Archaeological investigations at Birch Pit western extension, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex 2004 and 2005-6

report prepared by
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on behalf of
Hanson Aggregates

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1 Summary

A watching brief and two seasons of excavation were carried out at Birch Pit during 2004 and 2005-6 on behalf of Hanson Aggregates. The requirement for archaeological work was associated with an extension to the western side of the quarry. This was centred on the area east of Palmer's Farm and north of the Maldon Road, and included part of a surface spread of Roman finds denoting the site of a Roman settlement. The archaeological monitoring in 2004 covered topsoil-stripping for an extraction area and the associated enabling works for Stage 1 of the quarry extension. As a result of this, a number of features of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval date were identified which required excavation. The further Stage 2 of the quarry extension in 2005-6 necessitated area excavation of part of the site of the Roman settlement.

There were a few prehistoric features, all of which can be attributed to the Middle-Late Bronze Age. These consist of three pits close to the Maldon Road and probably a small ring-ditch on the north-west of the site.

The major period of activity recorded on the site is that associated with a Roman settlement. However, some finds are of Late Iron Age type or background and it is possible that the settlement originated in the pre-conquest period. The site of the settlement is more extensive than the area covered by the excavation and extends north and west beyond the limits of the excavation. There was no trace of any remains of buildings in the part of the site of the settlement which was excavated. Away from this area, to the south and east, there was little evidence of any Roman occupation or activity except for an isolated pit, and a small group of cremation burials, dated to the 1st-early 2nd century, located about 300 m to the north-east. The settlement can be divided into two phases. Phase 1 (the early-mid Roman period) consisted of a north-south track or droveway on the east side of the site, with another path or track running east-west. Short lengths of ditch seem to have defined enclosed areas such as fields or paddocks, and there was also a possible ditched enclosure only part of which lay within the excavation area. One feature was probably a well, and there was a probable oven within the area of the possible enclosure. A group of four rectangular pits were probably graves for inhumation burials, relating to the later part of Phase 1 or possibly Phase 2. Evidence of activity in Phase 2 (the late Roman period) indicates changes to the settlement layout. However, the small number of ditch features which can be attributed to this phase form only a fragmentary landscape and suggest a degree of continuity from Phase 1. The east-west path or track across the site may have been retained; however, late-dated ditches cut across the line of the north-south track or droveway on the east side of the site, and probably also across the possible enclosure, suggesting that both of these features had gone out of use. This gives the overall impression that the landscape had possibly been partly reorganised into blocks of fields or paddocks.

*There is little indication of any significant post-Roman settlement until the early post-medieval period (*c *late 16th-early 17th century), when pottery from three adjacent pits suggests a settlement in the immediate vicinity. Many of the ditches identified as post-medieval or modern may date from this period. However, there are one or two individual finds which suggest possible activity in the Anglo-Saxon, and certainly in the early-medieval or medieval, periods. Also, the similar alignment of both the Roman and post-Roman ditches, while possibly a result of the natural topography of the area, could imply some degree of continuity in settlement and land use within the wider landscape up till the present day.*

2 Introduction

This report covers the archaeological watching brief and two seasons of excavation on areas of significant archaeology within Stage 1 (2004) and Stage 2 (2005-6) of the western extension to the Hanson Aggregates quarry at Birch Pit, on land east of Palmer's Farm (Figs 1-2). The archaeological work was prompted by the extension of the extraction area to the west of the existing quarry-pit, and which is referred to as the 'western extension'. The archaeological work consisted of a watching brief on

all of the areas where topsoil was stripped and three areas of excavation, ie Areas A, B and C (Figs 2, 2a, 2b, 2c). The area of topsoil-stripping for the western extension, which was monitored during the watching brief, took place over the east and central part of the fields immediately north-east of Palmer's Farm and north of the Maldon Road (NGR TL 925 192). Boundary areas of these fields were also stripped of topsoil for the placement of bunds. The main archaeological work was carried out over a number of connected areas in two of the fields immediately east and north-east of Palmer's Farm (including Areas A, B and C). The area north-east of Palmer's Farm is known to be the site of a small Roman rural settlement, presumably a farm (CAT Report 8). This was initially identified during a programme of fieldwalking by CAT on behalf of Hanson Aggregates in advance of the anticipated future expansion of the quarry.

The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during July-September 2004, October-November 2005 and March 2006, following a brief which was supplied by Essex County Council (ECC) Historic Environment Management (HEM) team who also monitored the work. All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with the ECC HEM team officer. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001), and Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003). Other sources used are *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA **3**), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA **8**), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14**).

3 Archaeological background

Except for cropmark plots, taken from aerial photographs, little was known of the archaeology of the area immediately surrounding Birch Pit prior to the 1990s. A flint scatter, dated as Neolithic, but which also included two early Mesolithic microliths, was known about 2 km to the east of the site (Spencer & Dennis 1988). However, most of the knowledge of the archaeology of the area has come from work carried out in advance of expansion of the quarry since the early 1990s. Prior to this expansion programme, an environmental impact assessment was carried out, the archaeological component of which was undertaken by CAT in 1992 (CAT Report 8, appendix).

Aerial photographs show a large number of undated cropmarks from occupation activity beyond the north boundary of the quarry. There is an extensive cropmark complex some 0.8km to the north-west (Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER nos 11548, 11577, 11582), indicating a large sub-rectangular enclosure, associated tracks or droveways and a system of fields (EHER no 11924). Close to these sites but within the boundaries of the permissible northern quarrying area, there is a number of smaller cropmark sites (CAT Report 8, appendix).

Of the archaeology identified during the 1992 assessment, the most tangible and significant remains were two areas with surface spreads of Roman finds located to the north-east of Palmer's Farm (CAT Report 8, appendix). A small quantity of medieval pottery was also recovered close to the most southern of these. Further work undertaken by CAT in 1997 on this southern area identified three concentrations of finds within the general spread of Roman material (Fig 2; CAT Report 8). In 1998, geophysical survey and trial-trenching were undertaken in this southern area, producing evidence for two Roman structures (CAT Report 23).

Other archaeological investigation, excavation and recording has been undertaken by CAT at various locations here in response to the expansion of the quarry extraction area (Fig 1). In 1995, a small oven of Roman date was excavated

on the east side of the quarry close to Brake's Farm (NGR TL 9333 2002; CAT excavation 1995 on Fig 1). In 2001, evaluation trenching was undertaken by CAT in advance of the northern extension to the quarry (not on Fig 1). This revealed features of Bronze Age and Roman date (CAT Report 141). Following these results, an archaeological excavation on the evaluation area in 2003 revealed a Bronze Age cemetery, consisting of three ring-ditches associated with sixteen urned and unurned cremation burials, and part of a Roman field system (CAT excavation 2003 on Fig 1; CAT Report 289). Also, in 2005, a watching brief and limited excavation at the Birch compost site (at the former airfield) revealed features of Late Iron Age or early Roman, and Roman date (CAT Report 326; CAT excavation 2005 on Fig 1).

4 Aim

In general terms, the aim of the archaeological fieldwork was to identify, explore and record any significant archaeological features or remains which were threatened by destruction either from extraction or damage from associated quarry works activities.

5 Methods

For Stage 1 of the western extension, the method of investigation was initially a watching brief. Provision was made in the archaeological condition for hand excavation of any potentially significant archaeological features which were encountered. Essentially the same procedure was followed during Stage 2 of the western extension, although, following the results of Stage 1, it was anticipated that further archaeological excavation would be required. In both Stages 1 and 2, the initial soil-stripping consisted of the removal of the existing ploughsoil (approximately 300 mm deep) by contractors. The revealed subsoil consisted primarily of stony clay with areas of silts and gravels. Most features could be identified at this level of stripping; however, in some areas, further stripping proved necessary to provide clarity. This was especially so in the areas of silt subsoil which often obscured features. During the work associated with Stage 2 on Area A, areas alongside the site of the Stage 1 temporary access road became submerged beneath water and had to be re-machine stripped.

Liaison was maintained with the ECC HEM team monitoring officer and the quarry management to maintain an appropriate archaeological strategy. During initial works for both Stage 1 and Stage 2, a number of visits to monitor the results of the topsoil-stripping were made by a CAT archaeologist. Following the results of this, an archaeological excavation was carried out by CAT. Though all features of potential archaeological significance were excavated by hand, use was made of machinery where possible. Some ditches of probable post-medieval or modern date were tested using machine excavation under close archaeological supervision. Also, a few additional sections cut through Roman ditches were excavated by machine under the direction of an archaeologist. Individual records of features were entered on CAT pro-forma recording sheets. Section drawings of layers were made at a scale of 1:10 together with written descriptions of layers. Overall plans of the site were made using an EDM total station, and plans of individual archaeological remains were made by hand at a scale of 1:20. Finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned finds numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context. Colour photographs of main features, sections, the general site and the site environs were taken with a digital camera.

6 Summary of the development of the archaeological fieldwork

Some aspects of the development of the fieldwork are important in relation to the overall results of the archaeological work. The work was undertaken in two stages relating to Stages 1 and 2 of the quarry western extension (Fig 2).

The Stage 1 extraction area programme (2004) consisted of the enabling works for the planned extraction of the east half of the field east of Palmer's Farm. This was machine-stripped of topsoil by contractors. Two ditches were noted on this area, which were clearly of post-medieval or modern date, and also a very small number of finds collected from the surface of the subsoil which included a piece of a lava quern and a few prehistoric struck flint flakes. Otherwise no other features or concentrations of any significant finds were observed.

Area C, just beyond the north boundary of the field, was also cleared of topsoil in preparation for the installation of a conveyor. This was carried out in two stages. The east half was stripped first, and later this area was extended as far as the west side of the main stripped area. Area C was partly covered by extensive deposits of pale grey cover loam which masked some of the archaeological features, so that some additional machining was required. At the north-east corner of Area C, a small number of Roman cremation burials was located. These were excavated by hand. Further to the west were several ditches which appeared to be of probable post-medieval date, and exploratory machine-excavated sections were cut through these. At the west end of the conveyor, a small group of pits associated with Roman finds was excavated by hand.

In addition, areas along the edges of the fields around the south and west sides were stripped of topsoil in preparation for the creation of spoil bunds. There were no subsoil surface finds from these areas. However, a cluster of three small pits was recorded on the stripped area along the south side of the field close to the Maldon Road in Area B and which contained sherds of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery. These were excavated by hand. The bund-stripping extended around the east and north sides of the small coppice north of Palmer's Farm. There were no subsoil surface finds from this area, although two post-medieval ditches were recorded. Part of the northernmost of these two ditches was found to be obscured by a thin layer of re-deposited modern soil sealed below the topsoil. Sections through both features were excavated by machine.

A broad strip along the remaining length of the north field boundary was also cleared of topsoil to make a temporary access road for the quarry vehicles across Area A. A number of north-west/south-east ditches and also other features associated with Roman finds were located on this part of the site. A small programme of archaeological excavation was carried out on this road area. In addition, some exploratory sections were also excavated by machine. Additional machining of the subsoil was required in this road area to define some of the features which were initially obscured by remnant topsoil.

The Stage 2 extraction area programme (2005-6) consisted of extensions to the west and north-west of the existing Stage 1 extraction area. These extensions were on either side of the Stage 1 temporary access road (Area A) and north of the area of the quarry conveyor (Area C).

The quarry-pit of the Stage 1 extraction area required a baulk, between about 7 m and 10 m wide, to be left along the east side of the Stage 2 extraction area, so that the area occupied by this baulk was not available for investigation. This baulk and the site of the Stage 1 temporary access road divided the Stage 2 soil-stripping into three adjacent areas. These were the two main areas to the north and south of the Stage 1 temporary access road and one smaller area to the north-east (Area A). The south edge of the north-east part of Area A was some 12 m to 14 m beyond the limit of the Stage 1 soil-stripping, the area between having been lost to extraction.

Of the two main stripped areas of Stage 2, the area to the south was almost devoid of archaeological features except at its north end. There was only one small pit containing Roman tile pieces and a length of ditch heading south-east which disappeared below the baulk on the east side. However, a dense spread of features was apparent across all of the area to the north (Area A), most of which could be seen to contain Roman finds. There was a large number of machine tracks in the areas on either side of the Stage 1 temporary access road resulting from the tyres of dumper lorries penetrating the topsoil. During the excavation, these areas close to the access road became submerged under water, and had to be re-machine stripped into the subsoil. Some features recorded during the excavation in the

Stage 1 extraction area could not be traced on the Stage 2 extraction area and this probably resulted from more aggressive stripping during Stage 2.

Features were also clearly visible on the smaller part of Area A to the north-east, some of which were associated with an existing hedge line and so were probably of post-medieval or modern date.

7 Site phasing

7.1 Introduction

The site can be divided into three periods, based primarily on the dating of pottery but also on the spatial relationship of the features. In terms of the dated features (Table 1, Appendix 1), there appears to be a clear gap in the occupation on the site between the archaeological periods so that each can be treated as independent of one another. However, it should be noted that the orientation of the ditches dividing up the landscape, which was established in the period of the Late Iron Age or Roman transition, was maintained into the modern landscape.

Period 1: prehistoric

This covers the whole of the prehistoric period up to the Late Iron Age. However, the pottery finds from the site can be dated to the Middle-Late Bronze Age. The worked flint recovered is not closely datable except for one piece which is probably Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Period 2: Roman

The Roman period encompasses the 1st-4th centuries AD. There is a number of finds of Late Iron Age type or background, consisting of pottery and fragments from loomweights, which suggest that the Period 2 occupation could have originated in the Late Iron Age. However, all were recovered from features containing finds dated to the post-conquest period, and none of the features could be assigned to a specific Late Iron Age phase. Most of the more substantial features were ditches, and only a few pits were observed. Ditches often have a long life and can be maintained, so that tracing the development of these features in the absence of many direct relationships between them is rather speculative. In the absence of many other finds types, the dating of the Roman features relies heavily on the more closely datable pottery recovered from them. Based on the pottery, the features can be divided into three broad phases (Phases 1a, 1b and 2).

The spatial relationships between these features, however, suggest two main phases in the development of the settlement: Phase 1 or early-mid Roman and Phase 2 or late Roman. The pottery dating has been used to provide some dimension to the development of features in Phase 1, and, based on this, the Phase 1 features are divided between early Roman (Phase 1a) and mid Roman (Phase 1b).

- early Roman – features with pottery dated 1st-early 2nd century (Phase 1a)
- mid Roman – features with pottery dated early-mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century (Phase 1b)
- late Roman – features with pottery dated mid-late 3rd to 4th century (Phase 2).

These phases are shown in Figure 3.

Period 3: post-Roman (early medieval to modern)

The earlier part of this period is represented only by two individual small finds, dated as Anglo-Saxon or early-medieval and Anglo-Saxon or medieval. During 2005-6, three pits containing pottery dated as late medieval/post-medieval (probably the late 16th-early 17th century) were recorded. No other isolated features which can be assigned to the medieval or post-medieval periods have been identified. The most significant features which can be assigned to Period 3 are a number of ditches and these are difficult to date. Finds from these ditches (other than residual Roman finds) are often few, and, where closely datable, are post-medieval or modern.

However, at what point these features were originally created in the post-Roman period is not clear.

7.2 Period 1: prehistoric (Figs 2a-2b)

Close to the Maldon Road, in the south-west part of the site (Area B), three pits were recorded (F7, F8, F9; Fig 2b). Each was of slightly irregular shape and quite shallow. They were clearly truncated almost to their base, so that, based on the modern ground-level, they can never have been more than about 500 mm deep. They were filled with stony grey-brown sandy clay. In the fill of the features were various quantities of charcoal, burnt stone, and prehistoric pottery sherds. The pottery was tempered with fragments of crushed burnt flint and is dated as Middle to Late Bronze Age (section 8.3).

Near to the north edge of the west side of Area A was a small ring-ditch (F81; Fig 2a). This had a pale sandy fill with some charcoal flecks. The only finds from the ditch fill were two worked flints, one of which is an axe-thinning flake and can be dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age (section 8.2). No prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavated fill, although, importantly, no Roman or later dated pottery was recovered either. This suggests that the feature pre-dates the Roman (Period 2) occupation. The ring-ditch was about 8 m in diameter (measured from the outer edges of the ditch) and the ditch circuit was continuous. In 2003, three similar ring-ditches, each between about 6 m and 7 m in diameter, were excavated by CAT just under 1 km to the north-east at the northern extension (Fig 1; CAT Report 289). In the area between these three ring-ditches there was a number of Bronze Age cremation burials, many contained in large pottery urns, and the nature of that site associates it with other groups of Bronze Age cremation burials from North-East Essex referred to collectively as being of 'Ardleigh type' (CAT Report 289, 25). Although no cremation burials were located around F81, it is possibly significant that part of the base of a large flint-tempered vessel (Fig 12.6), probably from a large Bronze Age bucket urn of the type frequently used to hold cremated human remains, was recovered from the Roman feature F80 which was close to the ring-ditch in Area A (section 8.3).

In addition to the excavated features, there was a small number of unstratified and residual finds of prehistoric or probable prehistoric date. During 2004, a few unstratified struck flint flakes were recovered from the areas of topsoil-stripping. Otherwise, almost all the worked flint and much of the prehistoric pottery have come as individual residual pieces from the fill of later-dated features. The prehistoric pottery consists mostly of body sherds with few diagnostic pieces, but, of the recognisable sherds, all are probably of Middle and Late Bronze Age date (section 8.3). The worked flint is not datable except for the flake from F81 (above) and one unstratified flake dated as Iron Age or later (section 8.2). One flint recovered from the surface during 2005-6 and resembling a hand-axe is a naturally flaked piece and may be described as an eolith (section 8.2).

7.3 Period 2: Roman (Figs 2a & 2c)

7.3.1 Roman settlement

The main area of Roman activity is defined by a concentration of features in the north-west part of the site (Area A). The extent of these features corresponds with the eastern half of a surface scatter of Roman finds which extends beyond Area A (Fig 2). It also appears that the western extent of the site of the Roman settlement is probably located between the edge of Area A and the area stripped around the west edge of the field as no Roman features were recorded on that stripped area. This would also correspond with the extent of the Roman surface finds.

On the east side of the Roman site was a ditch (F37/F63 & F133) which seems to have been a significant boundary as, except for a group of cremation burials (section 7.3.2), one large pit (F46) and a small ditch (F43), no features of certain Roman date were identified to the east of this ditch boundary. The southern extent of the Roman site appears to have been marked by the ditches F132, F134 and F130. While no dated finds were recovered from the fill of F130 or F134, they conform to the overall pattern of Roman ditches, and almost no Roman features, except for one isolated pit (F115) and the ditch F133, were identified to the south of them. While F134 can be

identified as having been part of the Roman settlement, as it was cut by the ditch F132, the ditch F130 can only be dated as probably Roman based on its spatial relationship to the other Roman features. The ditches of the Roman settlement follow an overall orientation which is approximately north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west. This orientation was maintained throughout Period 2.

Phase 1a: early Roman

A number of the Period 2 features contained pottery entirely or primarily of 1st- to early 2nd-century date. These comprise a number of ditches, pits and post-holes, four possible graves for inhumation burials, and one very large pit which was possibly a well.

Based on the shared alignment and the date of the finds from the fill, it is assumed that F37/F63 and F133 were part of a ditch or ditch line, which appears to have formed a boundary to the main area of the Roman settlement. The closely datable pottery from this ditch is almost entirely of 1st- to early 2nd-century date, although the latest-dated pottery (from F37) is dated early-mid 2nd century (section 8.4). Just to the west of this ditch, about 6 m to 8 m away, and running parallel to it, were a number of smaller ditches (F35, F62, F71). These appear to have formed part of a north-south track or droveway along the east side of the Roman site. They all contained pottery dated to the 1st-2nd century, although one sherd dated early-mid 2nd to earlier 3rd century was recovered from the fill of F62 (section 8.4). The ditch F35 was only located during the excavation in 2004 where it could be seen to extend beyond the limits of the excavation. The continuation of this feature could not be located during 2005-6, although being relatively shallow it may have been entirely removed over much of its length. On the west side of the track or droveway, a gap between F62 and F71 appears to have been an entrance. Two shallow features (F73 & F74; Fig 9) on either side of this entrance gap are interpreted as the bases of post-holes, presumably forming a gate structure.

Although cut across by later ditches, obscuring the relationship, the ditches F92 and F93/F110 appear to have been related to F71 rather than to the boundary ditch just to the east. Pottery assemblages of 1st- to 2nd-century date were also associated with the ditches F91/F102 and F132 and the short length of ditch F82. The ditch F132 appears to have been associated with the ditch F133, and, although no finds were recovered from the ditch F134, it was cut by F132 and is therefore probably also part of this phase. These ditches suggest either fields or enclosures west of the boundary ditch F37/F63 and F133.

On the central north part of the site was a large deep pit (F80). This was about 7 m in diameter at the surface and just over 3 m deep. Although only one quadrant of this feature was fully excavated, this indicated that its profile was roughly bell-shaped (Fig 8). The lower part of the feature (the last 800 mm) suggested that it had a diameter here of between about 1.5 m and 1.2 m, and at the very base the final 150 mm narrowed again to a probable diameter of about 600 mm. The depth of the feature suggests considerable effort in its creation, which in turn suggests purpose in its depth. The most likely explanation is that the feature was a well, although there was no evidence in the form of any traces of a lining or supporting structure within it which would help to confirm this.

A number of pits or post-holes (F84, F117, F118, F119, F120, F122) concentrated around the east end of the ditch F91/F102 also contained pottery dated to this phase, as did a short length of a ditch or gully (F103). Also, while not directly dated, a row of four post-holes (F65-F68), possibly forming a fence line, are attributed to Phase 1a as they were cut by the Phase 1b ditch F60.

Towards the north-west edge of the site there was a group of several rectangular pits with rounded corners (F88, F89, F90, F96), which appear to have been graves for inhumation burials. They are included and described in this phase as they are associated with Roman pottery of 1st- to early 2nd-century date, although the quantities are small and the pottery from them may be residual. Pottery was recovered from the fill of three of these features: F88 (13 sherds), F89 (3 sherds), and F90 (4 sherds). Two of these (F88 & F90) appeared to be cut by a circular pit (F86) which contained a small quantity (10 sherds) of early Roman pottery dated as possibly pre-Flavian. Also, the pits were situated to the south of a short length of

ditch or gully (F82), from which five sherds dated to the 1st-early 2nd century were recovered.

Each of the pits was about 1.5 m long at the base and about 0.6 m wide, with vertical sides and a flat base. They had a silty-clay fill, which contained rather more grey silt in the upper part. The overall impression, based on the nature of the fill and their vertical sides, is that they had been backfilled rather than left open and allowed to silt up. The depth of these features varied, although none was very substantial. The deepest pit was F88 at just over 400 mm, so that, based on the modern ground-level, it may originally have been about 1 m deep. The remains of F89 (Fig 9) and F90 were approximately 200 mm deep, and F96 approximately 100 mm deep. Of the four pits, three (F88, F89, F90) were of roughly similar orientation, aligned approximately south-west/north-east. These may have been aligned with the ditch F82. The remaining pit (F96) was approximately at right-angles to these and aligned south-east/north-west. It is possible that F96 could have been aligned with an otherwise undetected boundary continuing the line of the Phase 2 ditch F97 to the north. Some of the of the pits also cut one another, ie F89 cut F90 and F86 cut F96.

The similarity of these four features and their close association indicates that they were related as a group, and their form and size suggest that they were graves for inhumation burials. However, no human remains were recovered from any of these features, and, while the soil may have completely dissolved away any bone, there were no other finds such as coffin nails, stains from wooden coffins, or burial goods, which usually survive, to indicate that they were burials. Of course, coffins may not have been used or might have been pegged together with wood, and there is no reason why any burial goods should have been included with a burial.

Phase 1b: mid Roman

There were a number of features which followed the arrangement of features allocated to Phase 1a but which contained pottery dating from the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. Prominent amongst these were three ditches on the central west part of the site, which possibly formed part of an enclosure. These consisted of F21, F128, F131, F108, and the ditch F130 (from which no finds were recovered). While one section of these lengths of ditch (F131) produced only 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery, early 2nd- to early 3rd-century sherds were recorded from the lower fill of F22, and pottery of early-mid 3rd-century date or later was recovered from the mid fill of F108 (section 8.4). A ditch (F22), which contained pottery dated simply as Roman, may be associated with the possible enclosure as it shared the alignment of the east enclosure ditch.

There were also three other ditches (F60, F87, F79). The ditches F79 and F87 were aligned on each other with a gap between them suggesting an entrance. This was directly across from the entrance onto the north-south track or droveway, framed by F73 and F74, and these two entrances suggest that there was an east-west path or track across the site at this point in the north part of Area A. Another ditch (F60) partly cut a row of earlier post-holes and may have replaced a boundary fence here.

Two pits (F99 & F109) and several depressions are also assigned to this phase. Three depressions (F25/F44-F45, F41, F42) were located close to each other on the south-east part of Area A. Each was relatively shallow at about 100 mm deep, although F25 was up to 200 mm deep, and each had a stony clay fill containing Roman pottery and fragments of tiles (Fig 5). Although F25 was slightly linear in plan, it was found to form part of a larger irregular feature (F25/F44-F45). While not necessarily a homogeneous group, these features do not appear to have been pits in the conventional use of the term and their purpose is not clear, although filled quarry hollows or filled areas of animal-trampled mires may be possible explanations.

Phase 2: late Roman

While retaining the overall orientation and arrangement of features established in Phase 1, the arrangement of features containing late Roman pottery suggests a possible change in the aspect of this part of the settlement in the late Roman period.

Part of the line of the earlier boundary ditch on the east side of the site was replaced by a new ditch, consisting of F36 and F72, which cut the fill of the earlier (Phase 1) ditch F37/F63 and F133. The new ditch did not extend as far south as F133, and the north section terminated just short of the entrance framed by the post-holes F73 and F74. The ditch F93 was also partly cut away by a new ditch F78 which joined to F72, cutting across the track or droveway on the east side of the site. Two other lengths of ditch were recorded which produced late Roman pottery sherds. One (F97), running north-west/south-east, which cut F79 and F91/F102, and another (F19, of which only a short length is known from the Stage 1 excavation) which followed the same alignment. It could be that F19 was the west ditch of the possible enclosure assigned to Phase 1. However, the alignment was slightly different to that of the enclosure. Also it can be noted that the south continuation of F19 would bring it very close to the point at which ditch F133 met the edge of Area A, and there was no sign of any turn in F133 indicating a corner of an enclosure at this point. F19 therefore appears to have been independent of the ditches of the possible enclosure, and post-dates them.

Between the ditches F78 and F72 was a large depression (F124) which was up to 260 mm deep and with a silty clay fill containing Roman pottery sherds and tile fragments. This feature is reminiscent of the Phase 2 features which are thought to have been filled quarry hollows or filled areas of animal-trampled mires. Given its location towards a corner formed by two ditches, possibly the corner of a field or pen, this may also be a feature resulting from animal trample or shallow quarrying. Also north of F78 was a small group of features, ie a small ditch or gully F101, a pit F94, and a very shallow grave-shaped feature (F95) which was partly cut away by F101 (Fig 8). The possible grave for an inhumation burial F95 was about 1.4 m long, but the surviving cut was only 50 mm deep. This feature is similar to a group of probable graves for inhumation burials assigned to Phase 1 on the north-west part of the site. There was little indication, other than the form of the feature, that it represents a grave for an inhumation burial, and it may just be an elongated pit. A single iron nail was recovered from the fill, but as a single nail this is difficult to associate with the possible presence of a coffin, and it may just be part of the general finds which had been incorporated into the feature.

South of the main area of activity with Area A was a pit F115. This is dated to the late 3rd-4th century based on a sherd of probable Rettendon-type ware from the fill, although the other pottery would suggest a date in Phase 1, and the feature may belong to the earlier phase. The pit contained a significant quantity of Roman tile pieces (weighing just under 8 kg) recovered from a half-section of the feature excavated. This is the largest quantity of Roman tile by weight from any single feature on the site (section 8.6).

7.3.2 Roman cremation burials (Figs 2c & 10; Table 2)

The cremation burials can be assigned to Phase 1 based on the pottery recovered from them, and the dated pottery is all of types which were current in Phase 1a. The cremation burials were located close to the north-east corner of the area (Area C) of the Stage 1 watching brief, in the area which was stripped for the quarry conveyor. The remains of four of these features (F1, F2, F10, F29) showed that they were urned cremation burials. Two other features (F5 & F6) contained only cremated bone. Associated with these features was a rectangular pit containing pyre debris (F4). Two other small circular pits (F27 & F28) with charcoal fills are probably also features with pyre debris. Close to this group of funerary features, although not necessarily connected with them, was a small pit (F3).

All the cremation burials had been made in small pits which had subsequently been truncated and suffered some level of disturbance from deep ploughing. The remains of the features were between about 100 mm and 250 mm deep into the subsoil, which in this area consisted of pale cover loam. Four cremation burials accompanied by pots (F1, F2, F10, F29) could be clearly seen to have been definite individual burials. Two other features, F5 and F6, which could be cremation burials, had no evidence of a pottery vessel with them. Both these features consisted of cremated bone fragments in the cover loam and appeared to be at the base of heavily-truncated small pits. F5 was a very small shallow feature containing only one

fragment of cremated bone. The proximity of F5 to F6 allows that F5 may not have been an independent feature at all but simply material disturbed (by plough pull) from the fill of F6, which was a more substantial feature than F5. While ploughing could have pulled out a pot from these shallow pits, if one was present, it is also possible that one or both of these features represents a simple burial of cremated human bone without an urn. The human bone from the cremation burials indicates that each was the burial of one individual. The remains of the individuals contained in F10 and F29 were sufficient to be identifiable as adults of above 20 years of age and probably between 35 and 50 years old respectively. The bone from the other cremation burials could only be classified as probably the remains of adults (section 8.7).

Four of the cremation burials (F1, F2, F10, F29) were accompanied by a single pot. All of the pots had suffered damage from deep ploughing and were broken into sherds. In three of the cremation burials (F2, F10, F29), the remains of the pottery vessels showed that they had been placed into the burial pit upright as complete pots containing the cremated bone. However, the sherds of pottery in one cremation burial (F1) were slightly jumbled, with base sherds being found in the fill above sherds from the rim. This burial had suffered a high level of disturbance with intrusive modern brick and post-medieval sherds in the fill, so it seems probable that F1 was also originally an urned cremation burial. The four pottery cremation urns were all of local grey ware, although only two could be positively identified as to their pottery form types. The pot from cremation burial F1 is a necked jar (form Cam 266), and the pot from cremation burial F29 is a bowl (form Cam 218), although the pot from F10 is possibly also a Cam 266 jar. Both forms can be dated to the 1st-early 2nd century.

Close to the cremation burials was a small square pit which contained a dark charcoal-rich fill (F4). The only finds from this pit were a few small iron fragments (possibly nails or studs) and some very degraded fragments of cremated bone. This pit fill is interpreted as pyre debris. Two other small pits (F27 & F28) also contained charcoal-rich fills and are interpreted as pits containing ?pyre debris. However, it should be noted that both of these features are undated.

A little to the east of the cremation burials was the base of a small pit (F3). The pit contained a single sherd of pottery which can only be dated as Roman, and some degraded fragments of red fired clay (daub) which came from the northern half of the feature. Its location, being in close proximity with the small group of isolated cremation burials and pyre-related features, suggests that it may be associated with them.

Table 2: summary of Roman cremation burials and associated pyre-related and other features.

feature number	feature type	description	finds
F1	disturbed urned cremation burial	small pit containing broken fragments of a Roman pot, fragments of 18th-century pot and cremated bone. The Roman pot base and rim were found together, but the vessel is broken up and had probably been disturbed by ploughing	sherds from a Roman jar of form Cam 266 dated 1st-early 2nd century; intrusive finds: 3 sherds of Westerwald stoneware pot (18th century), ?modern animal bone piece, fragment of Roman tile, fragment of post-medieval or modern glazed brick
F2	urned cremation burial	small pit containing lower half of urned cremation burial	lower half of Roman jar in laminating gritty grey fabric; fragments of cremated bone
F3	pit	small oval pit	Roman pottery sherd in abraded gritty grey ware; also sparse crumbs of fired clay recorded from fill
F4	pit with pyre debris	rectangular pit with layer fill of charcoal and soil	fragments of cremated bone; five small iron ?nail fragments; single pottery sherd of Roman grey ware

feature number	feature type	description	finds
F5	cremation burial or disturbance	possible feature, small shallow ?pit base, though close to F6 and bone could possibly be plough displacement from F6	cremated bone fragments/ crumbs in fill
F6	probable disturbed cremation burial	shallow feature, probably a truncated pit, with fragments of cremated bone although no evidence of a pot, also intrusive modern find, disturbed by ploughing	small quantity of cremated bone; intrusive finds: small fragment of modern concrete
F10	urned cremation burial	small pit containing lower half of urned cremation burial	part of a Roman jar probably of form Cam 266, dated 1st-early 2nd century; cremated bone
F27	pit with possible pyre debris	small pit with lower soil fill and main charcoal-rich fill	no finds
F28	pit with possible pyre debris	small pit with lower soil fill and main charcoal-rich fill	no finds
F29	urned cremation burial	small pit containing most of urned cremation burial	much of Roman bowl of form Cam 218, dated 1st-early 2nd century; cremated bone

7.4 Period 3: post-Roman to modern

During Stage 1, a number of ditches were recorded which no longer formed part of the modern landscape, although some were clearly features which had gone out of use in the later post-medieval or modern periods (F12, F13, F15, F16, F17). All these ditches appeared to be associated with an open field ditch (F11/F32). Another ditch (F14) was associated with F15 and can be attributed to this group of features. The ditches F12-F15 were sectioned by machine to retrieve datable finds in order to establish a post-medieval date, and pieces of peg-tile were retained from the fill of F12 and F15. During this machining, two shallow features were observed (F31 & F49). F49 consisted of little more than a shallow trace, but could have been a small ditch. The other feature, F31, was clearly a ditch cut by F12. This was sectioned and produced two sherds of Roman pottery. All these ditches were located east of the concentration of dated Roman features. Also, alongside ditch F17 was a large hollow which is presumed to have been a quarry-pit (Fig 2).

Further ditches were uncovered during Stage 2 (2005-6) east of the main area of Roman activity in Area A (F53-F57). These were hand-sectioned but produced almost no finds, although a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from F57. Three of these features (F53, F54, F55) were closely associated with the line of a hedged ditch, and two (F54 & F55) were shallow features reminiscent of the ditches F31 and F49. Another ditch (F106) ran across the Roman settlement, cutting the late Roman ditch F72. Its relationship with the Roman features suggests a post-medieval date; although all the finds recorded from the fill are Roman, they are presumed to be residual. Another ditch (F22), only located during Stage 1, and which produced no finds, is also possibly of post-medieval date.

Overall these ditches are not well dated, although most are or can be argued to be post-Roman. Many contained finds which have or indicate a post-medieval date, or were clearly part of a recent landscape. The date of origin of any of these features is not clear. Two small finds from the site hint at possible medieval activity (section 8.1); however, the only substantial indication of post-Roman settlement comes from a group of pits located towards the north-east corner of the site. These pits (F51, F52, F58) contained late medieval or early post-medieval pottery and must be associated with a settlement of that period (section 8.5).

8 Finds

8.1 Other material culture

by N Crummy

The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to modern, but most are stratified in Roman features. The objects are catalogued below by either artefact type or material as appropriate.

In general terms, the high proportion of quernstone fragments and the absence of Roman metal consumer goods found on sites within the walled town and suburbs of Colchester, such as brooches, toilet instruments, household and craft equipment, conforms to the profile of many rural assemblages in the area, notably the Abbotstone site at Stanway, Chigborough Farm at Little Totham, and Ardleigh, which are all sites within a few miles of this site, and also from the farmstead at Orton Longueville, Cambridgeshire (CAT Report 312; Major 1998; Major 1999; Mackreth 2001).

Loomweights

Ten features contained small, sometimes abraded, fragments of triangular loomweights (Table 3, Appendix 2), used from the Middle Iron Age until sometime during the first few decades after the Roman conquest of AD 43. None of those are illustrated here, as the largest group of fragments weighed only 230 g, and the largest individual piece only 109 g, compared to an estimated weight range when complete of 1.2-1.3 kg for the assemblage of loomweights from Stanway, Colchester, or 1.2-1.5 kg, based on a group from Danebury, Hampshire (Crummy forthcoming; Cunliffe & Poole 1991, 375, type 1).

The fabrics are comparable to three of those found at Stanway, although it should be stressed that the fabric of small fragments can be ambiguous. Fabric A is the most commonly found; it has some small grits and is fired hard, with a dull orange-brown to buff surface and with a reduced core which, where exposed, shows the lines of torsion formed during manufacture. Fabric C has a high sand content and the only small fragment from Birch Pit is fired hard, whereas those from the Stanway site are only slightly harder than structural daub (Crummy *et al* forthcoming). Fabric D is hard and orange-brown, with little abrasion; the surviving surfaces are smooth but have some voids from contact with vegetable matter.

The loomweights were used on upright warp-weighted looms and their common occurrence, in locally-made fabrics, on Iron Age sites shows that most communities produced their own cloth, which requires at least some of the animals in a flock of sheep or goats to be allowed to reach maturity, rather than slaughtering them within their first or second year, as would happen if meat and milk production were the main reason for keeping the animals.

The small size of the loomweight fragments and their recovery mainly from Roman features together suggest that most, if not all, are residual. However, they are unlikely to have travelled far from their point of origin, and, although no Iron Age settlement has been located on the site, one must have lain nearby.

Structural clay

Several small fragments of structural clay (weighing only 701 g in total) were found scattered in several features, many of which also produced loomweight fragments (Table 4, Appendix 2). Although in general the fabrics differ sufficiently for a distinction to be made between the two groups of material, some of the smaller and more abraded pieces may be from loomweights rather than daub-built structures. The size of the pieces and their recovery from Period 2 features are again indications that they are residual, including a tiny fragment found in the oven F20. Only two measurable wattle voids were noted, one 6 mm in diameter and the other 11 mm. These provide evidence for the use of small branches, probably from coppiced trees.

An unusual item is a right-angled corner fragment from a hard-fired slab. It may come from a rudimentary tile, or perhaps from a slab similar to the perforated examples used in kilns to support vessels during firing, and found from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age/Roman transition period.

Coin

The only coin from the site is a low denomination late 3rd-century issue, a period of high coin loss generally.

SF 12. (209) F78. Period 2 ditch. Copper-alloy *antoninianus*, Tetricus II or Claudius II, ?barbarous; *c* AD 268-70. Obverse: original surface removed, what remains is almost featureless; reverse: most of the original surface has been removed, leaving only what may be an eagle or sacrificial implements, and -/S/- from the legend. Diameter 14 mm, weight 1.22 g.

Burial finds

Only iron objects were recovered from burials or other funerary features. All were fragments of either structural nails or hobnails. The nails may have been used in the construction of the pyre, or may have come from re-used structural timber used as fuel, the funerary bed or bier, or wooden objects placed on the pyre as grave goods. It has often been suggested that shoes were deposited in burials as symbols of the journey to the afterlife, but contemporary written evidence points rather to the dead having been burned on the pyre fully clothed (Toynbee 1971, 44-50). The high proportion of hobnailed footwear in the cremation burial from the Handford House site in Colchester shows that the early Roman population of the town conformed to the latter practice, and the rural population using the land at Birch as a burial-ground seems to have followed the same practice (CAT Report 323).

SF 42. (10) F1. Period 2 cremation burial. One iron hobnail, length 17 mm, and six fragments.

(3) F2. Period 2 cremation burial. Twelve iron fragments, some tiny; possibly from hobnails. Largest 12 by 11 mm.

(34) F6. Period 2 cremation burial. a) Iron nail (incomplete) and two nail shank fragments. Lengths 30, 22, 21 mm. b) 110 small fragments of iron or mixed iron and charcoal. The majority are probably parts of broken and distorted hobnails, but some may be from structural nails as in a).

SF 43. (-) F27. Period 2 pit with ?pyre debris. Thirty-eight hobnails or hobnail fragments. Average length 12 mm.

SF 45. (71) F29. Period 2 cremation burial. Ten iron hobnail fragments. Average length 14 mm.

(182) F95. Period 2 ?grave. Iron nail. Length 84 mm.

Other metalwork

Most of the other metalwork from the site comes from Period 2 features or is unstratified. Very few items are either function- or date-specific. For example, the possible uses of the copper-alloy ring SF 19 include as a strap-junction on harness, as part of a suspension chain, or as a simple handle on a box, while SF 10, an unstratified lead pot repair, may be residual Roman, Anglo-Saxon, or medieval. The low melting-point and softness of the metal made it suitable for use in plugging small holes in ceramic vessels, and repairs of this type have been found in Roman contexts at London and Brough-on-Humber, Yorkshire; Anglo-Saxon contexts at West Stow and Lackford, Suffolk; and medieval contexts at London and Rumney Castle, Glamorgan (Crummy 2002, 34; Wacher 1969, 26, note 1; West 1985, 57, fig 231, 1; Egan 1998, fig 188; Evans 1992, fig 20, 4). However, the unstratified lead weight or spindlewhorl SF 9 is likely to be Anglo-Saxon or early medieval, while the button SF 7 and horseshoe SF 14 are late post-medieval or modern. A small fragment of dense iron from F124 (SF 28), probably an offcut from a smith's blank, and a scrap of copper-working debris from F80 are all that suggest that metal-working took place in the vicinity of the site.

(236) F80. Period 2 pit. Fragment of copper-working debris. Weight 17 g.

SF 11. (183) F99. Period 2 pit. Copper-alloy strip, folded double to encase a second doubled strip. Length 38 mm, width 10.5 mm.

SF 19. (248) F124, Sx 2. Period 2 ditch. Copper-alloy ring of circular section. Diameter 39 mm, section diameter 6 mm.

SF 8. (18) F51. Period 3 pit. Hooked strip fragment, made from a modern alloy. Length 59 mm, maximum width 8 mm.

SF 7. (210) F106. Period 3 ditch. Post-medieval or modern copper-alloy button with damaged integral loop. Diameter 29 mm.

SF 6. (210) F106. Period 2 ditch. Amorphous lead fragment. Maximum dimensions 20 by 14 by 16 mm.

SF 9. (207). Unstratified. Lead weight or spindlewhorl of low plano-convex section, the outer edge partly damaged. Diameter 25 mm, height 5.5 mm; diameter of hole 9 mm.

SF 10. (208). Unstratified. Lead pot repair. Maximum diameter 34 mm, thickness 10 mm.

SF 5. (211). Unstratified. Lead sheet fragment. 58 by 59 mm.

SF 30. (117) F51. Period 3 pit. a) Iron horseshoe branch fragment. Length 98 mm. b) Two iron strips attached to each other at right angles. Dimensions 52 by 20 mm, 35 by 21 mm.

(117) F51. Period 3 pit. Two iron nails, lengths 53 and 67 mm.

(126) F63, Sx 4. Period 2 ditch. Two iron nails, lengths 43 and 51 mm, and one nail head.

(136) F69. Unphased pit. Iron socketed spike or ferrule, probably part of an agricultural implement or machine. Length 133 mm, maximum diameter 21 mm.

(174) F94. Period 2 pit. Iron nail. Length 39 mm.

(251) F97. Period 2 ditch. Iron nail shank. Length 89 mm.

SF 13. (184) F99. Period 2 pit. Iron ring of circular section. Diameter 94 mm, section diameter 10 mm.

SF 26. (200) F102, Sx 1. Period 2 ditch. Iron plate or strip fragment with central nail or rivet hole. Length 71 mm, maximum width 32 mm.

SF 26. (223) F106, Sx 2. Period 3 ditch. post-medieval or modern horseshoe. Length 136 mm.

(205) F108. Period 2 ditch. a) Iron strip fragment with a nail or stud head surviving in the centre. Length 62 mm, width 24 mm. b) Iron shank fragment, possibly from a nail. Length 74 mm.

SF 28. (247) F124, Sx 2. Period 2 ditch. Tongue-ended fragment of dense iron, probably an offcut from a smith's blank. Length 33 mm, width 42 mm, thickness 16 mm.

(243) L4. Iron ring-headed shank, narrowing to a stump at the lower end; an oval ring or chain link is attached to the head. Length 77 mm.

SF 29. (172). Unstratified. Iron strip fragment. Length 126 mm, maximum width 16 mm.

SF 25. (254). Unstratified. Iron ring of rectangular section. Diameter 54 mm, height 14 mm, thickness 10 mm.

Rotary handquerns

Most of the quernstone fragments are made from Mayen lava, imported from quarries in the Eifel Hills in Germany. Querns of this type were first introduced into Britain by the Roman army in AD 43 and their subsequent importation into eastern England in considerable quantities was a feature of the new trade links established in the province. The end-date of this trade is uncertain, but querns of Millstone Grit from the Pennines tend to appear more frequently in the later Roman period in Essex, suggesting that the British-made stones filled a gap in the market. The four gritstone fragments may therefore post-date the lava fragments, although ditch F36 produced pieces of both stone types.

The absence of Hertfordshire Puddingstone querns contrasts markedly with the nearby farmstead at the Abbotstone site (CAT Report 312, 57), where they predominated in late 1st- to 2nd-century contexts. This distinction may be fortuitous, but it may equally be an indication that preferences for quern-types varied from farmstead to farmstead, possibly influenced by a range of factors such as date of use, erratic supply chains, or the ethnic origin of the user.

SF 34. (102) F36 Sx 1. Period 2 ditch. Two fitting fragments of Mayen lava quernstone with slight traces of grooving remaining on the grinding surface. Total weight 271 g.

SF 35. (90) F36 + F37 Sx 2. Period 2 ditches. Five small fragments of Mayen lava quernstone, with no original surfaces remaining. Total weight 46 g.

SF 33. (98) F44 Sx 1. Depression, Roman. Two fragments of Mayen lava quernstone, both with traces of grooving on the grinding surface. Total weight 321 g.

SF 27. (165) F78 Sx 2. Period 2 ditch. Fragment of Mayen lava quernstone with slight traces of grooving on the grinding surface. Weight 114 g.

SF 31. (149) F84. Period 2 pit. Rim fragment from the lower-stone of a Mayen lava quernstone with the grinding surface worn smooth. Diameter approximately 280 mm, maximum thickness at rim 39 mm.

SF 16. (185) F99. Period 2 pit. Rim fragment from the upper-stone of a Mayen lava quernstone, with the grinding surface worn smooth. Diameter approximately 380 mm, thickness at rim 50 mm.

SF 24. (249) F106 Sx 6. Period 2 ditch. Three fitting fragments from the rim of the upper-stone of a Mayen lava quernstone. The edge retains traces of vertical grooving and the grinding surface is worn smooth. Thickness at rim 50 mm.

SF 15. (221) F109. Period 2 pit. Fragment of Mayen lava quernstone with grinding surface worn smooth. Weight 346 g.

SF 38. (88) F36 Sx 1. Period 2 ditch. Two fitting fragments from the rim of a Millstone Grit quernstone; the original surfaces are either missing or damaged. Weight 233 g.

(251) F97 Sx 5. Period 2 ditch. Two fitting fragments from the rim of a Millstone Grit quernstone, with traces of angled grooves (?harp dressing) on the grinding surface. The other face is worn and dished, suggesting that it was used for grinding small quantities of a dry substance, or as a rubbing-stone, after the quern broke. Maximum dimensions 101 by 71 mm. Weight 407 g.

Fig 11.1. SF 18. (246) F124. Period 2 ditch. Rim fragment from the upper-stone of a Millstone Grit quern. The rim is slightly raised, the upper surface retains three concentric grooves, the grinding surface is pecked. Diameter approximately 500 mm, maximum thickness at rim 65 mm.

SF 36. (31) F14. Period 3 ditch. Fragment of Mayen lava quernstone with the grinding surface worn smooth. Weight 203 g.

SF 37. (79). Subsoil. Three fitting fragments of Mayen lava quernstone with the grinding surface worn smooth. Total weight 298 g.

SF 17. (255). Unstratified. Fragment of Millstone Grit quernstone with concentric grooves on the upper surface, the grinding surface is slightly rough. Diameter >260 mm. Weight 915 g.

Other stone

Some of the smaller fragments in this group may have been used as rubbing-stones, for polishing leather, metal or wooden objects, and these items include a small fragment of a Late Saxon or medieval Norwegian Ragstone hone (SF 42), imported from the Telemark area of Norway (*CAR* **2**, 77). Other fragments may have been used as building stone, and one exceptional object (SF 32, Fig 11.2) is probably a prehistoric saddle quern made from a glacial erratic, which, when it had worn through, was re-used as a post-base.

Fig 11.2. SF 32. (101) F37, Sx 1. Period 2 ditch. Large more or less U-shaped sandstone fragment, with a flat but rough base and a smooth rounded top of varying height. There are two contiguous straight edges set at right angles, one worn, the other crisper and probably of later workmanship. The third and longest edge veers outwards and curves in at the end, and is also worn. The inner edge is a smooth sloping curve. Maximum dimensions 285 by 235 mm, 86 mm thick. The ?later edge probably dates to a period of secondary use, perhaps as a post-base, when the stone was trimmed to prevent it from fouling a gate upright.

SF 41. (63) F25 Sx 2. Period 2 depression. Fragment of fine gritstone with one original edge. One surface is polished smooth and the other is even but rough. Edge length 42 mm, maximum width 66 mm, 33 mm thick.

SF 40. (100) F41. Depression, Roman. Fragment of sandstone with one worn but not totally smooth surface; probably wall veneer or building stone. Maximum dimensions 63 by 40 mm, 29 mm thick.

SF 42. (113) F52. Period 3 ditch. Small fragment of schist hone with part of one worn surface remaining. Length 37 mm, width 26 mm, 10 mm thick. Late Saxon or medieval.

(251) F97 Sx 5. Period 2 ditch. a) Fragment of sandstone with two worn surfaces and a worn straight edge; probably building stone. Length 65 mm, width 54 mm, 26 mm thick. b) Worn rounded fragment of gritstone with one flat surface; probably used as a rubbing-stone. Maximum dimensions 50 by 34, 37 mm thick.

8.2 Worked flint

by Hazel Martingell

In total, 18 flints were studied (Table 5, Appendix 3); of these, two were naturally flaked pieces, one resembling a hand-axe, and two are probably roughouts for recent building material. The remaining 14 artefacts include 7 waste flakes, 4 blades, 2 chippings and 1 notched flake. There were no retouched pieces which could have been identified as belonging to any one prehistoric period.

From the ring-ditch F81, a thinning flake was recovered, probably from thinning an axe. This is the only typologically identifiable artefact, but, in the absence of other similar waste pieces, it must be assumed that it was brought individually onto the site, as a useful cutting flint, during the Neolithic to Bronze Age.

8.3 Prehistoric pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

There is a total of 399 sherds (1,261 g) of prehistoric pottery (Table 6, Appendix 4). Almost all of this (apart from 7 sherds which were all part of a single pot) is tempered with crushed burnt flint. The prehistoric pottery fabrics and forms follow those devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988a). Almost all of the pottery is residual sherds from later features. Overall, based on fabric types and a limited number of identifiable vessel forms, and seen in relation to a number of Bronze Age burials excavated just to the north-east of the site in 2003 at the northern extension (Fig 1; CAT Report 289), the pottery can be attributed to the Middle and Late Bronze Age.

Recorded prehistoric pottery fabrics:
size of inclusions: S-small (<1 mm), M-medium (1-2 mm), L large (>2 mm)
density of inclusions: 1 = less than 6 per square cm, 2 = 6 to 10 per square cm, 3 = more than 10 per square cm.

Fabric A Flint S 2 well sorted
Fabric B Flint S-M 2
Fabric C Flint S-M with occasional L
Fabric D Flint S-L 2 poorly sorted
Fabric Z unclassifiable.

Discussion

Only three features in the south-western part of the site (F7, F8, F9) contained only prehistoric sherds. One of these features (F7) produced 344 sherds (weighing 310 g) of flint-tempered pottery (Fabric D) representing parts of at least two vessels. The pottery from this feature represents 86% of the prehistoric sherds recovered, and overall the three features together account for some 89% of prehistoric sherds from the site although only 27% of pottery by weight (it should be noted that the overall % weight is affected by a large rim from F102). While the majority of the sherds are from thick-walled coarse-tempered pots, all the sherds from F9 (10 sherds) are fine-tempered (Fabric A), representing part of one or possibly two fine ware pots. The sherds from F9 are the only recorded pottery in a fine fabric. Of the pottery from these three features, only one sherd from F7 could be illustrated (Fig 12.1). This is a rim sherd from a vessel with a narrowed mouth, rounded rim and small ledge on the shoulder. The vessel could be described as a deep bowl or jar. While not directly paralleled, there is a vessel of similar appearance among the Late Bronze Age pottery from Broads Green (Brown 1988b, fig 5.4). However, it could also be part of an urn, and fragments of small urns or ancillary vessels were recovered from a Middle Bronze Age burial site to the north-east in 2003 at the northern extension (Fig 1; CAT Report 289, fig 12.9-13).

The remainder of the pottery consists of residual sherds. There is part of a thick base (Fig 12.6) from a large vessel, presumably a large urn, in very coarse flint-tempered fabric from the fill of F80. This feature was located close to the ring-ditch F81 which is probably of prehistoric date. The vessel is probably of Middle Bronze Age date and may be part of a funerary urn associated with the ring-ditch. A number of burial urns of Middle Bronze Age date were recorded around three similar ring-ditches north-east of the site at the northern extension (Fig 1; CAT Report 289). There are also two rim sherds from fine ware bowls with flared rims (Fig 12.2-12.3) and one rim from a flat-topped bowl with a slightly incurved rim (Fig 12.4). Similar bowl forms can be paralleled among Late Bronze Age assemblages in Essex, for example, at Lofts Farm (Brown 1988a). A comb-decorated sherd (Fig 12.5) can also be dated to the Late Bronze Age.

In addition to these, there is also part of the rim, shoulder and body of a bowl which was recovered with a small group of pottery of Late Iron Age date from F102 (Fig 12.7). Its fabric is sandy with some small stones protruding from the surface and it is tempered with burnt black organic matter (possibly dung; Fabric Z). The fabric has the appearance of natural clay which has not been refined or altered before use except for the addition of an organic-based temper. The vessel form is similar to Late Bronze Age bowls, for example, at Lofts Farm (Brown 1988a, fig 15.33) and Broads Green (Brown 1988b, fig 5.4), although a later date cannot be excluded.

Illustrated prehistoric pottery

Fig 12.1 F7 (finds no 14). Rim sherd in flint-tempered fabric (Fabric D) from a bowl or jar from with a narrowed mouth, rounded rim and small ledge on the shoulder. The vessel could be part of an urn.

Fig 12.2 F71 (finds no 129). Small rim sherd in flint-tempered fabric (Fabric C) from a bowl with flared rim.

Fig 12.3 F121 (finds no 238). Small rim sherd in flint-tempered fabric (Fabric B) from a bowl with flared rim.

Fig 12.4 F121 (finds no 129). Small rim sherd in flint-tempered fabric (Fabric C) from a bowl with a slightly incurved flat-topped rim with a small internal bead.

Fig 12.5 F80 (finds no 191). Single sherd from the shoulder of a jar in flint-tempered fabric (Fabric B) with combed decoration.

Fig 12.6 F80 (finds no 191). Five sherds (three joining) in coarse flint-tempered fabric (Fabric D) from one side of the base of a large urn.

Fig 12.7 F102 (finds no 222). Part of rim, shoulder and body of a large bowl, 8 sherds of which 7 join together, slack shouldered with upright or slightly everted rim in coarse fabric with ?added sand temper, burnt black organic matter (possibly dung) temper and occasional small stones (Fabric Z).

8.4 Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

Approximately 66 kg of stratified Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation. This consists of 3,984 sherds weighing 64,275 g from the site of the Roman settlement, and a further 2,296 g, including much of three individual pots, from a small isolated group of cremation burials. The fabrics were recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR* **10** in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. The full fabric names for each of the lettered codes are given in Table 7 (below) with the addition of Fabric GTW (grog-tempered wares), Fabric RCW (Romanising coarse ware), and Fabric RET (flint-tempered Rettendon-type ware). Where possible, the corresponding fabric designation for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels are recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996 (Table 8).

In addition, there was also a small quantity of unstratified Roman pottery (approximately 1,300 g) which, apart from its total weight, has not been quantified. This material was briefly examined for unusual or important sherds, but none were recorded. Only four vessels were selected for illustration (Fig 13.1-4). These are from a group of pottery of Late Iron Age type from one context. The pots from the cremation burials are too fragmented to illustrate as whole vessels. They are standard types which can be adequately described by their Cam form number, as are the pots from the other features. The Roman pottery divides into two assemblages, ie the pottery associated with the cremation burials, and the pottery from the other features, primarily ditches, together with a few pits, post-holes and other isolated features.

Table 7: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR* 10).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
AA	amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras	
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
BX	decorated samian forms	
CG	Central Gaulish decorated samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish decorated samian	
BPW	butt-beaker parchment ware	NOG WH3
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	LNV CC
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and North Kent wares)	LON FR/UPC FR
GR	fine grey wares imitating samian and *terra nigra* forms	
GTW	grog-tempered wares	SOB GT
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
GT	large storage jars with prominent grog temper	
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated wares	OXF RS

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
MQ	white slipped fine wares and parchment wares	
RCW	Romanising coarse ware	
RET	Rettendon-type ware	
TD	mortaria, Verulamium region	VER WH
TE	white fabric with black grits, unslipped or with reddish wash	LNV WH
TK	Oxford, white/cream fabric, unslipped with pink grits	OXF WH
TP	Hadham fine orange fabric	HAD OX
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	
UR	*terra nigra*-type wares	
LTC	*terra nigra*-type wares, local traded coarse ware	
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares	
WPW	white pipeclay ware	NOG WH1

Fabric descriptions other than fabrics contained in *CAR* **10**:

Fabric GTW Grog-tempered wares

Generally thick sherds with patchy red-brown to dark brown surfaces. Fabric contains various quantities of crushed fired clay (grog) and is grey to dark brown.

Fabric RCW Romanising coarse wares

Sherd thickness is generally medium-thin. Fabric contains fragments of burnt organic matter and some grog may also be present, though the fabric can also be sandy. The fabric is either grey-brown with dark grey-brown surfaces which have a tendency to laminate, or pale brown to light grey and appearing abraded. This fabric group includes some black-surfaced wares (fabric BSW, Martin 2003, 129-35).

Fabric RET Rettendon-type ware

Flint-tempered Roman coarse ware (Going 1987, fabric 48).

Table 8: Roman pottery fabrics, recorded weight and recorded pottery form types with an approximate minimum number of recorded examples, if more than one, in brackets following the form.

Fabric code (*CAR* 10)	weight (in g)	% of assemblage by weight	forms recorded
AA	423	0.6	Gaulish amphora, ?Haltern 70
AJ	6,691	10.0	Dressel 20
BA(SG)	287	0.4	Dr 18 (2), Dr 27g, Dr 27
BA(CG)	238	0.3	Dr 18/31(2), Dr 27, Dr 31
BA(EG)	48	<0.1	Dr 27?, Dr 33
BA (unsourced)	30	<0.1	
BX(SG)	5	<0.1	Dr 29
BX(CG/EG)	10	<0.1	Dr 37
BPW	148	0.2	Cam 113 (2)
CH	280	0.4	
CZ	87	0.1	Cam 391
DJ	1,934	2.9	Cam 148, Cam 155 (6), Cam 156, Cam 199, Cam 207/296, Cam 326
DZ	105	0.1	Cam 119
EA (including EZ)	144	0.2	Cam 395?
GA	60	<0.1	Cam 279 A/B, Cam 279 (2)
GB	913	1.4	Cam 37A, Cam 37B (4/5), Cam 40A, Cam 278 (5)
GP	219	0.3	Cam 123 (2)
GR	487	0.7	Cam 330
GTW	681	1.0	Cam 229 (3)
GX	19,221	28.8	Cam 46/311, Cam 108 (5), Cam 215?, Cam 217?, Cam 218 (4), Cam 221 (2?), Cam 231-232 (2), Cam 243-244/246 (2),

			Cam 266 (8), Cam 268 (6), Cam 269, Cam 270B, Cam 299 (3), Cam 305B, Cam 307 (2)
HD	99	0.1	Cam 259, *CAR* **10** Type 35 jar
HZ	21,147	31.7	Cam 256, Cam 273 (9), Cam 270A/271, ?Cam 270B
HZ(GT)	470	0.7	
KX	374	0.6	Cam37/38 (2), Cam 37B, Cam 39, Cam 278 (2), Cam 305B
MP	13	<0.1	Young 1977, form type 45 or 46
MQ	98	0.1	
RCW	11,382	17.0	Cam 96-97, Cam 104?, Cam 108, Cam 218 (3), Cam 221, Cam 241/242, Cam 266 (4), Cam 231-232
RET	65	<0.1	
TD	40	<0.1	
TE	147	0.2	Cam 500
TK	77	0.1	
TP	8	<0.1	
TZ	596	0.9	
UR/UR(LTC)	18	<0.1	Cam 8/24
WA	3	<0.1	Cam 123?
WPW	23	<0.1	Cam 161?
total weight in g	**66,571**		

Pottery associated with the cremation burials

There is pottery from five of the cremation burials (F1, F2, F10, F26, F29) and one sherd from a pit containing pyre debris (F4). The pottery from the cremation burials was very broken up, presumably as a result of plough damage, and only two pots could be identified to form type. These are a Cam 266 jar (dated 1st-early 2nd century) in Fabric GX from F1, and a Cam 218 bowl (dated 1st-early 2nd century), also in Fabric GX, from F29, although the pot from F10 is possibly also a Cam 266 jar. Much of these three pots is present as sherds, and they were probably buried whole, each presumably serving as a cremation urn. Much of the base of a grey ware jar (Fabric GX) was recovered from F2. As a jar base from the lower half of a truncated cremation burial pit, it seems likely that this vessel too was buried whole as a cremation urn. The surviving base sherds of this pot had either been degraded by the surrounding soil or possibly scorched. A single sherd of oxidised ware (Fabric DJ) was also recovered from F2, probably from a flagon and most probably of 1st- to 2nd-century date. The remainder of the pottery consists mostly of sherds of Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW) and silty grey wares, both of early Roman date, and grey ware sherds. Most or all of these sherds are probably from jars or bowls of similar type and date to those from F1, F10 and F29. There is also one sherd from a large storage jar (Fabric HZ) from F26 which can be dated as 1st-2nd/3rd century. A single grey ware sherd from pit F4 can only be dated as Roman.

Discussion of the pottery associated with the cremation burials

The pottery from the cremation burials, based on the identifiable vessel forms and prominence of early Roman fabric types, is predominantly if not entirely of 1st- to early 2nd-century date. The indications are that at least four burials (F1, F2, F10, F29) were each provided with a jar or jar/bowl probably serving as the cremation urn. Where a single pot was present, a jar is the most usual type of vessel (Philpott 1991, 35). There was little indication of any ancillary vessels having been present. The single oxidised ware sherd from F2, probably from a flagon, could indicate a second vessel, especially as flagons are one of the more common vessels placed with cremation burials (Philpott 1991, 35). However, as a single sherd, this may also represent almost anything from a token inclusion to an unintentional inclusion of a broken funerary pot or a residual sherd. The single sherd from a large storage jar from F26 is unlikely to represent an ancillary vessel, but otherwise the same comments as for the oxidised sherd from F2 could apply.

Pottery from other features

The excavation sampling of the Roman and later features produced approximately 64 kg of Roman pottery (Table 9, Appendix 5). The combined date ranges of the pottery types span the whole of the Roman period from the 1st to the 4th century. Based on the forms and fabrics, the pottery assemblage can be broadly divided into three phases: 1st-early 2nd century (including pottery of Late Iron Age type), early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, and mid-late 3rd-4th century.

The majority of the pottery consists of local coarse reduced wares (Fabrics RCW, GX & HZ), which account for some 78% by weight of all the pottery. A further 3% is local coarse oxidised wares (Fabric DJ), so that about 80% (by weight) of all the pottery is local coarse wares. Imports of Late Iron Age or early Roman date (Fabrics BPW & WPW) are present, and the inhabitants of the site continued to have access to other imported wares throughout the 1st and 2nd-early 3rd century. These comprise samian, both plain (8 vessels identified) and decorated (2 vessels identified), of which 1st-century and 2nd- to early 3rd-century fabrics appear at about the same quantity, that is, about 0.4% (by weight) of the total assemblage. In addition, there are sherds from amphoras which, while predominantly of the Spanish olive oil vessels (Dressel 20), also include sherds from two other forms; one a Gaulish type and the other possibly a Haltern 70. Mortaria of this period are also present, probably from a local source (Fabric TZ), but with one regional import from the Verulamium region (Fabric TD). Local colour-coated fine ware (Fabric CZ) is recorded from the 2nd-3rd century, and black-burnished wares were added to the range of coarse wares. The late Roman period saw a wider number of regional imports, ie pottery from the Hadham kilns (Fabrics CH & TP), the Nene Valley (Fabrics EA & TE), the Oxford potteries (Fabrics MP & TK), and probably also the late shell-tempered wares (Fabric HD). These comprise a mixture of fine colour-coat wares with more utilitarian mortaria and jars. The overall impression from the pottery is of a moderately prosperous settlement, the inhabitants of which had from its beginnings some access to and used pottery indicative of some level of Gallo-Roman and Roman cultural practices.

Four elements are of particular interest, ie the pottery of Late Iron Age type or background; the discrete sherd groups from one of the ditches; also, more generally, the dating of the Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW); and the presence of flint-tempered Rettendon-type ware (Fabric RET) on the site.

Potentially the earliest-dated pottery among the Roman assemblage is a small quantity of pottery of fabrics and vessel forms current from the Late Iron Age and into the early Roman period: Cam 8/24 (Fabric UR(LTC)), Cam 113 (probably 2 pots; Fabric BPW), possibly Cam 161 (Fabric WPW), Cam 229 (3 pots; Fabric GTW), Cam 259 (Fabric HD), and possibly also a Cam 119 butt-beaker (Fabric DZ). Much of this was recovered among assemblages with post-conquest (Roman) pottery, often as single sherds or small groups of sherds. However, one larger group of grog-tempered sherds and a partial pot were recovered together from F102 (29 sherds weighing 494 g). These represent at least three ripple-shouldered bowls and one ripple-shouldered bowl/jar (Fig 13). All the vessel forms and fabrics detailed above can be paralleled at the Sheepen site at Colchester, where occupation is dated from *c* AD 5 (Niblett 1985, 3). It can be noted that only one or two sherds of Gallo-Belgic or North Gaulish imports are recorded among the early pottery from this site (Fabric BPW & Fabric WPW), and no *terra rubra* or *terra nigra* wares were identified. Imported wares of this period are present in large quantities at Sheepen, 9 km to the north-west (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 202-221; Niblett 1985, 74-82), and some 50 or so individual vessels were also recorded from the Abbotstone site, a rural occupation site located some 4 km to the north-east between this site and Sheepen (CAT Report 312). The significance of the quantity of imports recorded from the Abbotstone site in relation to this site is not clear. It could suggest that this site was of a lower status or be influenced by the date at which the site was first occupied. At the Abbotstone site, however, the excavated area, the number of features, and the total quantity of pottery recovered (some 150 kg, which is about 2.5 times more than from this site), are larger, so that comparison is difficult; also, only part of this site has so far been excavated. However, there does appear to be a significant difference in the quantity of early imported pottery between the two sites.

It is worth noting that the limited excavation at the Birch compost site at the former airfield in 2005, close to the present site, produced a small assemblage (7.2 kg), which, while containing Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery, also contained one (possibly two) sherds identified as Gallo-Belgic imports (CAT Report 326).

Except for the small group of pottery of Late Iron Age type from F102, there is one other feature where pottery was recovered from deposits of discrete groups of sherds, and this was the shallow ditch F93/F110. In all, there were five sherd groups (finds nos 193, 194, 195, 201, 202, 213), and all the closely datable pottery among these is of 1st- to early 2nd-century date. Of these, sherd groups 194, 195, 201 and 202 were quite close together in F93, being separated by less than 0.5 m, with finds no 193 about 1.5 m away from these. Finds no 213 came from F110. The forms represented are Cam 96/97, Cam 108, Cam 148, Cam 218, Cam 231/232, Cam 241/242 and Cam 266. One jar or bowl has a number of post-firing holes pierced through the base (finds no 194). Within these sherd groups, either sherds from one vessel appear to predominate or there is much of one vessel represented (the clearest example being much of a small flagon of form Cam 148), although the sherd groups themselves are quite mixed, with sherds from a number of different pots being represented. However, based on the identifiable sherds, such as rim sherds, the pots represented in each sherd group appear to be unique to that group, so that each group appears to represent a discrete episode.

At Colchester, Romanising coarse wares were described by Rex Hull and by Ros Niblett among assemblages dated to *c* AD 5-60 (Niblett 1985, 3) from the Sheepen excavations (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 206-270; Niblett 1985, 51-2). However, in *CAR* **10**, which reported on large quantities of pottery from within the Roman fortress and town, a specific Romanising fabric group was not described. Within the county, Romanising coarse ware was recognised as a fabric group among the pottery from Chelmsford (Going 1987, fabrics 34 & 45). The fabric 45 was predominantly 1st century and most prolific in ceramic phase 1 (*c* AD 60-80), while the finer fabric 34 was predominantly of 1st- to 2nd-century date. The description of some fabrics as Romanising, and thus attributed to the early Roman period, has been shown to be problematic in relation to some assemblages in the county where late Roman pottery forms appear in similar fabrics (Martin 2003, 130). In respect of this, the pottery forms recorded under Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW) from this site were checked to see which dated forms were present (Table 10). All are types dated to the 1st-early 2nd century, although including one form which can only be dated as 1st-2nd century but which could of course be of 1st-century date. It is notable that none of the Cam form 268 jars (6 examples), dated early-mid 2nd century to late 3rd/early 4th century (*CAR* **10**, 479), were recorded in this fabric. This suggests that fabrics assigned as Romanising coarse wares at this site are primarily of 1st-century date.

Table 10: pottery forms and their date ranges recorded in Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW).

pottery form number	form date range (after *CAR* 10)
Cam 96-97	only at Sheepen
Cam 104	*c* AD 55-90
Cam 108	Claudian-AD 130/140?
Cam 218	Claudio-Neronian to early 2nd century
Cam 221	pre-conquest to late 1st or early 2nd century
Cam 241/242	Claudian to late 1st or early 2nd century
Cam 266	pre-conquest to late 1st century
Cam 231-232	pre-conquest to mid-late 2nd century

Rettendon-type wares are recorded from sites in central and south Essex, but not previously among assemblages from Colchester or sites in the immediate area. It is, therefore, of interest that Rettendon-type ware sherds were recovered from this site. The quantity is very small; only 4 sherds (weighing 65 g) have been positively identified as Rettendon-type ware. The 4 sherds were kindly confirmed by Joyce

Compton of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. Rettendon-type ware is described by Chris Going from sites in Chelmsford (Going 1987, fabric 48). The ware is a flint-tempered Roman pottery fabric, and is defined as a fabric type rather than as the product of any specific kiln or kilns. It is usually dated as late 3rd to mid-late 4th century (Joyce Compton pers comm). From the excavation, two sherds come from F36, which was part of a Roman ditch (F36/F72). As well as residual 1st-century sherds, closely dated pottery from the ditch F36 includes Central Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(CG), dated 2nd century), late Colchester colour-coat ware (Fabric CZ, dated early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century), and sherds from a Cam 299 bowl (dated early Antonine to 4th century). The latest-dated pottery from this ditch feature consists of sherds from a Cam 305B flanged bowl (dated late 3rd-4th century). Of the remaining two sherds, one is from the fill of F115, where the only other closely datable sherds are dated late 1st-mid 2nd century, and the other is from the fill of a post-Roman ditch (F106).

Illustrated pottery

Fig 13.1 F102 (200). Ripple-shouldered jar/bowl, 6 joining sherds forming about 20% of the rim and shoulder (Fabric GTW).

Fig 13.2 F102 (200). Ripple-shouldered bowl, single sherd (Fabric GTW).

Fig 13.3 F102 (200). Ripple-shouldered bowl, 11 sherds, 8 joining together in two separate groups forming about 60% of the rim overall, much of the upper part of the vessel is present (Fabric GTW).

Fig 13.4 F102 (200). Jar or bowl base with wipe marked exterior, 2 joining sherds (Fabric GTW).

8.5 Post-Roman pottery

by H Brooks

Introduction

This report covers a small group (61 sherds weighing 1.7kg) of post-Roman pottery.

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are all late medieval transitional and post-medieval, as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR* **7**): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware), and Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware). Pottery weights are listed in Table 11 (Appendix 6).

Discussion

Except for a single sherd of Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware) from F52, this group consists entirely of Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware) and Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE). There is no reason why all this pottery could not have been deposited within a fairly short time-span, perhaps a few decades in the last part of the 16th and the early part of the 17th century.

Forms which can be paralleled include a saggy-bottomed, globular, heavily lime-scaled cooking pot in Fabric 21a. This is similar to an example with late 15th- to early 16th-century characteristics (*CAR* **7**, 138-9, fig 90.111), and the fact that it has been used for boiling water would suggest domestic activity close to pit F52. There is also a jug rim and shoulder from F51, the flat-topped rim and general body shape of which are within the tradition of Colchester-type ware 'Cheam copy' jugs (*CAR* **7**, 122-3, fig 79.40), although unslipped in this instance. These generally date from the late 14th to the early 16th century, but this example was residual in the presence of the 17th-century (or later) PMRE sherds.

There were two parallel, post-medieval ditches (F53 and F54) in the north-east corner of the site. Since these were located to the west of the features containing most of this group of pottery (F51, F52, F58), it would appear that there was a small area of post-medieval settlement in the north-east corner of the site (Area A).

8.6 Roman and post-Roman tile and brick (Table 12, Appendix 7)

A total of 35,848 kg of Roman tile was recovered during the excavation. The majority of this consisted of small pieces with no significant distinguishing features other than

that they could be identified as Roman tile. Among these, 50 pieces could be certainly identified as Roman roof tile, made up of 31 pieces of *tegula* and 19 of *imbrex*. There were also 11 pieces of combed flue tile. An effort was made, by plotting out quantities of tile onto the site plan, to ascertain whether the Roman tile was concentrated on any particular part of the site, which might indicate the site of a building. However, no significant concentration or pattern was found, although one isolated pit (F115) contained nearly 8 kg of tile pieces (7,853 g) excavated from one half of the feature. This weight can be set against the quantities of tile recovered from the other features and which were much lower in weight. Almost all these features produced less than 2 kg of tile except for F99, which produced just over 2 kg, and F124, which produced just over 3 kg.

Very small quantities of post-Roman tile were recovered from hand-excavated features. Almost all the pieces recorded are fragments from peg-tiles and came from the fill of F1, F40, F12, F15 and F58, with one piece of brick recovered from the fill of F106.

8.7 Cremated human remains

by Francesca Boghi

Introduction (Table 13)

A total of 638 g of cremated bone was recovered from eight features. The assemblage derives from a group of early Roman burials comprising four urned cremation burials (F1, F2, F10, F29), one pit containing pyre debris (F4) and one pit containing possible pyre debris (F27), and two possible cremation burials (F5, F6). The analysis of the cremated bone followed the guidelines drafted by McKinley (2004). The bone contained in F5 (1 g) was classified as probably human on the basis of its texture, although the small size and quantity of the bone made it impossible to identify any of the fragments. All the other features were found to contain fully cremated human bone. Animal bone, pyre debris and other inclusions were absent from all the features. A summary and a description of each feature are given in Tables 14-17 (Appendix 8).

Table 13: fragmentation of cremated bone from the site – summary.

	Residue (%)	2mm (%)	5mm (%)	10mm (%)	Max fragment size (mm)	Total weight (g)
COUNT (no)	8	8	8	8	8	8
MIN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	7.0	1.0
MAX	4.9	100.0	66.6	80	49.0	492.0
AVERAGE	0.6	20.9	36.5	42	29.6	79.5

The amount of bone found in each feature was small (<100g) except for F29, which contained 492 g. The quantity of cremated bone per feature varied considerably from 1g (F5) to 492 g (F29) with an average weight of 79.5 g (Table 16, Appendix 8). The amount of bone found in F29 falls within the size range (57-3,000 g) for archaeological cremations (McKinley 2000, 408-9), though it is largely incomplete in comparison to a modern cremation (1,000-3,600 g; McKinley 2000, 404). The very small quantity of bone found from the rest of the features on the site probably reflects the type of deposit in the case of the redeposited pyre debris as well as the level of the disturbance suffered by the urned cremation burials. It is difficult to assess whether the partial collection of bone at the pyre site may also have played a part.

The average fragment size (29.6 mm) was quite small and ranged from 7 mm to 49 mm (Table 16, Appendix 8). The bone was on average very finely fragmented, as only 42% of bone fragments were over 10 mm in size in comparison to an average of 50% of bone fragments over 10 mm in archaeological cremations (McKinley 1994, 340). It is, however, very difficult to establish whether preservation factors were augmented by deliberate crushing.

The bone showed the typical pattern of fissuring, cracking and warping found in cremated fresh bone. The predominantly buff white colour found across the whole

assemblage indicates the full oxidisation of bone, which occurs when a temperature in excess of 600° is reached (Shipman *et al* 1984). The small amounts of blue/grey noted in the shielded areas of the medullary cavity of the long bones and endocranial surface of the skull indicates that a slightly lower temperature was attained in these areas and follows the typical pattern of burning on the bones of a skeleton (Table 17, Appendix 8).

It was possible to identify some skeletal elements in all but one feature (F5), which contained only 1g of bone (Table 16, Appendix 8). Bone elements from at least three skeletal areas were identified in three features (F1, F6, F29) and two skeletal areas could be identified in three features (F2, F4, F27). Fragments were considered identifiable when they could be attributed to a specific bone element rather than a generic skeletal area. Identifiable bone was separated, quantified and classified into four skeletal areas: skull, axial skeleton, upper limb and lower limbs. On average, 33.8% of bone fragments could be identified. This figure falls within the expected range (20-50%) of an archaeological cremation which is normally identifiable (McKinley 1989, 68). With respect to the relative representation of skeletal areas, elements from the upper limbs were best represented, followed by the skull and lower limb fragments. Axial skeletal fragments were the least represented (Table 18, Appendix 8). Preservation factors are likely to more harshly affect the axial skeleton, which has a lower proportion of the more durable cortical bone. The collection of the cremated remains from the pyres appears to have been meticulous enough to include bone elements from at least three skeletal areas in three features. However, considering that skull fragments are more easily identified than limb bones, it is interesting to notice the absence of identified skull fragments in three features, possibly indicating a bias in the skeletal areas collected.

The minimum number of individuals was established according to the duplication of bone elements or if skeletons of different ages were represented in one feature. No multiple burials were identified in this sample, as there was no evidence for duplication of bone elements or discrepancies of age at death in any of the features. No evidence for bone deposition in anatomical order was found in the two features (F1 and F29) which were excavated in spits in order to ascertain whether the bone was distributed in a deliberate order.

The estimation of precise age at death was difficult as most ageing features and criteria for sex determination were unavailable. One individual (F29) was classified as a middle-aged adult (35-50 years) on the basis of the rate of cranial suture closure and another (F10) as adult (>20 years) according to the stage of epiphyseal fusion. The remaining individuals could only be generically classified as probably adults (>20 years) from a generic assessment of bone size, texture and cortical thickness (Tables 14-15, Appendix 8).

None of the morphological criteria for sex determination in skeletal material as in Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) were available in this sample. Most of the metric criteria for sexing cremated material devised by Gejvall (1969) were either absent or insufficiently complete. The measurement of the external occipital protuberance could be taken in one case (F29), but the large overlap between the female and male range meant that a sex category could not be assigned. Therefore, all the human remains in this sample were classified as indeterminate.

No pathological changes were observed in this sample, probably more as a result of the incomplete and fragmented nature of the cremated bone than of a true absence.

8.8 Faunal remains

by Julie Curl

Introduction

A total of 3,238 g of bone, consisting of 438 elements, was recovered from the excavation. The assemblage consists entirely of the remains of cattle, sheep and equids. The most notable remains are those of several skinned sheep, with horns removed for horn-working and showing pathological conditions.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined, primarily to determine species present, types of bones and any butchering that has occurred. Ages of the animals were estimated where possible from the fusion of the bones and the wear on the teeth. Bone was quantified by counting the total number of pieces in each context, the number of measurable and countable bones following guidelines supplied by English Heritage (Davis 1992) and the number of bones identified for each species. Bone was also weighed for each context. All the information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and the information input into an Excel database for analysis. A table giving a summary of the information is included (Table 19, Appendix 9).

Results and discussion

This is a small assemblage, which is varied in condition. The early remains, from a variety of ditch, gully and pit fills, are fragmentary and in poor condition; those from later contexts (pit and ditch fills) produced more complete elements which are generally in better condition.

The most notable remains in this assemblage are those of the sheep from the post-medieval features F51 (a pit fill) and F52 (fill of a ditch). These remains were of sheep of varying ages which had been skinned, and some had clearly had their horns removed for horn-working. The age ranges of these sheep could suggest a cull of stock, ranging from a ram in F52 to a neonatal lamb in F51.

Pit F51 (117) produced numerous bones of sheep; these sheep remains included skull fragments, metapodials, mandibles, limb bones, vertebrae and foot bones, as well as several small horn-cores. These sheep horn-cores showed pathological conditions on two of the six horns; the condition is known as ‘thumbprint depressions’, visible as thumbprint indentations on the horn-core surface. Thumbprint depressions (Albarella 1995) are caused by the re-absorption of calcium from the horn-core due to the sheep being under a physical stress such as over-breeding, over-milking, long-term poor nutrition or extreme weather for a long period. It is interesting to note that an arthritic cattle pelvis fragment was also recovered from F51 (117), which could possibly suggest that much of the stock at this site in the later period were kept in poor health.

Ages of the sheep in F51 (117) varied from an adult of at least six years old, a young sheep of around 1-2 years at death, some of about a year old, and a few bones from a neonatal sheep which was less than a month old at death. Knife cuts were observed on several of the metapodials, which would have occurred when the sheep were skinned. No obvious cuts or chops were noted on the horn-cores, indicating that they had not been used for horn-working. The bones from the sheep in F51 (117) are all head, lower limb and foot bones, all primary waste elements.

Further sheep bones were recovered from the ditch fill F52 (113). Numerous metapodials and phalanges were noted, with some metapodials exhibiting knife cuts from skinning. Two large and robust sheep horn-cores were also found in F52 (113), which had been chopped to remove them from the skull, presumably for working; the size of the horn-cores suggest that they are from a ram. A complete cattle metapodial, also exhibiting skinning cuts, was found in the fill of F52 (113).

The ages of the sheep in ditch F52 (113) varied as with those found in the pit fill of F51, with juveniles, sub-adult and adult bones present. As with the remains in the pit fill of F51, these sheep remains are from primary butchering and industrial activity. Several of the sheep metapodials showed extensive wear and erosion on the bone surfaces which would suggest contact with acidic and corrosive conditions post mortem.

The remains from the Roman fills were generally in poor condition and highly fragmented due to butchering and wear. The Roman remains produced more cattle remains than the later contexts, along with sparse remains of sheep and equids. Most of the identifiable bone consisted of molar fragments. Some remains in F43, F63 and F78 were burnt in varying degrees from grey to white; these bones could simply have been discarded on a fire or actually used for fuel as bones burn well due to their high fat content.

Conclusions

The Roman animal remains consisted of the typical domestic animals, cattle, sheep and equids, kept on or close to site for a variety of food and other uses.

The post-medieval remains, consisting mostly of the primary waste of sheep, suggest that animals were kept in quite poor health with a use for skinning and horn-working. The elements present in this later period suggest that the main meat-bearing elements were disposed of elsewhere.

8.9 Environmental remains

by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

The excavation revealed features of later Bronze Age, Roman and post-Roman date. All had been truncated by modern agricultural activities. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, and eleven were submitted for assessment, six from a possible deposit of pyre debris (F4), two from a possible oven (F20), and the remainder from a Late Bronze Age pit (F7) and Roman ditches (F19 and F37).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, and the flots were collected in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains recorded are listed in Table 20 (Appendix 10). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, seeds and arthropods were present throughout.

Plant macrofossils

Although charcoal fragments are abundant in all eleven samples, other plant remains are exceedingly scarce, and those recorded are very poorly preserved. All are severely puffed and fragmented, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures and subsequent soil disturbance.

Cereal grains are only recorded as single specimens within three of the assemblages, those from F4, F19 and F37. Most are too poorly preserved to identify to species, but possible wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present within the ditch samples from F19 and F37, and the latter also contains a possible oat (*Avena* sp.). A single very poorly preserved brome (*Bromus* sp.) fruit is the sole weed seed recorded.

Other materials

With the exception of mineralised soil concretions, which are common in all but three of the samples, other material types are extremely rare. The small pieces of black porous and tarry material and the vitreous globules may be residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Indeed, it was noted that a number of charcoal fragments had been burnt at such high temperatures that the edges were fringed with tarry globules. Rare burnt bone fragments are recorded, but all are very small and abraded.

Conclusions

Although charcoal fragments (presumably derived from spent fuel) are abundant in all eleven assemblages, there is no specific additional evidence for any particular on-site activities, with the possible exception of the deposition of small amounts of refuse within the Roman ditch fills. It is assumed that the high temperatures at which much of the material was obviously burnt have destroyed all but a few of the most robust macrofossils.

9 Discussion

Period 1

There is only a small number of prehistoric features and all can be assigned a date within the Middle-Late Bronze Age. The residual and unstratified finds do not add any wider dating to prehistoric occupation on the site. While three pits close to the Maldon Road in Area B are certainly of this date, the remaining feature, a ring-ditch

located on the north-west of the site in Area A, can only be assumed to be Middle Bronze Age based on the finds from the fill (two worked flints); the absence of any later finds; and its form, which is similar to small ring-ditches associated with urned cremation burials of that period, for example, at Ardleigh and several other sites in north-east Essex (Brown 1999, 174-5). Part of the base of a large Late Bronze Age urn, found in an adjacent Roman feature, adds some support to this interpretation. However, it should be noted that some of the post-Roman features contained few or no finds in the excavated sections. If the ring-ditch is a Middle Bronze Age feature, it appears to extend evidence for funerary activity at the site during this period, as a small Late Bronze Age burial area, consisting of three similar ring-ditches with urned cremation burials, was recorded about 1 km to the north-east in 2003 at the northern extension (CAT Report 289).

Period 2

The main period of activity recorded from the site is Roman. The Roman settlement was more extensive than the area covered by the excavation, and Roman ditches are known to extend to the north and west beyond the limits of the excavation. On the west side, previously recorded surface spreads of Roman finds extend for another 50 m or so. But there was no evidence of Roman features on a stripped area just beyond the edge of this spread, so that this surface spread may show the extent of the main Roman settlement on that side. However, to the north, the excavated features extend further than the main concentration of surface finds. Clearly the settlement was more extensive in that direction than indicated by the main concentration of surface finds. This is also demonstrated by a further concentration of Roman surface finds about 100 m to the north.

Some of the finds from the site of the settlement are of Late Iron Age type or background. These consist of pottery in grog-tempered ware, Gallo-Belgic wares, butt-beakers and fragments from loomweights. These find types were also current into the early Roman period, and no features of certain Late Iron Age date could be identified. However, it seems probable that the settlement originated in the pre-conquest period, and the nature of these finds certainly indicates a Late Iron Age background or culture for the inhabitants. Also, this settlement appears to have been part of a wider pattern of Late Iron Age or early Roman settlement in the Colchester area. Limited excavation just over 1 km to the north-west of the site revealed features with similar dated finds, including imported Gallo-Belgic wares, indicating an origin in the Late Iron Age/early Roman transition period (CAT Report 326).

The main area of Roman features excavated appears to be in the south-east part of the site of the settlement. Away from this area, to the south and east, there was little evidence of any occupation or activity, except for an isolated pit and a small group of features, including cremation burials, some 300 m to the north-east of the settlement.

There was no clear indication of the sites of any buildings within the settlement, although it is possible that some of the short lengths of isolated small ditches or gullies could be traces of buildings. Also, while roof-tile fragments were recovered from almost all the features, there were no relevant concentrations which might indicate the site of a building. However, the quantity of pottery and pieces from quernstones is such that they were clearly being used and discarded in the immediate vicinity or very close by. This appears to be the case throughout the Roman period; significant amounts of pottery seem to have been discarded, and probably pieces from querns, in the late Roman period (Phase 2) as well as in the early-mid Roman period (Phase 1). However, the amounts of pottery and querns are not easily quantifiable for a particular phase because much of the material in later features is probably residual.

Throughout the Roman period, the extent of the main settlement appears to have been marked by the line of a ditch, established early in Phase 1 on the east side of the settlement. Although one or two features were recorded immediately to the east of this ditch line, one of which was a small ditch heading east, no significant traces of Roman occupation were identified any further to the east of this ditch. The settlement seems to have been ordered around parts of a number of ditched enclosures with associated tracks and droveways; however, many of these features

extend beyond Area A, and their extent and form are not clear. There is an overall orientation of these features north-west/south-east and south-west/north-east, and this was retained throughout the Roman period.

The layout of the settlement during Phase 1 (Fig 4a)
On the east side of the settlement there was a north-south ditched track or droveway about 5-6 m wide. This was most clearly defined to the north, although a short length of disconnected ditch, which continued the line of the track or droveway further south, may have been part of the same feature. No remains of any surfacing were observed between the ditches of the track or droveway. The north section of the track or droveway had an entrance on its west side, about 3 m across, which was framed by two post-holes which may be the remains of a gate. This entrance can be shown to relate to another probable east-west path or track. This is because a ditch, assigned to later in Phase 1, had a corresponding gap at the point where this path or track would be expected to run. This appears to have been a path or track, rather than a droveway, as there were no side ditches. No remains of any surfacing were found associated with this path or track. The gate structure presumably controlled access onto this path or track from the track or droveway. With the gate closed, it would have allowed movement along the track or droveway but prevented animals from straying off it. If opened across the track or droveway, it would have directed flocks or herds through the entrance. Although there was no obvious continuation to the east of this path or track, beyond the main settlement, and there was no corresponding break in the line of the main east ditch, it can be noted that the line of this path or track, projected further east, would pass just to the north of a group of Roman cremation burials which are almost certainly associated with this settlement.

It is presumed that an area defined on three sides by ditches, which were recorded in the south-west part of Area A, was part of an enclosure. The extent of this possible enclosure to the west is not known, although a short length of curving ditch about 50 m to the south-west could have been part of the west ditch. Pottery from the lower fill of the ditches suggests that it was created late in Phase 1, although the relationship of other lengths of ditch to the west, which appear to be related to the position of its south and north sides, suggest that it could have originated earlier.

Towards the centre of this enclosure at the east end were two conjoined shallow pits which contained charcoal lenses and fragments of fired clay. These may be part of one feature. Although these features are not dated, they are almost certainly Roman as they lay within the site of the Roman settlement, and there was little or no evidence of specific later activity on this area. Also the orientation formed by their longer axis approximates to that of the Roman features, and their position suggests that they could have been associated with the enclosure. The finds from their fill indicate debris from a clay structure associated with heat. Although it is not clear if these shallow pits were the remains of specific feature or pits containing debris, they indicate the position of a structure, possibly an oven, located in this immediate area.

The only other feature for which a specific purpose can be proposed is the deep pit in the central north part of Area A, situated adjacent to the east-west path or track. This was a slightly bell-shaped pit about 3 m deep. Although there was no direct evidence for any specific function, such as traces of a lining or supporting structure, the form and depth of this feature suggest that it was most probably the remains of a well.

The other lengths of ditch which were recorded appear to have defined parts of enclosed areas. Parts of some of these may have been lost to later agricultural activity and site machining, although some may have continued as fence lines or less detectable features such as hedges. For example, there was a line of post-holes, close to the north edge of the area, which may have been part of a fence, and this appears to have been replaced by a ditch.

About 150 m west of the main part of the site of the settlement there was a small number of Roman cremation burials. These had been badly disturbed and it is not clear whether the remains of four or five burials were represented. All appear to have been adults. With them were three other small pits containing pyre debris or probable pyre debris. These cremation burials were grouped in an area about 10 m

across; however, they were located close to the north edge of the excavated area and could extend further to the north. Three of the burials had been placed in pottery vessels, two of which are of 1st- or early 2nd-century date. Some hobnails from the burials and pyre debris were the only indication of any possible burial goods, and are probably accidental inclusions in the burials from funeral pyres. These burials almost certainly represent inhabitants of the settlement, and it is possible that they were located just south of a path or track leading from the site of the settlement, although this is very speculative and based on the alignment of features in Area A.

Within the main part of the site of the settlement, towards the north-west corner, and close to a short length of ditch (dated to Phase 1), there were four shallow rectangular grave-like features. These partly overlapped, cutting into one another. Overall they shared the alignment of the ditches of the Roman settlement. Three were aligned with the short length of Phase 1 ditch, just to the north, although the fourth was at approximate right-angles to these and could have been laid out in relation to the alignment of one of the Phase 2 ditches located a short distance to the south. While their form suggests that they were graves for inhumation burials, there is no specific evidence to confirm this. The closely datable pottery associated with them can be dated to the early Roman period, although this is not a large quantity and could be residual. Inhumation burials do occur occasionally in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period in the south-east of Britain, and most examples come from rural sites (Philpott 1991, 55). However, a later date, after the mid-late 2nd century, would be more comfortable for inhumation burials, as most date to after that period (Philpott 1991, 57). This would place them late in Phase 1 or possibly in Phase 2. Also, during the earlier part of Phase 1, known burials associated with the settlement are cremation burials (Area C), situated some distance to the east. The probable inhumation burials could be of a later date than the cremation burials, and this could suggest that cremation burial was replaced by inhumation here. Also, burial was relocated to a site in the immediate vicinity of the settlement itself. Similarly located burials of the inhabitants of rural settlements, aligned along the sides of the ditches, have recently been excavated at Colchester Garrison Area 6 (CAT Report 292, 18-19). The burials there dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries.

The layout of the settlement during Phase 2 (Fig 4b)

Although the features of Phase 1 appear to have developed in such a way as to maintain the existing overall layout and function of the site, there are some indications that, in the late Roman period (Phase 2), there were significant changes. The small number of ditches attributed to Phase 2 suggests a degree of continuity from Phase 1, and some of the earlier boundaries must have been retained as the later-dated ditches form only a fragmentary landscape.

Part of the line of the east boundary ditch was replaced by a new length of ditch. The position of the north end of this new ditch appears to respect the line of the Period 1 east-west path or track across the site. This suggests that certainly the east boundary ditch, and possibly the path or track across the site, were still extant in this phase. However, one of the Phase 2 ditches cut across the line of the Phase 1 track or droveway on the east side of the site. Another ditch, to the west, on a slightly different alignment to the east ditch of the Phase 1 enclosure, suggests that either the enclosure was divided at this time or perhaps more probably that the enclosure had gone out of use. This gives the overall impression of a change to the Phase 1 landscape that had possibly, in Phase 2, been reorganised as fields or paddocks.

Economy of the site

Overall the very slight evidence for the economy of the site suggests an emphasis on animal husbandry. This is derived mostly from the layout of the site as environmental and faunal remains are very sparse.

The overall aspect of the site in Phase 1, as suggested by the features, was of tracks or droveways and areas enclosed by ditches or post-built fences. This indicates control over the movement of livestock, and that the settlement was, at least in part, concerned with animal husbandry. In this respect, it is unfortunate that the animal bone from the site is so poorly preserved, species being mostly identified by teeth. However, these indicate cattle and sheep husbandry. Remains of equids

(horse) are also present, although these may have been draught or riding animals. Sheep husbandry is also suggested by finds of loomweights for weaving woollen cloth. A few irregular shallow features, with stony fills mixed with tile pieces and pottery, may represent partly filled in areas of animal-trampled mires. A similar, although more extensive, large silt-filled depression recently excavated at the Colchester Garrison Area 6 was subject to phosphate analysis (CAT Report 292, 16). This demonstrated high levels of phosphate associated with the depression, supporting the interpretation of an area worn down by penned stock, as the phosphates probably derived from decomposing dung. Also the possible well, located in the central north part of the site, may have helped in supplying water for livestock as well as domestic needs.

Despite the processing of a number of bulk samples, the remains of cereal crops were very sparse. These are limited to a few grains of wheat and possibly oat. The pieces of quernstones recovered attest to cereal-processing on the site, but no remains from any large-scale processing of crops were encountered.

Wealth and status

The evidence for the wealth and status of the site comes primarily from finds of pottery, together with types of quernstones and a few small finds of metal objects.

The early pottery from the site includes a small quantity of Gallo-Belgic wares, so that the inhabitants clearly had access to imported goods of some status in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. Thereafter the Roman pottery includes some fine wares, also amphora and mortaria, among the usual range of coarse pottery types. From this point of view, the settlement appears to have been Romanised and of moderate means. This view is maintained to some extent by the selection of quernstones from the site which are predominantly of imported lava rather than other stone sources, with several pieces from querns of Millstone Grit. It can be noted that all the stratified Millstone Grit quern pieces came from features dated to Phase 2. The predominance of lava reflects the dominance of querns of this material in the *colonia* at Colchester, and contrasts with the querns excavated from another rural site close by at the Abbotstone site (section 8.1). However, metal objects and other small finds were rare (only one late Roman coin of low value was recovered) and do not display any significant wealth.

Overview

The layout and types of features making up the settlement during Phase 1 have been encountered on other sites at Camulodunum in recent years, notably Colchester Garrison Area 6 (CAT Report 292) and Gosbecks sites B and C (CAT Report 127, forthcoming). These were settlements with ditched enclosures (fields or paddocks) dividing up the landscape. There were more open areas, with few traceable boundaries, perhaps representing pastures. The fields were separated by ditched tracks or droveways. There were gate structures where the tracks or droveways joined and areas of animal disturbance traceable within the fields. The remains of the farms' inhabitants are grouped in some areas, either as cremation burials (sometimes associated with the field boundaries) or inhumation burials aligned along the ditches. These, with some variation, appear to represent recurrent features of some settlements within an intensively managed landscape south of the Roman town. The origin of this landscape appears to lie in the Late Iron Age period (CAT Report 292, 82).

Pottery evidence suggests that many of these scattered rural settlements declined or were abandoned in the late Roman period of the late 3rd-4th century (CAT Report 292, 82; CAT Report 312, 74; Shimmin 1998, 260-69). This is also reflected in the abandonment of the suburbs immediately surrounding the town (Crummy 1997, 113-18). At one site to the north of Gosbecks, at least some of the burials, both cremation burials and inhumation burials, are dated to the mid-late 3rd and 4th century, although there did not appear to be any other evidence of settlement on the site beyond the mid-late 3rd century (CAT Report 127, forthcoming). This is not the case at this site, where there is late 4th-century pottery, both late shell-tempered wares and Oxford red colour-coated wares. Also, there are indications from the nearby Birch compost site that it also continued to be occupied in the late Roman

period. Pottery identified as late Roman shell-tempered ware was recovered from some features there (CAT Report 326, 12). In light of these perceived changes in the settlement pattern, it may not be coincidental that, during the late Roman period (Phase 2) at this site, the layout of the settlement appears to have been reorganised into a number of fields. One possible explanation for the continued occupation and activity at this site may lie in its location. It was significantly further from the walled town than the other excavated settlement sites, so that it would have been more difficult to farm from the town itself. This site is approximately 9.5 km south-west of the Roman town, while the Abbotstone site is about 6 km from the town, Gosbecks sites B and C about 3.5 km, and Colchester Garrison Area 6 just under 2 km from the town. However, while occupation close to the town appears to have severely declined or to have been abandoned, it should be considered that the late Roman rural landscape was possibly well established, with hedgerows forming lasting and permanent divisions. Some areas may have continued to be farmed, possibly from the Roman town, without the requirement for new boundaries to be established or ditches to be maintained.

Period 3

The post-Roman period is possibly the most difficult to approach based on the archaeology. This is because most of the features which can be assigned to this period are almost all ditches that are not well dated, although most are clearly post-Roman. Where finds were recovered from these, they were of post-medieval or modern date, and some had clearly formed part of a recent landscape as they joined with an extant ditch running across the site from east to west. However, the date at which any of these ditches were originally created is not clear and there are indications that some might be earlier than the post-medieval period.

There are two aspects to the dating of the post-Roman ditches which are not reflected in the date of the finds recovered from them. The first aspect is the other dated finds from the site, which include one small find dated to the Anglo-Saxon or early medieval period (section 8.1) and pottery dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period of the late 16th-early 17th century from a group of pits close to the north-east edge of Area A (section 8.5). While, in the absence of any other similarly dated finds, the single small find may be a stray piece, the pottery from the three pits certainly suggests a settlement in the immediate vicinity during the earlier post-medieval period. This settlement appears to have been particularly concerned with sheep farming (section 8.8). The second aspect is the similar north-west/south-east orientation of both the Roman and post-Roman ditches. While there does not appear to be any direct continuity of features, and the overall orientation of the landscape features could have been influenced by other factors, such as topography, it may be that the later landscape inherited its alignments from the Roman landscape, which implies some continuity of settlement and land use up till the present day.

10 Further work

This is the final report on the work undertaken in 2004 and 2005-6 on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 extraction areas of the western extension to the quarry. The areas excavated are not the full extent of the known archaeology in this part of the quarry. Both the Roman features and surface spread of Roman finds extend beyond the limits of the excavation, and, in addition, significant remains of prehistoric and early post-medieval date have also been revealed in this part of the quarry. The recording of the extent and nature of the remaining archaeology will need to be addressed in any future expansion of the quarry.

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code COLEM 2004.316.

12 Acknowledgements

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14 Glossary

Bronze Age	period when metals (bronze) were introduced into Britain, *c* 2,000-700 BC
bund	discrete piles of stored overburden soil removed prior to mineral extraction
EDM	electronic distance measuring
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
struck flint flake	distinctive flakes removed by blows to a flint core, can either be utilised or discarded as waste
Iron Age	period during which iron was introduced and used in Britain, *c* 700 BC-AD 43
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period which saw the introduction of farming practices into Britain *c* 4,000-2,000 BC
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared *c* 1200 and continued to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century

pyre debris	material which has been collected from a funeral pyre
Roman	period of assimilation of Britain as part of the Roman Empire, *c* AD 43-410
urned cremation burial	cremated human remains which have been buried in an urn, usually a pot
worked flint	any flint, discarded waste or used piece, which has been worked as part of the process of producing usable flint pieces or tools

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15 Appendices
Appendix 1

Table 1: list of all numbered features, with attribution to general date (prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval, modern) and finds spot date (section 7).

feature number	feature type	dated as	finds, principally pottery, spot date
F1	cremation burial	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F2	cremation burial	Roman	probably early Roman
F3	pit	Roman	Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
F4	pit with pyre debris	Roman	
F5	?cremation burial	Roman	
F6	cremation burial	Roman	
F7	pit	prehistoric	Middle-Late Bronze Age
F8	pit	prehistoric	Middle-Late Bronze Age
F9	pit	prehistoric	Middle-Late Bronze Age
F10	cremation burial	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F11	ditch	modern	
F12	ditch	post-medieval	
F13	ditch	post-medieval	
F14	ditch	post-medieval	
F15	ditch	post-medieval	
F16	ditch	post-medieval	
F17	ditch	post-medieval	
F18	pit	Roman	
F19	ditch	Roman	3rd-4th century
F20	pit with burning (?oven)	Roman	
F21	ditch	Roman	2nd-3rd century
F22	ditch	Roman	Roman
F23	probably a natural feature		
F24	probably a natural feature		
F25	depression	Roman	1st-2nd/3rd century
F26	?small pit, though possibly part of ditch F38/F43	Roman	
F27	pit with ?pyre debris	?Roman	
F28	pit with ?pyre debris	?Roman	
F29	cremation burial	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F30	stake-hole (in F20)	Roman	
F31	ditch	?Roman	Roman, ?earlier Roman
F32	ditch	modern	
F33	ditch	post-medieval	
F34	*number not used*		
F35	ditch	Roman	1st century
F36	ditch	Roman	late 3rd-4th century
F37	ditch	Roman	early-mid 2nd century
F38	pot scatter in ditch	Roman	Roman, probably 1st-early 2nd century
F39	ditch	modern	
F40	ditch	post-medieval	
F41	depression	Roman	Roman, probably early Roman
F42	depression	Roman	early-mid 2nd century
F43	ditch	Roman	
F44	depression	Roman	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F45	depression	Roman	1st-3rd century
F46	pit	Roman	later 3rd-4th century
F47	pit	?Roman	
F48	pit	?Roman	
F49	?ditch	?Roman	

feature number	feature type	dated as	finds, principally pottery, spot date
F50	pit	Roman	
F51	pit	post-medieval	17th century
F52	ditch	post-medieval	17th century
F53	ditch	post-medieval	
F54	ditch	post-medieval	
F55	plough mark	modern	
F56	ditch	post-medieval	
F57	ditch	Roman	probably mid 3rd-4th century
F58	pit	post-medieval	17th century
F59	post-hole	post-medieval	
F60	ditch	Roman	early-mid 2nd century
F61	mole drain?	modern	
F62	ditch	Roman	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F63	ditch	Roman	1st-mid 2nd century
F64	ditch	Roman	1st-2nd/3rd century
F65	post-hole	Roman	
F66	ditch	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F67	post-hole	Roman	
F68	post-hole	Roman	
F69	pit	Roman	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F70	post-hole	post-medieval	
F71	ditch	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F72	ditch	Roman	mid 3rd-4th century to late 4th century (also intrusive sherd dated late 16th-17th century)
F73	post-hole	Roman	
F74	post-hole	Roman	
F75	post-hole	Roman	
F76	post-hole	Roman	
F77	post-hole	Roman	
F78	ditch	Roman	late 2nd-3rd/4th century, coin dated *c* AD 268-70
F79	ditch	Roman	mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F80	pit	Roman	lower fill: 1st-early 2nd/2nd century; upper fill: late 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
F81	ring-ditch	prehistoric	worked flint dated Neolithic or Bronze Age
F82	ditch	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F83	pit	Roman	?pre-Flavian
F84	pit	Roman	Roman ?1st-early 2nd century
F85	post-hole	Roman	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F86	pit	Roman	pre-Flavian
F87	ditch	Roman	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F88	?grave for inhumation burial	Roman	1st-early 2nd century, ?pre-Flavian
F89	?grave for inhumation burial	Roman	1st-2nd century, ?1st century
F90	?grave for inhumation burial	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F91	ditch	Roman	1st-2nd century, ?pre-Flavian
F92	ditch	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F93	ditch	Roman	1st-early 2nd century

feature number	feature type	dated as	finds, principally pottery, spot date
F94	pit	Roman	late 3rd-4th century, probably 4th century
F95	?grave for inhumation burial	Roman	late 3rd-4th century, probably 4th century
F96	?grave for inhumation burial	Roman	
F97	ditch	Roman	?later 4th century
F98	ditch	Roman	1st-?2nd century
F99	pit	Roman	late 2nd-3rd century
F100	voided	-	-
F101	small ditch or gully	Roman	mid 3rd-4th century
F102	ditch	Roman	Roman, 1st-?2nd century
F103	ditch	Roman	?1st-early 2nd century
F104	pit	Roman	1st-early 2nd century
F105	pit	Roman	Roman
F106	ditch	post-medieval	mid 3rd-4th century
F107	pit	Roman	Roman, ?early Roman
F108	ditch	Roman	3rd-4th century
F109	pit	Roman	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F110	ditch	Roman	2nd century
F111	pit	Roman	
F112	pit	post-medieval	
F113	post-hole	Roman	
F114	gully	post-medieval?	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
F115	pit	Roman	late 3rd to mid-late 4th century
F116	gully		
F117	pit	Roman	Late Iron Age-early Roman
F118	pit/post-hole	Roman	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
F119	pit/post-hole	Roman	Roman, ?1st century
F120	pit		Late Iron Age-early Roman
F121	pit	Roman	
F122	pit		
F123	pit	Roman	1st-2nd/3rd century
F124	ditch	Roman	late 3rd-4th century, probably 4th century
F125	ditch	Roman	
F126	ditch	Roman	
F127	concrete slab	modern	
F128	ditch	Roman	1st-?early 2nd/2nd century
F129	pit	Roman	
F130	ditch	Roman	
F131	ditch	Roman	1st-2nd century
F132	ditch	Roman	1st century ?pre-Flavian
F133	ditch	Roman	Roman, ?1st-2nd century

Appendix 2

Table 3: loomweight fragments (section 8.1; see key in section 8.1).

SF	finds no	feature/ layer	context description	Period	identification	Fabric	weight (g)
-	92	F37 Sx 2, lower fill	ditch	2	10 fragments + chips (some joining)	D	230
-	162	F63	ditch	2	1 apex fragment	C	31
-	181	F80	pit	2	5 fragments	A	46
-	191	F80	pit	2	1 fragment	A	11
-	168	F80	pit	2	4 fragments, one with part of perforation	A	58
-	148	F82 Sx 2	ditch	2	1 edge fragment	A	55
20	159	F88	?grave	2	1 apex fragment	A	109
-	171	F93	ditch	2	1 apex fragment and 4 others, one with part of perforation	A	123
-	176	F97	ditch	2	1 apex fragment	A	47
21	206	F99	pit	2	1 fragment	A	30
22	222	F102	ditch	2	1 fragment	A	13
-	247	F124	ditch	2	6 fragments	4 x A; 2 x D	167

Table 4: fired clay (section 8.1).

finds no	feature	context description	Period	identification	weight (g)
58	F19 Sx 2	ditch	2	4 fragments	35
57	F20	oven debris in pit or oven base	2	1 fragment	2
123	F63	ditch	2	5 fragments, one with wattle void 11 mm in diameter; two double-faced, 32 mm thick and 10 mm thick	90
126	F63 Sx 4	ditch	2	1 fragment (?loomweight)	52
126 (SF 23)	F63	ditch	2	1 fragment	4
132	F68	post-hole or pit	2	1 fragment	<1
133	F74	pit or post-hole	2	6 fragments (?loomweight)	6
158	F80	pit	2	2 fragments	26
168	F80	pit	2	4 fragments	49
181	F80	pit	2	9 fragments	50
191	F80	pit	2	3 fragments (?loomweight)	79
174	F94	pit	2	1 fragment	24
182	F95	?grave	2	1 fragment with wattle void 6 mm in diameter	6
176	F97	ditch	2	1 slab fragment, with corner	72
251	F97	ditch	2	14 fragments (some may be from loomweights)	138
220	F109	pit	2	5 fragments, hard-fired	25
245	F124	ditch	2	3 fragments (?loomweight)	34
247	F124	ditch	2	1 fragment	8

Appendix 3

Table 5: catalogue of worked flint (section 8.2).

context	finds no	quantity	comments	date
F25	55	1	blade, converging, secondary, length 23 mm	
F40	112	1	blade, butt half, punch struck, length 42 mm	
F42	94	1	natural	
F81	145	1	blade-flake, secondary, brown stained	
F81	146	1	flake, tertiary axe-thinning	
F101	189	1	flake, very large and thick, with attempted trimming, probably a roughout for building material	recent
F101	189	1	flake, secondary	
F124	245	1	bifacially flaked block, large, sharp, ?recent	recent
U/S	78	1	flake from a thermal surfaced block	
U/S	107	1	notched flake, rough, secondary	
U/S	107	1	flake, secondary, cortex platform widest part	Iron Age or later
U/S	107	1	blade, tertiary, irregular	
U/S	107	1	chipping, secondary	
U/S	107	1	chipping, distal end, secondary	
U/S	108	1	flake, secondary, dorsal surface patinated	
U/S	108	1	flake, primary, retouched platform?	
U/S	108	1	flake, secondary, brown stained	
U/S	263	1	naturally flaked large flint, triangular in outline, resembles a hand-axe; flaking is a mixture of glacial fracturing and thermal pot-lid removals – an eolith	

Appendix 4

Table 6: prehistoric pottery sherds by finds number for each feature (section 8.3; see key in section 8.3).

feature	section	feature type	finds no	fabric	sherds	weight (g)	comments
F7		pit fill	14	D	344	310	flint-tempered sherds from 2 or more pots, includes one rim sherd from a jar
F8		pit fill	16	D	3	13	flint-tempered sherds all from one pot
F9		fill	17	A	10	22	fine flint temper sherds/fragments from one, possibly two pots
F36	Sx 1	ditch fill (ditch Sx 1)	89	C	1	3	one flint-tempered sherd, residual in Roman ditch
F63		ditch	153	C	1	18	prehistoric sherd tempered with burnt flint
F71	Sx 3	ditch	129	C	2	8	2 rim sherds from two flint-tempered, moderately thin-walled pots, rim type 1 and rim type 9
F72	Sx 2	ditch	138	B	1	14	sherd from a flint-tempered, moderately thin-walled pot
F79	Sx 4	ditch	141	C	1	5	flint-tempered sherd
F80		pit	191	B	1	30	flint-tempered sherd with comb decoration on shoulder
F80		pit	181	D	5	231	coarse flint-tempered large base
F80		pit	158	B	1	6	flint-tempered sherd
F88		pit	159	D	1	31	flint-tempered sherd
F92	Sx 2	ditch	216	B	1	10	flint-tempered sherd
F91	Sx 1	ditch	166	B	1	7	flint-tempered sherd
F93		ditch	193	B	1	6	flint-tempered sherd
F93		ditch	202	D	2	68	flint-tempered sherds
F101		small ditch or gully	189	B	1	7	flint-tempered sherd
F102			200	B	2	17	flint-tempered sherds
F102			222	B	1	4	flint-tempered sherd
F102			222	Z	7	364	large vessel rim in coarse fabric with some sand ?temper, occasional small stones and burnt black organic matter (possibly dung temper)
F108			244	D	1	5	flint-tempered sherd
F110			213	B	1	11	
F116			231	B	2	18	flint-tempered sherds
F121			238	C	1	5	flint-tempered rim form type 9
F124	Sx 2		247	C	1	6	flint-tempered
F124			245	D	1	11	flint-tempered
F128			256	B	3	17	flint-tempered sherds
U/S				D	2	14	flint-tempered sherds from F68 or F73 (finds nos 123 or 139)

Appendix 5

Table 9: Roman pottery other than from burials (section 8.4).
LSJ = large storage jar, SQ = small quantity.

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F3		small pit base	4	GX		1	2	abraded sandy gritty grey ware sherd, possibly early Roman		Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
F19	Sx 2	ditch	59	CZ	beaker	15	30	sherds from a beaker base	lower	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F19	Sx 2	ditch	48	CH DJ GX KX	bowls	18	125	Fabric CH, Hadham necked bowl; also possible jar/flask, also ?Hadham	upper	later 3rd-4th, ?4th century
F19		ditch	51	GX		4	35	thick gritty sherds	upper	Roman
F19	Sx 1	ditch	43	GX HD	Fabric HD jar *CAR* **10**, type 35	15	95		upper	probably late Roman, ?later 4th century
F19	Sx 2	ditch	62	GX KX	Cam 39 Cam 221	5	46		mid	early 2nd-early 3rd century
F19	Sx 2	ditch	46	CH EA GX HD KX	Cam 305B (3) Cam 395 Fabric HD jar, *CAR* **10**, type 35	38	370	Fabric EA, probably from Cam 395	mid	later 3rd?-4th, probably later ?4th century
F19	Sx 2	ditch	56	CH DJ GX	bowl	27	245			later 3rd-4th, ?4th century
F21	Sx 1	ditch	41	GB	Cam 278	1	10	rim sherd probably from a Cam 278 jar, abraded	upper	probably mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F21	Sx 2	ditch	44	DJ GX		2	3		mid	1st-2nd/3rd century
F21	Sx 1	ditch	50	BA(?CG) GB HZ	Dr 18/31 or 31	4	105	Fabric BA, abraded	lower	early 2nd-earlier 3rd century
F22	Sx 1	ditch?	45	GX		SQ	50	SQ sherds from 3 pots		Roman
F23		natural?	2	GX		2	35	2 joining sherds		Roman
F24		natural?	76	GX HZ		4	20	small sherds and fragments		1st-3rd century
F24		natural?	24	GX		1	5	sherd abraded, gritty grey ware	mid	Roman
F25		pit	55	GX HZ		3	17			1st-3rd century
F25	Sx 2	pit	63	AJ HZ	Dressel 20 amphora	4	80			1st-2nd/3rd century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill loc-ation	pottery date
F31		ditch (?post-Roman)	64	GX	bowl/jar	2	55	base sherd & 1 other sherd and many crumbs/ fragments, probably 2 pots represented	upper	Roman, possibly earlier Roman
F35	Sx 3	ditch	93	BA(SG) DJ GX HZ	Dr 18 Cam 154/155 Cam 231/232	248	1,208	Fabric BA(SG), about half of pot in sherds (same as finds no 87); Fabric DJ flagon, 5 neck rings and 4 rib handle		1st century
F35	Sx 1	ditch	87	BA(SG) GX HZ		72	433	Fabric BA(SG) sherds from dish (same as finds no 93), potter's stamp fragment ..**CAL.VI**; Fabric GX includes strainer bowl base, carinated jar/bowl with hole in base		1st century
F36	Sx 1	ditch	88	BA DJ GP GX	beaker Cam 123	32	148	Fabric GP, Cam 123, abraded base, body & rim sherds	upper	late 1st-2nd/early 3rd century
F36	Sx 1	ditch	102	BA(CG?) GX RET HZ	Cam 273	10	28	Fabric RET, lower body sherd with flint temper		late 3rd-4th century
F36	Sx 2	ditch	91	GX		3	35	3 sherds from 2 pots	lower	Roman
F36	Sx 2	ditch (upper fill inc F37 Sx 2)	90	GX RET		2	160	Fabric RET, rim with some flint temper	upper	late 3rd-4th century
F37	Sx 1	ditch	101	BA(CG) GP GX HZ	Dr 27 Cam 123	16	412	Fabric GP sherd, ?same as finds no 86	lower	early-mid 2nd century
F37	Sx 1	ditch	96	GX TZ		2	152	Fabric TZ, worn mortarium sherd in buff fabric	upper	Roman
F37	Sx 2	ditch	92	GX GX(BSW)		4	148	bases of 2 bowls	lower	Roman, possibly 1st-2nd century
F38		ditch	95	DJ GX RGW TZ	2 jars/bowls	150	1,037		upper	Roman, probably 1st-early 2nd century
F41		depres-sion	100	DZ GX		17	52	Fabric DZ sherds, very abraded, sherds are in thin fine fabric		Roman, probably early Roman
F42	Sx 1	depres-sion	94	AJ GX HZ TZ	Cam 46/311 Cam 268	36	520			Roman, early-mid 2nd century+

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F44	Sx 1	depression	98	BX GX HZ	Dr 37 Cam 268 Cam 273	78	1,125	Fabric BA CG/EG, very abraded sherd from a Dr 37 decorated bowl		early-mid 2nd to earlier 3rd century
F45		depression	99	GX HZ	Cam 299 (2)	3	102			Roman, mid 2nd century+
F46			103	CH ?CZ GX		3	23	Fabric CZ and Fabric GX, both abraded		later 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
F46		pit (lower fill)	105	CH GX HZ	large storage jar	8	80		lower	later 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
F46		pit (upper fill)	104	DJ DZ GX HZ		12	215		mid	Roman, 1st-3rd century
F57	Sx 1	ditch	116	EZ/EA GX HZ	LSJ	18	657	Fabric EZ/EA base in off-white fabric with traces of orange slip, possibly burnt, probably Fabric EA	mid	Roman, mid 3rd-4th century?
F60	Sx 1	ditch	120	DJ GX HZ	Cam 155 Cam 266 Cam 268	18	135	Fabric DJ, pink fabric with faint cream slip	mid	early-mid 2nd/century
F62	Sx 1	ditch	122	GX	Cam 218?	3	43		lower	1st-early 2nd century?
F62	Sx 1	ditch	134	BA(SG) BA(EG) GX	Dr 18	3	29	Fabric BA(EG), possibly Colchester	upper	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F63		ditch	153	AJ BA(SG) GX HZ		37	975	Fabric AJ, 2 sherds burnt; Fabric GX, some sherds with black surface but not Fabric RCW; Fabric BA(SG) platter	mid	1st-early 2nd century?
F63	Sx 1	ditch	119	AA AJ DJ GX HZ RCW	Cam 218	52	1089		mid/lower	1st-early 2nd century
F63	Sx 2	ditch	123	AJ DJ GX HZ RCW	Cam 218 Cam 266 (2?) Cam 256	77	1518	Fabric RCW, includes large sherd from a jar similar to form Cam 271	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F63	Sx 3	ditch	126	AJ BA(SG) DJ GTW GX HZ RCW	Dr 27g Cam 155(3) Cam 231-232 Cam 256 Cam 266 Cam 270B Cam 326	468	8424	Fabric BA(SG) cup base with illegible stamp; Fabric RCW/BSW	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F63	Sx 4	ditch	169	GX HZ		2	10		mid	Roman, 1st-2nd/ 3rd century
F63	Sx 6	ditch	161	GX HZ TZ	Cam 195	13	153	Fabric TZ, gritting over mortarium flange	mid	1st/later 1st-earlier 2nd century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F63	Sx 7	ditch	226	CH? DJ GX HZ TZ	Cam 195 Cam 268? Cam 270B?	18	653	Fabric TZ, gritting over mortarium flange	mid	?mid 2nd century+, ?4th century
F64		ditch	121	HZ GX(BSW) GX	Cam 273	8	784	Fabric GX(BSW), sandy BSW	mid	1st-2nd/3rd century
F66		ditch	124	GX RCW		2	11	RCW	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F69		pit	135	AA DJ GB GX	Cam 37A Cam 278 Cam ?268	25	566		fill	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd
F71	Sx 2	ditch	128	GTW HZ RCW		43	118	BSW	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F71	Sx 3	ditch	129	HZ		7	112	BSW	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F71	Sx 4	ditch	130	GX		5	131	sandy BSW	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F72		ditch	225	DJ GX HZ RCW		9	84	GX(BSW)	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F72	Sx 5	ditch	224	DJ GX HZ RCW	?Cam 299 Cam 305B	17	327	BSW, Fabric GX, gritty sherds or ?medieval/ post-medieval	upper	mid 3rd-4th century
F72	Sx 6	ditch	160	DJ GX HD		7	43	Fabric HD, fine shell temper, late Roman	mid	mid-late 4th century
F78		ditch	139	BA(CG) CZ DJ GX(gritty) GX HZ	Dr 36	31	725	all joining sherds	upper	?later 2nd century to mid-late 3rd century
F78		ditch	164	AJ DJ GA GTW HZ KX GX GX(BSW)	Cam 273 Cam 278 Cam 279	18	590	BSW	mid	late 2nd to mid 3rd/4th century
F78	Sx 1	ditch	143	AJ DJ GA GX HZ RCW	Cam 279A/B	77	106		lower	early 2nd-early 3rd century
F78	Sx 3	ditch	179	GX		2	7		mid	Roman
F78	Sx 4	ditch	214	DJ GX GX(BSW) HZ	Cam 271?	26	393	Fabric GX – the BSW is sandy BSW	mid	1st-2nd/3rd century
F78	Sx 4	ditch	215	DJ GX HZ		4	118	Fabric GX bowl or platter base	lower	1st-2nd/3rd century
F78	Sx 5	ditch	218	DJ GX TE		11	93		mid	mid 3rd-4th century
F78	Sx 6	ditch	241	DJ GTW GX RCW		11	40		mid	1st-early 2nd century
F78	Sx 6	ditch	253	BA(EG?)CZ GX TK?	Dr 27?	8	115		mid	2nd/mid 3rd-4th century?
F79	Sx 4	ditch	141	CZ DJ GX HZ RCW	Cam 391	12	1,170		mid	early-mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F79	Sx 5	ditch	151	CZ GTW GX KX	Cam 37/38	17	106	Cam 37/38, plain	mid	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F80		pit	158	DJ GB GX HZ MQ RCW UR(LTC) WA	Cam 37A Cam 37B Cam 123? ?Cam 215 Cam 231/232 Cam 266 or Cam 221 Cam 268	78	988	Fabric MQ, part of finds no 191; Fabric UR(LTC) is RCW, small base ring on platter; Fabric GX sherd with post-firing hole	upper	late 2nd-early 3rd century
F80		pit	168	RCW	Cam 218 Cam 266 or Cam 221	30	508	much of one jar, single hole pierced through base post-firing, possibly associated with cheese-making	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F80		pit	181	GX HZ MQ RCW	Cam 266(2?) Cam 273	54	887	Fabric MQ, part of finds no 191; Fabric GX includes unusual bowl with lid-seated rim	lower	1st-early 2nd/2nd century
F80		pit	191	AA AJ BA(SG) BPW DJ MQ GX HZ RCW	Dr 27 Cam 108 Cam 113? Cam 218	42	684	Fabric AA, possibly Haltern 70; Fabric BA(SG), fragment of stamp	lower	1st century
F80		pit	235	AA BPW DJ DZ GX HD HZ MQ RCW WPW	Cam 113? Cam 119 Cam 155 Cam 161? Cam 218(2?) Cam 259	34	932	Fabric AA, flat base from ?Gaulish amphora, burnt; Fabric DZ sherd, burnt	lower	Roman, 1st century ?pre-Flavian
F82		ditch	147	GTW RCW		7	40	Fabric RCW/BSW, including grey rouletted vessel, possibly a butt-beaker	mid	1st-?early 2nd century
F82		ditch	148	GTW		5	36		mid	1st-?early 2nd century
F83		pit	155	UR GX	Cam 8/24	2	23	Fabric UR, probably UR(LTC), possibly burnt and covered with a pale pink-cream-coloured deposit on external surface and across sherd break	mid	1st century, pre-Flavian (Late Iron Age-early Roman)
F84		pit	149	GX		5	33	necked jar	upper	Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
F85		post-hole	150	DJ GB GX TZ	Cam 37B Cam 269 Cam 501	17	165	sherds in Fabric DJ and Fabric TZ, abraded	mid	late 2nd-mid-late 3rd century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F86		pit	154	BPW DZ HZ(GT) RCW	Cam 113	10	242	Fabric DZ butt-beaker	mid	pre-Flavian
F87	Sx 2	ditch	157	DJ RCW	Cam 156	101	556	Fabric DJ estimated sherds and fragments	mid	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
F88		pit	159	DZ GX HZ ?RCW		13	169	Fabric DZ butt-beaker; Fabric GX includes black sandy sherds	mid	1st-early 2nd century, ?pre-Flavian
F89		?grave fill	163	HZ		3	35	comb decoration	mid	1st-2nd/?3rd century
F90		?grave	170	HZ? RCW		4	35	Fabric RCW, grey	upper	1st-early 2nd century
F91	Sx 2	ditch	167	GTW HZ RCW	Cam 270A or 271	6	267	Fabric HZ, combing on body	mid	pre-Flavian/1st-?2nd century
F92	Sx 2	ditch	216	GX HZ RCW		20	154		mid	1st-early 2nd century
F93		ditch	171	DJ GX HZ RCW	Cam 218 Cam 231/232	66	858	Fabric RCW, BSW and grey	mid	1st-2nd/3rd century
F93		ditch	193	DJ DZ GX HZ? RCW(BSW) RCW	Cam 100? Cam 96-97 Cam 148 Cam 218 Cam 241/242	309	2,803	Fabric RCW(BSW), includes body sherds from unusual pot with small blunt clay lumps applied to surface	upper	1st-?early 2nd century, ?Neronian-Flavian
F93		ditch	194	GX HZ RCW	Cam 108 Cam 266	72	737	Fabric RCW, includes BSW and grey RCW, also includes lid-seated small jar or bowl and base sherds from one pot with several post-firing holes		1st-early 2nd century
F93		ditch	195	DJ GX RCW	Cam 104?	55	309	Fabric RCW estimated sherds and fragments	upper	1st-early 2nd century
F93		ditch	201	GX HZ RCW	Cam 108	53	480	RCW(BSW)	upper	1st-early 2nd century
F93		ditch	202	GX RCW	Cam 108	63	472	RCW(BSW)	upper	1st-early 2nd century
F93		ditch	217	DJ GTW GX HZ RCW	Cam 108	19	218	Fabric RCW(BSW); Fabric HZ is possibly Fabric HZ(GT)	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F94		pit	174	AJ CH GX HZ KX	Cam 37/38 Cam 268	66	2,282	Fabric KX, Cam 37/38, plain with D-shaped rim	upper	late 3rd-4th, probably 4th, century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F95		?grave	182	CH? GB GX HZ TZ	Cam 195?	22	245	Fabric CH, abraded	lower	late 3rd-4th, probably 4th, century
F97	Sx 1	ditch	175	GX HZ(GT) RCW	Cam 221	4	360		mid	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
F97	Sx 2	ditch	176	HZ HZ(GT)		2	34	combed surface	mid	1st-?2nd century
F97	Sx 4	ditch	250	HZ(GT) RCW		4	40		mid	1st-?2nd century
F97	Sx 5	ditch	251	AA BA(CG) CZ? DJ GB GTW? GX HZ MP? RCW	DR 18/31? Cam 37B Cam 307 Young (1977) form 45 or 46	68	865		mid	later 4th century
F98	Sx 2	ditch	178	GX HZ(GT)		5	16		upper	1st-?2nd century
F99		pit	180	DJ GB? GX	Cam 108 Cam 207/296 Cam 268 Cam 278	12	321	Fabric GB, complete profile, very abraded	upper	Roman, mid 2nd-3rd century
F99		pit	186	AJ BA(EG) CZ DJ GX HZ KX RCW	Dr 33 Cam 273 Cam 278	109	7,392	Fabric HZ, Cam 273, mostly one pot plus parts of at least one other	mid	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F99		pit	187	GB GR GX HZ KX RCW	Cam 37B Cam 40A Cam 330	49	1,207	Fabric GR, Cam 330, most of a pot in large sherds, same as finds no 206	mid	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F99		pit	190	AJ GB GX HZ	Cam 108 Cam 268 Cam 278	59	624	Fabric GB, same pot as finds no 180, very abraded, nearly complete, disturbed from burial?	lower	early 2nd-early 3rd century
F99		pit	206	AJ DJ CZ GR GX HZ RCW	Cam 243-244/246, *CAR* **10**, Fabric GX fig 6.64, 309-311, Cam 330	116	3,044	note: all previous listed form types (*CAR* **10**, Fabric GX, fig 6.64, 309-311) come from final Roman or post-Roman contexts	lower	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F101		small ditch or gully	189	AJ BA(SG?) CZ DJ GB GX HZ TE	Cam 37B?	76	1,039	Fabrics BA & CZ, very abraded	lower	mid 3rd-4th century
F102		ditch	200	GTW GX HZ(GT) Late Iron Age (sandy) RCW		71	980	Fabric GTW, includes ripple-shouldered bowls	upper	Late Iron Age-Roman, 1st-?2nd century
F102		ditch	222	GX		3	15		mid	Roman
F102		ditch	252	GX		2	10		mid	Roman

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F103	Sx 2	ditch	197	GX RCW		15	80	Fabric GX base and lower body sherds, mostly from one pot	mid	Roman, 1st-early 2nd century
F104			198	DJ GX HZ RCW	Cam 243-244/246 Cam 199	10	189	Fabric RCW/BSW; Fabric DJ sherds from a cheese-press bowl	mid	1st-early 2nd century
F105			199	GX		3	11		mid	Roman
F106			223	GX		1	5		mid	Roman
F106			227	GX		2	21		mid	Roman
F106			228	GX TE	Cam 500	4	51		mid	mid 3rd-4th century
F106			249	AJ BA(CG) GA GX RET	Dr 31 Cam 279	19	285	Fabric RET sherds tempered with coarse sand/flint fragments	lower	late 3rd-4th century
F107			204	DJ? GX		3	7		mid	Roman, ?early Roman
F108			205	BA(EG) GX		27	369	?samian sherd BA(EG?), dull red-brown coat on samian fabric; Fabric GX includes sandy BSW	mid	early-mid 2nd to earlier 3rd century
F108	Sx 1		244	AJ GX RCW		12	272	Fabric GX, includes sandy black-surfaced ware (BSW)	mid	1st-2nd/early 3rd century
F108	Sx 3		242	EA GA GB GX HZ	Cam 278 Cam 279	12	252		mid	mid 3rd-mid 4th/4th century
F109			220	AJ GB GX HZ	Cam 37B Cam 108 Cam 273 Cam 278	47	616	Fabric AJ, one sherd burnt; Fabric GX includes sandy BSW, also part of pedestal bowl or jar in sandy BSW	mid	late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
F110			213	BA(CG) HZ GTW? GX RCW	Cam 266	20	243	Fabric RCW, includes BSW & abraded grey-surfaced ware	mid	2nd century
F114			229	GX	Cam 266?	2	8		upper	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
F115			230	GP? GX RET? TD		22	205	Fabric ?RET, gritty sandy ware with some ?burnt flint; Fabric GP? sherds are joining sherds from a bowl base, possibly a fine grey ware such as Fabric GP, GQ or GR	upper	1st/late 1st-mid 2nd century

feature	section	feature type	finds no	Fabric	form	sherds	weight (g)	comments	fill location	pottery date
F117			237	GTW GX		8	38		mid	Late Iron Age-Roman
F118			232	AA GX		6	243	Fabric AA, includes an unusual sherd of unidentified form	mid	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
F119			233	BA(SG) GX HZ	Dr 18? Cam 273	6	206		mid	Roman, ?1st century
F120			234	HZ(GT)		1	44		mid	Late Iron Age/1st century
F121			238	GX		7	50		mid	Roman
F123			240	GX HX	Cam 273	24	612		mid	1st-2nd/3rd century
F124			245	CH? CZ DJ GB GP GX HZ TP TZ	Cam 37B Cam 273 Cam 307? Cam 497	100	1,139	Fabric CH?, abraded, possibly Hadham oxidised ware	upper	late 3rd-4th century, probably 4th century
F124	Sx 2		247	AJ BA(SG) CH? GB GX HZ TZ	Dr 27 Cam 273 Cam 307? Cam 497?	56	1,418	Fabric BA, burnt; Fabric TZ, Cam 497 variant	mid	2nd/3rd century, possibly ?late 3rd-4th/4th century
F128	Sx 1	ditch	256	RCW		21	93	jar or bowl base with central post-firing hole		early Roman, *c* 1st-early 2nd century
F131			259	DJ GX	Cam 266?	6	74	Fabric DJ, part of a small or miniature pot	mid	Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century
F131			260	DJ GX HZ	Cam 266	52	525		mid	Roman, 1st-2nd century
F132	Sx 1		239	BA(SG)	Dr 29	1	5		mid	mid-late 1st century
F132	Sx 1		261	DJ GX		15	267	Fabric DJ, part of platter rim or lid-seated rim	mid	Roman, possibly pre-Flavian
F133	Sx 1		262	AJ GX GX(BSW)		10	877	Fabric GX(BSW), includes base with 4 post-firing holes	mid	Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century

Appendix 6

Table 11: post-Roman pottery, weight of fabric types by finds number and context (stratified material only; section 8.5). (Wt = weight in grammes.)

finds no	context	Fabric 20 sherds	Fabric 20 (wt g)	Fabric 21a sherds	Fabric 21a (wt g)	Fabric 21a/40 sherds	Fabric 21a/40 (wt g)	Fabric 40 sherds	Fabric 40 (wt g)	group date range
117	F51 pit			12	231	15	511	9	188	17th century
113	F52 ditch	1	14	16	659			2	34	17th century
114	F58 pit			3	14			1	15	17th century
224	F72 ditch			2	35					15th-16th century
Total sherds	**61**	**1**		**33**		**15**		**12**		
Total wt	**1,701**		**14**		**939**		**511**		**237**	

Appendix 7

Table 12: number of pieces of Roman tile and post-Roman tile and brick recorded by finds number for each feature together with the weight of Roman and post-Roman tile and brick (section 8.6).

feature	section	finds no	Roman *tegula*, number of pieces	Roman *imbrex*, number of pieces	Roman flue tile, number of pieces	Roman brick/tile, number of pieces	Roman tile, total weight (g)	peg-tile, number of pieces	brick, number of pieces	post-Roman brick and tile, total weight (g)
F1		7				1	170	1		289
F12		24				2	153	3		542
F14		31				2	229	4		441
F14		32					0	1		294
F15		33				2	157	2		81
F18		42				5	350			
F19	Sx 1	43	1			6	751			
F19		46				6	334	1 (possibly peg-tile)		
F19	Sx 2	48			1	1	179			
F19	Sx 2	58				1 (burnt)	205			
F19	Sx 2	62				1	239			
F20		57				1	2			
F22	Sx 2	49				2	75			
F23		75				1	15			
F25		55		1		1	234			
F25	Sx 2	63				2	10			
F26		67				2	16			
F32	Sx 1	102				3	351			
F33		74		1			167			
F33		73				2 (very thin, possibly peg-tile)	92			
F35	Sx 1	87				10	339			

feature	section	finds no	Roman *tegula*, number of pieces	Roman *imbrex*, number of pieces	Roman flue tile, number of pieces	Roman brick/tile, number of pieces	Roman tile, total weight (g)	peg-tile, number of pieces	brick, number of pieces	post-Roman brick and tile, total weight (g)
F36	Sx 2	91				1	18			
F36	Sx 1	88	1			4	709			
F37	Sx 1	101	1			3	169			
F40		110					0	5		128
F44	Sx 1	98				13	1,001			
F45		99		2 (one with unusual small pre-firing hole in side)			440			
F46		105			1	2	399			
F46		103				10	1,084			
F51		117					0	3		443
F51		117				1	374			
F52		113				4	102			
F56		115	1			4	450			
F58		114				8	241	2		167
F60				1 (possibly peg-tile)			120			
F63		162	1	1	1	6 (one is burnt)	597			
F63	Sx 6	161				2	20			
F69		135				2	14			
F71		128				2	0			
F72		224	2	1		4	668			
F72	Sx 3	173			3		78			
F72	Sx 6	160	1				309			
F36/F37	Sx 2	90	1			2	322			
F77		137				1	502			
F78		139				6	391			
F78		139				4	144			
F78		214				2	31			
F78		164	5		1	16	1,494			
F79	Sx 5	151				2 (possibly modern brick)	116			
F80		235				3 (very worn)	134			
F80		158				8	189	2 (slightly thin tile, possibly peg-tile)		
F80		168	1				511			
F80		168				2 (joining pieces)	62			
F83	Sx 6	155	1				123			
F85		150		1		1	148			
F88		159				2 (joining pieces)	48			
F93		171				1	161			
F94		174			1		60			
F94	Sx 1	174	1				136			
F95		182			1	1	320			
F97		250	1				208			
F97	Sx 5	251	1			14	690			
F97	Sx 5	251	1	1		1	81			

feature	section	finds no	Roman *tegula*, number of pieces	Roman *imbrex*, number of pieces	Roman flue tile, number of pieces	Roman brick/tile, number of pieces	Roman tile, total weight (g)	peg-tile, number of pieces	brick, number of pieces	post-Roman brick and tile, total weight (g)
F99		180		1		3 (possibly modern)	867			
F99		206				2 very worn	455			
F99		206	1			1	318			
F99		186				5 (one of these is a Roman building tile)	519			
F99		190		5			161			
F101		189				6	167			
F104		198				2	37			
F106		228			1 (burnt)	5	190		1	10
F106		223				1 (possibly modern brick)	126			
F106		227				3	289			
F106		223				4	250	1		45
F106	Sx 6	249	2	1		20	1,316			
F106	Sx 1	203				1	4			
F107		204	2 (joining fragments)	1			756			
F108		205	1	1			357			
F108	Sx 3	242				1 (burnt)	7			
F109		210	1				122			
F110		213				1	33			
F114		229				1	22			
F115		320				8 (worn)	896			
F115		320	(possible cut away)			89	3,655			
F115		320				58	3,302			
F119		233				1	10			
F121		238				1	1			
F122		239				1	5			
F123		240				3	121			
F124		245				5 (very worn)	257			
F124	Sx 2	247				1	36			
F124	Sx 2	247				2	90			
F124		245				1	42			
F124		245		1	1	12	1,947			
F128		256				1	30			
F129		258				5	978			
F131		259				8	742			
F131	Sx 2	260				1	30			
F133		262	1			1	66			
L4		243	1			7	219	2		40
U/S		172	1			4	625			
U/S		78				2	68			

Appendix 8

Table 14: summary of human bone remains (section 8.7).

feature	feature type	human/ animal	bone state	MNI	age class	sex	path-ologies	inclusions	total weight (in g; inclusions included)
F1	Burial – disturbed urned cremation	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	44
F2	Burial – urned cremation	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	20
F4	Pit with pyre debris	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	8
F5	?Disturbed cremation ?burial	HUMAN?	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	1
F6	Burial – ?cremation	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	54
F10	Burial – urned cremation	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT	?	-	-	5
F27	Pit with ?pyre debris	HUMAN	FO	1	ADULT?	?	-	-	14
F29	Burial – cremation	HUMAN	FO	1	MIDDLE -AGED ADULT (35-50 years)	?	-	-	492

Table 15: description of human bone remains by feature (size, type of bone, degree of oxidisation, MNI, skeletal areas represented, age, sex, pathologies, inclusions) (section 8.7).

feature	feature type	description
F1	Burial – disturbed urned cremation	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (18.2%) included elements of skull, axial and upper limbs.
F2	Burial – urned cremation	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (60%) included elements of upper limbs and lower limbs.
F4	Pit with pyre debris	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (50%) included elements of skull and lower limbs.
F5	Disturbed? ?cremation burial	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. Human texture but no elements could be identified.
F6	Burial – cremation?	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (18.5%) included elements of skull, axial and upper limbs.

F10	Burial – urned cremation	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (80%) included elements of upper limbs.
F27	Pit with ?pyre debris	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (25%) included elements of upper limbs.
F29	Burial – cremation	Small assemblage containing human fully oxidised bone from a minimum of 1 probably adult individual of indeterminate sex. The identified portion of bone (18.9%) included elements of skull, upper limbs and lower limbs.

Table 16: fragmentation of cremated bone from the site – detail (section 8.7).

feature	2 mm (extracted weight)	%	residue	%	%of bone in the residue	5 mm	%	10 mm	%	max fragment size in mm	total
F1	7	15.9	0	0	0	22	50.0	15	34.1	28	44
F2	1	5.0	0	0	0	7	35.0	12	60.0	45	20
F4	0	1.0	0	0	0	2	25.0	6	75.0	26	8
F5	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
F6	6	11.1	0	0	0	30	55.5	18	33.3	38	54
F10	0	0	0	0	0	1	20.0	4	80.0	22	5
F27	2	16.7	0	0	0	8	66.6	2	16.7	22	12
F29	94	19.1	24	4.9	80	192	40.0	182	36.9	49	492

Table 17: bone colour and colour changes distribution (exocranial/endocranial/diploe; cortical/medullary surface; skeletal area/side) (section 8.7).

feature	colour (visual estimation of % affected)	degree of oxidisation and estimated temperature
F1	Predominant colour: BUFF/WHITE. BLUE/GREY (1%) medullary cavity. Soil staining.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F2	Predominant colour: BUFF/WHITE. BLUE/GREY (1%) medullary cavity.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F4	BUFF/WHITE.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F5	Predominant colour: BUFF/WHITE. BLUE/GREY (1%) medullary cavity.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F6	Predominant colour: BUFF/WHITE. BLUE/GREY (1%) medullary cavity.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F10	BUFF/WHITE.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F27	BUFF/WHITE.	Fully oxidised (>600°)
F29	Predominant colour: BUFF/WHITE. BLUE/GREY (1%) endocranial surface.	Fully oxidised (>600°)

Table 18: skeletal elements – colour categories and corresponding estimated temperature: BROWN/ORANGE: unburnt; BLACK: charred (approx 300°); BLUE/GREY: incompletely oxidised (up to 600°); BUFF/WHITE: fully oxidised (>600°) (section 8.7).

feature	SKULL	AXIAL SKELETON	UPPER LIMBS	LOWER LIMBS	UNCLASSIFIABLE
F1	• parietal	• spinous process	• radius M1/3		• long bones
F2			• humerus D1/3	• femur	• long bones

Appendix 9

Table 19: catalogue of the faunal remains recovered, listed in order of feature number and finds number (section 8.8).

feature number	section no	finds number	total quantity	weight (g)	species	number of fragments	count	age	butchering	comments
F102	Sx 1	200	5	60	cattle	1	1	adult	chopped	tibia
F102	Sx 1	200			mammal	4				
F102	Sx 1	200	6	79	mammal	6				large mammal fragments
F102		222	2	3	mammal	2				
F102		252	1	15	mammal	1				
F103	Sx 2	197	5	6	mammal	5				
F104		195	10	51	equid	10				molar fragments
F106		227	1	32	sheep	1	1	adult	chopped	tibia
F108		7	1	30	cattle	1	1		chopped	humerus fragment
F108		205	7	33	cattle	7		adult		molar fragments
F109		220	1	12	mammal	1				
F109		220	12	35	mammal	12				large mammal fragments
F110		213	6	7	sheep	6				molar fragments
F110		213			mammal	1				
F119		233	5	34	mammal	5				large mammal fragments
F124	Sx 2	247	12	33	equid	12				molar fragments
F21	Sx 2	44	16	5	mammal	16				molar fragments, ?cattle, poor condition
F25		55	3	5	cattle	3				molar fragments
F35	Sx 1	87	4	10	mammal	4				inc tooth fragments
F36	Sx 2	91	6	12	mammal	6				poor condition, includes molar fragment
F36	Sx 1	102	8	6	cattle	8				molar fragments
F43		201	23	6	mammal	23				mostly tiny fragments, burnt grey-white
F46		104	5	13	equid	5		adult		molar fragments
F46		105	7	33	equid	7		adult		molar fragments
F51		117	92	1,129	cattle	2	2	adult	cut/chopped	arthritic pelvis, femur
F51		117			sheep	15	6			13 metapodials, horns, jaws +
F51		117			mammal	75			butchered	fragmentary
F52		113	1	8	sheep	1		adult	cut/chopped	metacarpal – cut from skinning
F52		113	24	397	cattle	1	1	adult	cuts	complete metacarpal, skinned
F52		113			sheep	22	12.5		cut/chopped	2 robust chopped horns, metapodials, phalanges

F58		114	3	9	sheep	3			chopped	ribs
F63	Sx 4	126	41	82	cattle	41		adult		molar fragments
F63	Sx 4	126	1	1	mammal	1				
F63	Sx 4	126	1	4	mammal	1				burnt white
F63	Sx 4	126	2	37	mammal	2				large mammal fragments
F63	Sx 6	161	7	7	cattle	7				molar fragments
F67		153	11	171	cattle	2	1	adult	chopped	tibia, axis vertebra fragment
F67		153			mammal	9			butchered	large mammal fragments
F72	Sx 2	138	22	54	mammal	22				poor condition, fragmentary
F72	Sx 6	160	3	22	mammal	3				
F72	Sx 3	173	3	22	cattle	3				molar fragments
F72		225	6	64	mammal	6				large mammal fragments
F78		164	1	17	mammal	1			chopped	large sternum fragment
F78	Sx 4	214	5	45	cattle	2	1	adult	chopped	humerus and pelvis fragments, burnt white
F78	Sx 4	214			mammal	3				
F78		241	8	47	mammal	1			chopped	large mammal fragments
F80		168	4	10	cattle	4		adult		molar fragments
F80		235	3	28	cattle	3	1	adult	chopped	humerus fragments, distal end
F91	Sx 2	167	4	35	mammal	4				
F93		194	2	24	cattle	2				molars
F93		202	1	2	mammal	1				
F94		174	5	37	mammal	5				large mammal fragments
F97	Sx 1	175	1	4	mammal	1				
F97	Sx 3	177	5	89	cattle	1	1	adult	cut/chopped	humerus
F97	Sx 3	177			mammal	4				small fragments, some burnt
F99		188	26	283	cattle	7	2	adult	butchered	molars, pelvis, radius
F99		188			mammal	19			butchered	poor condition, fragmentary
F99		190	8	90	equid	8		adult		equid molars and premolar, well worn

Appendix 10

Table 20: charred plant macrofossils and other remains by sample for each feature (section 8.9).

feature number	**F4**	**F4**	**F4**	**F4**	**F4**	**F4**	**F7**	**F19**	**F20**	**F20**	**F37**
sample finds no	**28**	**29**	**30**	**83**	**85**	**86**	**80**	**61**	**56**	**77**	**97**
feature sample	**pyre debris**	**pyre debris**	**pyre debris**	**pyre debris**	**pyre debris**	**pyre debris**	**pit fill**	**ditch fill**	**?oven debris**	**?oven debris**	**ditch fill**
Plant macrofossils:											
Avena sp. (grains)											xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)								x			xcf
Cereal indet. (grains)			xfg					xfg			x
Bromus sp.								xcf			
charcoal <2 mm	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
charcoal >2 mm	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	x
charred root/stem						x					
indet. twig											
other materials:											
black porous 'cokey' material	x	x			x		x	x			x
black tarry material						x	x	x			
bone			xb		xb		xb	x xb			
burnt/fired clay				x							
burnt stone							x				
mineralised soil concretions	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xxx			
vitrified material		x			x	x	x				
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**16**	**10**	**20**	**20**	**16**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.3**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.7**	**0.6**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**25%**	**100%**	**12.5%**	**12.5%**	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

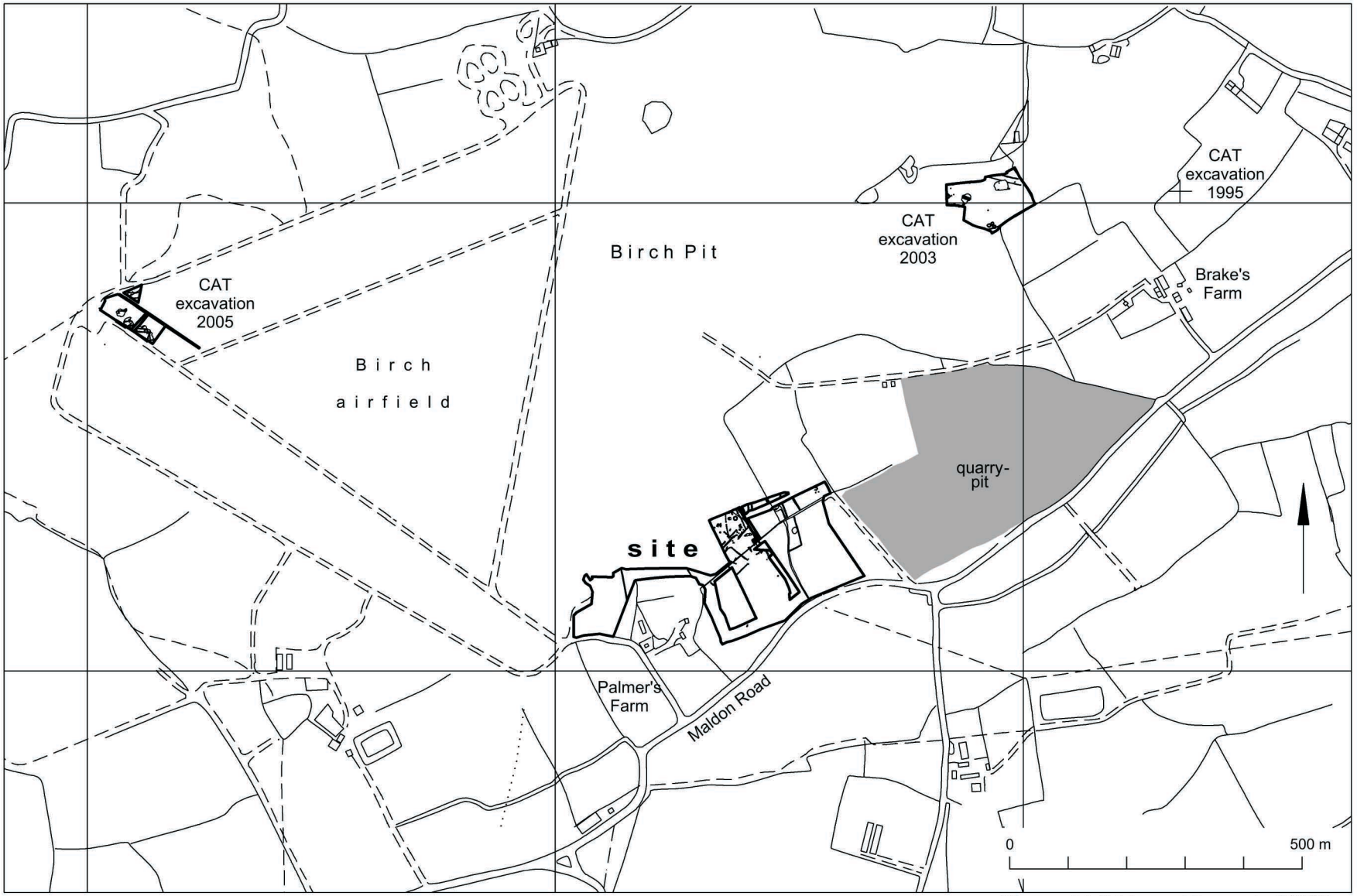

Fig 1 Site location and locations of previous excavations in the surrounding area.

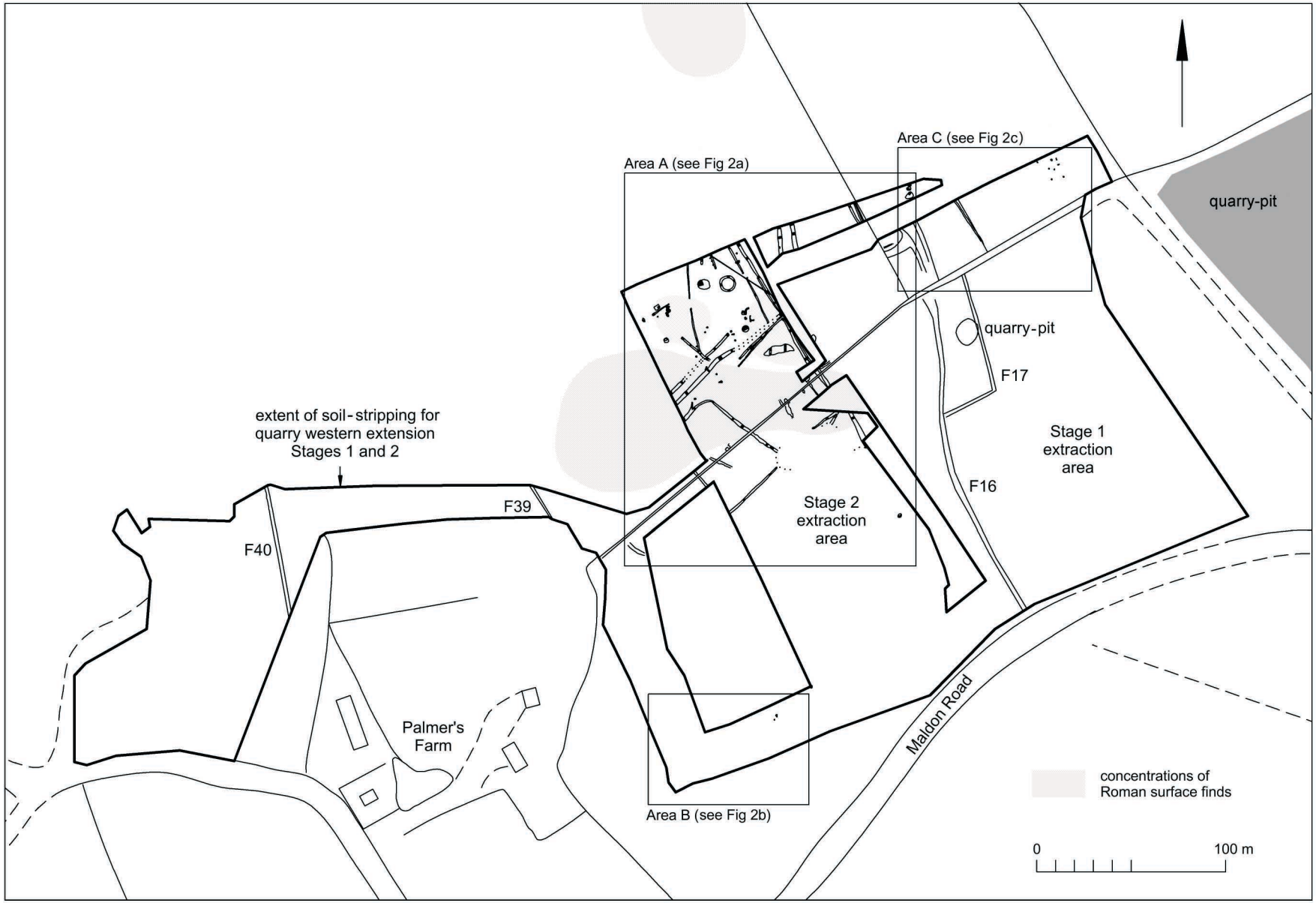

Fig 2 Areas covered by the archaeological watching brief and excavation.

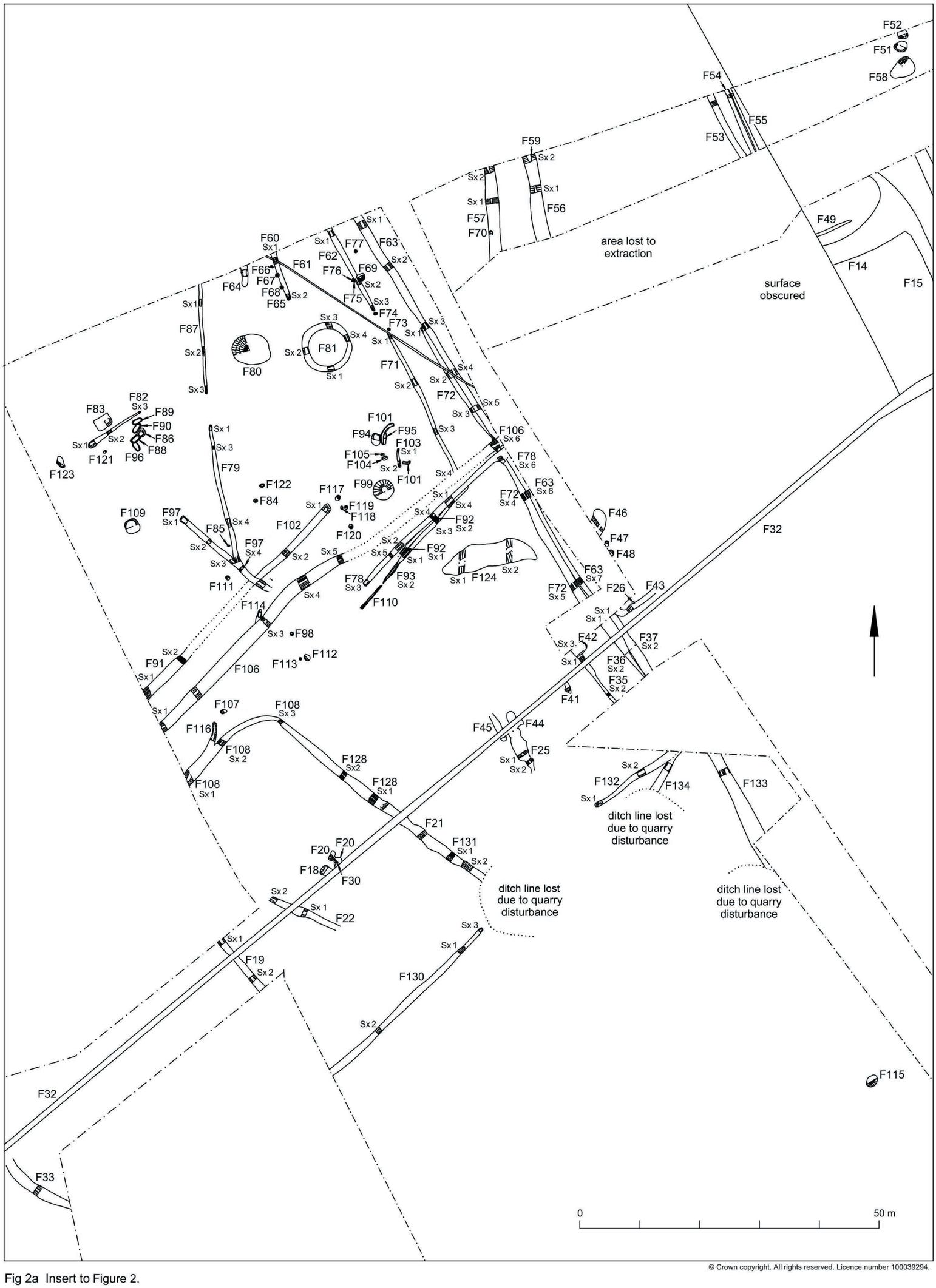

Fig 2a Insert to Figure 2.

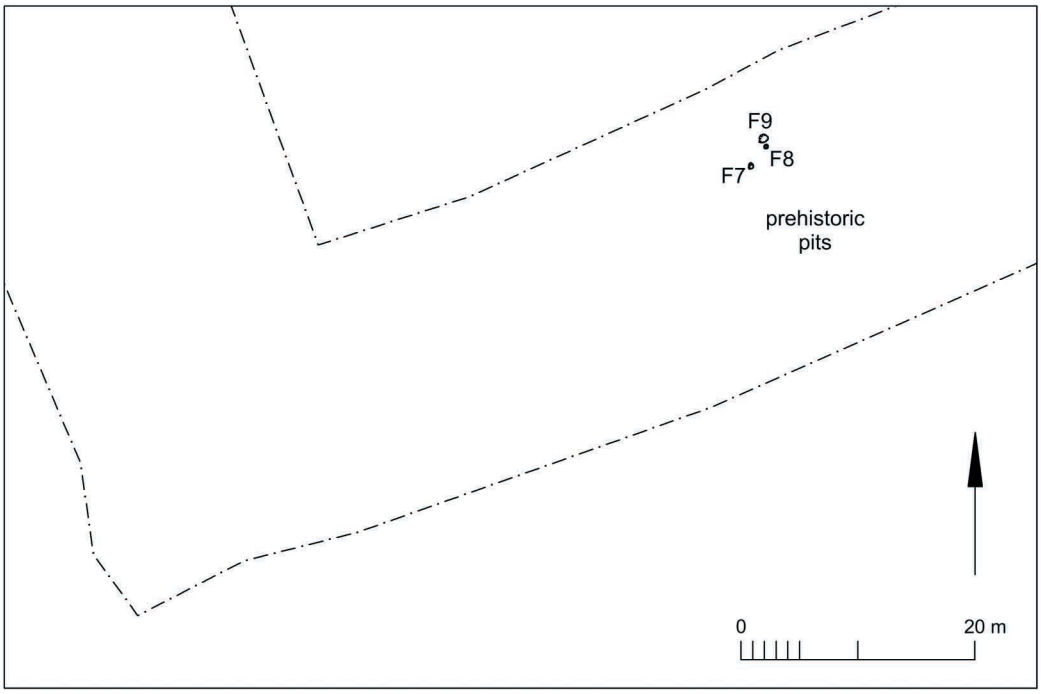

Fig 2b Insert to Figure 2.

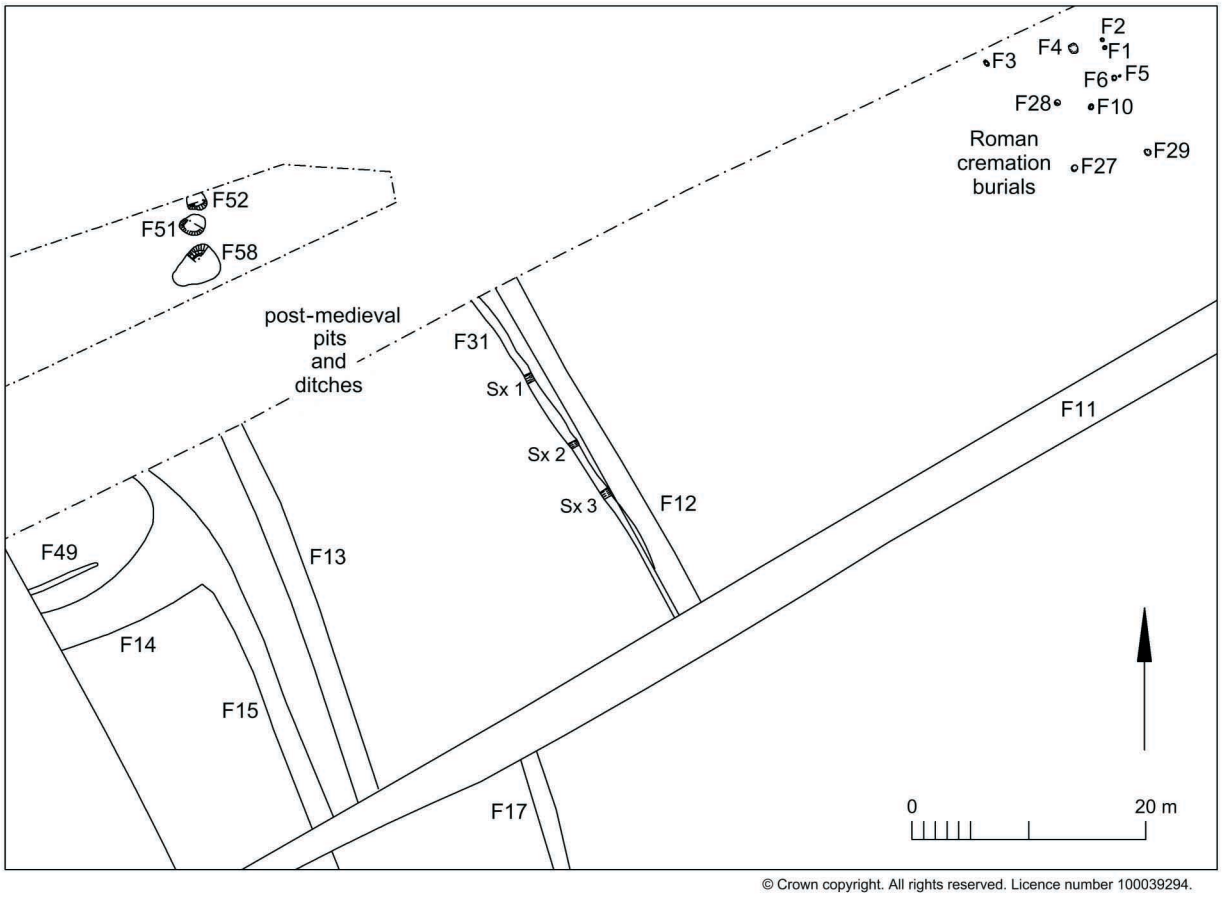

Fig 2c Insert to Figure 2.

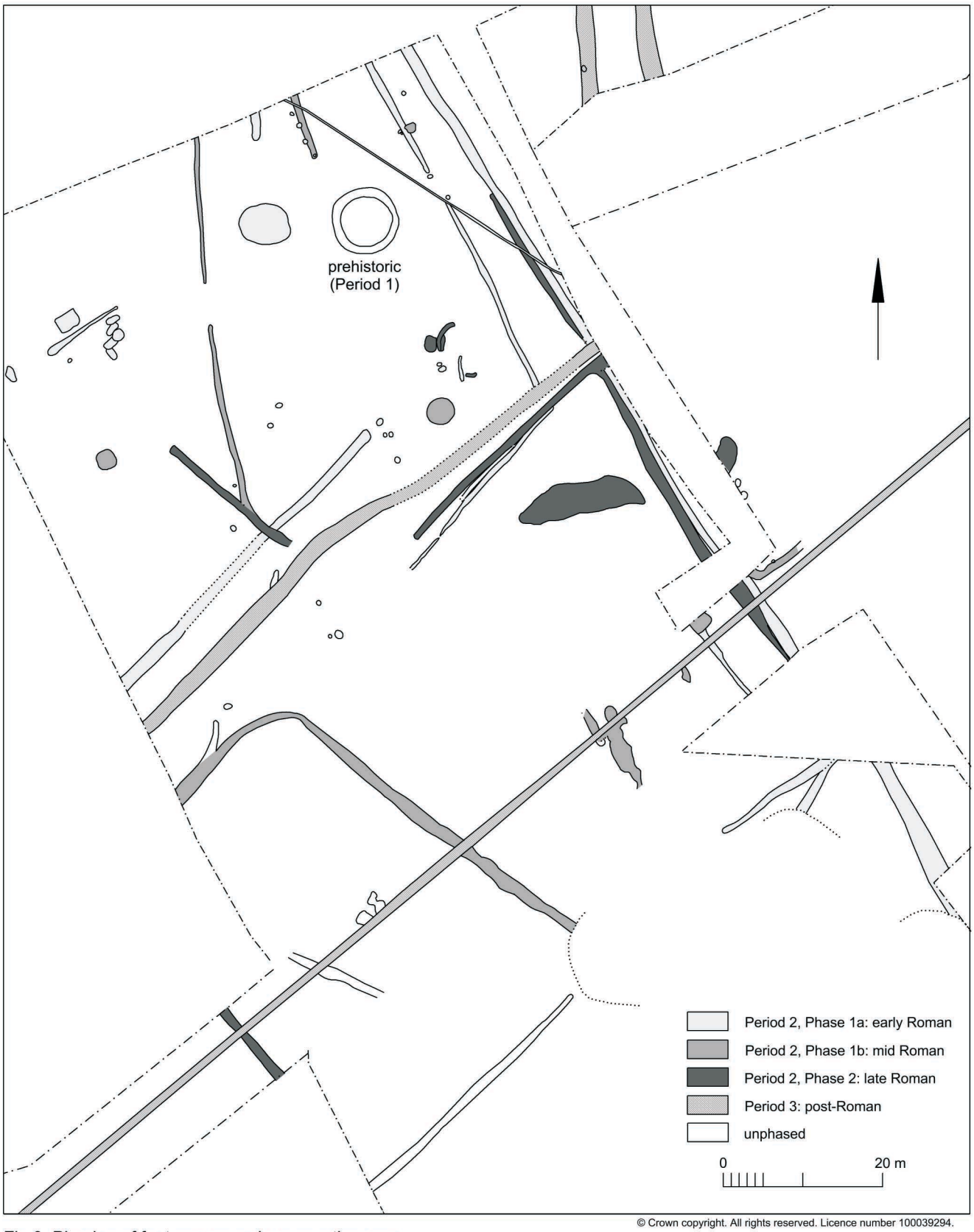

Fig 3 Phasing of features on main excavation area.

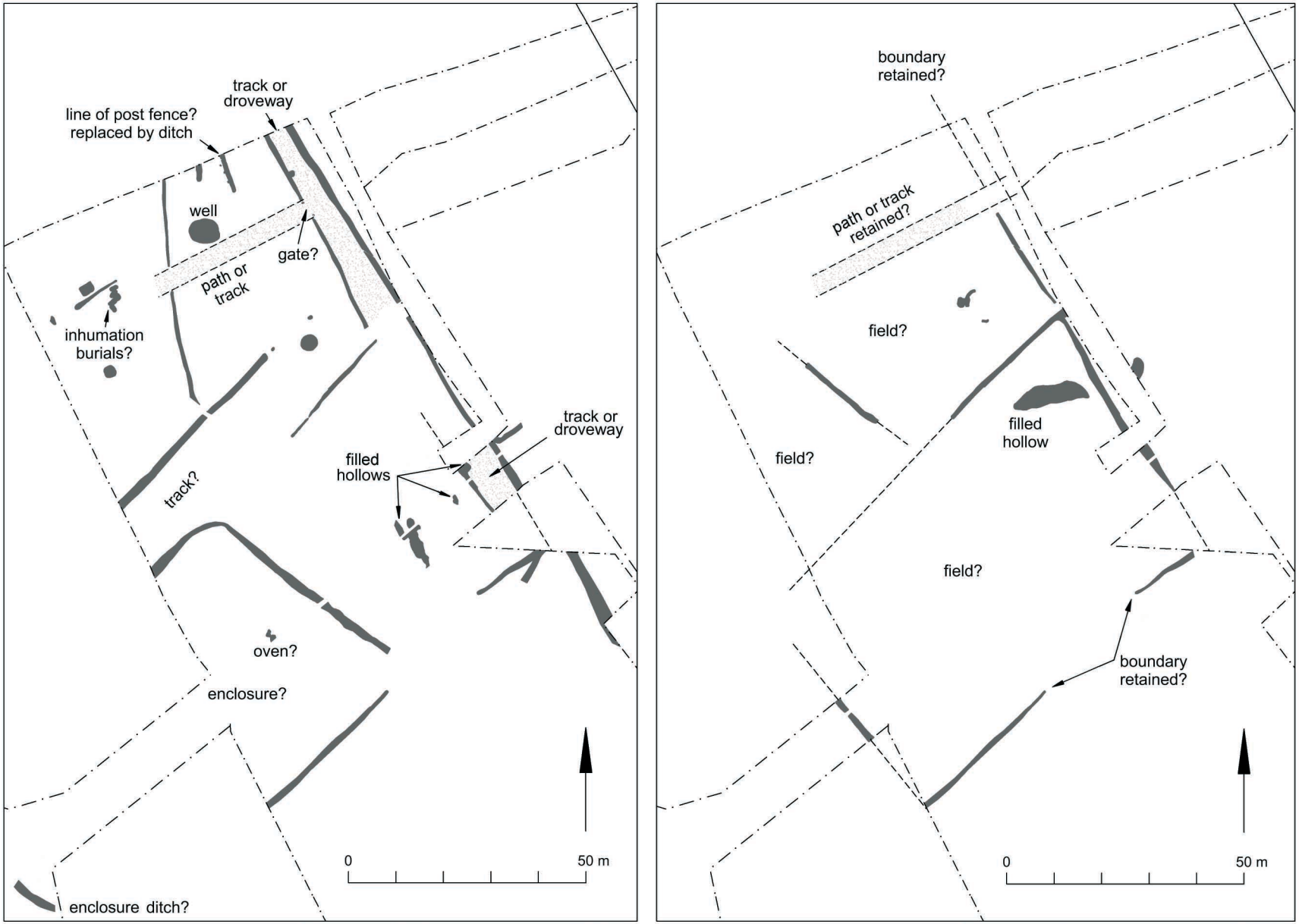

Fig 4a (left) Interpretative plan of the Period 2 Phase 1 features.
Fig 4b (right) Interpretative plan of the Period 2 Phase 2 features.

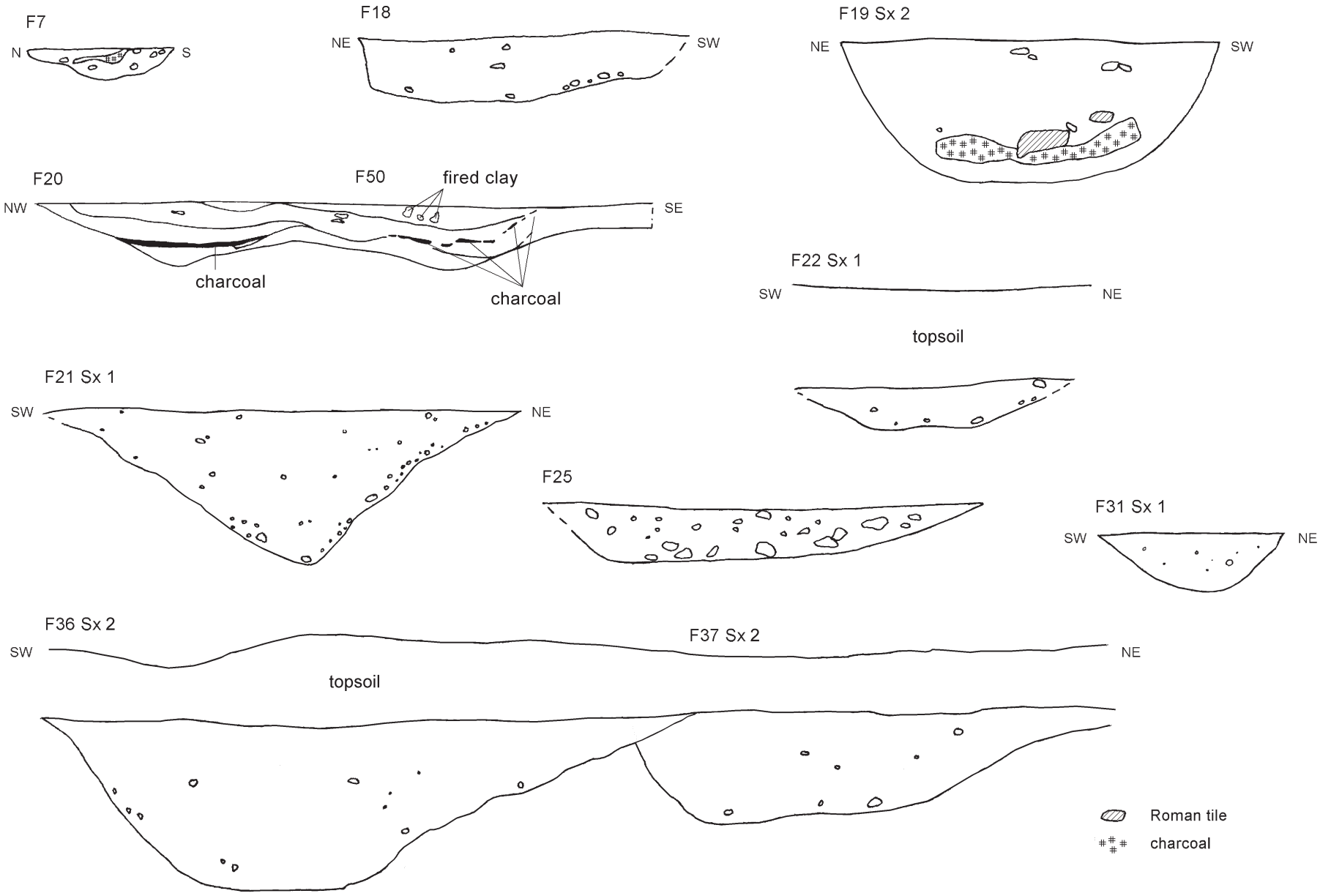

Fig 5 Selected sections: F7-F37.

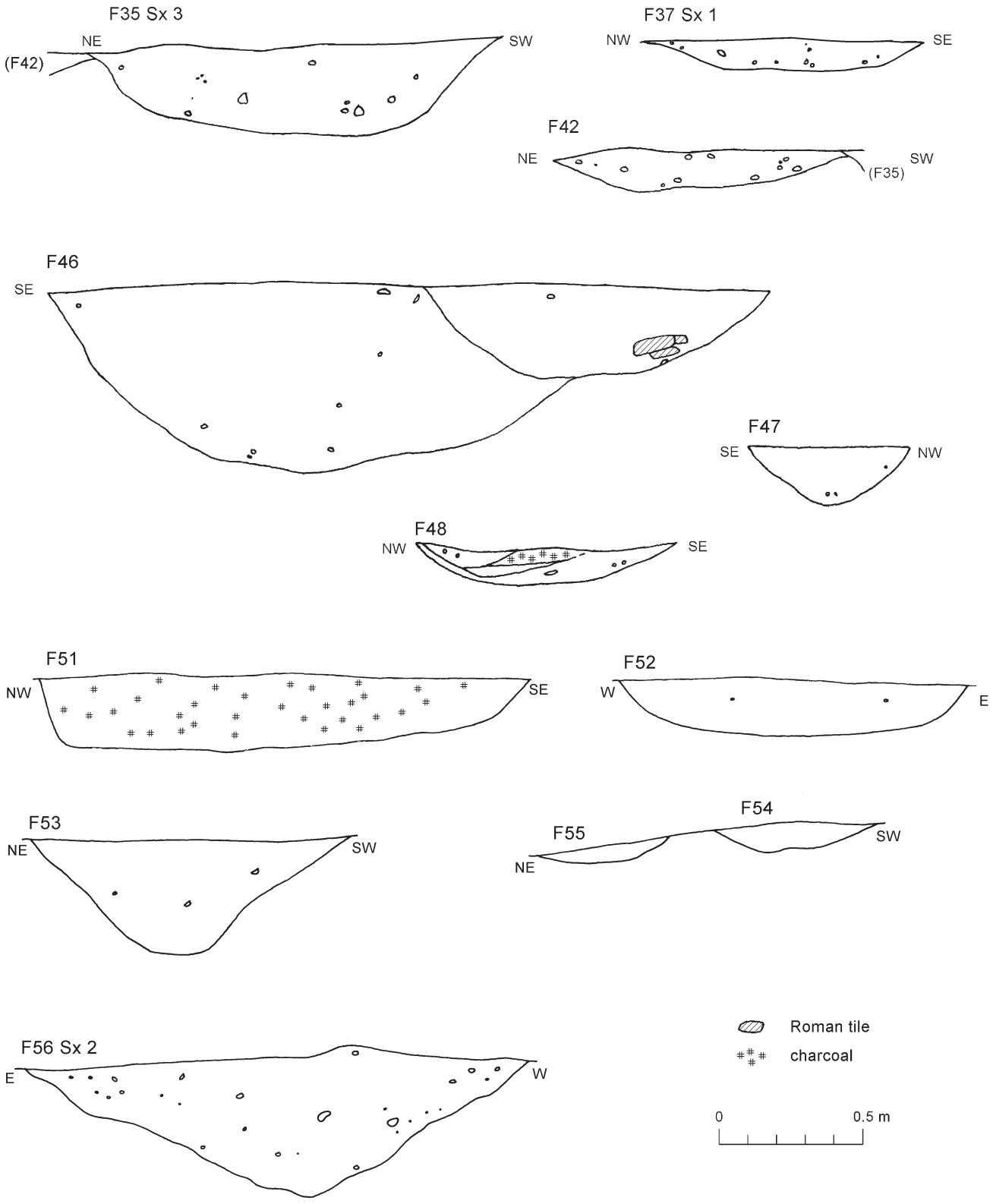

Fig 6 Selected sections: F35-F56.

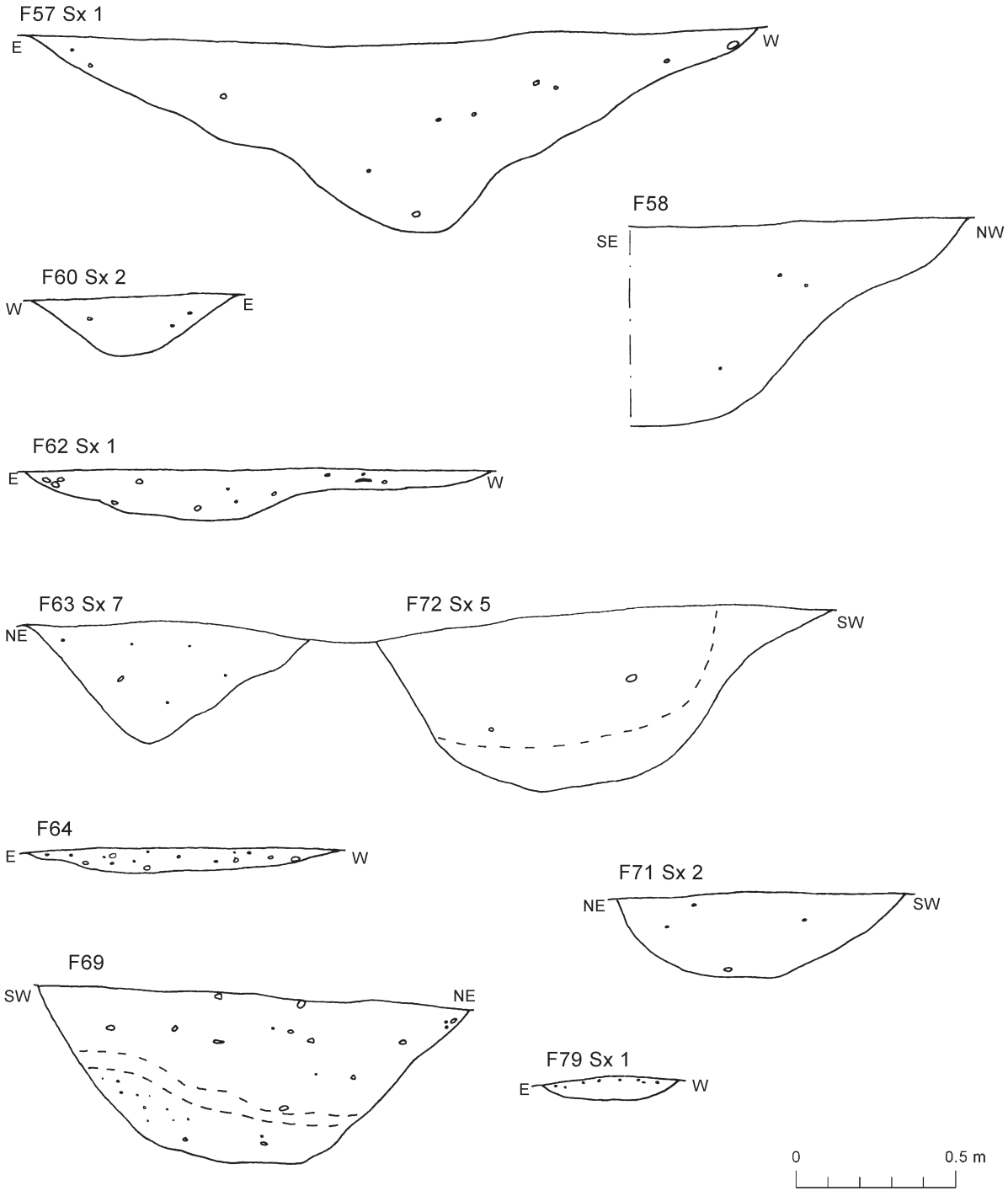

Fig 7 Selected sections: F57-F79.

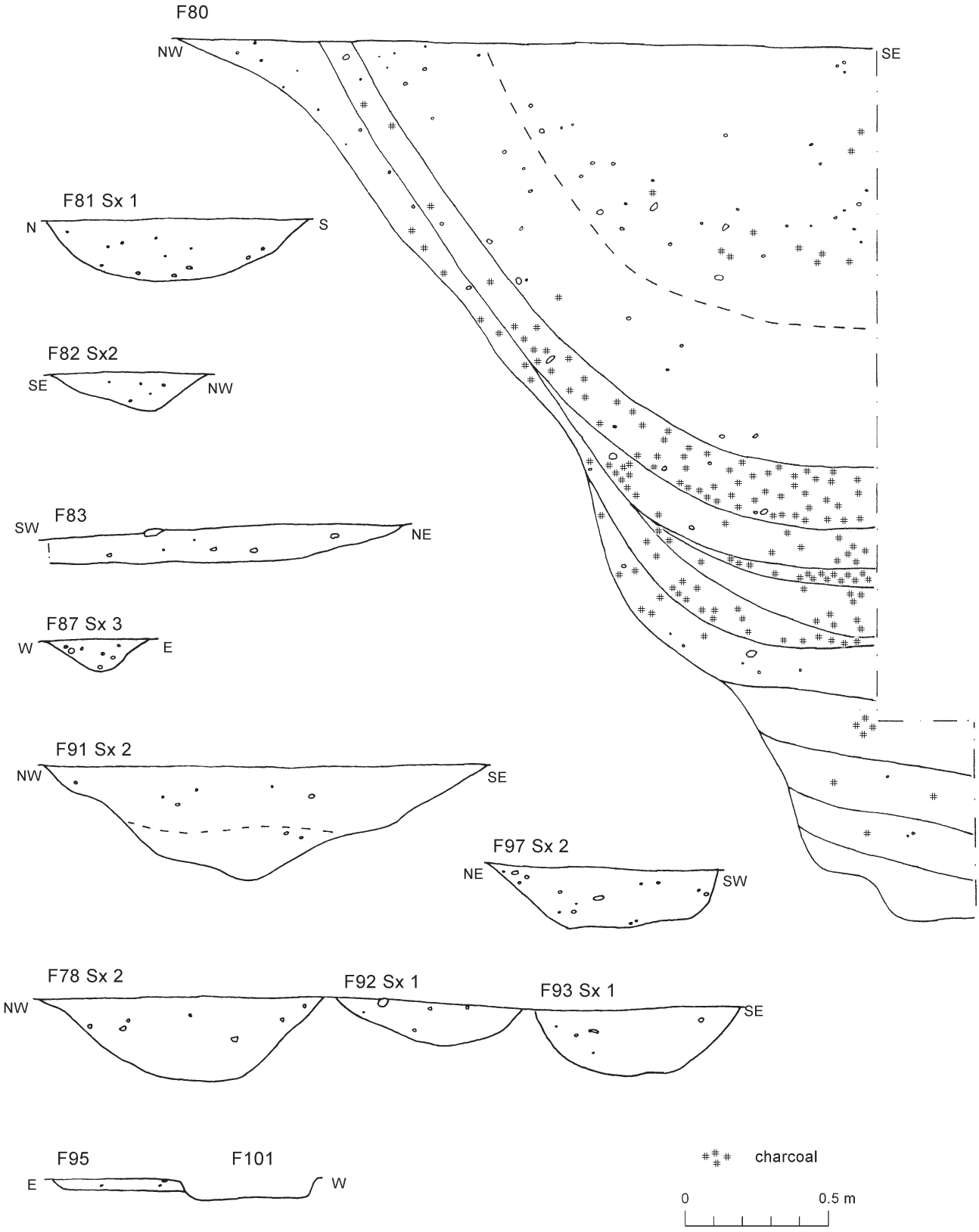

Fig 8 Selected sections: F80-F101.

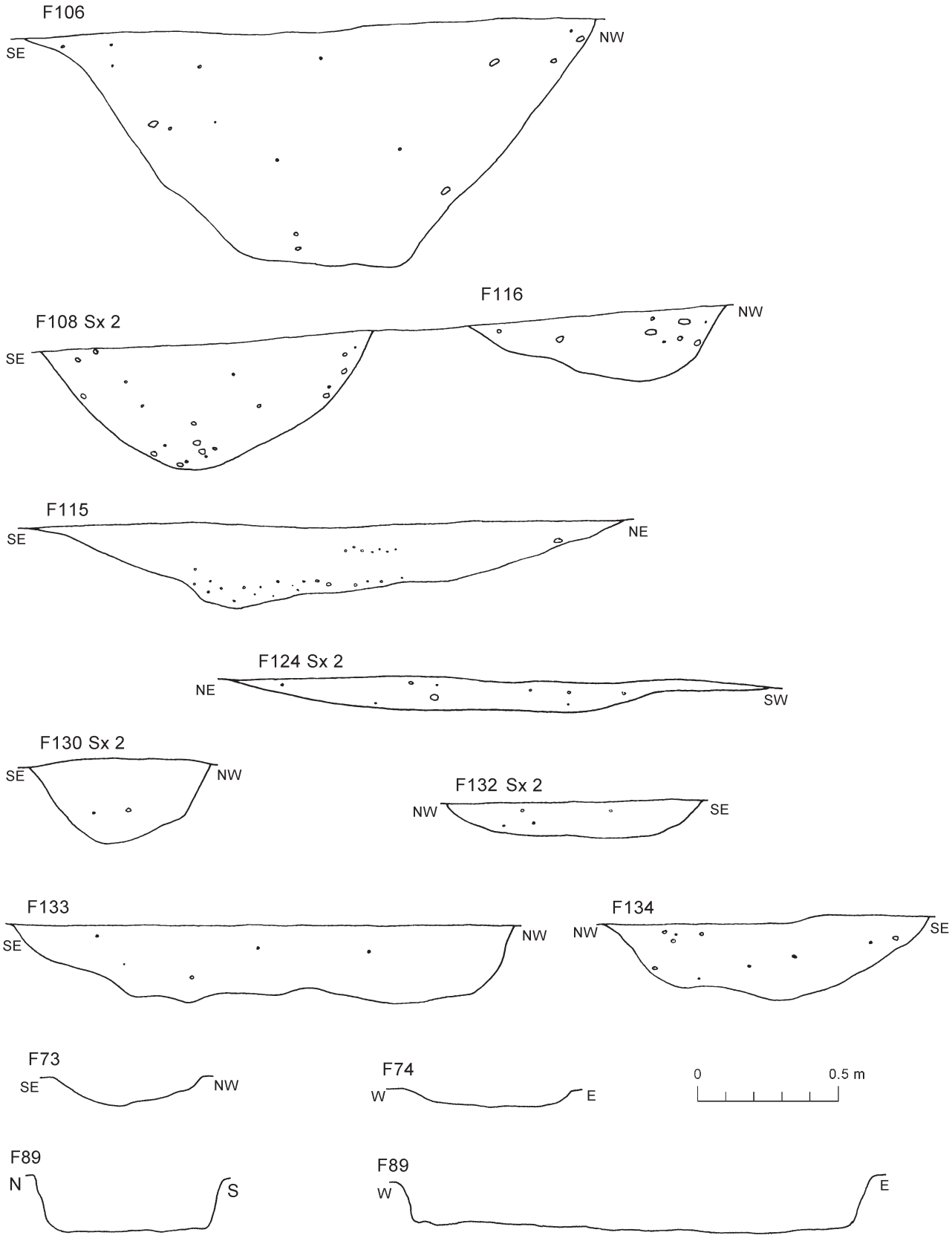

Fig 9 Selected sections: F106-F134 and selected profiles.

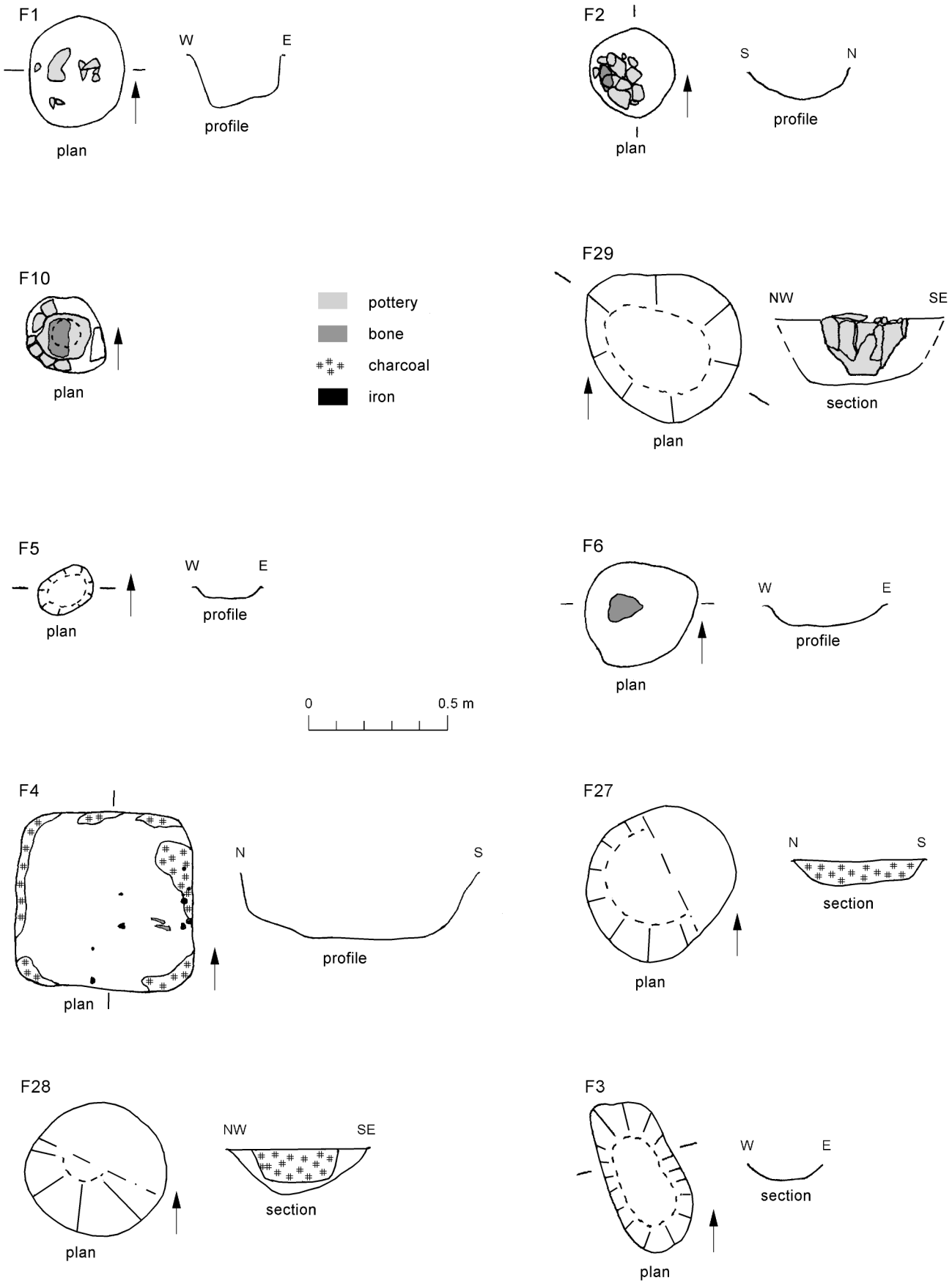

Fig 10 Roman cremation burials and pits with pyre debris.

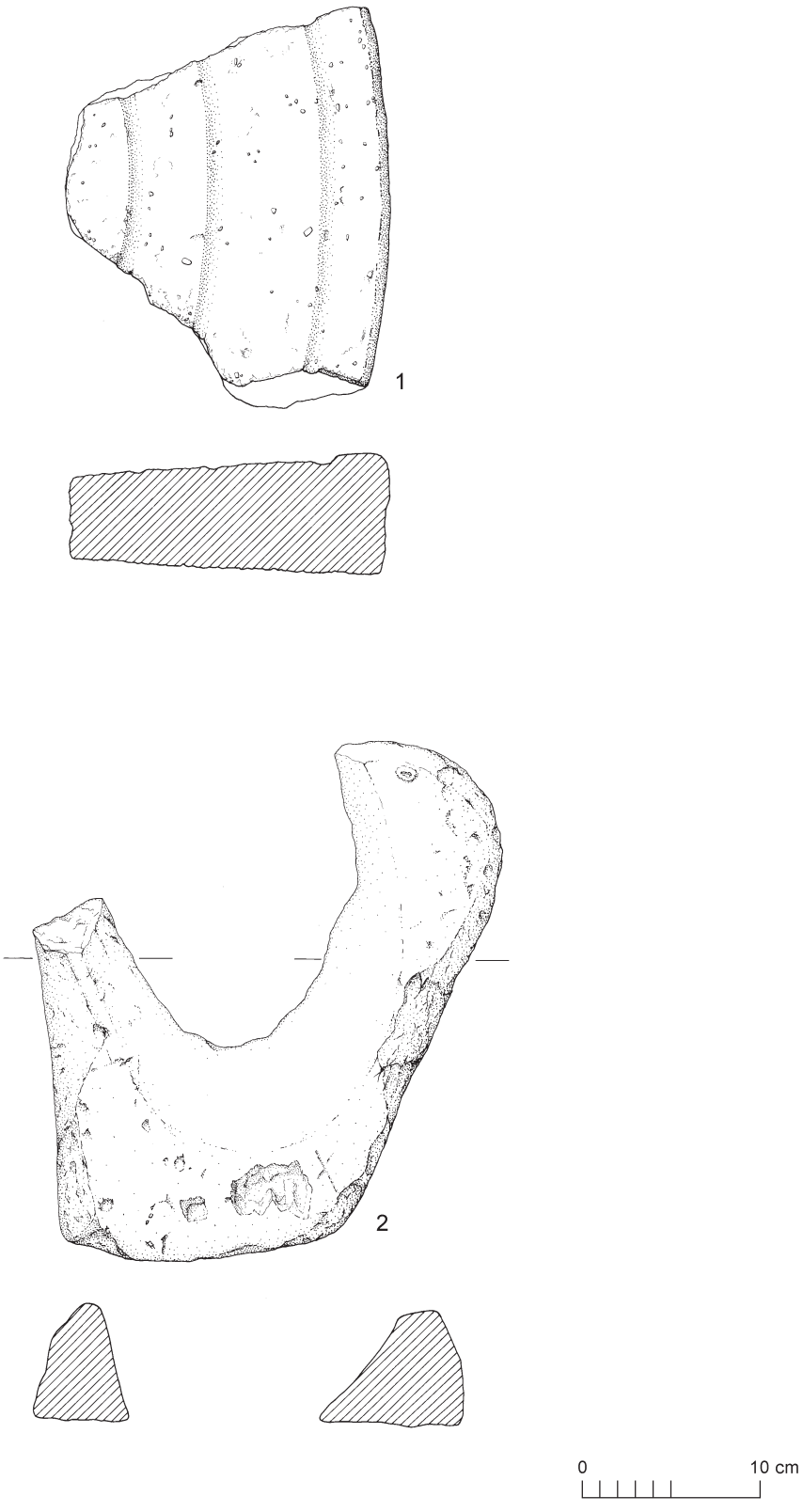

Fig 11 Objects of worked stone.

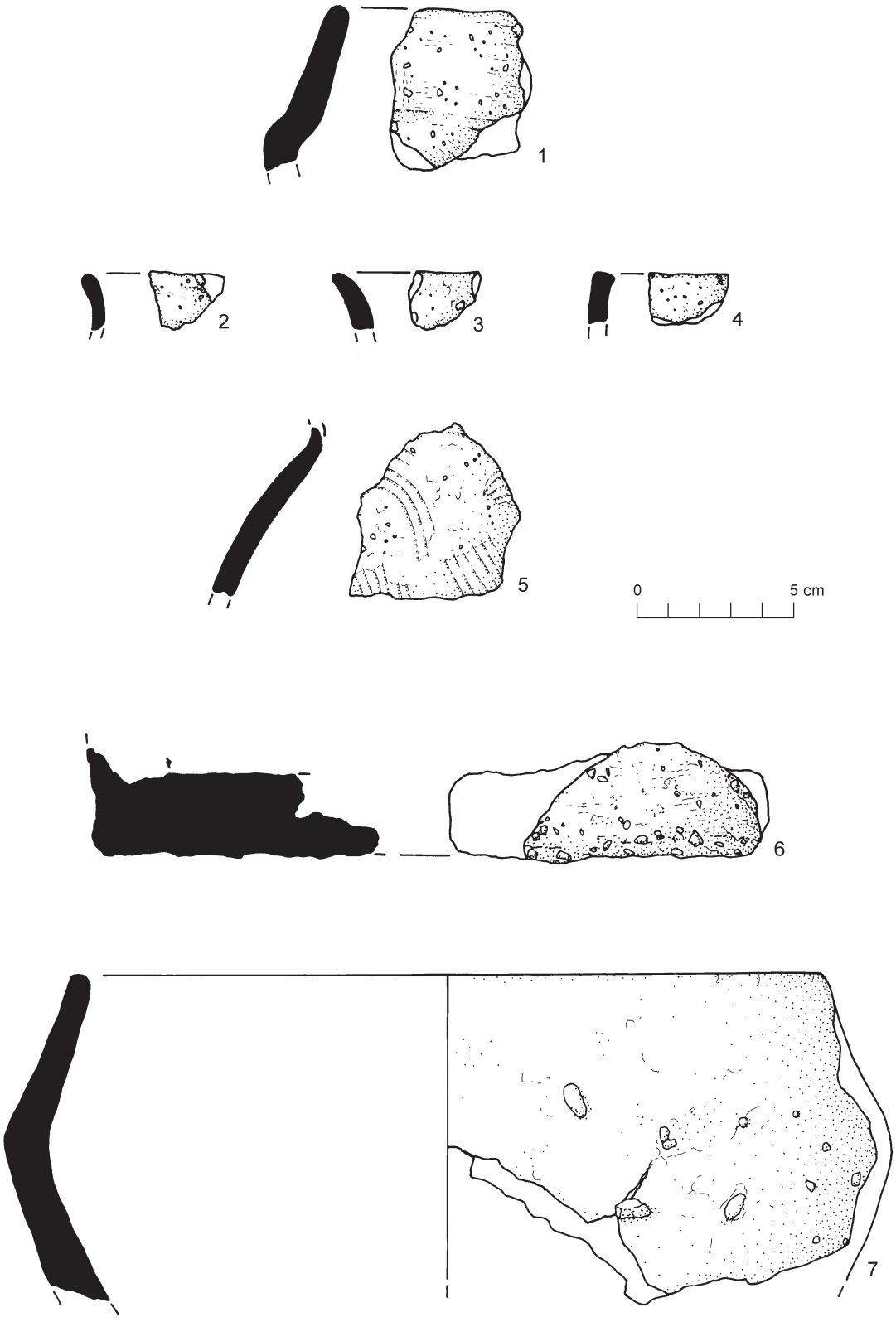

Fig 12 Prehistoric pottery.

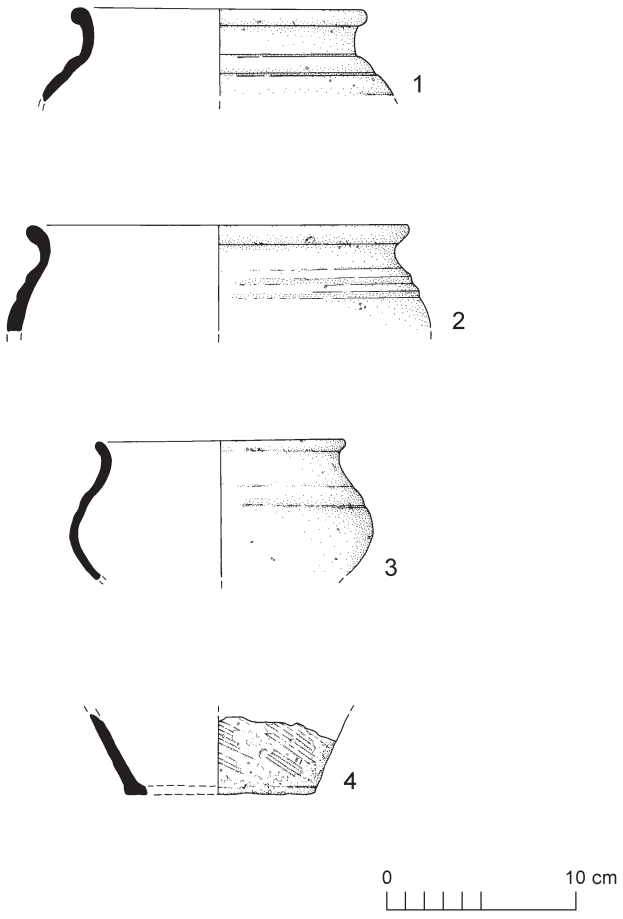

Fig 13 Late Iron Age pottery.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Birch Pit western extension, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Birch	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 925 192	**Site code:** Museum accession code COLEM 2004.316
***Type of work*:** Watching brief and two excavations	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: July-September 2004, October-November 2005 and March 2006	***Size of area investigated:*** 7.4 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	***Related EHER nos:*** 11548, 11577, 11582, 11924
Final report: CAT Report 383 and summary in *EAH*	
Periods represented: Middle-Late Bronze Age, Roman, post-medieval	

Summary of fieldwork results:

A watching brief and two seasons of excavation were carried out at Birch Pit during 2004 and 2005-6 on behalf of Hanson Aggregates. The requirement for archaeological work was associated with an extension to the western side of the quarry. This was centred on the area east of Palmer's Farm and north of the Maldon Road, and included part of a surface spread of Roman finds denoting the site of a Roman settlement. The archaeological monitoring in 2004 covered topsoil-stripping for an extraction area and the associated enabling works for Stage 1 of the quarry extension. As a result of this, a number of features of prehistoric and Roman date was identified which required excavation. The further Stage 2 of the quarry extension in 2005-6 necessitated area excavation of part of the site of the Roman settlement.

There were a few prehistoric features, all of which can be attributed to the Middle-Late Bronze Age. These consist of three pits close to the Maldon Road and probably a small ring-ditch on the north-west of the site.

The major period of activity recorded on the site is that associated with a Roman settlement. However, some finds are of Late Iron Age type or background and it is possible that the settlement originated in the pre-conquest period. The site of the settlement is more extensive than the area covered by the excavation and extends north and west beyond the limits of the excavation. There was no trace of any remains of buildings in the part of the site of the settlement which was excavated. Away from this area, to the south and east, there was little evidence of any Roman occupation or activity except for an isolated pit, and a small group of cremation burials, dated to the 1st-early 2nd century, located about 300 m to the north-east. The settlement can be divided into two phases. Phase 1 (the early-mid Roman period) consisted of a north-south track or droveway on the east side of the site, with another path or track running east-west. Short lengths of ditch seem to have defined enclosed areas such as fields or paddocks, and there was also a possible ditched enclosure only part of which lay within the excavation area. One feature was probably a well, and there was a probable oven within the area of the possible enclosure. A group of four rectangular pits were probably graves for inhumation burials, relating to the later part of Phase 1 or possibly Phase 2. Evidence of activity in Phase 2 (the late Roman period) indicates changes to the settlement layout. However, the small number of ditch features which can be attributed to this phase form only a fragmentary landscape and suggest a degree of continuity from Phase 1. The east-west path or track across the site may have been retained; however, late-dated ditches cut across the line of the north-south track or droveway on the east side of the site, and probably also across the possible enclosure, suggesting that both of these features had gone out of use. This gives the overall impression that the landscape had possibly been partly reorganised into blocks of fields or paddocks.

*There is little indication of any significant post-Roman settlement until the early post-medieval period (*c *late 16th-early 17th century), when pottery from three adjacent pits suggests a settlement in the immediate vicinity. Many of the ditches identified as post-medieval or modern may date from this period. However, there are one or two individual finds which suggest possible activity in the Anglo-Saxon, and certainly in the early-medieval or medieval, periods. Also, the similar alignment of both the Roman and post-Roman ditches, while possibly a result of the natural topography of the area, could imply some degree of continuity in settlement and land use within the wider landscape up till the present day.*

Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: S Benfield	***Date of summary:*** February 2007