

**An archaeological watching brief
on trenches for gas mains
in Queen Street and Culver Street East,
Colchester, Essex
April-November 2008**

**report prepared by
Donald Shimmin**

**on behalf of
National Grid**

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Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
tel./fax: (01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

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1 Summary

Archaeological remains uncovered during the digging of trenches for replacement gas mains in Queen Street and Culver Street East, Colchester, Essex included early Roman daub-block walls, burnt during the Boudican uprising of AD 60/1. There were also post-Boudican foundations and floors, street metalling, and a drain, as well as post-Roman pits and robber trenches.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of National Grid during the digging of trenches for replacement gas mains in Queen Street and Culver Street East, Colchester, Essex. It was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from April to November 2008.
- 2.2 The trenches were dug by the contractors, Morrison. They extended for approximately 210 m south-north in Queen Street and into the High Street, and for approximately 220 m east-west in Culver Street East. This part of the town is on a slight south-east facing slope, with the modern ground-level dropping from 27.5 m AOD at the western end of Culver Street East to 20.1 m AOD at the southern end of Queen Street.
- 2.3 This report follows the standards set out in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), and also those in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006), and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14), was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 Observations of archaeological remains at the southern end of Queen Street in 1934-5 included traces of a foundation and an arched drain constructed of Roman brick/tile (Hull 1958, 215). These lay a short distance to the north of the remains of the Roman and medieval South or St Botolph's Gate (CAT Report 474, 1-3). Metalling from the north-south street leading down to the South Gate from inside the walled town was revealed in 1967 approximately 75 m north of the gate, under what is now Peacocks' store (Dunnett 1971, 103).
- 3.2 Since the 19th century, sporadic evidence has come to light of Roman buildings in Insula 38b in the southern half of Queen Street, including tessellated pavements and a mosaic floor (Hull 1958, 212-15). More recently, evidence of Roman buildings has been found under the bus and coach booking office (31 Queen Street) in 1985 (CAR 6, 1052-3) and under a building further north on the east side of Queen Street in 1973 (CAR 6, 790-92), where street metalling was also observed.
- 3.3 Evidence from the northern half of Queen Street is more sparse but remains of Roman buildings in Insula 31 were found in 1966 (5-7 Queen Street; Dunnett 1971, 85-91) and during the refurbishment in 2005 of the Colchester Visitor Centre (1-3 Queen Street; CAT Report 376).
- 3.4 To the east and south-east of the Natural History Museum (formerly All Saints' Church), a layer containing large quantities of burnt daub and brick/tile fragments has been observed on several occasions since the mid-19th century (Hull 1958, 205). It was

usually interpreted as kiln debris of Norman or later date, although Hull did consider the possibility that it came from a burnt Roman building (*ibid*).

- 3.5** The limited evidence for archaeological remains from Culver Street East, between Queen Street and St Nicholas Street/Long Wyre Street, included approximately six north-south foundations, an east-west one, and possibly part of a tessellated pavement (Hull 1958, 203-6), which probably belonged to buildings in Insula 30. Further evidence for these was found on the south side of Culver Street East in a shaft dug in 1948 (Hull 1958, 206) and in watching briefs under Sainsbury's and Caters (now Savers/Poundland) (Crummy 1971), and also on the north side of Culver Street East at 61-2 High Street (CAR 6, 995-6). The discovery of a north-south drain at 65 High Street in 1976 (CAR 6, 820) may indicate that Insula 30 was subdivided by a north-south street. At least one large public building may have occupied Insula 30, although the evidence for this is very limited (Crummy 1971, 107).
- 3.6** Evidence from Culver Street East to the west of St Nicholas Street/Long Wyre Street included several Roman foundations and many fragments of marble (Hull 1958, 202-3). The north-south street between Insulas 29 and 30 was located on the St Nicholas' Church site in 1955 (Hull 1960, 315-16). The west end of Culver Street East lies immediately to the north of the extensive Lion Walk excavations of 1971-4 (CAR 3, 31-92).

4 Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to record the depth and extent of any archaeological remains uncovered during the digging of the gas-main trenches, and to assess the date and significance of these remains.

5 Methods (Fig 1)

- 5.1** The contractors started work at the southern end of Queen Street on 15th April 2008 and finished at the western end of Culver Street East in early November 2008. The trenches were a continuation of work in St Botolph's Street in February-April 2008 (CAT Report 474). The trenches were usually 0.45-0.6 m wide and 1-1.2 m deep, although this varied, notably where obstructions were encountered or where they were linked up to other gas mains. The trenches were dug by a mini-digger with a toothless bucket.
- In several places during the course of the work, small trial-holes (TH) were dug by the contractors by hand to check for obstructions and/or the position of existing mains.
- 5.2** In the southern part of Queen Street, the replacement gas main was usually laid alongside and to the east of a redundant main. Thus the western side of the trench for the replacement main had typically been dug out before in modern times, while the eastern side was cut through undisturbed deposits. The trench was dug from south to north along the western side of Queen Street for approximately 100 m, and was then moved a metre or so over to the west and dug into the pavement. The redundant main now lay to the east of the trench and thus, from this point, any undisturbed deposits tended to be on the western side of the trench.
- At the northern end of Queen Street, close to the junction with the High Street, the replacement pipe was laid inside a redundant main and was then linked up with the main under the High Street, slightly to the east of work carried out in 2007 (CAT Report 426).
- 5.3** In Culver Street East, the trench was dug alongside the kerb at the northern edge of the street from east to west. It extended a short way northwards into St Nicholas Street before returning to the north side of Culver Street East, and terminated at an existing gas main near the north-eastern edge of the Lion Walk shopping precinct.
- 5.4** Individual records of archaeological contexts, such as layers or features, as well as finds, were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Plans were mostly drawn at 1:20 and section drawings were made at 1:10. A selection of section drawings are included in this report (Figs 6-7). The remaining sections, together with detailed notes on the

stratigraphic sequences, are available in the site archive. Standard record photographs of the deposits in the trenches, as well as general shots of the trenches, were taken with a digital camera. Further details of the methodology used can be found in the CAT document *Policies and procedures* (2006).

6 Results

6.1 The top of the natural sand and gravel subsoil (L8) lay, in most places, below the level of the bottom of the trench, especially in Culver Street East. It was located in a few places in Queen Street, notably at the southern end at a depth of 0.8-1.2 m below the modern ground-level and probably also further north outside 2a Queen Street at a depth of 1.7 m. It was reached by augering at the northern end of Queen Street at approximately 2.05 m below the modern ground-level.

6.2 Pre-Boudican and Boudican remains (Figs 1-2, 6-7; Plates 1-2)

6.2.1 During machine-trenching across the east end of Culver Street East and under the pavement to the east of the Natural History Museum, a thick reddish-brown layer was revealed only 0.5-0.6 m below the modern ground-level. This consisted mainly of fragments of burnt daub and was presumably the same deposit as that which had been recorded previously and interpreted as kiln debris (Hull 1958, 205; see section 3.4).

This layer was probably Boudican destruction debris (L14) and thus the burnt daub must derive mainly from daub-block walls (CAR 3, 22) destroyed in AD 60/1.

6.2.2 Cleaning over L14 after machining revealed the remains of two daub-block walls (F19, F20). They were aligned east-west and had been burnt *in situ* in AD 60/1. The eastern side of the trench for the replacement main had been cut by the western edge of a deeper modern trench for a redundant main. As a consequence, it was only possible to trace F19 and F20 for 0.4-0.5 m east-west.

The more southerly daub-block wall (F19; Fig 2 & Sx 2 in Fig 6) survived approximately 0.5 m wide and was burnt a reddish-yellow colour. It appeared to have slipped over slightly to the south. It was difficult to identify the edges of individual daub blocks, although possibly slight traces of different courses were discernible. The upper part of F19 had been removed during machining but was visible in section. The top of F19 was 0.82 m below the modern pavement-level.



Plate 1 Daub-block wall F19, viewed from the east.

As the replacement main had to be laid on top of F19 almost immediately, it was not possible to examine it further, although prodding with a fork suggested that it survived at least 0.6 m high.

- 6.2.3** The daub-block wall (F20; Fig 2 & Sx 1 in Fig 6) lay approximately 8m to the north of F19. The surviving edges of F20 were intensely burnt a bright red colour, while the core of the wall was burnt reddish-brown or reddish-grey. As initially uncovered, the wall appeared to be 0.47 m wide. However, further excavation suggested that the south edge was offset slightly or, more likely, was damaged during the fire and that F20 was originally approximately 0.6 m wide. Again, it was difficult to identify the edges of individual daub blocks, although possibly slight traces of different courses were discernible. The upper part of F20 had been removed during machining but was visible in section. The top of F20 was 0.72 m below the modern pavement-level.



Plate 2 Daub-block wall F20, viewed from the east.

Probing with a stake suggested that the daub-block wall F20 was laid on a mortared plinth (CAR 3, 20). The hard surface of the plinth was reached approximately 1.33 m below the top of F20 (ie 2.05 m below the modern pavement-level).

An auger-hole was dug immediately to the south of F20. This suggested that the layer of Boudican destruction debris (L14) was approximately 1.45 m deep (ie 0.5-1.95 m below the modern pavement-level). This appeared to seal a thin burnt floor deposit about 0.1 m thick, which in turn sealed natural sand (L8).

- 6.2.4** It was unclear whether the burnt daub-block walls (F19, F20) belonged to the same building or to different ones. Their method of construction was similar to that used in barrack-blocks within the fortress (Crummy 2001, 47-8). They were, therefore, probably of military origin, built as part of the fortress annexe, and were subsequently re-used in the early *colonia*.

The distance between F19 and F20 does not appear to correspond to measurements previously recorded for barrack-blocks (CAR 6, 7-10). They perhaps, therefore, belonged to some other type of building, although very little is known about the layout of the annexe.

There was probably a north-south street a short distance to the east of F19 and F20 in the early colonial period (c AD 49-60/1), and possibly in the military period (c AD

44-9), as well. Thus the excavated portions of the daub-block walls may lie close to the eastern edge of the building(s), and this may have been a factor in their preservation.

6.2.5 Elsewhere, pre-Boudican remains were not often reached in the trenches. A layer of probable gravel metalling (L18; Fig 1) 0.15 m thick, which was sealed by Boudican destruction debris (L14), was observed outside 2-2a Queen Street. It lay 1.36-1.51 m below the modern pavement-level, at a point where the trench had been dug deeper than usual in order to avoid an obstruction. The metalling contained a few fragments of Roman brick/tile, and was traced for at least 3 m. It possibly formed part of an east-west street between Insulas 30 and 38 in the early town.

6.2.6 The top of some light brown dump/make-up deposits, sealed by L14, was observed in places in the bottom of the trench outside 2a-8 Queen Street. This was reached at 0.85-1 m below the modern pavement-level and was at least 0.15 m thick.

During the excavation of a post-Roman feature F13 outside 3 Culver Street East, a layer of light brown pre-Boudican make-up was observed in section (Sx 4 in Fig 7). The upper part of this layer contained mortar fragments and was sealed by L14. It was at least 0.45 m thick, at a depth of 1.1-1.55 m below the modern street-level.

Slightly to the west, outside 5 Culver Street East, a rubble layer of mortar and septaria fragments and a charcoal spread were uncovered in the bottom of the trench. They were reached at a depth of 1.2-1.25 m below the modern street-level and were sealed by L14.

6.2.7 Deposits of reddish-brown Boudican destruction debris (L14) were encountered in a number of places along the trenches. As noted in section 6.2.1, L14 was particularly marked at the northern end of Queen Street and the eastern end of Culver Street East. To the east of the Natural History Museum, it lay only 0.5-0.6 m below the modern ground-level (Sx 1 & Sx 2 in Fig 6), and augering suggested that it was 1.45 m thick. It contained many fragments, some quite large, of burnt daub blocks. There were also moderate amounts of Roman roof tile and brick fragments, as well as sparse *opus signinum* fragments. However, wall-plaster was absent and fragments of keyed daub were also not identified.

Only the upper part of this deposit was visible in the trench, but much of this did not seem to have been extensively re-worked or redeposited in the post-Boudican period. This suggests that the lower parts of the layer may survive *in situ*.

6.2.8 Further to the south and west, the layer of Boudican destruction debris (L14) thinned out and was not so close to the modern ground-level. For example, at the eastern end of Culver Street East it was 0.8-0.9 m below the modern ground-level and approximately 0.65 m thick. Immediately to the south of the boundary (graveyard) wall of the Natural History Museum, L14 was 0.95-1.2 m below the modern ground-level but only 0.15-0.3 m thick (Sx 4 in Fig 7). Further west, in Culver Street East, L14 lay below the level of the bottom of the trench.

Layers of Boudican destruction debris (L14) were also found in places further south in Queen Street, although not so extensively, and the burnt daub looked more fragmented and redeposited. Outside the eastern side of 1 Culver Street East (Prezzo) and the northern part of 2 Queen Street (Queen's House), the top of L14 was uncovered near the bottom of the trench, 0.8-1.03 m below the modern pavement-level, and was at least 0.2 m thick. Outside 2a Queen Street, it was reached at a depth of 1 m below the modern pavement-level and was up to 0.35 m thick. Outside 6-8 Queen Street, L14 was only about 0.1 m thick and was reached at a depth of 0.75-1 m below the modern pavement-level. Traces of L14 were reached in the bottom of the trench outside 12-14 Queen Street, 1.04-1.2 m below the modern pavement-level.

6.3 Post-Boudican street metalling (Figs 1, 3-4)

6.3.1 Post-Boudican street metalling was recorded in several places in or near the bottom of the trenches. A disturbed layer of gravel metalling or make-up (L5; Fig 1) was observed at the south end of Queen Street, immediately north of Short Wyre Street inside the walled town (CAT Report 474, 2). This was up to 0.2 m thick and was reached at only 0.5-0.6 m below the modern street-level. It sealed natural sand (L8) and was probably

part of the Roman north-south street leading down to the South or St Botolph's Gate from inside the walled town.

6.3.2 Further north, a layer of gravel metalling (L16; Fig 4), 0.12-0.15 m thick, was observed outside 6 Queen Street. This lay 0.55 m below the modern pavement-level and was clearly stratigraphically later than the layer of Boudican destruction debris (L14). The gravel was only traced for 2.2 m in the west section, but was probably more extensive as this part of the trench had been much disturbed by later activity. The gravel layer lies on the projected line of the Roman street at the south end of Insula 30, separating the latter from Insula 38b (CAR 6, 15, fig 2.9).

6.3.3 Outside 2 Queen Street (Queen's House), a hard gravel layer (L19, Figs 1 & 3) was uncovered in the bottom of the trench. It was traced for approximately 9 m and lay 1.1 m below the modern pavement-level. The layer contained some large gravels and sparse fragments of Roman brick/tile and mortar, and was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4). The soil conditions in this part of the trench were damp. Several well-preserved wooden stakes or piles cut the upper surface of L19, projecting just above the level of the gravel. One example was recovered; it was 0.5 m long. It was unclear if they were contemporary with L19, although a medieval or later date for the stakes seems more likely.

It was not possible to examine L19 in detail, but it seemed to be the top of a substantial Roman gravelled surface. It lay in the south-eastern corner of Insula 30 and so was perhaps a yard surface rather than a street.

6.3.4 A layer of gravel metalling (L24; Fig 1) was observed in the bottom of the trench outside 34/36 Culver Street East (Cash Converters) and the west end of the car-park of 66 High Street (NSPCC). It lay approximately 1.1 m below the modern street-level. The metalling probably belonged to a north-south street sub-dividing Insula 30. Firm metalling was traced for just over 7 m although, to either side of this, the deposits in the bottom of the trench were silty and gravelly with an olive hue (see sections 6.5.8-6.5.9). These deposits could have masked more metalling or be material scraped off the street or be the backfill of roadside ditches.

No evidence was observed in this part of the trench for the north-south drain located approximately 25 m further north (CAR 6, 820; see section 3.5). However, only the tops of the Roman deposits were uncovered in the bottom of the trench and, due to the presence of modern services, even this was not always reached. Therefore, the lack of evidence for the drain should not be taken to imply that it was not present.

6.4 Roman drain (Figs 3 & 6; Plate 3)

6.4.1 Under the pavement on the west side of Queen Street, outside the east wall of 1 Culver Street East (Prezzo), the remains of a Roman drain (F12) extended obliquely across the bottom of the trench. It was traced for approximately 3 m and was aligned NNW-SSE. The sides and base of F12 were constructed of Roman brick set in *opus signinum*.

The drainage channel was 0.4 m wide and survived up to 0.25 m high (four brick courses; Sx 3 in Fig 6), while the two sides of the drain were each approximately 0.4 m wide. The surviving fill of the channel was 0.12 m thick. The drain was cut into redeposited Boudican destruction debris (L14) and was sealed by post-Roman topsoil or dark earth (L4), although it had also been much disturbed by later service trenches. The bottom of the channel lay 1.16 m below the modern pavement-level.

Traces of *opus signinum*, probably from F12, were located approximately 8 m further north-west, at the east end of Culver Street East, 1.1 m below the modern street-level.



Plate 3 Roman drain F12, viewed from the north-west.

- 6.4.2** The drain possibly extended along the west side of the north-south Roman street between Insulas 30 and 31, although the alignment of F12 did not appear to accord with the expected alignment and position of the street. It seems more likely that it extended obliquely towards the street from the north-west.
- 6.5 Post-Boudican foundations, floors and other Roman deposits** (Figs 1, 3-7; Plate 4)
- 6.5.1** Immediately to the south of the drain F12, the remains of a large unrobbed foundation (F11; Fig 3 & Plate 4) were uncovered in the bottom of the trench. It was constructed of septaria fragments set in a hard, pale brown mortar. It was traced for 3.4 m in the bottom of the trench and was cut into redeposited Boudican destruction debris (L14). It lay 1.05-1.25 m below the modern pavement-level. It was mainly sealed by dark earth (L4), although the southern edge of F11 was overlaid by a thin brown rubbly deposit, which also sealed the northern edge of the gravelled surface (L19; see section 6.3.3) nearby. The foundation remained unexcavated but part of the south and east sides of the foundation were uncovered. It seemed to form the corner of a building near the south-eastern corner of Insula 30. However, the eastern edge appeared to turn westwards by the western section indicating that it could be a feature such as a buttress.



Plate 4 General shot of the trench in Queen Street, viewed from the north-east, with the Roman foundation F11 uncovered in the bottom of the trench.

6.5.2 Further south in Queen Street, other Roman remains were uncovered (Figs 1 & 4). These lay in Insula 38b (sections 6.5.2-6.5.6) and the southern edge of Insula 30 (section 6.5.7), and are here described from south to north

In the south-western corner of Insula 38b, there was little evidence of Roman deposits until the trench reached Priory Walk. Several thin, pale yellowish-brown, clayey patches or shallow features were observed outside 20-23 Priory Walk (Peacocks). These sealed natural sand (L8) and were sealed by dark earth (L4). What appeared to be a rubble spread was briefly visible in the bottom of the trench outside the entrance to Priory Walk, 1.05 m below the modern street-level. This was probably Roman and may indicate the position of a foundation.

More substantial layers of probable Roman dump/make-up (L11) were observed towards the bottom of the trench outside, and immediately south and north of, 17-19 Priory Walk (Compuccino). This extended for approximately 18 m and was 0.2-0.4 m thick, roughly 0.8-1.2 m below the modern street-level. These deposits were greyish-brown and yellowish-brown in colour and contained small quantities of Roman brick/tile and oyster shells. They were sealed by dark greyish-brown, charcoal-rich, post-Roman topsoil (L4), which appears to have stained the Roman levels.

6.5.3 Sealing L11, immediately south of 14 Queen Street (Cash In Hand), was a spread of rubble (F5; Fig 4), containing large fragments of septaria, Roman brick/tile and pale brown mortar. This was traced for approximately 2.5 m and lay 0.6-1.1 m below the modern street-level. Although F5 consisted mainly of loose rubble, a small fragment in the east section was probably *in situ*. This consisted of several fragments of Roman brick set horizontally in mortar. It lay towards the southern end of the spread and measured up to 0.5 m long and 0.25 m deep. The rubble was, therefore, probably the remains of a demolished Roman feature such as a drain or a floor.

A Roman make-up layer (L12) extended to the north of F5 for just under 5 m. This was a brownish-yellow clayey deposit containing mortar fragments and gravels, and lay 0.65-1.1 m below the modern street-level. It was cut by a probable east-west robber trench (F6), 0.7 m wide, which had been much disturbed by a modern manhole.

- 6.5.4** To the north of F6 was another thick layer of Roman make-up (L13). This was traced for approximately 4 m and was exposed between 0.72 m and 1.15 m below the modern street-level. It was a brownish-yellow clayey deposit, although the lower 70 mm of L13 was sandier and extended below the level of the bottom of the trench. The top of L13 was sealed in places by a thin layer of white mortar fragments and gravels, which probably formed the base for a Roman floor such as a tessellated pavement. This was sealed by dark earth (L4).

Outside 12 Queen Street (Pharmacy), L13 was cut by a probable robber trench (F7; Fig 4). This was 0.75-1 m wide and extended roughly east-west. The lower part of the fill consisted largely of a compact deposit of mortar fragments and flecks.

- 6.5.5** To the north of F7, by a pedestrian crossing, there was much modern disturbance in the trench. Immediately north of the crossing, the trench was moved over 1 m to the west and was dug under the pavement (see section 5.2). It was difficult to make much sense of the deposits in this area. Immediately north of F7 there were traces of a brownish-yellow clayey make-up layer, 0.1 m thick, 0.76 m below the modern street-level. This sealed a layer of sand. There were possible traces of an east-west robber trench, with a small fragment of *in situ* foundation, 2.3 m north of F7.

In the trench dog-leg there were traces of more probable Roman make-up in the lower part of the trench. This was sealed in places by a layer of mortar and septaria fragments, 0.1 m thick, 0.65 m below the modern street-level. This could have been the remains of a base for a Roman floor.

Outside 10 Queen Street (5 Star Stitches) were the remains of a largely robbed-out, east-west foundation (F8; Fig 4) of probable Roman date. In the east section, a fragment of intact foundation survived 0.35 m high and 0.32 m wide, and lay 0.6 m below the modern street-level. It was constructed of septaria blocks set in pale brown mortar. The robbed part of F8 indicated that it was approximately 0.9 m wide. The evidence from the western section suggested that it may have had a gravel bedding layer.

- 6.5.6** Roman dump/make-up layers (L15) extended to the north of F8 in the lower part of the trench. These were usually yellowish-brown clayey deposits, often with an olive tinge, 0.5-0.7 m thick. They were cut, 1.5 m north of F8, by a feature (F9; Fig 4) filled with compact whitish mortar fragments and flecks and sparse Roman brick/tile. This was only observed in the west section of the trench, 0.7-1.1 m below the modern pavement-level. It was 0.75 m wide, and could have been the remains of a medieval robber trench for a Roman foundation.

In the Roman dump/make-up (L15), 2.4-2.6 m to the north of F9, outside 8 Queen Street (More Sports), the remains of a grey ware jar (finds no 11), broken in antiquity, and a cluster of large Roman brick/tile fragments, as well as some animal-bone fragments and oyster shells, were observed in the western section of the trench. Although possibly just a chance collection of objects, they could be deliberately placed deposits such as votive offerings. Slightly further north, L15 was sealed in places by fragments of *opus signinum*, which could derive from a floor.

Roman dump/make-up (L15) was traced as far north as the south edge of metalling L16 (see section 6.3.2). Therefore, L15 could include make-up for a footway alongside the street as well as for floors.

- 6.5.7** Outside the northern end of 6 Queen Street (Sevendays Supermarket) was a well-preserved foundation (F10; Fig 4). It was observed in the western section of the trench, and was 0.95 m wide and extended east-west. It was constructed of septaria blocks in a pale brown mortar, and lay 0.6 m below the modern pavement-level. The foundation probably supported a wall or colonnade along the south side of Insula 30.

The foundation lay several metres to the north of the exposure of probable metalling L16 (see section 6.3.2). Immediately to the south of F10 was a thick layer of brownish Roman dump/make-up, although between this and the metalling L16 was an area of

probable post-Roman disturbance. The make-up could have formed a footway alongside the street at the southern end of Insula 30.

To the north of F10, outside 2a Queen Street (Bluebelle Gallery), was a well-defined series of Roman greyish-brown dump/make-up layers (L17). These were approximately 0.4 m thick, and appeared to extend for at least 10 m to the north of F10. Further north, outside 2 Queen Street (Queen's House), only the top of the Roman deposits was visible in the bottom of the trench.

6.5.8 Further evidence for post-Boudican remains was uncovered in the trench in Culver Street East; these are described from east to west (sections 6.5.8-6.5.12; Figs 1 & 5).

Near the east end of Culver Street East there was evidence for a post-Roman feature (F14; Fig 5), which contained much robbing debris, such as fragments of mortar, septaria and Roman brick/tile, as well as some peg-tile and slate. It was possibly a robber trench for a Roman foundation. Firm edges were not established for F14, but it was traced for at least 5 m east-west. It lay from 0.3 m to just over 1 m below the modern street-level, but did not reach the natural subsoil (L8). This would be unusual if it was a robbed-out Roman foundation.

A more convincing robber trench (F15; Fig 5 & Sx 5 in Fig 7) for a Roman foundation was observed 15.5 m to the west of F14, to the south of the Natural History Museum. This extended north-south and was up to 1.05 m wide. It lay 0.4 m below the modern street-level and continued below the bottom of the trench, which was 1.1 m below the modern street-level. The fill, especially the lower part, was loose and contained large redeposited stone-and-mortar fragments. The robbing looked post-medieval or modern, rather than medieval, in date.

In this area, the bottom of the dark earth L4, which coincided roughly with the bottom of the trench, was rubbly. It contained fragments of mortar, *opus signinum*, and Roman brick/tile and wall-plaster, which presumably derives from one or more Roman buildings. Immediately east of F15 the dark earth L4 sealed a thin mortar spread, 1.16 m below the modern street-level.

6.5.9 Another probable robber trench (F17; Fig 5 & Sx 6 in Fig 7) was observed in the southern section of the trench, 5.85 m to the west of F15. Part of an unrobbed fragment of Roman foundation (F16) survived in the bottom of F17 and was constructed of pieces of septaria set in pale brown mortar. The top of F17 was 0.7 m below the modern street-level and F16 lay 1.25-1.4 m below the modern street-level. The foundation F16 was 0.7 m in length, and was at least 0.15 m thick, but only extended out from the southern section for a maximum of 0.15 m. It appeared to form the north-eastern corner of a structure, most of which lay beyond the southern section; ie where an east-west foundation joined a north-south one.

The trench was dug slightly deeper in this area in order to avoid an obstruction. A thick layer of Roman clayey dump/make-up (L23; Sx 6 in Fig 7) was revealed, approximately 1.15-1.4 m below the modern street-level. Further west, outside the car-park of 66 High Street (NSPCC), the top of the Roman deposits was reached in or near the bottom of the trench at a depth of 1.2-1.3 m below the modern street-level. This was more silty and gravelly with an olive hue, particularly where the trench approached the probable north-south Roman street (see section 6.3.4).

6.5.10 To the west of the probable north-south street subdividing Insula 30, the top of the Roman deposits were again gravelly with an olive hue for some 12 m. Outside the eastern part of 42-46 Culver Street East (Ace), a well-defined rubble spread was observed near the bottom of the trench, approximately 1 m below the modern street-level. This was roughly 0.1 m thick and contained fragments of *opus signinum*, mortar, septaria and Roman brick/tile. It extended for at least a couple of metres and was sealed by dark earth L4. In places it sealed a dark clayey layer and a gravelly layer. The rubble probably derives from the demolition or dereliction of a Roman building. A fragment of column brick was recovered from the bottom of the dark earth L4 outside 38-40 Culver Street East (Select Studios). However, despite the previous records (see section 3.5; Hull 1958, 203-6), there was no definite evidence from the trench for a Roman building in this part of Culver Street East. The gravelly layer was perhaps a courtyard surface.

Outside the western part of 42-46 Culver Street East and further west, the Roman deposits had been destroyed by modern services or lay below the bottom of the trench. Outside the rear of Jacks (60 Culver Street East), a further rubbly layer containing fragments of *opus signinum*, mortar, Roman brick/tile and gravels was observed in the bottom of the trench. It lay 0.85 m below the modern street-level and was sealed by dark earth L4.

- 6.5.11** A rubble spread (L25; Fig 1) was also uncovered below dark earth (L4) in the trench outside 1a St Nicholas Street (The Learning Shop). The trench here was much disturbed by an old gas main and was up to 1.4 m deep. The rubbly layer L25 was 0.15 m thick and lay 1.1 m below the modern street-level. Some small fragments of white marble (SF 1; see section 7.2) appeared to come from L25 during machining. However, the fragments could be post-Roman in date and so may be intrusive. Many fragments of Roman marble have been found in this area in the past (Hull 1958, 203), although their stratigraphic context is unclear. In the bottom of the trench was a clayey dump/make-up layer, which was sealed by L25.

More clayey dump/make-up was observed in the bottom of the trench on the west side of St Nicholas Street by the graveyard. It lay approximately 1 m below the modern street-level and was sealed by dark earth L4.

- 6.5.12** In Culver Street East, immediately to the east of St Nicholas Passage, a trench for a gas main was re-excavated to the south of the main trench. It extended north-south for 7.5 m, near the north-western corner of 75 Culver Street East (Co-op. store). A layer of *opus signinum* (L26; Fig 1), 0.15 m thick, survived *in situ* in the sides of the trench. This lay 0.95 m below the modern street-level and probably formed the base for a floor such as a tessellated pavement. It was traced for 2 m, 0.4-2.4 m north of the north wall of 75 Culver Street East.

The trench was up to 1.4 m deep, although the deposits in the sides of the trench had been much disturbed by later activity. The *opus signinum* (L26) rested on a layer of yellowish-brown clayey make-up at least 0.3 m thick. The upper part of this layer contained greensand blocks, and there was a thin lens of whitish mortar within it at a depth of 1.2 m below the modern street-level. These deposits probably belonged to a building on the east side of Insula 29 and may be associated with previously-discovered foundations nearby (see section 3.6; Hull 1958, 202-3).

- 6.5.13** Several undatable features were observed in the trenches. A pit was visible in the eastern section outside the northern end of 36-38 Queen Street (formerly Key West), sealed by post-Roman gravel metalling (L10). A possible pit was seen in the west section outside 20-23 Priory Walk (Peacocks). A sand- and gravel-filled feature (F21; Fig 2 & Sx 1 in Fig 6) was recorded in the western section under the pavement to the east of the Natural History Museum, 0.55 m south of F20. It was up to 0.6 m wide and lay 0.55-1.05 m below the modern ground-level, although the bottom of F21 was not reached. There were patches of Boudican destruction debris (L14) and Roman brick/tile in the fill, which probably derive from the surrounding deposits. It was possibly an east-west linear feature, perhaps of post-Boudican Roman date.

6.6 Post-Roman remains (Figs 4-7)

- 6.6.1** Over much of the length of the trench, the Roman deposits were sealed by post-Roman topsoil or dark earth (L4; CAR 3, 92). This dark greyish-brown deposit varied in depth, but was typically about 0.5 m thick. This was the case towards the southern end of Queen Street, where it was reached roughly 0.45 m below the modern ground-level. In the middle part of the street, notably outside 6-10 Queen Street, L4 was thinner or non-existent, perhaps as a result of terracing. Further north, outside 2a and 2 Queen Street and the eastern side of 1 Culver Street East (Prezzo), L4 thickened again. It was reached roughly 0.7 m below the modern ground-level and was up to 0.5 m thick. However, towards the northern end of the street, under the pavement to the east of the Natural History Museum, it again thinned out or was non-existent.

In Culver Street East and St Nicholas Street, L4 was reached roughly 0.4-0.7 m below the modern ground-level and was approximately 0.5 m thick (Fig 7). The lower part of L4

often contained concentrations of fragments of mortar, Roman brick/tile, septaria and *opus signinum*. In places, the lowest part of L4 was also a brownish colour, which differed from most of the dark earth. This may be the remains of a late Roman cultivation soil (CAR 6, 117). A pale brown mortar spread was traced for at least 3 m within the lower part of L4, outside the eastern half of the car-park of 66 High Street (NSPCC). This lay at a depth of 0.9-1.02 m below the modern ground-level. Gravel spreads were observed in a limited number of places within L4 (see section 6.6.3).

- 6.6.2** Several probable post-Roman robber trenches for Roman foundations were observed in the trenches, including F6, F7 and F9 in Queen Street (Fig 4). A large feature (F14; see section 6.5.8) at the eastern end of Culver Street East contained mortar fragments and other possible robbing debris (L20, L21), as well as, possibly, some clayey dump (L22). Peg-tile and slate were recovered from these contexts. Firm edges could not be established for F14, especially to the east, but it may have been a robber trench of medieval or later date. Other possible robber trenches in Culver Street East included F15 and F17 (Fig 5; Sx 5 & Sx 6 in Fig 7).

As elsewhere in the town, most of the robber trenches probably date to the late 11th and the 12th centuries (CAR 6, 123). However, the finds from F14 suggest a later date for this feature, and F15 appeared to have been disturbed in post-medieval or modern times.

- 6.6.3** A layer of post-Roman gravel metalling (L10; Fig 1), 0.15-0.2 m thick, was uncovered at the southern end of Queen Street, outside the northern end of 36-38 Queen Street (formerly Key West). It lay 0.45 m below the modern street-level, appeared to seal natural sand (L8), and contained fragments of peg-tile.

Elsewhere, thin gravel spreads were observed within the dark earth (L4), including immediately south of F5 in Queen Street, 0.55 m below the modern street-level, and outside the car-park of 66 High Street (NSPCC) in Culver Street East, 0.8 m below the modern ground-level. A gravel spread, 0.1 m thick, was seen briefly within L4 outside the north end of 12 Queen Street (Pharmacy), 0.85 m below the modern ground-level.

Other exposures of probable post-Roman metalling were recorded in the bottom of the trench in a traffic island at the junction of Queen Street with the High Street, 0.85-1.1 m below the modern ground-level, and also in a short length of trench to the south of the main trench at the Culver Street East, St Nicholas Street and Long Wyre Street crossroads, 0.5-0.7 m below the modern street-level.

- 6.6.4** There was much probable post-medieval or modern disturbance outside 20 Queen Street (Route) and 20-23 Priory Walk (Peacocks), including a shallow pit containing a large quantity of peg-tile, 0.75-0.9 m below the modern street-level, outside 20 Queen Street. Probable post-medieval or modern features outside 10 Queen Street (5 Star Stitches) included a large post-hole or pit, 0.5 m deep and 0.6-1.1 m below the modern ground-level, immediately south of F8, and a pit, 0.5-1.05 m below the modern ground-level, immediately north of F8.

Outside 6 Queen Street (Sevendays Supermarket), what appeared to be a post-medieval or modern feature, 0.6-1.2 m below the modern ground-level, contained a number of stone fragments and loose-ish mortar; these were perhaps redeposited from an earlier structure. Several probable post-Roman features, mainly pits, were visible in the western section of the trench outside 2a Queen Street, although it was not possible to record these in detail. As observed above (see section 6.3.3), several wooden stakes uncovered outside 2 Queen Street (Queen's House), 1.1 m below the modern pavement-level, were possibly medieval or later in date.

A probable post-Roman pit was visible in the western section of the trench outside 7 Queen Street (The What bar), approximately 2 m north of F19. This was up to 1.5 m wide, at least 0.55 m deep, and lay 0.5 m below the modern ground-level.

- 6.6.5** A large feature (F13) was uncovered in the bottom of the trench in Culver Street East, to the south of the Natural History Museum. A trial section was dug 0.5 m deep against the northern edge of F13 (Sx 4 in Fig 7), but did not reach the bottom of the feature. It lay 1.05 m below the modern street-level and had a dark greyish-brown fill, similar to the dark earth (L4). It was probably a large pit of 15th- or 16th-century date.

Also to the south of the Natural History Museum, approximately 1.5 m west of F15, a small clay-filled feature was observed in the southern section of the trench. It was 0.3 m wide, 0.6-1.1 m below the modern street-level. Immediately west of F16/F17, a pit (F18; Fig 5) was visible in both sections and in the bottom of the trench, 0.5-1.4 m below the modern street-level. It was approximately 0.7 m wide, and the lower part of the fill contained a large quantity of peg-tile fragments.

On the western side of St Nicholas Street, by the south-eastern corner of the graveyard wall, some unstratified human bone (finds no 39) was recovered from the trench. They are from an adult and include lower limb bones. They probably came from the dark earth (L4) and belonged to a burial in the graveyard of the now-demolished St Nicholas' Church. Slightly to the north of this, an arrangement of several re-used Roman brick/tile fragments, presumably a feature of some sort, was observed within the dark earth (L4), 0.8 m below the modern street-level.

- 6.6.6** Post-medieval and modern dump/make-up layers (L3; Figs 6-7), 0.2-0.5 m thick, were observed in the upper part of the trench along most of its length. These were mainly dark greyish-brown deposits with rubble inclusions, although there were occasional bands of brick rubble. At the eastern end of Culver Street East, L3 comprised mainly black, charcoal-rich deposits, approximately 0.3 m thick, which looked like post-medieval or modern 'industrial' waste. Further west in Culver Street East, the modern road surface sealed gravelly make-up deposits, 0.1-0.3 m thick, some of which may have been the backfill of modern service trenches. By the kerb in parts of Culver Street East, large quantities of stone setts were dug up; these presumably derive from the surface of a previous road or drainage channel.

The dump/make-up layers (L3) were cut by numerous modern service trenches. They were usually sealed by modern concrete make-up (L2), 0.15-0.25m thick, in places reinforced, which underlay the existing tarmac road surface (L1), 0.15m thick. The modern pavement along the western side of Queen Street had been widened relatively recently. Here the pavement was found to overlay the previous modern road surface (L1).

7 Finds

7.1 Introduction

A quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief. Where appropriate, these were cleaned, marked and bagged according to context in line with the recommendations in CIMS 2008b and IfA 2008b. The small finds and the animal bone are described in sections 7.2-7.3, and the animal bone is catalogued in Appendix 2. The remaining finds are listed in Table 1 in Appendix 1 and further details are available in the site archive.

7.2 The small finds

by Nina Crummy

Only two objects were found; one of stone, one of leather. A fragment of marble has the crystalline structure of 19th-century or later cultured (man-made) marble but comes from a probable Roman layer. Burial conditions may have affected the condition of the stone. A young child's shoe or boot sole with square toe probably dates to the 18th or early 19th century.

SF 1. (38) L25. Fragment from a thin slab of marble veneer, now in four pieces. Two abutting original sides remain, set at a right angle. The stone is white with grey veining; its structure is highly crystalline and friable at the breaks. Maximum dimensions 69 by 68 mm, 11 mm thick; original sides 53 mm and 50 mm long.

SF 2. (37) L3. Leather sole from a child's right shoe or boot, with edge/flesh stitching around the perimeter. The toe narrows to a square tip. Two cracks running at an angle from heel to instep were caused by shrinkage not wear. Length 135 mm, width at the ball of the foot 47 mm. The leather has shrunk and curled as it dried, so its original dimensions would have been greater.

7.3 The animal bone by Adam Wightman

7.3.1 Introduction

A total of 39 pieces of animal bone (592g) was recovered from eight contexts in the gas-main trench excavated along St Botolph's Street, Queen Street and Culver Street East in Colchester town centre. Another 22 pieces of unstratified bone (709.1g) were also recovered. The bone fragments recovered were hand-collected from contexts dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

7.3.2 Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine the range of species and elements present. Each bone was inspected to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages (i-infantile, j-juvenile, sa-sub-adult, a-adult in Table 2) and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context. All information was input directly into a Microsoft Works Spreadsheet for analysis. Measurements were not taken for the bones as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. Bones of sheep and goats were recorded as *Ovis* (sheep species) based on the greater frequency of this species in this region, but horn-cores, metapodials and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) of sheep or goat were distinguished between the two species. The side of the body from which the bones were derived was noted. The zones of the bone that were represented by the fragment (Z1-Z8 in Table 2) and the zone on which butchery marks occurred were recorded using the methodology devised by D Serjeantson (Serjeantson 1996). The freshness of the bone when it was broken was also recorded, based on an assessment of the fractures on the bone.

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included as a table with this report (Table 2 in Appendix 2).

7.3.3 The assemblage

Only four bones were recovered from three Roman contexts. A large mammal pelvis came from the Boudican destruction debris (L14), a rib fragment from a layer of Roman make-up (L15), and a large mammal humerus and a *Bos* (cattle) radius with butchery marks and probable *Canid* (biological family of the dog) gnawing was recovered from a layer of Roman metalling (L24).

Eight bone fragments were recovered from three layers (L20, L21, L22) which were probably the fill of a medieval robber trench (F14). None of the fragments were ascribable to a specific species, although the presence of large mammal (cattle, horse, etc), medium mammal (sheep, pig, etc) and bird was noted. Unidentifiable elements were fragments of long bone (diaphysis (shaft)) and appendicular cancellous (osseous bone from epiphysis)), whereas identified elements were axial (rib and mandible). Chop-marks were identified on two of the bones.

Twenty-five of the bone fragments recovered came from a probable large pit (F13) dating to the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Bones of the three main domesticates, ie *Ovis*, *Sus* (pig species) and *Bos*, were identified in fairly equal quantities along with unidentifiable bones of medium and large mammals. Bones from birds in the order of *Galliformes* (fowl) were quite common, of which half were identifiable as *Gallus domesticus* (domestic chicken). A wide variety of skeletal elements were present in the assemblage, many of which exhibited butchery evidence (most frequently cut-marks). The presence of possible conjoining elements such as the *Sus*

phalanges and *Gallus domesticus* radius and ulna may indicate the consumption of chicken wings and pig trotters. Evidence of *Canid* gnawing was observed on bones from the assemblage. A robber trench dating to the post-medieval period (F2) contained one *Ovis* tibia with evidence of *Canid* gnawing.

Over one third of the bone collected was unstratified. Most of this bone was large mammal/*Bos* and medium mammal/*Ovis*. One fragment of bird bone was recovered. A mixture of skeletal elements has been noted as has the presence of butchery marks and *Canid* gnawing.

7.3.4 Discussion

This is a small assemblage of bone collected over a significant distance and from contexts of varying age. The bone is in good condition, highlighting the favourable conditions for bone preservation in this area of the town centre. Evidence of butchery on the bones, the dominance of meat-bearing elements, and the absence of any patterning suggesting a specific industry (ie tanning), suggests that the bone is table waste from dressed carcasses. In particular, the presence of possibly conjoining elements in the medieval/post-medieval pit F13 is suggestive of specific parts of the carcass being utilised for culinary purposes. In this case, the cuts being consumed would suggest table waste from a low-status household. All of the identifiable species in the assemblage are domesticates, and the presence of *Canids* in the vicinity in each period is suggested by the gnawing evidence on the bones. The unstratified bone assemblage contained no bones which are out of keeping with the rest of the assemblage.

8 Conclusions

8.1 Despite the amount of modern ground disturbance in Queen Street and Culver Street East, significant archaeological deposits were uncovered in the gas-main trench. These included early Roman daub-block walls, as well as post-Boudican remains such as foundations, floors, street metalling and a drain.

8.2 The daub-block walls (F19, F20) were found at the northern end of Queen Street and belonged to buildings burnt in the Boudican uprising of AD 60/1. The walls were exceptionally well-preserved, probably surviving to a height of over 1 m high, and were sealed by thick deposits of Boudican destruction debris (L14). Being at a depth of only 0.5-0.6m, these Boudican deposits survive surprisingly close to the modern ground-level. The method of construction of the walls was the same as that used elsewhere within the fortress (Crummy 2001, 47-8). These walls must have supported a tiled roof.

The buildings were probably built inside the annexe of the legionary fortress, although the purpose of the building remains unclear. However, it seems likely that the walls came from a substantial structure, which was significant enough to be retained in the early *colonia* in such a prime location opposite the precinct of the Temple of Claudius.

8.3 Evidence for post-Boudican buildings in Insula 38b was found in the central part of Queen Street, from Priory Walk to 8 Queen Street. This included Roman foundations and associated floor and make-up deposits, and post-Roman robber trenches. These probably belonged to one or more town-houses, although the evidence was too incomplete to confirm the layout of these. Previous discoveries of tessellated pavements and a mosaic floor have been recorded close by (see section 3.2; Hull 1958, 212-13).

8.4 Further north in Queen Street, there was evidence for structures in the south-eastern corner of Insula 30, including foundations (F10, F11) and a drain (F12). The remains of Roman buildings from elsewhere in Insula 30, including foundations and robber trenches, were observed in Culver Street East. There was, however, no convincing evidence for an amphitheatre in this *insula*.

An *opus signinum* floor from a building in the south-eastern corner of Insula 29 was also recorded in Culver Street East.

9 Archive deposition

The archive from the watching brief, including the detailed site records, photographs and finds will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLIMS 2008.11, in accordance with *Guidelines on the preparations and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b) and *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (IfA 2007).

10 Acknowledgements

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11 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Boudican	dating to the time of the native uprising led by Boudica in AD 60/1
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made; usually a layer or a feature
dark earth	post-Roman topsoil; probably the result of long-term cultivation, refuse-disposal and pit-digging
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford
feature	an identifiable context, such as a pit, a wall or a post-hole
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists (formerly the Institute of Field Archaeologists)
<i>imbrex</i>	curved Roman roof tile
<i>insula</i>	an area or block within the grid pattern of a Roman town (plural <i>insulae</i>)
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from c 1850 onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Norman	relating to the period from AD 1066 to c AD 1154
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman 'concrete' with a pinkish appearance due to the addition of brick/tile fragments
peg-tile	rectangular roof tile of medieval or later date
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
robber trench	a trench left after the robbing of building materials from a foundation; eg Roman foundations were often robbed in the medieval period
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
septaria	calcareous, clay concretions found on the Essex and Suffolk coast
<i>tegula</i>	flanged Roman roof tile
<i>tesserae</i>	small ceramic cubes used to make Roman tessellated and mosaic floors
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester and Ipswich Museums
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context

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Note: all CAT reports (except DBAs) are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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13 Appendices

Appendix 1: list of finds by context

Not including stone and leather objects, and animal bone. All weights are in grammes. Roman pottery fabric codes follow those used in CAR 10 (identifications by Stephen Benfield). The Cam vessel form number refers to the Camulodunum Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). The samian vessel was catalogued using a Dragendorff (Dr) form number. Post-Roman pottery fabric codes follow those used in CAR 7 (identifications by Howard Brooks).

Table 1: list of finds by context.

Con-text	Finds no	Quantity	Description	Weight (g)	Comments
F12	13	1	small lead fragment	4.1	resolidified, length 32 mm
		1	small copper-alloy lump	5.4	length 19 mm
		1	small iron fragment	2.8	
F13	19	4	late medieval/early post-medieval potsherds	153.0	1 x Fabric 21a bung-hole, 1 x Fabric 21a rim/handle, 1 x Fabric 35, 1 x Fabric 20; 15th-16th centuries
		1	Roman potsherd	2.7	Fabric GX
		3	peg-tile fragments	200.9	
		1	wall-plaster fragment	46.6	painted white
		1	Roman box-flue tile fragment	57.8	
	21	1	post-Roman potsherd	5.1	Fabric 21a; 15th-16th centuries
		1	Roman potsherd	2.0	Fabric DJ
	22	1	post-Roman potsherd	3.1	Fabric 21a; 15th-16th centuries
		2	Roman potsherds	13.1	1 x Fabric GX, 1 x Fabric DJ
	F18	25	3	peg-tile fragments	225.5
F19	35	4	daub-block fragments	10,060.0	burnt; 1 x 80 mm, 2 x 90 mm, 1 x 100 mm thick
F20	36	3	daub-block fragments	9,110.0	burnt; 2 x 90 mm, 1 x 100 mm thick
L4	23	1	medieval potsherd	13.6	Fabric 13 rim sherd, 11th-12th centuries
	27	1	medieval potsherd	7.8	Fabric 13 rim sherd, 11th-12th centuries
	28	1	post-Roman potsherd	117.6	Fabric 21a bung-hole; 15th-16th centuries
	31	1	Roman column brick fragment	595.2	50mm thick
L14	15	1	<i>tegula</i> fragment	394.9	burnt
		1	<i>imbrex</i> fragment	578.1	
		2	Roman brick/tile fragments	370.5	
		3	daub-block fragments	2,061.0	burnt; 1 x 80 mm thick
	17	1	Roman brick/tile fragment	95.0	
		1	daub-block fragment	629.0	burnt
	30	1	Roman potsherd	22.4	Fabric HZ, 1st-2nd/3rd century
	32	1	Roman base sherd	8.7	Fabric GX
		1	<i>tegula</i> fragment	251.4	
		3	Roman brick/tile fragments	175.4	1 burnt
	33	1	?burnt daub sherd	7.2	
34	5	<i>tegula</i> fragments	1,799.7		
	3	Roman brick/tile fragments	1,044.6		

		1	daub-block fragment	2,100.0	burnt; 80 mm thick
L15	10	1	Roman potsherd	11.0	Fabric DJ
	11	20	Roman rim and body sherds	260.2	Cam 266, Fabric GX, 1st-early 2nd century
L20	16	2	Roman potsherds	26.6	Fabric GX, joining sherds
		1	medieval potsherd	2.5	Fabric 20, 13th-14th centuries
		1	<i>imbrex</i> fragment	70.2	
		1	Roman brick/tile fragment	95.1	with mortar adhering
		1	peg-tile fragment	15.1	
	36	1	<i>tegula</i> fragment	326.2	
L21	18	3	peg-tile fragments	83.4	1 with peg-hole
L22	20	3	peg-tile fragments	81.2	
U/S	7	1	modern pot	650.1	Fabric 45m, English stoneware bottle, 19th-20th centuries
		1	post-medieval glass sherd	90.0	omphalos base from an 18th-century wine bottle
U/S	8	2	post-medieval potsherds	25.1	Fabric 40, 1 glazed, 17th-18th centuries
		1	<i>tessera</i>	23.2	
		1	? <i>imbrex</i> fragment	64.9	
U/S	9	2	Roman potsherds	6.1	Fabric GX
		1	post-medieval potsherd	38.8	Fabric 46, plate sherd with foot ring, 17th-18th centuries
U/S	12	1	wooden pile/stake	6,500.0	cut L19; 0.5 m long, slightly curved; oval in section, up to 150 x 110 mm
U/S	14	4	post-Roman potsherds	106.0	2 x Fabric 21a, including rim sherd, 15th-16th centuries; 1 x Fabric 20, 13th-14th centuries; 1 x ?Fabric 40
		2	peg-tile fragments	88.2	
U/S	24	1	Roman mortarium spout	117.3	Fabric TZ, Colchester-made, probably 2nd-3rd century
		2	<i>imbrex</i> fragments	459.6	
U/S	26	1	Roman rim sherd	28.0	Dr 45, Fabric BA (CG), late 2nd-3rd century
U/S	39	3	human bone fragments	303.0	adult; R femur, L tibia, metapodial

Appendix 2: catalogue of the faunal remains
Table 2: catalogue of the faunal remains, listed by context.

F/L No.	Find No.	Date/type	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp. Qty	Prox F	Dist F	Age	Bone	Butchery	zone	Bone frag type	Comments	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Fresh ness	Side	
F2	5	post-med robber trench	1	46.2	Ovis	1				tibia	cut marks, gnawed	3			1	1	1	1						left	
F13	19	med/post-med lrg pit	21	37.5	Sus	1	u	j		tibia					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	not	left	
				30.8	lrg mammal	2				rib	cut mark (1)	5						1	1	1					
				1.7	med/lrg mammal	1				rib	cut mark	7													
				8.2	med mammal	3				rib	cut mark (1)	3			1	1	1	1							
				17.9	Bos	1				tibia	chop mark	4						1					fresh	left	
				31.9	Bos	2	u	j		ulna					1	1									
				16.9	Ovis	1	f	a		femur	gnawed	8									1	1		left	
				10.5	Sus	1				3rd phalanx															
				8.1	Sus	1				2nd phalanx															
				2	unidentified	1				unidentified															
				2.2	med mammal	1				unidentified															
				3.4	Galliform	2				pelvis															
				0.4	Gallus domesticus	2				radius															right
				1.7	Gallus domesticus	1				ulna															right
F13	21	med/post-med lrg pit	3	10.3	lrg mammal	1				ulna	gnawed														
				7	unidentified	1				rib	cut mark									1					
				7.1	unidentified	1				unidentified															
F13	22	med/post-med lrg pit	1	13.4	lrg mammal	1				unidentified															
L14	32	boudican destruction debris	1	46.9	lrg mammal	1				vertebrae (thoracic)										1					
										pelvis															
L15	11	Roman make-up	2	24.3	lrg mammal	2				rib										1	1				
L20	16	med robbing debris	4	0.5	sml/med mammal	1				rib										1					
				5.3	med/lrg mammal	1			j	unidentified															
				1.4	unidentified	1				unidentified															
				0.8	bird	1				unidentified															fresh
L21	18	med robbing debris	1	0.5	med mammal	1				rib															
L22	20	med dump?	3	22.6	lrg mammal	1				mandible	chop marks														right
				9	lrg mammal	1				unidentified	chop marks														
				4.9	med mammal	1				unidentified															

F/L No.	Find No.	Date/type	Total Qty	Total Wt (g)	Species	Sp. Qty	Prox F	Dist F	Age	Bone	Butchery	zone	Bone frag type	Comments	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Fresh ness	Side
	L24	Roman metalling	2	195.2	Bos	1			a	radius	chop marks, chopped, gnawed	3		ulna fused	1	1	1							left
				22.4	lrg mammal	1				humerus							not							
	U/S 1		6	179.6	Bos	2				mandible	cut marks			3rd molar loose										
				233.9	Bos	1	f	f	a	metacarpal				metallic concretions	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	left
				71.4	Bos	3				radius				2 conjoining				1					fresh	left
	U/S 8		1	8.8	lrg mammal	1				unidentified			diaphysis										fresh	
	U/S 14		15	36.9	lrg mammal	1				humerus							1						not	
				39.3	lrg mammal	1				radius							fresh							
				30	Ovis	1	f	f	a	radius				w hole	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	right
				31.2	Ovis	1	f	f	a	radius				w hole	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	right
				34.7	Ovis	1	f		a	femur	chopped							1	1	1	1	1	fresh	right
				2.1	sml/med mammal	2				rib							1							
				8.2	lrg mammal	1				rib							1							
				4.4	unidentified	1				unidentified				axial										
				10.9	med mammal	2				radius	gnawing (1)	6		not same bone						1				
				8.9	med mammal	1				humerus	chopped												fresh	right
				3.7	med mammal	1				vertebrae														

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Distribution list:

National Grid/Morrison

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 16.09.10

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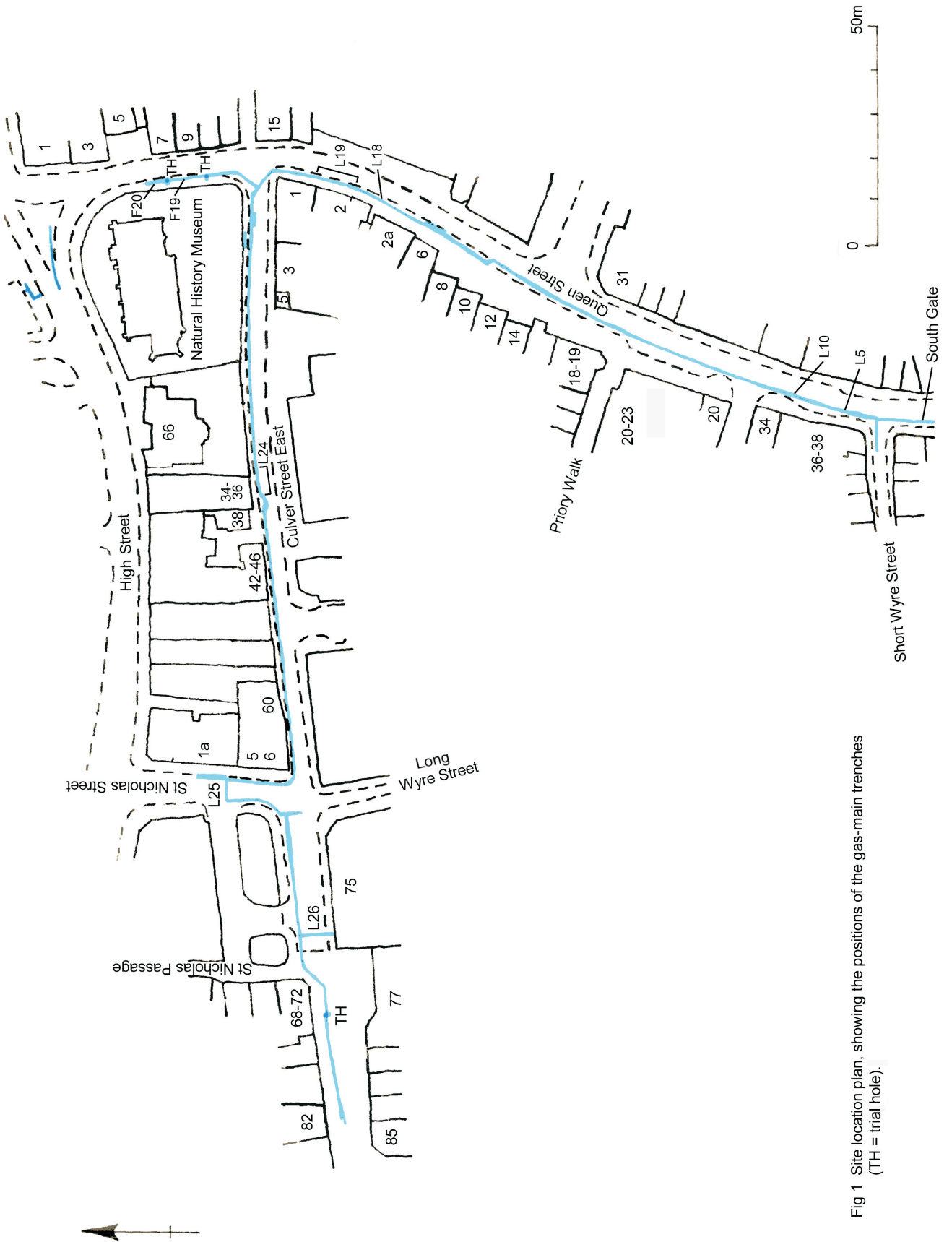
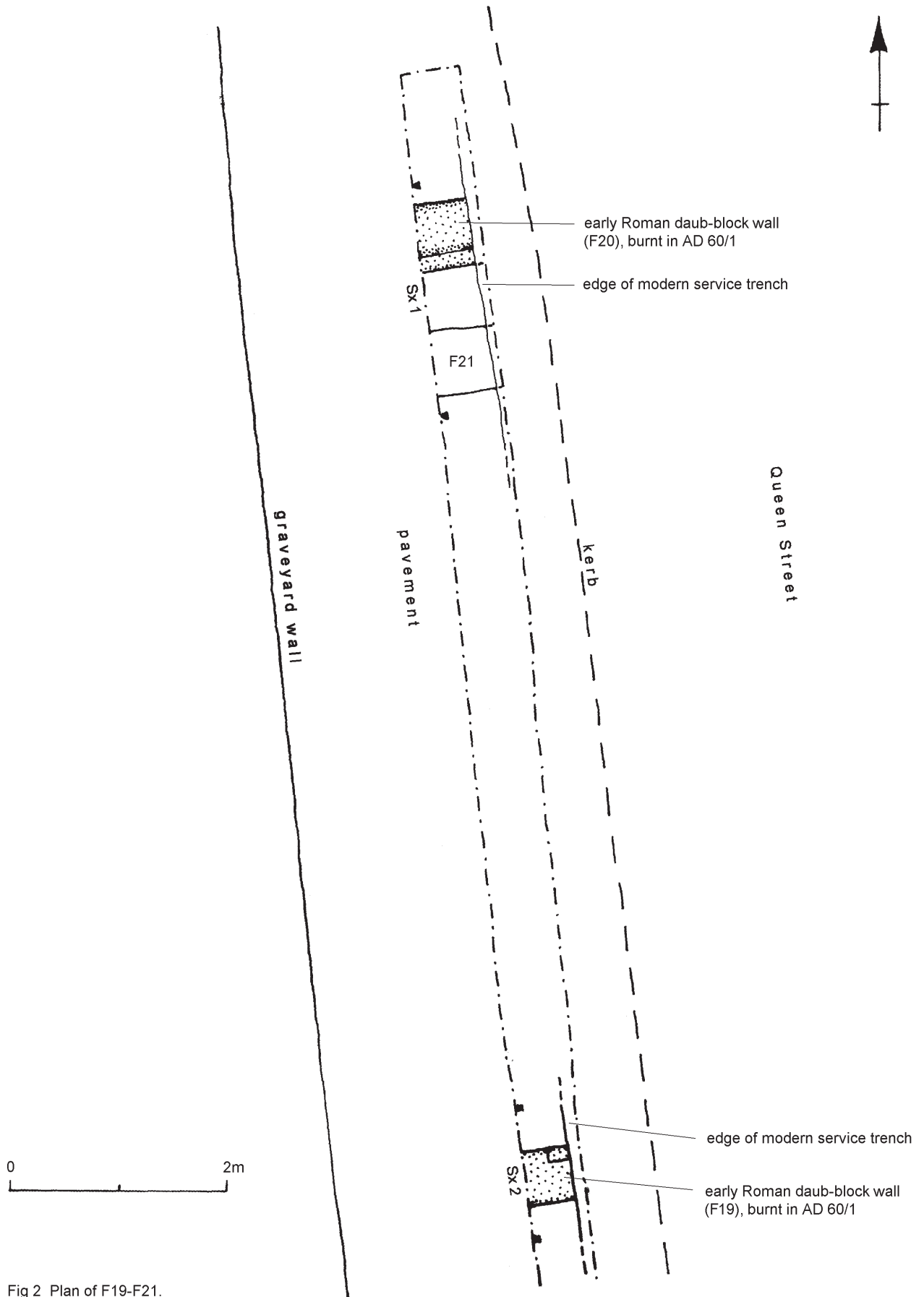


Fig 1 Site location plan, showing the positions of the gas-main trenches (TH = trial hole).



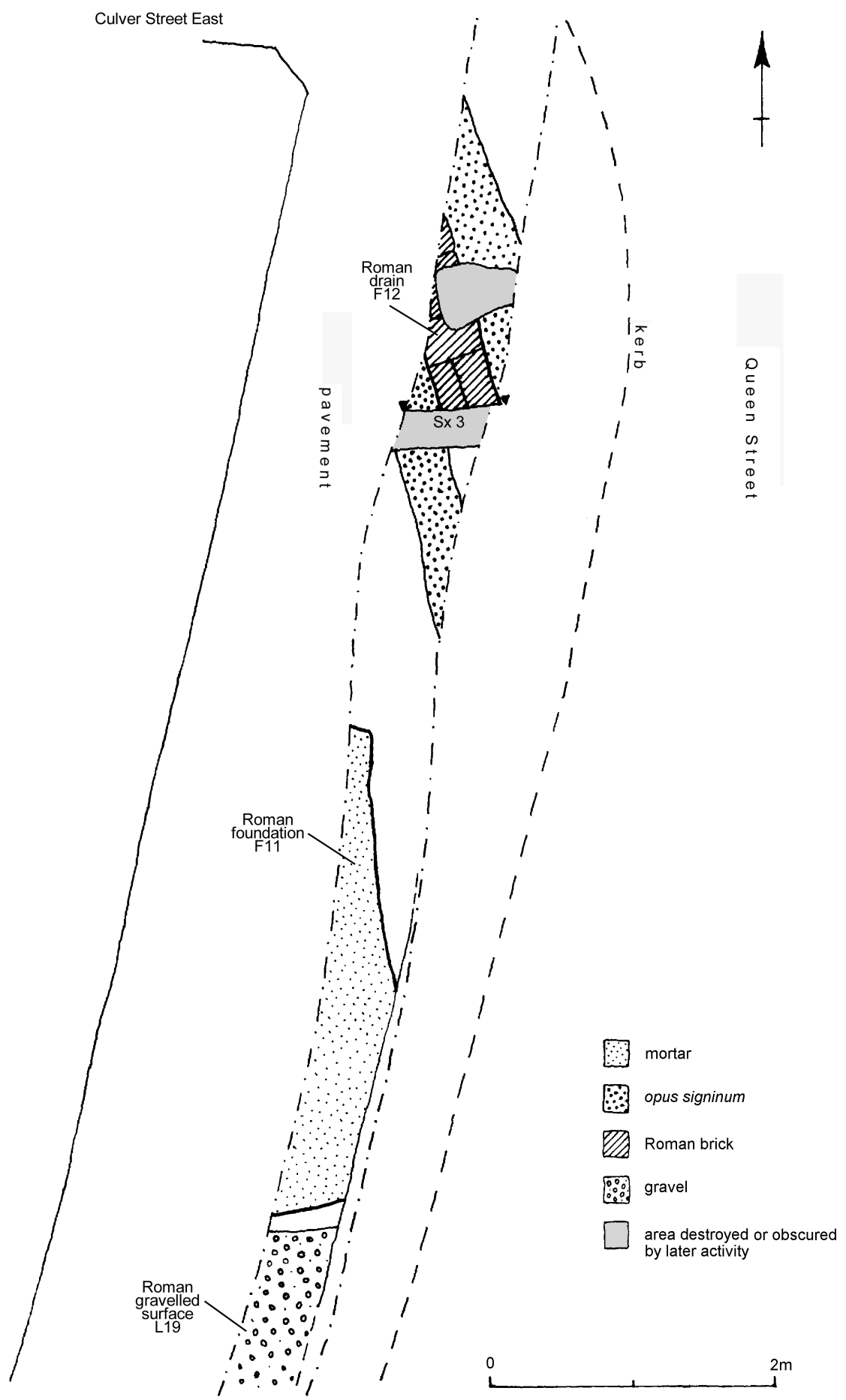


Fig 3 Plan of F11 and F12.

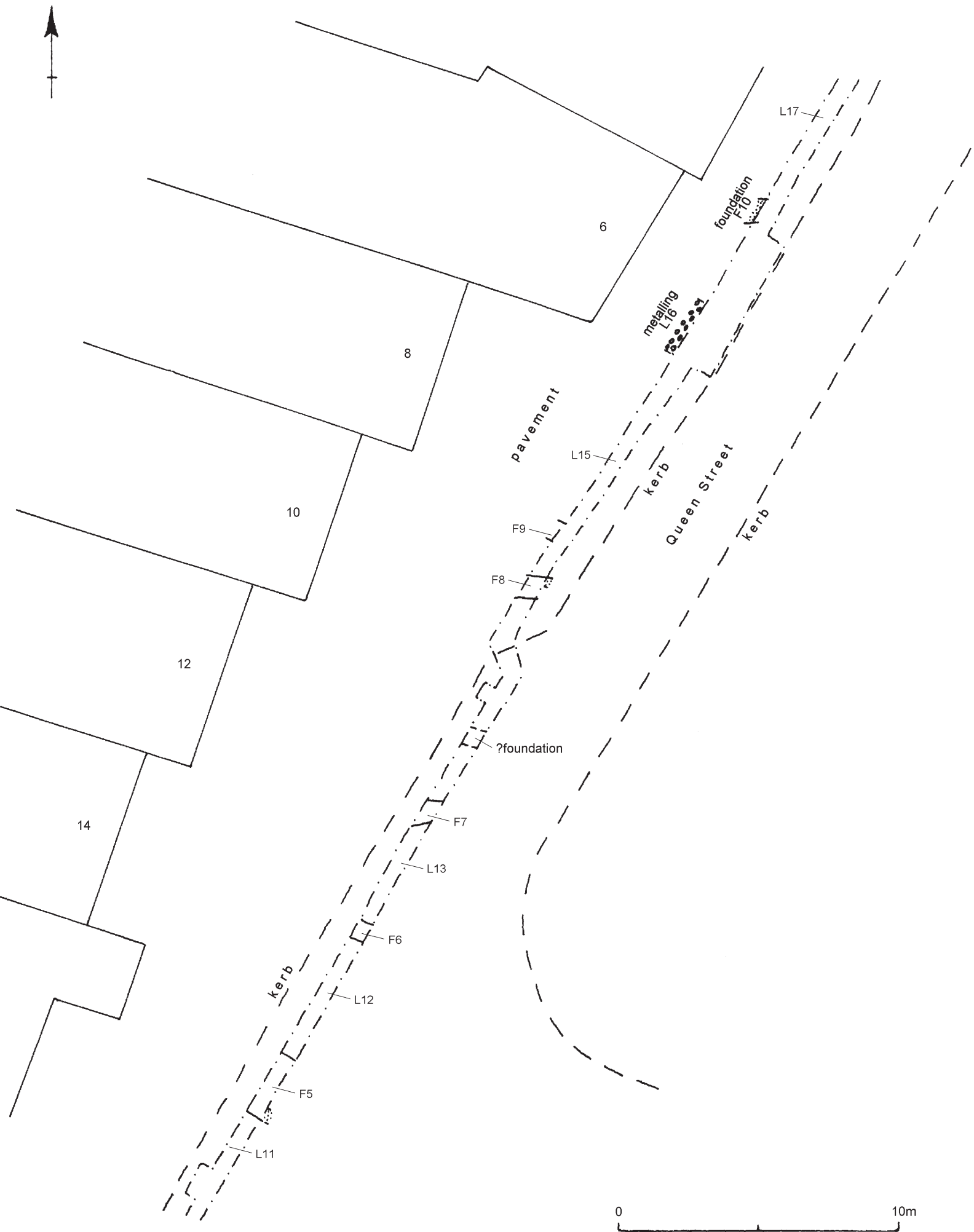


Fig 4 Plan of the trench outside 6-14 Queen Street.

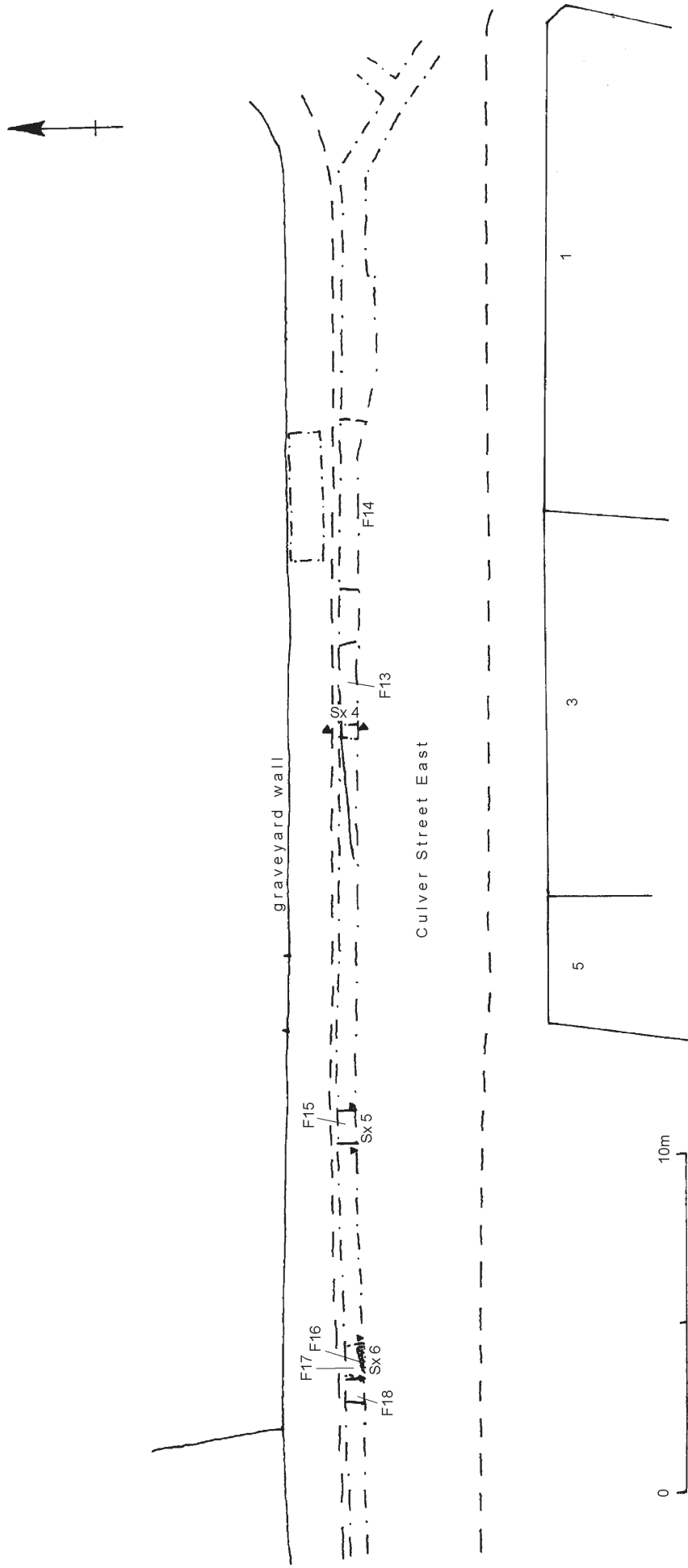


Fig 5 Plan of the trench at the eastern end of Culver Street East.

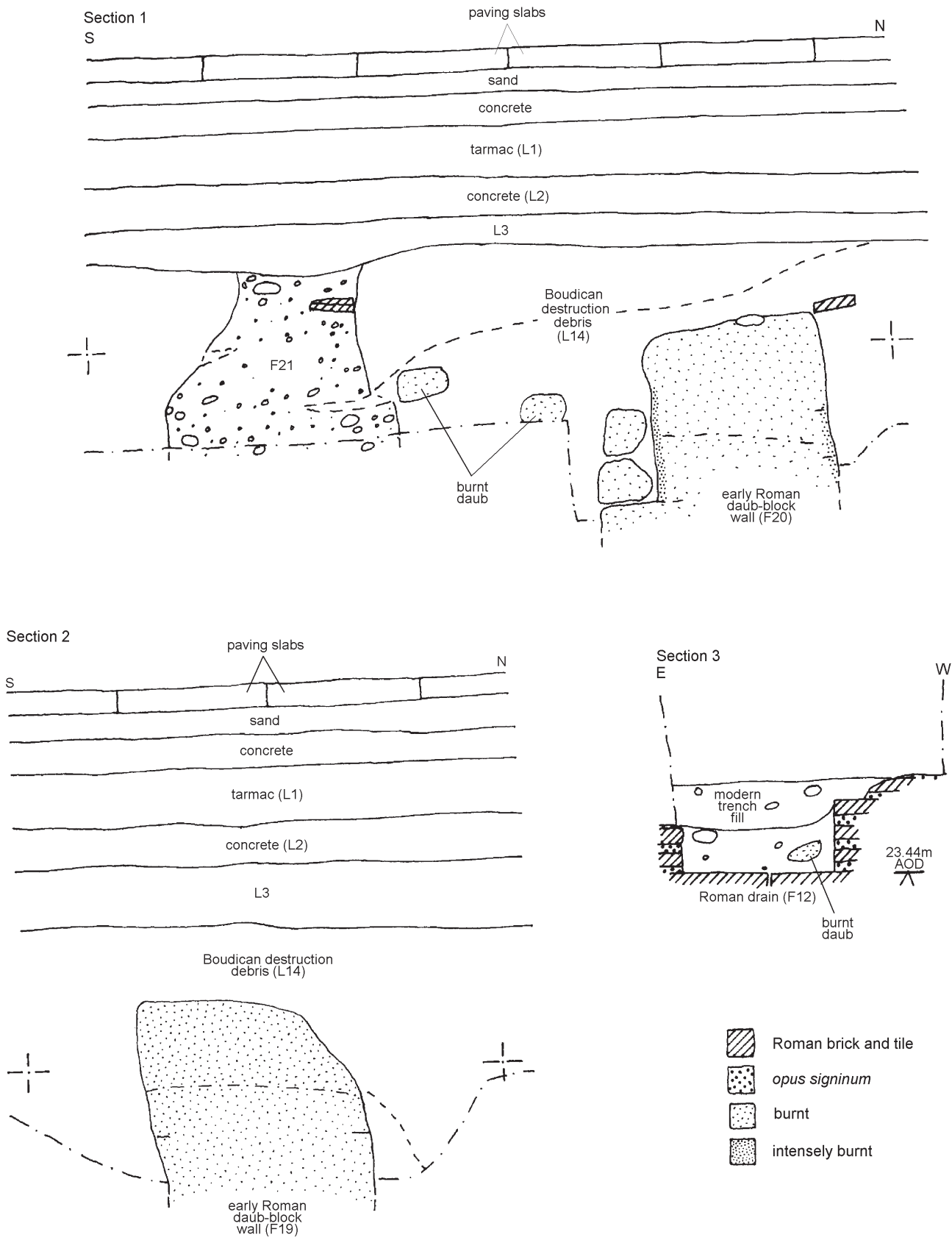
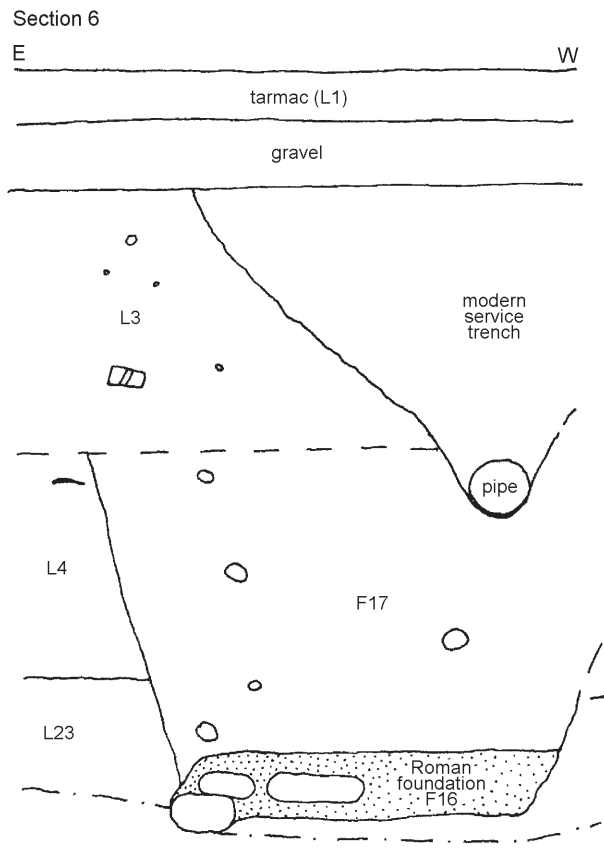
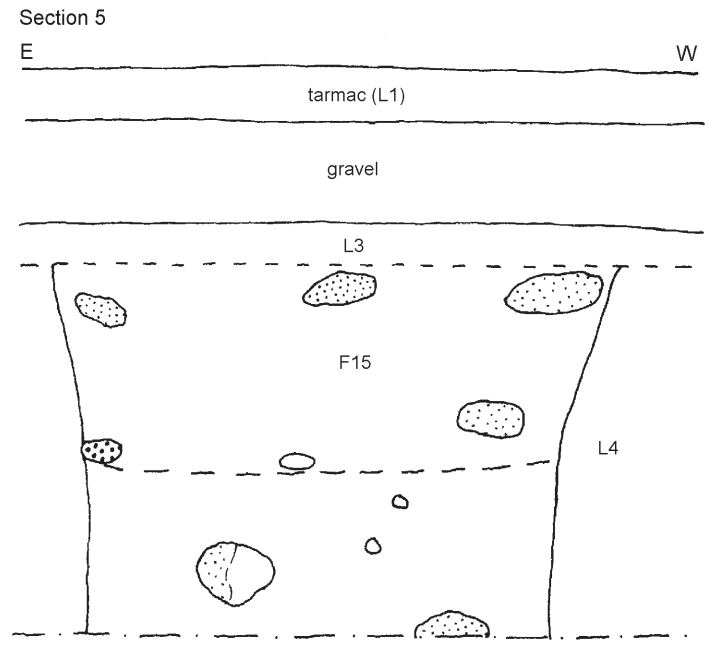
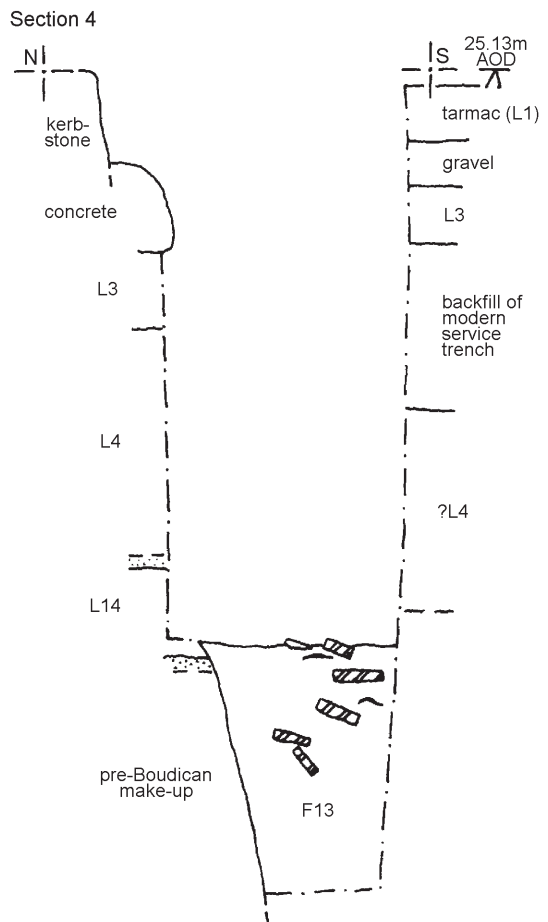


Fig 6 Sections 1-3.










-  post-medieval and modern brick and tile
-  mortar
-  opus signinum
-  stone
-  oyster shells

Fig 7 Sections 4-6.



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Queen Street/Culver Street East, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: Queen Street - TL 9989 2503-9994 2523 Culver Street East - TL 9995 2518-9973 2516	Site codes: Museum accession code COLIMS - 2008.11 CAT project - 08/4a
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: April-November 2008	Size of area investigated: Approximately 430 m length of trench
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: National Grid
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER and UAD nos:
Final report: CAT Report 498 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological remains uncovered during the digging of trenches for replacement gas mains in Queen Street and Culver Street East included early Roman daub-block walls, burnt during the Boudican uprising of AD 60/1. There were also post-Boudican foundations and floors, street metalling, and a drain, as well as post-Roman pits and robber trenches.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 474	
Keywords: Boudican, destruction debris, daub-block wall, street metalling, Roman, drain, foundation, <i>opus signinum</i> , robber trench, dark earth, Queen Street, Culver Street East	Significance: **
Author of summary: Donald Shimmin	Date of summary: September 2010