

**Stage 2 archaeological excavations in  
Alienated Land Area S2 (north),  
Colchester Garrison,  
Colchester, Essex  
September-October 2010**

**report by CAT in association with RPS  
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on behalf of  
Taylor Wimpey**

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Site H - TL 9951 2221 (c)  
Site I - TL 9962 2213 (c)  
Site J - TL 9969 2206 (c)



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## 1 Summary

*Following an evaluation in August-September 2010, six sites - with a total area of approximately 0.56 ha - were excavated in the northern part of the southern half of the former Roman Barracks (Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area S2 (north)), referred to here as Area S2 (north). This land is situated inside the oppidum of Camulodunum with the Berechurch Dyke (one of the defensive earthworks of Camulodunum) extending along its eastern side. These excavations revealed a number of phases of activity of prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age-Iron Age), Roman, medieval and post-medieval to modern date.*

*Isolated pits may relate to early land-clearance, but may include natural tree-throw holes or glacial features. A number of shallow ditches and a few pits can be dated to the prehistoric period. The pottery recovered from these includes sherds which are likely to date to the Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period and some which can be dated to the Middle-Late Iron Age. It seems likely that the earlier-dated sherds were residual in the ditches, which probably date to the Middle-Late Iron Age. Some lengths of ditch appears to be part of a sinuous boundary extending east-west across the site. To the east, where this feature is recorded as a cropmark, it appears to be cut by the Berechurch Dyke. A possible enclosure (or boundary ditch) may also date to this period, although it might date to slightly later, possibly extending into the early Roman period. The quantity of prehistoric pottery recovered would suggest settlement on or close to the site. No traces of any buildings consistent with habitation were located, although a possible cooking-pit (containing burnt flints) was excavated and a possible round-house, situated just beyond the south-west boundary of the development area, is probably of this period.*

*The Late Iron Age-Roman features mostly consist of ditches. These appear to form part of a rectilinear field system orientated south-east/north-west which extends beyond the development area. This fits a pattern of alignments seen in other parts of the Garrison development site relating to field systems of this date. It is noticeable that these ditches are not aligned with the Berechurch Dyke, but later ditches of post-medieval to modern date here appear to respect the alignment of the dyke. Overall, the low level of Late Iron Age-Roman finds suggests an agricultural area, with many of the finds probably deriving from manure scatter.*

*A double trackway survived where the wheels of vehicles had eroded two linear hollows. Wheel-ruts were preserved at the base of the hollows which had been metalled with gravel at some stage. A small quantity of finds from the fill of the hollows are predominantly Roman, with a few being medieval and post-medieval/modern, while the double trackway itself cut ditches dated as Late Iron Age-Roman. The finds might allow a mid-late Roman date with a few later intrusive pieces, or a long-lived route here surviving into later periods. However, the double trackway is more probably of medieval or post-medieval date and is possibly associated with a medieval farmstead enclosure located to the south-east of the current site.*

*Many of the post-Roman features identified could not be closely dated but are of medieval/post-medieval to modern date. Most of these are probably post-medieval to modern and include several modern features associated with the former Roman Barracks. The main features which can be dated to this period are ditches and these are of broadly north-south and east-west orientation.*

## **2 Introduction** (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1** This is the report on the archaeological excavation of six sites (Sites E-J) on Taylor Wimpey's Alienated Land site Area S2 (north), located in the northern part of the southern half of the former Roman Barracks, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.
- 2.2** This report will be incorporated in the final report for Phases 3-5 of the Alienated Land project. In particular, the analysis of the sites and their place in the landscape (as given below) will be incorporated into the wider-ranging final report when it is produced at a later date, in line with the project-wide research themes as defined in *Research design for archaeological evaluations, excavations and watching briefs on Alienated Land, new garrison, Colchester* (RPS 2004).
- 2.3** The excavation area was formerly occupied by the southern part of the Roman Barracks. It is flanked by the Berechurch Dyke to the east, Roman Way to the west, and the north half of the former Roman Way Camp to the north. To the south, the area was formerly occupied by the sports pitches for the Roman Barracks which were subject to archaeological excavation in 2007 (CAT Report 428).
- 2.4** The approximate NGR centres of the six excavated sites (Sites E-J) located in Area S2 (north) are: Site E, TL 9931 2214; Site F, TL 9942 2212; Site G, TL 9949 2208; Site H, TL 9951 2221; Site I, TL 9962 2213; and Site J, TL 9969 2206 (Fig 2).
- 2.5** An overall Archaeological Strategy was provided for the project by RPS (RPS 2004). This provides an outline framework for the archaeological mitigation of the development impact on the Alienated Land.
- 2.6** The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey in association with RPS, between the 27th September and the 22nd October 2010. The excavation site codes (Sites E-J) are continued from the lettered codes allocated to excavated sites on Area S2 (south) (Fig 2; CAT Report 428, fig 2). The post-excavation work was carried out from June to June 2012.
- 2.7** All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) written by RPS (RPS 2007), and agreed with Colchester Borough Council's Archaeological Officer (CBCAO).
- 2.8** In addition to the Archaeological Strategy (RPS 2004), all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CIM 2003), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and *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** (Fig 2)

- 3.1** The archaeological and historical setting of the Taylor Wimpey Garrison redevelopment area has already been comprehensively explored in an earlier report (CAT Report 97) and in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the excavation (*Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)*)

for Stage 2 archaeological excavations Area S2 (north), Colchester Garrison, RPS 2007). Thus only a brief summary will be provided here.

- 3.2** The site is located to the south of Colchester's modern town centre and the site of the Roman walled town and lies within the area of the Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, as defined by the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system which surrounded it. One of the defensive dykes on the eastern side of the *oppidum*, the Berechurch Dyke, lies immediately east of the site of the Roman Barracks.
- 3.3** As presently understood, there were two main centres of activity within the *oppidum*: one at modern Gosbecks Farm (2 km south-west of the Garrison) and the other at Sheepen (2 km north-west of the Garrison). Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites, one of which was identified at Kirkee and McMunn Barracks in 1994 (Shimmin 1998). A large area of cropmarks is recorded over the southern part of the Garrison area and geophysical survey has added to our knowledge of the pattern of linear cropmarks (CAT Report 184). Excavations ahead of the construction phase for the new garrison (CAT/RPS Report 292) have established that they are principally of Late Iron Age to early-mid Roman date, representing trackways, paddocks and field boundaries from rural settlement of that period.
- 3.4** The other significant discoveries from the Garrison development site include a Late Middle Iron Age round-house within a ditched enclosure south of the former Ypres Road (CAT/RPS Report 292). This site appears to pre-date the *oppidum*, indicating a farmed landscape and at least one settlement of some status prior to the construction of the dyke system. Within the Taylor Wimpey Garrison redevelopment area, prehistoric features including a structure were found in Area Q. The zone closest to the Roman town has produced evidence of a Roman building (Area E), two major clusters of Roman burials (Area C2 and Area J1), and the line of a major Roman trackway (Area J1). In addition, and most significantly, the remains of a stone-built monumental Roman circus, currently unique to Britain, has been discovered during excavations in Alienated Land Areas C1 and C2 and Area J1 in 2004 and 2005, and on the Napier Road site in 2006 (CAT Report 361). Roman burial grounds flanked the circus and the major Roman trackway within Area J1 (CAT Report 361).
- 3.5** Immediately to the south of Area S2 (north), excavation in 2007 on Area S2 (south) revealed evidence of activity and occupation dating from the later prehistoric (Neolithic-Iron Age), Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. There was no firm evidence of any Late Iron Age activity in Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 428). The most significant discovery was a probable round-house of Late Bronze Age-Iron Age date. A later stock control system, possibly for handling sheep, is tentatively dated to the Roman period and suggests a pastoral landscape at that time. Medieval activity is represented by part of a farmstead enclosure, which may have been maintained and added to up to the 18th century when a small agricultural building (probably a barn) was constructed. Later in the 18th century, the existing field system was made redundant by the creation of a large enclosure which itself was no longer in use by the end of the 19th century.

Limited evaluation by eleven trial-trenches was carried out in Area S2 (north) in 2002. To increase this to the required minimum of 3% evaluation, a further 31 evaluation trenches were cut in Area S2 (north) in 2010 (CAT Reports 207 and 565) (evaluation trenches 2002 T1-T9 and 2002 TRO3, TRO4, TRO7, and evaluation trenches 2010 T1-T31; Fig 2). These indicated thinly-spread archaeological features with a noticeable impact from modern disturbance. (The RO trenches were dug in 2002 and reported on in CAT Report 207.)

There was some evidence of activity dating to the Neolithic period. A number of ditches of possible prehistoric date were also identified. The main features revealed were Roman ditches, and a double trackway which may have originated in the Roman period but was still in use or re-used in the medieval or post-medieval period. The double trackway, which appeared to share the alignment of the Roman ditches, preserved wheel-ruts cut into the gravel surface. There were, however, few finds which could be dated to the Roman period, and this suggests a rural landscape at that time. Features dated to the post-medieval period were more fragmentary than those dated as Roman and consisted of a few lengths of ditches/linear features and post-holes. Residual medieval pottery hinted at an earlier phase of land use, but none of the features could be dated to the medieval period. The bulk of the post-medieval and modern features revealed relate to the Roman Barracks.

## **4 Aims and strategy**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The general aim of the excavation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the any significant archaeological features within the affected area. The over-arching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:

- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the foundation of Camulodunum. Are there indications of late Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement further to those revealed elsewhere on the Garrison Alienated Land?
- elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*.
- address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland.

### **4.2 Specific aims**

The following specific research aims were considered relevant to this area:

- To explore the nature of the later prehistoric settlement indicated by the round-house located on Area S2 (south), close to the south-western corner of the excavation area (CAT Report 428).
- To explore the nature of the gravelled surface located during the evaluation in evaluation trench 2010 T8 (Fig 2; CAT Report 565).

### **4.3 Strategy**

**4.3.1** Six sites (Sites E-J) were proposed for excavation with a combined area of 5,594 square metres.

**4.3.2** To some extent, the choice of location and extent of the excavation sites was limited by the position of extant buildings. Sites E-J targeted parts of the development area where previous evaluation had indicated that archaeological features were concentrated or were best preserved.

**4.3.3** Site E was located in the south-western part of the area, close to the site of the round-house excavated in Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 428).

**4.3.4** Site H was positioned over the area where gravel metalling had been revealed in evaluation trench 2010 T5 (CAT Report 565).

**4.3.5** A separate investigation of the Berechurch Dyke (Site K) will be located at the road/service crossing between Area S1 (built out to the east) and Area S2 (north). The outline scope and location of this investigation has been set out in the project WSI (RPS 2007) and the results of the investigation will be appended to this report upon completion in 2012.

## 5 Results of the excavation

(Figs 2-10)

### 5.1 Introduction

This section gives an archaeological summary including the finds dating evidence for the excavated features in each of the six sites (Sites E-J). The area covered approximately 72,880 square metres of which (excluding the earlier evaluation trenches) a total of 5,594 square metres (approximately 7.7%) was subject to excavation. The area was sub-divided into Sites E-J, continuing on from the sites reported on in CAT Report 428.

The dating of features relies heavily on the more closely-dated finds recovered from them. However, the quantities of finds recovered (both collectively and from individual features) are very small and many are not closely dated. Also many features did not any produce finds at all. This makes dating the archaeology difficult, especially as some of the finds recovered may be residual. However, a broad dating of some features can be suggested by their relationship and alignment with others on this area and with other features on the adjacent, earlier excavation area (Area S2 (south)). An overview of the archaeology in presented in the discussion below (section 7). All excavated contexts have site prefixes, ie a feature on Site E will be prefixed 'EF'.

### 5.2 Sites E-J

#### 5.2.1 Site E (Figs 3, 9)

Site E was located in the south-western corner of Area S2 (north) and had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 1,131 square metres. In total, 36 separate features were recorded. The features consisted of a number of pits, post-holes and shallow linear features, which were concentrated in the southern part of the site and three ditches located in the central and northern part of the site. Evaluation trench 2010 T14 was located in the north-western part of the site (CAT Report 565). Evaluation trench 2002 T5, from the earlier evaluation, was located in the south-eastern part of the site (CAT Report 207, fig 14).

Several isolated pit-like features (EF10, EF26, EF28, EF36) in the western half of the site are interpreted as natural, probably either tree-throw holes or glacial features. The fill of these mostly consisted of pale silts. No archaeological finds were recovered from any of them.

Prehistoric (pre-Belgic) activity is demonstrated by the recovery of closely-dated finds of pottery, worked flints and burnt flints. The pottery is mostly flint-tempered, only indicating a broad Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Three pits (EF14, EF17, EF23) produced no finds dated later than the prehistoric period. Also a curving length of ditch (EF30) produced two very small sherds, one of prehistoric date, the other possibly Roman. This feature was cut by a later ditch EF35 dated as Roman. Ditch EF30 was approximately 0.85 m wide and 0.25 m in depth and was traced for approximately 22 m of its line. The curvature of the ditch suggests that it may have formed the eastern side of a possible sub-oval enclosure (with a minimum diameter of 23 m), with a possible narrow entrance gap (less than 1 m wide) between the terminal of ditch EF30 (Sx 2) and another undated terminal of ?ditch EF31, suggesting a possible continuation of the ?enclosure perimeter to the west. The low number of finds and the absence of internal features suggest that the ?enclosure was agricultural in purpose. The further extent of the ditches could not be traced due to obstructions and retained trees. The enclosure interpretation remains uncertain and the alternative is that the ditch simply formed a sinuous field boundary.

A post-hole (EF21) produced a piece of burnt stone which probably derives from prehistoric occupation, but could date later.

Assuming a probable prehistoric date for ditch EF30, then the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits EF14, EF23 and EF17 are potentially associated with this phase of ?enclosure activity. The latter pit (EF17) was located within a dense but small cluster of pits and post-holes (EF2, EF3, EF4, EF6, EF7, EF8, EF9, EF11, EF17, EF19, EF20, EF21, EF25; see inset 3.1 to Fig 3). Two short lengths of gully were investigated in the area of this cluster of features, ie an approximately 2 m-long gully on an east-west alignment (EF12) and a right-angled corner gully/wall trench aligned north-south for approximately 2 m (EF24/EF5 at right-angles to EF12) and east-west for approximately 1.5 m. An approximately 1 m-wide gap between the southern end of gully/wall trench EF24/EF5 and the western end of gully EF12 was potentially closed by post-hole EF7 and pit/post-hole EF18. Further confirmation that the two gullies were functionally related is provided by the similarity of their steep-sided and flat or very slightly concave profiles (Fig 9). EF24 was 0.35 m wide and EF12 approximately 0.2 m wide, but both were cut to similar depths of approximately 0.12-0.13 m. The profiles may be more typical of beam slots than drainage gullies and, together with the post-holes, the right-angled corner of EF24 and the rectilinear arrangement might suggest a small structure (?Structure 3), 3 m+ east-west by 2 m north-south. A sherd of probable Roman pottery was recovered from the gully/wall trench EF24/EF5 and, therefore, it appears that the putative structure is of Roman or later date. A later date may indeed be suggested by a sherd of medieval pottery from post-hole EF6 located only 1.0 m to the south of the south-western corner of the structure, which is one of a pair (with EF7) aligned with the western gully/wall trench EF5. The function of such a small structure is uncertain. Its size does not necessarily preclude use for occupation when the similar size of Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings is considered. However, few finds are associated with this structure and an agricultural purpose such as an animal shelter, shed or store may be more likely.

A north-east/south-west aligned ditch (EF33/EF35b) was located within the northern part of the site, terminating at its south-western end and continuing to the north-east. The ditch was up to 2.0 m wide and 0.5 m deep and produced a single, small sherd of grey ware pottery which is probably of Roman date. This ditch, which appeared to be a Roman field boundary, cut the earlier ditch EF30 and probably also cut a separate, wide tree-throw hole EF35a.

Very few finds from Site E are dated to the medieval or post-medieval/modern period. Features with finds of this date were all located in the southern part of the site. Grey ware pottery dated as medieval (one sherd) was recovered from a post-hole (EF6) and a sherd of pottery dated to the 17th-18th century came from a small pit (EF2). Finds of peg-tiles (dated as medieval or later) were associated with two features. These are a ditch (EF15) aligned east-west, which terminated in the southern part of the site, and a pit towards the central western site edge (EF32). A piece of slate, dated as post-medieval/modern, came from the fill of a small pit (EF11).

### 5.2.2 Site F (Figs 4, 11)

Site F was located towards the south-eastern edge of Area S2 (north). The site, which was roughly boot-shaped, with the toe to the south-west (to avoid retained trees), had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 1,628 square metres. In total, 84 separate features were recorded. The features consisted mostly of ditches and small pits or post-holes. There were concentrations of ditches in the southern part of the site and concentrations or groups of small pits and/or post-holes in the south-western corner and in the southern central part. Evaluation trench 2010 T21 was located in the centre of the site and the eastern



end of evaluation trench 2010 T20 was located in the south-western corner (CAT Report 565).

A number of pits, concentrated in the northern central part of the site (FF4, FF45, FF51, FF61, FF62, FF70, FF74, FF77, FF78, FF79) and the western corner (FF30) are likely to be natural features. Most of these probably represent either tree-throw holes or glacial features. The elongated nature of one of these (FF79) suggests a probable glacial origin. There are very few finds associated with any of these features. In the site notes, pit FF12 is described as a natural feature; however, two sherds which are grog-tempered and probably of Iron Age date (although an earlier dating cannot be entirely excluded) are associated with FF12. Also a number of small pits or post-holes located in the south-western area of the site (FF22, FF24, FF29) are thought to be of natural origin based on the nature of their fills. However, as these are associated with an area in which there were a number of similar-sized small pits or post-holes, one of which (FF26) contained a Roman pottery sherd, they appear more likely to be a part of this group.

Although a relatively large number of features was recorded on the site, few produced any dating evidence. In total, dated finds, including one small find (SF 3), were recovered from just 22 features (26% of the total number). These finds are primarily of prehistoric and Roman date with a small quantity dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Prehistoric pottery sherds, dated as Iron Age, were associated with several small ditches or ditches/gullies located in the centre of the site. These are FF31 (two sherds), FF41 (six sherds), FF54 (one sherd), and FF84 (one sherd and a piece of burnt flint). These ditches broadly shared a south-east/north-west and north-east/south-west orientation and appeared to relate to each other. Another ditch (FF37) also contained prehistoric pottery (one sherd) but has a different orientation, which probably indicates a later date for this feature. Prehistoric flint-tempered pottery (three sherds) and a worked flint was also recovered from a small pit (FF1), and a small quantity of heat-altered (burnt) stone, most probably of prehistoric date, was recovered from another pit (FF44).

Also, although undated, some stratigraphically earlier but similarly aligned ditches or gullies (FF40, FF72, FF80, FF84) are likely to be part of the same general phase of field/plot division. The possible field boundaries include a clear funnelled entrance between the terminal of ditch FF82 and the continuation of the alignment as ditch FF31 to the east.

A number of very small features, clustered in the centre of the southern part of the site, might pre-date the earliest of the ditches (Fig 4; see inset 4.1). Some appeared to form two rows and could indicate the right-angled corner of a structure (?Structure 1). However, almost all are very small features, none produced any finds and some might possibly be natural. Just to the east of these was a small pit (FF44). This contained a quantity of heat-altered (burnt) stones (flint and sandstone/quartzite) and is most probably of prehistoric date. A grain fragment (possibly barley) was recovered from the fill.

Roman pottery (five sherds), dated as 1st-2nd century, was recovered during the 2010 evaluation from the fill of a broad ditch which extended approximately east-west across the centre of the site (FF5; evaluation trench 2010 T21, F78 in CAT Report 565, 12). It should be noted that only finds dated as prehistoric were recovered from the sections dug across it during the excavation. A Roman pottery sherd and a piece of Roman tile were also associated with another ditch (FF38) found in the centre of the southern part of the site. The northern end of this dog-legged ditch (FF38) did not connect with ditch FF5 at the point where it was truncated by a later ditch FF35. FF5 was nearly aligned at right-angles to ditch FF38. The gap between the two Roman

ditches represents an entrance. In fact, the two ditches formed a wide funnel arrangement narrowing to the entrance which indicates use for stock management (a 'stock funnel'; see Prior 1999; Fig 4). The western terminal of Roman ditch FF38 was cut by the northern terminal of north-south undated ditch FF33 (which extended south to the limit of excavation). It is possible that FF33 (in addition to an undated but associated ditch FF32 which extended along its eastern side) is also of Roman date. If so, then FF33 appears to further emphasise and extend the width of the stock funnel system.

Furthermore, the western terminal of ?stock-funnel ditch FF38 (Sx 4) also cut the short ditch FF83, the terminal of which was approximately 2.5 m from the terminal of ditch FF81. The juxtaposition of these two ditches and the close (although stratigraphically earlier) relationship with Roman ditch FF38 suggests that they were also probably near-contemporary elements of a Roman stock-management system within the wider Roman field-system (of which FF5 was a division (F78 in evaluation trench 2010 T21)). However, it is also possible that ditch FF33 was associated with the later ditch FF35 to form one side of a gap or entrance here. Also, the ditches FF32, FF33 and FF81 appeared to broadly follow an alignment close to north-south which is also seen in some post-medieval ditches here.

Two post-holes/pits (FF22, FF28) also produced Roman pottery and appeared to be part of a group of similar post-holes and small pits in the south-western part of the site which probably relate to each other as an ill-defined structure (?Structure 2; see inset 4.2 on Fig 4). Roman sherds from FF22 are probably from a flagon of mid 1st- to 2nd/3rd-century date. These features may also be associated with a small length of ditch/gully (FF27) which also contained a sherd of CBM which is possibly Roman. Some of these features suggest two possible rows of posts aligned south-west/north-east, of which the eastern row may include the ditch/gully FF27. The close spacing of the north-west aligned row possibly indicates replacement of posts or that not all of these features were contemporary. The arrangement of posts forming two rows appears likely to relate to stock management rather than to a building.

A number of other small features (pits or post-holes) also contained sherds of Roman pottery. A sherd of Roman CBM was recovered from an isolated small pit or post-hole (FF3) on the eastern side of the site. Also, a pit (FF48) located in the northern central part of the site and a ditch (FF33) in the southern part of the site produced single, small sherds of sandy grey ware which might be Roman (Fabric GX) but could possibly be of medieval date (Fabric 20).

Finds which can be closely dated to the post-Roman period were associated with just one feature. This was a ditch (FF35) aligned north-east-east/south-west-west, extending from the south-western edge of the site. The ditch, which terminated on the site, produced a single piece of peg-tile dated to the medieval period or later.

### 5.2.3 Site G (Figs 5, 12)

Site G was located in the southern central part of Area S2 (north) and had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 567 square metres. In total, thirteen features were recorded. These consisted almost entirely of isolated pits, almost all of which were considered to be of natural origin, and two ditches. There were also extensive areas of modern disturbance (all GF5) across the central and south-eastern part of the site. All of the features were located to the west of a north-south aligned ditch (GF13) on the eastern side of the site. There were no physical relationships between features other than with the areas of modern disturbance (GF5) which post-date both the ditches and one of the pits. A small pit (F604) dated to the Late Iron Age was found in an

evaluation trench on the site in 2002 (evaluation trench 2002 T6; CAT Report 207, fig 14). The location of this pit coincides with the current Site G.

A number of pits scattered across the central and western part of the site did not produce any finds and appeared to be natural in origin (GF3, GF6, GF9, GF11, GF12). They most probably represent tree-throw holes or glacial features. Most have dimensions of between about 1 m-2 m and four, possibly five appeared to be sub-rectangular in shape. Two (GF9, GF12), or possibly three (with GF6), are aligned south-west to north-east, based on the orientation of the longer axis. One (GF3) appeared to be orientated south-north and one (GF11), west-east.

Prehistoric pottery (six sherds) was recovered from a shallow ?boundary ditch (GF8) located in the southern part of the site and aligned south-east/north-west. Three of these sherds are flint-tempered and likely to date to the period of the Neolithic-Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. One sherd is sand-tempered and is dated as Iron Age. The remaining two sherds contain some grog-temper but are not closely dated, but they are possibly Late Iron Age or early Roman. Given the similar alignment of ?boundary ditch GF8 with ditch FF39 in Site F, to the north-west, it is likely that the two were part of the same boundary. Within Site F, the ditch appeared to be of Iron Age date (but not Late Iron Age) and a similar date, although possibly including continued use and/or recutting into the Late Iron Age, is suspected for this ditch within Site G. One small pit (GF1) also produced a single of prehistoric pottery which is not closely dated.

A north-south aligned ditch (GF13) was located in the eastern part of the site. Small quantities of finds of pottery, glass and tile associated with it show that the fill dates to the post-medieval or modern period.

#### **5.2.4 Site H (Figs 6, 12)**

Site H was located in the northern central part of Area S2 (north). The site was rectangular in shape and had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 1,016 square metres. In total, 37 separate features were recorded. The features were mostly linear features/ditches and ditches, although the main feature on the site was a double trackway. A significant number of small features interpreted as the truncated bases of post-holes or stake holes were also located in the central part of the site. Evaluation trench 2010 T5 crossed the central part of the site east-west (CAT Report 565). This identified two areas of compacted gravel surfacing, thought to be trackways, associated with Roman finds.

A single pit (HF6), located in the north-eastern part of the site, was probably a natural feature, representing either a tree-throw hole or a glacial feature.

Prehistoric finds are limited to a few sherds of pottery and worked flints, as well as heat-altered (burnt) flints which are most probably also of prehistoric date. Two flint scrapers, residual in later-dated contexts (double trackway HF7), can be closely dated to the Neolithic-Early Bronze Age.

Pottery dated as prehistoric was recovered from three ditches which shared a similar alignment (HF2, HF9, HF23). Two (HF9, HF23) produced three sherds each and the other (HF2), two sherds. Apart from one sand-tempered sherd (from HF23), which is probably of Iron Age date, all of the pottery is flint-tempered, indicating a Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Given the common alignment of these ditches with others dated as Roman, particularly ditch HF2 and its continuation to a terminal at ditch HF9, which appeared to align with Roman ditch EF35b in Site E, the later sherds are considered residual and an Iron Age to Roman date is more likely. The later double trackway (HF7) truncated/eroded the line of ditches HF2 and HF9

which were probably one continuous ditch. Ditch HF3 was parallel to ditch HF2 some 4 m to the south. It is highly likely that these ditches represent two sides of a partially-defined trackway. Although part of HF3 was also truncated by the double trackway HF7, like HF2 it emerged on the eastern side of HF7 where it was numbered HF23. The two probable trackway-defining ditches (HF9, HF23) emerging on the eastern side of the double trackway clearly relate to each other as the former includes a short length of south-east/north-west aligned ditch which effectively connected the two terminals so that they enclosed three sides of a small square or rectangular area. The impression created by these ditches (HF2, HF3, HF9, HF23) is of an area at least 39 m long and 4 m across, enclosed on three sides, but open towards the south-west. This could represent part of a ditched run for livestock but, if so, then other barriers, no longer traceable, must have existed with it.

There is a contradiction in the dating evidence, however, for one of these ditches (HF2) aligned not only with the Roman ditch in Site E but with linear features on the same line recorded during the earlier evaluation which are possibly both modern. These were F51 in evaluation trench 2010 T7, and an unnumbered linear feature in evaluation trench 2010 T15 recorded as a modern drain cut (CAT Report 565). On balance, the most likely explanation is that the modern material from the evaluation is intrusive and derives from its recent military use. This is based on the fact that the fills were consolidated, leached-out fills typical of features of Roman or prehistoric date on the Garrison site generally, and the fact that their alignment conformed with the general north-east/south-west trend of the Late Iron Age to Roman landscape both within Area S2 (north) and Area S2 (south) and across much of the southern Garrison area (rather than the north-south/east-west post-medieval and modern landscape alignment). As inferred, such closed trackways could have been used as a means of herd collection/corraling for close inspection by the farmers (assuming that the ditches were used in conjunction with hedges).

Three other ditches (HF4, HF5, HF34) were similarly orientated to these trackways, and one (HF34) may also have been cut/eroded by double trackway HF7. The latter ditch produced a single piece of burnt flint, which is most probably of prehistoric date. Also, a small pit or part of a ditch (HF36) in the southern part of the site was also cut by the double trackway, but is not otherwise dated.

On the eastern side of the site there was a broad, elongated sub-rectangular pit (HF1). A single piece of Roman roof tile (*tegula*) was recovered from it. It is unlikely to be coincidental that the pit was identically aligned (north/south) to the double trackway on its western side, although a similarly-aligned linear feature just to the north (ditch HF10) appeared to be of medieval or later date.

The double trackway (HF7) consisted of a wide linear erosion hollow, into parts of which gravel surfaces had been laid (HF11, HF15, HF16, HF20). This had been eroded by the passage of vehicles. The southern half of the double trackway consisted of two separate trackways (east trackway HF7, west trackway HF7). HF7 was up to 16 m wide where the two trackways merged. HF7 crossed the central part of the site from north to south. The passage of the vehicles was demonstrated by a number of narrow, shallow linear features at the base of the hollow which were clearly wheel-ruts (including HF13, HF14, HF17, HF18, HF19, HF21, HF22, HF24, HF27, HF28, HF29, HF30, HF31, HF32). The gravel surfaces and wheel-ruts found during the 2010 evaluation can be seen to be part of the same double trackway. Gravel F41 and wheel-ruts F44, F50, F53, F60, F61, F62 equate to west trackway HF7 (Fig 6). Gravel F65 and wheel-rut F82 equate to east trackway HF7 (Fig 6). The wheel-ruts may have initially been created where vehicle

wheels had sunk into the fill of several ditches which crossed this part of the site (HF2/HF9, HF3/HF23, HF34).

In the southern part of the site, the remains of the double trackway contained roughly parallel areas of metalling (HF11 in east trackway HF7 and HF20 in west trackway HF7). Each area was approximately 4 m wide and survived up to 200 mm deep. These were covered by a pale, sandy silt. In the centre of the site, these trackways merged into the wide single trackway (HF7), approximately 16 m across, which was of similar depth. It contained two areas of metalling (HF15, HF16) which were also covered by the same pale, sandy silt.

The thin metalling of small (gravel) stones (HF11, HF15, HF16, HF20) was evidence of an attempt to consolidate the base of the double trackway with a hard surfacing. It should be noted that metalling from the continuation of this trackway was recorded during the evaluation in evaluation trench 2010 T8 (F106, compact gravel surface), located to the south of Site H (Fig 2; CAT Report 565, 9).

Wheel-ruts were recorded both below and above the metalling layer(s). Some of these appeared to relate to the line of passage of the paired wheels of vehicles, suggesting that the metalling may not represent a single consolidated surface but, rather, that there may have been some local patching of the double trackway. This could clearly be seen with a pair of wheel-ruts (HF21, HF22), located on the west trackway HF7, one of which appears above the gravel metalling HF20 and the other below it. This may also be the case with pairs of ruts (ie HF18, HF24) located in the area where the two trackways appeared to merge (metalling HF16).

The shortness of the exposed lengths of wheel-ruts makes identification of paired ruts from individual vehicles difficult (Fig 6). Distances between possible wheel-rut pairs are as follows:

?Paired wheel-ruts -  
HF13-HF14, 1.80 m  
HF29-HF30, 1.80 m  
HF31-HF32, 1.95 m  
HF53-HF62, 1.90 m

?Paired wheel-ruts possibly separated by gravel layer -  
HF21-HF22, 1.75 m  
HF24-HF18, 1.70 m

This indicates axle widths of between about 1.75 m/1.8 m-1.95 m.

From the limited excavation, it is not clear if HF7 is one wide double trackway which has spread out across an area, or two separate trackways which merged together into one at this point, or two completely separate trackways, one replacing the other. However, the latter interpretation appears the least likely. It is not possible to say which interpretation is correct.

None of the double trackway HF7 or its gravel surfaces were defined by ditches along their sides, so it seems possible that vehicles took local deviations to avoid already worn surfaces and for the trackways to broaden out. The positions of wheel-ruts on either side of the wide eroded area suggest that wheeled vehicles followed two separate trackways across the wide area (HF13, HF14 on the eastern side and HF17, HF18 on the western side; Fig 6, see inset 6.2). However, some on the western side are not properly aligned together and this could suggest that vehicles were able to move across a wide surface at this point.

In terms of dating, the most relevant finds associated with the double trackway are Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern in date. None of these finds was recorded from a primary context during the excavation, ie from the metallated surfaces or below them, but were

associated with the silt covering the gravel surfaces, although pottery finds dated as Iron Age and Roman tile fragments were attributed to a gravel surface during the 2010 evaluation (CAT Report 565, 7-8). From the fill covering gravel surface HF20 of the west trackway HF7, there is grey ware pottery of Roman date (two sherds) and possible Roman or medieval date (one sherd), and also single pieces of Roman and medieval or later ceramic building material. The fill covering gravel surface HF11 of east trackway HF7 produced medieval pottery (two sherds, one of which is glazed) and a Roman pottery grey ware rim sherd. From the silt fill of the wide area of trackway HF7 came sherds of grey ware pottery dated as Roman (two sherds) and medieval (one sherd), and also ceramic building material dated as Roman (eight pieces) and post-medieval/modern (two pieces). Overall, a Roman or post-Roman (medieval/post-medieval) date is possible for the double trackway. One possibility is that the Roman tile fragments from the metalling do, indeed, reflect a Roman date for the initial metalling of the trackway and the erosion hollow which pre-dated the metalling. The existence of medieval finds from the final silts of one of the hollows could relate to the extremely long periods of use of such landscape features. The origin and period of use for the double trackway remains uncertain although, overall, a medieval or post-medieval date for it appears most likely.

A large number of small features, which appeared to represent the truncated bases of holes for posts or driven stakes, were located in the centre of the site in the excavated areas of the double trackway (Fig 6; see insets 6.2 & 6.5). No finds were recovered from any of these features. One (post-hole HF8) cut the metalling, but most were located beside or beneath it. Although concentrated within the width of the double trackway, it is hard to see what function they could have served in relation to it. As most were sealed by the metalling, it could be suggested that they were archaeological rather than natural features produced by later burrowing activity or root growth. It would also suggest that they belong to an earlier phase of activity, certainly prior to the metalling itself. However, as almost all of these features appear only at the base of the double trackway, then they would have to have been driven or excavated into the earth sufficiently deeply to survive below the base of the later double trackway. Overall, a simpler and more straightforward explanation may be that most, if not all of these features may not be archaeological.

A length of ditch (HF10) extended a short way from the north-eastern edge of the site to a terminus. This cut one of the early ditches (HF9). A single piece of peg-tile of medieval or later date was recovered from the fill. The ditch broadly followed the alignment of the double trackway and may have respected its 'fossilised' alignment.

#### **5.2.5 Site I (Figs 7, 10-12)**

Site I was located on the central-eastern part of Area S2 (north). The site had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 476 square metres. In total, sixteen separate features were recorded. The features mostly consisted of isolated pits with two ditches/linear features located in the southern part of the site. Evaluation trench 2010 T11 crossed the centre of this area east-west (CAT Report 565). A trench from the earlier evaluation (evaluation trench 2002 T8) was located in the southern part of the site (CAT Report 207, fig 14).

Of the pits recorded, the majority did not produce any finds and appeared to be natural (IF3, IF6, IF7, IF8, IF10, IF13, IF14, IF15, IF16). These were concentrated in the central and northern parts of the site. The only finds from any of these pits is charcoal (ie from IF13), noted in the site records. They probably represent either tree-throw holes or are glacial features. It can be noted that one of these pits (IF6) was quite

small and possibly represents a small disturbance rather than a tree-throw hole. Another pit (IF1) could also, possibly, be added to this list.

Sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, dated Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, are associated with two pits (IF2, IF4) located in the northern part of the site. A single sherd (7 g) was recovered from one (IF2) and three sherds (12 g) from the other (IF4).

In the central southern part of the site, a large ditch (IF9) produced a small piece of lava quern (15 g) from the fill. This quern stone type was imported from the Rhineland throughout the Roman period and again in Middle-Late Saxon and medieval periods. The small size of the piece suggests that this may already have been old when it entered the fill and is probably residual. Given the absence of other finds from the feature, the fact that it might be intrusive should not be entirely excluded.

In the southern part of the site, an east-west ditch (IF11) produced a range of finds including pieces of peg-tile and a piece from a clay-pipe stem. The latest-dated pottery from this ditch is of post-medieval (one sherd) and modern date (one sherd).

A gully in the southern part of the site (IF12) produced only a small piece of fired clay (5 g). The absence of any quantity of finds suggests a prehistoric date, although its alignment could suggest that it relates to the post-medieval/modern ditch IF11. Another ditch on the western side of the site (IF5) did not produce any finds at the excavation or evaluation stages and is undated (evaluation trench 2010 T11, F26 in CAT Report 565, 9-10).

#### 5.2.6 Site J (Figs 8, 10, 14)

Site J was located adjacent to the Berechurch Dyke to the east and consisted of three closely adjacent excavations separated by the foundations of the demolished Roman Barracks gymnasium, which together comprised a long rectangular excavation in the south-eastern part of Area S2 (north). The site had an exposed excavation surface of approximately 776 square metres. In total, seventeen separate features were recorded. The features consisted mostly of isolated pits with two, possibly three linear features located in the northern part of the site. Evaluation trench 2010 T27 was located in the central north of the site and evaluation trench 2010 T30 was located just beyond the south-eastern edge of the site (CAT Report 565).

A number of pits located in the central and southern parts of the site appeared to be natural features (JF2, JF4, JF8, JF9, JF10, JF15). They most probably represent either tree-throw holes or glacial features. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery (flint-tempered) and a small piece of CBM (possibly of Roman date) were recovered from one of these pits (JF2), suggesting that it may represent a land-clearance feature, possibly of ?Roman or later date, although the finds might be intrusive.

Three other pits also produced only very small amounts of finds and might also represent land-clearance features. These are two pits located in the northern part of the site (JF14, JF17) and one in the southern part (JF7). One pit (JF14) produced two pieces of burnt flint, which is most likely to be of prehistoric date, while another pit (JF17) produced a small piece of CBM dated as Roman. The other pit (JF7) also produced a single piece of CBM dated as Roman.

A small ditch (JF16), aligned south-west/north-east, crossed the northern part of the site. This produced flint-tempered and sand-tempered prehistoric pottery (two sherds), indicating a prehistoric, probably Iron Age date. This ditch could be traced as a cropmark for more than 100 m to the north-east. It appeared to pre-date the Berechurch Dyke and was probably part of a sinuous boundary ditch, of which ditches located on Site G and Site F (GF8, FF39) are probably part (Fig 14).

Also of probable prehistoric date was a small pit (JF1) located in the central part of the site. This contained a significant quantity of burnt flints (53 pieces) which are most likely to date to the prehistoric period. This feature may have functioned as a cooking-pit.

At the south-eastern edge of the site, a feature (JF3) appeared to be, most probably, the terminal of a ditch which was found in the adjacent evaluation trench (evaluation trench 2010 T30, F8 in CAT Report 565). No finds were recovered from ditch terminal JF3 during the excavation, but the section excavated during the evaluation produced Roman pottery (two sherds) dated as 1st century (CAT Report 565). Also of possible Roman date was a broad ditch (JF11) which crossed the northern part of the site from east to west. Finds recovered from the fill of this feature include grog-tempered pottery (one sherd) dated Late Iron Age and an iron nail which is probably of Roman date.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Introduction

The types of finds and the total quantities recovered are set out in Table 1. These are listed by context in Appendix 2.

**Table 1: types and quantities of finds.**

Finds type	quant	wt (g)
Pottery	123	492
Ceramic building material (CBM)	42	2,325
Worked flint	16	85
Heat-altered (burnt) stones	210	13,735
Fired clay	4	11
Quernstone	1	15
Clay pipe	2	7
Slate	1	2
Glass	1	12
Coal	2	6
Charcoal	2	1
Iron nails	1	50
Worked stone	1	998

### 6.2 Pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*

#### Introduction

Pottery of prehistoric, Late Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date was recovered (Table 2). The general condition of the pottery is poor. There are few diagnostic sherds, the sherd size is small and almost all of the pottery is abraded. This makes identification and dating of some of the pottery, especially sandy grey ware sherds, difficult.

**Table 2: quantity of pottery by period.**

Period	no	wt (g)
Prehistoric	75	168
Late Iron Age and Roman	33	257
Medieval	10	43
Post-medieval and modern	6	24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>492</b>



## 6.2.1 Prehistoric pottery

### Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 76 sherds of prehistoric (pre-Belgic) pottery with a combined weight of 169 g. The average sherd weight is 2.2 g. This was recorded by broad fabric types base on the temper or inclusions within the fabric. These fabrics are: hand-made flint-tempered fabrics (HMF), hand-made sand-tempered fabrics (HMS), and grog-tempered fabrics (HMG).

The pottery was recovered from all six excavated sites, ie Site E, Site F, Site G, Site H, Site I and Site J. The proportion of fabric types for each site is shown by count and weight in Table 3 and as a percentage of the whole assemblage in Table 4.

**Table 3: prehistoric pottery by site.**

Site	HMF		HMS		HMG	
	quant	wt (g)	quant	wt (g)	quant	wt (g)
Site E	17	32	2	2		
Site F	20	47	8	13		
Site G	4	8	1	1	2	16
Site H	9	19	3	3		
Site I	4	19				
Site J	4	7	2	2		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>

**Table 4: prehistoric pottery fabrics as a percentage of each site assemblage.**

Site	HMF		HMS		HMG	
	%	wt (g) %	%	wt (g) %	%	wt (g) %
Site E	21	18	3	1		
Site F	26	28	11	8		
Site G	5	5	1	1	3	9
Site H	12	11	4	2		
Site I	5	11				
Site J	5	4	3	1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

### Discussion

The prehistoric pottery consists almost entirely of small, undiagnostic, plain body sherds in flint-tempered and sand-tempered fabrics. There are also two small sherds of grog-tempered fabric.

Overall, the pottery has a very low average sherd weight at just 2.2 g. Sherds were mostly recovered from individual contexts in small quantities, at between one to three per context. Larger quantities, between five and seven sherds, were recovered from only three contexts, ie gully EF12, ditch/gully FF41 and ditch GF8 but, for two of these (EF12, FF41), the sherd weight is below the average at less than 2 g. Slightly higher average weights were recovered from pit GF1, ditch GF8, ditch HF23 and pit IF4, but these do not exceed 4 g. This suggests that most, if not all of the pottery recovered had a significant depositional history before entering these contexts.

Given the absence of any diagnostic sherds, dating relies almost entirely on the fabrics.

Flint-tempered pottery (Fabric HMF) accounts for over 70 per cent of the prehistoric pottery assemblage, both by count and weight. The average sherd weight is a little over the assemblage average at 2.9 g. Flint-tempered pottery was recovered from all of the excavated sites, but was concentrated on Site E and Site F. This pottery is not dated

more closely than Neolithic-Iron Age, but is unlikely to date later than the Early Iron Age period. This is because exclusively sand-tempered fabrics came to dominate assemblages in the region during the Middle Iron Age (Sealey 2007, 50). Overall, a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date appears most likely for much or all of this pottery. It can be noted that the flint-tempered sherds include one small sherd from the edge of a flat pot base (from ditch HF23) and one body sherd with an off-set (from pit IF2).

Sand-tempered sherds (Fabric HMS) account for 22 per cent of the assemblage by number, but only 13 per cent by weight, and the average sherd weight is very small at just 1.3 g. Very small quantities were recovered from all of the excavated sites except for Site I, with the largest number of sherds coming from Site F. The sand-temper suggests a Middle Iron Age date, although two of the sherds, from gully EF12, might possibly date to the Roman period.

There are also two sherds in grog-tempered fabric (Fabric HMG) from ditch GF8(2) which are not closely dated. These might date to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, but might also date to the Late Iron Age.

Most of the features with prehistoric pottery contained only flint-tempered sherds. Almost all of the contexts which contained sand-tempered sherds also contained flint-tempered sherds, the only exception being accumulation JL2. Flint-tempered sherds were also recovered with the two grog-tempered sherds.

## 6.2.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

### Introduction

In total, 31 sherds of pottery, together weighing 249 g, are dated as Late Iron Age or Roman pottery. The average sherd weight is 8.0 g.

The sherd count and weight was recorded for each finds number by context for each site. The pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester fabric series (*CAR 10*) with additional fabric types 'Grog-tempered ware' (GTW) and 'Romanising coarse ware' (RCW) (Benfield 2007). Vessel form types were recorded, when possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). The fabric names are listed in Table 5 and the quantity of each fabric type is listed in Table 6. The quantity of pottery from each excavation is listed in Table 7.

**Table 5: Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics.**

Fabric	Fabric name
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
GTW	grog-tempered wares
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
RCW	Romanising coarse ware
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent

**Table 6: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric type.**

Fabric	sherds	sherds %	wt (g)	wt (g) %
DJ	5	16	9	4
GTW	3	10	51	20
GX	18	58	60	24
RCW	4	13	17	7
TZ	1	3	112	45
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 7: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by site.**

Site	sherds	sherds %	wt (g)	wt (g) %
Site E	3	10	6	2
Site F	15	48	108	43
Site H	12	38	133	53
Site J	1	3	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>99</b>

### Discussion

A small quantity of pottery was recovered from four of the excavated sites, ie Site E, Site F, Site H and Site J. Almost all of this comes from just two of these sites, ie Site F and Site H. The majority is of Roman date with one sherd of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware from Site J.

The assemblage consists entirely of coarse wares and is dominated by grey wares (Fabric GX) which make up 61 per cent of the sherd count and 26 per cent by weight (this figure being reduced by a single heavy sherd from a mortarium). Three grog-tempered sherds, two from pit FF12(6) and one from ditch JF11(5), can be dated to the Late Iron Age (mid 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD). However, it can be noted that two sherds dated as prehistoric from ?boundary ditch GF8(2) might also date to the Late Iron Age. There are also a number of sherds in Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW) which can be dated to the period of the mid-late 1st century AD. The remainder of the pottery cannot be closely dated. There are sherds of coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ) from post-hole/pit FF22(22) (probably from a flagon) and from the metalling of west trackway HF7 (HF20(15)) (from a mortarium) and both vessels are likely to date to the period of the mid 1st-2nd/3rd century. Although much of the grey ware pottery is not closely datable, there is no clear evidence of activity in the late Roman period (late 3rd-4th century).

### 6.2.3 Post-Roman pottery

#### Introduction

There are sixteen sherds of post-Roman pottery with a total weight of 74 g and an average sherd weight of 4.6 g. All post-Roman pottery fabric descriptions follow those used in *CAR 7*. The fabric names are listed in Table 8 and the quantity of each fabric type is listed in Table 9. The quantity of pottery from each excavation is listed in Table 10.

**Table 8: post-Roman pottery fabrics and date ranges.**

Fabric	Fabric name	date range
20	medieval sandy grey wares (general)	late 12th-14th century
21	medieval sandy orange wares (general)	13th-14th/15th century
40	post-medieval red earthenwares (general)	16th/17th-18th century
40B	Stock-type black glazed ware	late 16th-17th century
40D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century

**Table 9: post-Roman pottery by fabric type.**

Fabric	sherds	sherds %	wt (g)	wt (g) %
20	10	62	45	61
21	1	6	5	7
40	3	19	22	30
40B	1	6	1	1
40D	1	6	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 10: post-Roman pottery total by site.**

Site	sherds	sherds %	wt (g)	wt (g) %
Site E	5	31	21	28
Site F	3	19	11	15
Site G	1	6	19	26
Site H	4	25	20	27
Site I	3	19	3	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100</b>

## Discussion

### *Medieval*

A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered which can be broadly dated to the period of the 13th-14th century. In total, this consists of eleven sherds, together weighing 50 g. A sherd of glazed sandy orange ware (Fabric 21) was recovered from the metalling of the east trackway HF7 (HF11(13)). Also, sherds of medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20) were recovered from Site H; ie from the double trackway HF7(4) and from the metalling of east trackway HF7 (HF11(13)). Probable medieval sandy grey ware sherds were also recovered from Site E and from Site F. These came from ditch EF33 Sx 3(19), gully EF34(18), and ditch FF33(33).

### *Post-medieval and modern*

Six sherds were recovered with a total weight of 24 g. Most of these are of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) broadly dated to the 17th-18th century. These came from pit EF2(3) and from ditches GF13(5) and IF11(5). There is one rim sherd in this fabric, which is probably from a large storage jar (from ditch GF13(5)). There is also one sherd of Stock-type black glazed ware (Fabric 40B) dated to the late 16th-17th century, and one sherd of modern Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 40D) both from ditch IF11(4).

## 6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

*by Stephen Benfield*

A total of 42 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), together weighing 2,325 g, was recovered. The average weight is 55 g. The CBM consists of Roman and post-Roman brick and tile. The average weight of the Roman CBM is 79 g and, for the post-Roman CBM, is 25 g. The quantities of the CBM are listed by site in Table 11 (below).

**Table 11: CBM by site and type.**

Site	Roman brick and tile		peg-tile		post-Roman, other	
	quant	wt (g)	quant	wt (g)	quant	wt (g)
Site E	1	2	2	65		
Site F	6	688	1	85		
Site G	2	8	5	182		
Site H	10	1,194	3	23	2	12
Site I			5	54		
Site J	5	12				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

## Discussion

### *Roman*

All of the pieces of Roman CBM are in red coloured, sandy fabrics. The only recognised tile type is a piece from a *tegula* roof tile from pit HF1(1). This tile piece preserves part of a lower cut-away, but not enough remains to confidently identify the cut-away type.

In terms of the excavated sites, the largest quantity of CBM by number and weight was recovered from Site H, with a smaller amount from Site F. The average weight of the CBM from both these sites, at 119 g for Site H and 115 g for Site F, is much higher than the site average. On Site H, the Roman CBM was mostly recovered from double trackway HF7, ie from metalled surface HF20 and from the fill covering it, while the small quantity from Site F was mostly recovered from ditches FF35 and FF38. Apart from Site I, all of the other excavated sites produced just a few small pieces.

#### *Post-Roman*

The post-Roman CBM consists almost entirely of pieces from peg-tiles. Of themselves these cannot be closely dated, but it can be noted that, based on the archaeological sequence at Harwich in Essex, peg-tiles appeared from the 13th century, but probably only become relatively common from the 14th century onward (Ryan 1993, 97).

Small quantities of peg-tiles were recovered from all of the excavated sites except for Site J. The largest quantity with the highest average weight comes from Site G, from ditch GF13(4 & 5). The remainder consists of small pieces from most of the other sites, except Site I from which no post-Roman CBM was recovered.

Two small pieces of brick of probable post-medieval or modern date were recovered from double trackway HF7(3).

## 6.4 Worked flints

*by Adam Wightman*

Sixteen worked flints were recovered from the six sites. These are listed in Table 12 below. A more detailed analysis of the worked flints, including dimensions, details of breaks, raw material descriptions and further technological characteristics, is included in the archive.

**Table 12: worked flint by site and context.**

Site	context	finds no	artefact type	cortex %	soft/hard hammer	retouch
Site E	EF15	20	flake	90	hard	
Site F	FF1	1	flake	0	soft	
Site F	FF5	9	flake	0	hard	
Site G	GF13 Sx 1	4	flake	0	hard	
Site H	HF7 (top fill)	3	flake	0	hard	
Site H	HF7 (top fill)	3	flake	0	?soft	
Site H	HF7 (top fill)	3	flake	5	hard	
Site H	HF7 (top fill)	3	flake-end-scraper	45	hard	abrupt/invasive, R.lateral & distal, dorsal (dated Neolithic-Early Bronze Age)
Site H	HF7	4	flake	85	hard	
Site H	HF7	4	flake	0	too burnt	
Site H	HF7	4	flake	5		
Site H	HF9	6	flake	0	hard	
Site H	HF16	25	flake-side-scraper	25	hard	Abrupt, L&R.lateral & distal, dorsal (dated Neolithic-Early Bronze Age)
Site I	IF11	4	flake	0	?soft	
Site I	IF11	4	flake	0	hard	
Site J	JF11	5	flake	0	hard	

All sixteen of the worked flints are flakes, two of which had been retouched into scrapers. A tertiary flake was recovered from pit FF1, dated to the prehistoric period, on Site F, and a tertiary flake was recovered from a prehistoric linear feature in Site H (ditch HF9). The other fourteen worked flints were all residual in later contexts. The highest concentration of worked flints recovered is from Site H, consisting of nine in total, with eight of these collected during the excavation of double trackway HF7 and its metallised surface HF16. These included five tertiary flakes, two of which were badly burnt, and three secondary flakes, two of which had been retouched into scrapers. Both scrapers were finely retouched and made on broad hard-hammer struck flakes, suggesting that they were probably made in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods.

The low number of worked flints recovered during the evaluation and excavation phases of this project suggest that there was little prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

## 6.5 Heat-altered stones

*by Stephen Benfield*

In total, 210 pieces of heat-altered (burnt) stone, together weighing 13,735 g, were recovered from the excavation. These consist of 120 pieces of heat-altered (burnt) flint with a combined weight of 3,797 g and 81 pieces of sandstone/quartzite with a combined weight of 9,938 g. This is listed by context in Appendix 2.

### *Flint*

Heat-altered (calcified, crazed and shattered) flint was primarily associated with two pits, ie FF44(29) and JF1(2). While these two features produced the same number of flint pieces, the flint from FF44 has a significantly higher total weight at 3,000g as opposed to 589 g for JF1. One or two pieces of heat-altered flint were recovered from other contexts on Site E, Site F, Site H, Site I and Site J.

### *Sandstone/quartzite*

The heat-altered sandstone/quartzite consists of naturally rounded, fractured stones. Almost all came from pit FF44(29, 30) which contained 78 pieces totalling 9,894 g. There were single small pieces from two contexts on Site E (post-hole EF21, gully/wall trench EF24/EF5) and from one context on Site H (post-hole HF12).

## **Discussion**

Probably most, if not all, of the heat-altered stone is of prehistoric date. It is primarily associated with two pits (FF44, JF1). The heat-altered stone from pit JF1 (53 pieces weighing 589 g) is all flint, while that from pit FF44 (131 pieces weighing 12,894 g) consists of both flint and sandstone/quartzite with the latter being the dominant stone type both by number and weight. The heat-altered stone from pit FF44 is listed in Table 13.

The proportions of stone types recorded from local gravel deposits are dominated by flint, which accounts for at least 95% (Crummy *et al* 2007, 19). This contrasts strongly with the proportions of stone types recovered from pit FF44. Here, sandstone/quartzite accounts for 60% by count and 77% by weight. The sandstone/quartzite recovered from this pit had clearly been preferentially collected, almost certainly because it had better thermal properties than flint. The preferential selection and use of sandstone/quartzite for heating has also been recorded among heat-altered stone recovered from prehistoric pits at Stanway, located about 3.5 km to the west (Crummy *et al* 2007, 18-21).

**Table 13: quantity of heat-altered stone by stone type from pit FF44.**

stone type	no	no%	wt (g)	wt (g)%
flint	53	40	3,000	23
sandstone/quartzite	78	60	9,894	77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,894</b>	<b>100</b>

In addition, very small quantities, consisting of one or two pieces of heat-altered stone (both flint and sandstone/quartzite), were recovered from a number of other contexts on the six excavated sites. The totals of these pieces are shown by site in Table 14 (below). These are likely to represent residual scattered pieces of prehistoric date, especially as the proportion of pieces of sandstone/quartzite is high (Table 15), although some could represent accidentally-heated stones which could date to any period. It can be noted that only heat-altered flint was recovered from Site I and Site J and no heat-altered stone was recovered from Site G.

**Table 14: quantity of heat-altered stone from other contexts by site.**

Site	quant	wt (g)
Site E	4	81
Site F	5	2,416
Site H	9	128
Site I	1	15
Site J	2	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,646</b>

**Table 15: proportion of heat-altered stone from other contexts.**

Stone type	quant	% no	wt (g)	% wt (g)
heat-altered (burnt) flint	14	66	208	8
heat-altered sandstone/quartzite	7	33	2,438	92
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6.6 Miscellaneous finds

*by Stephen Benfield*

### *Fired clay*

Only a very small amount of fired clay was recovered. In total, there are four pieces together weighing 11 g. All are abraded and rounded small lumps. There are two pieces (5 g) from pit FF44(22); one (5 g) from gully IF12(8) and a small fragment (1 g) from ditch HF9(6). The pieces from pit FF44 have a fine, sandy orange- to brown-coloured fabric, streaked with pale firing clay and dark fragments of ferrous sand. That from pit IF2, while having similar inclusions, is more evenly orange in colour and both the pale clay and dark inclusions are much less visually apparent in the fabric.

### *Clay pipe*

Two small pieces of clay pipe stem, dating to the post-medieval or modern period, were recovered from ditches: one piece (5 g) from GF13(4) and one (2 g) from IF11(4).

#### *Slate*

A single piece of slate (2 g) was recovered from pit EF11(6). The slate, while not closely dated, almost certainly dates to the post-medieval, or more probably modern period.

#### *Glass*

One piece of curved, green vessel glass (12 g), dated as post-medieval or modern, was recovered from ditch GF13(5).

#### *Coal*

A piece of coal and a piece of coke/clinker (with a combined weight of 6 g) were recovered from ditch IF11(4).

#### *Charcoal*

There are two small charcoal pieces (1 g) from the fill of the double trackway HF7(3).

#### *Iron nail*

A single, corroded iron nail (50 g) was recovered from ditch JF11(5). The surviving nail head is sub-rectangular, but may have been more rounded. The end of the nail is missing; the surviving portion is 72 mm long. The context suggests that a Roman date is most likely for this nail which, as such, can be described as Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985, 134-5).

### **6.7 Small finds**

*by Stephen Benfield*

Three finds were given individual small finds (SF) numbers. These are described below. None are illustrated.

#### *Quernstone*

A small piece of abraded lava quernstone (15 g) was recovered from ditch IF9(6) (SF 4). Lava quernstones were imported from the Rhineland throughout the Roman period but this ceased in the early Anglo-Saxon period. Importation was established again by the Middle-Late Saxon period and continued throughout the medieval period (CAR 2, 75).

#### *Architectural stone*

A large piece of abraded Purbeck marble came from post-hole FF11 (SF 3). Although the piece is heavily abraded, the relatively flat, parallel faces indicate that it is probably an architectural veneer and most likely of Roman date. This piece would have originally come from a well-appointed building or monument. Its recovery from a post-hole indicates re-use as either a post-pad at the base of the hole or as packing around the post.

SF 3, FF11(11). Purbeck marble. Flat, abraded piece in a rough triangle shape. Maximum length of 215 mm, maximum width of 130 mm, thickness between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm, weight 998 g.

#### *Copper-alloy*

A copper-alloy military button of 18th- to 19th-century date from an artillery regiment was recovered from accumulation EL2 (SF 1). Two pieces from a twisted bar were recovered from the metalling of east trackway HF7 (HF11(2)). This feature is associated with finds dated to the Roman and medieval periods.

SF 1, EL2(1). Copper-alloy circular button. Decorative elements contained within a recessed triangular shield which has a concave top and convex sides. Three identical cannons in relief, facing left, arranged one above the other on a horizontally finely ridged background. Three



dots in relief arranged in an evenly-spaced row in a narrow curving border following the top of the shield above the cannon. Soldered base of the attachment loop surviving central on back of button. Maximum diameter 17 mm, weight 1.1 g.

SF 2, HF11(12) Tapering, twisted bar with slightly flattened end, broken into two pieces. Weight 43 g.

## 6.8 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

### Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit and post-hole fills and from other discrete deposits, and five were submitted for assessment. The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron-mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 16. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (Stace 1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

**Table 16: charred plant macrofossils and other remains by sample.**

**Key:** x = 1-10 specimens, xx = 11-50 specimens, xxx = 51-100 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare, fg = fragment.

Sample no	5	2	1	3	4
Finds no	(1)	(31)	(20)	(5)	(8)
Feature no	JF1	FF44	FF42	HF7	HF8
Date	prehistoric	prehistoric	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Late Iron Age/ Roman
<b>Plant macrofossils</b>					
<i>Hordeum sp. (grain)</i>		x cffg			
Charcoal<2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal>2mm	x	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal>5mm	x	x	xx	xx	x
<b>Other remains</b>					
Black porous 'cokey' material		x			x
Black tarry material	x			x	
Burnt/fired clay		x		x	
Burnt stone	xx	x			
Small coal fragments	x	x		x	
Vitreous material		x			
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Results

With the exception of charcoal/charred wood fragments, which were present throughout at a moderate to high density, plant macrofossils were virtually absent, comprising a single, very poorly preserved grain fragment of possible barley (*Hordeum sp.*) type from pit FF44(31). This pit also contained a quantity of burnt flints. Other remains were also scarce, although black porous and tarry residues were recorded along with fragments of burnt or fired clay and splinters of heat-altered stone. Small pieces of coal were noted within three of the assemblages

studied, but all were thought to be intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken.

### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

The four assemblages of Late Iron Age/Roman date all appear to derive from one or more episodes of extremely high-temperature combustion. This hypothesis is supported by the archaeological evidence, which records *in situ* burning, but it is currently unknown whether this was deliberate, ie the result of cooking or some similar activity, or whether something more catastrophic is indicated. Similar material is also present within the fill of prehistoric pit JF1 (Sample 5). As plant macrofossils are so scarce within these assemblages, no further analysis is recommended.

## **7 Discussion**

### **7.1 Introduction**

This discussion is an overview of the remains excavated on the six sites (Area S2 (north)), including the results of the 2010 evaluation where appropriate (CAT Report 565).

The research aims of the Garrison Alienated Land project are divided between nine archaeological/historical periods (Masefield 2011, 80-102). These are:

- Period 1 Neolithic-Early/Middle Bronze Age
- Period 2 Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age
- Period 3 Middle Iron Age
- Period 4 The Late Iron Age *oppidum*
- Period 5 Roman
- Period 6 Anglo-Saxon
- Period 7 Medieval
- Period 8 Post-medieval
- Period 9 20th-century military

Much of the dating evidence for the interpretation of the archaeology of Area S2 (north) relies on one or a few abraded sherds of pottery recovered from ditch fill or associated with some of the other features. Some of these finds are likely to be residual. Stratigraphy is limited to a few intercutting ditches and other features. Some features share alignments, although this is difficult to relate between individual excavated sites where the small quantity of finds available often results in conflict over the validity of the relationship. Some small, individual finds may also have entered the upper parts of excavated contexts through ploughing, settlement, or disturbance such as burrowing into soft feature fill.

Given the uncertainty regarding the dating of many of the features, the discussion of the archaeology is structured around feature types with reference to the Periods outlined above, rather than chronologically. The archaeological results from the earlier, adjacent excavation area Area S2 (south) are also taken into account (CAT Report 428).

### **7.2 Chronological landscape development (Fig 2)**

#### **7.2.1 Earliest activity in the area: prehistory**

##### **Palaeolithic/Mesolithic**

No evidence was recovered for any activity during the Palaeolithic-Mesolithic period (pre Period 1). The earliest closely-dated finds can be dated to Periods 1-2. There are two worked flints (scrapers) that are probably of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date. Both are residual finds from Site H. Small quantities of prehistoric pottery sherds were

recovered from all of the excavated Sites; the largest quantity associated with Site E and Site F. The majority of the pottery consists of flint-tempered body sherds that are not particularly diagnostic, but which can be broadly dated to the Neolithic-Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Period 1-2). A smaller quantity of sand-tempered pottery can be dated to the Iron Age (Period 3).

#### **Land-clearance features and features possibly of natural origin**

For the adjacent area (Area S2 (south)), it was suggested that a number of otherwise undated pits, interpreted as tree-throw holes, might point to an episode of land clearance in the Neolithic-Early Bronze Age (Period 1; CAT Report 428, 18).

In Area S2 (north), similar, often irregular, pits were encountered on all of the excavated sites. These were usually identified by the nature of the fill, shape and absence of archaeological finds. The absence of finds from many of these features suggests either a 'natural' origin or a phase of land clearance at an early date. Charcoal was noted in the site records for one pit (IF13). In a very few instances where finds were associated with them, they can be dated as Roman (pit JF2), Roman or medieval (ditch IF9), and medieval to post-medieval/modern (pit EF32, pit IF1). It is possible that many of these finds, which are generally of small size, are intrusive. But there is also the possibility that they indicate some land-clearance features or even natural tree-throw holes dating to Periods 4-8/9. Also, some of the features included under this heading have an elongated, slightly sinuous shape which suggests that they are probably of glacial origin (ie JF2, FF79).

#### **Settlement and occupation**

While activity appeared to be greatest during the prehistoric period, there is no clear indication of any significant settlement or occupation in Area S2 (north) until the construction of the Roman Barracks in Period 9. The quantities and abraded nature of the finds of Roman and post-Roman date indicate an agricultural landscape, the finds having been deposited onto probable field areas here almost entirely by inclusion with manure during manure-spreading.

The largest quantity of pottery is prehistoric in date, broadly dated as Neolithic-Early Iron Age and Iron Age. The quantity of pottery is significant in terms of an implied greater level of activity during this period than later. As the quantity of worked flint recovered is relatively low, this might suggest that the pottery is primarily related to occupation of Iron Age date when flint was less utilised. It can be noted that most of the worked flint is associated with Site H. In broad terms, both the density of features including pits, post-holes and landscape features - including the possible sub-oval stock enclosure within Site E - and the quantity of pottery, suggest settlement in the vicinity. The probable round-house identified in the adjacent Site B (Area S2 (south)) probably relates to some of these features directly to the north and north-west (CAT Report 428). In sum, the prehistoric activity appears to have been concentrated on Sites E, F and H. Together with Site B (Area S2 (south)), this indicates a probable low-density settlement zone. The zonal nature of the prehistoric evidence is reflected by lesser quantities of features and finds from the other sites.

Two pits with heat-altered (burnt) stones in the fill (FF44, JF1) are almost certain to date to the prehistoric occupation. The heat-altered stones indicate that these features may have functioned as cooking-pits, as cooking in small pits using pre-heated stone is suspected for such features in the prehistoric period (Loveday 2012). A carbonised fragment of grain (possibly barley) from pit FF44 might indicate either a food- or crop-processing function although, as a single grain fragment, it might simply result from crop waste being used as fuel.

The quantity of pottery of Late Iron Age and Roman date recovered is relatively small. As is common to many of the archaeological sites in the Garrison Alienated Land site, there is very little ceramic evidence of any intensive activity in the Late Iron Age. More unusual is the relatively small quantity of Roman pottery recovered. The largest quantities of Roman pottery came from the fill of the double trackway on Site H, and from Site F; otherwise only a few sherds were recovered from Site E and Site J. This indicates an agricultural scatter within landscape features away from a settlement.

Post-Roman pottery and tile of medieval and post-medieval date was recovered as just a few sherds/pieces from all of the sites, except from Site J. Again, this indicates an agricultural scatter away from the main settlement.

### **Ditches and field systems**

The dating of ditches on the sites relies on finds recovered from them and broad patterns of alignment in the area. Most of the associated finds consists of one or a few small, abraded pottery sherds, some of which are residual. An example of the difficulty of dating from these is demonstrated by one ditch (ditch FF5) on Site F, where only prehistoric pottery was recovered from it during the excavation but five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation stage (F78 in evaluation trench 2010 T21 in CAT Report 565). Without the evaluation finds, this ditch would appear to be prehistoric. The broad alignment of ditches between sites probably has relevance, but this is difficult to demonstrate conclusively and frequently conflicts with the dating of the associated finds.

In terms of overall patterning of the ditches, three phases could be proposed relating to the prehistoric (Late Bronze Age-Iron Age), Roman and post-Roman periods.

### **Land divisions (Periods 2-3)**

The curvilinear feature (EF30) on Area E can be interpreted as the eastern ditch and interior of a possible sub-oval enclosure/corral or, less convincingly, a curvilinear boundary. Although the dating of this ditch is not unequivocal, a prehistoric or possible Late Iron Age-early Roman date is almost certain. The ?enclosure is defined by the curvilinear ditch EF30, and by its possible association with the terminal of ditch EF31 at its south-western extent. The opposing ditch terminals of ditch EF31 and ditch EF30 were close together, leaving only a narrow entrance (less than 1 m wide) if the two were contemporary. The presence of retained trees to the north and east precluded further investigation. If the curvature of ditch EF30 were extrapolated, then the ?enclosure might be 23 m in diameter. A wider diameter is possible, given that the ditch was not identified within the northern end of the evaluation trench extending north from the edge of Site E (evaluation trench 2010 T14; CAT Report 565). Given the paucity of finds (two small sherds of pottery), the lack of internal features and the insubstantial nature of the ditch, it seems unlikely that the ?enclosure represents occupation, and it is best interpreted as a stock-related enclosure. The ?enclosure was just north-west of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits. The possible small structure within Area F (?Structure 1) and a probable round-house located 65 m to the south-west on Site B (Area S2 (south)) may be related to it (CAT Report 428).

Also of particular interest is the possible Middle Iron Age ditch (JF16) in Area J. Pottery from this feature included a sand-tempered, probable Middle Iron Age sherd, and the alignment is likely to be associated with a cropmark ditch obliquely crossed by the apparently later Berechurch Dyke (Fig 14).

Possibly contemporary or slightly earlier field divisions are represented by a number of ditches or gullies, most clearly in the southern half of Site F (FF31, FF39, FF40, FF41, FF54, FF71, FF72, FF73, FF80, FF82, FF84), with one alignment almost certainly continuing into Site G. These formed a rectilinear pattern of small, shallow ditches, aligned approximately north-south and east-west. They did not produce any finds dated later than the prehistoric or Late Iron Age period (Periods 1-4) and are the earliest of a sequence of ditches on Site F. They were cut by later ditches containing Roman pottery, ie FF5 (F78 in T21 in CAT Report 565) and FF38. These prehistoric field-system ditches may have been part of a wider ditched landscape at this time, with ditches of this period located on several parts of Area S2 (north) (EF30, GF8, HF4, HF5, HF3, HF9, HF23, HF34, JF16). One possibility is that ditches FF31, GF8 and JF16 might have been a linear boundary between an area of ditched fields to the north and an open area to the south.

Given the combined stratigraphic and dating evidence, particularly at the more complex Site F, it appears likely that at least some of these ditches were probably part of a prehistoric landscape and reflect early stages of a complex of land-divisions and stock-control features which appeared to continue into the Roman period. The presence of recognisable land divisions in the later prehistoric period is of some significance, as it suggests a defined claim to parcelled-up areas of land and an intensification of farming practices probably in the Late Bronze Age-Iron Age. That pottery sherds of probable Middle and Late Iron Age date, and even early Roman date in one instance (ditch EF30), are associated with these features suggests an origin in the Late Iron Age rather than earlier. Thus the earlier flint- and sand-tempered wares (Early-Middle Iron Age) are largely residual and simply reflect earlier use (manuring) of the landscape. The early fields may have been associated with a probable round-house identified in the adjacent Area (S2 (south), Site B), although no traces of any land division of this period were recorded in that area (CAT Report 428).

## 7.2.2 The Iron Age-Roman landscape

### Late Iron Age-Roman land divisions (Period 5)

While limited dating evidence and the shortness of the lengths of ditches make it difficult to connect features between the sites, there is sufficient evidence, on a wider view, to suggest a landscape which emerged in the Late Iron Age-early Roman period and which was divided by ditches broadly orientated south-west/north-east and south-east/north-west.

Two ditches which contained Roman pottery sherds (EF33/EF35b, FF5) were orientated approximately south-west/north-east. These were larger features than many of the ditches associated with prehistoric pottery. At right-angles to these was a Roman ditch alignment within evaluation trench 2002 T1 and evaluation trenches 2010 T1 and 2010 T3 in the north-western area of Area S2 (north) (Fig 2; CAT Report 207, fig 14; CAT Report 565, fig 2). It can be noted that ditches dated as Roman in Area S2 (south) also appear to share this orientation. Within Area F, some sub-division ditches of probable Roman date suggest stock-funnelling and stock-management systems typical of working landscapes.

The Roman-period ditches within the wider areas of the new garrison and southern Alienated Land areas share this south-west/north-east and south-east/north-west alignment (Fig 2; CAT Report 565, fig 11), indicating a degree of landscape organisation over a wide area in the Late Iron Age/early Roman *oppidum*. The Area S2 (north) landscape fits the general pattern with small amounts of grog-tempered wares

present, and, where Roman sherds are found, the diagnostic sherds are early to mid Roman in date.

Nevertheless, the low numbers of pottery sherds means that it is not strictly confirmed that the ditches in Area S2 (north) are necessarily Late Iron Age/Roman. This can be seen on Site H, where Roman pottery was moderately well represented (associated with the double trackway); however, none was recovered from the ditches conforming to the proposed Roman alignment there, but only prehistoric sherds. However, one of these ditches (HF2) does appear to align with a ditch on Site E (EF33/EF35b) which produced Roman pottery. Also it should be noted that the ditches dated as Roman in the adjacent Area S2 (south) excavation are represented by very short lengths, all intercepted by evaluation trenches 2007 T13, T14, T15 (CAT Report 428, fig 2).

### **7.2.3 The medieval/post-medieval/modern landscape**

#### **Land divisions (Periods 7-9)**

Several ditches with finds of medieval or later date were orientated approximately east-west (EF15, GF13, IF11), indicating that this was broadly the orientation of the fields and enclosures here in Periods 7-8 and probably maintained into Period 9. This orientation is broadly followed by the ditches of the same period in Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 428, fig 2).

#### **Trackways in Site H**

The double trackway found on Site H consisted of two broad, shallow, linear hollows which merged into one wide hollow to the north. As these were not identified further to the south, other than as a trace in the section of an earlier evaluation trench (evaluation trench 2010 T8 in CAT Report 565, fig 7), it appears that they survive here simply because they were significant depressions in the ground in this one area.

At the southern edge of the site, the two separate trackways, ie east trackway (HF7) and west trackway (HF7), were represented by erosion hollows which had merged into one wide erosion hollow (trackway HF7) at the north edge of the site. However, the metalled surfaces of the east trackway and west trackway did not merge and, therefore, these may have been maintained as separate trackways across the wide hollow area. There were patchy, thin layers of gravel metalling (HF11, HF15, HF16, HF20) at the base of the hollows. As only thin layers of stones, they might possibly represent later stone movement down through the fill caused by worm action, but the extensive, relatively dense nature of the stone surfaces, and the fact that they appear to represent more than one event, make that very unlikely. The metalling had clearly been laid down after the hollows had already been eroded, in order to prevent further erosion and for traction. A number of wheel-ruts were also preserved at the base of the hollows. The shortness of the lengths of the wheel-ruts make identification of paired ruts from individual vehicles difficult.

The double trackway post-dates several of the ditches on the site which contained finds of prehistoric pottery, although a ditch on the same alignment further to the south-west, in Site E, produced Roman pottery. A moderate quantity of Roman finds (pottery and CBM) was recovered from the fill of the double trackway and this site (Site H) was one of only two in Area S2 (north) to produce any significant quantity (twelve sherds) of Roman pottery, the other being Site F. Almost all of this pottery is associated with the fill of the double trackway. This could suggest a Roman date. However, the dating evidence for the double trackway is equivocal. The trackway fill also produced small quantities of finds (pottery and CBM) dated to the medieval and post-medieval

periods. Also, it should be noted that, elsewhere on the Garrison site, trackways securely dated to the Roman period are defined by ditches, for example, in Area 6, located at the southern end of Area F and Area 10, corresponding to Area DR (Fig 1; CAT/RPS Report 292). The later material could represent a later use of this route, which may have originated in the Roman period, if it had 'fossilised' as a long-lived landscape alignment (for example, because of flanking hedges). It is, however, more probable that the double trackway is of medieval or post-medieval date, possibly associated with a medieval farmstead enclosure located within Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 426, 21). If followed south, the route would pass close to the medieval settlement compounds located on the northern side of Berechurch Hall Road.

### 7.3 Chronological landscape development summary Prehistoric to Roman (Periods 1-5)

Although the dating evidence from the agricultural ditches in Area S2 (north) is not sufficient to fully define their periods of use, a reasonably coherent summary scheme consistent with Area S2 (south) and the wider landscape investigated across the Garrison site may be postulated as follows.

The earliest archaeological landscape features were ditches and the possible enclosure. The ditch complex on Site F, with one alignment extending into Site G, represents a coherent but localised agricultural system with at least two phases. The poor but consistent prehistoric pottery assemblage includes Middle Iron Age sandy tempered wares and (possible) Late Iron Age to earliest Roman grog-tempered wares, in addition to residual earlier pottery. The stratigraphic evidence for the ditch complex includes truncation by reasonably well-dated Roman landscape ditches, an interpretation of which as a Middle to Late Iron Age landscape fragment appears to best fit the evidence. It is also notable that the relative complexity of prehistoric stock-management systems on Site F is mirrored by the similarly complex Roman systems truncating them. None of the other areas exhibited this complexity over the prehistoric to Roman transition and this may, therefore, imply continuity/longevity of stock-sorting activity at that location.

The north-east/south-west ditch JF16 within Site J is poorly dated but almost certainly Iron Age in date, based on both finds and alignment. In particular, it produced sand-tempered Iron Age pottery typical of the Middle Iron Age, while it is almost certainly earlier than the Berechurch Dyke, given its oblique alignment to the dyke. The Berechurch Dyke is most likely to date to the latest Iron Age, based on current evidence. JF16 may also have formed part of the ?boundary ditch (GF8, FF71/FF31) which extended across Site G and Site F.

The ?enclosure is represented by the poorly-dated prehistoric curvilinear enclosure or boundary ditch (EF30) in Site E. Two small sherds of pottery from the ?enclosure included one which is probably Roman, but the ditch was stratigraphically cut by Late Iron Age to Roman ditch EF33/EF35b and probably dates to the Iron Age or possibly early Roman period.

The dating evidence associated with several north-east/south-west aligned ditches is mainly Late Iron Age (a few sherds of pottery) and Roman (a larger but still small group of pottery with diagnostic sherds of early-mid Roman date). Larger ditches within Sites E and F are more demonstrably Late Iron Age to Roman, with smaller trackway ditches on exactly the same alignment on Site H producing prehistoric pottery (including Middle Iron Age sand-tempered sherds). A modern linear feature on the same alignment in one of the evaluation trenches was coincidental, given that there is clear evidence that the Late Iron Age-early Roman field-system was aligned north-south/east-west. This alignment fits perfectly with the wider Late Iron Age to Roman

landscape revealed by the Garrison site evaluations and excavations, for example, at the Roman Barracks, and in Areas M and R, Q, DR1 (excavation Area 10), Area F (excavation Area 6) and Area Q, and there seems no problem with its period of use in Area S2 (north) extending from the later Iron Age into the Roman period. Hence the range of pottery in the ditches may allude to a general period of use.

As with almost all of the new garrison project and Alienated Land project 'landscape' areas, there is no identified pottery of late Roman (late 3rd- to 4th-century) date and no clear evidence for maintenance of the Roman landscape in the late Roman period.

#### **Anglo-Saxon (Period 6)**

Given the possibility that some lava querns may have been of Middle-Late Saxon date, a Period 6 has been included in this report. However, there are no cut features of this period on the current site.

#### **Medieval and post-medieval (Periods 7-8)**

Similarly, the longevity of the Site H double trackway could explain Roman artefacts associated with metalling and slight medieval evidence from the silts of one of the HF7 trackways. However, the alignment of the double trackway leads towards the east-west/north-south aligned enclosures of the medieval settlement at Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 428) against Berechurch Hall Road. Overall a medieval, or even post-medieval date, for the double trackway appears likely.

The post-medieval landscape is consistently orientated east-west and north-south and appears to represent a coherent enclosure landscape associated with a ?barn which was found at Site D on Area S2 (south) (CAT Report 428).

#### **Modern (Period 9)**

##### *20th-century military activity (Period 9)*

Apart from the abandoned military barracks themselves (Roman Barracks), there is no significant archaeology relating to this period, although a military button of 18th- to 19th-century date from an artillery regiment was recovered from Site E.

## **7.4 Structures**

### **?Structure 1**

A number of possible stake holes and two post-holes were located in the central part of Site F where two ditches or gullies dated to Periods 2-3 (FF31, FF41) met at right-angles (Fig 4; see inset 4.1). Although FF41 is later than FF31, they appear to create a possible field corner here. This could suggest an agricultural function for a setting of posts here, possibly involving stock-management. However, the pattern of the stake holes and post-holes does not suggest that they are closely related to the ditches and they might well pre-date them or, possibly, post-date them, although no post-holes or stake holes were identified as cutting the fill of any of the ditches. In plan, a number of these features could indicate two lines of stakes or posts meeting at the corner of a structure, possibly part of a small stock enclosure or penning. The two larger post-holes on the south-eastern edge of the group (FF50, FF53) might indicate a pair, although they appear completely unrelated to those possibly forming the corner of a structure. With a gap of less than 0.5 m between them, the two post-holes - posts set within them - might have been suitable for controlling the passage of stock animals such as sheep. However, the interpretation of the arrangement and nature of these features is highly speculative and, while the two lines of stake holes may appear convincing, some of these and other stake holes here might also represent natural features.



### ?Structure 2

Several post-holes and stake holes were located in the south-western corner of Site F (Fig 4; see inset 4.2). They appeared to relate to each other and possibly also to a short length of ditch/gully (FF27). Some of them may have formed two rows aligned south-west/north-east, the east row possibly including the ditch/gully FF27. Assuming that these related to each other and held posts or stakes, then an agricultural function relating to stock-management seems likely. Two of these post-hole/pits contained sherds of Roman pottery (FF22, FF28) and a possible piece of Roman CBM was recovered from the ditch/gully FF27 so that a Roman date is possible.

### ?Structure 3

A group of features located in the central southern part of Site E may relate to each other. Here, short lengths of gully/wall trench formed an open-ended rectangle enclosing an area of about 2 m by 3m (EF12, EF24/EF5). A number of small pits or post-holes are aligned with these and appear to relate to them (EF7, EF8, EF18).

The identification of this group of features as part of a structure is speculative. The finds associated with some of the features here range from prehistoric to post-medieval in date so that overall they might represent an accumulation of features from several periods. However, the overall impression is that some at least were related and probably represent an isolated small structure. Despite the earlier dated finds with some features (prehistoric and Roman), a medieval or post-medieval date appears likely as a medieval sherd was recovered from one of two post-holes (EF6) which appear to align with one of the ditches/trenches. Also, the possible structure appears to be aligned with a ditch just to the north (EF15) which contained finds of medieval or later date. However, while a medieval or later date appears most likely, depending on which features or elements are included, an earlier dating could be possible.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT and RPS would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for commissioning and funding the work.

The project was managed by B Holloway, and the site work was carried out by M Baister, L Driver, Brian Hurrell, C Lister, N Rayner, P Spencer, and A Wightman, with digital survey carried out by C Lister.

The project was monitored by Martin Winter (CBC Archaeology Officer) for Colchester Borough Council and by Robert Masefield for RPS.

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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
c	<i>circa</i> (approximately)
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CBM	ceramic building materials, predominantly tiles or bricks
CIM	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made, commonly a feature, or specific fill of a feature
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
Early Iron Age feature	700 BC-400 BC an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a feature such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists

Iron Age	period immediately before the Roman period, dating from c 700 BC to AD 43
Late Bronze Age	c 1,000 BC-700 BC
Late Iron Age	c 100/75 BC to AD 43
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1500 (secular) or 1550 (religious)
Middle Iron Age	c 400 to 200 BC
modern	dating from Victorian period onwards
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Ordnance Survey	(maps of 1875-76, and 1922-23 referred to in this report)
post-medieval	period from early 16th century to 18th century
prehistoric	Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (prior to Roman period)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around c AD 410
RPS	RPS (project consultants)
RRCSAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database (held by CIM)

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, off Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, under accession code COLEM 2010.67.

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Date: 18.06.12

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## 12.1 Appendix 1: contents of archive

1 x A4 wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by CBCAO
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Site digital photographic record on CD
- 2.2 Digital photo. index
- 2.3 Digital photo. log
- 2.4 Attendance register
- 2.5 Original site records (features, layers, finds)
- 2.6 2 x soil sample record sheets
- 2.7 23 x A3 sheets of section drawings

### 3 Research archive

- 3.1 Copy of excavation report (CAT Report 620)
- 3.2 Finds reports and data

### Finds

- 1 x museum box of finds
- 1 x sealed plastic box of small finds

## 12.2 Appendix 2: Contexts and finds list by finds number

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
Area E	EF1		post-hole						
	EF2	3	pit	pottery	post-medieval, Fabric 40	1	2	post-medieval, 17th-18th century	not phased Period 8
	EF3		pit						not phased
	EF4		pit						not phased
	EF5/EF24		gully/wall trench						not phased
	EF6	5	post-hole	pottery	medieval, Fabric 20	1	7	medieval	Period 7/8
	EF7		post-hole						Period 7/8
	EF8		pit						not phased
	EF9		pit						not phased
	EF10		natural pit						(natural)
	EF11	6	pit	slate			1	2	post-medieval/modern? Period 7-8/9
	EF12	7	gully	pottery	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF, Fabric HMS(?) sandy, Iron Age/Roman(?)	5	3	Neolithic-Iron Age Period 7/8?
	EF13		evaluation trench 2002 T5						
EF14	8	pit	burnt flint			1	38	?prehistoric Period 1/2	
EF15	9	ditch	CBM		Roman, 1@2g; medieval-modern, peg-tile 1@14g	2	16	Roman, 2nd-3rd century Periods 7-8/9	
EF15	11		worked flint		flake	1	3		
EF15	15		burnt flint			1	11		
EF16		gully							
EF17	10	pit	pottery		prehistoric, Fabric HMF	5	7	Neolithic/Bronze Age-Iron Age Period 1/2	
EF18		pit/post-hole							not phased
EF19		post-hole							not phased
EF20		post-hole							not phased
EF21	11	post-hole	burnt stone		sandstone/quartzite	1	20	?prehistoric Period 1-2/3	
EF22		pit							not phased
EF23	12	pit	pottery		prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	2	Neolithic-Iron Age Period 1/2	
EF24/EF5	13	gully/wall trench	pottery		prehistoric, 2@2g, Fabric HMF, Fabric HMS; ?Roman, 1@1g, Fabric RCW	3	3	Roman, mid 1st-early 2nd century Period 7/8?	

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
								(Neolithic-Iron Age)	
		14	gully/wall trench	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	9	Neolithic-Iron Age	Period 7/8?
		14	gully/wall trench	burnt stone	sandstone/quartzite	1	12		Period 7/8?
	EF25		post-hole						not phased
	EF26		natural linear feature						(natural)
	EF27		post-hole						not phased
	EF28		natural pit						(natural)
	EF29		ditch						not phased
	EF30	15	curvilinear ditch	pottery	?Roman, Fabric GX	1	1	?Roman	Period 4/5
		17		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	
	EF31		ditch						Periods 1/2
	EF32	16	pit	CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	1	51	medieval-modern	Periods 7-8/9
	EF33/EF35b	19	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, 1@9g, Fabric HMF; Roman/medieval(?), 1@2g, Fabric GX(?)	2	11	?Roman	Period 5
	EF34	18	gully	pottery	?Roman/medieval, Fabric GX/Fabric 20	1	3	?Roman/medieval	not phased
	EF35a		?tree-throw hole (2002 evaluation F101)						not phased
	EF35b/EF33		ditch		[see entry for EF33/EF35b]				
	EF36		natural pit						(natural)
	EL1		ploughsoil						
	EL2	1	accumulation	small find	copper-alloy button, three cannons with three dots above in shield	1	1	c AD 1790-180-2	
	EL3		natural						
<b>Area F</b>	FF1	1	pit	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	8	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 1/2
			pit	worked flint		1	1		
	FF2		pit						not phased
	FF3	2	pit/post-hole	CBM	Roman	1	15	Roman	Period 5?
	FF4		natural pit						(natural)
	FF5	6	boundary ditch	pottery	prehistoric Fabric HMF	3	8	Neolithic-Iron Age (Roman pottery from evaluation)	Period 5

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
		9		worked flint	flake	1	4	prehistoric	Period 5?
	FF6	3	post-hole	iron pan	discarded			natural	Period 5
	FF7		post-hole						Period 5
	FF8		post-hole/pit						Period 5
	FF9		ditch						not phased
	FF10		post-hole/pit						Period 5
	FF11	11	post-hole	small find	stone veneer piece, abraded, about 20 mm thick, longest dimension 175 mm	1	998		Period 5
	FF12	6	pit	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric GTW (thick sherd)	2	49	Neolithic-Bronze Age or Late Iron Age	Periods 1-4?
	FF13		post-hole						Period 5
	FF14		post-hole						Period 5
	FF15		post-hole						Period 5
	FF16		post-hole						Period 5
	FF17		post-hole/pit						Period 5
	FF18		post-hole						Period 5
	FF19		post-hole						Period 5
	FF20		pit						(not phased)
	FF21		post-hole						Period 5
	FF22	22	post-hole/pit (?Structure 2)	pottery	Roman, Fabric DJ?	5	9	Roman, mid 1st-2nd/3rd century	Period 5
	FF23		post-hole						Period 5
	FF24	24	post-hole/pit	pottery	Roman, Fabric GX (rim sherd Cam 270B)	1	22	mid 1st-2nd/ 3rd century	Period 5?
	FF25		pit						Period 5
	FF26		pit						Period 5?
	FF27	4	ditch/gully	CBM	?Roman	1	7	?Roman	not phased
	FF28	5	post-hole/pit (?Structure 2)	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	Period 5
	FF29	5	post-hole/pit	pottery	Roman, Fabric GX	1	1	Roman	Period 5
	FF30		pit						Period 5?
	FF31	7	?boundary ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	2	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 2/3
		17	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	1	2	Iron Age	Periods 2/3
	FF32		ditch						Period 5? or Periods 7/8



Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
	FF33	8	ditch	pottery	Roman/medieval, Fabric GX/Fabric 20	1	4	Roman/medieval	Period 5 or Periods 7/8
		10		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	
	FF34	33	post-hole	pottery	Roman/medieval, Fabric GX/Fabric 20	1	2	Roman/medieval	not phased
	FF35	11	ditch	CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	1	85	medieval-modern	Periods 7/8-9
		12		CBM	Roman	2	605	Roman	
		13		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	
		21		CBM	?Roman	1	16	?Roman	
	FF36		post-hole						
	FF37	14	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	13	Neolithic-Iron Age	not phased
	FF38	16	?stock-funnel ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS?	1	1	prehistoric, Iron Age?	Period 5?
		18		pottery	Roman, Fabric GX	1	5	Roman	
		18		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	3	Neolithic-Iron Age	
		18		CBM	Roman	1	45	Roman	
		19		pottery	Roman, Fabric RCW	1	6	Roman, mid 1st-early 2nd century	
	FF39		ditch						not phased
	FF40	26	ditch/gully	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	2	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 2/3-?4
	FF41	15	ditch/gully	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	3	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 2-4
		15		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	1	3	Iron Age	
		23		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	3	Neolithic-Iron Age	
		27		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	2	Neolithic-Iron Age	
	FF42		pit						not phased
	FF43		erosion hollow						not phased
	FF44	22	pit	small find	fired clay fragments	2	5	?prehistoric	Periods 1/2-3
		28		burnt stone	sandstone/quartzite, small cobble piece	1	119		
		29		burnt flint		53	3,000	?prehistoric	
		29		burnt stone	sandstone/quartzite, small cobbles	74	7,500	?prehistoric	
		30		burnt stone	sandstone/quartzite	3	2,275	?prehistoric	(natural)
	FF45		natural pit						not phased
	FF46		pit						not phased
	FF47		post-hole						not phased
	FF48	25	pit	pottery	Roman, Fabric GX	1	2	Roman	Period 5
		25		pottery	?Roman, Fabric GX/Fabric 20	1	1	Roman/medieval?	

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
	FF49		stake hole						not phased
	FF50		post-hole						Periods 2/3 (natural)
	FF51		natural pit						not phased
	FF52		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF53		post-hole						Period 3
	FF54	34	ditch/gully	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	1	5	Iron Age	Periods 2/3
	FF55	32	stake hole	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS(VT), possibly Anglo-Saxon(?)	1	1	Iron Age/ Anglo-Saxon?	Periods 2/3
	FF56		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF57		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF58		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF59		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF60		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF61		natural pit						(natural)
	FF62		natural pit						(natural)
	FF63		post-hole						not phased
	FF64		ditch						not phased
	FF65		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF66		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF67		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF68		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF69		stake hole						Periods 2/3
	FF70		natural pit						(natural)
	FF71		?boundary ditch						not phased
	FF72		ditch						Periods 2/3-?4
	FF73		ditch						not phased
	FF74		natural pit						(natural)
	FF75		ditch/gully						not phased
	FF76		post-hole						not phased
	FF77		natural pit						(natural)
	FF78		natural pit						(natural)
	FF79		natural linear feature						(natural)
	FF80		ditch						Periods 2/3-?4
	FF81		ditch						Period ?5 or Periods 7/8

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
	FF82		ditch						Periods 2/3-?4
	FF83		ditch						Period 5?
	FF84	36	ditch/gully	pottery	?prehistoric, Fabric HMS?	3	1	?Iron Age	Periods 3-?4
	FL1	36	tarmac and modern crush	burnt flint		1	22	?prehistoric	Period 9
	FL2	2	accumulation	pottery	Roman, Fabric GX	1	14	Roman	
	FL3		natural						(natural)
<b>Area G</b>	GF1	1	pit	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	4	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 1-2
	GF2		pit						not phased
	GF3		natural pit						(natural)
	GF4		natural pit						not phased
	GF5		modern disturbance						not phased
	GF6		natural pit						(natural)
	GF7		natural pit						not phased
	GF8	2	?boundary ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	4	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 2-3/4
		2		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMG/Fabric GTW	2	16	Bronze Age/ Iron Age	
		3		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	1	1	Iron Age	
	GF9		natural pit						(natural)
	GF10		natural pit						(natural)
	GF11		natural pit						(natural)
	GF12		natural pit						(natural)
	GF13	4	ditch	CBM	Roman	2	8	Roman	Periods 8/9
		4		CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	1	8	medieval-modern	
		4		clay pipe	stem	1	5	post-medieval/ modern	
		4		flint	flake	1	5	prehistoric	
		5		CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	4	174	medieval-modern	
		5		pot	post-medieval, Fabric 40	1	19	post-medieval, 17th-18th century	
		5		glass	post-medieval/modern	1	12	post-medieval/ modern	
	GL1		ploughsoil						
	GL2		accumulation						

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
Area H	GL3		natural						
	HF1	1	pit	CBM	Roman, <i>tegula</i> with lower cut-away, cut-away type not identifiable	1	568	Roman	Period 5 or Periods 7-8/9?
	HF2	2	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	2	3	Neolithic-Iron Age	Period 5
	HF3		ditch						not phased
	HF4		ditch						Period 5?
	HF5		ditch						Period 5?
	HF6		natural pit						(natural)
	HF7	3	trackway (includes west trackway and east trackway)	pottery	Roman, Fabric RCW	1	3	Roman, mid 1st-early 2nd century	Periods 7/8?
		3		CBM	Roman	6	133	Roman	
		3		CBM	post-medieval/modern	2	12	post-medieval/modern	
		3		burnt flint	pieces	2	9	?prehistoric	
		3		charcoal	flakes	2	1		
		3		flint	flakes	4	30	prehistoric	
		4		pottery	medieval, Fabric 20	1	10	12th-14th century?	
		4		pottery	?Roman, Fabric GX	1	4	Roman	
		4		flint	flakes and fragment	3	13	prehistoric	
		14		CBM	Roman	2	75	Roman	
	HF8		post-hole						?Period 5 or later
	HF9	6	ditch	fired clay	fragment, soft, possibly pottery	1	1		not phased
		6		flint	flake	1	13	prehistoric	
		9		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	2	4	Neolithic-Iron Age	
		8		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	
		9		burnt flint		2	32	?prehistoric	Period 5
	HF10	7	ditch	CBM	medieval-modern, peg-tile	2	20	medieval-modern	Periods 7-8/9
	HF11/HF15	12	gravelled surface of HF7 (east trackway)	small find	copper-alloy bar, tapering twisted bar with slightly flattened end, broken in two	2	43	post-medieval/modern?	Periods 7/8?
		13		pottery	medieval, Fabric 21 (glazed)	1	5	medieval, 13th-14th/15th century	
		13		pottery	medieval, Fabric 20	1	4	medieval, 12th-	

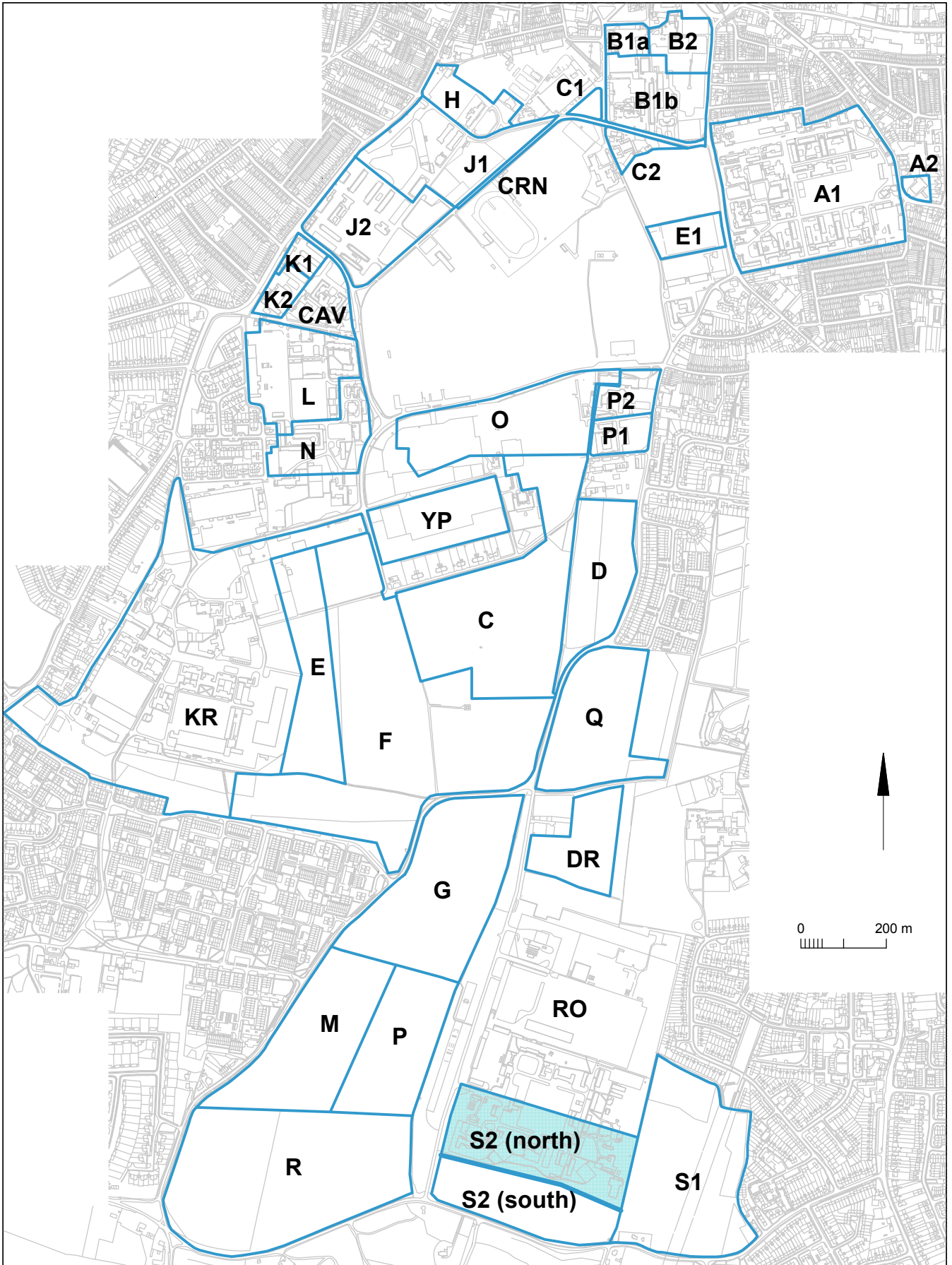
Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
		13		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric GTW (decorated)	2	6	14th century? mid 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD	
	HF12	13		pottery	Roman, Fabric GX (rim sherd)	4	8	Roman	not phased
		10	post-hole	pottery	?Roman, sand-tempered Fabric GX	2	1	?Roman	
		10		burnt stone	sandstone/quartzite	1	12	?prehistoric	
	HF13	11?	wheel-rut	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	2	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 7/8?
		11?		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	2	1	Iron Age	Periods 7/8?
	HF14		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF15/HF11		gravelled surface of HF7 (east trackway)						Periods 7/8?
	HF16/HF20	25	gravelled surface of HF7 (west trackway )	flint	flake	1	5	prehistoric	Periods 7/8?
	HF17		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF18		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF19		?erosion hollow						Periods 7/8?
	HF20/HF16	15	gravelled surface of HF7 (west trackway )	pottery	Roman, Fabric TZ (base sherd)	1	112	Roman, mid 1st-3rd century	Periods 7/8?
		15		CBM	Roman	1	418	Roman	
		16		pottery	Roman, Fabric GX	1	2	Roman, 1st-2nd century?	
		16		CBM	medieval-modern, peg-tile	1	3	medieval-modern	
	HF20?	17		pottery	Roman/medieval?, Fabric GX/Fabric 20	1	1	Roman/medieval?	Periods 7/8?
		21		burnt flint		2	35	?prehistoric	Periods 7/8?
	HF21		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF22		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF23	20	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF (base sherd)	2	10	Neolithic-Iron Age	Period 5
		20		pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMS	1	2	Iron Age	
		22		burnt flint		1	34	?prehistoric	
	HF24		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF25		post-hole						not phased
	HF26		post-hole						not phased

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
	HF27		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF28		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF29		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF30		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF31		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF32		wheel-rut						Periods 7/8?
	HF33		post-hole						not phased
	HF34	23	ditch	burnt flint		1	6	?prehistoric	Period 5?
	HF35	24	pit	pottery	Roman, Fabric GX (rim sherd)	1	2	Roman	not phased
	HL1		tarmac and modern crush						Period 9
	HL2		sand						
	HL3		natural						
<b>Area I</b>	IF1	5	pit	pottery	post-medieval, Fabric 40	1	1	post-medieval, 17th-18th century	Periods 8/9
	IF2	1	pit	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF (body offset)	1	7	Neolithic-Iron Age	not phased
	IF3		natural pit						(natural)
	IF4	2	pit	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	3	12	Neolithic-Iron Age	not phased
	IF5		ditch						not phased
	IF6		natural pit						(natural)
	IF7		natural pit						(natural)
	IF8		natural pit						(natural)
	IF9	6	ditch	small find	lava quernstone, thin fragment, abraded	1	15	Roman?	Period 5 or later(?)
	IF10		natural pit						(natural)
	IF11	4	ditch	pottery	post-medieval, Fabric 48D, Fabric 40B	2	2	modern	Periods 8/9
		4		CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	3	24	medieval-modern	
		4		clay pipe	stem	1	2	post-medieval/modern	
		4		coal	coal and clinker/coke piece	2	6	modern (probably)	
		4		worked flint	flakes	2	3	prehistoric	
		4		burnt flint		1	15	?prehistoric	
		5		CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	1	24	medieval-modern	
		5		CBM	medieval-modern peg-tile	1	6	medieval-modern	
	IF12	8	gully	fired clay	orange brown, silty fabric	1	5		Periods 8/9?
	IF13		pit						not phased

Area	context	finds no	context type	find type	finds description	quant	wt (g)	finds dated	Context Period
	IF14		natural pit						(natural)
	IF15		natural pit						(natural)
	IF16		natural pit						(natural)
	IL1		tarmac and modern crush						Period 9
	IL2		sand						
	IL3		natural						
Area J	JF1	2	pit	burnt flint		53	589	?prehistoric	Periods 1/2-3
	JF2	3	pit	CBM	?Roman	4	9	?Roman	not phased
	JF3	3	ditch	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF/HMS	1	2	Neolithic/Iron Age	Period 5?
JF4		natural linear feature							(natural)
JF5		natural pit							not phased
JF6		natural pit							not phased
JF7	4	pit	pottery	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	2	4	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 1-3?
JF8		natural pit							(natural)
JF9		natural pit							(natural)
JF10		natural pit							(natural)
JF11	5	ditch	pottery	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric GTW	1	2	Late Iron Age	Period 5?
	5		flint	flint	flake	1	2	prehistoric	
	5		iron nail	iron nail		1	50	?Roman	
JF12		ditch							not phased
JF13		natural silt							not phased
JF14	7	pit	burnt flint	burnt flint		2	6	?prehistoric	Periods 1-3?
JF15		natural pit							(natural)
JF16	9	ditch	pottery	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric HMF	1	1	Neolithic-Iron Age	Periods 2-3
	9		pottery	pottery	prehistoric, Fabric ?HMS	1	1	prehistoric	
JF17	10	pit	CBM	CBM	Roman	1	3	Roman	not phased
JL1		ploughsoil							
JL2	8	accumulation	pot	pot	prehistoric, Fabric ?HMS	1	1	prehistoric, ?Iron Age	
JL3		natural							

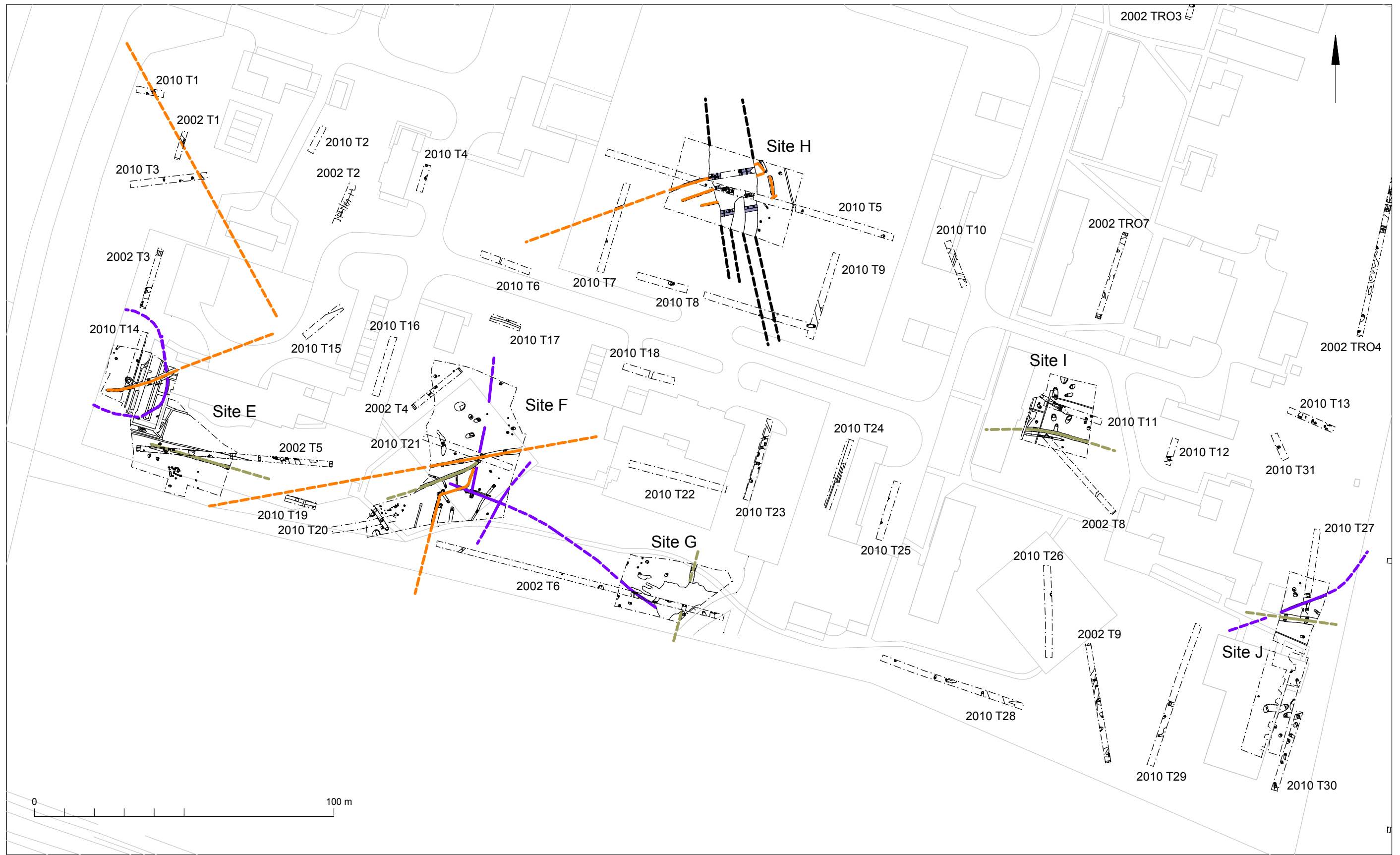






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Fig 1 Colchester Garrison Alienated Land, showing Area S2 (north) toned blue.



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Fig 2 Area S2 (north), showing location of current Sites E-J, 2002 and 2010 evaluation trenches, and landscape phasing (as in key). The ground-plan of the Roman Barracks is shown as grey outline.

- 
 prehistoric
- 
 Roman
- 
 post-medieval and modern

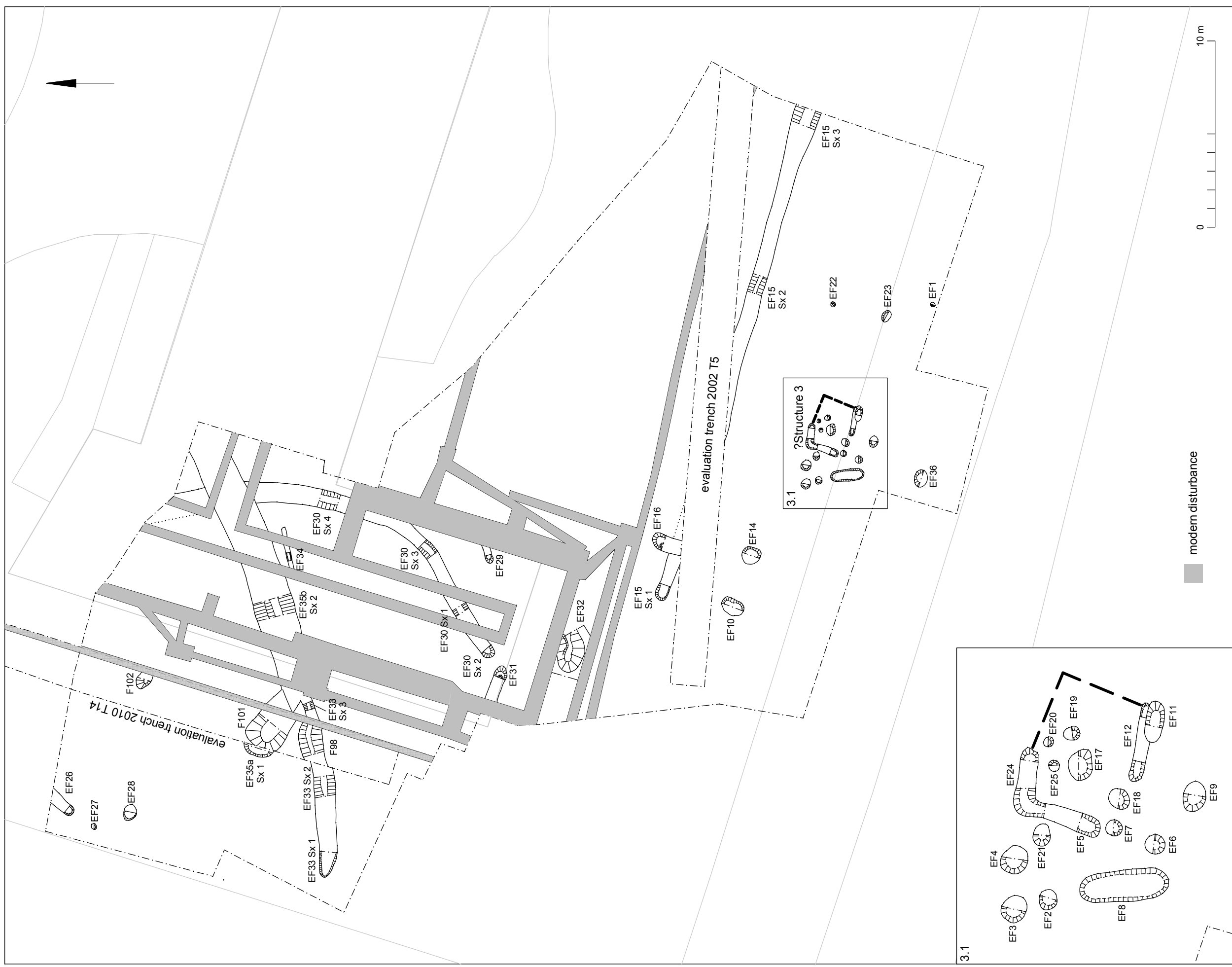
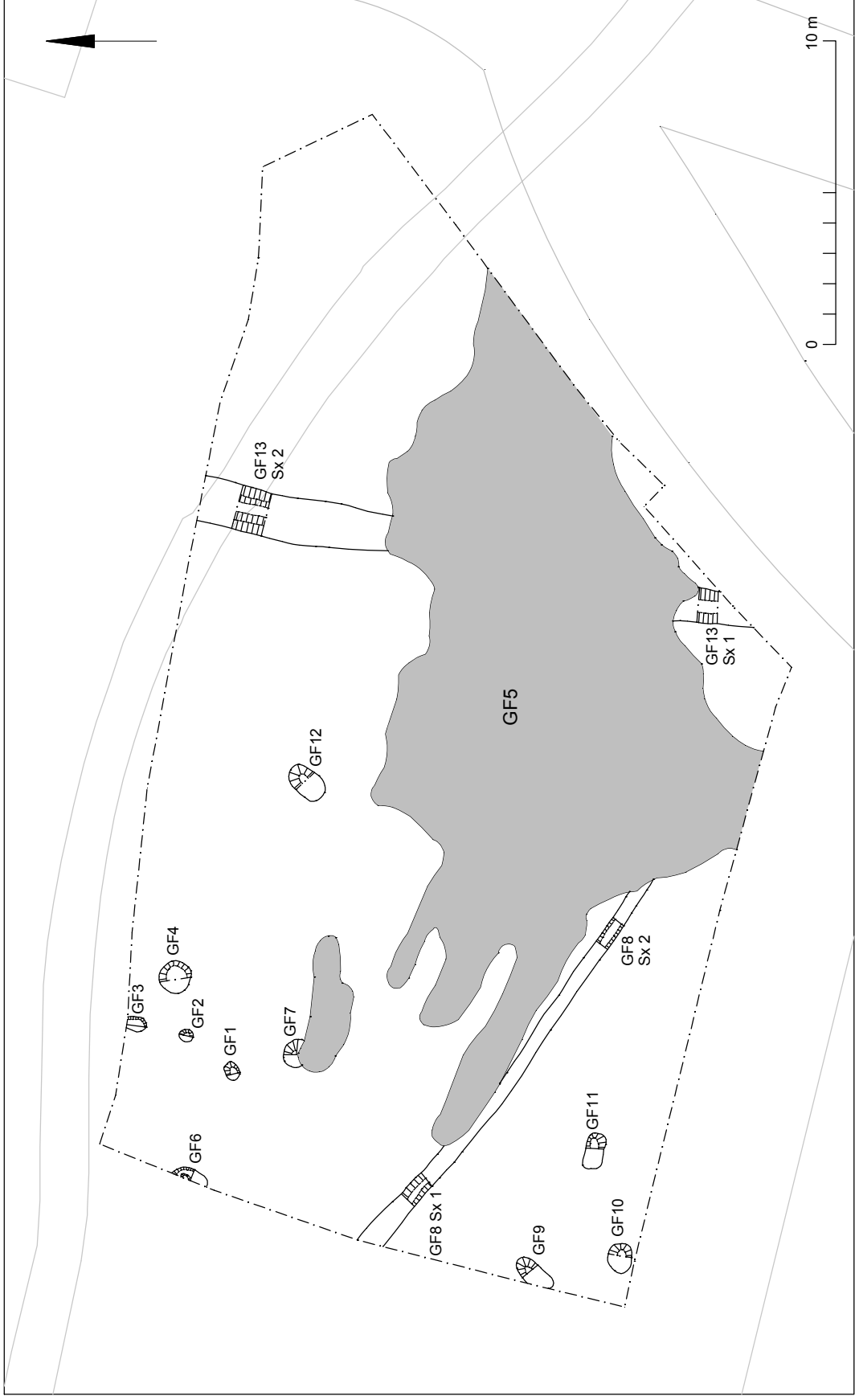


Fig 3 Site E: plan (inset to Fig 2).



Fig 4 Site F: plan (inset to Fig 2).



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Fig 5 Site G: plan (inset to Fig 2).



Fig 6 Site H: plan (inset to Fig 2).



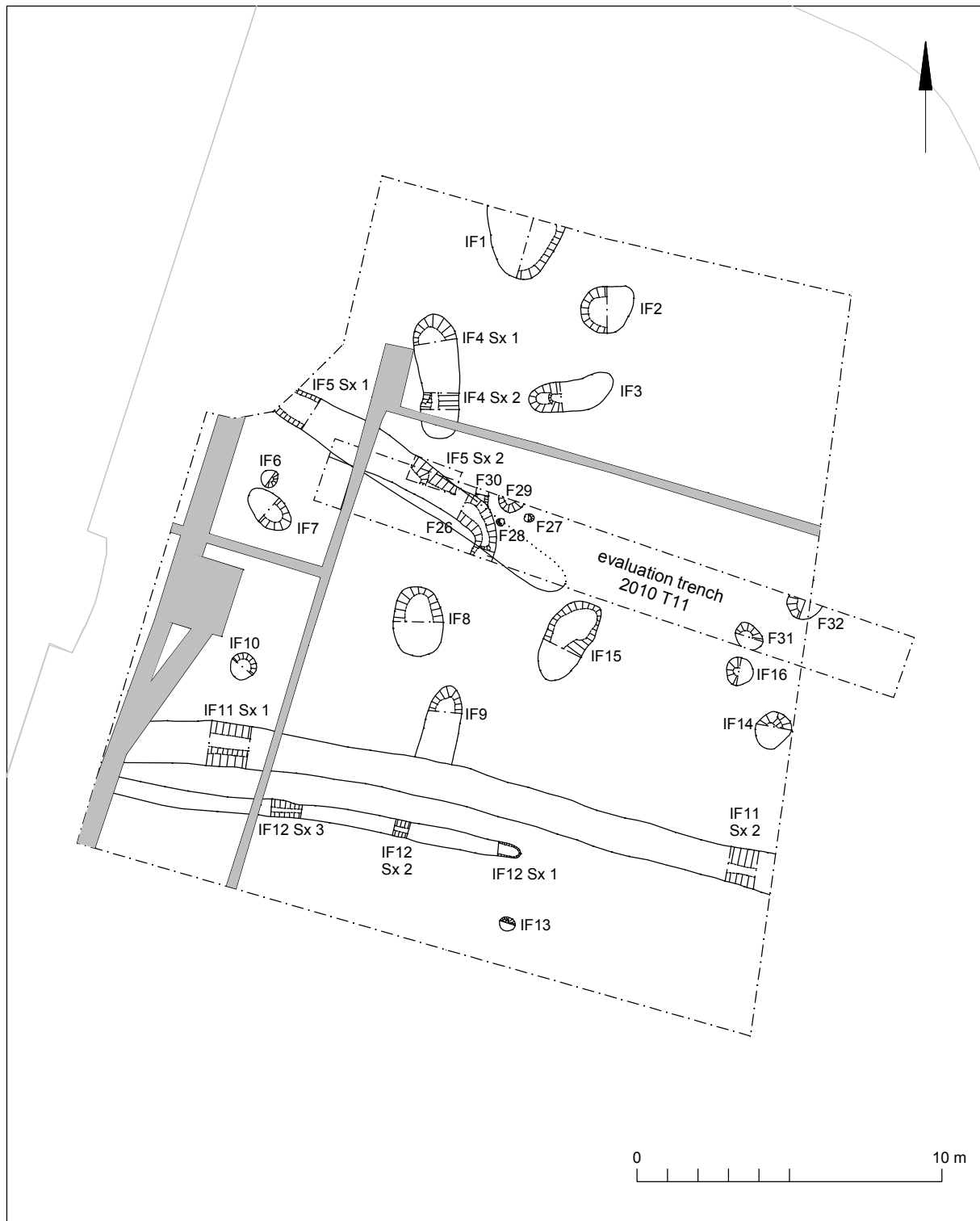


Fig 7 Site I: plan (inset to Fig 2).

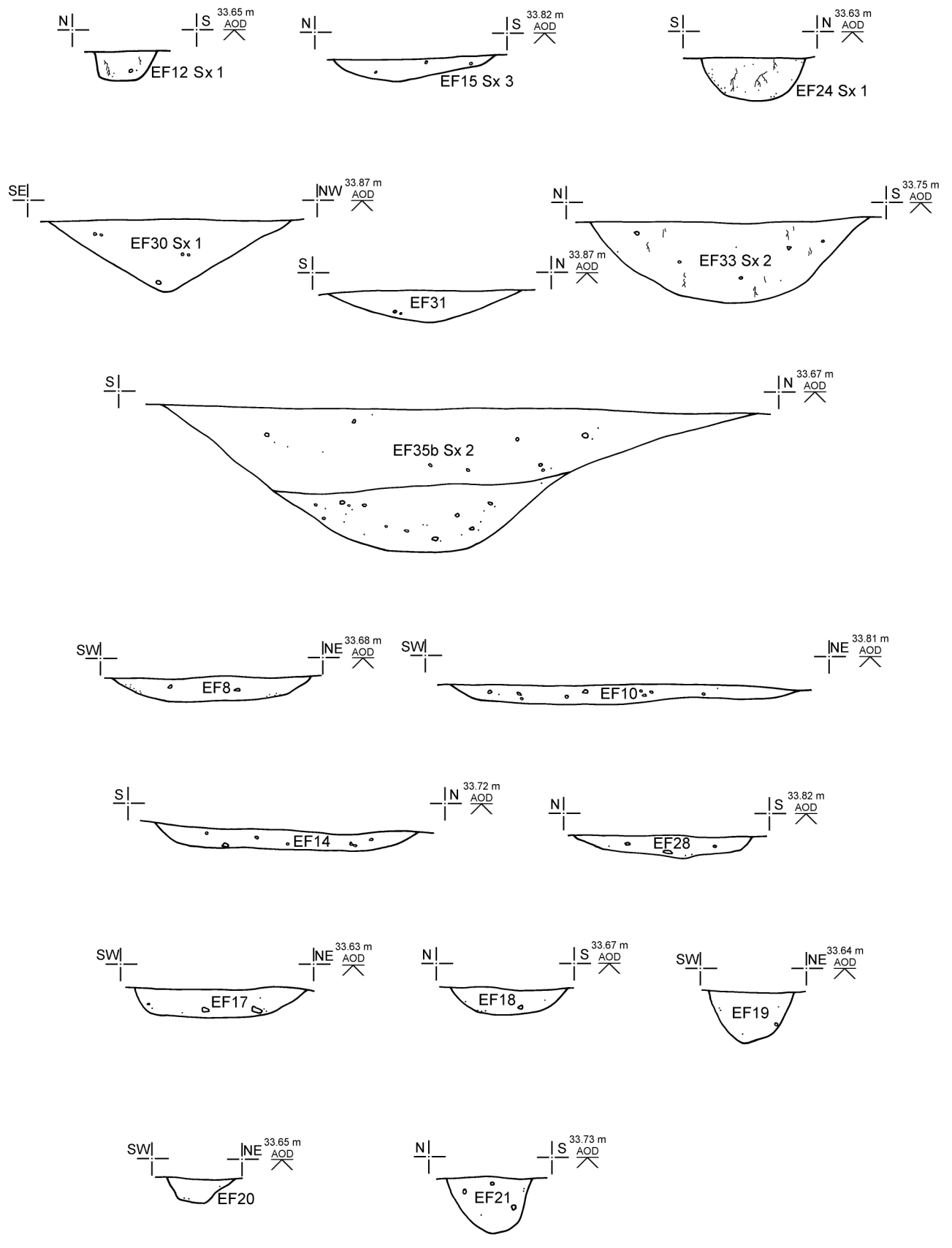
■ modern disturbance



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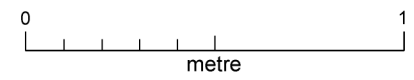
Fig 8 Site J: plan (inset to Fig 2).





- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| sand         | charcoal       |
| small stones | dense charcoal |
| clay         | iron stone     |
|              | roots          |

Fig 9 Site E: sections.



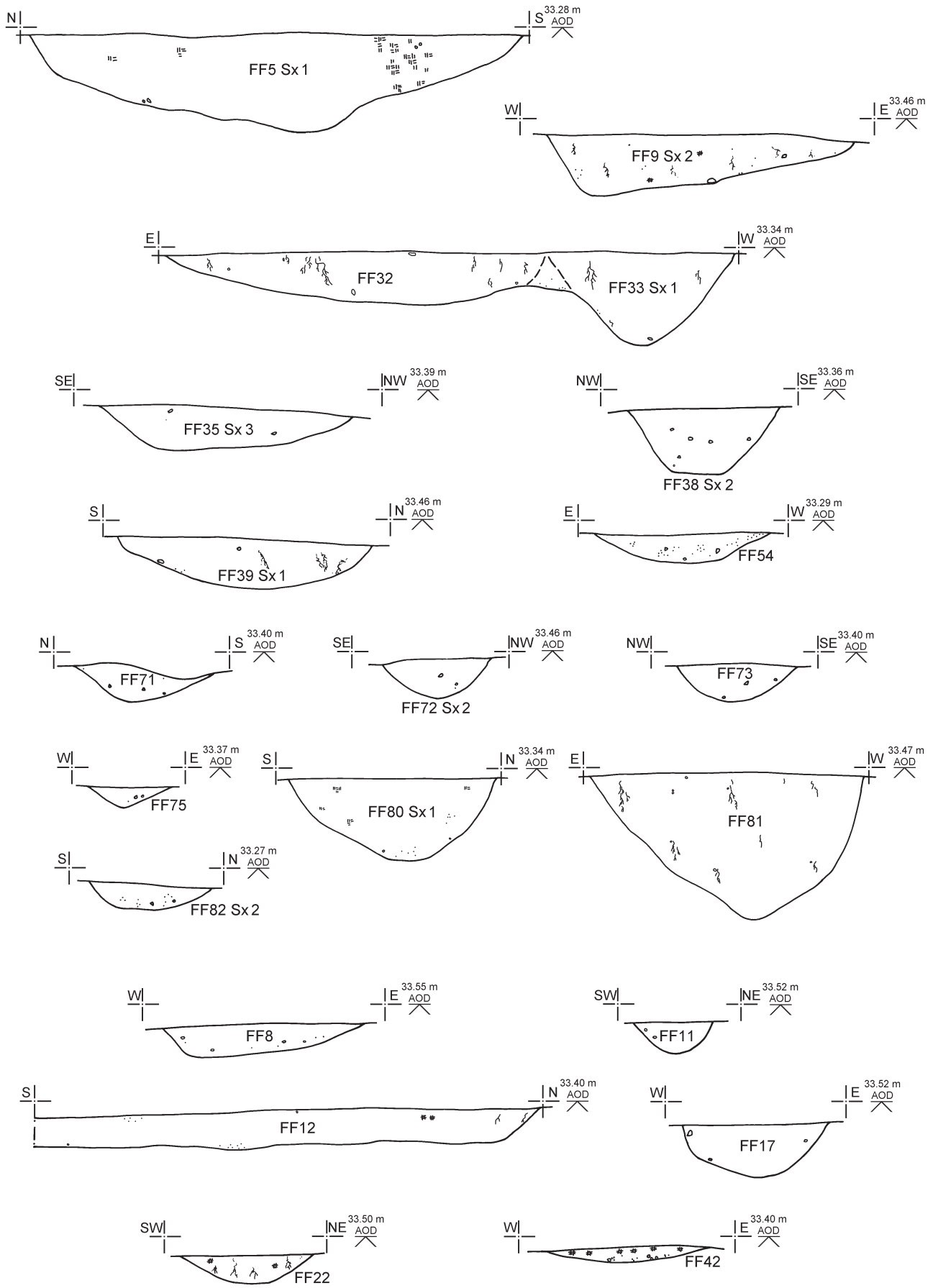
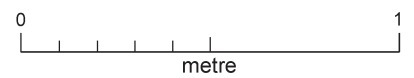


Fig 10 Site F: sections.



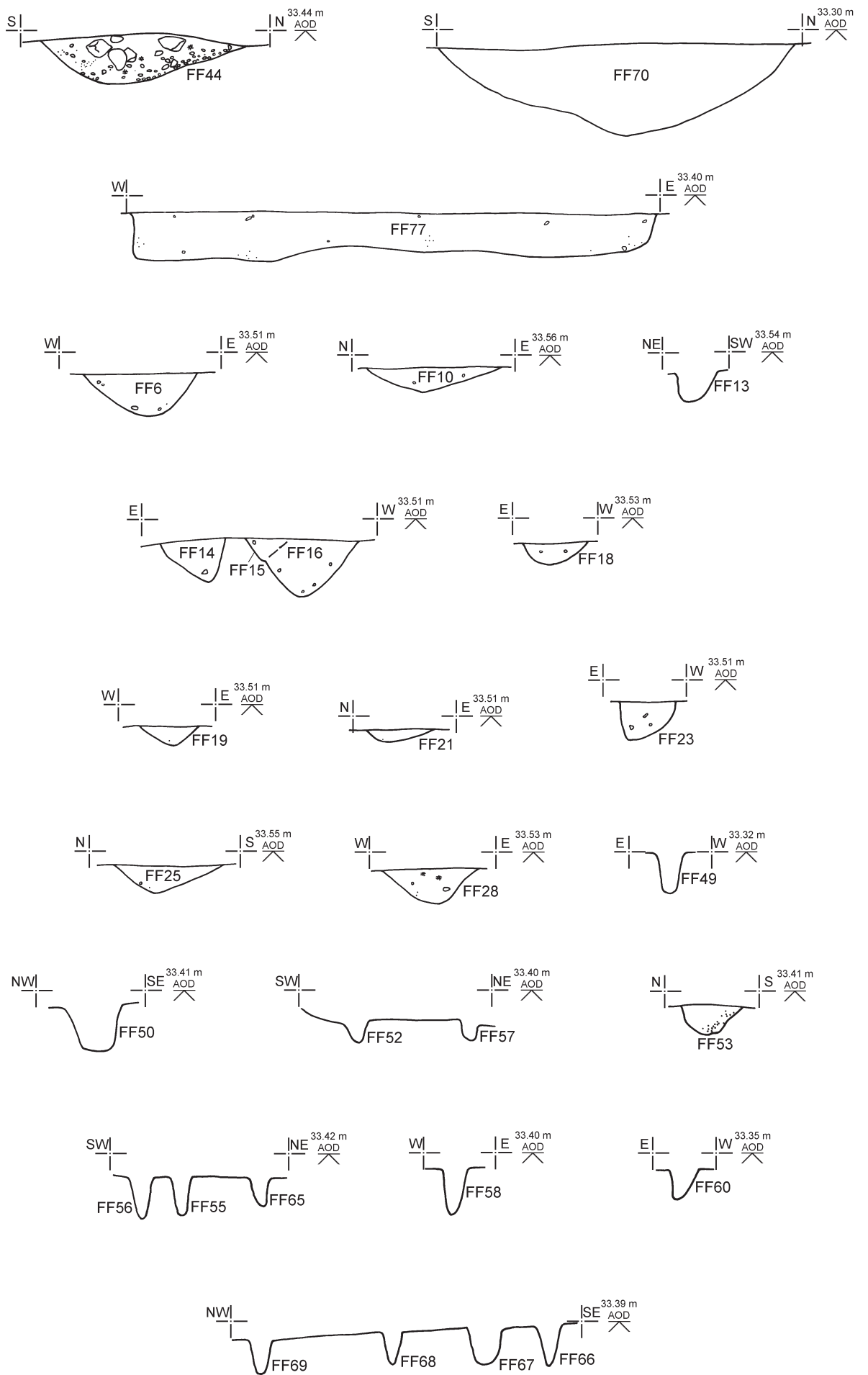
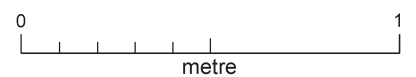


Fig 11 Site F: sections and profiles.



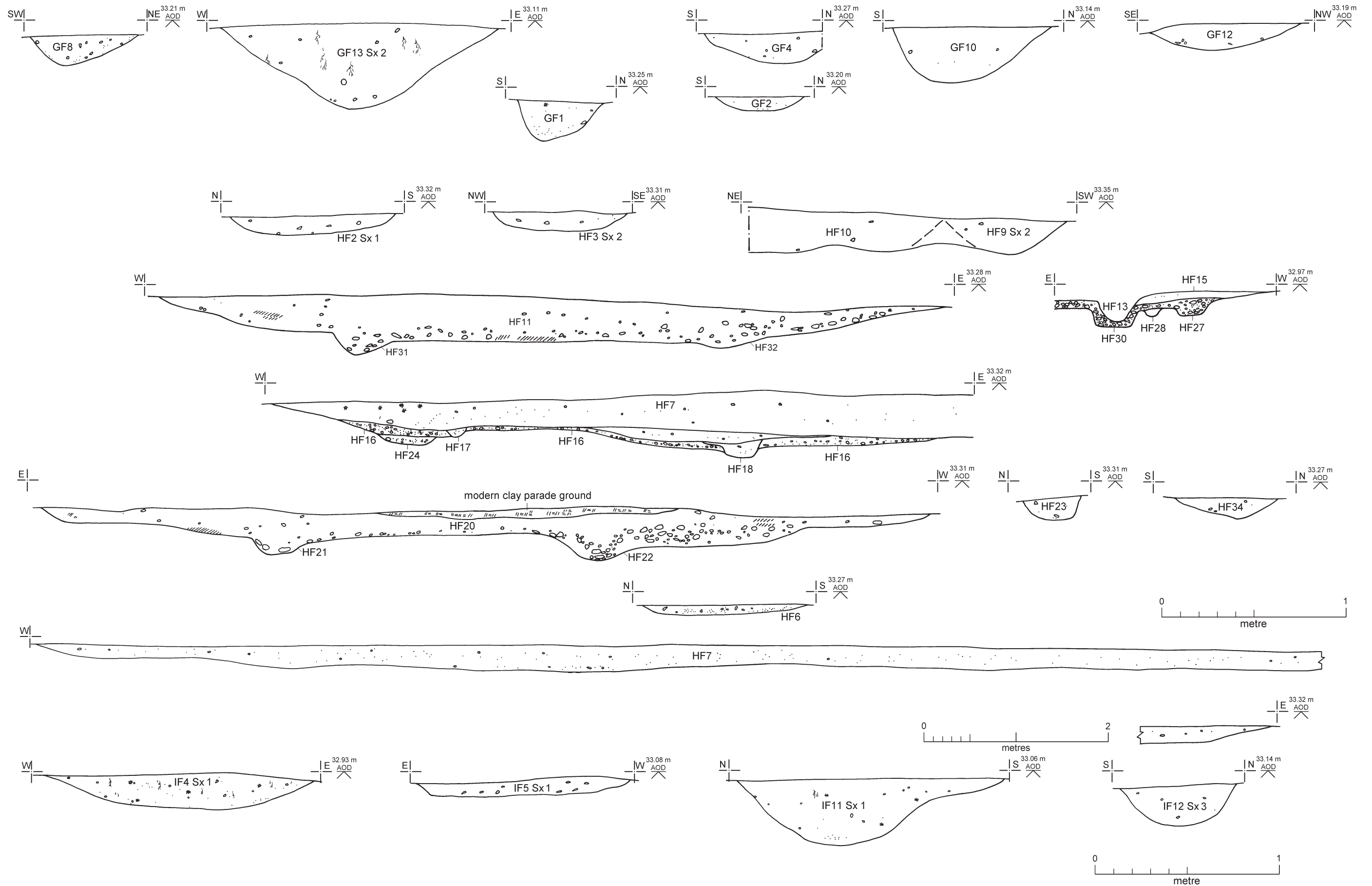


Fig 12 Sites G, H and I: sections and profiles.

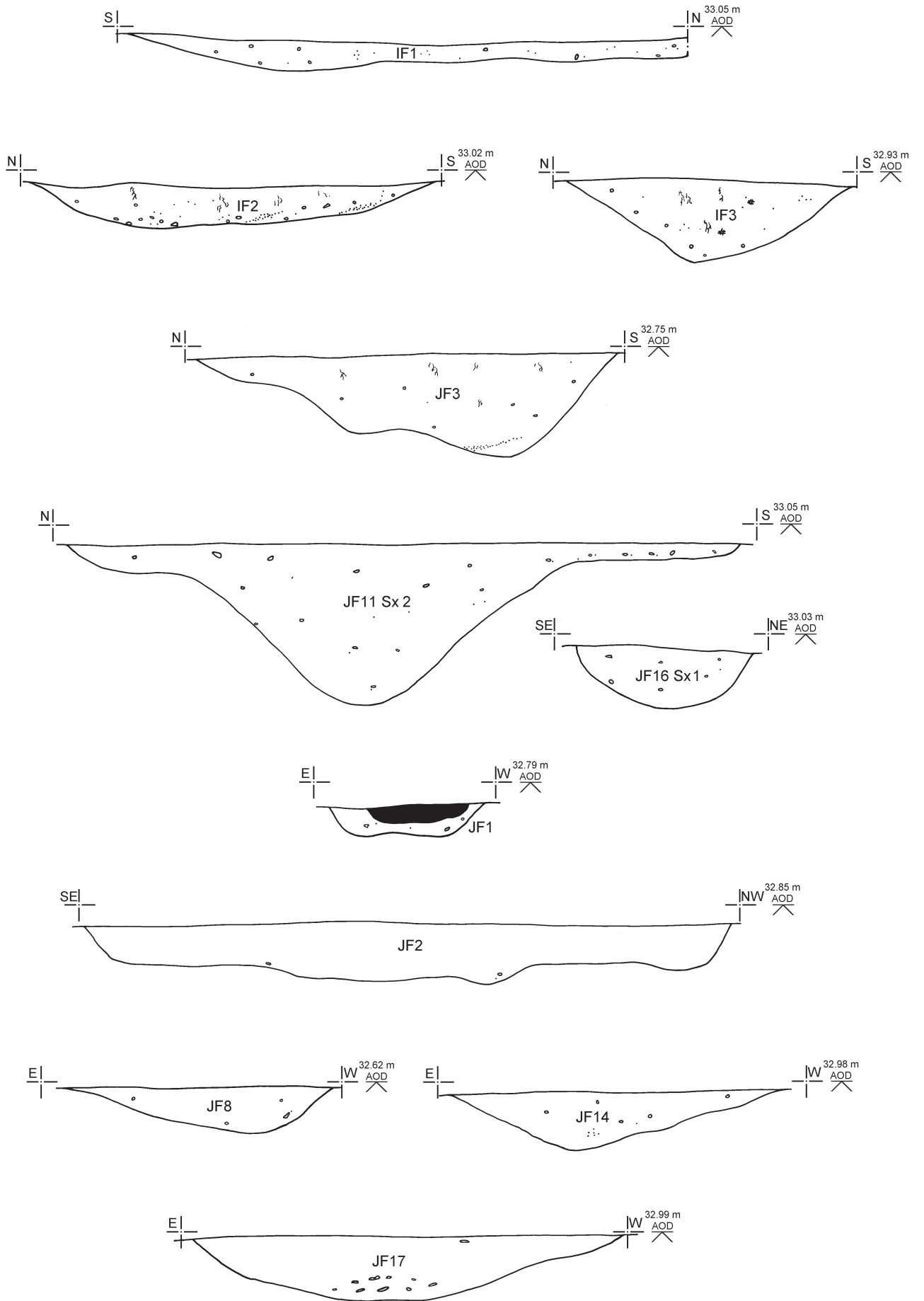
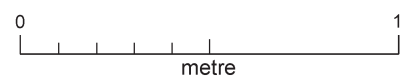


Fig 13 Sites I and J: sections.



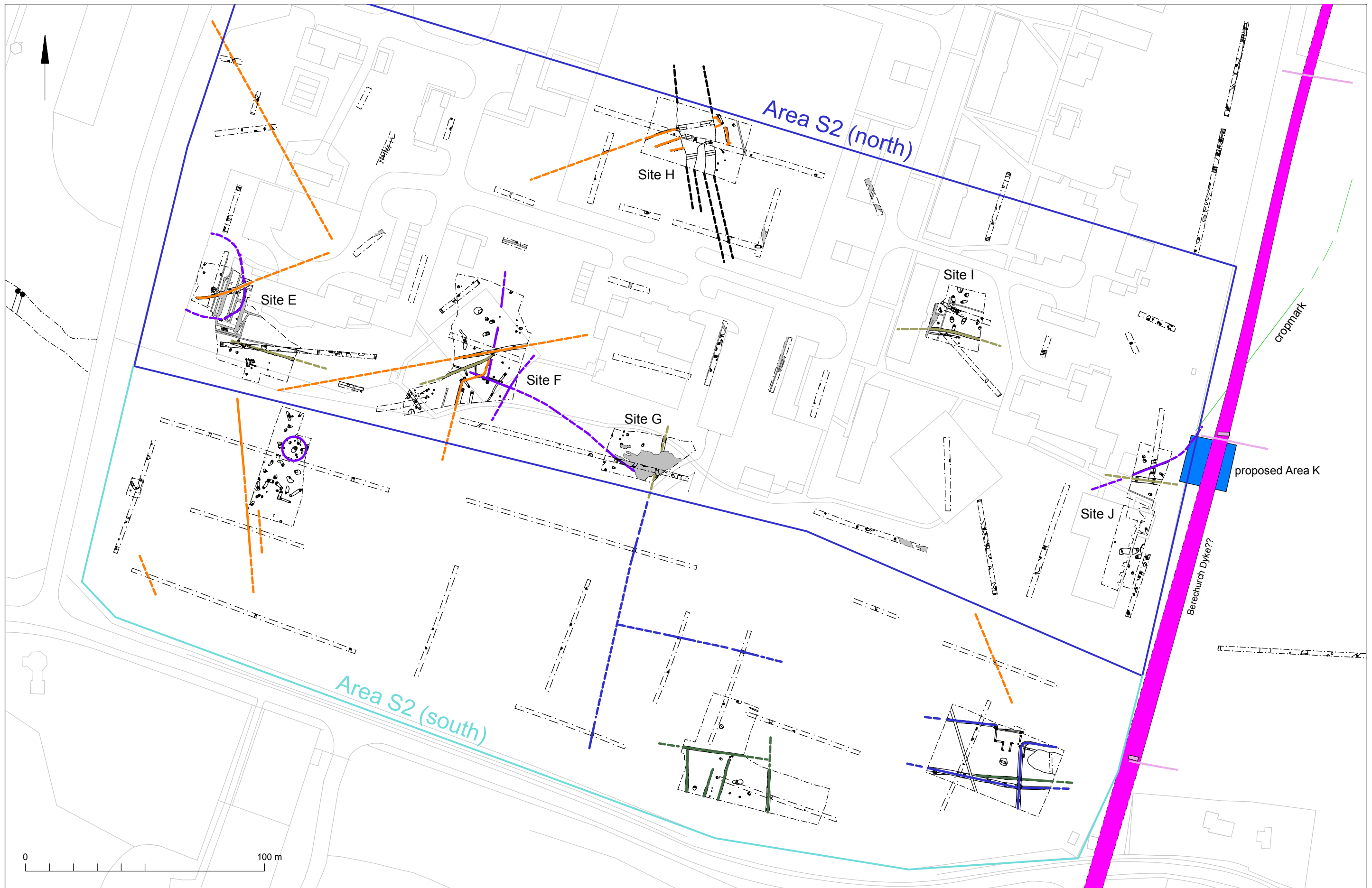


Fig 14 Area S2 (north) and Area S2 (south) showing phasing of landscape features, and the evaluation trenches of 2002, 2007, 2010.

- prehistoric
- Roman
- medieval
- post-medieval
- post-medieval and modern

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> Alienated Land Area S2 (north), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> Site - TL 9950 2214 (c) Site E - TL 9931 2214 (c) Site F - TL 9942 2212 (c) Site G - TL 9949 2208 (c) Site H - TL 9951 2221 (c) Site I - TL 9962 2213 (c) Site J - TL 9969 2206 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project - 10/9c Museum accession - COLEM 2010.67
<b>Type of work:</b> Excavation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 27th September-22nd October 2010	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Site E - 1,131 sq m Site F - 1,628 sq m Site G - 567 sq m Site H - 1,016 sq m Site I - 476 sq m Site J - 776 sq m <b>Total - 0.56 ha</b>
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related UAD nos:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 620 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> (Neolithic/Bronze Age-Iron Age), Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>Following an evaluation in August-September 2010, six sites - with a total area of approximately 0.56 ha - were excavated in the northern part of the southern half of the former Roman Barracks (Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area S2 (north)), referred to here as Area S2 (north). This land is situated inside the oppidum of Camulodunum with the Berechurch Dyke (one of the defensive earthworks of Camulodunum) extending along its eastern side. These excavations revealed a number of phases of activity of prehistoric (Neolithic/Bronze Age-Iron Age), Roman, medieval and post-medieval to modern date.</i></p> <p><i>Isolated pits may relate to early land-clearance, but may include natural tree-throw holes or glacial features. A number of shallow ditches and a few pits can be dated to the prehistoric period. The pottery recovered from these includes sherds which are likely to date to the Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period</i></p>	

*and some which can be dated to the Middle-Late Iron Age. It seems likely that the earlier-dated sherds were residual in the ditches, which probably date to the Middle-Late Iron Age. Some lengths of ditch appears to be part of a sinuous boundary extending east-west across the site. To the east, where this feature is recorded as a cropmark, it appears to be cut by the Berechurch Dyke. A possible enclosure (or boundary ditch) may also date to this period, although it might date to slightly later, possibly extending into the early Roman period. The quantity of prehistoric pottery recovered would suggest settlement on or close to the site. No traces of any buildings consistent with habitation were located, although a possible cooking-pit (containing burnt flints) was excavated and a possible round-house, situated just beyond the south-west boundary of the development area, is probably of this period.*

*The Late Iron Age-Roman features mostly consist of ditches. These appear to form part of a rectilinear field system orientated south-east/north-west which extends beyond the development area. This fits a pattern of alignments seen in other parts of the Garrison development site relating to field systems of this date. It is noticeable that these ditches are not aligned with the Berechurch Dyke, but later ditches of post-medieval to modern date here appear to respect the alignment of the dyke. Overall, the low level of Late Iron Age-Roman finds suggests an agricultural area, with many of the finds probably deriving from manure scatter.*

*A double trackway survived where the wheels of vehicles had eroded two linear hollows. Wheel-ruts were preserved at the base of the hollows which had been metalled with gravel at some stage. A small quantity of finds from the fill of the hollows are predominantly Roman, with a few being medieval and post-medieval/modern, while the double trackway itself cut ditches dated as Late Iron Age-Roman. The finds might allow a mid-late Roman date with a few later intrusive pieces, or a long-lived route here surviving into later periods. However, the double trackway is more probably of medieval or post-medieval date and is possibly associated with a medieval farmstead enclosure located to the south-east of the current site.*

*Many of the post-Roman features identified could not be closely dated but are of medieval/post-medieval to modern date. Most of these are probably post-medieval to modern and include several modern features associated with the former Roman Barracks. The main features which can be dated to this period are ditches and these are of broadly north-south and east-west orientation.*

**Previous summaries/reports:** CAT Report 565 (evaluation report)

**Key words:** Middle Iron Age, ditches, ?enclosure, Late Iron Age/Roman, rectilinear landscape, ?Roman, post-built ?structures, metalled trackway, post-medieval/modern, ditches

**Significance:** \*\*\*

**Author of summary:**  
Stephen Benfield

**Date of summary:**  
June 2012