

92.40 MARY ARCHES STREET 1975

(ROMAN MILITARY)

**EXCAVATIONS AT MARY ARCHES STREET,  
EXETER, 1975  
PART 1: ROMAN MILITARY**

**by  
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**Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit**

**Report No. 92.40**

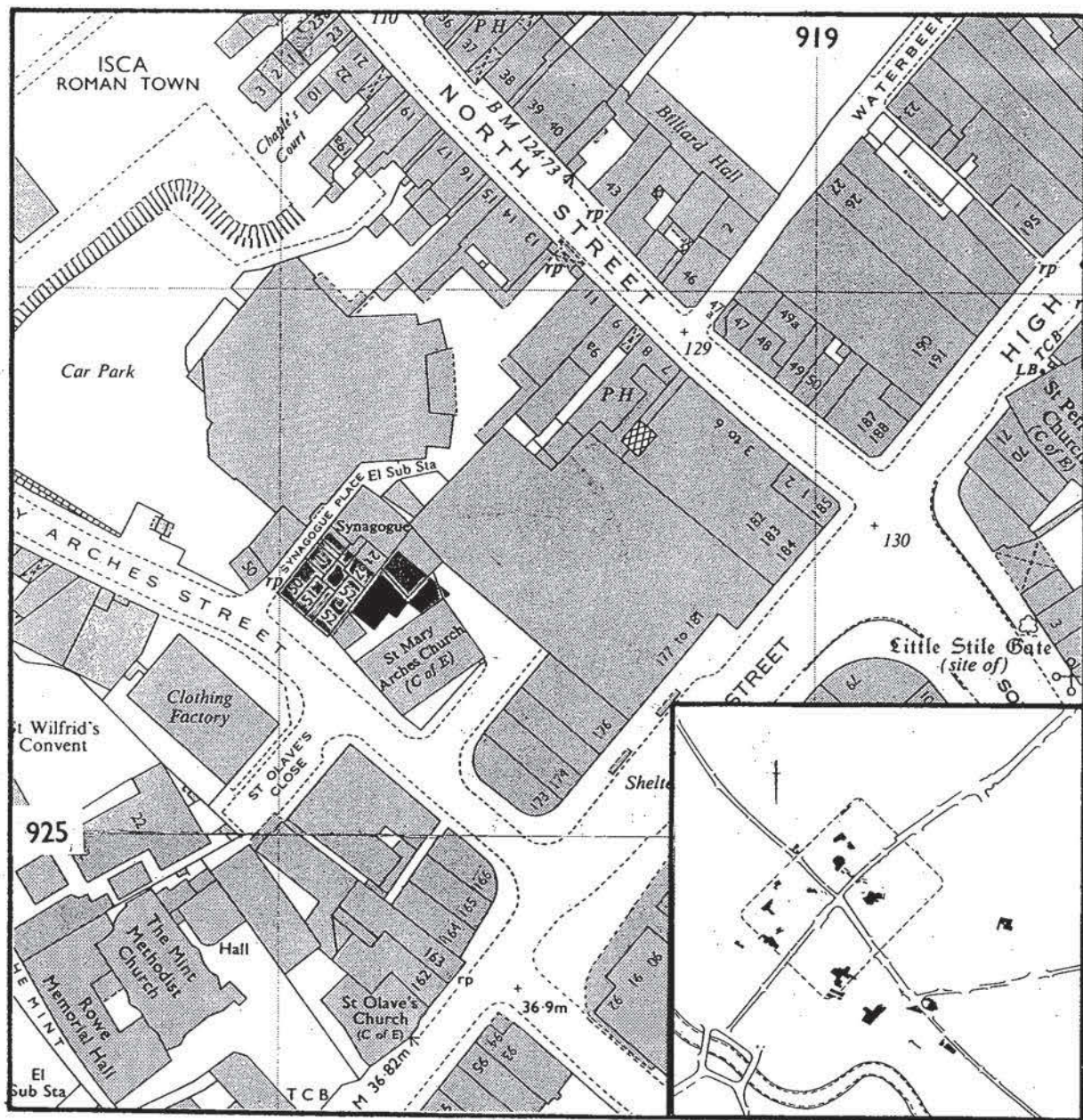


Fig. 1 The location of the Mary Arches Street site Exeter 1975. The inset shows the approximate position of the site within the fortress.



## SECTION 1

### Introduction

In 1975 the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU) carried out rescue recording of deeply stratified deposits on a plot of land adjacent to the St Mary Arches Church. This plot had been acquired for the erection of offices. The excavation was funded by Exeter City Council and was directed by C.G. Henderson for the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit. The site supervisors were S.W. Brown and J.Pamment (now J.Pamment Salvatore). Post-excavation work for this research archive report was undertaken in 1992 by J.B. Bedford and J.P. Salvatore.

#### 1.1 The organisation of this report

Section 1 contains a site narrative for the Roman military period. This narrative is an interpretive and stratigraphic account based upon the discussion of the archaeological records contained in Section 2.

Section 2 contains the detailed archaeological evidence for the stratigraphic development of the site during the Roman military period.

#### 1.2 The site (Fig. 1)

The excavation was undertaken in the grounds immediately to the north-west of the existing St Mary Arches Church on Mary Arches Street at SX 9254/9182. The site is within the area of the former Roman legionary fortress.

#### 1.3 Method of excavation

The site was recorded by way of sections, these sections having been created by the contractors' trenches which had been dug along the foundation line of the proposed buildings. Some observations were made also at the base of certain of the contractors' trenches. Sixteen sections were recorded the locations of which are shown on Fig. 3 in Section 2 of this report.

#### 1.4 Excavation summary

Three distinct phases of timber building construction all probably of the Roman military period at Exeter (c.AD 55/60 - c.75/80) were recognised. These were succeeded by civil buildings of timber and then stone. The highest of the Roman military levels were observed at about 36.6m OD.

#### 1.5 Post-excavation applications

Some work was undertaken on post-excavation analysis by R. Goodyer and S.J. Simpson. Original interpretation of the sections upon which this report is based was undertaken by S.W. Brown to whom the authors acknowledge with thanks. The site records, comprising context sheets, field plans, plans on drawing film, and photographic material, are stored at the EMAFU offices at Gandy Street, Exeter under project no.54.

#### 1.6 Site narrative: Roman military

The nature of the site recording, which was of isolated sections only with very little in the way of supporting ground-plans, has had a consequential effect on the interpretation which can be presented only in a very broad form.

The position of the site is within the *praetentura* of the

legionary fortress at a point immediately south-west of the *via principalis*. It seems likely that the first activity on the site consisted of a number of timber buildings perhaps occupied for only a short time during the early Roman military occupation. One of these early features was a ?post-trench running parallel with a later street surface. It appears to foreshadow a larger and later post-trench building on the same alignment. These buildings represent the first recognised phase of timber building construction mentioned in the summary above. When these buildings went out of use some general levelling layers were put down probably over most if not all of the site. Following this, it is possible to detect some tentative traces of the Roman ground-plan within the second phase of building activity (Fig.2). The metalling for a street was laid down. This street, running approximately north-east to south-west, may well have existed in an earlier unmetalled form. The metalled street was about 3.5m wide and it was resurfaced on at least one occasion. (This street is seen particularly well in Section 4, Fig. 4 as context 35). In its earliest metalled form it appears to have been provided with a central drainage gully very similar to that found by Fox (1952, 32; Plate XIV) in excavations north-west of St. George's church. The street is significant in that it would appear to be one of the two parallel streets that ran from end to end of the fortress that were postulated by Henderson (1984, 20; Fig. 14). The layout of the fortress has received further attention from Henderson (1991, 74; Fig. 13.1) and if the plan offered there is reasonably accurate then the Mary Arches site should be located within the *scamnum tribunorum* (the area of the fortress set aside for the houses of the senior officers of the legion), more precisely within the *scamnum tribunorum* on the right side of the *principia*. It was commonplace in legionary fortresses for the senior officers of the legion, of which there were perhaps seven at the time that the Exeter fortress was built, to be housed in individual dwellings. From this it might be expected that the building evidence at Mary Arches Street, which includes numerous observations of clay floors recorded on either side of a street, may represent the remains of two houses of the senior officers. Two post-trenches constructed at rightangles to each other and with post-pipes visible were glimpsed by John Allen adjacent to the south-east side of the street (Fig.2). Although they remained unexcavated enough was seen of them to be reasonably certain of their military origin. Evidence of burning noted on the surfaces of the clay floors associated with the second phase of building suggests that these houses were at least partially levelled by fire.

The third major phase of building is evidenced by new post-trenches and floors cutting or overlying the earlier burnt surfaces. There may have been some encroachment of the street on both sides during this later phase of activity. If this re-building was of military origin then the resulting structures may also have been officer accommodation. These buildings too were apparently destroyed by fire either accidentally or as part of the demolition process prior to civil administration of the site. A number of layers at the top of the suspected military sequence were found to contain quantities of charcoal, presumably from burnt timbers, and broken tile fragments deriving from the buildings.

The subsequent deposits were thought to represent at least three further phases of civil buildings, first of timber and then stone, erected on the same site.

In the group discussions found in Section 2, Groups 1-3, 6-7 and 15 deal with the activity north-west of the street; Group 4 carries information on the nature of the street itself and Groups 7-14 deal with the building evidence found on the south-east side of the street.



## 1.7 Conclusions

It seems likely that the area of the site at Mary Arches Street overlay part of the *scannum tribunorum* of the fortress including a street that separated what were perhaps two senior officers' houses. The site is significant in being one of the few areas close to the heart of the fortress that has been investigated, albeit in a necessarily rudimentary way. The position of the street was of importance in the understanding of the layout of the fortress, the implications of this position allowing Henderson to suggest that there were perhaps ten officers' houses in the *scannum tribunorum* at Exeter instead of the expected seven (1988, 101-102; Fig. 5.3). The relationship of this site to the fortress as a whole will be discussed in a future Exeter Archaeological Report (Salvatore and Henderson forthcoming).

## Acknowledgements

The plans in this report with the exception of the 800 series were drawn by T. Ives and were photographed for reduction by G. Young. The 800 series plans were drawn by various members of the EMAFU. The matrices were produced by A.G. Collings who also typed Section 2 of the text.

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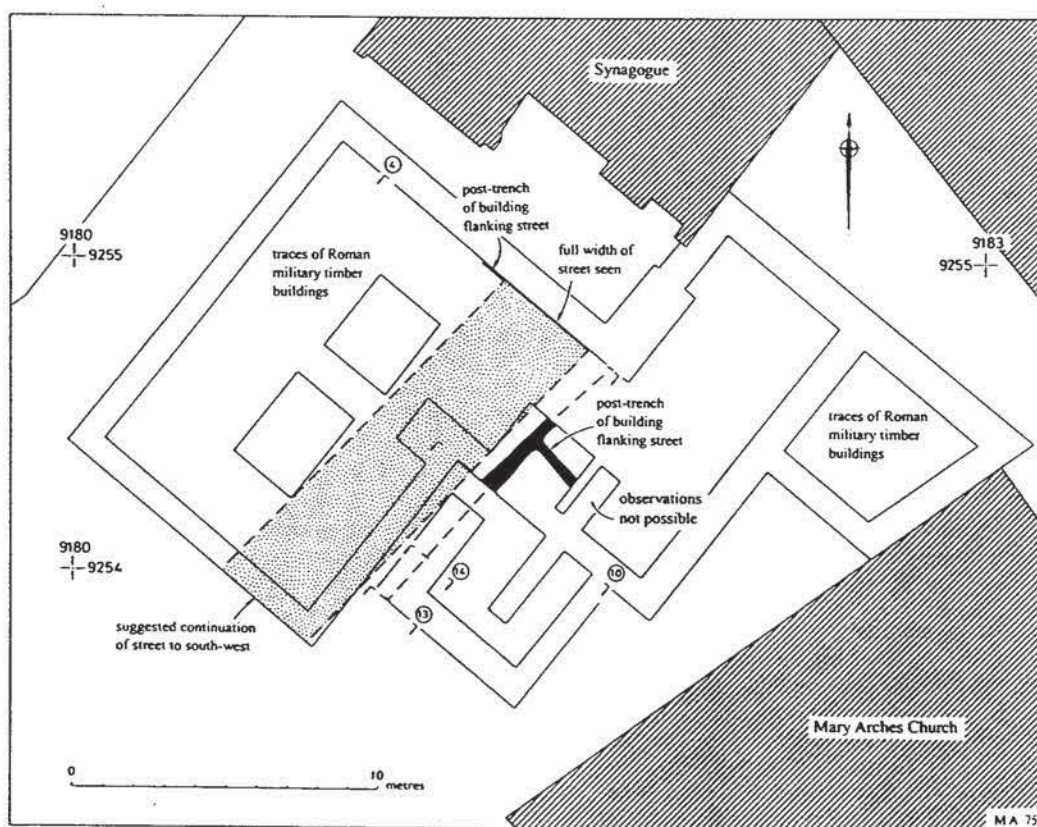


Fig. 2 Partially restored ground-plan of the Roman military period showing timber buildings either side of a street. Scale 1:250

## SECTION 2

### Introduction

This section of the report contains a record of the detailed archaeological evidence upon which the narrative produced in Section 1 is based. The stratigraphic sequences are presented in the form of context matrices. The matrices have been produced according to a series of isolated groups which correspond to the recorded sections. Individual contexts are described in a standardised form in numerical order.

#### 2.1 Context matrix identification

Matrices have been constructed for the contexts of the Roman military period. The matrices have been arranged to correspond with the sections numbered on site. Thus Matrix 1 corresponds to Section 1 and so on. The group number is located on the left hand side of the matrix diagram immediately below the horizontal line that defines its limit.

#### 2.2 Group identification

The Roman military contexts for the Mary Arches Street site have been divided into sixteen groups. Each group represents the military contexts that were recognised within its associated section. Thus Group 1 includes all of the suspected Roman military contexts recorded in Section 1. A description of the nature of each group is given in the group discussions, this includes the interpretational conclusions that can be drawn from a consideration of the stratigraphic evidence. There is little stratigraphic linkage between the individual groups that can be said to be secure, as a result a group matrix has not been produced for this site.

#### 2.3 Context information

Information about individual contexts is provided in two forms. Firstly, the context number as it appears in the context matrix is annotated with an abbreviated 'type' description (e.g. Cph = Cut, post hole). The glossary of abbreviations is given at the beginning of the series of matrix diagrams. Secondly, a standardised summary description of each context in numerical order is included in the report.

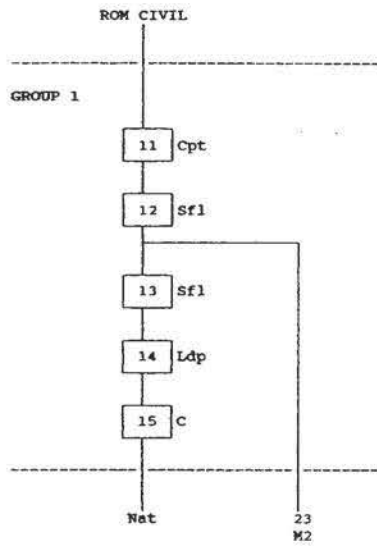
#### 2.4 The matrix diagrams and group discussions

Glossary of abbreviations (for matrices).

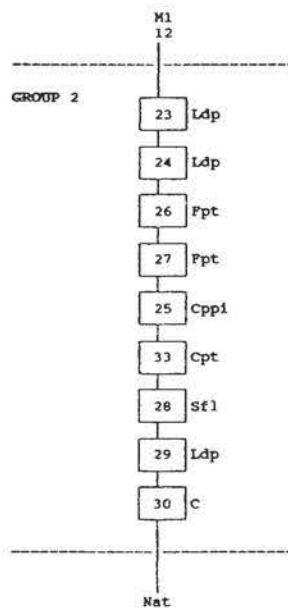
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Fill	F
Cut	C
Layer	L
Surface	S
Miscellaneous	M
Demolition	dem
Ditch	dt
Drain	dr
Dump	dp
Floor	fl
Foundation trench	ft
Gully	gl
Hearth	h
Make up	mk
Metalling	mt
Natural	nat

Occupation	ocp
Pit	pit
Post	pst
Post-hole	ph
Post-packing	ppk
Post-pad	ppd
Post-pipe	ppi
Post-pit	ppt
Post-trench	pt
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Robber trench	rt
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Scoop	sc
Slot	sl
Stakehole	sh
Timber	t
Timber slot	tsl

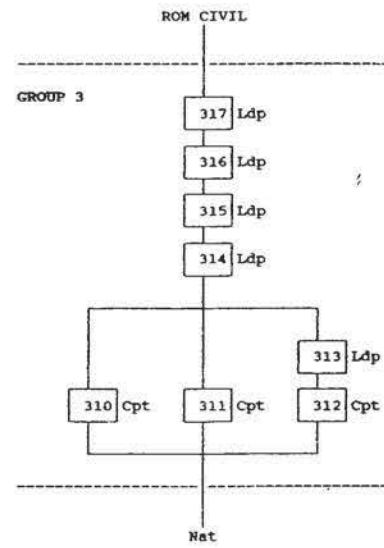
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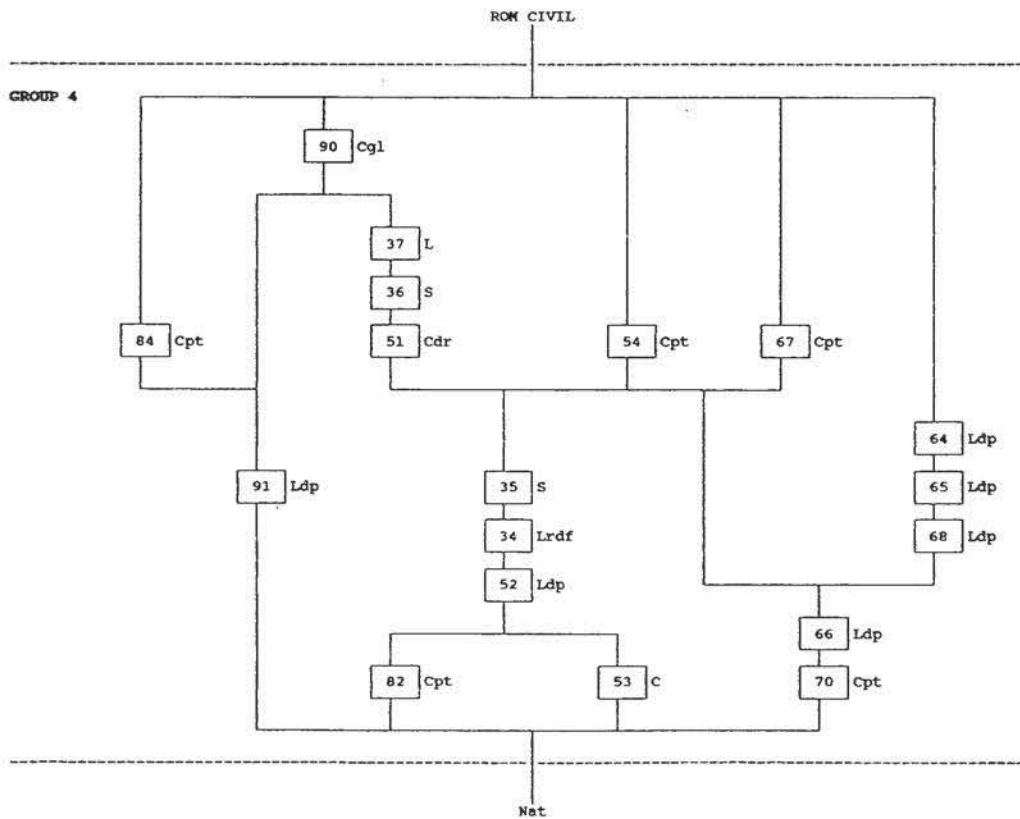
MATRIX 2 GROUP 2



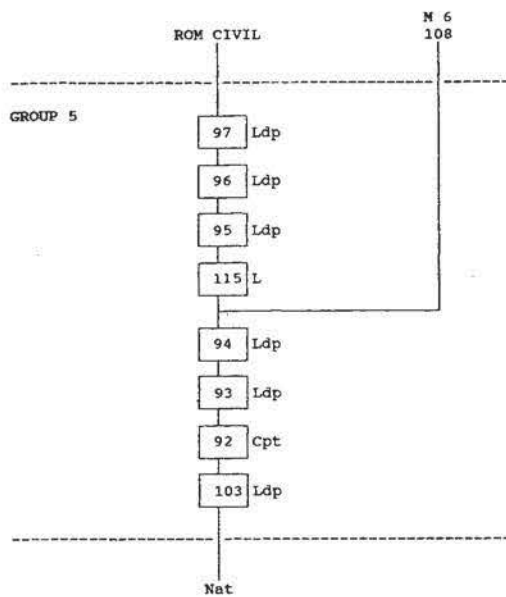
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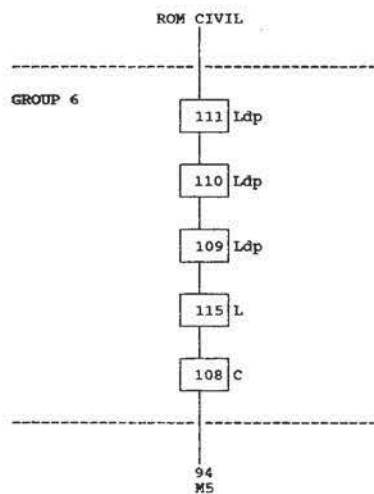
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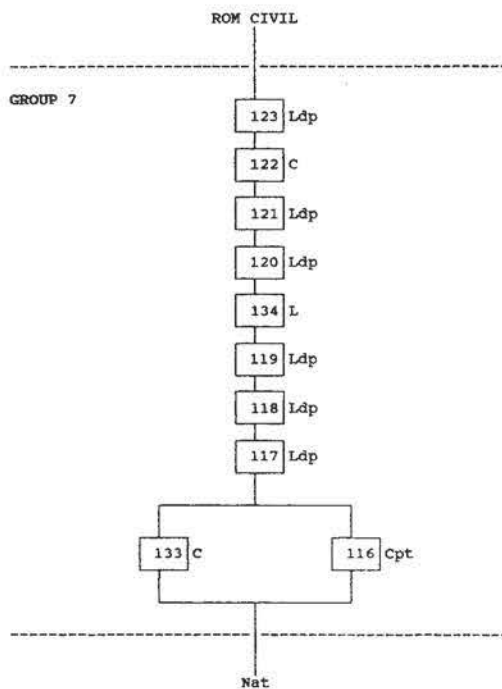
## MATRIX 5 GROUP 5



## MATRIX 6 GROUP 6

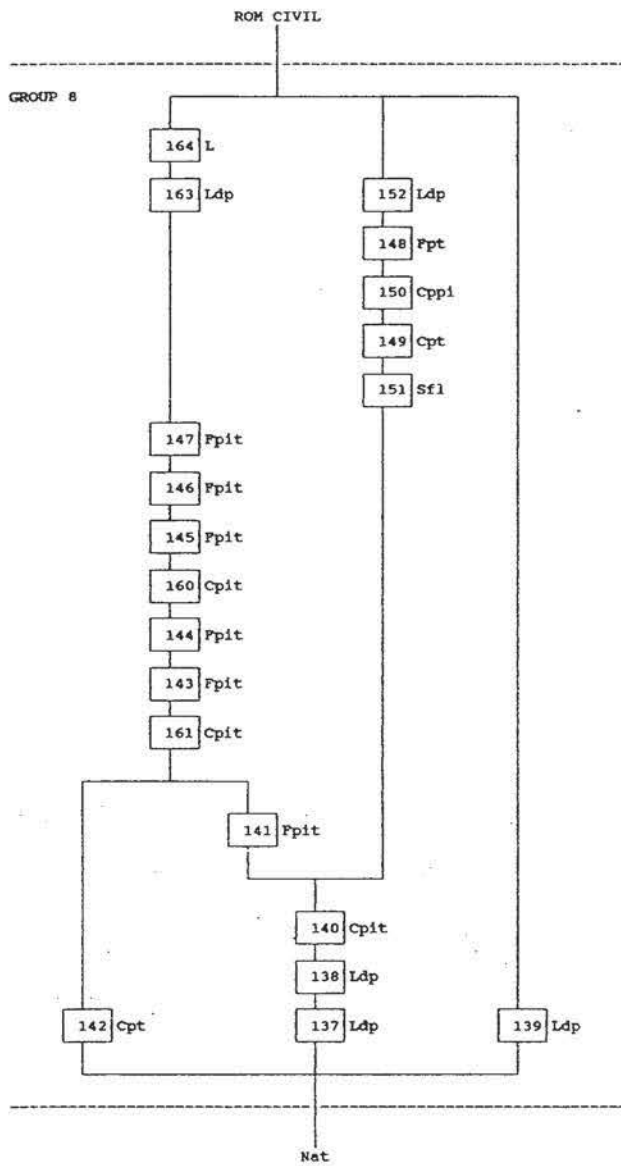


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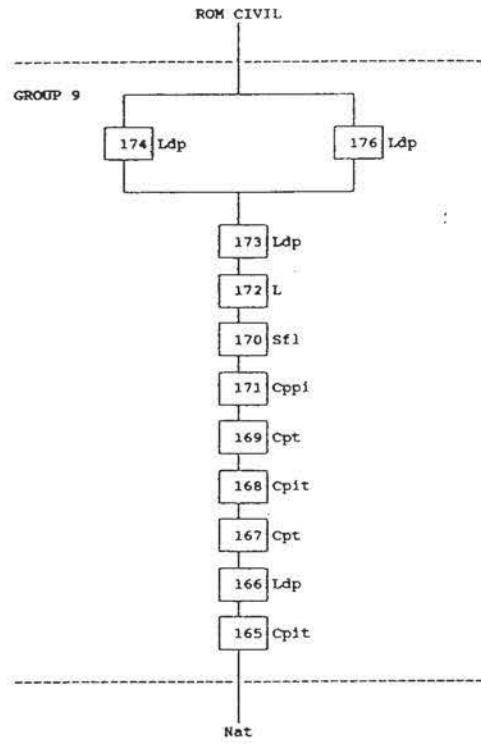




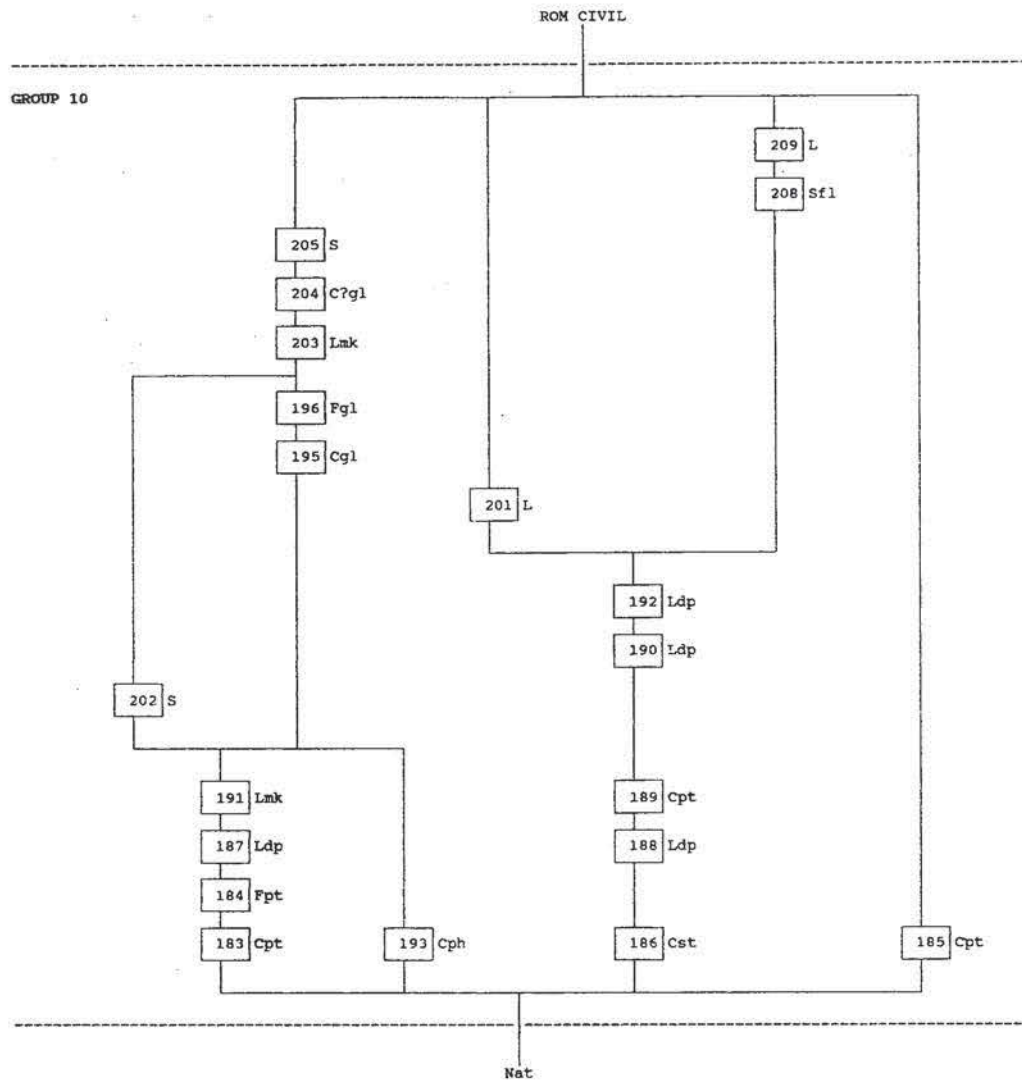
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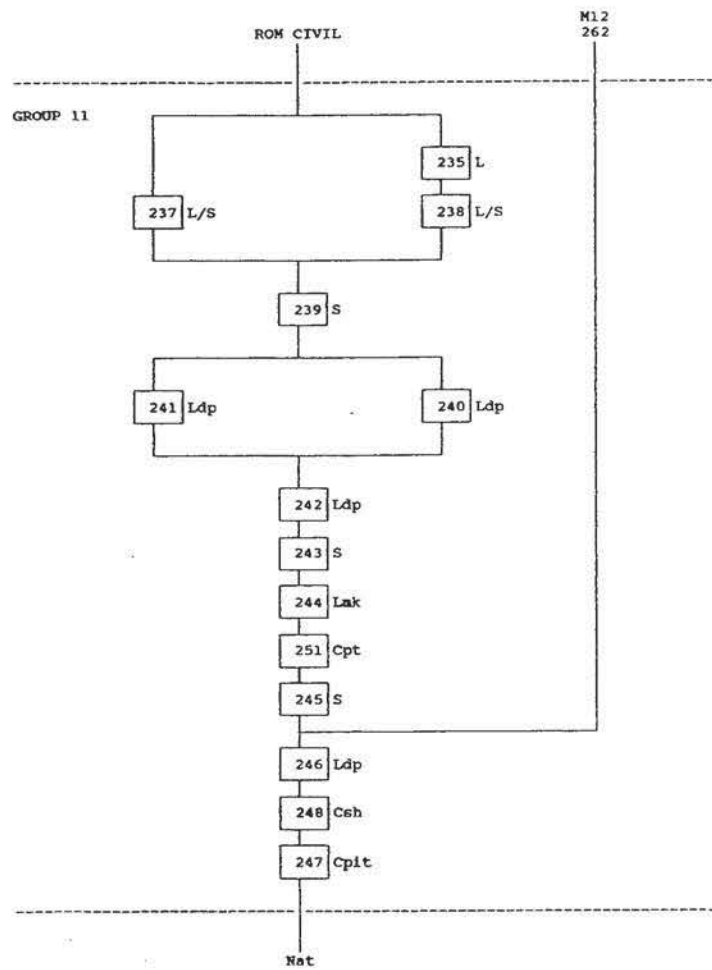
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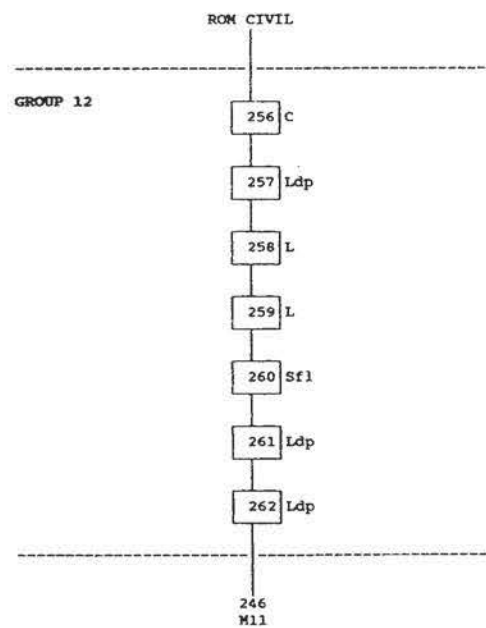
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## MATRIX 11 GROUP 11

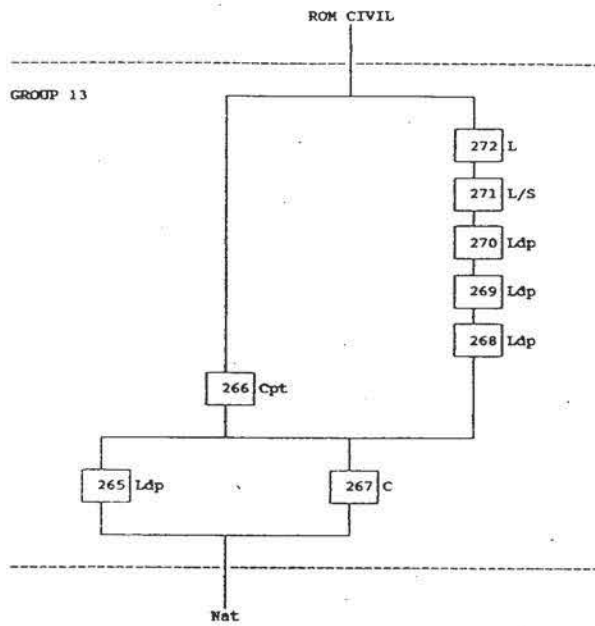


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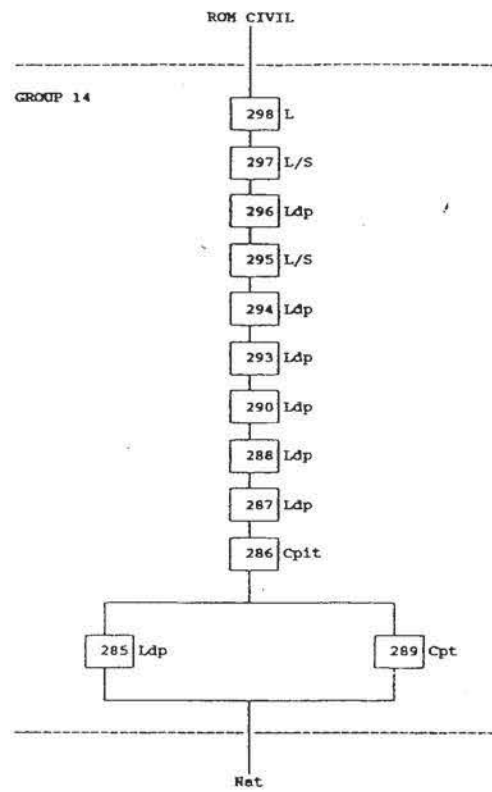




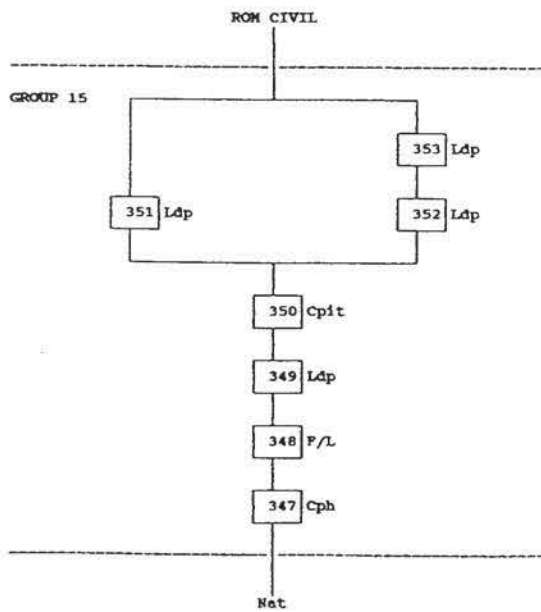
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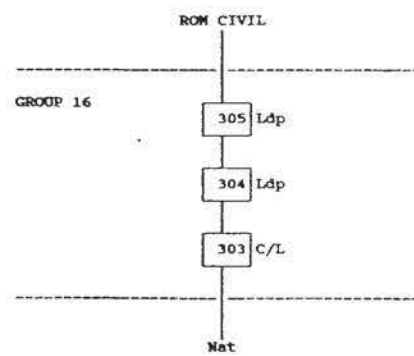
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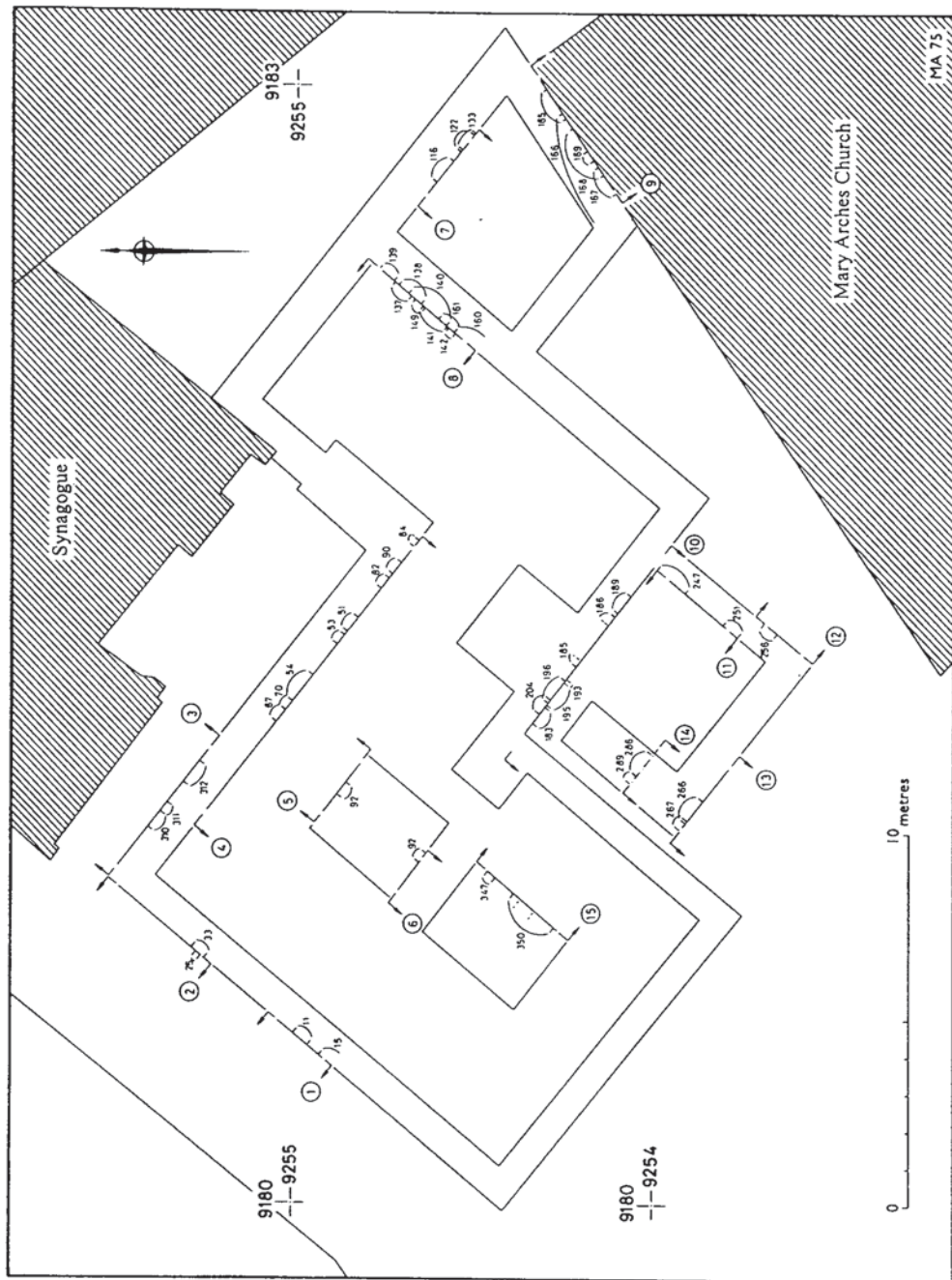


MATRIX 15 GROUP 15



MATRIX 16 GROUP 16





## GROUP DISCUSSIONS

N.B. The site recording at Mary Arches Street site was entirely in the form of sections. Each section has been allocated a group number which accords with its section number. For the location and orientation of each section on site see Fig. 3.

**Group 1**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 1.

A feature (15), possibly the post-trench of a timber building, was overlain by a thick layer (14) that provided the levelling for perhaps one or two floors of clay and gravel (12-13). These floors respected the line of a post-trench (11). This post-trench had either been replaced during the life of the building or the posts removed during a demolition process resulting in a visible cut apparent through the floor surfaces. Overlain by Roman civil material.

Contains contexts: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Section 1 (901) Fig. 4

**Group 2**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 2.

The earliest stratigraphic feature is a ?trench (30) that is infilled and overlain by a levelling layer (29) that may be the equivalent of layer 14 of Group 1.

Layer 29 is sealed by a clay floor (28) traces of which are noted on both sides of a post-trench (33) which was inserted at a later stage. One of the post-pipes (25) associated with this post-trench was visible in section. A final gravel floor respecting the post-pipe but overlying the trench cut for its insertion was thought at the time of excavation to have been the same floor (12) that was observed in Section 1. Overlain by Roman civil material.

Contains contexts: 12, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33.

Section 2 (901) Fig. 4

**Group 3**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 3.

Two suspected post-trenches (311-312) were observed cutting the natural subsoil. A further feature (310) may have had some association with 311.

Sealing the post-trenches after they passed out of use was a series of gravel and clay layers, perhaps dumped as levelling material.

Contains contexts: 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317.

Section 3 (901) Fig. 4

**Group 4**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 4.

The primary features are three possible post-trenches (53, 70, 82) of which 53 is perhaps too small for that function.

Two of these features (53, 82) are overlain by the make-up layers (52) that form the bedding for a metalised street surface of gravel (35). The ground level to the north-west of the street was raised probably at the same time (66, 78), this operation sealing post-trench 70. The original street surface may have been constructed with a gully (51). A building flanking the south-east side of the street is evidenced by the remains of a post-trench (84); this post-trench could well be the same trench that was observed by John Allan in the bottom of a contractor's trench to the south-west of the section. A further trench (54) seen north-west of the street may represent the remains of another building on that side of

the street but this is less certain, it may have cut from a higher level.

The first metalised street was replaced by a second street surface (36) of compacted gravel. The central gully of the underlying street clearly went out of use and was replaced perhaps by a drainage gully only on the south-east side of the street as might be evidenced by feature 90.

A post-trench (67) that is almost certainly associated with a clay floor (65) appears to occur early in the sequence and demonstrates that a building probably stood on the north-west side of the street certainly by the time of its resurfacing. A charcoal layer overlying floor 65 was in turn overlain by a number of clay dumps that may have occurred at the end of the military sequence or at the beginning of the Roman civil period. Traces of burning were also noted on the surface of the second street.

Contains contexts: 34, 35, 36, 51, 52, 53, 54, 62, 64, 65, 66, 68, 70, 82, 84, 90, 91.

Section 4 (901) Fig. 4

**Group 5**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 5

A layer of clay and gravel (103) deposited directly over the natural subsoil was cut by a trench (92) that may represent the post-trench of a building, possibly a continuation of post-trench 67 seen in section 4 although this is uncertain. This trench was observed also in Section 6. Post-trench 92 was subsequently sealed by two layers (93 and 94) of unknown function. A thin layer of charcoal (115) was observed on the surface of the uppermost of these layers. This charcoal was observed over a widespread area of the site and may represent the residue of a fire. This layer was sealed by a layer (96) that contained large fragments of tile and which may well have been a spread of demolition material. The subsequent stratigraphy is thought to belong to the Roman civil period.

Contains contexts: 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 103, 115.

Section 5 (901) Fig. 4

**Group 6**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 6.

The lowest features and layers in Group 6 mirror those observed in Group 5 (cf. 92 and 103). These are overlain by a layer that may be the equivalent of layers 93 and 94 seen in Section 5. This layer is cut by a feature (108) that could represent the line of a post-trench more or less on the line of trench 92. The burnt layer (115) is again observed but here it is somewhat thicker than in Section 5. A series of layers above 115 (109-111) all contained burnt material and they may be the result of fire deposition; above these were deposits thought to be of the Roman civil period.

Contains contexts: 92, 93-94, 103, 108, 109, 110, 111, 115.

Section 6 (902) Fig. 5

**Group 7**

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 7.

Two features were observed cutting the natural subsoil. Both may well have been post-trenches (116, 133) but they differed greatly in their dimensions, 116 being much wider and deeper than 133. Layer 117 sealed and partially filled both features. Two layers (118-119) overlay the infilled trenches either one of which might have been a floor; these are in turn overlain



by a burnt layer 134 that was suspected to have the same stratigraphic relationship as 115 (see Groups 5-6). Further activity is evidenced by two successive layers (120-121) that were deposited above 134; the latter of these two may have been a floor. A trench (122) that cut 121 may have been a post-trench. The military sequence is ended by a layer of charcoal and ash lenses (123) that may represent the destruction of the building by fire either accidentally or as part of a controlled demolition. Subsequent deposits were thought to relate to the Roman civil sequence.

Contains contexts: 116, 117-119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 133, 134. Section 7 (902) Fig. 5

#### Group 8

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 8.

The earliest features visible in Section 8 appear to be a series of intercutting pits and other features (137, 138, 140, 141) of which 137 is the earliest. These pits are cut by a suspected post-trench (142) and possibly by another (139) which may have been related to each other. A later pit (161) cut post-trench 142 and this post-trench was cut also by pit 160.

The remains of a pebble surface (151) were observed in the north-eastern part of the section; it is unclear how extensive this surface had originally been. A post-trench (149) inserted after 151 had been laid down appeared to have no associated surface (perhaps it was related to 151 despite the stratigraphic relationship). The fills of the post-trench and one of its associated post-pipes (150) were observed to have extended beyond the limits of the trench to the south-west perhaps indicating some activity involving the removal of the post at this position. The post-trench was sealed by a layer (152). The military sequence may end with a burnt layer (164). Subsequent deposits were thought to lie within the Roman civil sequence.

Contains contexts: 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 160, 161, 163, 164.

Section 8 (902) Fig. 5

#### Group 9

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 9.

A series of four cuts were observed (165, 166, 167, 168), only one of which (167) had the appearance of a post-trench profile. The others may have been pits, although 166 may represent a trench bisected longitudinally.

The above features are post-dated by a post-trench (168) with an associated post-hole and post-pipe (169, 171). The post-pipe is respected by a surface (170) which must represent a floor within this building. An occupation deposit (172) was recorded above this floor. This sequence was sealed by two further layers (173 and 174), one of which (174) was partially burnt, adding to the evidence of an episode of burning.

Contains contexts: 165-168, 169-172, 173, 174, 176.

Section 9 (902) Fig. 5

#### Group 10

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 10.

The earliest features which could be observed cutting natural subsoil was a trench (183). Trench 185 and a post-hole (193) may have been early features but this is less certain. Another shallow feature (186) was largely destroyed by later features. Some of these earliest features were sealed by a thick layer of dumped clay and gravel (187, 188). Two layers (191 and 202), constituting the first street surface and its make-up, were laid over the dumped layer of clay and gravel. The street in this

position would be a continuation of that seen in Section 4.

A cut (189), possibly representing a trench, was observed to the south-east of the street. A series of dumps (190, 192, 201) to the south of the street perhaps served to increase the ground level in relation to the street surface. A deep feature (195), cut to the immediate south-east of the street, could represent a post-pipe and its associated trench; these could be a continuation of the post-trench seen by John Allan in the adjacent contractor's trench. The post here was possibly removed (196) prior to the digging of 204 which might represent the remains of a roadside gully (see context 90 of Group 4). The make-up (203) for a second street surface was laid down over the first, and the metalling for the second street surface (205) slightly overlapped the edge of 204. To the south-east of the street an isolated orange clay layer (208), probably a floor, was laid over 192. A layer of burning (209) over this floor, could represent some of the superstructure with which the floor may have been associated. Contains contexts: 183, 184, 185, 186, 189, 190, 191, 193, 193, 195, 196, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 208, 209.

Section 10 (902) Fig. 5

#### Group 11

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 11.

The earliest features observed were a post-trench (247) that may have been associated with a stakehole cutting at an angle of 45 degrees. These are both sealed by a layer of brown clay with a hard, possibly trampled, upper surface (245, 246). A trench (251), presumably representing a secondary building was recorded; it was not associated with any surface. A make-up layer (244) and a surface of clean yellow clay (243) with a thin occupation layer on it sealed the trench 251. Sealing the occupation layer was a further make-up layer (242) that underlay some scrappy possible clay surfaces (240, 241), which in turn were sealed by an occupation deposit 239. Another series of make-up layers to the north-east of a large post-Roman feature were probably equivalent to those discussed immediately above and consisted of a series of layers and occupation deposits. 236 may represent an episode of burning at the end of the military sequence.

Contains contexts: 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 251.

Section 11 (902) Fig. 5

#### Group 12

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 12.

A series of layers were apparent sealing the natural subsoil (260, 261, 262). These were overlain by a possible occupation lens (259). This sequence was sealed by a make-up layer (258) that supported a red clay floor with large pebbles (257). A shallow U-shaped feature (256) of uncertain function cut through the clay floor. Subsequent layers were thought to belong with the Roman civil sequence.

Contains contexts: 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262.

Section 12 (903) Fig. 6

#### Group 13

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 13.

A possible post-trench (267) cut into natural; its fill overspilled the side of the trench to the north-west. A layer deposited directly over natural was observed (265) but its relationship with 267 was obscured by 266. A feature (266), clearly larger than 267 and cutting it, was observed to be next in the stratigraphic sequence. This feature was visible also in





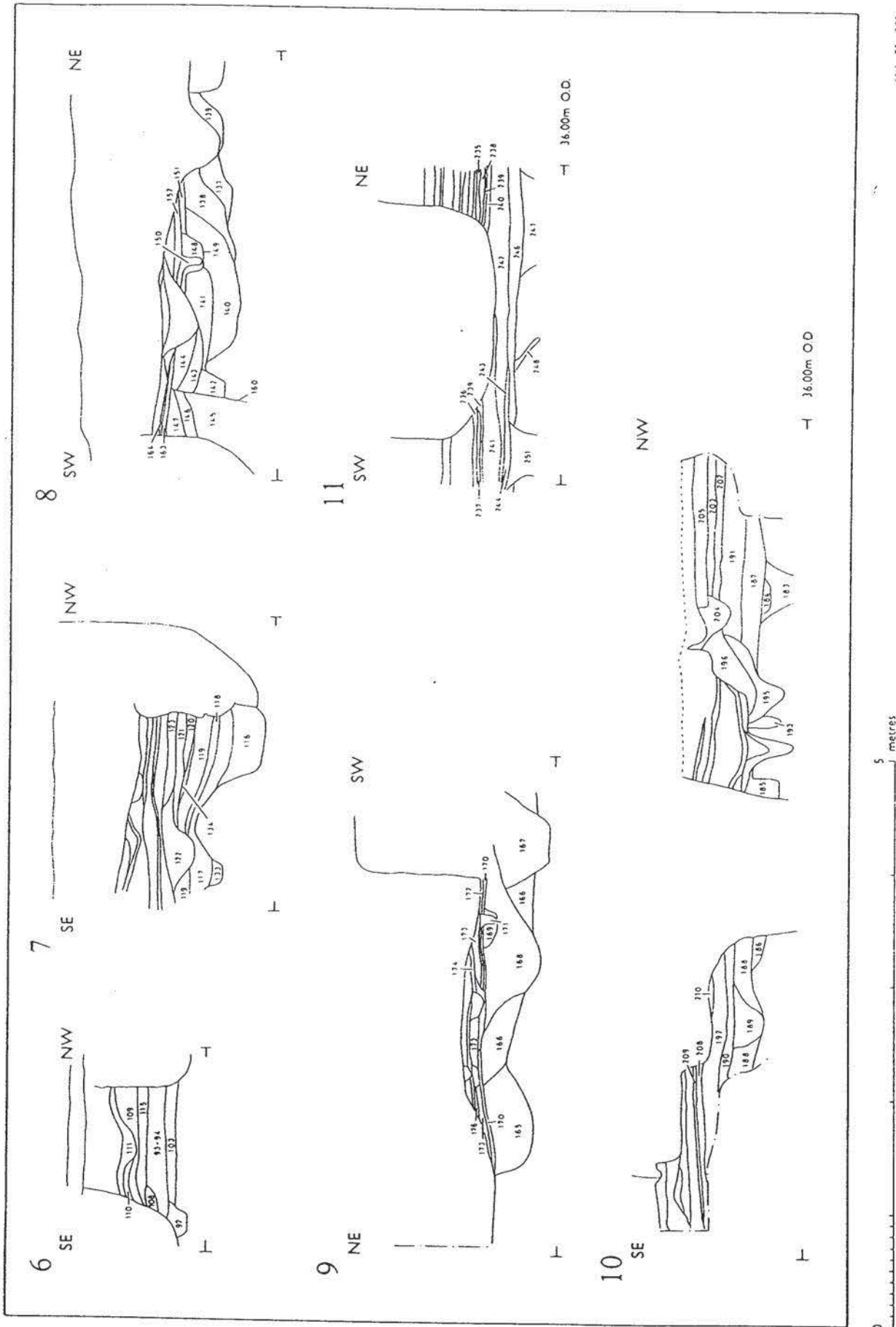
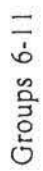


Fig. 5 Simplified sections 6-11. Roman military contexts are numbered. Scale 1:50



Section 14 (see 286) and could represent a continuation of the post-trench flanking the south-east side of the street seen in Sections 4 and 10 (cf. 195 on Section 10). The fill of this trench overfills its lip on the south-east side. A series of three gravelly dumps (268, 269, 270) laid down over the previous activity might have been associated with the street surface or its bedding layers. Over these was a pink culm layer (271) that at the time of excavation was suspected to have been a clay floor surface not associated with any structure. It was in turn overlain by a layer of material (272) which contained burnt clay tile fragments and charcoal suggesting accidental burning or perhaps demolition.

Contains contexts: 266, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272.

Section 13 (903) Fig. 6

Contains contexts: 303, 304, 305.

Section 16 (903) Fig. 6

#### Group 14

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 14.

This section was only 2m to the south-west of Section 13 and its lowest features and layers are the same as those seen in that section. A possible post-trench (289) cut into natural; its fill overspilled the side of the trench to the north-west. A layer deposited directly over natural was observed (285) but its relationship with 289 was obscured by 286. A feature (286), clearly larger than 289 and cutting it, was observed to be next in the stratigraphic sequence. This feature was visible also in Section 13 (see 266) and could represent a continuation of the post-trench flanking the south-east side of the street in seen in Sections 4 and 10 (cf. 195 on Section 10). The fill of this trench overfills its lip on the south-east side. The subsequent overlying stratigraphy does not resemble so closely that seen in Section 13. The gravelly layers seen in Section 13, that were suspected to have originated from the street to the north-west, are not in evidence but this is almost certainly due to their removal by a later feature which destroyed the deposits on the north-western side of the section. Where the deposits do survive they were recorded further to the south-east overlying 286. Here was observed a series of layers (288, 290, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298) which may represent successive surfaces and occupation. The sequence is closed by a layer of burnt clay and tile fragments that may be the equivalent of layer 272 seen in Section 13.

Contains contexts: 285(=265), 286(=266), 287, 288, 289(=267) 290, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299(?=272).

Section 14 (903) Fig. 6

#### Group 15

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 15.

The earliest feature recognised was a deep post-hole (347) which was infilled by material that also spread as a layer over the natural subsoil. A wide shallow cut (350), bottoming at the level of natural, and of uncertain function was recorded. A series of three layers (351-353) sealing these earlier deposits was also observed. Subsequent deposits were thought to have belonged to the Roman civil period.

Contains contexts: 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353.

Section 15 (903) Fig. 6

#### Group 16

Incorporates the Roman military features of Section 16.

These consisted of a small cut into natural (303), possibly a post-trench, and its fill which spread above the natural subsoil. Subsequent to this were two layers (304, 305) of which 305 was a solid yellow clay floor with occupation debris on its surface.

## Groups 12-16

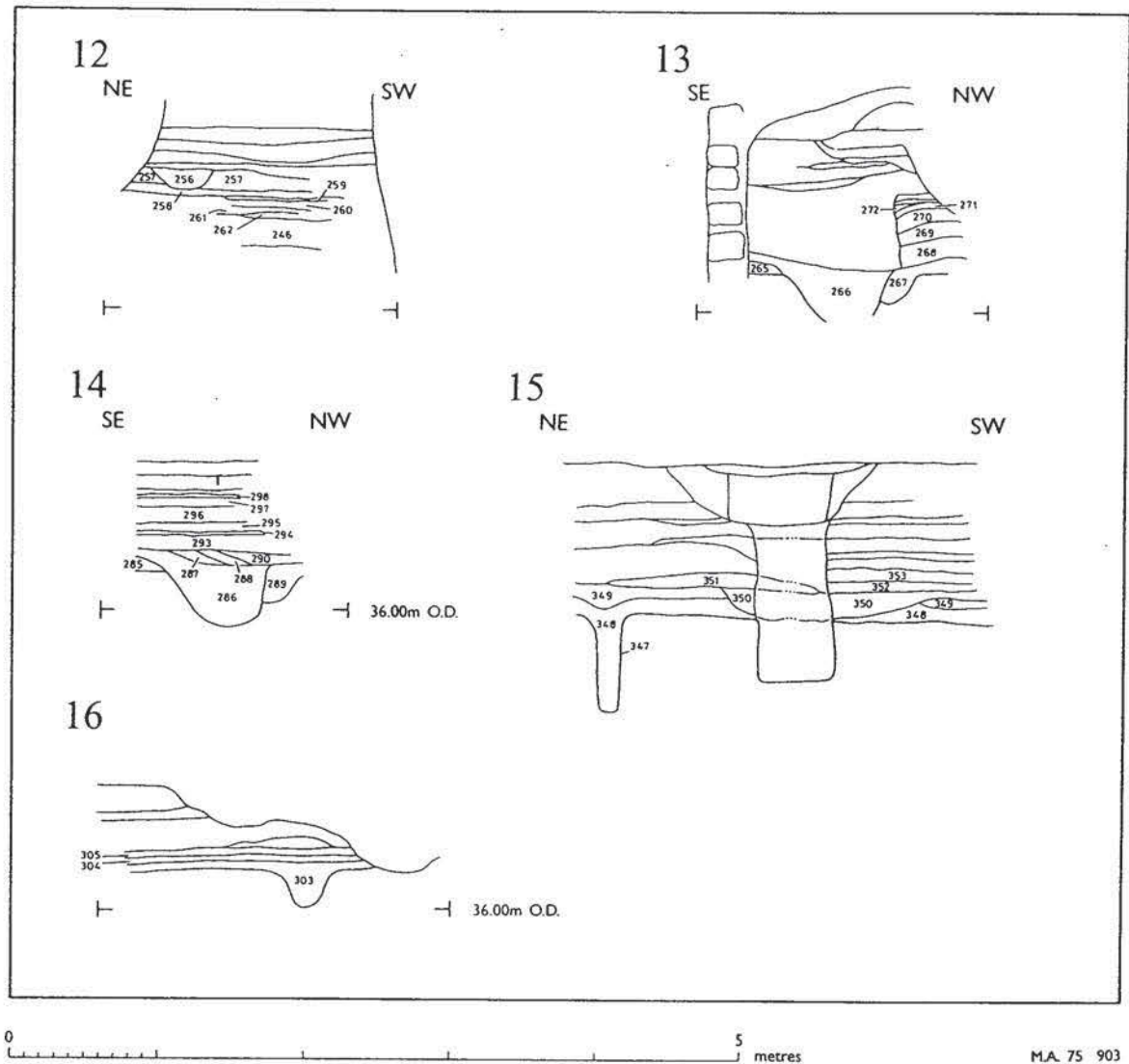


Fig. 6 Simplified sections 12-16. Roman military contexts are numbered. Scale 1:50

## GROUP/MATRIX INDEX

<i>Context</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Matrix</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Matrix</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Matrix</i>
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12	1	1	149	8	8	269	13	13
13	1	1	150	8	8	270	13	13
14	1	1	151	8	8	271	13	13
15	1	1	152	8	8	272	13	13
23	2	2	160	8	8	285	14	14
24	2	2	161	8	8	286	14	14
25	2	2	163	8	8	287	14	14
26	2	2	164	8	8	288	14	14
27	2	2	165	9	9	289	14	14
28	2	2	166	9	9	290	14	14
29	2	2	167	9	9	293	14	14
30	2	2	168	9	9	294	14	14
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34	4	4	170	9	9	296	14	14
35	4	4	171	9	9	297	14	14
36	4	4	172	9	9	298	14	14
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51	4	4	174	9	9	304	16	16
52	4	4	176	9	9	305	16	16
53	4	4	183	10	10	310	3	3
54	4	4	184	10	10	311	3	3
64	4	4	185	10	10	312	3	3
65	4	4	186	10	10	313	3	3
66	4	4	187	10	10	314	3	3
67	4	4	188	10	10	315	3	3
68	4	4	189	10	10	316	3	3
70	4	4	190	10	10	317	3	3
82	4	4	191	10	10	347	15	15
90	4	4	192	10	10	348	15	15
91	4	4	193	10	10	349	15	15
92	5	5	195	10	10	350	15	15
93	5	5	196	10	10	351	15	15
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121	7	7	244	11	11			
122	7	7	245	11	11			
123	7	7	246	11	11			
133	7	7	247	11	11			
134	7	7	248	11	11			
137	8	8	251	11	11			
138	8	8	256	12	12			
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142	8	8	260	12	12			
143	8	8	261	12	12			
144	8	8	262	12	12			
145	8	8	265	13	13			
146	8	8	266	13	13			
147	8	8	267	13	13			

## 2.5 The context descriptions and main indices

### Glossary of abbreviations (for contexts).

Length	Le
Depth	D
Height	H
Width	Wth
Diameter	Diam
North	N
South	S
East	E
West	W
Frequent	Freq
Occasional	Occ
Fragment(s)	Frag(s).
Waterworn	ww
Volcanic	Volc
Roman military	Rom Mil

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>11 Post-trench, aligned N-S, fill of brown clay silt with mixed burnt material, flat bottomed. Wth = 0.58m at top, 0.24m at base.</p> <p>12 Floor surface, a solid surface of redeposited orange yellow clay and gravel. D = 0.06m.</p> <p>13 Possible floor of light brown mixed clays with charcoal, over a gravel make-up. D = 0.04m.</p> <p>14 Dump layer of light brown mixed clays with white mortar patches. D = 0.34m.</p> <p>15 Trench or pit, not fully excavated, fill of sand. Wth = 0.30m, D = 0.36m as excavated.</p> <p>23 Layer possibly charcoal. D = 0.03m.</p> <p>24 Layer of mixed orange and red clays / clay silts. D = 0.05-0.1m.</p> <p>25 Post-pipe within 33, fill contained much daub, otherwise undescribed. D = 0.46m, Diam = 0.15m.</p> <p>26 Fill of 33, clay with pebbles. D = 0.14m.</p> <p>27 Fill of 33, red mixed clays with some sand content. D = 0.38m.</p> <p>28 Floor surface, mid-brown clay with charcoal. D = 0.10m.</p> <p>29 Dump / make-up layer under 28. D = 0.19m as layer, 0.30m where fills intrude into 30.</p> <p>30 Possible post-trench, cuts natural. Wth = 0.25m, D = 0.16m.</p> <p>33 Post-trench, slightly sloping sides, flat base, contains 25-27. Wth = 0.46m at top, 0.20m at base.</p> <p>34 Layer, red brown clay loam, becomes gravelly to the N of 51. D = 0.07m.</p> <p>35 Layer, road make-up and surface of orange brown gravel. D = 0.18m.</p> | <p>36 Make-up / road surface of green brown gravel, incorporating mortar spread 37. D = 0.15m.</p> <p>37 Mortar spread in road surface 36. D = 0.02m.</p> <p>51 Possible gully, fill unrecorded. D = 0.12m.</p> <p>52 Layer of clay silt with pebbles. D = 0.20m.</p> <p>53 Gully with fill of clay silt. D = 0.10m.</p> <p>54 Cut and fill of mid-brown clay loam, some pebbles. D = 0.50m, Wth = 0.85m.</p> <p>64 Charcoal layer. D = 0.02m.</p> <p>65 Layer, possible floor of orange clay with pebbles. D = 0.01m.</p> <p>66 Layer of buff sticky clay loam. D = 0.10m.</p> <p>67 Cut, with fill of orange clay. D = 0.40m, Wth = 0.45m.</p> <p>68 Layer of buff fine gravel. D = 0.08m.</p> <p>70 Cut with fill of pale orange clay, cuts natural. D = 0.14m, Wth = 0.40m.</p> <p>82 Cut, possible post-trench, with fill of buff gravelly clay. D = 0.15m, Wth = 0.32m.</p> <p>90 Cut, possible slot-trench, fill unrecorded. D = 0.38m.</p> <p>91 Layer, undescribed. D = 0.05m.</p> <p>92 Post-trench, cut to S by a medieval pit, fill of light brown clay silt with yellow clay patches, pebbles. D = 0.21m, Wth = 0.28m at base, 0.40m at top.</p> <p>93 Layer, light brown clay silt with gravel, charcoal flecks. D = 0.12m.</p> <p>94 Layer, light brown and orange clay, yellow clay patches. D = 0.13m.</p> <p>95 Layer, brown clay and gravel. D = 0.03m.</p> <p>96 Layer, red gritty clay, charcoal, large tile frags. D = 0.10m.</p> <p>97 Layer, light brown clay, charcoal flecks. D = 0.08m.</p> <p>103 Layer, yellow brown clay and gravel. D = 0.08m.</p> <p>108 Layer possible cut and fill, light brown clay, charcoal, burnt clay flecks. D = 0.10m.</p> <p>109 Layer, light brown clay, charcoal and burnt clay flecks and gravel. D = 0.21-10m.</p> <p>110 Layer, yellow clay with pebbles, charcoal, burnt clay flecks and pebbles. D = 0.06m.</p> |
|---|--|



- 111 Layer, brown gritty clay silt with charcoal and burnt clay flecks. D = 0.03-14m.
- 115 Charcoal layer. D = 0.02m.
- 116 Trench, cut and fill of mixed yellow clays with gravel and a few charcoal flecks. Upper fill 117. Wth = 0.80m min, D = 0.60m.
- 117 Layer / upper fill of 116 and 133. As 116 but with mid-brown clay silt. D = 0.20m.
- 118 Layer, red-pink clay with patches of brown clay. D = 0.07m.
- 119 Layer, light red clays. D = 0.14m.
- 120 Layer, brown clays with charcoal and burnt clay specks. D = 0.08m.
- 121 Layer, sticky yellow clay. D = 0.08m.
- 122 Feature, possible trench, fill of brown clays with charcoal and burnt clay specks. Wth = 0.60m, D = 0.20m.
- 123 Layer, grey-brown clay silt, charcoal and ash lenses. D = 0.09m.
- 133 Possible post-trench, fill 117. Wth = 0.50m, D = 0.25m.
- 134 Layer, charcoal. D = 0.02-0.03m.
- 137 Cut, fill of light brown clay silt with gravel, sloping sides, fairly flat base. Wth = 0.65m surviving, D = 0.30m.
- 138 Cut, fill of mid-brown clay silt with gravel. Wth = 0.84m surviving, D = 0.44m.
- 139 Possible post-trench, fill of light brown clay silt mixed with orange clay, some charcoal. Wth = 0.65m, D = 0.34m.
- 140 Possible pit, fill of light brown clay mixed with orange clay and pebbles. Wth = 1.30m, D = 0.48m.
- 141 Possible pit, fill of yellow and orange clay mixed with charcoal flecks. Wth = 0.92m, D = 0.25m.
- 142 Post-trench, fill of light brown clay silt with pebbles, sloping sides, flat base. Wth = 0.25m, D = 0.30m.
- 143 Pit fill within 161, grey brown gritty clay silt with charcoal, red clay patches and pebbles, tile. D = 0.15m.
- 144 Pit fill within 161, mixed orange and brown clays with grit, charcoal, pebbles, and a red clay lump. D = 0.16m.
- 145 Fill of pit 160, mixed orange and yellow clay with pebbles. D = 0.54m.
- 146 Layer, fill of pit 160, yellow clay with light brown clay silt patches and pebbles. D = 0.10m.
- 147 Fill of pit 160, light brown clay silts with gravels, cobbles and pebbles. D = 0.17m.
- 148 Fill of 149, light brown clay silts with gravel, cobbles and pebbles. D = 0.19m.
- 149 Post-trench, contains 148 and post-pipe 150. Wth = 36m, D = 0.20m.
- 150 Post-pipe within 149, fill of light red brown clay silt. Wth = 0.08m, D = 0.19m.
- 151 Surface, yellow gravel and pebbles forming a good surface. D = 0.04-0.05m.
- 152 Layer, light brown clay, occ. charcoal, pebbles, cobbles. D = 0.06m.
- 160 Pit cut, straight-sided slightly sloping inwards to W. Wth = 0.65m, D = 0.72m as excavated.
- 161 Possible pit, contains 143, 144. Dimensions = unrecorded.
- 163 Layer, mixed orange and brown clays with grit, charcoal, pebbles. D = 0.04m.
- 164 Layer, burnt. D = 0.01m.
- 165 Possible pit, fill of buff sandy clay. Wth = 0.96m, D = 0.46m.
- 166 Possible pit, fill of buff sandy clay with pebbles and stones. Wth = 2.60m, D = 0.55m.
- 167 Possible trench, sloping sides, flat base; fill of light brown clay silt with orange clay lumps and some charcoal. Wth = 0.84m at top, 0.34m at base.
- 168 Pit or trench, gradually sloping sides and U-shaped base. Wth = 1.70m, D = 0.52m.
- 169 Post-trench, fill of mixed buff and brown clays, occ. charcoal specks. Contains 171. Wth = 0.35m, D = 0.14m.
- 170 Floor surface, red / pink clay. D = 0.01-0.03m.
- 171 Post-pipe within 169. Diam = 0.12m.
- 172 Occupation deposit, dark brown clay silt and charcoal. D = 0.03m.
- 173 Layer of yellow sandy clay and dark brown silt with charcoal flecks. D = 0.13m.
- 174 Layer, compressed burnt clay changing to unburnt yellow clay to W. D = 0.03m.
- 176 Charcoal layer. D = 0.02m.
- 183 Possible post-hole / trench, fill of yellow clay and gravel, grit and iron pan specks. Not fully excavated. Wth = 0.55m.
- 184 Layer of yellow brown clay. D = 0.09m.

- 185 Cut, fill of light brown clay and gravel. D = 0.40m, Wth = 0.20m as excavated.
- 186 Cut, fill of light brown clay silt and gravel. D = 0.10m.
- 187 Layer of light brown clay silt. D = 0.20m.
- 188 Layer of yellow clay with brown clay silt, gravel. D = 0.20m.
- 189 Cut, fill of yellow brown clay. Wth = 0.55m, D = 0.25m.
- 190 Layer, light brown gritty clay silt, orange clay patches. D = 0.09m.
- 191 Layer of yellow brown clay / orange brown gravel. D = 0.20m.
- 192 Layer of light brown gritty clay silt, orange clay patches, some charcoal. D = 0.11m.
- 193 Fill of post-pipe, buff clay silt. Diam = 0.10m, D = 0.35m.
- 195 Post-hole / post-trench. Fill of brown gritty clay silt, gravel lenses. Wth = 0.70m, D = 0.50m.
- 196 Layer / fill, brown gritty clay silt, charcoal, burnt clay, yellow clay patches. D = 0.30m.
- 201 Layer of dark brown clay silt, charcoal. D = 0.04m.
- 202 Road surface of brown gritty clay silt with cobbles. D = 0.10m.
- 203 Layer of light brown gritty clay silt, some charcoal. D = 0.08m.
- 204 Cut, fill of mid-brown clay with charcoal and pebbles. Wth = 0.40m, D = 0.35m.
- 205 Surface and make-up of yellow gravel and pebbles. D = 0.15m.
- 208 Layer of orange clay. D = 0.01m.
- 209 Layer of charcoal and oyster shells. D = 0.01m.
- 235 Layer, black-brown occupation material. D = 0.04m.
- 237 Make-up and surface, burnt daub, occupation material and charcoal, probably the same as 238. D = 0.03m.
- 238 Make-up and surface, mixed clays with occupation material, pebbles, daub. D = 0.05m.
- 239 Layer, occupation material with oyster shell frags. D = 0.02m.
- 240 Layer / surface, mixed pink and yellow clays, charcoal flecks. D = 0.04m.
- 241 Layer / surface, pink brown clays with clay silts and occ. oyster shell frags, fairly clean. D = 0.18m.
- 242 Layer, mixed yellow clays. D = 0.02-20m.
- 243 Layer, very thin occupation material. D = unrecorded.
- 244 Surface and make-up, slightly sinks into fill of trench 251, clean yellow clay floor with pebbles. D = 0.07m.
- 245 Surface, make-up 246, presumably a hard surface on top of 246, with very little occupation. D = unrecorded.
- 246 Dump under 245, mid-brown clay silt with charcoal flecks and pebbles. D = 0.12m.
- 247 Trench, fill of soft yellow brown clay silt, clean, sparse pebbles. Wth = 0.95m, D = 0.18m, unbottomed.
- 248 Possible stakehole, fill of soft mid-brown clay silt, at an angle of 45 degrees. D = 0.05m max.
- 251 Trench, fill not recorded, possibly clay loam, clay sand. Wth = 0.62m, D = 0.26m, unbottomed.
- 256 Cut, fill of dark brown mixed clay silt with pebbles, oyster shell frags. U-shaped feature. Wth = 0.42m, D = 0.13m.
- 257 Floor surface, deep dug solid red clay with large pebbles and clay silts. D = 0.14m.
- 258 Layer, mixed red clay lumps, daub and occupation rubbish. D = 0.04m.
- 259 Layer, slimy black occupation lens. D = 0.01m.
- 260 Floor surface, mid-brown clay soil with charcoal flecks and oyster frags. D = 0.06m.
- 261 Layer, material as 259. D = 0.05m.
- 262 Layer, peters out to W, similar to 260 but more slimy. D = 0.04m.
- 265 Layer, light brown clays and burnt clay specks. D = 0.10m.
- 266 Cut, fill of grey-brown clay and clay silt, orange clay lumps and many small pebbles. D = 0.40m as excavated, Wth = 0.80m.
- 267 Cut, fill of orange packed clay, tile chips, burnt clay specks. D = 0.20m, Wth = 0.25m.
- 268 Layer, yellow brown gritty sandy clay, brown clay patches, yellow and orange clay lumps, shells, some charcoal and pebbles. D = 0.15m.
- 269 Layer of yellow brown gritty sandy clay, brown clay and shells, charcoal, pebbles. D = 0.10m.
- 270 Layer, light brown clay loam, oyster shells, plaster specks, charcoal, daub, pebbles and ash. D = 0.12m.
- 271 Layer of pink culm clay. D = 0.04m.



- 272 Layer of yellow clay, some burnt clay, tiles and charcoal. D = 0.02m.
- 285 Layer of grey clay, pebbles, yellow gravel. D = 0.10m.
- 286 Cut, fill of orange packed clay, with grey-brown clays mixed near top. Wth = 0.80m, D = 0.40m.
- 287 Layer of yellow gritty sandy clay, brown clay patches. D = 0.08m.
- 288 Layer of red brown sand / pebbles. D = 0.08m.
- 289 Cut, fill of grey-brown clay silt, orange clay lumps, many small pebbles. Wth = 0.30m, D = 0.30m.
- 290 Layer of yellow brown gritty sandy clay, pebbles and charcoal. D = 0.10m.
- 293 Layer, red clay with charcoal flecks, burning on top. D = 0.14m.
- 294 Layer, dark brown clay silt, oyster shells on top. D = 0.01m.
- 295 Dump and surface, orange yellow clay, shells and charcoal flecks sitting on surface. D = 0.10m.
- 296 Layer of dark brown clay, cobbles. D = 0.11m.
- 297 Make-up and trampled surface, orange clay and gravel, cobbles trodden into surface. D = 0.05m.
- 298 Layer, dark brown clay silt, charcoal and oyster shells. D = 0.02m.
- 303 Trench, fill of mid-brown sandy loam. Wth = 0.40m, D = 0.32m.
- 304 Layer, yellow brown gravel in clay, compacted. D = 0.05m.
- 305 Floor and occupation layer, orange yellow solid sandy clay. D = 0.05m.
- 310 Trench, fill of yellow sands and gravels, slightly dirty. Wth = 0.50m, D = 0.15m.
- 311 Cut, fill as 310. Wth = 0.25m, D = 0.25m.
- 312 Cut, fill as 310. Wth = 0.50m, D = 0.20m.
- 313 Layer, orange clay. D = 0.08m.
- 314 Layer, as 310. D = 0.05-0.15m.
- 315 Layer of orange clay. D = 0.08m.
- 316 Layer of mixed clays and clay silts with prominent reddish clay. D = 0.17m.
- 317 Layer, yellow sands and gravels with brown clay silt. D = 0.10m.
- 347 Post-hole, fill 348. Diam = 0.20m, D = 0.70m.

- 348 Fill of 347, undescribed.
- 349 Layer, undescribed. D = 0.12m.
- 350 Cut, fill undescribed. Wth = 0.25m, D = 0.20m.
- 351 Layer, undescribed. D = 0.10m.
- 352 Layer over 350, undescribed. D = 0.09m.
- 353 Layer, undescribed. D = 0.12m.

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Location</i>
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123	7	801	802	248	11	801	802
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167	9	801	802	295	14	801	802
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171	9	801	802	303	16	801	-
172	9	801	802	304	16	801	-
173	9	801	802	305	16	801	-
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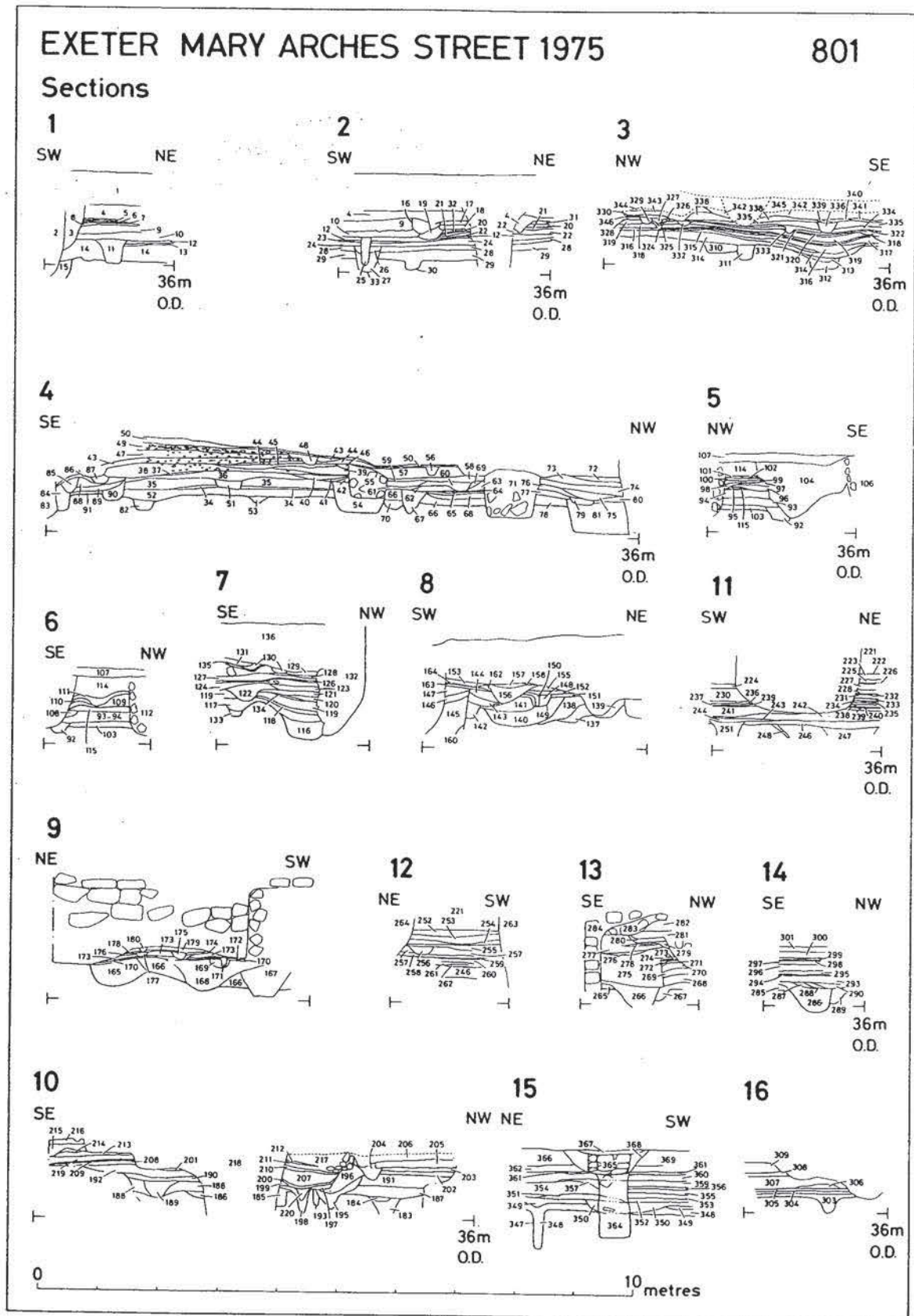


Fig. 7 Sections through the Roman military and civil deposits (801). Scale 1:100

## EXETER : MARY ARCHES STREET 1975

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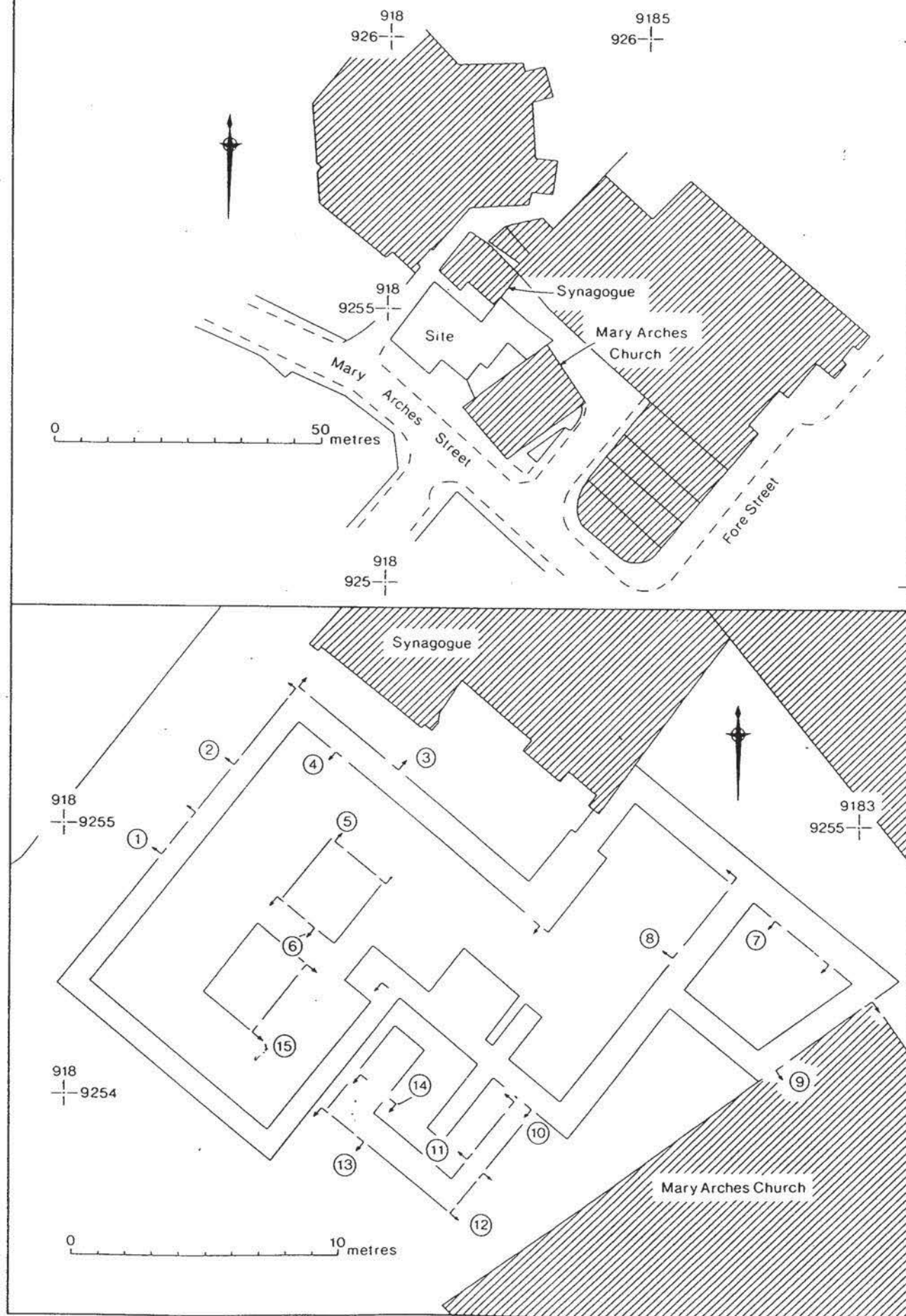


Fig. 7 Top: the location of the Mary Arches Street site in relation to nearby buildings. Scale 1:1200  
Bottom: The location of the sections. Scale 1:200

## 2.6 The finds listings and other indices

### Note on the finds

Due to the nature of the site recording very few finds were recovered from the Mary Arches Street site of 1975 and even fewer were recovered from a secure stratigraphic position. One small group of pot that included sherds from a military flagon was recovered from Context 51 of Section 4 which was the infill of the suspected central drain of the first metalled street.

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

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