cut	scapula fragments, coboid
L45, 131			sheep/goat	4	range	chopped/cut	humerus, femur, scapulas
L45, 131			pig	3	adult	chopped/cut	mandible fragment, ulna, phalange
L45, 131			bird - fowl	2	adult		radius, distal tarsometatarsus
L45, 131			bird	1			shaft fragment
L45, 131			mammal	46		chopped/cut	fragmentary, chopped rib sections

Table 9: Trench C faunal remains catalogue.

(F66, post-medieval cess-pit; L51, post-medieval demolition debris; L60, post-medieval cessy lens)

Context/ finds no	qt	wt (g)	species	NISP	age	butchering	comments
F66, 156	14	181	cattle	1	adult	chopped/cut	metacarpal
F66, 156			dog - wolf??	3	adult	knife cuts	cut tibia, ulna – pathology, mandible
F66, 156			sheep/goat	1	adult		upper jaw fragment
F66, 156			bird	1	adult	cut	tibiotarsus, incomplete, possibly Goose species
F66, 156			mammal	8			fragments
L51, 157	4	18	mammal	4			
L60, 158	5	65	sheep/goat	1	adult		tibia, small, unfused, approx 4-6 months
L60, 158			pig	1	adult	chopped/cut	pelvis
L60, 158			mammal	3			
L60, 160	3	42	cattle	1	adult	chopped/cut	rib
L60, 160			bird - fowl	1	juvenile		tarsometatarsus
L60, 160			mammal	1			

Table 10: TP8 faunal remains catalogue.
(L15, post-medieval demolition debris)

Context/ finds no	qt	wt (g)	species	NISP	age	butchering	comments
L15, 30	19	243	cattle	2	adult	chopped/cut	heavily cut cuboid, chopped humerus
L15, 30			pig	1	adult	chopped/cut	ulna
L15, 30			bird	8	adult		shaft and synsacrum fragments
L15, 30			mammal	8		butchered	

5.10 Other finds

by Howard Brooks

Lists of the following finds can be found in the site archive: undated stone (8.3kg), daub (44g), coal (55g), charcoal (13g), and mortar (756g); Roman brick and tile (72.48kg), Roman painted wall-plaster (2.39kg); post-medieval brick (3.23kg), post-medieval peg-tile (8.15kg); and post-medieval slate (192g).

6 Discussion and conclusions

Prehistoric activity

Prehistoric activity is represented by the discovery of nine struck flints, all found in residual contexts.

Early Roman

The trenches and test-pits did not generally penetrate deeply enough into the Roman deposits to reveal much early Roman material. Although the sequence revealed in the trenches was not highly detailed in terms of dates, there was one context which was probably early Roman. This was the top of a burnt stump of daub wall F67, in Trench C. Although undated, this feature is most likely to be Boudican. Associated charcoally deposit L61 may also be of early Roman date.

Later Roman – the town-houses

The principal Roman discoveries were the robbed-out foundations of a Roman building, here named as Colchester Building 215¹. This seems to have had at least four rooms, plus a portico wall on the street frontage. The fragments of wall foundation found by CAT in 1984 immediately to the east, on the site of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (CAR 6, 375-6), ie the buildings shown as Buildings 216 and 217 on Figure 1, may also be fragments of similar portico wall foundations.

The discovery of 76 kg of Roman brick, tile and *tesserae* allows us to draw some of the usual inferences about the structure of Building 215. Roman brick forms 38% of the total CBM (ceramic building material) group by weight. These brick are undoubtedly from the foundations, and possibly the walls, of the buildings. Roof tile and *imbrex* fragments form 41% and 15% respectively. This shows that large parts of the buildings was roofed with the usual combination of *tegula* and *imbrex*. A smaller amount of box tile (1%) shows that there was probably a hypocaust somewhere in the vicinity. This was presumably in Building 215, but it cannot be located any more precisely.

The interior décor of Building 215 is indicated by fragments of painted wall-plaster. These are mainly of plain red colour, with much smaller quantities of plain yellow, plain grey, and various striped pieces. The distribution of painted wall-plaster pieces is

¹ The wall foundations of Roman houses on either side of the Roman street dividing Insulas 32 and 40 were found by CAT on the site of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (CAR 6, 375). They are here numbered as Colchester Building 216 and Building 217 (see Fig 1).

interesting. There were none at all from Trench A, Trench E or Trench F. This may indicate that the part of Building 215 intercepted by these trenches was not highly decorated. This may be related to the fact that the group of plain *tesserae* was found nearby. It may have been part of a workshop. The largest group of *tesserae* came from Trench C, which is some distance to the west of Building 215. This may be the only evidence from this project of another Roman town house in an expected position on either the eastern side of Insula 30 and north of 1955 house 2, or on the western side of Insula 31 (see below for discussion of street positions).

Roman – the street pattern

The locations of the streets which subdivided the Roman town into *insulae* are well established as a result of many excavations in the town centre over many years. However, sometimes new discoveries mean that the postulated alignment of a particular street needs to be altered to take new evidence into account.

This now applies to the gravel street extending between Buildings 216 and 217 (Fig 1), where CAT recorded fragments of street metalling and Roman foundations, one of which was on the side of the Roman street (CAR 6, 375). From these fragments, the alignment of the street dividing Insulas 31 and 39, and Insulas 32 and 40, was calculated (*ibid*). However, when the position of wall foundation F85 of the current project, which is assumed to be on the northern side of the gravel street, was compared with the position of the wall fragment on the northern side of the gravel street found in 1983-84, the two wall fragments did not align. In view of the fact that the 2008 results were plotted with an EDM to an accuracy not available in 1983-84, the plotting of the eastern end of the street has been moved north by a few metres to fit in with the 2008 results.

On the northern edge of the current site, the west-east street dividing Insulas 23 and 31 was detected in TP1 in exactly the expected position. There is no clear evidence of the north-south street dividing Insulas 31 and 32. If this were central within Insulas 31/32, then it would pass approximately through the centre of East Hill House and to the east of the 1955 houses I-III (Fig 1). In this position, it would pass between Trench B and Trench C of the current project, and so would not have been seen. However, if it is to match the course of the north-south street dividing Insulas 16 and 23, as confirmed at the Central Clinic site (CAT Report 372), then it might have been located further to the east, and have passed between 1955 houses IV/V and III. In this position, it should have been detected in the 2003 evaluation Trench D. There was a gravel layer in this trench, but it was convincingly post-medieval in date, and possibly associated with East Hill House. The position of the north-south street dividing Insulas 31 and 32, therefore, remains unknown.

Medieval and early post-medieval

There were no large or well-stratified medieval or post-medieval groups of finds.

The pottery of the 15th and 16th centuries is probably to be associated with the housing which Speed shows along East Hill in 1610, and which was presumably built in the 15th century if not earlier.

Map coverage after John Speed (Morant 1748; Chapman & André 1777) shows a continuation of the open land, which was also known as 'Berryfields'. The mid 18th-century East Hill House (c 1745) is identifiable on Morant's 1748 map.

Large groups of post-medieval pottery including redwares, German stonewares and tin-glazed earthenwares are all undoubtedly to be associated with East Hill House, and the flowerpots are debris from horticultural activities in its grounds.

Of some interest is a group of three 'wasters' from the manufacture of clay tobacco-pipes, found in Trench C. This is the first evidence for a pipe-maker in this part of the town, although there are, as yet, no supporting documentary records.

East Hill House

Among the more interesting discoveries of this project is the group of cess-pits in Trench B, Trench C and Trench F. These had cessy green fills; these are almost certainly Victorian cess-pits. These pits are very similar to a group of Victorian cess-pits excavated at Great Maplestead, Essex in the 1970s and published by M J Corbishley (Corbishley 1976) on a site which was coincidentally re-examined by one of the present authors (HB). The combination of smallish rectangular, trench-like pits and larger, square pits at Great Maplestead mirrors the East Hill House cess-pits which are smaller, rectangular, trench-like pits and larger circular pits. That these two different shapes of pit may have had a different function, or may have been the repository of different types of waste, is an interesting question, but not considered here.

Accepting that they were cess-pits, perhaps their location reflects Victorian sensibilities. They were presumably dug into garden topsoil at a point approximately 65 m south of the house. There was no sign during the recent investigations of any waste pipes leading from the house, so presumably the material to be disposed of was carried out to the garden by hand.

7 Archive deposition

The finds and paper archive are currently at CAT headquarters at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2006.40.

8 Acknowledgements

The investigation was funded through Colchester Borough Council and organised by Colchester and Ipswich Museums (Philip Wise) and Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd (Simon Collcutt). The fieldwork was managed by K Orr and B Holloway, and was carried out by K Orr, W Clarke, B Holloway, B Hurrell, C Lister, M Gorniak, A Wightman, and S Tyler. The initial stages of the post-excavation work were carried out by K Orr and W Clarke. This report by H Brooks is based on area summaries prepared by K Orr and W Clarke.

9 References

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10 Glossary and abbreviations

bgl	below (modern) ground-level
box tile	type of tile used to form flues in Roman under-floor heating systems (hypocausts)
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick and tile
context	specific location on an excavation, usually relates to finds
daub	clay used in [Roman] construction (eg of a wall), often found burnt
ERO	Essex Record Office
hogging	gravel, usually used as a foundation for something
<i>imbrex</i>	(plural <i>imbrices</i>) curved roof tile placed over the junction between two <i>tegulae</i>
make-up	material dumped to raise ground-level
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th century to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OAA	Oxford Archaeological Associates
OD	Ordnance Survey datum, based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman mortar, usually pink due to admixture of crushed Roman brick
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Queen Victoria
residual	something out of its original period context (eg a Roman coin in a modern pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 430
RRCAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
<i>tegula</i>	flat Roman roof tile with edge flanges (which were covered by imbrices)
tessellated	(pavement) a floor, the surface of which was made of <i>tesserae</i>
<i>tessera</i>	small plain red ceramic cube (plural, <i>tesserae</i>)
VAF	Visual Arts Facility

11 Context list

Context	Location	Description	Context date
F1	TP1	pit	Roman, 1st-3rd century
F2	TP1	gravel of street	Roman
F3/F11	TP1	service trench	modern
F4	TP6 and TP11 extension	<i>opus signinum</i> floor	Roman
F5	TP3	gravelled surface	post-medieval
F6	TP3	pit	modern
F7	TP3	pit	post-medieval/modern
F8	TP7	robber trench	medieval
F9	TP9	metalled street	Roman
F10	TP9	service trench with drainpipe	modern
F11/F3	TP1	service trench (fill = L5)	modern (post 1980)
F12	TP1	natural clay	undated
F13	TP1	construction cut for post-medieval/modern footing F17	modern
F14	TP1	old gas pipe in service trench F11/F3/L5	modern
F15	TP11	brick wall foundation	post-medieval/modern
F16	TP11	pit	post-medieval
F17	TP1	footing	post-medieval/modern
F18	TP12	robber trench	medieval
F19	TP12	robber trench	medieval
F20	between TP6 and TP7	layer of demolition debris containing <i>opus signinum</i> , mortar and septaria; presumably medieval robbing debris	medieval
F21	between TP6 and TP11	pit	modern
F22	2 m south of TP1	brick and concrete wall foundation	modern
F23	between TP1, TP2	deposit of slate and tile	modern
F24	between TP1, TP2	pit filled with oyster shells	post-medieval
F25	north of TP9	unmortared flint wall foundation	Roman
F26	south of TP12	gravel – ?street metalling	Roman
F27	south of F28	metalling – street (continuation of F9)	Roman
F28	trench from TP10 to corner	demolition debris	post-medieval
F29	trench south of L15	demolition debris	post-medieval
F30	TPC2	oval flowerbed	post-medieval or 19th century
F31	TPB1	circular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F32	TPC2	ditch = F65	post-medieval
F33	TPC1	brick wall over concrete base L39	modern
F34	TB	circular cut feature with stepped sides, almost certainly a 19th-century ornamental flowerbed	post-medieval or 19th century
F35	TB	small circular pit, possibly a shrub-planting pit	post-medieval

Context	Location	Description	Context date
F36	TB	large pit (?flowerbed)	post-medieval
F37	TB	layer of redeposited Roman <i>tesserae</i>	post-medieval
F38	TB	layer of redeposited Roman <i>tesserae</i>	post-medieval
F39	TB	rectangular trench, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F40	TB	Roman demolition debris, possibly spread by post-medieval landscaping	post-medieval
F41	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F42	TB	<i>opus signinum</i> floor (fragmentary)	Roman
F43	TB	robber trench	?medieval
F44	TB	circular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F45	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F46	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F47	TB	post-hole	post-medieval
F48	TB	post-hole	post-medieval
F49	TB	small, shallow pit	post-medieval
F50	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F51	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F52	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F53	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F54	TB	rectangular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F55	TB	septaria rubble spread	Roman
F56	TB	pipe trench	modern
F57	TB	robber trench (of wall foundation)	medieval
F58	TB	make-up for fragmentary floor F42	Roman
F59	TB	pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F60	TB	pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F61	TC	concrete car-park surface	modern
F62	TC	concrete wall foundation	modern
F63	TC	pit	post-medieval
F64	TC	pit	post-medieval/modern
F65	TC	ditch = F32	post-medieval
F66	TC	cess-pit	post-medieval
F67	TC	burnt stump of daub wall (?Boudican)	Roman
F68	TC	brick wall on F62	post-medieval or modern
F69		[context number not used]	
F70	TE	circular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F71	TE	oval pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F72	TE	TB as exposed in section in later TE	(previous excavation)
F73	TE	robber trench	medieval
F74	TE	robber trench	medieval

Context	Location	Description	Context date
F75	TE	wall foundation	Roman
F76	TE	pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F77	TE	pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F78	TE	pit	Roman
F79	TF	service trench	modern
F80	TF	post-hole	undated
F81	TF	pit	post-Roman
F82	TE	pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F83	TE	circular pit, almost certainly a Victorian cess-pit	post-medieval or 19th century
F84	TE	robber trench	medieval
F85	TE	wall foundation	Roman
F86	TE	robber trench	medieval
F87	TE	wall foundation	Roman
F88		[context number not used]	
L1	TP1-TP5	topsoil	modern
L2	TP1	demolition debris	modern
L3	TP2, TP4, TP5	dump	post-medieval or modern
L4	TP2	demolition debris or dump	post-medieval or modern
L5	TP1	fill of service trench (F11/F3)	modern
L6	TP1	brown silty clay layer	Roman, ?2nd to 3rd century
L7	TP6-TP10, TP12	tarmac top and its hogging base	modern
L8	TP6-TP7, TP12?	topsoil	post-medieval/modern
L9	TP6	robbing debris on top of unnumbered Roman wall foundation	post-medieval
L10	TP6	demolition debris	post-medieval
L11	TP3	topsoil	modern
L12	TP3	?demolition debris	modern
L13	TP3	layer	post-medieval
L14	TP7	demolition debris	post-medieval
L15	TP8 and to its north	demolition debris	post-medieval
L16	TP9, TP10, TP12	= L20, topsoil	post-medieval
L17	TP10	demolition debris	post-medieval
L18	TP5	demolition debris	medieval
L19	TP11	cable trench fill	modern
L20	TP9, TP10, TP12	= L16, topsoil	post-medieval
L21	TP12	lens sealed by L16/L20 and cut by robber trenches F18 and F19	?Roman
L22	TB, TC; TPB1, TPB2, TPC2	turf and topsoil	modern
L23	TB, TC	tarmac (former path and car-park surface)	modern
L24	TB, TC	hogging base for tarmac L23, same as L27 and L28	modern
L25	TB, TC	topsoil	post-medieval/modern
L26	TPB2	topsoil	post-medieval

Context	Location	Description	Context date
L27	TPB2	hogging base for tarmac L23, same as L24, L28	modern
L28	TPC2	hogging base for tarmac L23, same as L24, L27	modern
L29	TPC2	topsoil	post-medieval
L30	TB, TC	natural sand and gravel	-
L31	TPB1	silty clay layer	post-medieval
L32	TPC2	?make-up	post-medieval
L33	TPC1	concrete car-park surface	modern
L34	TPC1	crushed concrete, base for L33	modern
L35	TPC1	solid concrete	modern
L36	TPC1	brick rubble under L35	modern
L37	TPC1	topsoil	presumably post-medieval
L38	TPC1	demolition debris	Roman
L39	TPC1	concrete base for wall F33	modern
L40	TPB1	clay dump	undated
L41	TB	layer	post-medieval
L42	TB	topsoil	post-medieval
L43	TB	Roman demolition debris redeposited in modern landscaping	post-medieval/modern
L44	TB	topsoil	post-medieval
L45	TB	?make-up	Roman
L46	TB	turf	modern
L47	TB	topsoil	post-medieval
L48	TB	layer	Roman
L49	TB	cessy deposit	post-medieval
L50	TC	topsoil	post-medieval/modern
L51	TC	demolition debris	post-medieval
L52	TC	base for concrete car-park surface	modern
L53	TC	landscaped soil	modern
L54	TC	brick rubble which was demolition debris	modern
L55	TC	tarmac	modern
L56	TC	hogging base for L55	modern
L57	TC	silty clay	Roman
L58	TC	cessy deposit	modern
L59	TC	redeposited sand	post-medieval
L60	TC	cessy lens	post-medieval
L61	TC	charcoally deposit on top of burnt stump of daub wall F67 (?Boudican destruction debris)	Roman
L62	TC	layer	Roman
L63	TB	redeposited sand and gravel	modern
L64	TB	redeposited sand and gravel	modern
L65	TP1	natural deposit (formerly L6b and L6c)	-
L66	TE, TF	topsoil	modern
L67	TE	redeposited Roman demolition debris	modern
L68	TD	concrete and hogging	modern
L69	TD	topsoil	post-medieval or later
L70	TD	demolition debris or dumped material used as make-up under a floor surface	Roman, 2nd to 3rd or 4th century
L71	TD	demolition debris or dumped material used as make-up under a floor surface	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
L72	TD	natural	-
L73	TE	redeposited Roman sandy clay	post-medieval or modern

Context	Location	Description	Context date
L74	TE	demolition debris associated with robbing activity	?medieval
L75	TE	demolition debris associated with robbing activity	?medieval
L76	TE, TF	tarmac surface and its base	modern
L77	TE	domestic debris	Roman, 3rd-4th century
L78	TE	domestic debris	Roman, early 2nd-3rd century
L79	TF	metalled surface of street	Roman
L80	TF	make-up for L79	Roman
L81	TE	soil	17th-18th centuries

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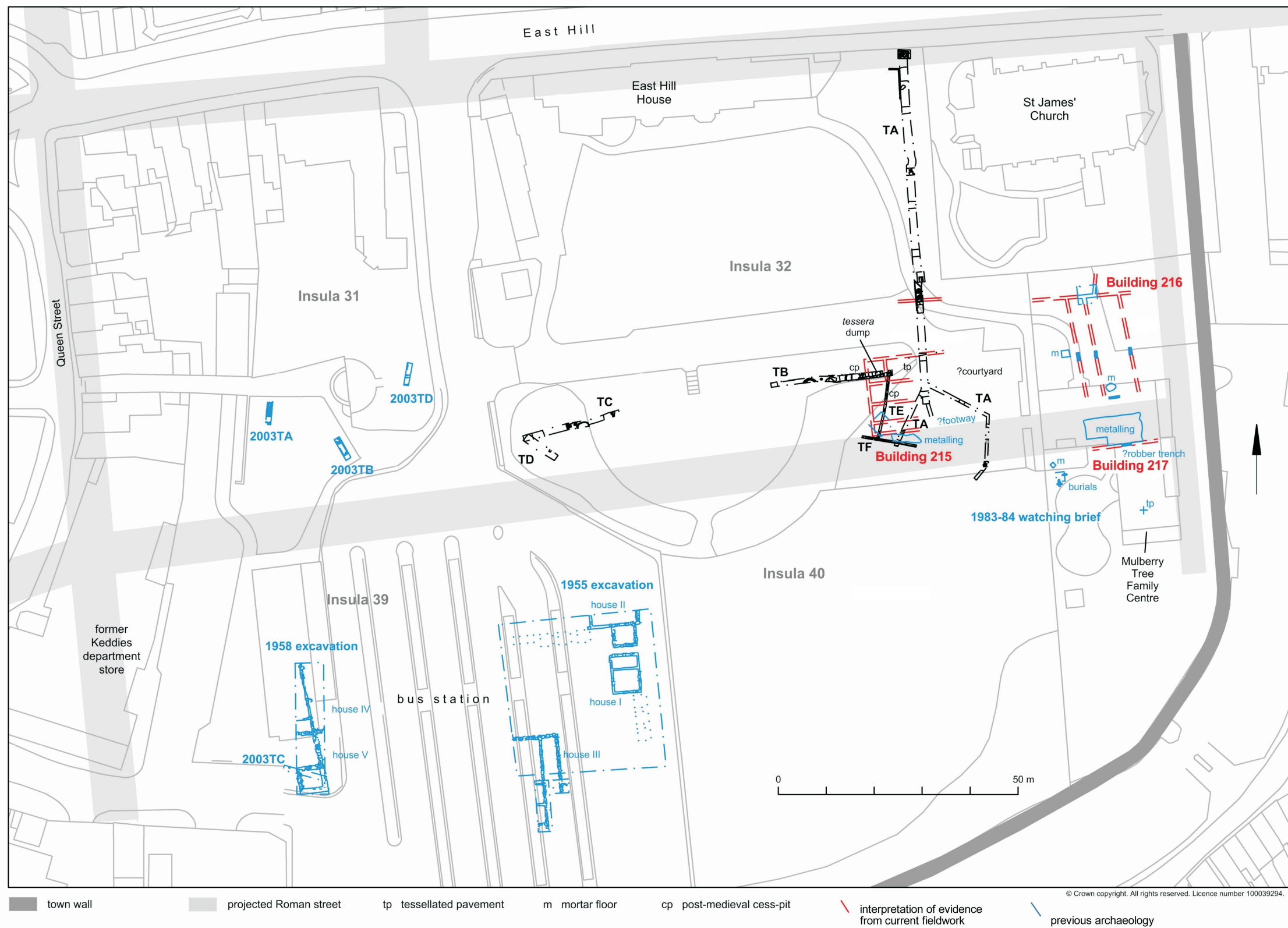


Fig 1 Insulas 31/32 and Insulas 39/40, showing location of 2006-2008 work (TA-TF), and previous work of 1955, 1958, 1983-84, and 2003. (The colour key also applies to Figs 2 and 8.)

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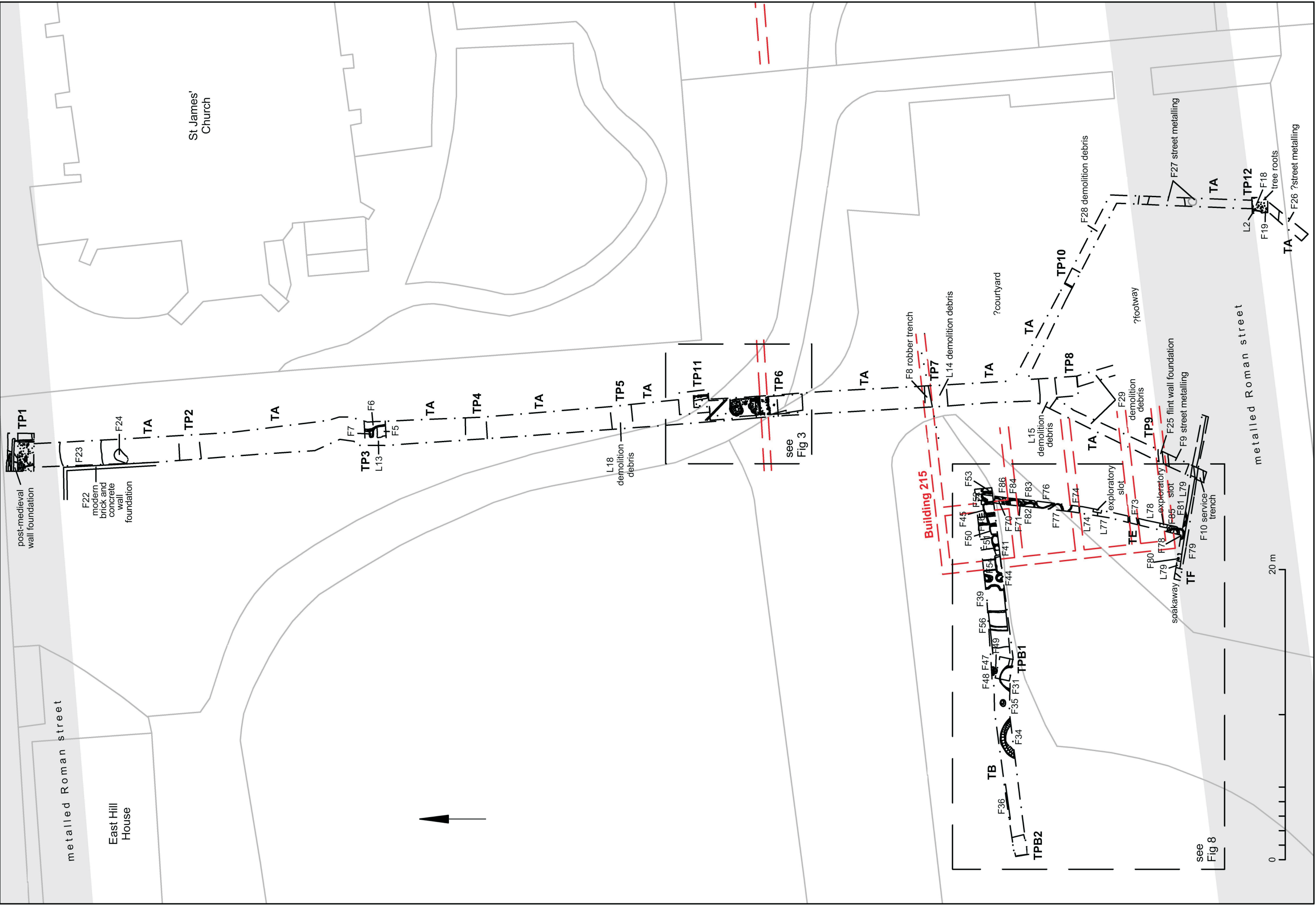


Fig 2 TA, TB and TE: plan, with ground-plan of Building 215 (Roman ?town-house).

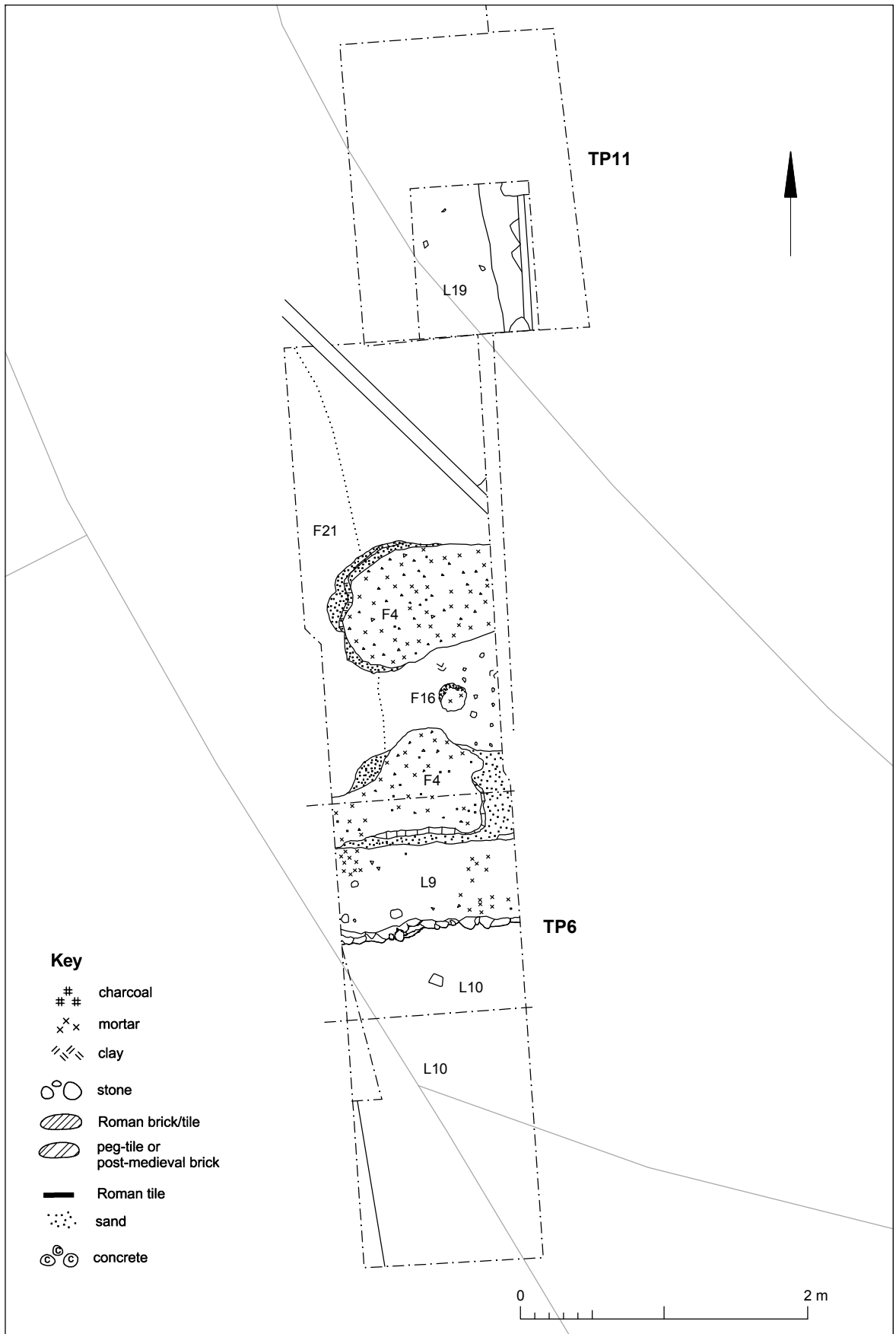


Fig 3 TP6 and TP11: plan (inset to Fig 2).
 (The key applies to Figs 3-11.)

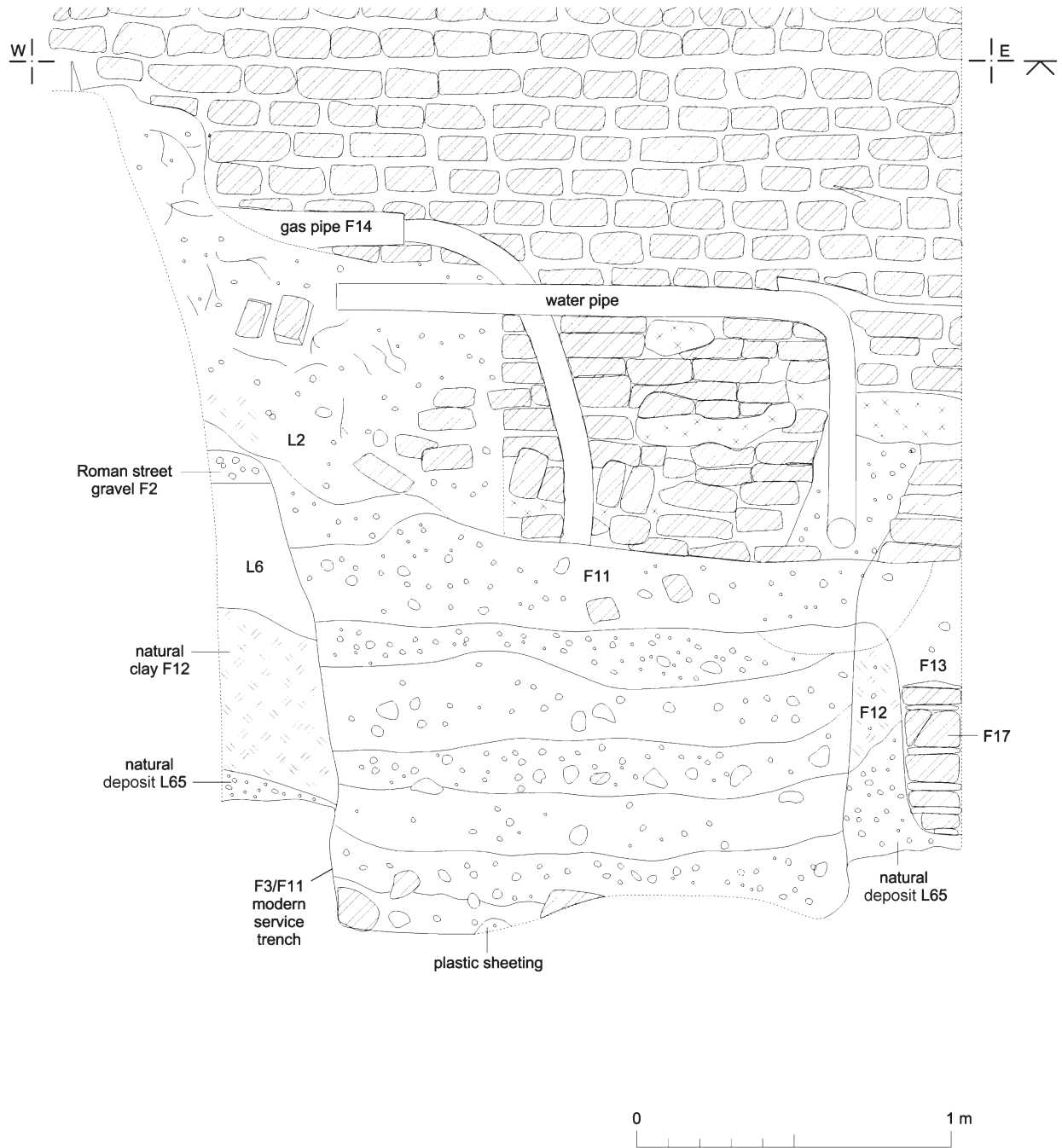


Fig 4 TP1: south-facing section.

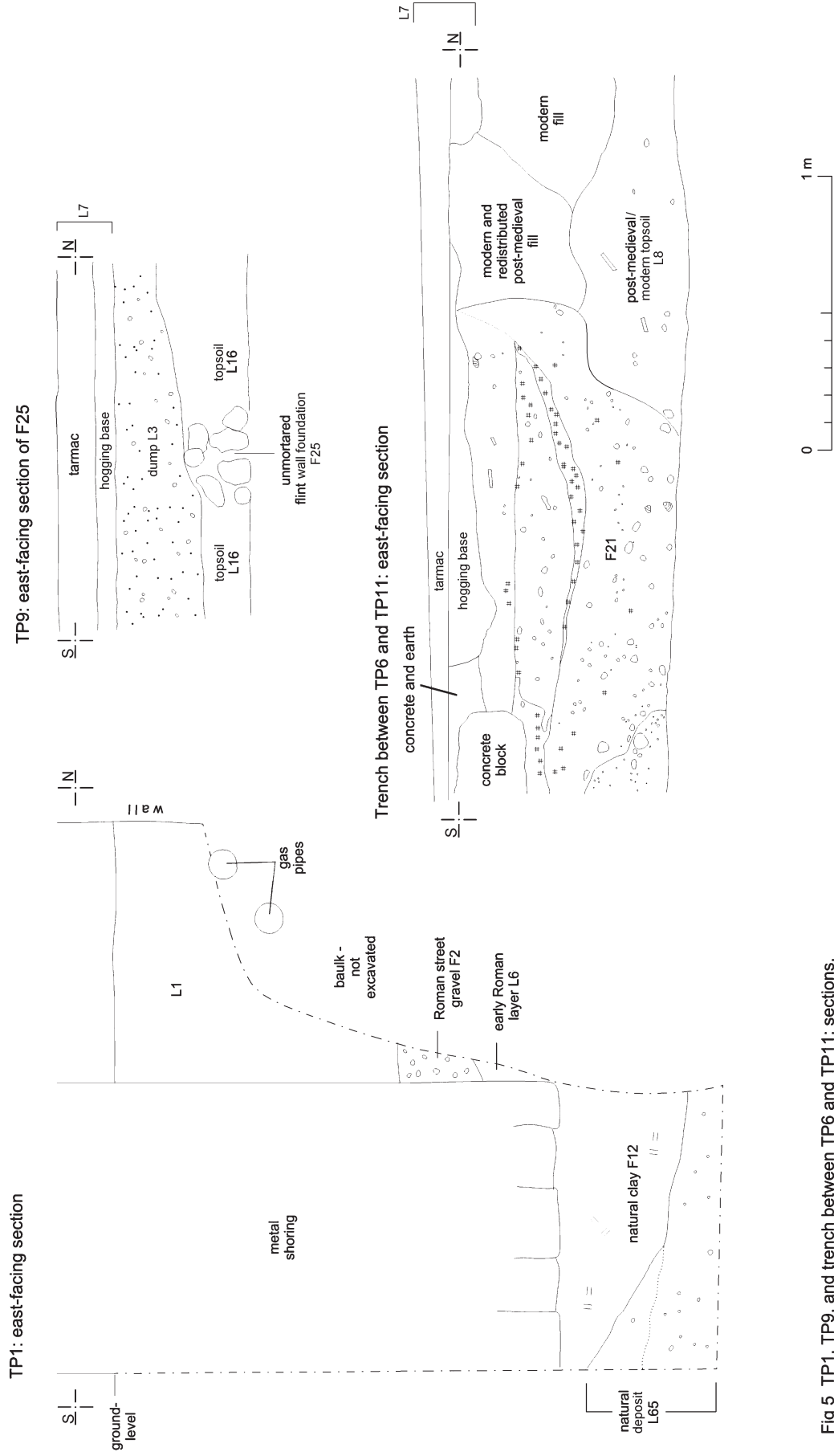


Fig 5 TP1, TP9, and trench between TP6 and TP11: sections.

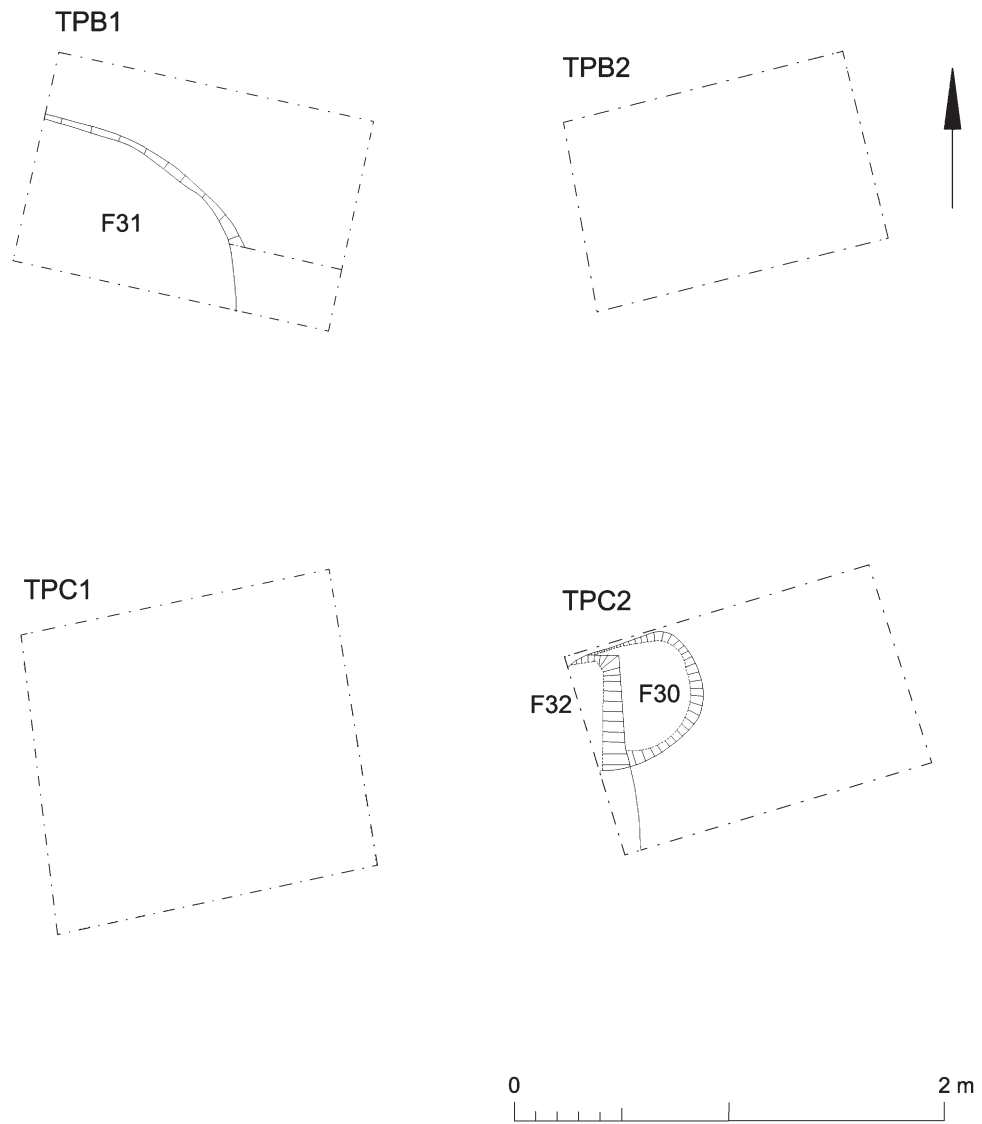


Fig 6 TPB1, TPB2, TPC1, TPC2: plans.

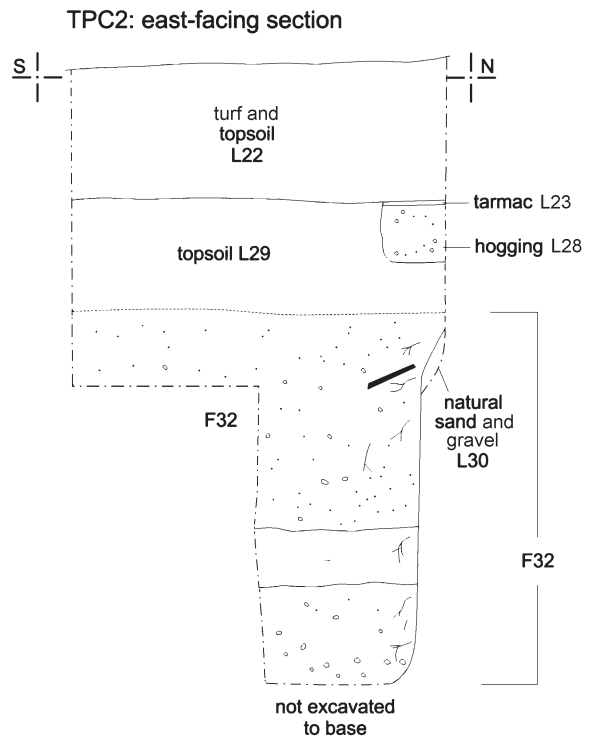
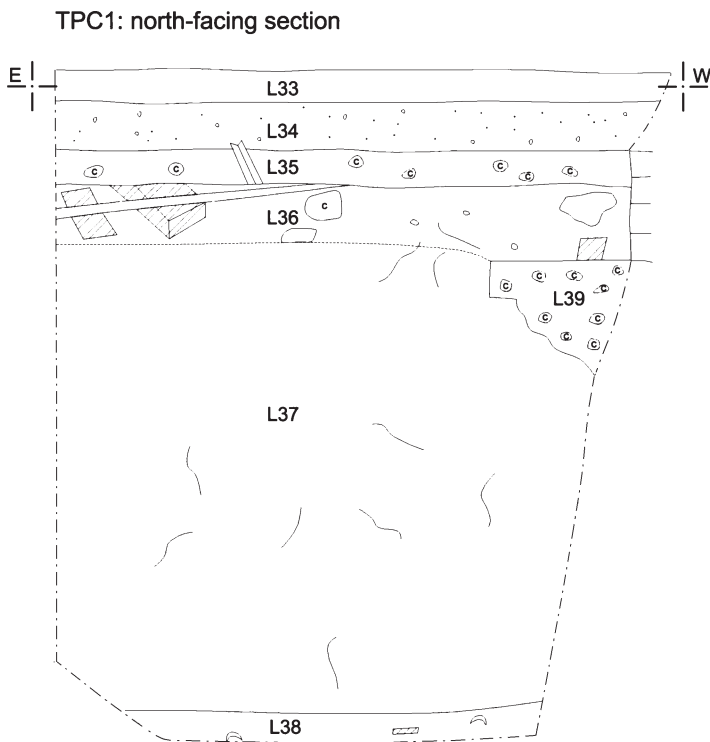
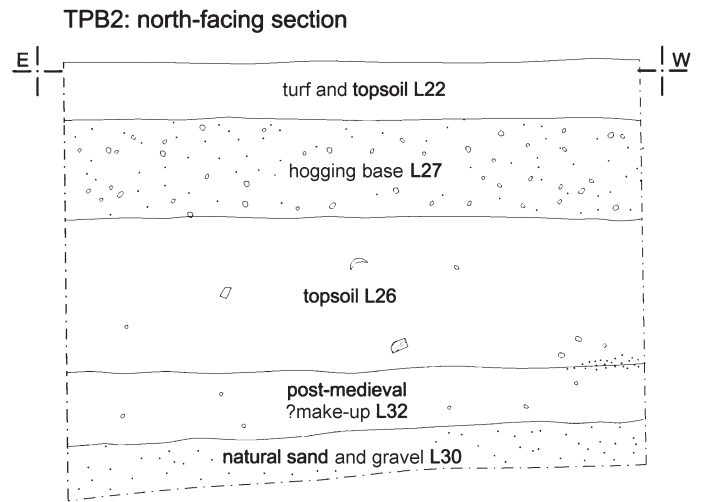
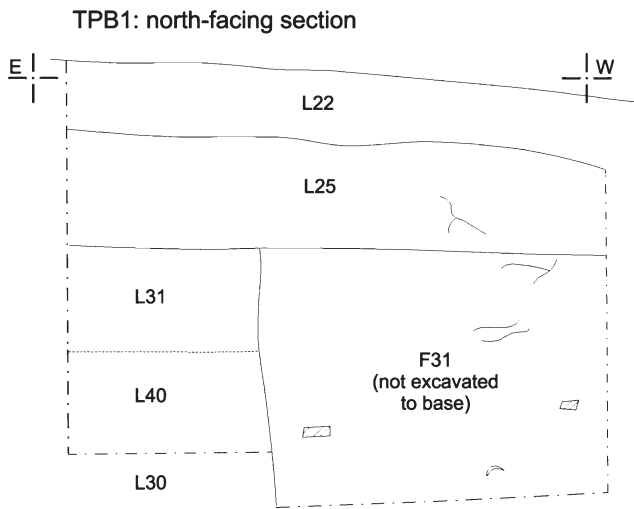


Fig 7 TPB1, TPB2, TPC1, TPC2: sections.

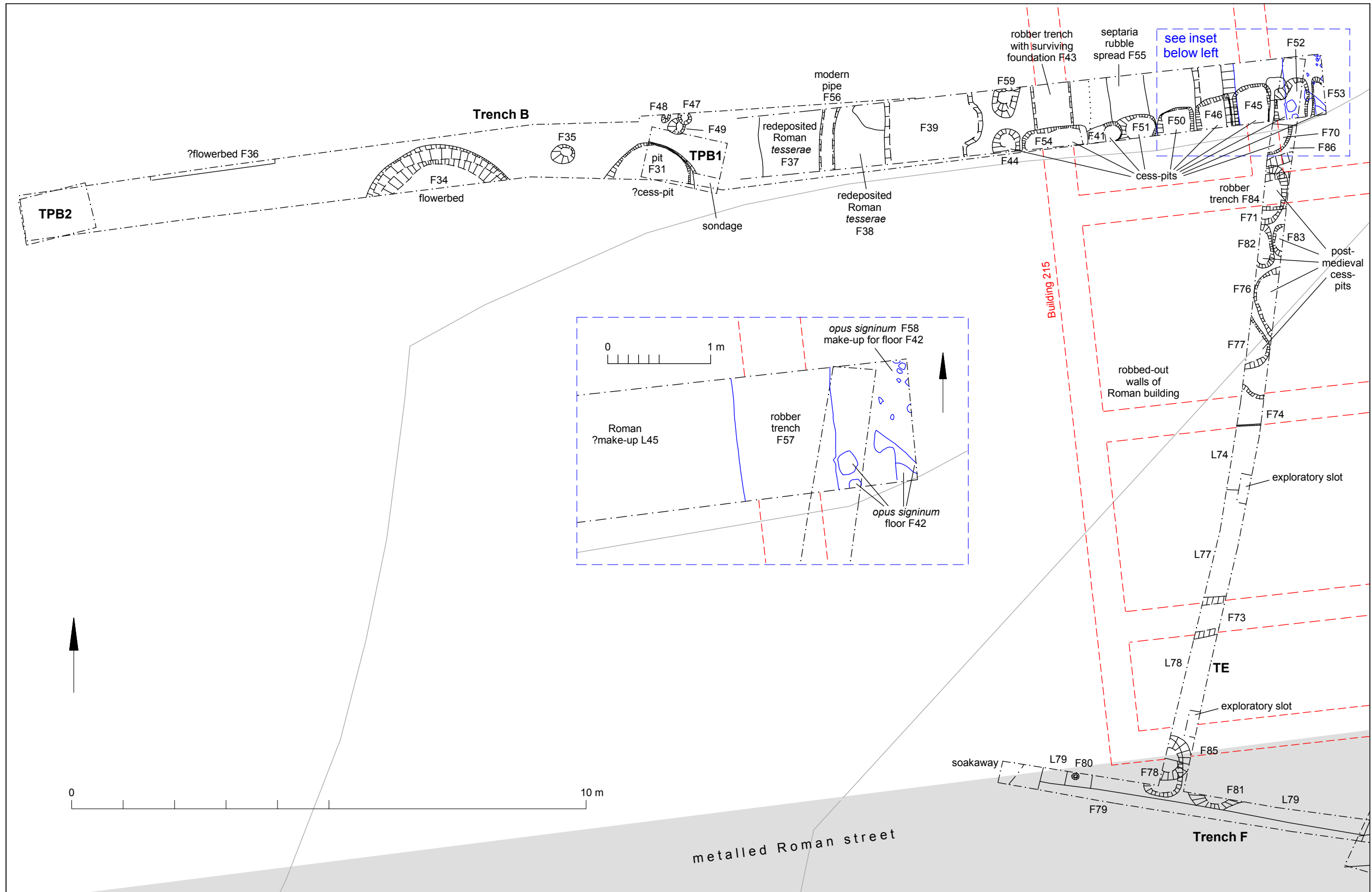


Fig 8 TB, TE and TF: plan showing post-medieval cess-pits, and robbed-out walls and floors of Building 215 (inset to Fig 2).

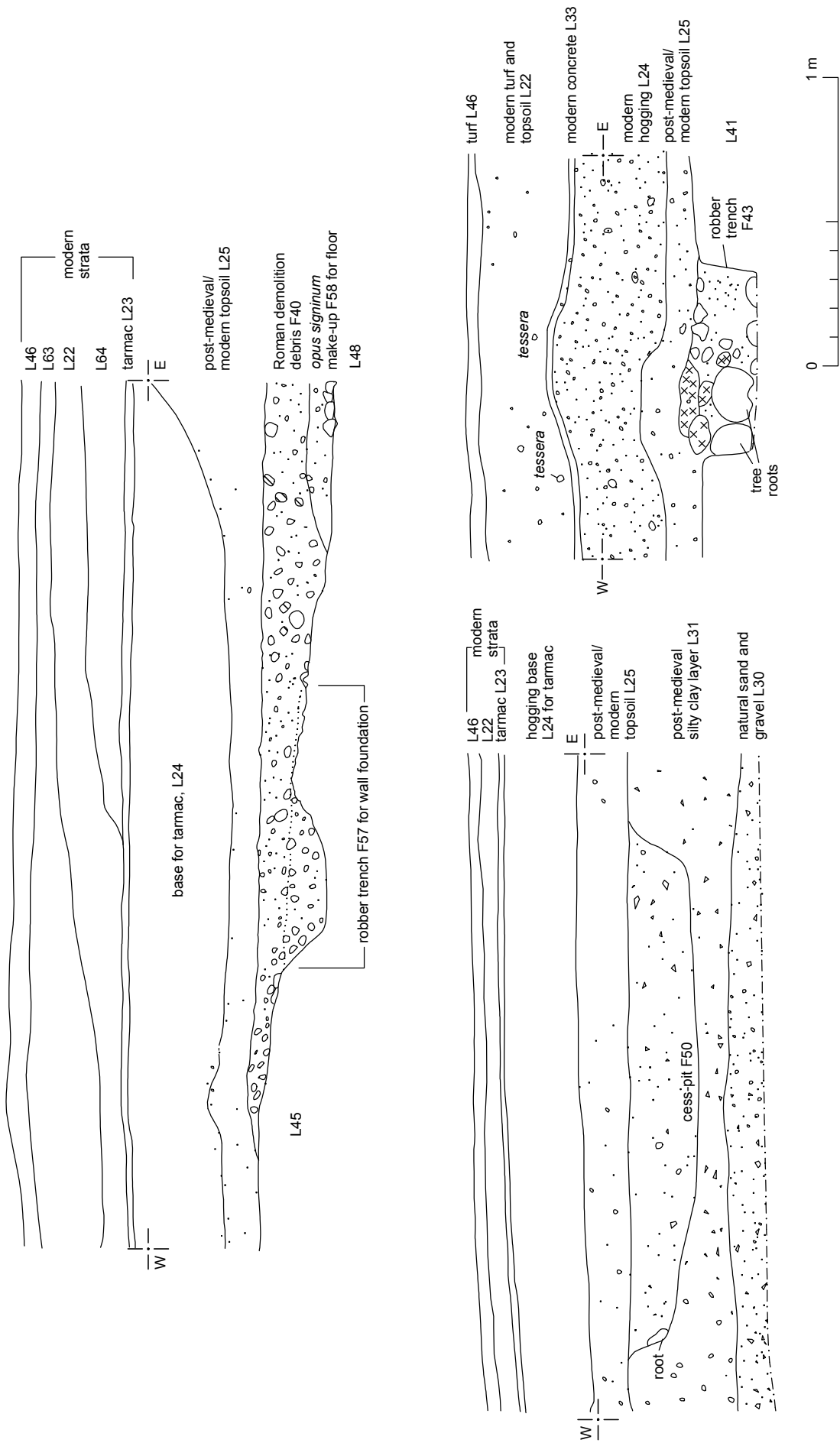


Fig 9 TB: sections across robbed Roman wall foundation and floor, post-medieval cess-pit and medieval robber trench.

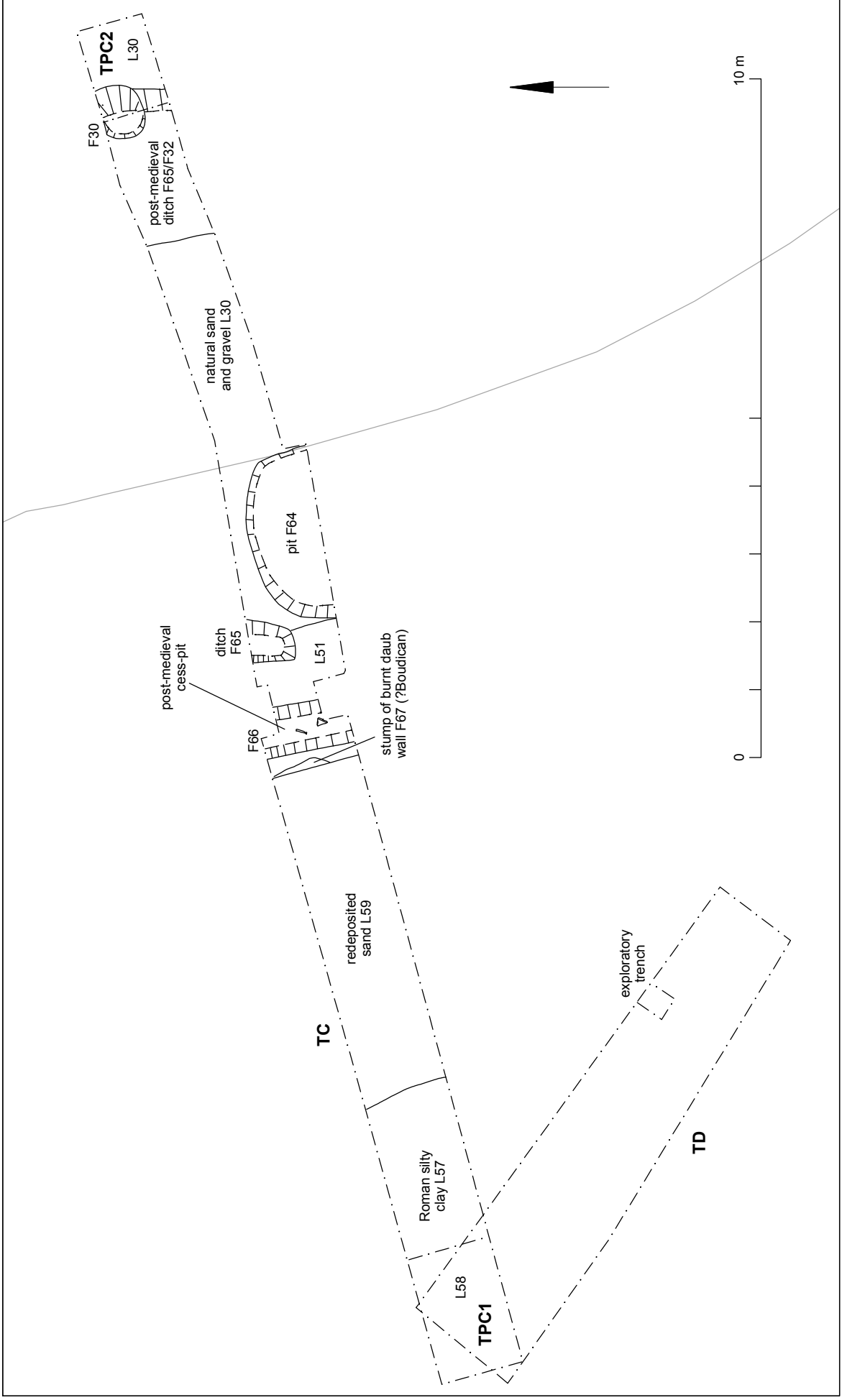


Fig 10 TC, TD and TPC1, TPC2: plan.

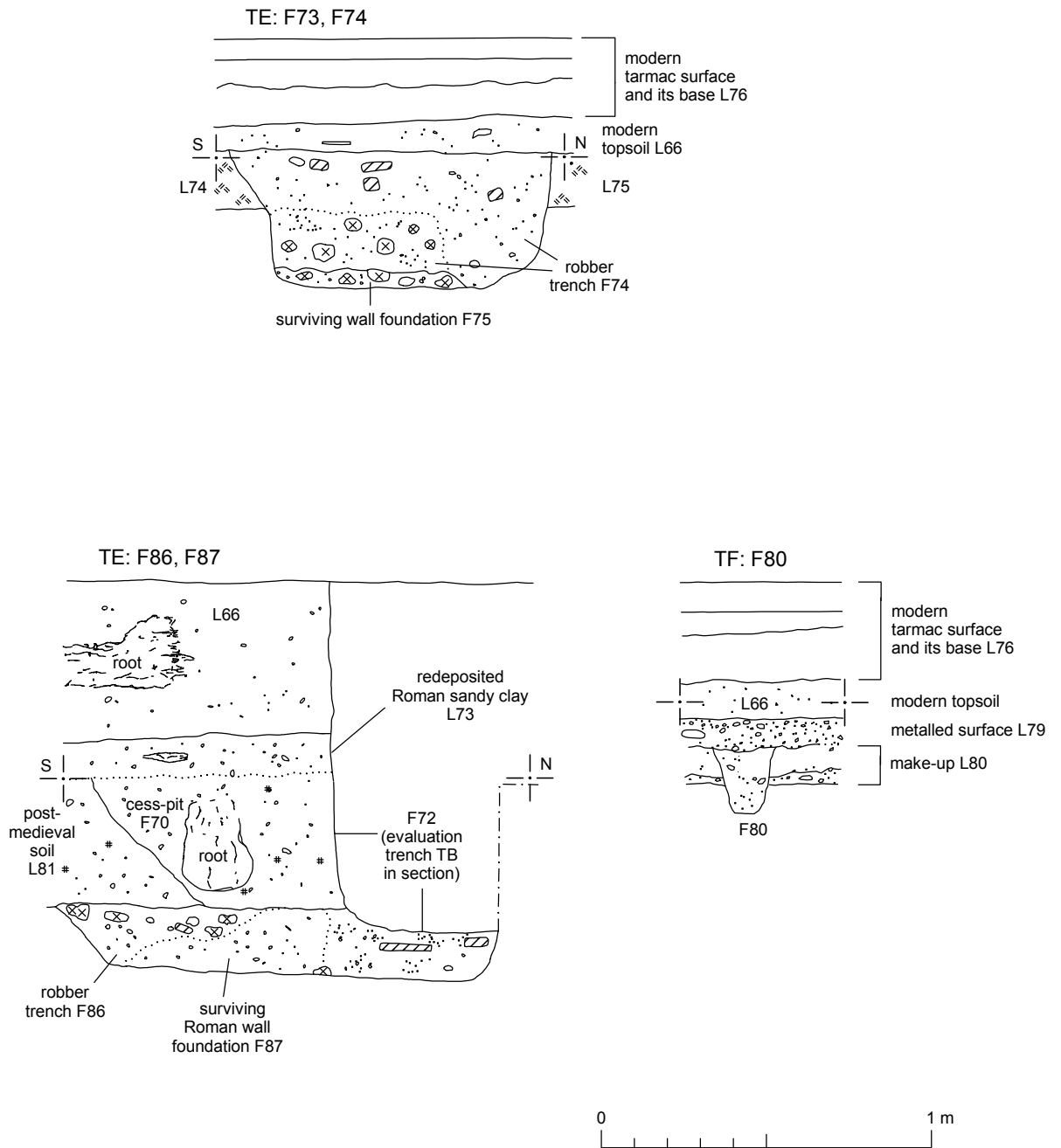


Fig 11 TE, TF: sections of wall foundations, robber trenches, cess-pit and post-hole.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TM 0013 2520 (c)	Site code: CAT - 06/4b Museum accession - COLIM 2006.40
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: November 2006-December 2007 and June 2008	Size of area investigated: approx 140m of trenches and test-pits
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: CBC
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD nos: 307, 321, 3033, 3069, 3070
Final report: CAT Report 477 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site lies in Insulas 31/32 of the Roman town. In advance of the installation of services to the new Visual Arts Facility in the grounds of East Hill House and on the site of the former bus station, test-pitting and a combination of machine-dug and hand-dug trenches revealed parts of a Roman building, presumably a town-house. The metalled street on the southern side of Insulas 31/32 was exposed in three places, and thus we were able to plot the line of the street more accurately, ie its eastern end is now approximately 3m to the north of the earlier projection. In this new position, medieval Bastion 1 on the external face of the Roman town wall now aligns precisely with the northern side of the Roman street. An interesting group of finds was 1.07 kg of unused Roman stone tesserae. These were found in a redeposited layer of Roman debris sandwiched between post-medieval topsoil layers, where they were presumably dumped during modern landscaping. These may indicate the presence of a workshop which produced or stored tessera for use in mosaic floors.</i></p> <p><i>Interpretation of some of the later strata on the site is complicated by the fact that there has been much movement of soil here, mainly due to landscaping associated with the grounds of East Hill House. After the Roman period, there is no evidence of any activity until the 13th century, when fragments of pottery may be associated with the medieval robbing of the Roman buildings. Finds of 15th- to 16th-century pottery may be associated with houses to the north which fronted onto the southern side of East Hill. Three clay tobacco-pipe 'wasters' indicate that a clay tobacco-pipe maker was at work nearby in the later 17th century. The kiln site could have been on the open ground south of the East Hill frontage, and the maker was presumably resident or</i></p>	

tenant of one of the East Hill houses which were subsequently demolished for the construction of East Hill House in the mid 18th century.

Later finds - both cut features and loose finds in soil layers - are associated with East Hill House. Of particular interest is a group of cess-pits in which sewage from East Hill House was disposed of until the later 19th century.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: Roman, street, house, tessera, dump, clay tobacco-pipe, manufacture, Victorian, cess-pits

Significance: **

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