

Archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ

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Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Development site shown in relation to nearby archaeological discoveries. The Roman town wall runs along its southern boundary. Roman streets shown in grey. To the north are the buildings of the Roman town. South of the town wall is the Roman town ditch (orange) and the Scheduled St Botolph's Priory with associated burials.

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five test-pits) was carried out at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester as part of pre-planning application work associated with the redevelopment of the site. Located within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town, the development site is immediately to the north of the Roman town wall, to the northeast of the Southgate and in an area of known Roman buildings.

Test-pits TP1-TP3 were excavated inside the bus depot building and revealed significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. Modern wall foundations and demolition debris was associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1918, and post-medieval remains consisted of two large pits and a ditch. The ditch is probably part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two possible phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart, and a mid-late Roman ditch cut through an earlier pit and posthole.

Test-pits TP4-TP5 revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman structural remains. Interestingly Hull's 1931 archaeological trench was identified cutting through both test-pits. TP4 revealed a tile-lined Roman drain aligned NNW-SSE which probably branched-off from Hull's E-W tile-lined drain (located immediately to the south of TP4). One of the Roman wall foundations identified by Hull was also located in TP5 (F2/F4). In addition were two possible floor layers (L15 and L17) and other surfacing material (L11-L13).

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 4th-11th April 2017. The work was commissioned by Howard Davies of Colchester Borough Council during pre-planning application investigative work associated with the redevelopment of the site. Work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (wsi) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also the Colchester Historic Environment

Record (CHER, formerly known as the UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The former bus depot lies on the east side of Queen Street. It was built in 1920 on the site of the Theatre Royal, which was constructed in the 19th century and subsequently burnt down in 1918. It lies within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town, immediately to the northeast of the Southgate and to the north of the Roman town wall. In fact, one side of the building incorporates approximately 100m of the Roman town wall (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1003772).

The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The bus depot itself is in insula (town block) 38b of the Roman town. There have been no archaeological excavations inside the bus depot, the nearest being a north/south trench dug by Rex Hull in 1931, approximately 15m to the rear (east) of the depot, in which he found a number of Roman wall lines and a drain (Hull 1958, p54, Fig 22, p216, Fig 105). Other discoveries of Roman walls and floors within 20m reinforce the impression that insula 38b was built-up with Roman town houses, in the manner demonstrated by large-scale excavation at Lion Walk and Culver Street to the west. In fact, the bus depot straddles a Roman gravel street, and there are probably Roman buildings on both the north and south sides of this street. The only known and significant remains post-dating the Roman town-houses are the foundations of the Theatre Royal, which occupied this site before the bus depot. It is possible that the walls and foundations of the theatre survive below the depot. Likewise, it is the experience of recent large-scale excavations in the town that although modern infrastructure (such as the Bus Depot) undoubtedly has a detrimental effect on the buried remains, it does not always destroy them completely, and islands of preserved Roman deposits can survive between modern wall lines. Such may be the case with the bus depot.

A number of significant archaeological investigations have taken place within this southeast angle of the Roman town, within insulas 31-32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential.

To the northeast of the development site a mosaic pavement was uncovered in Lewis's garden (the grounds of East Hill House) in 1923 (UAD 321). During further excavations in 1955 and 1958 (UAD 3069 and 3070; Richardson 1961) three Roman buildings were recorded with at least two structural phases. Two of the houses had hypocausts. From within the demolition and robbing material, painted wall plaster and red, white and grey tesserae were recovered. Later in 1959, a sewer trench dug between the 1955 and 1958 sites (UAD 3365; Richardson 1961) showed stretches of wall foundation and a tessellated floor, both on an east-west alignment.

Excavations in 1966 at the rear of 5 Queen Street (UAD 3065; Dunnett 1971) identified a 2nd century Roman building with rubble foundations that had at least three structural phases. The later of these phases incorporated a hypocaust overlaid with a coloured mosaic floor. Observations made during groundworks for the Queen Street multi-storey car park (in 1970, UAD 3484), at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (in 1983-84; CAR 6, 375-8; UAD 3033) and the former bus station (in 2003; CAT Report 234; UAD 3069-3070) revealed further Roman structural remains. Works at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre also revealed two Roman inhumation burials and a third displaced skull (CAR 6, 375-6), with evaluation trenches dug by CAT in 1990 (UAD 3577; Crossan 1990) revealing a Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave accompanied by a small beaker.

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the north (UAD 307) and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (UAD 3033). Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House. No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or on the site of the former bus station, although Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the boundary separating the grounds of East Hill House from the former bus station (Hull 1958, 51).

CAT has conducted several recent archaeological investigations at Firstsite, in the former bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House. Investigations in 2003 (CAT Report 234) and 2004 (CAT Reports 295 and 205) in the garden of the Minorities art gallery and in the bus station confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers. In 2006 a watching brief in the bus station (CAT Report 385) revealed late Roman robbing material or demolition debris. Investigations in the area between 2006 and 2008 (CAT Report 477) revealed a metalled street and parts of a Roman building presumed to be a town-house on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32. In 2009, an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (CAT Report 520).

A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey carried out on the former bus station to the north and northeast of the former bus depot revealed a number of rectilinear features probably associated with Roman buildings previously identified in the vicinity (Stratascan Ltd, 2016).

4 Results (Figs 3-8)

Five test-pits were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Test-pit 1 (TP1): 4m long by 3.5m wide

Test-pit TP1 was excavated through modern concrete and crush (L1, c 0.45m thick). Beneath L1 in the eastern third of the test-pit was modern brick-wall foundation F9. The wall foundation is likely part of the Theatre Royal, and the charring noted on some of the bricks along with associated modern charred demolition layer L14, date to the destruction of the theatre when it burned down c 1917.

Sealed beneath L1 to the west of the pit was medieval (or later) accumulation layer L18 (c 0.08-0.2m thick) and Roman metalled surface L23, part of the later Roman street system (Road 2) (see discussion). Both of these layers were cut by post-medieval/modern pit F12, which had been cut by wall foundation F9. Also cut through L18 was post-medieval/modern pit F11. Neither of the pits (F11-F12) were fully bottomed. An auger hole dug through F12 revealed natural at a depth of 2.21m below current ground level (bcgl) at 19.03m AOD.

Sealed beneath L18 was layer L27 (c 0.34-0.44m thick), formed of four successive layers of silty-clay with lenses of oyster shell and charcoal. Dated to the mid 1st-2nd century these layers are possibly part of Road 1 (see discussion and Fig 9). Underneath L27 was L28 (not fully excavated, at least c 0.6m thick, corresponding to L26 in TP2).



Photograph 1 Excavation of TP1, looking NE

Context no.	Finds no.	Type	Description	Spot date
F9	16	Brick wall foundation	Unfrogged red-brick wall foundation, 1-2 courses high, bricks (22cm x 12cm x 6cm) set into a white mortar, evidence of charring. 20.79m AOD.	19th-early 20th century
F11	19	Pit	Loose, soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam with inclusions of charcoal and oyster shell, occasional stones. Vertical sides, not fully excavated. 20.80m AOD.	Post-medieval/modern (late 17th-early 18th century?)
F12	32	Pit	Loose, soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam with inclusions of charcoal and oyster shell. Large, irregular pit, not fully excavated. 20.80m AOD.	Post-medieval, 16th-early 17th century
L14	17	Demolition debris	Friable, dry, dark brown/black silt containing charred debris from the theatre fire. 20.76m AOD.	c 1917
L18	20	Accumulation	Loose, dry, medium green/grey sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, brick/tile and mortar, common stone. 20.80m AOD.	Medieval, 11th-12th century

L23		Metalled surface	Loose, dry, medium yellow/green sandy-silt with oyster flecks and common stones. 20.80m AOD. Same as F13 in TP2 and F17/F18 in TP3.	Roman
L27	42	Layers associated with Road 1	Firm, moist, yellow/grey/brown silty-clay with lenses of charcoal and oyster shell. 20.66m AOD. Same as L21-L25 in TP2.	Roman, mid 1st-2nd century
L28		Accumulation	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-clay with occasional oyster flecks and stone. 20.23m AOD. Same as L26 in TP2.	Roman, mid/late 1st-2nd century

Table 1 Context list for TP1

Test-pit 2 (TP2): 4m long by 3.8m wide

Test-pit TP2 was excavated through modern concrete and crush (L1, c 0.45m thick). Beneath L1 were two ditches (F10 and F15) aligned roughly E/W. The first was post-medieval ditch F10, probably associated with the English Civil War and the royalist defensive position behind the town wall. The full width of the ditch could not be determined but it measured 1m deep. It appears to continue to the east as ditch F14 in TP3 (where the mid-17th century dating evidence comes from).

The second was Roman ditch F15. It measured 0.76m wide by 0.37m deep, and had been cut through metalled surface F13 (Road 2, a continuation of L23 in TP1), Roman ?pit F19 and Roman layer L20. Beneath F19 was Roman pit/posthole F20 which contained a large piece of septaria in the base of the feature, suggesting that it may have been used as a post-pad.

Between ditches F10 and F15 was Roman layer L20 (c 0.22m thick). It is possible that L20 represents the remains of the Roman rampart built up behind the town wall. Sealed beneath L20 were four Roman layers: L21 (c 0.02m thick), L22 (c 0.15m thick), L24 (c 0.05m thick) and L25 (c 0.13m thick). These layers are probably the same as L27 in TP1 and represent successive phases of build-up along Road 1. Beneath L21-L25 is accumulation L26 (at least 0.53m thick), which is probably the equivalent of L28 in TP1. An auger hole excavated through the bottom of the L26 revealed natural at a depth of c 1.97m bcgl at 19.32m AOD.

Context no.	Finds no.	Type	Description	Spot date
F10	18, 21(s), 27, 28(s), 40	Ditch	Loose to firm, dry, medium yellow/green/grey sandy-silty-clay with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, daub and cbm, common stone and gravel. 20.89m AOD. Same as F14 in TP3.	Post-medieval, mid 17th century (Roman finds, early 2nd-4th century)
F13	35	Metalled surface	Friable, firm, dry medium brown sandy-silt with 75% stone. 20.93m AOD. Same as L23 in TP1 and F17/F18 in TP3.	Roman
F15	33, 34	Ditch	Firm, dry, dark green/grey/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal and oyster. 20.91m AOD.	Roman (?mid-late Roman)
F19	41	Pit?	Soft, dry, medium orange/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and oyster, occasional stone. 20.91m AOD.	Roman, 2nd-? 3rd century
F20	41	Pit/posthole	Loose, soft, dry, dark green/grey sandy-silt	-

			with common stone. A large piece of septaria was found in the base, possibly used as a post pad. 20.40m AOD.	
L20	29	Rampart?	Loose, dry, medium yellow/green/grey sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, daub and cbm, common stone and gravel. 20.89m AOD.	Roman, mid 2nd-3rd century
L21	31, 30(s)	Layers associated with Road 1	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown-black sandy, slightly-clayey, silt with mixed mortar and charcoal. 20.69m AOD. L21-L25 same as L27 in TP1.	Roman, mid 1st-2nd century
L22	37, 36(s)	Layers associated with Road 1	Soft, moist, medium green/grey sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and whole oyster, occasional stone. 20.67m AOD. L21-L25 same as L27 in TP1.	Roman, ?mid 1st-2nd century
L24	44	Layers associated with Road 1	Small-medium septaria chips on a loose, dry, dark grey/brown-black sandy-silt with flecks of charcoal, oyster and daub, occasional stone. 20.53m AOD. L21-L25 same as L27 in TP1.	-
L25	38	Layers associated with Road 1	Friable, moist, medium-dark green/grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub, rare stone, common horizontal oyster shell. 20.49m AOD. L21-L25 same as L27 in TP1.	Roman, ?mid 1st-2nd century
L26	39	Accumulation	Firm, dry, light yellow/slightly green/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster and daub, occasional stone. 20.37m AOD. Same as L28 in TP1.	Roman, mid 1st-2nd century

Table 2 Context list for TP2

Test-pit 3 (TP3): 4.3m long by 3.8m wide

Test-pit TP3 was excavated through modern concrete and crush (L1, c 0.5m thick). Sealed beneath L1 was post-medieval ditch F14 (same as F10 in TP2), measuring approximately 2.25m wide by 0.86m deep. Despite containing mostly Roman finds, F14 did produce a single piece of mid-17th century clay pipe from the upper fill, and it is thought more likely that the ditch is associated with Royalist defensive positions during the English Civil War (Philip Crummy, pers com).

Ditch F14 cut through pit F16 and Roman metalled surface F18 (Road 2) (continuation of L23 in TP1 and F13 in TP2). A patch of compacted silty/sandy-clay (F17) may represent a later resurfacing of F18 but this was unclear.

Both F14 and F16 had been cut into natural, identified at c 1.30m bcgl, 19.97m AOD, removing any trace of Road 1 or any earlier layers.

Context no.	Finds no.	Type	Description	Spot date
F14	45, 46, 47	Ditch	Soft, light yellow/brown sand with fragments of charcoal, oyster, daub, cbm, <10% stone. 20.87m AOD. Same as F10 in TP2.	Post-medieval, mid 17th century

F16	-	Pit	Firm, dry, medium orange/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of oyster and CBM, 15% stone. 20.87m AOD	-
F17	48	Possible resurfacing of F18	Highly compacted, hard, dry, medium yellow/orange/brown silty-clay with sand. 20.87m AOD. Same as L23 in TP1 and F13 in TP2.	Roman
F18	-	Metalled surface	Friable, firm, dry medium brown sandy-silt with 80% stone and 10% gravel. 20.67m AOD. Same as L23 in TP1 and F13 in TP2.	Roman

Table 3 Context list for TP3

Test-pit 4 (TP4): initially 6m long by 6m wide, but stepped in at a depth of 0.92m bcgl (20.84m AOD) resulting in a test-pit 3.5m long by 3.5m wide

Test-pit TP4 was excavated through modern concrete and crush (L1, c 0.14m thick), post-medieval/modern accumulation (L2, c 0.4m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L3, c 0.38m thick).

Sealed beneath L1 and cut through all subsequent layers (including L2-L3) was modern archaeological trench F6. This was probably a trench excavated by Hull in 1931 (see discussion) and continues to the north as F1 in TP5. It was approximately 0.85-1.1m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.7m but not bottomed.

Two slots were excavated E/W across the test-pit. To the south (Fig 7, sx4), a layer of medieval/early post-medieval accumulation L7 (c 0.33m thick) sealed a thin layer of dark brown/black silty/sandy-loam (L8, c 0.03m thick). Beneath this was Roman consolidation/ accumulation layer L9 (c 0.19-0.36m thick). Layer L9 sealed at least one other Roman layer (not numbered) but excavation ceased at this point. A small vertical strip of dark brown/black silty-clayey loam (F8) was visible to the east of F6 at the very edge of the test-pit.

Sealed by L9 and cut into the earlier layer was Roman drain F7. The drain was constructed of three courses of loosely-mortared irregular-shaped bricks, was lined with tile and filled with a cess-like material. The drain was aligned roughly NNW/SSE and would probably have joined with a similar E/W drain identified within the 1931 excavation trench.

To the north (Fig 7, sx5), accumulation/make-up layer L19 (c 0.17m thick) sealed the remains of what appears to be successive phases of Roman surfacing material (L12-L13, (c 0.15-0.26m thick) overlaid by patches of charcoal (L11, c 0.01-0.05m thick). Sealed beneath L12/L13 was Roman accumulation/make-up layer L10 (c 0.34m thick) which sealed another possible floor layer L17, but this would need further investigation. These surfaces were probably associated with buildings identified immediately to the north.

Natural ground level was not identified in this test-pit.



Photograph 2 Drain F7, looking SW

Context no.	Finds no.	Type	Description	Spot date
F6	7, 9, 10, 13	1931 excavation trench	Loose, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, CBM, stone. 21.60m AOD. Same as F1 in TP5.	1931
F7	8	Drain	Three courses of loosely bonded irregular pieces of brick, some <i>opus signinum</i> used in construction, lined with tile and filled with cess-like material (soft, moist, dark green/grey/brown silty-sandy loam). 20.28m AOD	Roman
F8	-	Cut feature	Friable, dark brown/black silty-clayey loam. 20.82m AOD.	-
L2	1	Accumulation	Soft, very dark brown/black silty-clay with inclusions of oyster, CBM, 7% stone and gravel. 21.6m AOD.	Post-medieval/modern, c 18th century
L3	2, 24	Accumulation	Friable, dark brown clayey/loamy-silt with some sand, inclusions of oyster, CBM, 6% stone and gravel. 21.2m AOD.	Post-medieval, c 17th century
L7	12, 14, 25	Accumulation	Friable, dry, dark brown/black clayey-silty loam, with 5% charcoal, 5% oyster, 14% CBM and 5% stone. 20.82m AOD.	Medieval/early post-medieval
L8	-	?	Friable, dark brown/black clayey-sandy loam	-

			with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, CBM, stone/gravel. 20.50m AOD.	
L9	11, 15	Consolidation/accumulation	Friable, dry, dark grey/brown/black clayey-silty loam with inclusions of oyster, CBM and <5% stone. 20.47m AOD. Layer sealed beneath L9 = 20.14m AOD.	Roman, 2nd-early 3rd century
L10	23, 26(s)	Accumulation/make-up	Firm, moist, medium-dark yellow/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster and occasional stone. 20.49m AOD.	Roman, late 3rd-early 4th/4th century
L11	-	Charcoal layer	Friable, dry, dark brown/black charcoal. 20.62m AOD.	-
L12	22	Surfacing material	Friable, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, 75% CBM, mortar, common stones. 20.62m AOD.	Roman, mid 3rd-early 4th/4th century
L13	-	Surfacing material	Hard, dry, light-medium yellow mortar. Associated with L12. 20.49m AOD.	-
L17	-	?Floor layer	Hard compacted layer of off-white mortar, 0.08m thick, not fully excavated. Possibly a floor layer? 20.04m AOD.	-
L19	-	Accumulation/make-up	Loose, dry, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of oyster shell, occasional stone and flecks of CBM. 20.80m AOD. Possibly same as L7.	Possibly post-Roman (equivalent of L7?)

Table 4 Context list for TP4

Test-pit 5 (TP5): initially 6m long by 6m wide, but stepped in at a depth of 0.83-0.9m bcgl (20.81-20.89m AOD) resulting in a test-pit 3.3m long by 3m wide

Test-pit TP5 was excavated through modern concrete and crush (L1, c 0.17-0.4m thick), post-medieval/modern accumulation (L2, c 0.70m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L3, c 0.25-0.55m thick).

Sealed beneath L1 and cut through L2-L3 and Roman layers (see below) was modern archaeological trench F1. This was probably a trench excavated by Hull in 1931 (see discussion) and continues to the south as F6 in TP4. It was approximately 0.8m wide (narrowing to 0.6m towards the bottom) and 2.1m deep.

Cut through L3 was post-medieval/modern pit F3 and robber trench F2a. Beneath F2a were the *in situ* remains of the Roman wall foundation, F2b (c 0.73m thick). This consisted of compacted mortar with occasional pieces of septaria and *opus signinum*.

Robber trench F2a had been cut through dump/make-up layer L4 (c 0.24m thick). Sealed by L4 and cut by wall foundation F2b was accumulation layer L6 (c 0.4m thick) which sealed natural (L5, identified at 1.94m bcgl, 19.79m AOD).

A slot excavated through the northern edge of the test-pit (Fig 8, sx7) also revealed a second robber trench, F5, sealed by L3. It was possibly aligned N/S but had been mostly cut away by pit F3. The robber trench measured 0.75m deep and included a small amount of *in situ* mortar in the base of the cut. It is likely that wall foundations F2/F4 and F5 joined to form a room to the northwest. This slot also revealed a thin layer of clay, L15 (0.02m thick) which was possibly the remains of a clay floor within the

room. Beneath L6/L15 was make-up layer L16 (c 0.29m thick) which sealed natural (L5, identified at 2.12m bcgl, 19.60m AOD).



Photograph 3 Wall foundation F2b, looking W

Context no.	Finds no.	Type	Description	Spot date
F1	4	1931 excavation trench	Loose, soft, moist, dark grey/brown/black sandy-silt loam with inclusions of charcoal, oyster and common stone. 21.56m AOD. Same as F6 in TP4.	1931
F2	5	Robber trench Wall foundation	East-west wall foundation, same as F4. F2a = Upper half robbed out (loose, light grey/brown slightly loamy sandy-silt with common mortar chunks). 20.69m AOD. F2b = Lower half <i>in situ</i> (compacted mortar with occasional pieces of septaria and <i>opus signinum</i>). Same as F4. 20.17m AOD.	Post-medieval/modern Roman
F3	6	Pit	Soft, dry, dark grey/brown/black sandy-silt with common mortar flecking, oyster, CBM, septaria. Not fully excavated. 20.77m AOD.	Post-medieval/modern
F4	-	Wall foundation	East-west wall foundation, small surviving piece of <i>in situ</i> wall foundation made from loose, dry mortar and Roman tile. Same as F2. 19.87m AOD.	-
F5	-	Robber trench	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt loam with inclusions of oyster and CBM. Small	-

			amount of <i>in situ</i> mortar in base of cut. 20.23m AOD.	
L2	1	Accumulation	Soft, very dark brown/black silty-clay with inclusions of oyster, CBM, 7% stone and gravel. 21.33-21.56m AOD.	Post-medieval/modern, c 18th century
L3	2	Accumulation	Friable, dark brown clayey/loamy-silt with some sand, inclusions of oyster, CBM, 6% stone and gravel. 20.64-20.8m AOD.	Post-medieval, c 17th century
L4	3	Dump/ make-up	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, daub, CBM, septaria, common stones. 20.43m AOD	Roman, mid 3rd-4th century
L6	-	Accumulation	Soft, moist, dark yellow/grey slightly-clayey sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster, CBM and occasional stone. 20.19-20.3m AOD.	-
L15	-	?Clay floor	Soft, moist, light grey/brown clay. 19.91m AOD.	-
L16	-	Make-up	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with inclusions of charcoal, oyster and occasional stone. 19.91m AOD.	-

Table 5 Context list for TP5



Photograph 4 TP5, looking NW

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield (unless otherwise stated)

The types and quantities of finds recovered are listed in Table 6. The great majority of the closely dated finds are of Roman date with a much smaller quantity of pottery and other finds types that can be dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern period. All of the finds are listed by context in the bulk finds appendix (Appendix 1).

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	242	5291
Ceramic building material (CBM)	213	34122
Painted plaster (Roman)	2	20
Mortar	8	2448
Stone	21	-
Glass (vessel)	2	17
Clay tobacco pipe	4	18
Slag	2	600
Fired clay	1	500
Nails (iron)	18	400
Marine shell (oyster)	46	1123
Charcoal	8	10
Animal bone	188	4908

Table 6 Types and quantities of bulk finds

Pottery

Introduction

The excavation produced a significant quantity of pottery. Almost all of this (97% by count and weight) is of Roman date. The remainder consists of just a few sherds dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern era. The Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester Roman fabric series (*CAR 10*) and Roman pottery vessel forms refer to the *Camulodunum* (Cam) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1958). Samian vessel forms follow Webster (1996). The post-Roman pottery fabrics referred to follow the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & *CAR 7*). All of the pottery is listed and described by context in the finds appendix (Appendix 1).

Fabric codes	Fabric name	Qt.	Wt/g	EVE
<i>Roman:</i>				
AA	Amphorae (other than Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill / <i>Verulamium</i> amphorae)	3	136	
AJ	Amphora (Spanish fabric) Dressel 20	3	678	
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	1	6	
BXSG	South Gaulish decorated samian	1	2	
BAMV	Les Martres-de-Veyre plain samian	2	26	
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	5	122	0.19
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	1	22	0.11
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	1	58	
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	3	26	
DJ	Coarse oxidised wares (general)	30	294	0.30
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	3	32	
FJ	Brockley Hill/ <i>Verulamium</i> region oxidised wares	1	8	
GA	BB1 Black-burnished ware category 1	3	24	0.10
GB	BB2, Black-burnished ware category 2	6	90	0.19
GP	Fine grey wares	2	16	0.07
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	126	1622	2.62
HZ	Large storage jars in heavily-tempered fabric	13	858	0.13
ON	Mica-dusted ware	7	106	0.10
TZ	Mortaria (Colchester)	5	725	0.20

Fabric codes	Fabric name	Qt.	Wt/g	EVE
WB	Grey slipped wares	4	56	0.06
BSW	Black surface wares	15	216	0.23
	<i>Roman total</i>	235	5123	4.3
<i>Post-Roman:</i>				
13	Early medieval sandy wares	4	74	0.03
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware	2	92	0.06
98	Miscellaneous unidentified post-medieval/modern pottery fabric	1	2	

Table 7 Pottery by fabric

Roman pottery

The Roman pottery assemblage is of a moderate size consisting of 235 sherds which together weigh 5123g and have an estimated vessel equivalence (EVE) total of 4.2. Most of the pottery is quite broken-up, with no significant part of any vessel from any of the features or layers, indicating that it has some depositional history post-breakage (however short or long) before coming to rest in these contexts.

Most of the more closely datable pottery forms and fabrics are typical of the late 1st/early 2nd-3rd/early 4th century. While a significant amount of the pottery can be closely dated to the period of the late 1st-early 2nd century, there is little or nothing that need be pre-Flavian and the pottery that can be closely dated prior to the early 2nd century is represented by relatively few sherds. The limited numbers of sherds from reduced coarseware jars and bowls that can be dated to this early period, especially the apparent absence of forms Cam 218 and Cam 266, also suggests that the bulk of the pottery recovered dates to after the late 1st century. While some of the pottery can be broadly dated to the period of the mid/late 3rd-4th century there is nothing that need date later than the mid 4th century and closely datable mid-late 4th century pottery fabrics are absent.

Early Roman:

Early (1st century) samian is limited to just a few sherds. There is a South Gaulish samian cup (form Dr 27) from ditch F10 and a small sherd of mould decorated South Gaulish samian from L22 (37). A single sherd of Les Martres samian (Fabric BAMV) dating to the early 2nd century was also recovered from ditch F14 (47).

Fine greywares include a sherd from a Cam 330-type bowl (Fabric GP) decorated with groups of vertical scored lines and dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century – see *CAR 10* fig 6.94 nos. 47-58.

Prominent among the early Roman coarse pottery is a mortarium rim of form Cam 195B from F19/F20 (41) which is stamped by one of the *Sexti Valerii* group of potters (*CAR 10* fig 4.26, stamp 105). These potters worked at Colchester and at *Verulamium* and the stamps can be dated to the period c 70-100 AD. The mortarium here is consistent with mortaria considered to be produced at Colchester by these potters. A rim from a collared flagon, from ditch F10 (27), can also be dated to the 1st century; while of 1st or early 2nd century date are sherds from flange-rim bowls of form Cam 243-2144/246, from L4 (3) and L27. A few sherds of amphora (Fabric AA) are also likely to predated the mid 2nd century together with a sherd in Brockley Hill/*Verulamium* fabric (Fabric FJ).

Of note is the small assemblage of fine mica-dusted ware (Fabric ON). Although not all of this can be closely-dated, this fabric is most common among early-mid Roman assemblages and the one form that can be closely identified is a deep flanged bowl (Cam 312) which is current in the Flavian-Hadrianic period (c 69-138 AD) (see *CAR 10* fig 5.21 nos. 120-125) and was recovered from L25 (38). A sherd from ditch F14 (47) is

probably also from the flange of this or another similar vessel. Other sherds from L26 (39) come from a 1st-early 2nd century bowl form probably approximating to Cam 320.

Mid-late Roman:

Pottery of 2nd-3rd century date is represented by a number of fabrics and vessel forms. Most of the small quantity of samian recovered is of Central Gaulish origin with one East Gaulish sherd. All is from plain ware vessels. The Central Gaulish samian includes forms Dr 35 (cup) and probably Dr 31 and Curle 23. The probable Dr 31 bowl, from L3 (2), has a stamp in the base, but this is poorly impressed and very worn, with only a few spaced letters that can be made out, making identification very difficult. The single East Gaulish sherd is from a Dr 33 cup. However other closely dated 2nd-3rd century fine wares are not well represented, there is just a single sherd of local (Colchester) colour-coated ware (Fabric CZ) which comes from a folded beaker and is of late 2nd-3rd century date.

The coarseware forms recorded are primarily those which appear after the early-mid 2nd century (Fabric GX Cam 268 jar and Cam 39 dish, Fabric TZ Cam 498/Cam 49) or are in fabrics which do not appear until the early 2nd century (Fabric GB cam 37A and Cam 37B, Fabric GA Cam 39A and Cam 279, the latter extending throughout the 4th century. It is noticeable that the only storage jar rims recorded (Fabric HZ) are of form Cam 273.

Late Roman:

The late Roman pottery is probably the most difficult to approach given the moderate size of the assemblage. Pottery which could be broadly described as late Roman (mid/late 3rd-4th century) is represented by Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) and Hadham oxidised ware (Fabric CH). Single sherds of Hadham oxidised ware are associated with F3, F6 and L19 and single sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware with L4, L9 and L12.

Pottery in other fabrics could also date to the late Roman period, notably Fabric GA, and the jars of form Cam 279 in that fabric are probably likely to date to the mid/late 3rd-4th century. However, the absence of the relatively common late Roman flanged bowl form Cam 305 (current in the late 3rd-4th century) is probably significant and suggests that most of the coarseware pottery predates the early 4th century. The most significant absence is of pottery that can be closely dated to after the early/mid 4th century, the most common in Colchester being late shell-tempered wares (CAR 10 Fabric HD), also, although not generally as common, Oxford red colour-coated wares (CAR 10 Fabric MP) and the relatively less common imported Mayen ware (CAR 10 Fabric HG).

Post-Roman pottery

Only a very small amount of post-Roman pottery was recovered consisting of 7 sherds with a combined weight of 168g with an estimated vessel equivalence (EVE) total of 0.09. The pottery is of medieval and post-medieval date with one sherd that is probably modern.

Several sherds of the medieval pottery fabric, Fabric 13 were recovered from F11 (19) and a single sherd from L18 (20). These can be broadly dated to the period of the mid 11th-12th century. One (19) is a cooking pot rim of form B2 (CAR 7, fig 27) while the sherd from L18 is from the base of a cooking pot. The post-medieval pottery consists of two sherds of Fabric 40. These were recovered from F1 (5) and F12 (32) and broadly date to the period of the late 16th/17th-18th century. One sherd (F12), with splashes of glaze on the interior, can be identified as from a large bowl/pancheon (see CAR 7 fig 135 no. 34). A single sherd from F1 (5) is not closely identified but is almost certainly of modern (late 18th-early 20th century) date.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Roman

The Roman CBM amounts to 199 pieces with a combined weight of 29,598g. All of the tile is broken pieces. The tile types consist of roof tile (*tegulae* and *imbrex*), Roman bricks and combed flue tiles. A few *tesserae* cubes were also recovered. The quantities of the different tile types are listed in Table 8.

Tile code	Tile type	No.	Wt/g.
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	27	7306
RI	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	33	4742
RB	Roman brick	30	10482
RBT	Roman brick and tile (general)	90	5030
RFT	Roman flue tile	11	1872
Tess	Tile <i>tesserae</i>	8	166

Table 8 Roman CBM by type

The great majority of the Roman CBM (97% by both count and weight) is broadly quite similar, being orange-red in colour and the fabric contains fine or fine-medium sand (Fabric OR F/MS). A few pieces from L28 were noted as also having rare small -medium inclusions of flint but otherwise are not visually distinct from this group. Six pieces (826g) are in buff or cream coloured fabric and include a piece from a *tegula* and another from a brick, the remainder being nondescript pieces of Roman brick/tile (RBT). Apart from one piece all of the cream/buff pieces come from TP4 (F6, L9 and L12) with one piece from TP2 (L22).

A number of pieces have been reused after breakage, having mortar over broken edges. Almost all of these are pieces of brick associated with contexts F10, F12, F17, L3, L4, L9 and L12. Few of the other types of CBM have any clear signs of reuse, other than single pieces of brick/tile from L7 and L10 and a piece of flue-tile from F14.

The largest group of Roman CBM from an individual context comes from demolition layer L12 in TP4 with 50 pieces weighing 7482g. The backfill of a 1930's archaeological trench F6, also in TP4, produced 29 pieces weighing 4306g. These two contexts account for approximately 40% of the Roman CBM by both count and weight.

The roofing tiles recovered include a significant number of *imbrex* pieces and with the absence of any obvious reuse of *tegulae* or *imbrex* could indicate that this material represents demolition material from a building in the area. Three lower cut-aways were noted on *tegulae*. One (L7 in TP4) is of Type B6 (Warry 2006, fig 1.3), another (L12 in TP4) is of Type B5 (*ibid*), while the third could only be broadly identified as of Type C or Type D. Warry suggests that Types B and C are typical of tiles in the 2nd-3rd century with Type D dating to after the mid 3rd century. A single animal paw impression, probably dog, was recorded in the surface of a *tegula* from L12 in TP4.

Almost all of the small number of pieces that are from the keyed face of of flue tiles are combed, although one piece (L2 in TP4) is scored in a lattice pattern. Also, one side wall piece, from L3 in T4, appears unusually thick at 23-25mm.

The brick pieces recovered, although mostly nondescript and with a high incidence of reuse, include three corner pieces from *pedalis* or possibly thin *Lydion* tiles at between 30-35mm thick which came from L12 in TP4.

Post-Roman CBM

Only a small quantity of post-Roman material of this kind was recovered; in total there are 14 pieces weighing 4524g. The dating of bricks follows Ryan 1996 (Appendix 1, 91-96).

A piece of peg-tile and pieces from a brick were recovered from pit F12 (32). The brick suggests a relatively early date of c 15th-16th century. Brick pieces were also

recovered from pit F11 (19) and foundation F9 (16). The brick from F11 is probably of c late 17th-early 18th century date and that from F9, although not frogged, is typical of bricks dating to the 19th-early 20th century.

The remainder of the post-Roman CBM consists of tiles. There are several pieces of floor tiles of medieval-early post-medieval type. One was recovered from L7 (14) while several pieces probably from the same tile (two pieces join) was recovered from L14 (12). The tile from L7 has a chamfered edge. None of the tiles appears glazed and the tile pieces from L14 may have been affected by heat/scorched. A piece from what is probably a large floor tile was also recovered from L2 (4) and is not closely dated other than as post-medieval. The lower part of a delft tile comes from L2 (1). This is decorated with a ship (blue on pale blue-tint background) and spider head motif in the corners (Betts & Weinstien 2010), dated c late 17th-18th century (width 120mm, thickness 8-9mm).

Other finds

Plaster and mortar

Two small pieces of Roman wall plaster (weight 20g) with a red painted surface were recovered from the fill of ditch F14 (45). This is the only painted plaster recovered during the evaluation.

Lime-based mortar was recovered from several contexts. Pieces of Roman *opus-signinum* (containing crushed tile) come from F19/20 (41), L7 (14) and L12 (22). One piece from L12 appears to be part of a floor (minimum 650mm thick) with a flat, red coloured, worn surface. The pieces from F19/20 and L12 are part of a foundation or wall construction.

Other mortar lumps from L7 (14) and L10 (23) that have a white, relatively hard constituency are probably either from rubble core in-fill from the centre of a face built wall or a coarse base layer for a floor/surface as they contain broken-up, irregular brick/tile pieces that appear to be Roman. A piece of plain off-white lime mortar was also recovered from demolition layer L12 (22).

Stone

Pieces from several stone types were recovered. It seems likely that most of this was originally imported into Colchester in the Roman period as building material.

Septaria (12 pieces)

A large, heavy block of local (north Essex) septaria stone (210mm x 200mm x 160mm), probably originally a wall facing stone, was recovered from F10 (40) in TP2. Other pieces of septaria come from the demolition layer L12 (22) and pit F12 (32). Septaria is a local/regional stone type of varying, generally rather poor, quality used extensively in construction of the Roman town wall and probably all the pieces from Colchester were originally extracted during the Roman period as building material.

Ragstone (3 pieces)

Pieces identified as a greensand/grey ragstone were also recovered from the demolition layer L12 (22). These are probably Kent ragstone which appears to have been first imported into Colchester in the late 1st century or 2nd century and was used extensively in the construction of the Roman Circus.

Of note is a small piece of marble from L10 (23) in TP4 associated with finds dated to the Roman period. This is a white marble with translucent grey streak(s). The piece is 15mm thick with one surface slightly smoother and is probably a marble veneer.

A small sub-square piece of unidentified stone type, from L3 (24), is possibly a stone mosaic cube, but there is no trace of any mortar on the piece that might confirm this.

Glass

Two pieces of vessel glass were recovered. One, from L10 (23), has a translucent white appearance with some flaking of surfaces. Other finds from this layer are of Roman date. The second piece of vessel glass comes from pit F11 (19) and is the base of a thick-walled bottle. Other finds from the context are of post-medieval-modern date and the glass is likely to be of similar date.

Clay tobacco pipe

A bowl piece was recovered from F14 (45) and few pieces of pipe stem were recovered from F1 (5) and L3 (24). The bowl piece (base of bowl with foot) is probably of mid-17th century date (Crummy Type 4, *CAR 5*). The pipe stems are not closely dated although the piece from L3 has a large bore and may be of 7th century date while a narrower bore on the pieces from F1 suggests a possibly late 17th-18th century date.

Slag

Two pieces of slag were recovered, one from ditch F14 (46), the other from L25 (28). That from F14 (384g) is a grey/grey-reddish brown iron based slag, formerly gaseous (porous) and relatively heavy with some smooth (melted run) surface areas. This might represent smithing waste. The other piece (L25) is a rounded, irregular piece of orange coloured, medium density (nondescript) iron base slag. F14 is primarily associated with Roman finds, but also produced a clay pipe bowl of 17th century date. L25 produced only bulk finds of Roman date.

Fired clay

A single piece of fired clay comes from the fill of ditch F14 (47)

Iron nails

Single example, or a couple of iron nails were recovered from a number of contexts, the largest single group from any one feature being five nails from the fill of ditch F15 (24 and 33). All of the nails that were able to be catalogued as having a head or with a head and complete or near complete shaft indicate that they have sub-round, flat heads with relatively short shaft lengths less than 100mm in length. Where of Roman date these would correspond to Manning Type 1A (Manning 1985).

Shell

Oyster shell was the only type of shell recovered. Small quantities, between 1-10 shells, come from a number of features with most producing less than five. The largest number from a single context (10 shells) are associated with ditch F15 (33 and 34), while four large complete (half) shells were recovered from a bulk sample taken from F7 (8).

Charcoal

A few small pieces of charcoal were recovered from ditch F14 (45 and 47) and from the demolition layer L12 (22).

Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation at the bus depot on Queen Street produced a small assemblage of 188 pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 4.908kg deriving from seven features and 12 layers.

The assemblage was identified to species level as shown by Table 9. Where it was not possible to positively identify the species it has been categorised as either large mammal (cow, horse and larger deer), medium mammal (sheep or goat, pig and smaller species of deer) or small mammal (dog, cat or smaller).

All of the main domesticated species are represented (cow, horse, pig and sheep/goat) in the assemblage. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goats no distinction has been possible. No wild or non-domesticated species were positively identified.

Cut marks associated with butchery were noted on 20 pieces of bone (11% of the assemblage), mostly from L7 (6 pieces), F12 (4) and F14 (4) where vertebra fragments had been split longitudinally in order to divide the animals carcass.

Tooth marks and damage from dog gnawing was noted on 15 bone fragments (8% of the assemblage) and is often a good indicator of residual material as it has resulted from the actions of scavenging dogs. Layers L7 and L22 produced the highest amounts from single contexts (four and three pieces respectively).

Context no.	Finds no.	Description	No. of pieces	Weight (g)
F3	6	Medium mammal	1	4
F6	7	Cow, chicken, large and medium sized mammal, large bird and unidentified fragments	11	162
F10	27	Pig, sheep/goat and large mammal	3	64
F11	19	Cow	3	212
F12	32	Cow, pig, sheep/goat, large and medium mammal, unidentified fragments	19	380
F14	45	Cow, chicken, dog, large and medium sized mammal	12	206
F14	46	Cow, chicken, dog, large mammal	8	230
F14	47	Cow, pig, large, medium and small sized mammal, unidentified fragments	16	288
F15	33	Sheep/goat, large and medium sized mammal, large bird (chicken?)	9	80
F15	34	Pig	1	28
L3	2	Large mammal	3	16
L4	3	Horse and large mammal	2	398
L7	14	Horse, cow and large mammal	6	752
L7	25	Cow, large and medium sized mammal, unidentified fragments	15	282
L9	15	Horse, cow, pig, sheep/goat, chicken, large and medium sized mammal, unidentified fragments	26	942
L10	23	Chicken, large and small mammal fragments	3	38
L12	22	Cow, pig, chicken, large mammal, unidentified large bird fragments	14	142
L20	29	Large and medium mammal, unidentified fragments	5	36
L21	31	Large mammal and unidentified fragments	2	12
L22	37	Pig, sheep/goat, large, medium and small mammal fragments	11	104
L25	38	Unidentified fragments	1	2
L26	39	Cow, pig, large and medium sized mammal fragments	10	316
L27	42	Cow, pig and large mammal fragments	7	214

			Total	188	4908
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Table 9 Distribution of animal bone by number of pieces and weight (g)

Small finds (Appendix 2)

by Laura Pooley

Six small finds were recovered from TP4. Four came from the backfill of the 1931 excavation trench (F6) and two from Roman layers (L7 and L9). There were four copper-alloy finds consisting of two late Roman, 4th century, nummi (SF1, SF3), a post-medieval dress-pin (SF2) and a fragment of copper-alloy wire (SF4). In addition was a piece of antler off-cut (SF5) and a rubbing-stone (SF6).

SF1 (9) F6, 1931 excavation trench. Small irregular-shaped copper-alloy coin, a 4th century *nummus* with radiate bust looking right, clipped, 11mm diameter, <1g. 4th century.

SF2 (9) F6, 1931 excavation trench. Complete small copper-alloy dress pin of Crummy Type-2 (CAR 5, p8) – pins with a head where the wire has been wrapped round the shaft and shaped to globular form (see *ibid*, no.452), 25mm long, 1mm diameter, 1g. Post-medieval, probably 16th/17th century.

SF3 (11) L9, consolidation/accumulation layer. Small copper-alloy coin, probably a 4th century *nummus*, illegible, clipped, 7mm diameter, <1g. 4th century.

SF4 (9) F6, 1931 excavation trench. Broken piece of curved copper-alloy wire, 12mm long, 1.5mm diameter, 1g.

SF5 (10) F6, 1931 excavation trench. Off-cut section from an antler tine with two sawn-edges, one straight, one diagonal, 95mm long, 85mm wide, 35mm thick, 146g.

SF6 (12) L7, accumulation layer. Rounded oblong stone, with a long flat face which has a slightly polished surface, possibly used as a rubbing stone, 130mm long, 59mm wide, 40mm thick, 620g.

6 Environmental results (Appendix 3)

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives

Six samples were presented for assessment. They were taken from Roman ditches, made-ground, trample and a drain.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods

170 litres of soil samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology,

University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separated from charcoal flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charcoal flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results (Appendix 3)

The plant remains

Charcoal flecks too small to identify were present in each sample. Charcoal fragments of identifiable size were found in samples 1, 3, 5, and 6 with most in sample 3 (F10 Roman ditch).

Non-charcoal charred plant remains were scarce. One Celtic/horse bean (*Vicia faba* L.) was found in sample 2 (L10 Roman made-ground) and one poorly preserved fragment of grain tissue was found in sample 5 (L22 Roman accumulation).

No waterlogged or mineralised plant remains were found.

Uncharred, possibly dried-waterlogged seeds of dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis* L.) were found in samples 2 and 5. This is a native plant with species common in a range of grassland habitats (Stace 2010) but may be intrusive given the number of terrestrial snails and root/rhizome fragments in these samples meaning that bioturbation is likely.

Fauna

Abundant numbers of terrestrial snails were found in samples 2 and 5. A fragment of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell was found in sample 6 (F7 Roman tiled-drain). Earthworm cocoons were found in low to moderate numbers in samples 1,2,3 and 5.

Inorganic remains

No inorganic artefactual remains were found in any sample.

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. On microscopic examination it was clear that bioturbation was likely due to the presence of abundant root/rhizome fragments, terrestrial mollusca and low to moderate quantities of earthworm cocoons, particularly in samples 2 and 5.

Quality and type of preservation

The charred plant remain assemblages in these samples were dominated by charcoal fragments. Other charred plant remains were scarce with only one identifiable to genus or species. Only charcoal fragments have the likelihood to be of archaeobotanical value in these samples. Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under '...reducing conditions...' where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by waterlogging or mineralisation. The uncharred plant remains could be dried-waterlogged or modern.

Significance of the samples and recommendations for further work

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for central and southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning solitary or scarce charred plant macro-remains such as those in samples 2 and 5 at this site to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

It is useful to know that a charred bean was found in sample 2 but we cannot be completely sure it is Roman.

No further work is recommended on these samples unless charcoal identification is required. All of the plant macro-remains present have been identified and recoded in this report.

7 Discussion

TP1-TP3 (Fig 9)

Test-pits TP1-TP3 revealed significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. In TP1, nearest to the Queen Street frontage, were the remains of wall foundations and demolition debris associated with the Theatre Royal, which was built in the 19th century and burnt down in September 1918. Of a post-medieval date, two deep pits dated to the late 17th-early 18th century (F11) and the 16th-early 17th century (F12) are probably associated with buildings which would have once fronted onto Queen Street. These pits are probably associated with medieval/post-medieval accumulation layer (L18), although a scarcity of medieval and post-medieval layers over this whole area (TP1-TP3) may suggest that the development site had been subject to some ground clearance works. This most probably occurred when the bus depot was built in the early 20th century as all of these trenches are located inside the building.

Also of a post-medieval date, c mid-17th century, is ditch F10(TP2)/F14(TP3). Although the majority of finds recovered from this ditch were Roman, a single mid-17th century clay pipe stem was recovered from F14. The ditch is likely to be associated with Royalist defensive positions behind the town wall during the English Civil War (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

The only dating evidence recovered from metallised surface L23 (TP1), F13 (TP2) and F18 (TP3) were fragments of probable Roman CBM. This surface is likely to be a later Roman street (Road 2) that was constructed after the rampart was built and ran parallel to the inside of the Roman town wall (see Fig 2 and 9). The southern edge of the street could not be determined as it had been cut away by Roman ditch F15 and post-medieval ditch F10/F14. This metallising was identified at a depth of 20.93-20.67m AOD.

A mid-late Roman ditch (F15) had cut through metallised surface L23/F13/F18 in TP2. The ditch had also cut a pit (F19), which had cut an earlier posthole (F20). The post-pad in posthole F20 would suggest the existence of some form of structural remains in the earlier Roman period.

It is possible that mid 1st-2nd century Roman layers L27 (TP1) and L21-L25 (TP2) are associated with an earlier Roman road (Road 1, see Fig 9) that is known to have existed below the Roman rampart (Philip Crummy, pers comm). These layers were

identified at a depth of 20.69-20.23m AOD. Layer L20 in TP2 dating from the mid 2nd-3rd century may be part of the Roman rampart sealing Road 1. No other trace of the rampart was positively identified within these test-pits. A 'gravelly burnt layer' found in a 1931 archaeological trench further to the east (see below) (Hull 1958, p54, fig 22) is likely to be part of Road 1 (Philip Crummy, pers comm). This layer was recorded at between c 3-8m north of the town wall and was sealed by the Roman rampart.

Evidence from TP1-TP3 would suggest that significant archaeological horizons associated with the Roman town wall, rampart and street/road layout have survived on the development site.

TP4-TP5 (Fig 10)

Test-pits TP4-TP5 revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman remains. Cut through both test-pits was Hull's 1931 archaeological trench (F1 and F6). The trench was excavated after land formerly belonging to the Soldier's Home was acquired by the Eastern National Omnibus Company to be turned into a large concreted court to the rear of the bus depot. The trench was recorded as being approximately 20ft (6m) east of bastion 5 and ran north from the town wall for a distance of c 54m (Hull 1958, p54, Fig 22, p216, Fig 105). Within the trench were significant Roman remains including nine wall foundations with some associated floors, a tiled drain and the remains of the Roman rampart (*ibid*). The location of this trench had previously been estimated based on the available evidence but based on this current evaluation would appear to be located c 6.5m further to the east (see Fig 10).

The realignment of Hull's trench reveals that his east-west drain was probably located immediately to the south of TP4, and it is highly likely that our NNW/SSE drain branched off from it. Furthermore, two Roman wall foundations from Hull's trench should have been located within TP5. We can be fairly certain that wall foundation F2/F4 represents the remains of one of these foundations, but it is unclear what happened to the second.

Projecting the Roman street to the east would indicate that all of the structural features identified in Hull's trench were part of buildings located on the north-side of the street frontage (Road 2). If L17 (TP4) and L15 (TP5) from this evaluation do prove to be mortar and clay floors respectively, then they will also be associated with the wall foundations and buildings identified by Hull. Likewise layers L10-L13 in TP4 appear to be layers of surfacing material.

Evidence from Hull's 1931 archaeological trench and this evaluation show that significant Roman structural remains do survive on the development site to the north of the Roman street (Road 2).

8 Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Four boxes

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1106)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2017.41.

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Distribution list

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Essex Historic Environment Record



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Appendix 1 Finds list

CBM=ceramic building material; OR=orange/red; F/MS=fine/medium sand; RBT=Roman brick/tile; RI=Roman imbrex; RB=Roman brick; RT=Roman tile; SV = same vessel

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date		
TP5	F1	1931 Trench	5	Clay pipe	p-med		2 stem pieces bore 2mm & 3mm		2	6			c L17/18C		
			5	Pot	Rom	DJ				1	2			M1-2/3C	
			5	Pot	p-med	40		Horizontal handle piece, glazed upper surface			1	36			c L16-E18C
			5	Pot	Rom	98		Hard fired red fabric, possibly flowerpot, probably mod			1	2			P-med/mod L18-E20C
TP5	F2a	Robber trench	5	Pot	Rom	GX			1	26			Rom		
TP5	F3	Pit	6	Pot	Rom	CH				1	16			L3-4C	
			6	Pot	Rom	GX				2	32			Rom	
			6	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	combed		RFT		1	32			Rom
			6	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS			RBT		2	28			Rom
TP4	F6	1931 Trench	13	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	38mm thick, used mortar on surface	RB		1	384			Rom	
			13	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Tessera cubes, one has mortar from use	Tess		2	48			Rom	
			13	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI		1	122			Rom	
			13	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	19mm thick, probably RT	RBT / RT		1	380			Rom	
			13	Pot	Rom	CH				1	4			L3-4C	
			13	Pot	Rom	GX				1	10			Rom	
			13	Nail		fe	Head (round, flat) & shaft, not complete – length 50mm			1	14				
	F6 sx1	1931 Trench	7	Shell			oyster			3	156				
			7	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Small-medium size broken pieces	RI		11	1382			Rom	
			7	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thicknesses – 15, 15, 17, 18 & 22mm, part of a circular signature, relatively thin bases suggest probably mid 2C+	RT		6	1224			Rom -M-L2C+	
			7	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	3 pieces, 2 possibly affected by heat (hearth tiles?) but not very clear, 35-40mm thick	RB		3	688			Rom	
			7	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Small-medium tessera cubes, two have evidence of use*	Tess		3	46			Rom	
			7	CBM	Rom	C	Small piece, relatively thin, possibly imbrex or tegula	RBT		1	32			Rom	
			7	Pot	Rom	AJ	Small piece, probably Spanish amphora	D 20?		1	22			M1-2C	
7	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc including small jar rim c 2C+?			11	104	25		Rom 2C+?				
TP1	F9	Wall foundation	16	CBM	mod	OR MS	230 x 105 x 65mm, red brick, not frogged	BR		1	2780			19-E20 C	
TP2	F10	Ditch	18	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	18mm thick, probably RT	RT		1	18			Rom	
			18	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	40mm thick, including corner piece, reused*	RB*		2	1088			Rom	

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
			18	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	1	50			Rom
			18	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Flange piece	RT	1	110			Rom
			18	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thine tile – probably Roman rather than PT – 14 & 16mm thick	RBT	2	146			Rom
			18	Pot	ROM	BASG	Probably Dr 27 cup	Dr 27	1	6			E-M2C
			18	Pot	ROM	DJ			1	8			M1-2/3C
			18	Pot	ROM	GA	Shoulder sherd	Cam 279	1	6			E2-4C
			18	Pot	ROM	GX	misc		3	24			Rom
			27	Shell		oyster			1	38			
			27	Pot	Rom	ON			1	6			M1-2/3C
			27	Pot	Rom	DJ	Rim from a collared flagon		1	8	30		M-L1C
			27	Pot	Rom	AA	Sherd probably from an amphora		1	16			Rom M1-2C
			40	Stone	(Rom)	septaria	Large heavy block, 210 x 200 x 160 mm, sub-rectangular/ square face, rough triangular section behind, possibly a wall facing block		1				
TP1	F11	Pit	19	Glass	P-med/mod	BG	Thick blue-green glass, corner piece, edge rounded, matt/ abraded exterior		1	16			P-med/mod
			19	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	1	52			Rom
			19	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	22mm thick	RT	1	174			Rom
			19	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Broken/fragment piece	RB	1	108			Rom
			19	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Fragment of combed surface	RFT	1	4			Rom
			19	CBM	P-med/mod	R F/MS	Hard fired brick, 45mm thick, regular sides & sharp corners, probably L17-E18C?		1	150			P-med/ mod (L17-E18C?)
			19	Pot	Rom	HZ			1	16			M1-2/3C
			19	Pot	Rom	GX			1	6			Rom
			19	Pot	Rom	GB	Bowl rim	Cam 37B	1	18	7		L2-3C
			19	Pot	med	13	Squared cooking pot rim (CAR 7 form B2 – fig 27), two other body sherds	Cooking pot	3	48	3		11-12C prob 12C
TP1	F12	Pit	32	Pot	Rom	GX	misc		5	56	9		Rom
			32	Pot	Rom	GA	dish	Cam 39A	1	12	4		2/3-4C
			32	Pot	p-med	40	Flanged large bowl/ pancheon, splash of glaze inside (CAR 7, fig 135.34)	Large bowl	1	56	6		16-E17C
			32	Shell		oyster			5	72			
			32	Stone		sep	One piece with white mortar		3	446			
			32	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RT	2	182			
			32	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	34 & 37mm thick	RB*	2	964			Rom
			32	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Misc broken pieces/fragments	RBT	18	828			
			32	CBM	med+	OR F/MS	Peg-tile, part of fixing hole, 11mm thick	PT	1	40			Med-p-med/mod (prob after c L13C)
			32	CBM	p-med	O MS	Soft orange relatively clean sandy fabric, width – 85-90 mm, thickness – c 45 mm,	Br	3	752			c 15-16C

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
							probably c 15-16C						
			32	Stone		septaria			2	512			
			32	Fe		fe	Small corroded piece of iron, probably a nail shaft piece		1	4			
TP2	F13	Metalled surface	35	CBM		OR F/MS	Abraded pieces, one 15mm thick, probably Rom, another silty brick/tile piece - ?Rom		4	170		*	?Rom
			35	Stone			Grey stone, flake sandstone/ quartzite appearance		1	2			
TP3	F14	Ditch	45	Pot	Rom	GP	Sherd with scored groups of vertical lines	Cam 330	1	8			L1-E2C (Trajanic)
			45	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc in jar Cam 268	Cam 268	4	88	27		Rom E/M2C+
			45	Pot	Rom	GP	Flat flange rim from a bowl in fine grey fabric, small part of upper body, unusual as row of dark brown dots painted around rim and bands of brown painted around rim edge and internal rim edge		1	8	7		Rom
			45	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thick 18 mm	RBT (RT?)	1	184			Rom
			45	Mortar			Lime mortar lump		1	186			
			45	Plaster			Painted wall plaster pieces with red painted surface		2	20			Rom
			45	Clay pipe	p-med		Foot & base of bowl probably Crummy Type 4 c 1640-1660 (CAR 5, 49)		1	8			Prob mid 17C (c 1640-1660)
			45	Char			Small quantity of charcoal		2	3			
			46	Slag			Grey & grey-reddish brown iron? Based slag, formerly gaseous (porous) relatively heavy slay with some sooth (melted run) surface areas – smithing waste?		1	384			
			46	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Combed, reused*	RFT*	1	126			Rom
			46	Mortar	mod		Hard, grey-white – looks like concrete based piece		1	52			mod
			46	Pot	Rom	DJ			1	18			M1-2/3C
			46	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc, includes bowl rim	Cam 243-244/246	3	56	15		Rom M1-E2C?
			46	Pot	Rom	BSW	Includes possible BB2 or BB2 type jar	Cam 278?	3	58	15		Rom M2C+?
			46	Pot	Rom	GX	Large storage-type jar rim, small slash indents around neck base		1	84	6		Rom M1-3C?
			47	Pot	Rom	BACG	Curle 23 (lacks the internal groove and trails) or Dr 35 & 36	Curle 23(?)	3	44	8		2C
			47	Pot	Rom	BAMV	rouletted	Dish (R)	2	26			E2C
			47	Pot	Rom	ON	Dish with curving wall	Cam 17	1	40	10		M1-E2C
			47	Pot	Rom	GB		Cam 37A	2	24	5		E2-L2C
			47	Pot	Rom	HZ		Cam 273	1	84	7		M1-2/3C

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
			47	Pot	Rom	DJ	buff		3	50			M1-2C
			47	Pot	Rom	DJ	Red, sandy	lid	2	20			M1-E2/2C
			47	Pot	Rom	AA	Grooved/rilled body, probably amphora, buff fabric, white slip		1	24			Roman
			47	Pot	Rom	BSW	Possibly slipped (Fabric WB) relatively fine, some sherds SV probably from a beaker or ?jar	Beaker?	9	128			1-2/3C
			47	Pot	Rom	BSW			2	16	8		Rom
			47	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc, including lid sherd, rim from narrow mouth jar/flask, rims jars/bowls		22	208	74		Rom 2C+
			47	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thick brick, corner piece, large cracks, probably acquired during firing(?) - piece up to 55mm thick	RB	1	838			Rom
			47	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Broken end burnt/sooted	RT	1	178			Rom
			47	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RT	1	228			Rom
			47	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Used tile – mortar traces, not over breaks	RI	1	292			Rom
			47	CBM	Rom	Pale OR F/MS		RBT	1	426			Rom
			47	Fired clay	Rom	Brownish-red	Large rounded oblong lump, small, flat area of ?surface remaining, brownish-red & brown-buff, fine-medium sand fabric, occasional small white flint/ quartz piece, length 125mm, width 80mm		1	500		(*)	
			47	Nail		fe	Small piece of corroded iron almost certainly a nail		1	12			
			47	Char			Small quantity of charcoal		4	3			
TP2	F15	Ditch	33	Shell		oyster			6	230			
			33	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	c 30mm thick	RB / RBT	2	290			Rom
			33	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	18mm thick	RT	1	108			Rom
			33	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Irregular fragments	RBT	10	150			Rom
			33	Pot	Rom	GX	misc	GX	9	86	13		Rom (mid-late Rom?)
			33	Nail		fe	Corroded, one 85mm (not complete), round flat head, two other nails/shaft pieces		3	80			
			33	Nail		fe	Long nail in pieces c 190mm, round flat head		1	70			
			34	Shell		oyster			4	24			
			34	Pot	Rom	HZ	rim	Cam 273	1	120	6		M1-2/3C
			34	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	1	160			
			24	Nail		fe	Round flat head (Manning Type 1B)		1	55			
TP3	F17	Resurfacing?	48	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RB*	1	130		(*)	Rom
			48	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	16mm thick	RT?	1	38			Rom
TP2	F19/F20	Pit/posthole	41	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	40mm thick	RB	1	162			Rom

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
			41	Pot	Rom	TZ	Stamp – as <i>CAR 10</i> stamp 105 (fig 4.26) – stamp of the group of potters <i>Sexti Valeri</i> , most of stamp survives, part of one edge/ corner missing – dating c L1C – fabric pink-red core with buff margins & surfaces	Cam 195B	1	128	13		L1C
			41	Pot	Rom	BACG	Small cup	Dr 35	1	12	11		2C
			41	Pot	Rom	HZ			1	56			M1-2/3C
			41	Pot	Rom	GX	Inc lattice decorated body sherd (Fabric KX?)		3	30			Rom – E2C+?
			41	Stone		chalk	Small piece		1	6			
			41	Mortar	Rom	op sig	Thick piece of Roman mortar, flat top?, underside peeled from a brick/tile angled in relation to flat top – up to 75mm thick – probably from a wall		1	1352			Rom
TP4	L2	Accumulation	1	Tile	p-med	delft	Lower part of a delft tile decorated with ship (blue on pale blue-tint background) spider head corner motif, width 120 mm thick 8-9mm	tile	1	98			C 18C
			4	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Corner piece from a box flue tile, cross cut scored face (15mm thick)	RFT	1	218			Rom
			4	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	20 & 22mm thick	RT	2	464			Rom
			4	CBM	P-med	OR FS	Piece from a large floor? tile. 20mm thick, brownish-orange appearance to surface	FT?	1	342			p-med
TP4	L3	Accumulation	2	Pot	Rom	BACG	Very worn almost completely illegible stamp (P...C/O...N...)? on kick base, Dr 31?	Dr 31?	1	66			2/L2C
			2	Pot	Rom	DJ	Base small jar/beaker?		3	18			1-2/3C
			2	Pot	Rom	GX	misc	Cam 268	6	44	10		Rom E2C+
			2	Pot	Rom	ON	Open form dish/bowl mica on both surfaces		1	6			M1-2/3C
			2	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	5	936			Rom
			2	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Part of combed face, remaining side thick tile c 23-25mm (used)	RFT	1	612			Rom
			2	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RBT	1	210			Rom
			2	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	38mm thick, reused	RB*	1	610			Rom
			24	Clay pipe	p-med		Clay tobacco pipe stem, bore c 2-3mm		1	4			C 17C?
			24	Stone			Small sub-square piece of stone, possibly a mosaic cube – but no sign of use		1	2			
TP5	L4	Dump/ make-up	3	Pot	Rom	HZ			5	258			M1-2/3C
			3	Pot	Rom	DJ	buff		2	54			M1-2/3C
			3	Pot	Rom	EA	Beaker sherd, off-white fabric		1	10			M3-4C
			3	Pot	Rom	GX	Including sherds from lid & flanged bowl –	Cam 243-244/246	7	242	9		Rom
							Cam 243-244/246 (M1-E2C)						

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
TP4	L7	Accumulation	3	Pot	Rom	GA	Rim curving over (Cam 279B/C)	Cam 279	1	6	6		E2/3-4C
			3	Pot	Rom	DJ	Lid edge sherd in a relative fine buff fabric		1	4			Rom M1-2/3C?
			3	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	22mm thick	RT	1	520			Rom
			3	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	35mm thick, one reused*	RB*	2	2256			Rom
			14	Mortar		op.sig			1	186			Rom
			14	Tile	L med	O FS	Chamfered edge, dark upper and edge surfaces, 19mm thick		1	76			L med
			14	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	17mm thick	RBT/ RT*	1	28			
			14	Mortar	Rom	Misc	Broken brick/ tile frags & small pieces in hard, white, sandy mortar – probably Roman wall core material, very hard mortar	*	1	152			Rom
			14	Nail		fe	Pieces almost certainly from nails shafts		2	5			
			25	Pot	Rom	TZ	Buff fabric Col?	mortaria	1	251			M/L1-2C
TP4	L9	Consolidation/ Accumulation	25	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Lower cut-away, probably B6 (Warry 2006), 21mm thick, possibly had a hole on the tile, but may be damage or stone	RT	1	570			?2C
			25	Nails		fe	Length 40 & 45mm, round flat head		2	18			
			25	Shell		oyster			2	54			
			15	CBM	Rom	C	Cream fabric, 25mm thick	RT	1	610			Rom
			15	CBM	Rom	OR FS	Grey core	RFT(C)	1	138			Rom
			15	CBM	Rom	OR FS	25mm thick	RT	1	108			Rom
			15	CBM	Rom	C	c 30mm thick	RB	1	124			Rom
			15	Pot	Rom	EA	Sherd probably from a beaker		1	6			M3-4C
			15	Pot	Rom	GB		Cam 37A	2	36	7		E2-L2/E3C
			15	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc including bowl rim		3	60	16		Rom 2C+?
TP4	L10	Accumulation/ make-up	15	Pot	Rom	TZ	spout	Cam 498/499	1	134	7		2-E3C
			15	Pot	Rom	AJ	Rim, fine grey & brown-red fabric, white surface wash/slip, similar to Martin-Kilcher rim 35 (Peacock & Williams fig 66) dated c m2-e3C		1	266	17		2/M2-E3C
			15	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thick 30 mm – re used	RB*	1	314			Rom
			23	Pot	Rom	CH	Probably Hadham rather than Oxford		1	8			L3-4C
			23	Pot	Rom	BSW			1	14			Rom
			23	Pot	Rom	DJ	Buff fabric – possibly AA but quite fine fabric		1	12			Rom M1-2C
			23	Pot	Rom	GX	Misc including Cam 268 jar rim	Cam 268	10	156	19		Rom E/M2C+
			23	Stone		marble	Small piece, white with translucent grey appearing streak(s) – thick – 15 mm; one surface slightly smoother, probably a marble veneer		1	54			
			23	Glass			Translucent white appearance, some flaking of surfaces and possibly was clear glass, flat, with small regular scores in one surface		1	1			Rom?

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
							at sherd edge						
			23	Mortar	Rom	Misc	Broken brick/ tile frags & small pieces in hard, white, sandy mortar – probably Roman wall core material, very hard mortar		1	188			Rom
			23	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Tile with part circular signature, reused*, 18mm thick	RBT (RT)*	1	128			Rom
			23	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Pieces/ fragments	RBT	4	116			Rom
			23	Stone	Rom	septaria	frags		2	14			
			23	Shell		oyster			3	36			
			23	Nail		fe	Head (small, round, flat) & shaft, bent, near complete – length 55mm		1	14			
TP4	L12	Surfacing material	22	CBM	ROM	OR F/MS	Tesserae cubes – used*	Tess*	2	64			Rom
			22	Pot	Rom	EA	Decorated with thick barbotine trail indicating large pot(?)		1	16			M3-M/L4C
			22	Pot	Rom	DJ			1	4			M1-2/3C
			22	Pot	Rom	HZ			2	124			M1-2/3C
			22	Pot	Rom	AJ	Large body sherd, finer grey with cream surface wash fabric		1	390			2-E3C
			22	Pot	Rom	WB		jar	2	20			Rom
			22	Pot	Rom	GX	misc	Cam 268 Cam 39	10	64	24		E/M2-3/E4C
			22	Pot	Rom	CZ	Folded beaker base		1	58			L2-3C
			22	Pot	Rom	GB	Edge from chamfered dish/bowl		1	12			E2-3C
			22	Pot	Rom	WB	Rim and body sherd with fine vertical line burnished on surface (faint and barely visible – reminiscent of the spirals burnished on some jars)		2	36	6		Rom
			22	Pot	Rom	GX	Base edge sherd		1	36			Rom
			22	Stone		septaria	Some mortar on some pieces		3	1606			
			22	Stone		Green sand	Greensand ragstone (Kent ragstone?)		2	1664			
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Small piece, almost certainly part of a tessera cube (used)	Tess	1	8			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Combed, used	RFT	3	292			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	7	810			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Including three corner pieces from a <i>Pedalis</i> or thin <i>Lydion</i> tile(s), 30-35mm thick, RB 40mm thick, RB 30mm thick – some pieces reused*	RB*	7	1888			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Pieces / broken fragments	RBT	9	258			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	End corner, lower cut-away Warry Type C5 (c M2-M3C), length 60mm, small half circle signature on tile front edge	RT	1	1002			Rom (c M2-m3C?)

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Flange piece and small piece from a Warry Type C or D lower cut-away	RT					Rom (2C+?)
			22	Mortar	Rom	Op sig	One rough, flat face with tile/brick impressions in the other, up to 50mm thick		1	188		(*)	Rom
			22	Mortar		mortar	Off white, up to 30mm thick		1	144		*	
			22	Shell		oyster			2	40			
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Combed, used	RFT	2	450			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	3	514			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	14-20mm thick, most c 20mm, including single dog paw print	RT	5	1772			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RBT	9	384			Rom
			22	CBM	Rom	C		RBT	1	40			Rom
			22	Stone		Grey rag	Small grey ragstone piece		1	96			
			22	Stone		septaria	Small piece		1	36			
			22	Pot	Rom	AA	Handle. Oval section, red, moderately sandy fabric	AA	1	96			
			22	Char			charcoal		2	4			
			22	Nail		fe	One 60mm (bent), other round flat head 70mm		2	36			
			31	Stone			Grey stone, small pieces sandstone/ quartzite appearance – possibly ragstone		2	8			
TP1	L14	Demolition debris	12	Tile	P-med/mod	OR MS	Tiles, O-R core, grey/black surfaces & margins, 2 pieces join, vertical regular edges, 20mm thick, appear heated/burnt		5	286			P-med/mod
			17	Pot	Rom		Tile chip		1	10			Rom?
TP1	L18	Accumulation	20	Pot	med	13	Cooking pot base		1	26			11-12C
			20	Pot	Rom	GX			3	36			Rom
TP2	L20	Rampart?	29	Pot	Rom	BAEG		Dr 33	1	22	11		M2-E3C
			29	Pot	Rom	GX	Including acute lattice jar possibly 2C+		3	16			Rom C 2C+?
			29	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	45mm thick	RB	1	100			Rom
			29	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RBT	7	178			Rom
			29	Shell		oyster			3	74			
TP2	L21	Layers associated with Road 1	31	Pot	Rom	DJ	Sherds from the body of a flagon		10	68			M1-2/E3C
			31	Pot	Rom	GX			4	14			Rom
			31	Shell		oyster			2	28			
			31	Nail		fe	Three nails, one 90mm, other two broken 60mm+, all irregular, round flat heads		3	84			
TP2	L22	Layers associated with Road 1	37	Pot	Rom	BXSG	Decorated sherd flake		1	2			M-L1C
			37	Pot	Rom	GX	Lid/shallow bowl rim with groove		1	12	6		Rom M1-2C?
			37	Shell		oyster			2	45			
			37	CBM	Rom	C		RBT	2	20			Rom
			37	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Fragments/ pieces, some cess-like material	RBT	4	148			Rom

Test-pit	Context	Type	Find	Find type	Find period	Fabric	Description	Form	No	Wt/g	EVE	Ab/B	Spot date	
							present on surfaces							
			37	Nail		fe	60mm round flat head, bent shaft		1	12				
TP2	L25	Layers associated with Road 1	28	Slag			Rounded irregular piece of orange medium density (nondescript) iron base slag		1	216				
			38	Shell		oyster			6	52				
			38	Pot	Rom	ON	Large flange from a bowl (see CAR 10 fig 5.21 no. 126)	bowl	1	26			Rom M/L1-2C	
			38	Pot	Rom	GX			3	8			Rom	
			38	Pot	Rom	DJ			2	10			Rom M1-2/3C	
			38	CBM		OR F/MS	Large square pieces, possibly large tesserae, but mortar spatter on one suggests reused lump	RBT	2	120				Rom
TP2	L26	Accumulation	39	Pot	Rom	HZ			2	200			M1-2C	
			39	Pot	Rom	GX	misc		4	28			Rom	
			39	Pot	Rom	TZ			2	212			M/L1-2/E3C	
			39	Pot	Rom	DJ	Small jar/beaker base		1	18			M1-2C	
			39	Pot	Rom	ON	3 body sherds (2 join) carinated bowl base, grooves & cordons – form probably similar to Cam 320 bowl (no examples in CAR 10)	Cam 320-type	3	28				M1-E2C
			39	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	35mm, 60mm thick	RB	3	538				Rom
			39	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	pieces	RBT	5	362				Rom
			39	Shell		oyster	frags		2	6				
TP1	L27	Layers associated with Road 1	42	Pot	Rom	GX	Bowl rim and sherds from 2 lids	Cam 243-244/246	4	92	9		M1-E2C	
			42	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS		RI	1	344				Rom
			42	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	20-22 mm thick	RBT	2	218				Rom
TP1	L28	Accumulation	43	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS F	25mm sandy with rare small flint (F)	RBT	1	444				Rom
			43	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS	Thick – 20 mm	RBT RT?	1	32				Rom
			43	CBM	Rom	OR F/MS F		RI	1	80				Rom
			43	Shell		oyster			1	8				
			43	Pot	Rom	FJ(R)	White ver. sand fabric with reduced surface – this is not the usual oxidised ware		1	8				M/L1-M2C
			43	Pot	Rom	GX			1	4				Rom

Appendix 2 Small finds list

SF	Trench no.	Context no.	Find no.	Context type	Material	Object type	Description	Qt.	Wt (g)	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Dia. mm	spot date
1	TP4	F006	9	1931 excavation trench	ae	?Coin	Small irregular-shaped copper-alloy disc, probably a late Roman nummus.	1	1				11	Late Roman
2	TP4	F006	9	1931 excavation trench	ae	Pin	Complete small copper-alloy dress pin, Crummy type 2 (<i>CAR 5</i>) – pins with a head where the wire has been wrapped round the shaft and shaped to globular form (see <i>CAR 5</i> , no. 452).	1	1	25			1	Post-medieval, probably 16th/17th century
3	TP4	L009	11	Consolidation / accumulation	ae	?Coin	Small irregular-shaped copper-alloy disc, probably a late Roman nummus.	1	1				7	Late Roman
4	TP4	F006	9	1931 excavation trench	ae	Wire	Broken piece of curved copper-alloy wire	1	1	12			1.5	-
5	TP4	F006	10	1931 excavation trench	Antler	Off-cut	Off-cut section from an antler tine with two sawn-edges, one straight, one diagonal	1	146	95	85	35		-
6	TP4	L007	12	Accumulation	Stone	Rubbing-stone	Rounded oblong stone, the long flat face has a slightly polished surface, possibly used as a rubbing-stone.	1	620	130	59	40		-

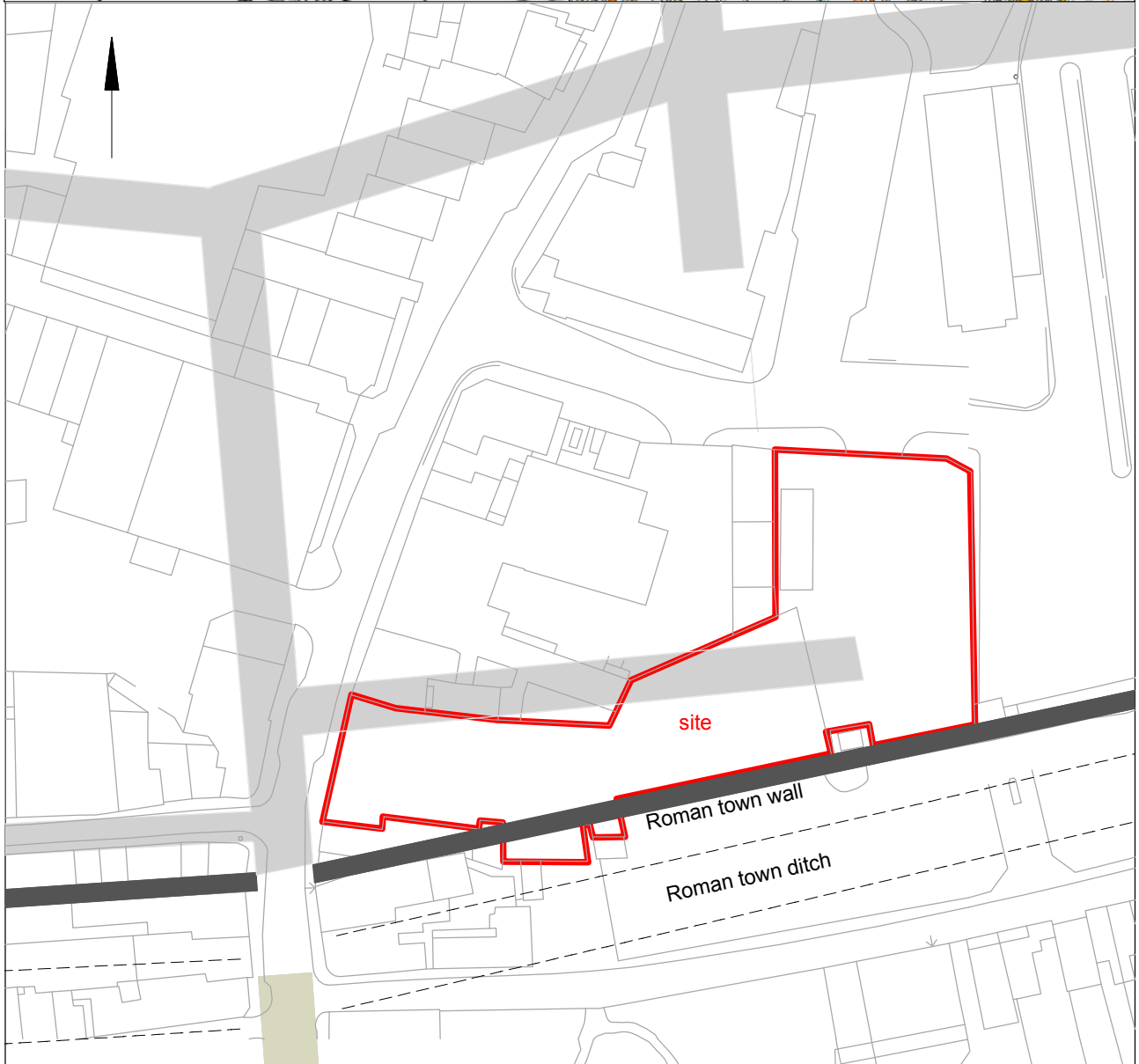
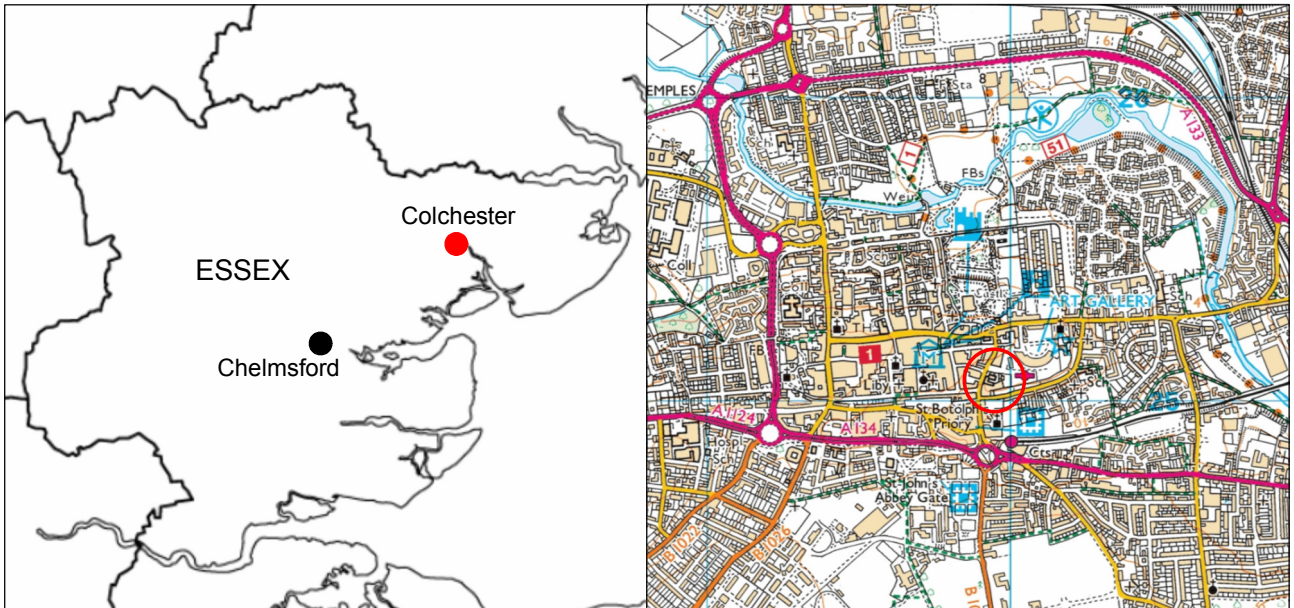
Appendix 3 Environmental results

Sample	Finds No.	Sample description	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Charred seeds			Charred grains			Charcoal <4mmØ	Charcoal >4mmØ	Dried waterlogged seeds			Modern root/rhizomes	Terrestrial mollusca	Marine mollusca	Earthworm cocoons	Comments
					a	d	p	a	d	p			a	d	p					
1	21	F10 Roman ditch, probably 3rd-early 4th/4th century	40	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2	26	L10 Roman made-ground, late 3rd-early 4th/4th century	20	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	2	1 horse/Celtic bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.), 1 uncharred dandelion seed (<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.)
3	28	F10 Roman ditch, probably 3rd-early 4th/4th century	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
4	30	L21 Roman accumulation/trample, mid 1st-2nd century?	20	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
5	36	L22 Roman accumulation, mid 1st-2nd century?	40	5	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	1 charred grain fragment, 1 uncharred dandelion seed (<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.)
6	8	F7, tiled-Roman drain	20	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) shell fragment

Key: a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; 3 = abundant >100]

d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]

p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

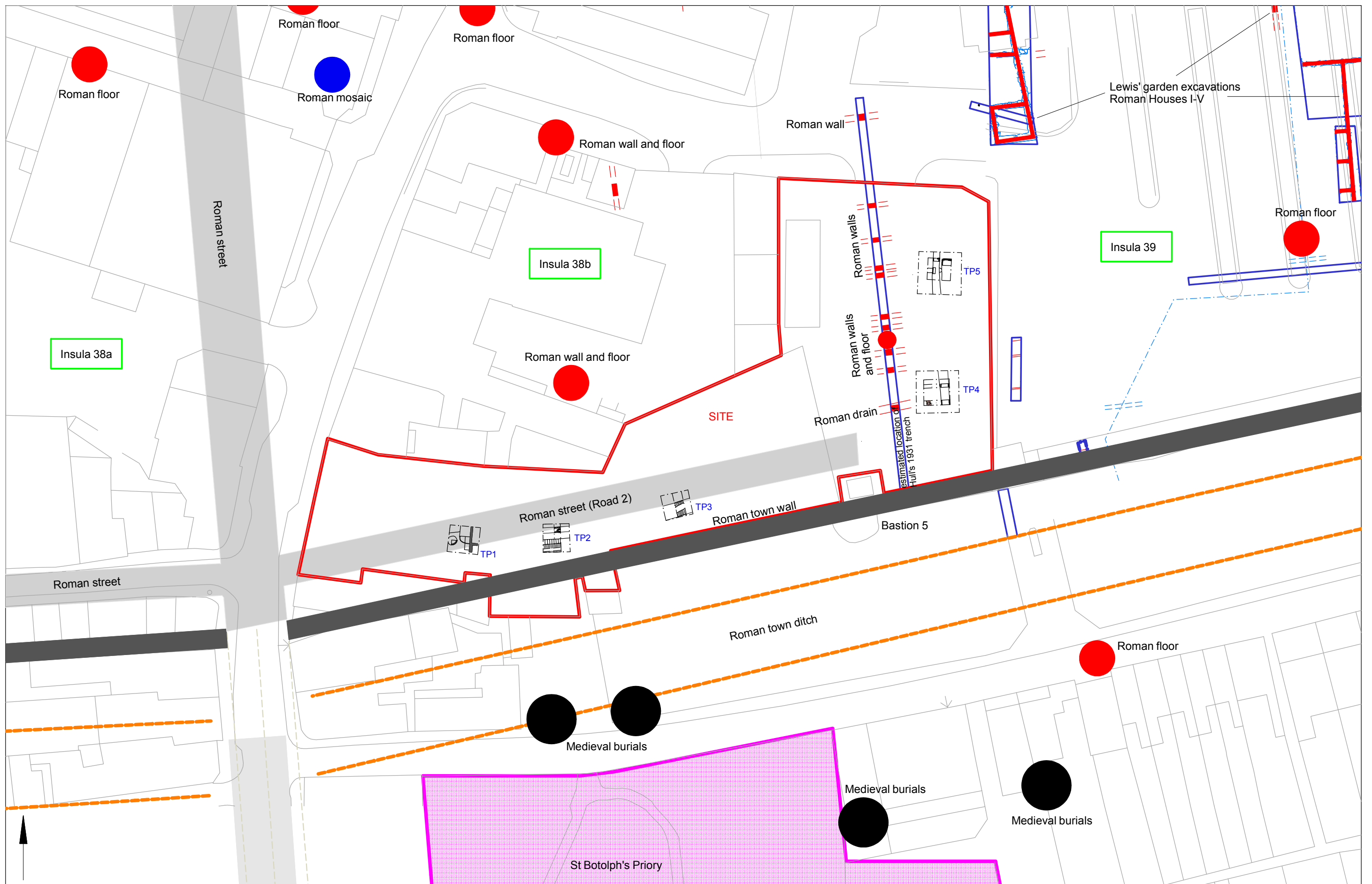


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Fig 1 Site location.

Roman street layout

0 50 m



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Fig 2 Development site shown in relation to nearby archaeological discoveries. The Roman town wall runs along its southern boundary. Roman streets shown in grey. To the north are the buildings of the Roman town. South of the town wall is the Roman town ditch (orange) and the Scheduled St Botolph's Priory with associated burials.



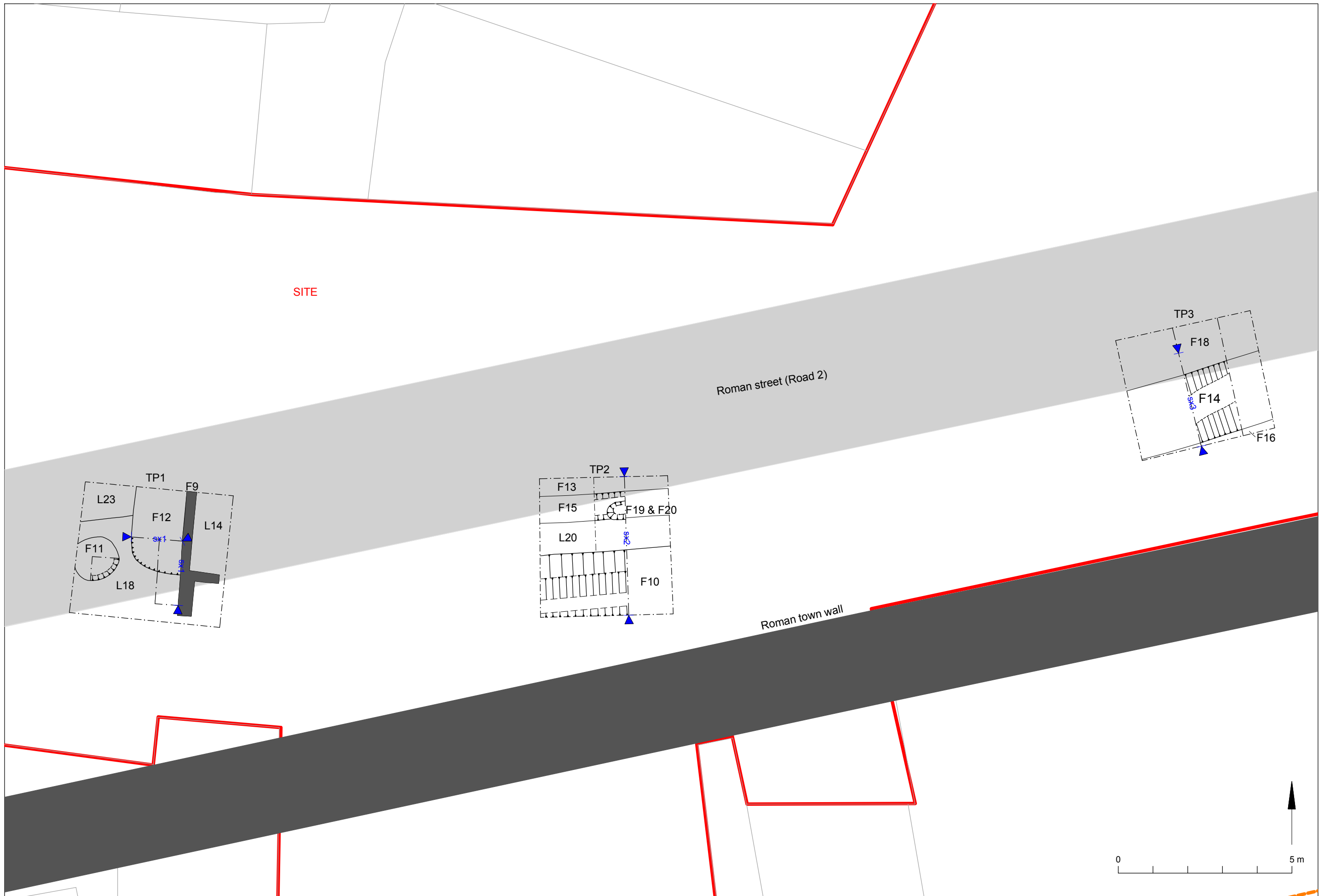


Fig 3 Results TP1-TP3

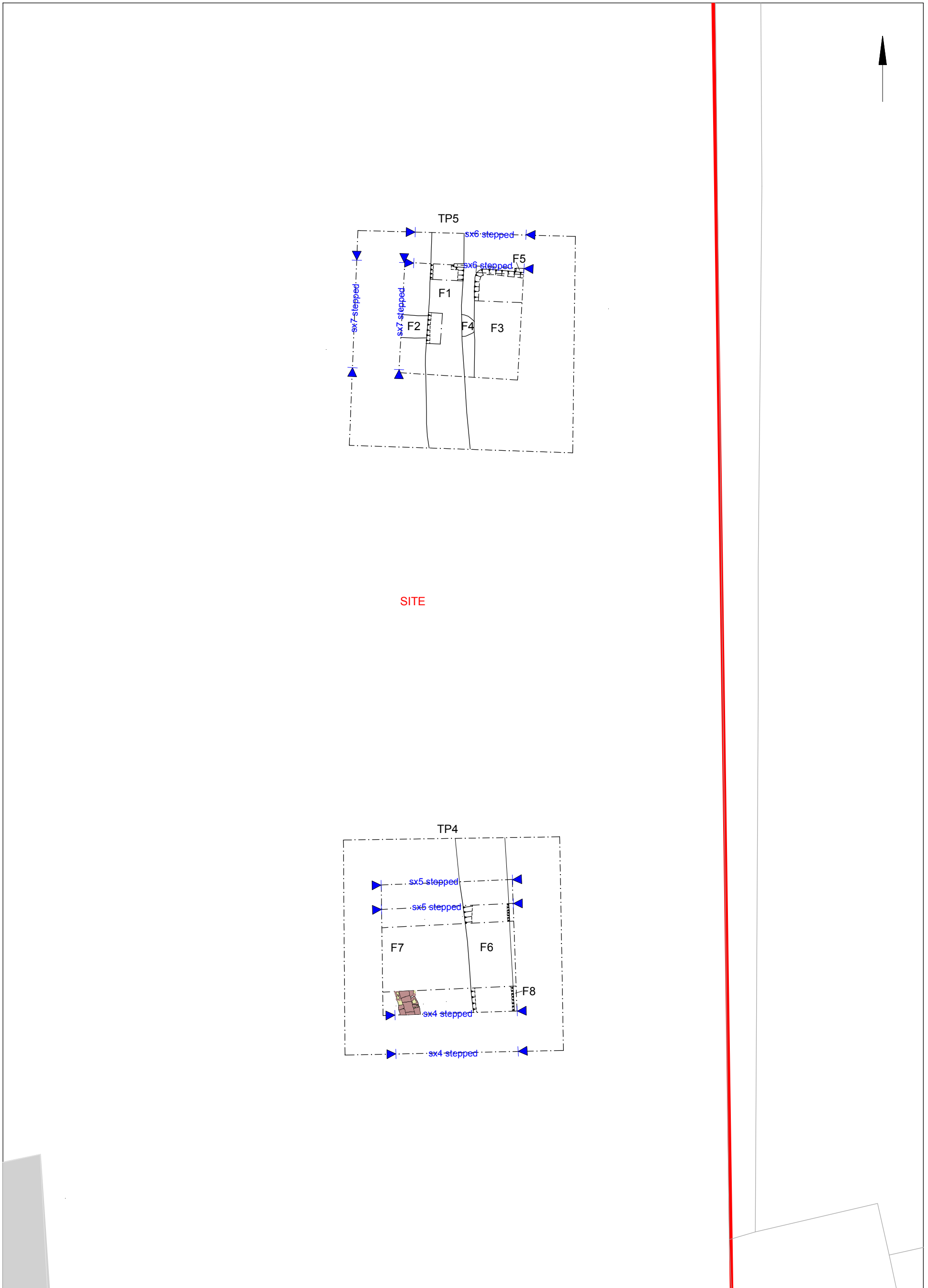


Figure 4 Results TP4-TP5, shown in relation to nearby 1931 and 1990 archaeological trenching

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Sx1: TP1

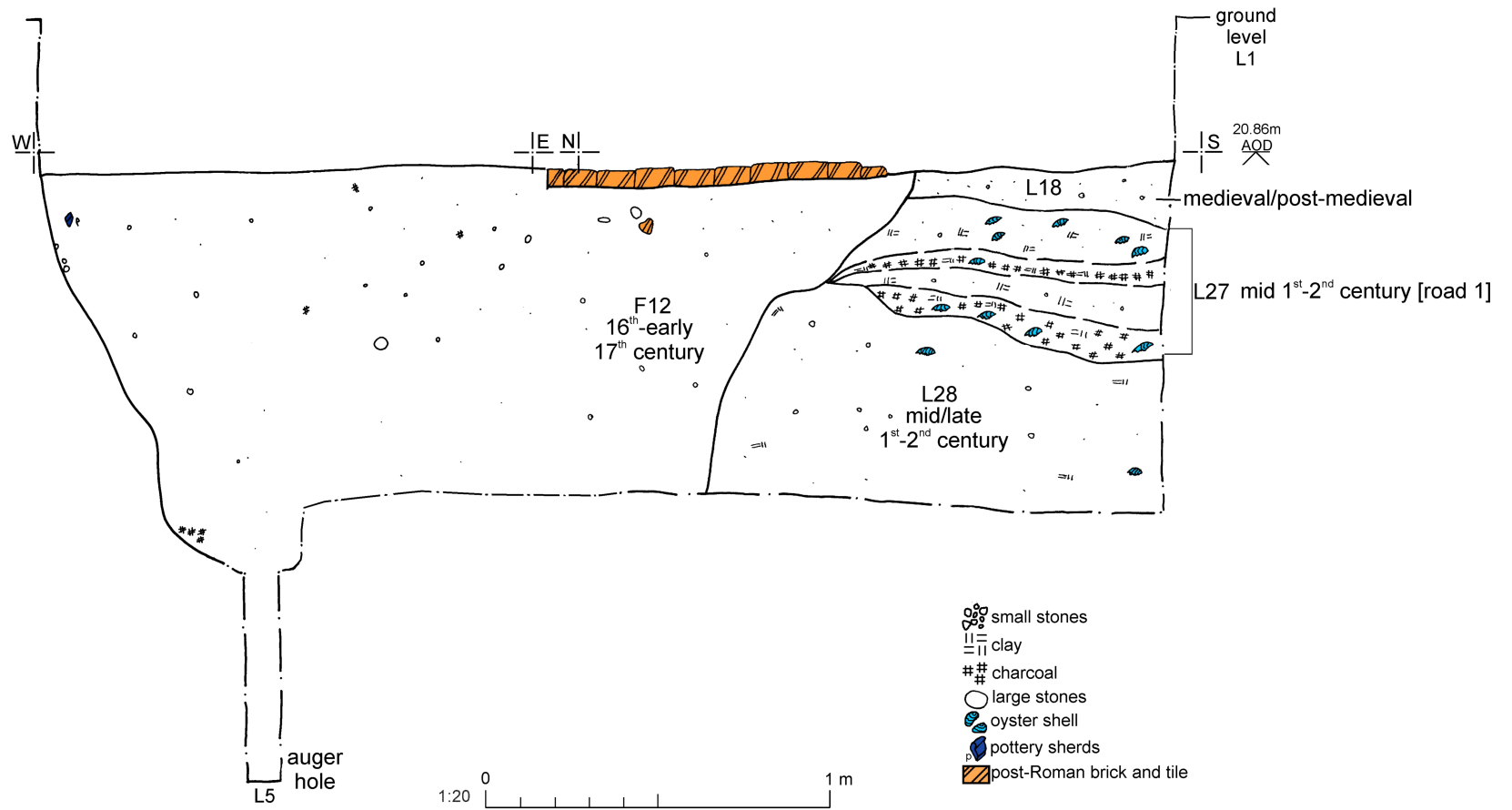


Fig 5 Section TP1

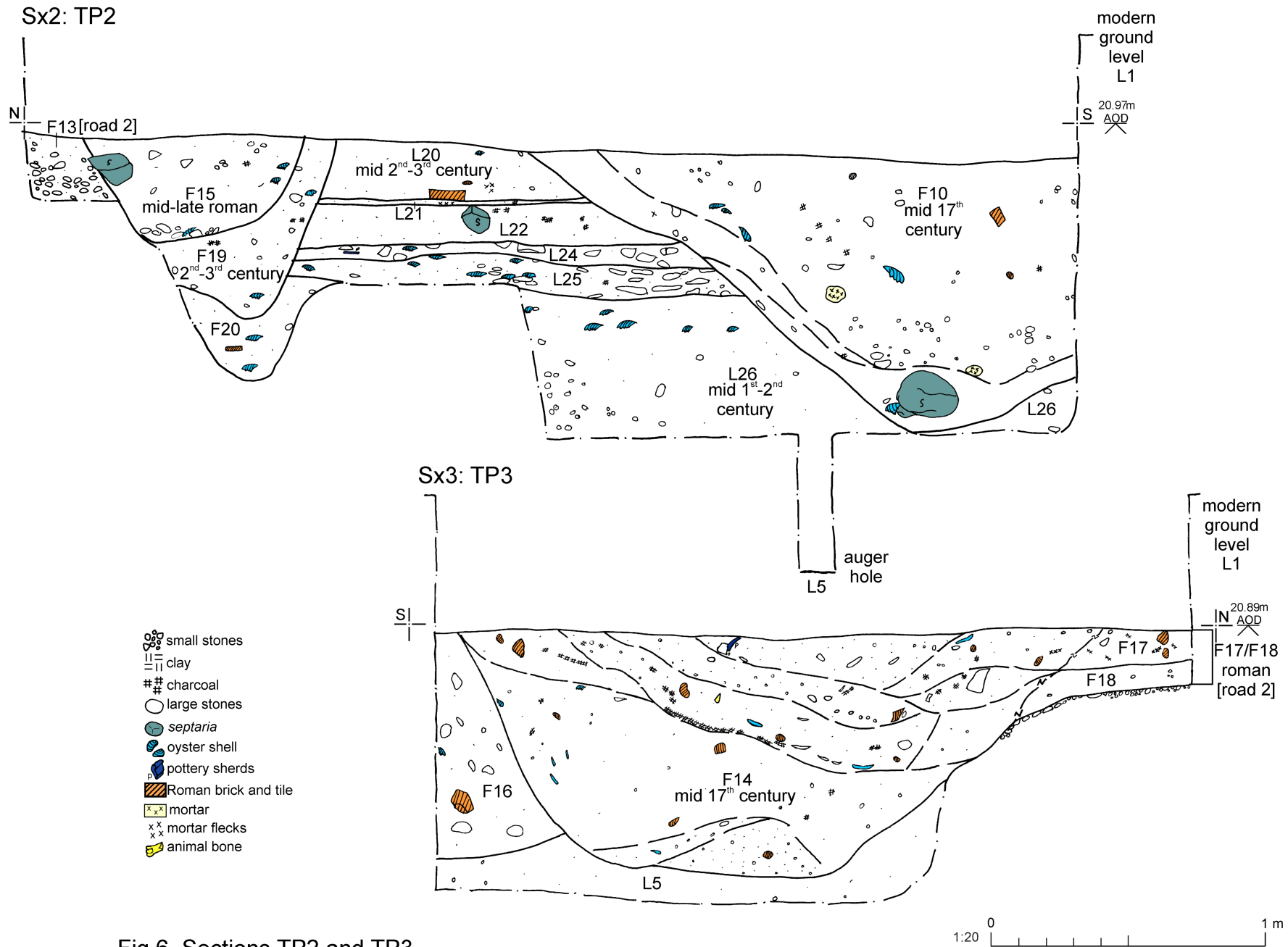
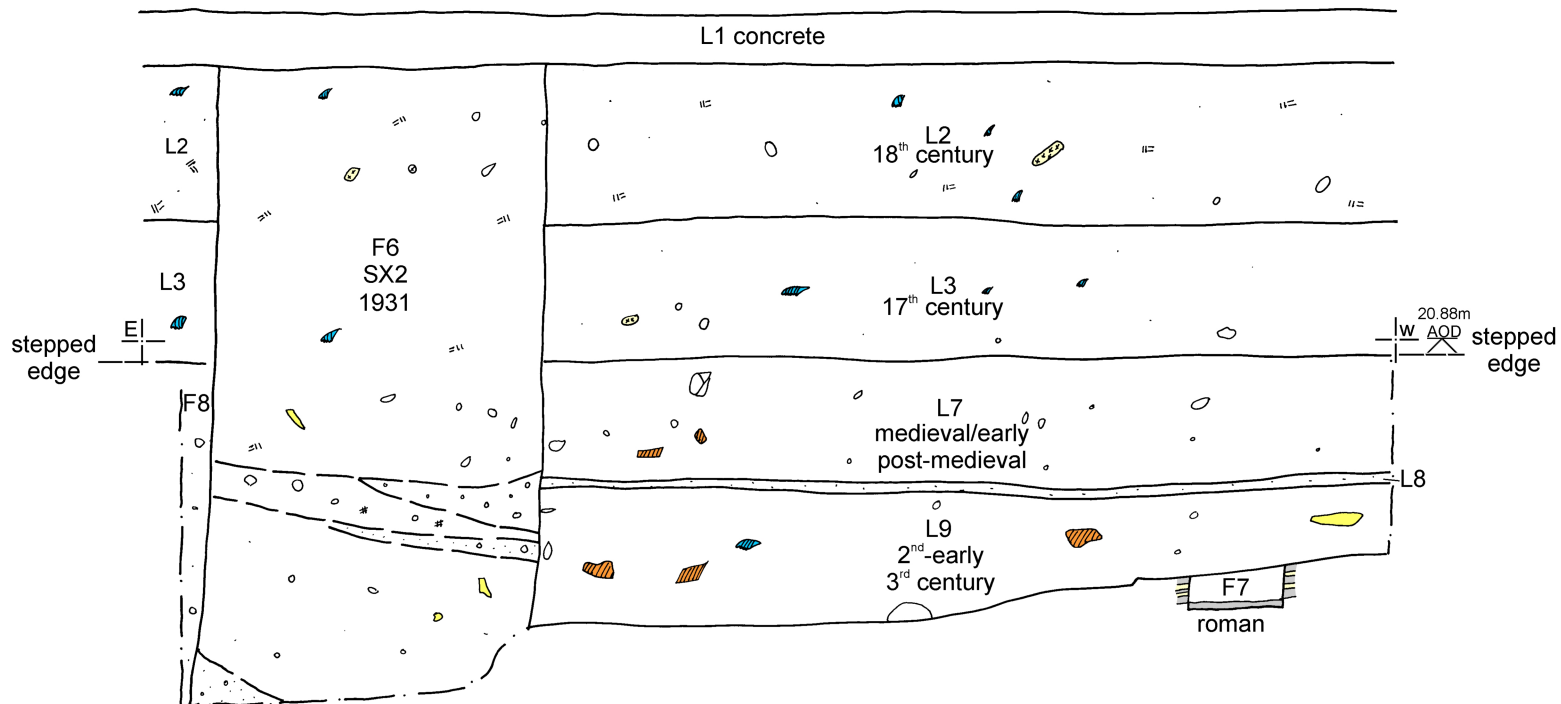


Fig 6 Sections TP2 and TP3

Sx4: TP4



Sx 5: TP4

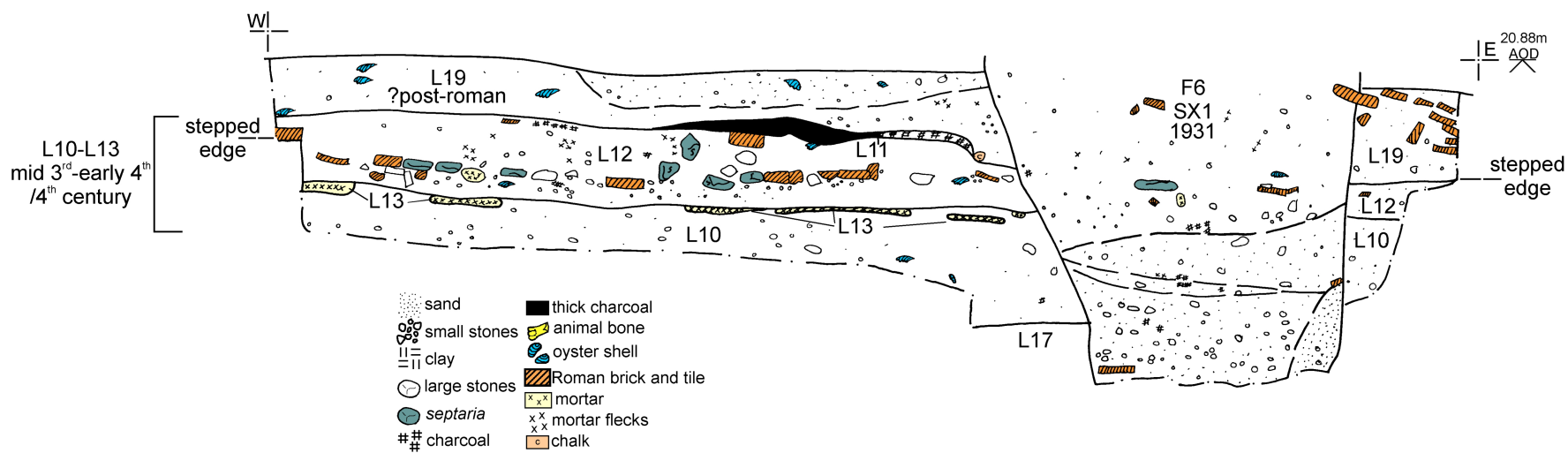
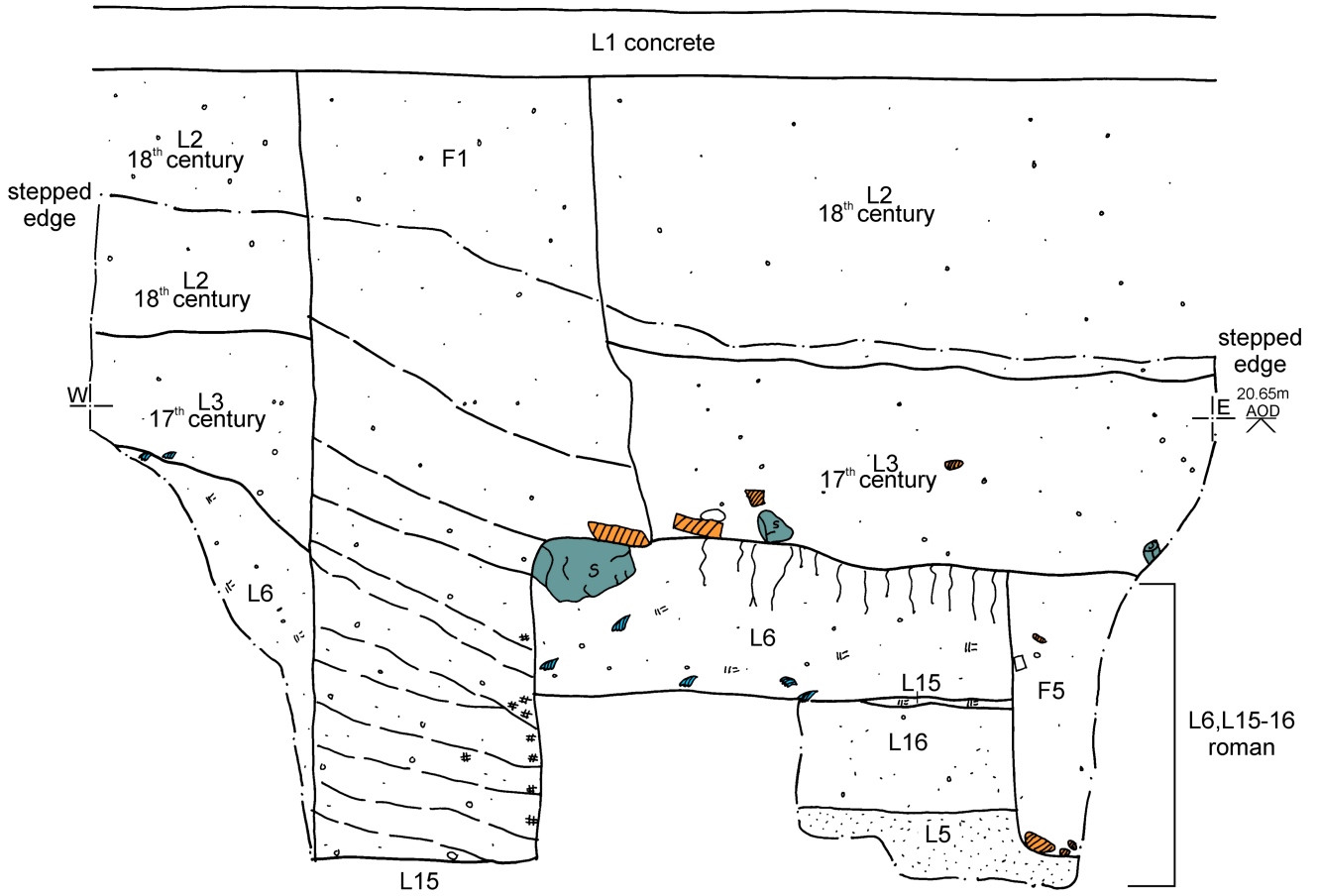


Fig 7 Sections TP4



Sx 6: TP5



Sx 7: TP5

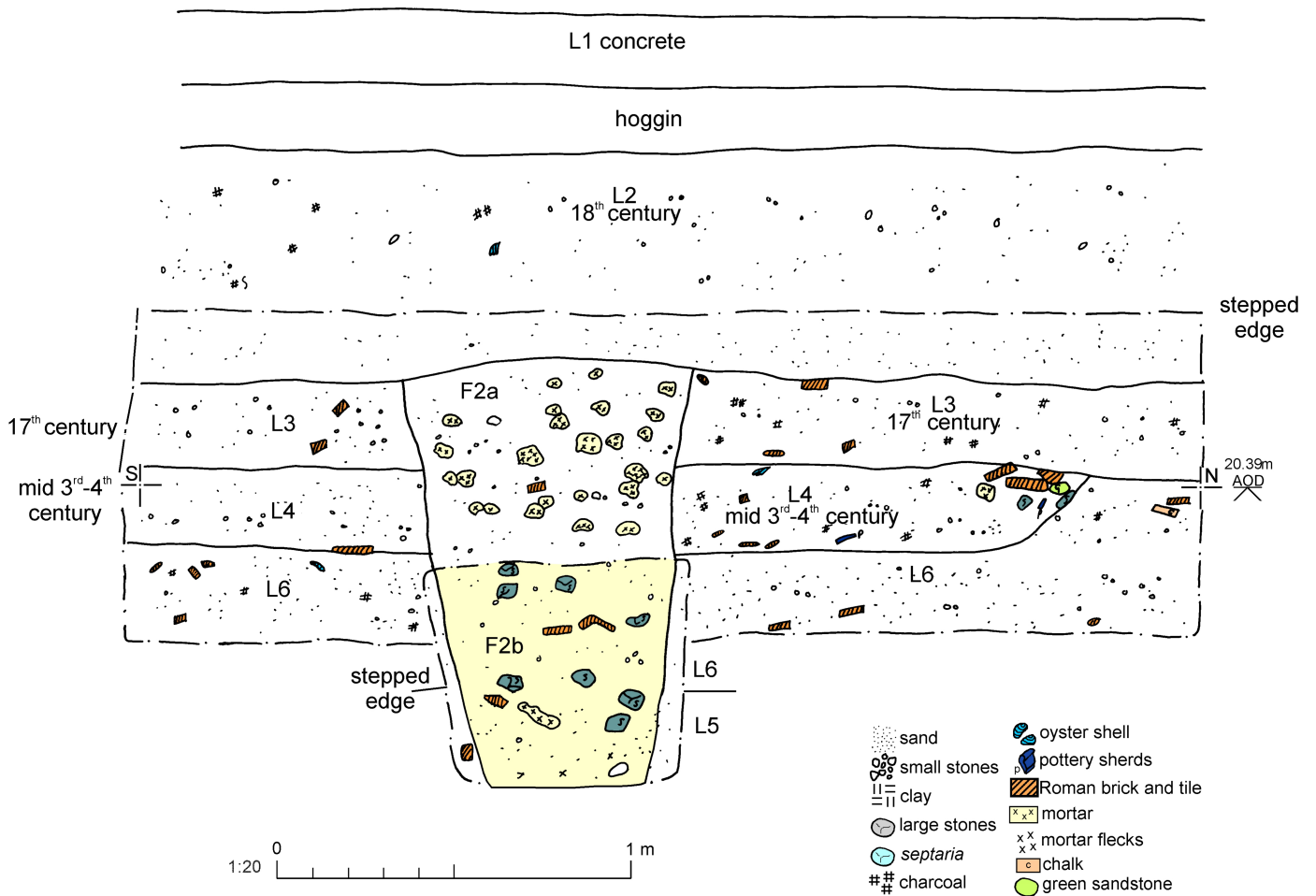


Fig 8 Sections TP5

- sand
- small stones
- clay
- large stones
- septaria
- charcoal
- oyster shell
- pottery sherds
- Roman brick and tile
- mortar
- mortar flecks
- chalk
- green sandstone

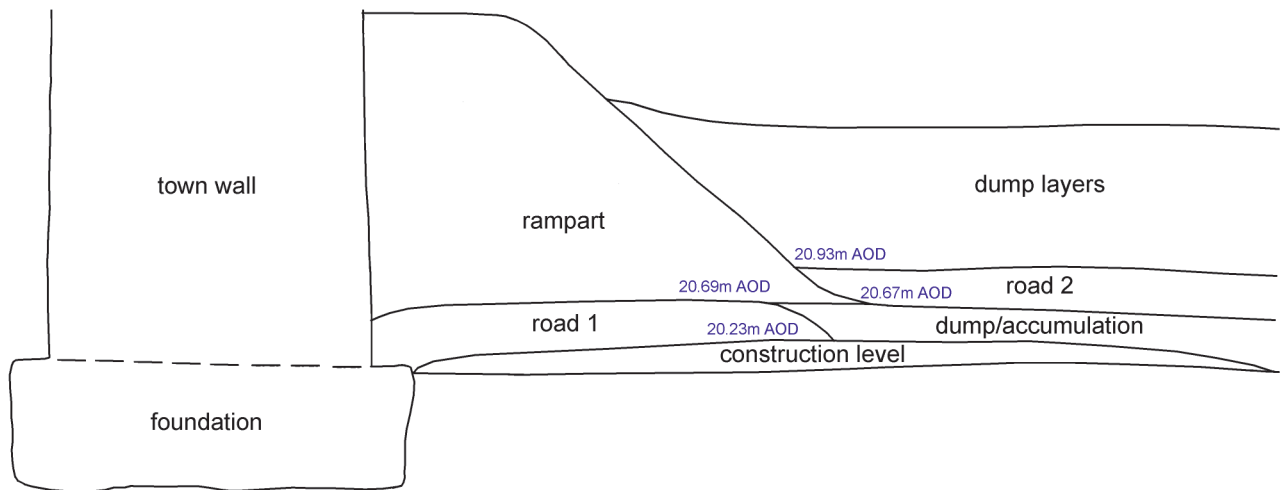


Fig 9 Sketch plan of the development of the town wall, rampart and street (road) layout (not to scale).

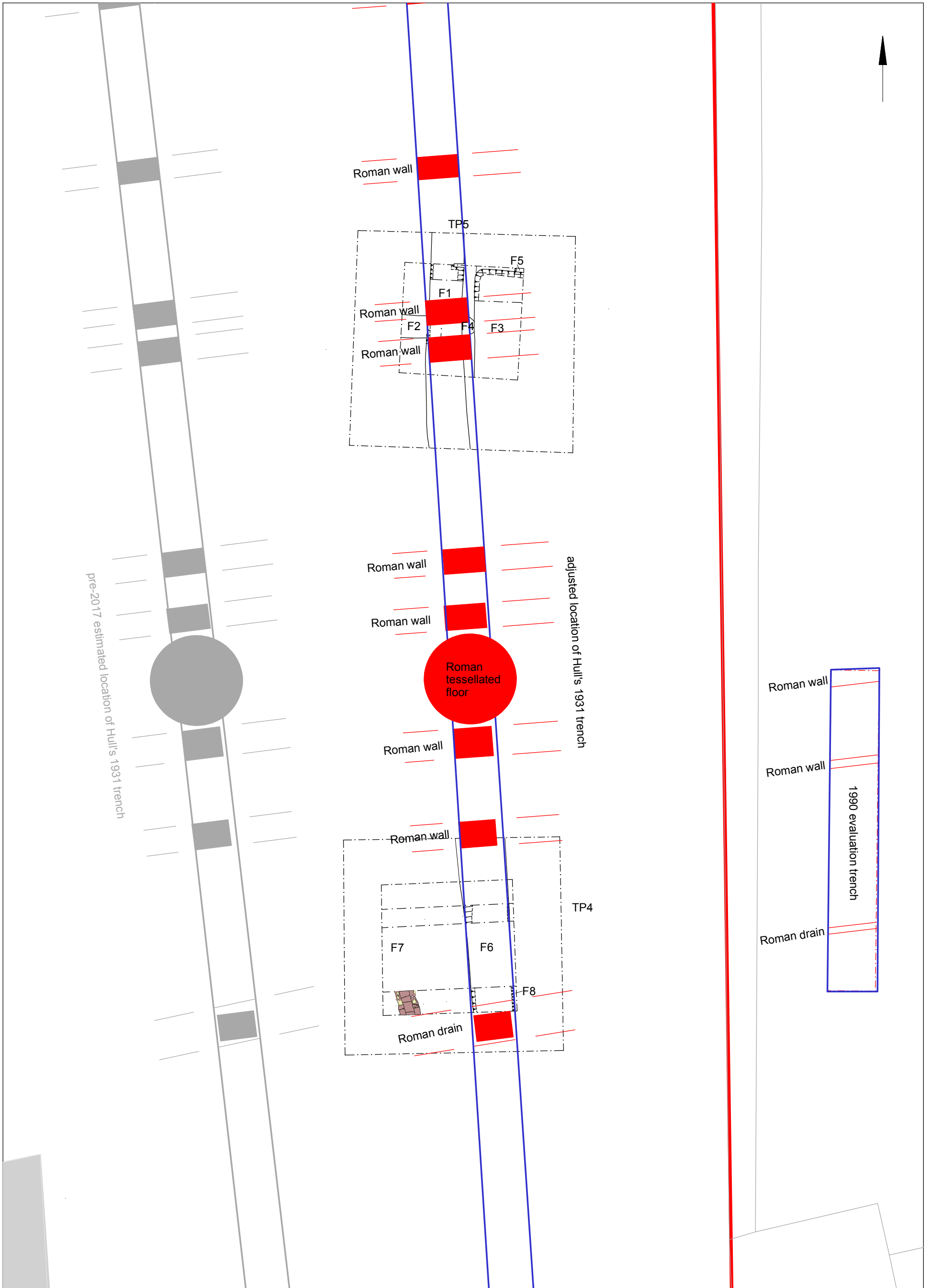


Fig 10 Results TP4-TP5, shown in relation to the estimated location of Hull's 1931 trench and adjusted location of this trench based on new evidence.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99949 25044 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/03g CHER ref: ECC3970 OASIS ref: colchest3-279512
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th-11th March 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.25ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.41	Funding source: Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER numbers:
Final report: CAT Report 1106	
Periods represented: modern, post-medieval, medieval, Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation (five test-pits) was carried out at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester as part of pre-planning application work associated with the redevelopment of the site. Located within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town, the development site is immediately to the north of the Roman town wall, to the northeast of the Southgate and in an area of known Roman buildings.</p> <p>Test-pits TP1-TP3 were excavated inside the bus depot building and revealed significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. Modern wall foundations and demolition debris was associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1918, and post-medieval remains consisted of two large pits and a ditch. The ditch is probably part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart, and a mid-late Roman ditch cut through an earlier pit and posthole.</p> <p>Test-pits TP4-TP5 revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman structural remains. Interestingly Hull's 1931 archaeological trench was identified cutting through both test-pits. TP4 revealed a tile-lined Roman drain aligned NNW-SSE which probably branched-off from Hull's E-W tile-lined drain (located immediately to the south of TP4). One of the Roman wall foundations identified by</p>	

Hull was also located in TP5 (F2/F4). In addition were two possible floor layers (L15 and L17) and other surfacing material (L11-L13).

Previous summaries/reports: Hull 1958

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

Keywords: Roman buildings, Roman drain, Roman street, Roman town wall, Roman rampart, Theatre Royal

Significance: **

Author of summary:
Laura Pooley

Date of summary:
June 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ

NGR: TL 9749 2259 (centre)

Planning reference: pre-application

Client: Howard Davis, Colchester Borough Council

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: [tbc](#)

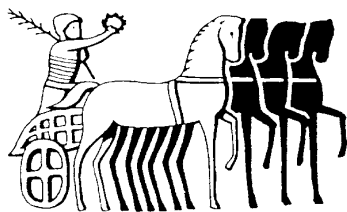
CAT project code: 17/03g

OASIS project id: colchest3-279512

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 16.3.2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies in Colchester town centre at the former bus depot on Queen Street (Fig 1). It also lies within the Roman town wall immediately to the north of a stretch of wall which runs along Priory Street and to northeast of the Southgate. The site is centred on NGR TL 9749 2259.

Proposed work

The development comprises the redevelopment of the former bus depot.

Archaeological background (Figs 2-3)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The former bus depot lies on the east side of Queen Street. It was built in 1920 on the site of the Theatre Royal, burnt down c 1917. It lies within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town, immediately to the northeast of the Southgate and to the north of the Roman town wall. In fact, one side of the building incorporates approximately 100m of the Roman town wall (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1003772).

The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The bus depot itself is in insula (town block) 38b of the Roman town. There have been no archaeological excavations inside the bus depot, the nearest being a trench dug by Rex Hull in 1931, 15m rear (east) of the depot, in which he found Roman wall lines and a drain. Other discoveries of Roman walls and floors within 20m reinforce the impression that insula 38b was built-up with Roman town houses, in the manner demonstrated by large-scale excavation at Lion Walk and Culver Street to the west. In fact, the bus depot straddles a Roman gravel street, and there are probably Roman buildings on both the north and south sides of this street. The only known and significant remains post-dating the Roman town-houses are the foundations of the Theatre Royal, which occupied this site before the bus depot. It is possible that the walls and foundations of the theatre survive below the depot. Likewise, it is the experience of recent large-scale excavations in the town that although modern infrastructure (such as the Bus Depot) undoubtedly has a detrimental effect on the buried remains, it does not always destroy them completely, and islands of preserved Roman deposits can survive between modern wall lines. Such may be the case with the bus depot.

A number of significant archaeological investigations have taken place within this southeast angle of the Roman town, within insulas 31-32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential.

To the north of the development site a mosaic pavement was uncovered in Lewis's garden (the grounds of East Hill House) in 1923 (UAD no 321). During further excavations in 1955

and 1958 (UAD 3069 and 3070; Richardson 1961) three Roman buildings were recorded with at least two structural phases. Two of the houses had hypocausts. From within the demolition and robbing material, painted wall plaster and red, white and grey tesserae were recovered. Later in 1959, a sewer trench dug between the 1955 and 1958 sites (UAD 3365; Richardson 1961) showed stretches of wall foundation and a tessellated floor, both on an east-west alignment.

Excavations in 1966 at the rear of no 5 Queen Street (UAD 3065; Dunnett 1971) identified a 2nd century Roman building with rubble foundations that had at least three structural phases. The later of these phases incorporated a hypocaust overlaid with a coloured mosaic floor. Observations made during groundworks for the Queen Street multi-storey car park (in 1970, UAD 3484), at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (in 1983-84; CAR 6, 375-8; UAD no. 3033) and the former bus station (in 2003; CAT Report 234; UAD nos. 3069-3070) revealed further Roman structural remains. Works at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre also revealed two Roman inhumation burials and a third displaced skull (Fig 1; CAR 6, 375-6), with evaluation trenches dug by CAT in 1990 (UAD 3577; Crossan 1990) revealing a Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave accompanied by a small beaker.

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the north (UAD no 307) and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (UAD no 3033). Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House. No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or on the site of the former bus station, although Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the boundary separating the grounds of East Hill House from the former bus station (Hull 1958, 51).

CAT has conducted several recent archaeological investigations at Firstsite, in the former bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House. Investigations in 2003 (CAT Report 234) and 2004 (CAT Reports 295 and 205) in the garden of the Minorities art gallery and in the bus station confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers. In 2006 a watching brief in the bus station (CAT Report 385) revealed late Roman robbing material or demolition debris. Investigations in the area between 2006 and 2008 (CAT Report 477) revealed a metalled street and parts of a Roman building presumed to be a town-house on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32. In 2009, an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (CAT Report 520).

A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey carried out on the former bus station to the north and northeast of the former bus depot revealed a number of rectilinear features probably associated with Roman buildings previously identified in the vicinity (Stratascan Ltd, 2016).

Planning background

The current archaeological work has been commissioned as part of the pre-application process.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for trenched archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2015). However, upon discussion with the CBCAA the requirements for work have been altered from those originally laid down in the brief.

Specifically, five test-pits will be excavated across the former bus depot site. Three measuring 4m by 4m will be located within the garage building with a further two measuring 6m by 6m to the rear.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

If significant or usual deposits are identified the CBCAA will be informed immediately and further evaluation may be required. If so, this would be the subject of an additional brief and wsi.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus three archaeologists for five days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

Evaluation methodology

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below)

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do all processing with flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

In particular, 'dark-earth' layers, where identified and where deemed appropriate, will be sampled.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Ministry of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it

seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- | | | |
|----------------|------|--|
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| CAT Report 234 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the First Eastern National bus station, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex: May-June 2003</i> |
| CAT Report 295 | 2004 | <i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site of a new visual arts facility, East Hill House and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex - 1 interim results, October 2004</i> |
| CAT Report 305 | 2005 | <i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the grounds of East Hill House and the Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex, October 2004. 2: main report</i> |
| CAT Report 347 | 2009 | <i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i> |
| CAT Report 372 | 2006 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Central Clinic, High Street, Colchester, Essex, May 2006</i> |
| CAT Report 385 | 2006 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at firstsite:newsite and in Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, April 2006</i> |
| CAT Report | 2011 | <i>Roman houses and streets in Insulas 31/32 of Roman Colchester:</i> |

477 *excavations in advance of the construction of the Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex November 2006- December 2007 and June 2008*

CAT Report 2010 *An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex, April-June 2009*

520

CBCAA 2015 *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, by J Tipper*

ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*

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Stratascan Ltd 2016 *Geophysical Survey Report: Colchester Bus Station*

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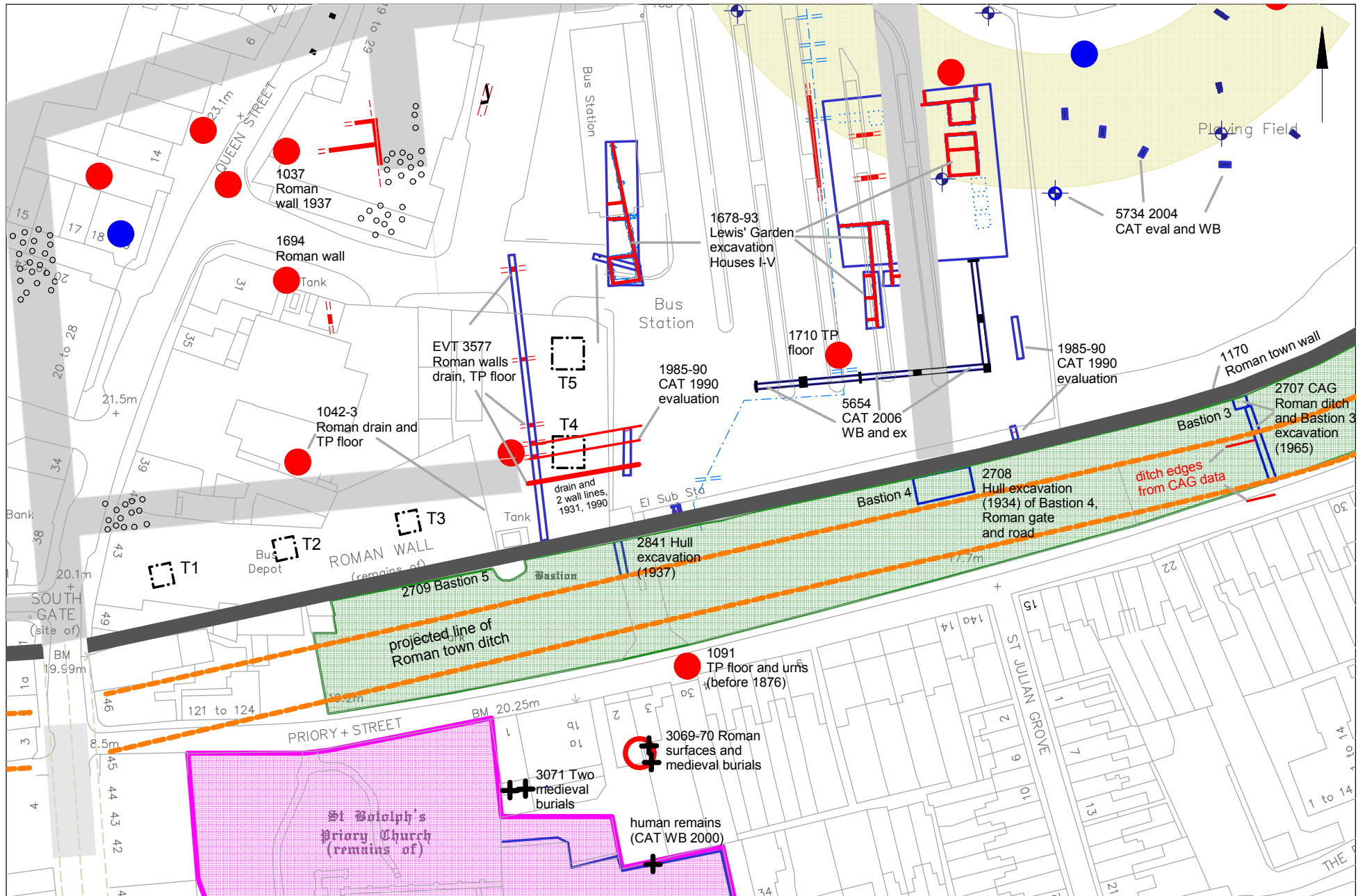


Fig 1 Proposed trench locations in relation to surrounding archaeology.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-279512

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five test-pits) was carried out at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester as part of pre-planning application work associated with the redevelopment of the site. Located within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town, the development site is immediately to the north of the Roman town wall, to the northeast of the Southgate and in an area of known Roman buildings. Test-pits TP1-TP3 were excavated inside the bus depot building and revealed significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. Modern wall foundations and demolition debris was associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1918, and post-medieval remains consisted of two large pits and a ditch. The ditch is probably part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart, and a mid-late Roman ditch cut through an earlier pit and posthole. Test-pits TP4-TP5 revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman structural remains. Interestingly Hull's 1931 archaeological trench was identified cutting through both test-pits. TP4 revealed a tile-lined Roman drain aligned NNW-SSE which probably branched-off from Hull's E-W tile-lined drain (located immediately to the south of TP4). One of the Roman wall foundations identified by Hull was also located in TP5 (F2/F4). In addition were two possible floor layers (L15 and L17) and other surfacing material (L11-L13).
Project dates	Start: 04-03-2017 End: 11-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/03g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3970 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.41 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	METALLED SURFACES Roman
Monument type	RAMPART Roman
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Roman
Monument type	FLOORS Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Roman
Monument type	DRAIN Roman
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	PLASTER/MORTAR Roman
Significant Finds	UTILISED STONE Roman
Significant Finds	IRON NAILS Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Roman
Significant Finds	COINS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER former Bus Depot, Queen Street
Postcode CO1 1PT
Study area 0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 99949 25044 51.887510568384 0.905868522655 51 53 15 N 000 54 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 19.03m Max: 19.97m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator Laura Pooley
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2017.41
Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Worked bone"
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2017.41
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2017.41
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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