Report 1894

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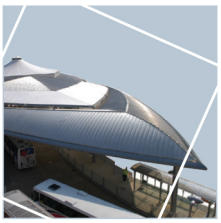
# Archaeological Excavation and Test-pitting at St Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow, Essex



HER 19657

**Prepared for**
NPS Property Consultants Limited

Andy Phelps

April 2009

www.nps.co.uk

| NAU ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CHECKLIST | | |
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BAU 1894

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| | |
|---|---|
| Location: | St Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow |
| District: | Uttlesford District Council |
| Grid Ref.: | TL 6240 2180 |
| HER No.: | 19657 |
| Client: | NPS Property Consultants Limited |
| Dates of Fieldwork: | 7–8, 21–31 July 2008 |


## *Summary*

*In July 2008 NAU Archaeology carried out excavations at St Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow, Essex, ahead of the construction of a new classroom at the southern end of the current buildings. The work was conducted in two stages, the first being the excavation of four 1.5m x 1.5m test-pits which informed the depth and presence or otherwise of archaeological deposits. The second stage entailed the excavation of the footprint of the new building.*

*The test-pits identified archaeological remains of Romano-British date 0.6m beneath the surface and this discovery was expanded on in the excavation that followed, which identified a series of pits containing domestic waste material at the southern end of the excavated area. These pits appear to have been backfilled during the 2nd century and one contained a number of disturbed cremations. In addition, a 4th- century north–south ditch was encountered at the north-western extreme of the excavation. It would appear that from the 1st century AD the excavated area comprised the rear plot of a moderate to high-status domestic building likely to have faced onto Stane Street to the south. In the post-Roman period the land reverted to agricultural use until the modern development of the school.*


## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In July 2008 NAU Archaeology excavated four 1.5m x 1.5m test-pits and an open area excavation measuring 98m² at St Mary's Primary School, Great Dunmow, Essex (Figs 1 and 2). The fieldwork took place prior to improvements to the existing paths, the relocation of the soft play area and construction of a single-storey classroom at the southern end of the school.

The work was commissioned by Andrew Yelland of NPS Property Consultants Ltd and undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Essex County Council. The Archaeological Brief was issued by the Historic Environment Team of Essex County Council (Richard Havis, June 2008). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref: BAU 1894/AH). The work was designed to mitigate damage to any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990).

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

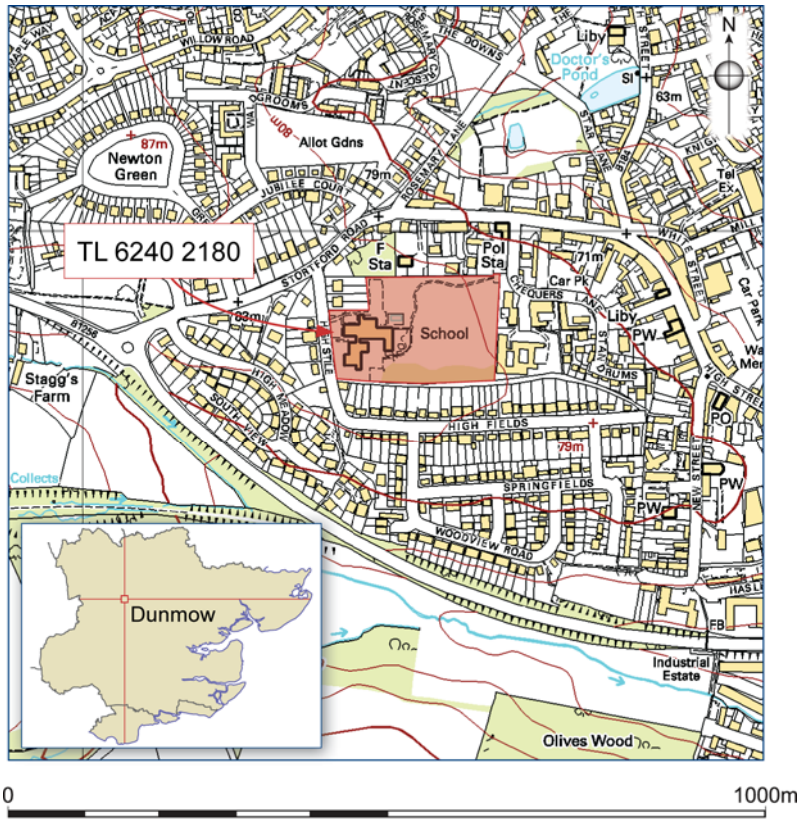



**Figure 1** Site location

## 2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site sits upon fairly level ground at a height of approximately 82m OD. The natural geology constituted free-draining glacial tills consisting of gravelly sands and clays (Hickling 2003; Hunter 1999, 2).

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Evidence for prehistoric occupation in the area of the town is slight, largely being restricted to a scatter of residual artefacts on various sites within the town and to the Middle Iron Age settlement at Buildings Farm on its north-west edge (Lavender 1997).

Great Dunmow was a Roman small town which grew up at the junction of two Roman roads, Stane Street which ran east–west from Colchester to Braughing and the Great Chesterford to Chelmsford road which ran north–south (Wickenden 1988, 1). It is estimated from previous excavations and chance finds of artefacts that the town covered an area of 10–12 hectares, stretching along Stane Street for 500m west of the junction (Wickenden 1988, 1).

The development area lies in close proximity to Redbond Lodge, which was excavated producing extensive evidence of Roman occupation, including burials and a shrine (EHER 13864–13869; Wickenden 1988). The burials were dated to the late 1st to late 2nd centuries and included three possible casket burials. The shrine dated from the 4th century AD. A small pond subsequently excavated in the grounds of the St Mary's School produced a large quantity of Roman finds of 1st- to 3rd-century date.

Excavations in advance of the last school extension found a series of Roman deposits including the remains of a Roman cemetery of second century date and a number of other features of Roman date (EHER 19657; Boyer 2001). Cremation burials of 2nd-century date were also found 100m to the south of the present development in 1936 (Wickenden 1988, 80). Earlier cremations have been found at Station Yard and at Haslers Lane where there was a small, but densely used cemetery of late 1st-century date (Hickling 2003). Their location outside the edge of Roman occupation and adjacent to the Chelmsford Road is typical of Roman cemeteries.

A small number of possible Early Saxon pottery sherds were discovered overlaying the shrine at Redbond Lodge (Wickenden 1988, 45). On the same site, 526 sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were found, in association with a possible sunken-featured building (EHER 13867; Wickenden 1988, 45). From the Middle Saxon period until the 20th century, the St Mary's School site appears to have been put to agricultural use (Wickenden 1988, 50).

The medieval focus of settlement appears to have been located at Church End (to the north of the present town centre), although a second focus developed in the area of the High Street and marketplace in the centre of the modern town. The High Street appears to skirt around the northern edge of the Roman town, suggesting that the medieval inhabitants were avoiding it. The town continued to develop into the post-medieval period due to prosperity derived from the cloth industry (Medlycott 1998).

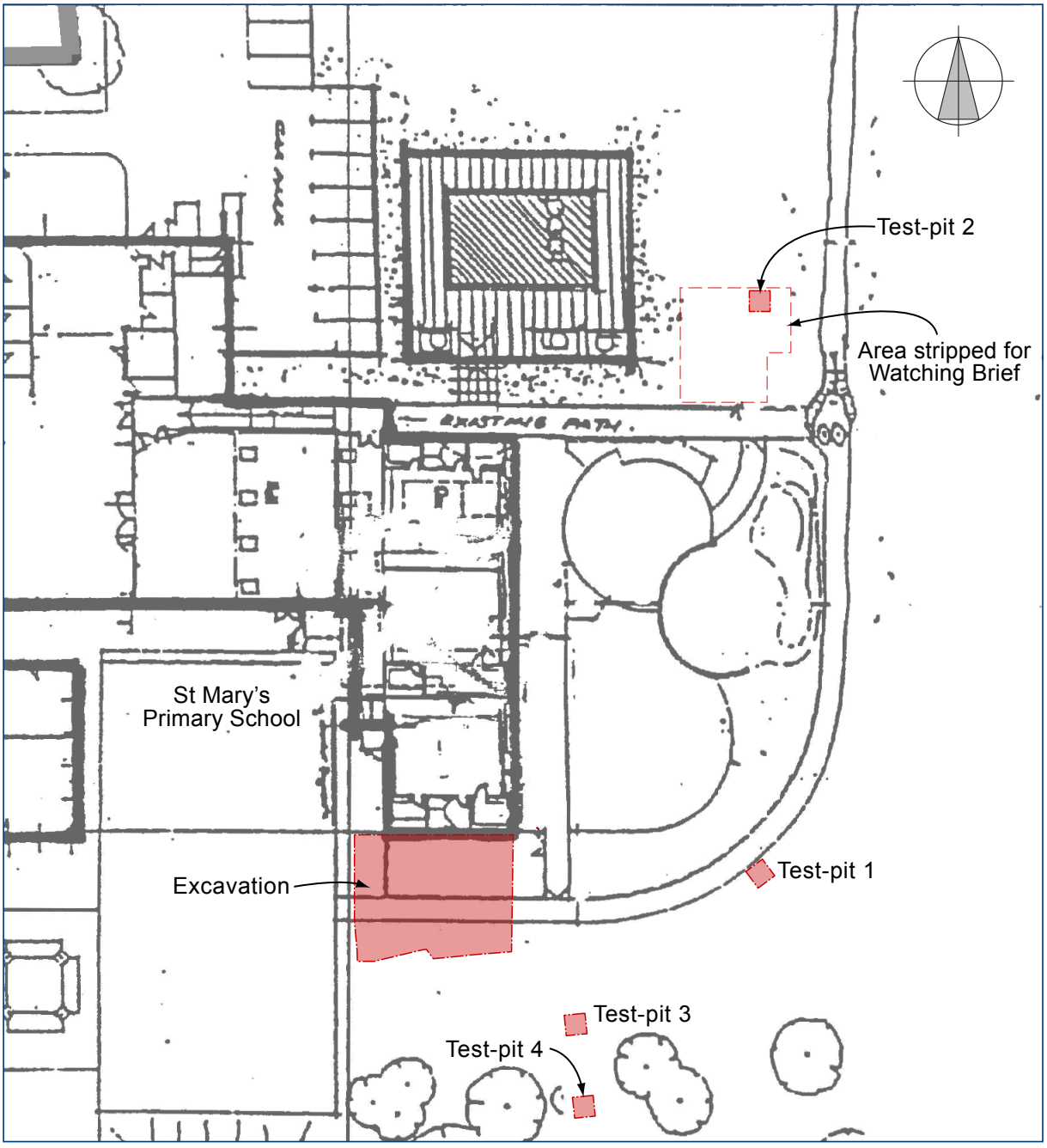
The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 shows the school site as an agricultural field, as does all the Ordnance Survey mapping up to and including the 1951 edition, at which point the school was constructed.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this fieldwork was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. Two stages of works were undertaken: the excavation of four 1.5m x 1.5m test-pits and archaeological excavation within the footprint of the new classroom.

The first stage, conducted two weeks prior to the main excavation, involved the hand excavation of four test-pits located in accordance with the agreed project design (Fig. 2). Test-pit 1 was approximately 10m to the east of the main excavation, just to the south of the existing path. Test-pit 2 was located on the grassed area to the east of the swimming pool and west of the path. Test-pit 3 was located approximately 8m south-east of the new classroom, with Test-pit 4 situated 4.5m to the south of this.

For the second stage the Brief required that an area 98m² be examined at the southern end of the current classroom block (Fig. 2). Prior to excavation most of this area was grassed, with a concrete path enclosing it to the west and south. The excavation was conducted in two stages. First, the grassed area was stripped using a 5-tonne excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The second stage required the removal of the surrounding path to the south and west and this had to be delayed until the school holidays began and the playground was no longer in use.






0 30m

**Figure 2** Test-pit and Trench Locations

Due to the results obtained from Test-pit 2, an additional watching brief was conducted in the area to the east of the swimming pool during mechanical topsoil stripping (Fig. 2).

All spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Four bulk samples were taken from deposits deemed to be most likely to return information on the nature, use and general environmental conditions of the material considered. These samples were taken in accordance with English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology* document (Jones 2002).

A temporary benchmark was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 79.46m located on the north-western corner of a private residence at the junction of Stortford Road and Rosemary Lane. A non-permanent peg positioned on the playing field to the east of the site and south of the concrete path served as a temporary benchmark on site, with a level of 82.88m OD.

Site conditions were generally good with mainly fine dry weather throughout. Access was restricted during the first week of excavation, due to the proximity of the children's playground during term time. In addition, a number of live services were encountered across this area which required a careful approach during machining and subsequent hand excavation.

# 5.0 RESULTS

## 5.1 Test-pits

### *5.1.1 Test-pit 1*

Located approximately 1.5m from the edge of the tarmac path, to the east of the current school building (Fig. 2), Test-pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.40m with a sondage extending this to a maximum of 1.17m (Fig. 3).

Modern topsoil (76) and subsoil (02) made up the first 0.11m with a thin layer of gravel (03) underlying these, probably to aid drainage or for levelling purposes. Beneath this deposit (04), an extremely firm silt material extended to a depth of 0.60m and contained an evenly distributed mixture of post-medieval, modern and what appeared to be abraded Romano-British pottery. There was evidence of disturbance, perhaps a result of modern levelling, throughout the deposit. Below this (05), a darker and less compacted clay silt, contained significant quantities of Romano-British pottery, including some large unabraded sherds. This material extended to the base of the trench, at which point clay-rich natural sands and gravels were reached.

Within the excavated sondage the natural appeared to slope away from 0.80m below the surface to 1.17m, giving the impression of the edge of a cut feature (06) within which the former deposit appeared to be contained.

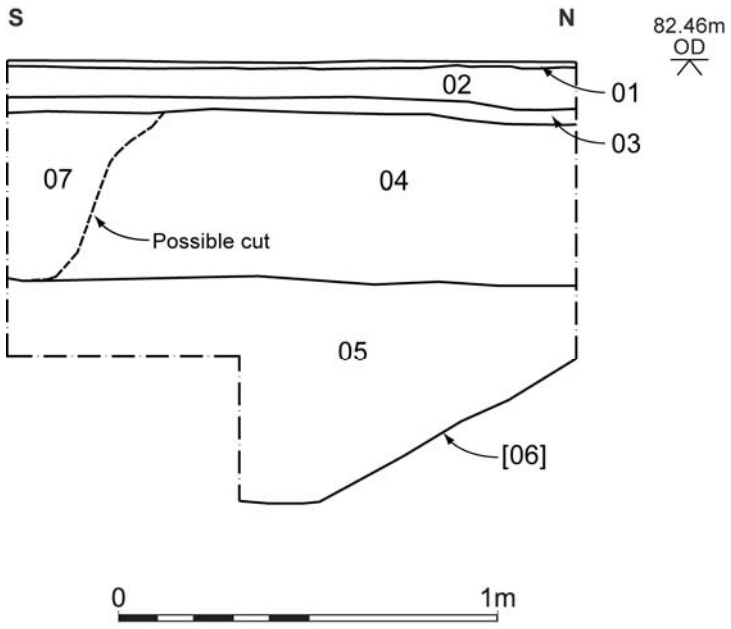



**Figure 3** North-east facing section of Test-pit 1

### *5.1.2 Test-pit 2*

Test-pit 2, located on the grass area to the east of the swimming pool, was excavated to a depth of 0.20m, with a small sondage excavated to a further depth of 0.10m (Fig. 2). Further excavation was deemed undesirable at this time after two parallel lines of iron nails were identified 0.20m below the surface, contained within a mid-grey-brown fine silt (01) indistinguishable from the subsoil above it. These nails were thought to indicate the presence of a coffin and a limited sondage was excavated in an attempt to establish the presence or absence of a grave, but was unable to resolve the question given its limited depth.

### *5.1.3 Test-pit 3*

Test-pit 3 was located to the rear of two sheds adjoining the current soft play area (Fig. 2). The test-pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.53m and consisted of topsoil, subsoil (08) and a very firm silt material (09) consistent with that identified as (04) in Test-pit 1. These deposits contained post-medieval and modern ceramic building material throughout their make-up.

### *5.1.4 Test-pit 4*

Test-pit 4 was located 4.50m to the south of Test-pit 3 and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m (Fig. 2). It was identical in character to Test-pit 3, with topsoil, subsoil (10) and the same firm silt containing pottery and ceramic building material of the same date (11).

## 5.2 Watching brief

Stripping with a 5-tonne mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of approximately 0.2m revealed the area to the east of the swimming pool to be randomly covered with nails and modern waste materials consistent with a dump of material (74) (Fig. 2). However, an Iron Age Nauheim type brooch and two medieval coins, one silver the other copper alloy, were recovered with the use of a metal-detector.

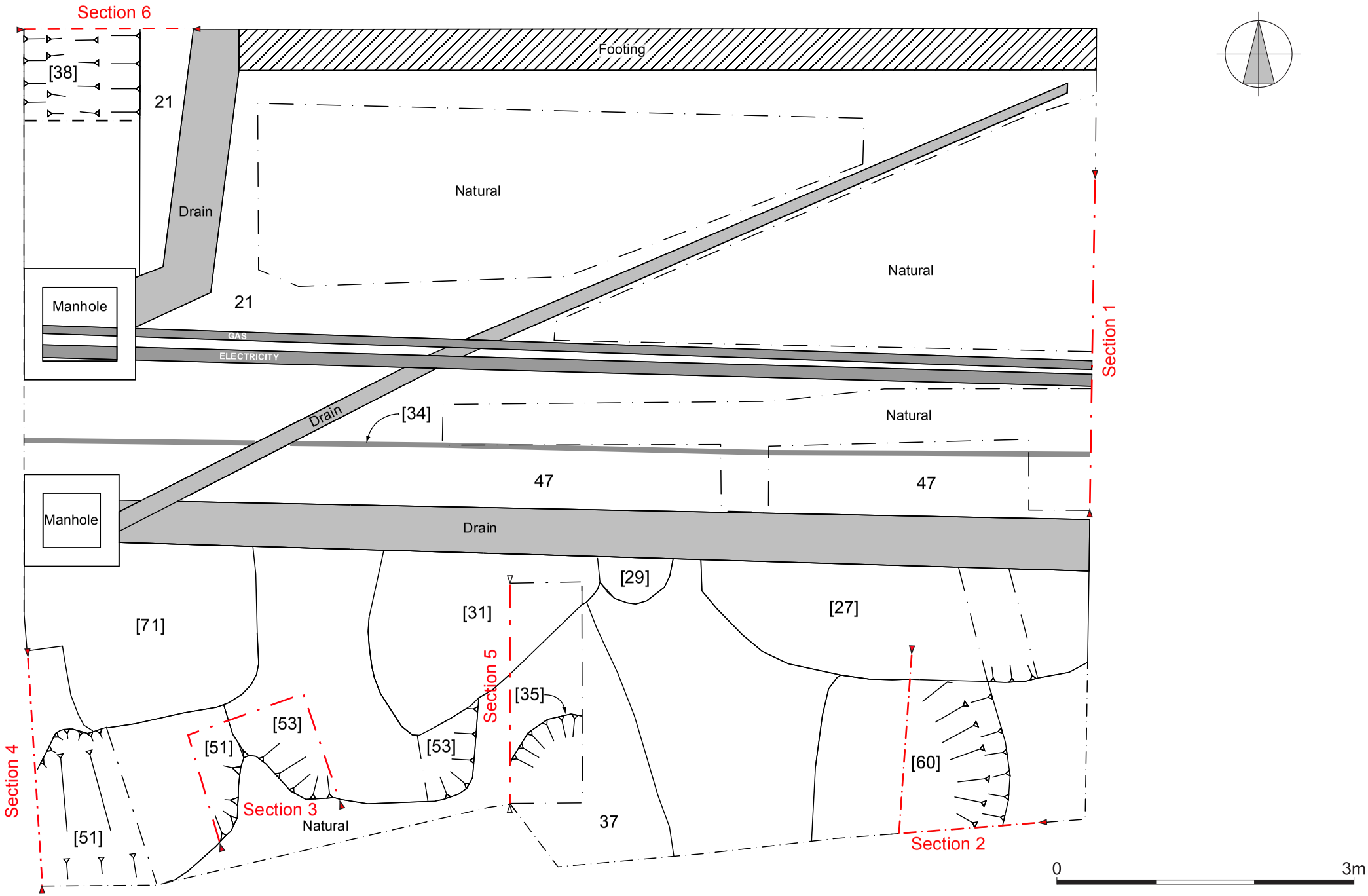



**Figure 4** Plan of excavation

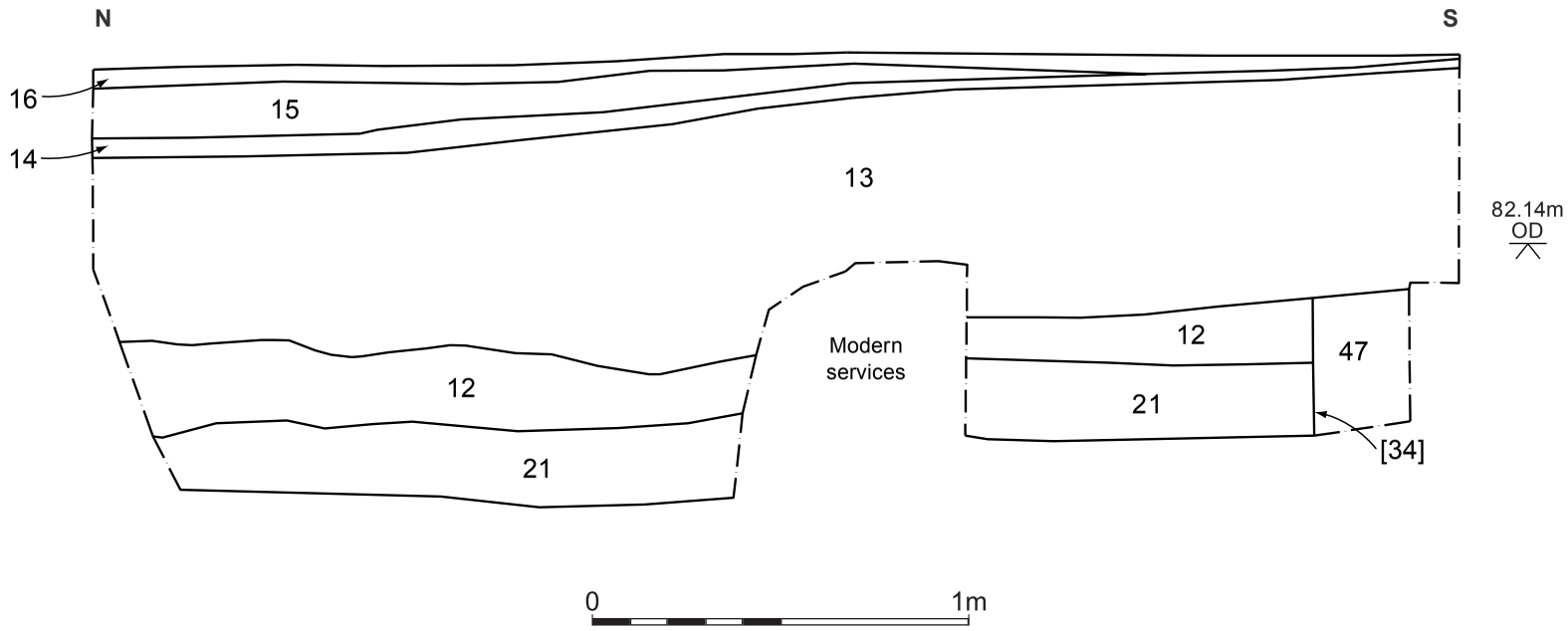



**Figure 5** West-facing Excavation Section 1

## 5.3 Excavation

Initial machining of the main excavation area (Fig. 4) revealed a common mid-grey brown silt (13) covering much of the site. This was at its thickest to the east, where it measured 0.63m deep (Fig. 5). This gradually diminished to the west, but still survived to a depth of 0.40m at the westernmost extent of the trench. The deposit also continued to the south, but was wholly absent in the area of what had been the tarmac path and children's soft play area. It seems likely that the construction of both of these features had truncated deposit (13).

Beneath deposit (13) at the north-eastern corner of the site a dark mid-brownish-grey fine silt (12) was encountered (Fig. 5). It had a maximum depth of 0.23m and, as with (13), its depth diminished to the west, disappearing approximately 4m west of the eastern edge of excavation. To the south it was truncated by two modern service trenches and it did not continue beyond them (Fig. 4). A sondage excavated though deposit (12) returned a modern date, but with significant quantities of 3rd–4th-century Romano-British pottery. No features were observed to be cutting through (12) apart from the modern services.

Removal of the tarmac path and soft play area to the south revealed a layer of gravel beneath 150mm of modern concrete, both related to the construction of these features. Directly beneath the gravel a light brown silt (26) extended as far north as modern drain [34] and appeared to continue beyond the trench limits to the south, east and west (Fig. 6). Two sondages were excavated through this material revealing it to be post-medieval and a maximum of 0.26m deep, although it contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone fragments. Four modern pits [71], [31], [27] and [29] had been cut through deposit (26) at its northernmost extent (Fig. 4). These pits varied in size and shape, the largest [27], being 4.1m long, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. They contained lumps of concrete, glass and other 20th century debris. All four pits were cut by pipe trench [34] to the north and did not reappear beyond it.

Upon removal of deposit [26], three large pits were recorded [60], [53] and [51]=[57]. Pit [60] was at least 1.80m long and the same wide, with a depth of 0.61m (Figs 4 and 6). It continued beyond the extent of the trench to the south, but was truncated to the north by modern pit [27]. Pit [60] contained several backfill deposits, the most noteworthy of which were (66) and (65), large lumps of heavy clay materials. Second-century pottery and cattle bone were recovered throughout the pit's profile, with burnt clay being largely confined to the uppermost fills. Two fragments of box flue tile were also retrieved (Plate 1).

Approximately 4m to the west, pit [53] had a length of in excess of 2.4m and extended 2m to the north before being cut by modern pits [71] and [31] and pipe trench [34]. It had a depth of 0.38m and contained a dark to medium grey-brown silt backfill (54; Fig. 7). Towards its northernmost edge was a dump of up to 13 nearly or partially complete vessels ranging in date from the late 1st to mid-2nd century (Plate 2). Initially this dump appeared to be a separate feature, but was later realised to be a portion of pit [53]. The recovery of burnt bone fragments may have indicated a series of disturbed or redeposited cremations.

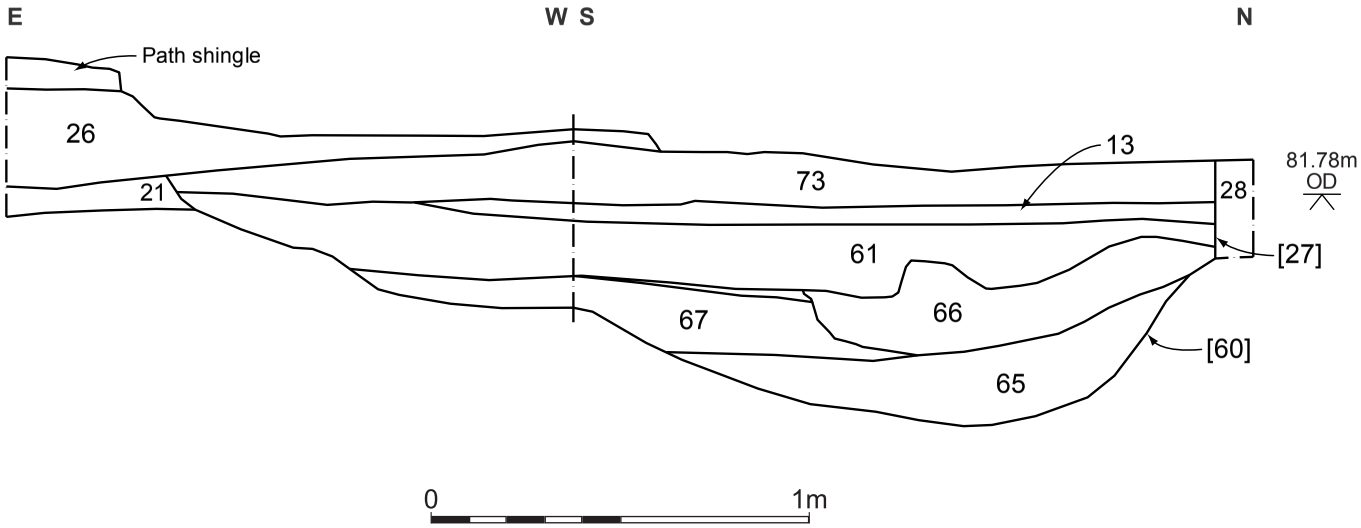



**Figure 6** North- and east-facing Excavation Section 2

**Plate 1** Pit [60] looking west, 1m scale

**Plate 2** Urn as recovered from pit [53].

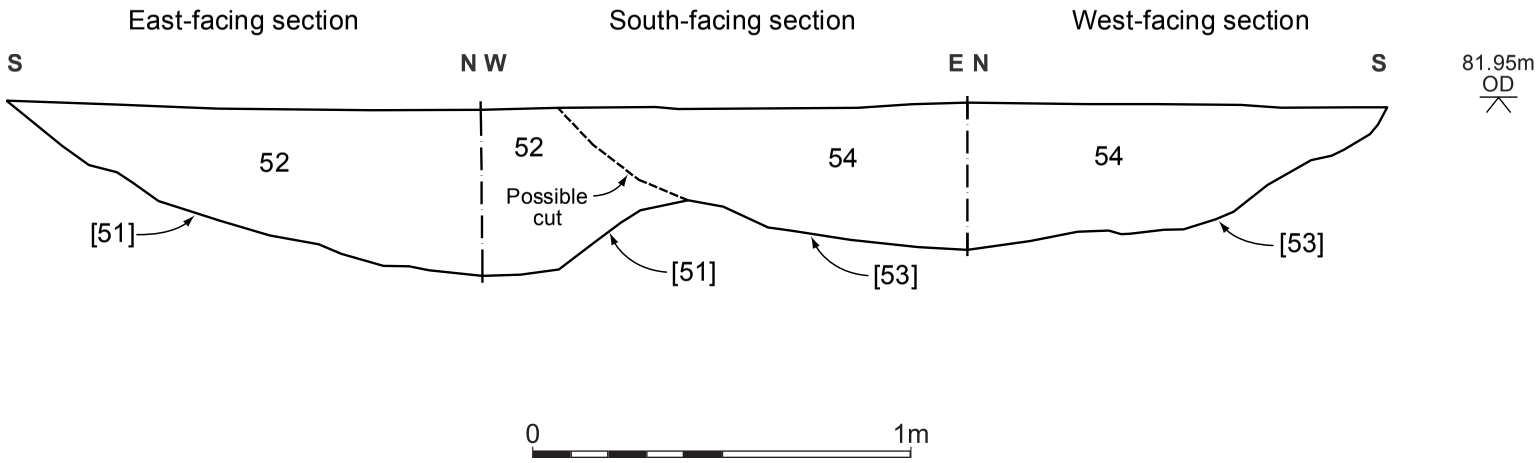



**Figure 7** East-, south- and west-facing Excavation Section 3

The most easterly of the large pits was [51]=[57], with a depth of 0.56m, a length in excess of 2.10m and a visible width of 1.70m (Figs 7 and 8). To the south and west [51]=[57] extended beyond the limit of excavation while to the north it was truncated by modern pit [71]. Again, this pit contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone fragments. The section suggested that this feature was cut by pit [53] but the fills were very similar in appearance and no firm conclusions could be drawn (Fig. 7). A 3rd-century coin was recovered from the basal fill of pit [51]=[57], however the date of the rest of the pottery suggests this may have been accidentally redeposited during cleaning of the section (Plate 3).

**Plate 3** Pit [51]=[57] looking south, 1m scale.

A possible pit or hollow [35] was identified at the base of a sondage excavated through deposit (37) and contained a dark-mid-brown sandy silt (36) (Fig. 9). Cutting through layer [21], it could not have been more than 1.5m wide, but may have extended beyond the limits of the trench to the south. It was fairly shallow and no dating evidence was retrieved.

In the north-westernmost corner a north–south ditch [38] was recorded immediately beneath deposit (13) (Figs 4 and 10). It had a depth of 0.48m, a width of more than 1.70m and length of at least 2.50m projecting beyond the limits of excavation to the north and truncated by a brick manhole to the south. No further evidence for this ditch was seen to the south despite careful excavation and it must have either terminated or changed direction, probably turning to the west. The ditch contained mid-4th century pottery fragments (Plate 4).

Apart from pits [71], [31], [29] and [27], and with the possible exception of pit [53], all of the features encountered were cut through layer (21), a mid-greyish-yellow fine silty clay. Sitting just above the natural, several sondages dug through it proved (21) to be archaeologically sterile (Plate 5).

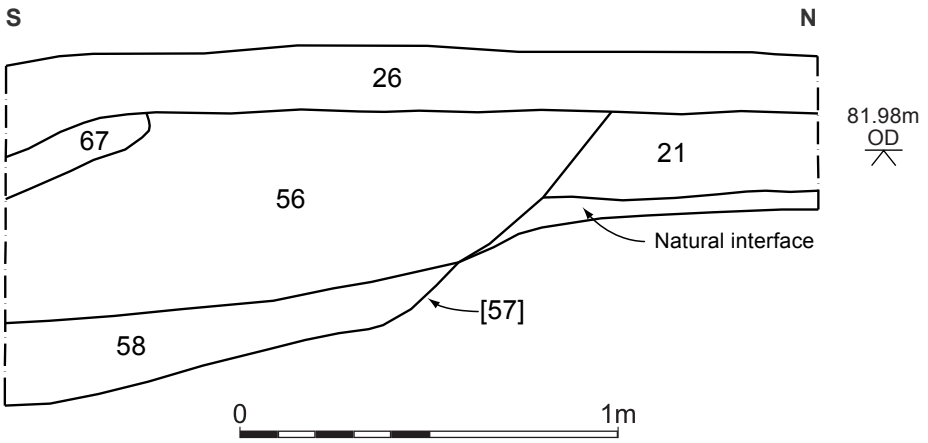



**Figure 8** East-facing Excavation Section 4

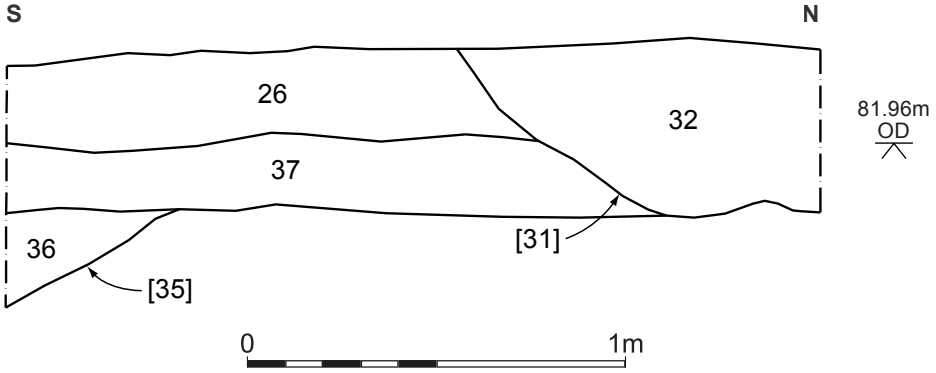



**Figure 9** East-facing Excavation Section 5

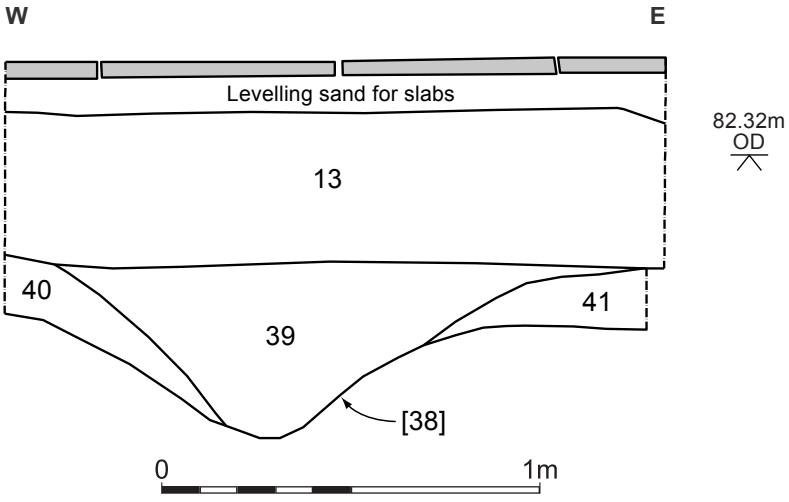



**Figure 10** South-facing Excavation Section 6

**Plate 4** Ditch [38] looking north, 1m scale.

**Plate 5** Sondage through layer [21], 1m scale.

# 6.0 THE FINDS

## 6.1 The Pottery

By Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 1,230 sherds (36,961g) of Roman pottery and 14 sherds (102g) of post-medieval pottery. The bulk of the assemblage was recovered from a series of early to mid-2nd century pits (Table 1) that probably represent the truncated or disturbed remains of at least one 'cremation group' related to those previously recorded adjacent to the site (O'Brien 2005). No actual cremation is apparent in this assemblage, but this may be the result of truncation/disturbance. The only other discrete feature to produce Roman pottery is a single ditch containing sparse 4th-century AD sherds. The remainder of the assemblage was recovered from a series of layers overlying the discrete features and is largely comprised early to mid-2nd century sherds with sparse late Roman and post-medieval sherds also present.

The principal concentration of pottery in the assemblage is contained in pit [53] and includes both near complete vessels (therefore probably deliberately deposited) and scattered sherds of contemporary date that represent detritus included in the backfill. Primary deposition probably occurred *c.*AD 150–160. Lesser, but nonetheless significant, early to mid-2nd century AD concentrations are also contained in pits [51]=[57] and [60], while very sparse quantities of contemporary pottery are present in pits [28], [31] and [51].

| **Feature Type** | **Roman Pottery** | | **Post-medieval Pottery** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SC | W | SC | W |
| Layers | 320 | 4,144 | 14 | 102 |
| Pits | 844 | 31,794 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditches | 18 | 313 | 0 | 0 |
| Unstratified | 46 | 694 | 0 | 0 |
| Metal-detected finds | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| *Total* | *1,230* | *36,961* | *14* | *102* |

**Table 1** Quantification and distribution of pottery in feature types by sherd count (SC) and weight (W, in grams)

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and rim estimated vessel equivalent (R.EVE). Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and assigned codes according to the system developed for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), except the local coarse wares (BSW, GRS, OXS, GRF and STOR) which were assigned codes based on those used in the Essex County Council mnemonic system. The number in bold that follows each fabric name cross-references the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987). Form types are referenced wherever possible to the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987: *B*= dish, *G*= Jar etc), to relevant local/regional pottery groups (i.e. Wickenden *et al.* 1988; Fawcett 2005), and/or to industry-specific form series (i.e. Young 2000). Samian ware Dragendorff forms (*abbr: Drg*) reference Webster (1996). Due to the well-published nature of the previously recorded Chelmsford/Great Dunmow pottery groups the vessels have been referenced but

not illustrated. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the project archive.

**Fabric Codes and Descriptions**

| | |
|---|---|
| LMV SA | Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 30) (**60**) |
| LEZ SA2 | Lezoux samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32) (**60**) |
| COL SA | Colchester samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 133) (**60**) |
| CNG BS | Central Gaulish black-slipped ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 50) (**8**) |
| COL CC2 | Colchester (late) colour-coated ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 132) (**1**) |
| OXF RS | Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (Young 2000, Tomber and Dore 1998, 176) (**3**) |
| LON RE | 'London' (fine reduced) ware (Davies *et al.* 1994, 151) (**33**) |
| GRF1 | Fine grey ware, probably of Hadham origin (**39**) |
| GRF2 | Fine grey ware, probably of Highgate origin (Davies *et al.* 1994, 82) (**37**) |
| HAD WS | Hadham white-slipped ware (**14**) |
| UNS WS | Un-sourced sandy white-slipped ware, probably of Colchester product (**15**) |
| VER WH | Verulamium region (including Brockley Hill) white wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 154) (**26**) |
| HAD OX1 | Fine oxidised ware incorporating 'London-Essex' stamped ware-types, almost certainly an early product of the Hadham kilns (**19**) |
| HAD OX2 | 'Late Roman' Hadham Oxidised ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151) (**4**) |
| HAD RE | Hadham grey wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 152) (**36**) |
| HAD BS | Black-surfaced Hadham grey ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 153) (**36**) |
| COL BB2 | Colchester black-burnished ware 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 131) (**41**) |
| ROB SH | Late Roman shell-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212) (**51**) |
| BSW | Romanizing grey wares (**45**) |
| GRS | Sandy grey wares (**47**) |
| OXS | Sandy oxidised wares (**21**) |
| STOR | Storage jar fabrics (**44**) |

### *6.1.1 Discussion*

#### *6.1.1.1 Pottery from Pit [53]*

The pottery recovered from pit [53] (708 sherds, 28,818g) accounts for 57.56% of the Roman pottery in the assemblage by sherd count (or 77.97% by weight) and is quantified by fabric group in Table 2.

Fills (50), (54) and (63) of pit [53] produced fragments from a minimum of 34 vessels, of which at least 13 near-complete vessels may be judged to have been deliberately placed in the pit, although none were recovered intact. The deliberately-deposited vessels include one bowl, three flagons, three beakers, five jars and a storage jar (Table 3).

| Fabric | Sherd Count (%) | Weight (%) | R.EVE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| LMV SA | 1 (0.14) | 2 (0.01) | 0.07 (0.69) |
| LEZ SA2 | 4 (0.56) | 17 (0.06) | 0.05 (0.49) |
| COL CC2 | 52 (7.34) | 121 (0.42) | 0.25 (2.46) |
| LON RE | 23 (3.25) | 125 (0.43) | 0.85 (8.35) |
| GRF1 | 29 (4.10) | 648 (2.25) | 0.6 (5.89) |
| GRF2 | 39 (5.51) | 668 (2.32) | 0.8 (7.86) |
| HAD WS | 27 (3.81) | 1504 (5.22) | 0.1 (0.98) |
| VER WH | 11 (1.55) | 113 (0.39) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| HAD OX1 | 43 (6.07) | 1009 (3.50) | 1.75 (17.19) |
| HAD RE | 7 (0.99) | 131 (0.45) | 0.20 (1.96) |
| COL BB2 | 19 (2.68) | 372 (1.29) | 0.70 (6.88) |
| BSW | 196 (27.68) | 3683 (12.78) | 3.52 (34.58) |
| GRS | 112 (15.82) | 2622 (9.10) | 0.44 (4.32) |
| STOR | 145 (20.48) | 17803 (61.78) | 0.85 (8.35) |
| Total | 708 | 28818 | 10.18 |

**Table 3** Quantification of pottery in Pits F53 and F49 by fabric group

| Vessel | Fabric | C'ford Form | Previously recorded at Gt. Dunmow | Form Description/Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bowl | HAD OX1 | C23.3.1 | \ | Drg. 30 imitation with Rodwell (1978) ring stamp R3.4 and block stamp B13 |
| Flagon | HAD OX1 | J3.3.1 | Fawcett 2005, 80: group F2078 | Ring-necked flagon |
| Flagon | HAD WS | J4.2.1 | \ | Flagon with bead rim, concave neck and 2-rib strap handle |
| Flagon | HAD WS | J3? | \ | Squat globular body (complete) but rim and neck missing |
| Beaker | COL CC2 | H26.1 | \ | Globular beaker with constricted body and roughcast decoration |
| Beaker | GRF1 | \ | Wickenden *et al.* 1988, fig.16.8; Fawcett 2005, 79: group F1007 | Carinated beaker with out-turned rim |
| Beaker | GRF2 | H6.3.1 | Wickenden *et al.* 1988, fig.18.72; Fawcett 2005, 79: group F1007 | Poppyhead beaker with panels of barbotine dot decoration |
| Jar | COL BB2 | G9.1.1 | \ | High shouldered jar with everted rim and burnished lattice decoration |
| Jar | GRS | G23/24 | Wickenden *et al.* 1988, fig.18.74; Fawcett 2005, 79: group F2019 | Everted bead rim jar, mostly lower body present |
| Jar | BSW | G16.2.1 | \ | Everted bead rim jar with base pierced 7 times to act as ?strainer |
| Jar | BSW | G20.1.1 | \ | High shouldered jar with concave neck and plain rim |
| Jar | BSW | G5.4.1 | \ | Neckless jar with small, everted lid-seated rim |
| Storage Jar | STOR | G45 | Wickenden *et al.* 1988, fig.17.36 | Slightly undercut rim and a row of stabbed decoration on the shoulder |

**Table 3** Catalogue of vessel types deposited complete/near complete into pit [53]

The bulk of the deliberately deposited vessels were produced from the Flavian period (mid/late 1st century AD) into the 2nd century AD, but the presence of a COL CC2 beaker with a globular constricted body and a GRF1 carinated beaker is particularly informative as neither is likely to have been produced before *c.*AD 120/130. Although in slightly different forms, roughcast COL CC2 beakers are components of early to middle 2nd century AD cremation groups recorded adjacent to the site (Fawcett 2005, 79: F2057) and *c.*120m to the east during the 1970–72 excavations (Wickenden *et al.* 1988, 17: cremation 5). Similarly in all these assemblages COL CC2 is the most common fine ware, as it is at Chelmsford where it exhibits a drastic decline in the early 3rd century AD (Going 1987, 3). In contrast to the COL CC2 distribution, the GRF1 beaker (sometimes termed a jar) is absent at Chelmsford and present in a neighbouring cremation groups (Fawcett 2005, 79: F1007; Wickenden *et al.* 1988, 16: fig.16.8) but far more common in east Hertfordshire, i.e. Harlow (Wilkinson and Clark 1985, 114: vessel 113) and Baldock (Rigby 1986: vessels 353, 391, 461, 504 and 513) supporting the suggestion that this fine grey ware originated from the Hadham potteries during the early Roman period and was widely distributed in west Essex.

Further associations of form types present in this group are paralleled in cremation groups previously recorded at Great Dunmow. Particularly notable is the association of the carinated beaker (in GRF1) and the poppy neck beaker (in GRF2) previously recorded in the 1970–72 excavations (Wickenden *et al.* 1988, 16: cremation 2) and adjacent to the site (Fawcett 2005, 79: F1007). Another consistent element of cremation groups at Great Dunmow is the presence of HAD OX1 and HAD WS flagons, in this case J3.3.1, J4.2.1 and another unidentified (J3?), with similar forms present in neighbouring cremation groups (Wickenden *et al.* 1988, figs16.26 and 17.49; Fawcett 2005, 79–80: F2057 and F2058). Also present in HAD OX1 is the C23.3.1 bowl of which variants have previously been recorded at the temple at Chelmsford and Harlow (Wilkinson and Clark 1985, figs57.102 and 59.141), although it should be noted the particular block stamp (Rodwell 1978: B13) is a rare type the repertoire of those known.

The presence of the slightly more generic coarse ware jars in the group must have had some importance, probably for the increased volume they offered as containers, to the point that at least one storage jar was included. Like the flagons storage jars are also a common component in some of the local cremation groups (Wickenden *et al.* 1988, figs 16.30, 17.39 and 54). Of the coarse ware jars only the BSW G16.2.1 jar is of intrinsic interest. The base of the vessel has been pierced seven times with a central hole surrounded by a uniform hexagon arrangement of six holes. A logical interpretation may be to assume this was to use the vessel as a strainer, but this may overlook an unknown role for the vessel in the cremation rite, as it is also the only vessel in the group that may have been burnt. There are no traces of soot on the vessel, but the surviving sherds are severely laminated and much of the exterior surfaces are missing (as if over-fired), where as every other vessel in fine or coarse ware is in good condition.

The form types of the ‘deliberately-deposited’ vessels suggest they were deposited in the early to mid-2nd centuries, but while clearly lacking the same intentional deposition, the remaining scattered sherds in Pit F53 provide valuable and complementary data that allow the date of deposition to be narrowed. The most important of these sherds is a single sherd bearing the ovolo from a LEZ SA2 Drg.30 decorated bowl in Pit F53. The ovolo is double-bordered with a plain

tongue (on the left) ending in a hammerhead, with an angular beaded border below. This combination appears to indicate the bowl was made by Laxtucissa, although Paternus was also known to use the ovolo in the same workshop (Stanfield and Simpson 1958, 184 and 194; Rogers 1974: B206). The ovolo has previously been recorded at Verulamium (Dickinson 1984, 189: D48) and was manufactured *c.*AD 150–180, indicating a deposition date for the group of no earlier than *c.*AD 150. Two further samian plain ware forms were present in Pit F53: a LMV SA Drg.27 cup and a LEZ SA2 Drg.18/31 shallow dish, neither of which are likely to post date *c.*AD 150/160, therefore suggesting the group was deposited *c.*AD 150–160. The remaining vessels present as scattered sherds in Pit F53 are largely comprise BSW and GRS jars with everted plain or bead rims (G20, G23 or G24) with further jars in HAD RE comprising a 'Braughing' jar (G21.1) and a everted bead rim jar with a narrow cordon (G19.2.1). Also present is a single dish in COL BB2 (B4.2.1), an s-shape bowl (C6.2.1) and a bulbous beaker (March and Tyers1978: type IIIH) that are consistent with an early to mid-2nd century AD date. The only sparse fabric type represented solely by non-diagnostic body sherds is VER WH.

#### *6.1.1.2 Pottery from Pits [27], [31], [51]=[57] and [60]*

These five pits produced a total of 136 sherds (2,976g) of Roman pottery (Table 4) with a strongly biased distribution. Pit [51]=[57] accounts for 97 sherds (1,941g) of the group and pit [60] for 25 sherds (623g) with sparse sherds only in the remaining three pits. In comparison to pit [53], the quantity of pottery from these features is very limited and no near complete vessels are present; however, the bulk appears to be of comparable character and date in the early to mid-2nd century AD except for sparse, possibly intrusive sherds in Pit F57.

| Fabric | Sherd Count (%) | Weight (%) | R.EVE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| LEZ SA2 | 10 (7.35) | 94 (3.16) | 0.45 (12.68) |
| COL SA | 1 (0.74) | 9 (0.30) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| COL CC2 | 3 (2.21) | 59 (1.98) | 0.13 (3.66) |
| GRF1 | 6 (4.41) | 59 (1.98) | 0.29 (8.17) |
| HAD OX1 | 1 (0.74) | 27 (0.91) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| HAD OX2 | 1 (0.74) | 38 (1.28) | 1.00 (28.17) |
| HAD RE | 4 (2.94) | 200 (6.72) | 0.25 (7.04) |
| HAD BS | 8 (5.88) | 219 (0.07) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| COL BB2 | 1 (0.74) | 26 (0.87) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| BSW | 10 (7.35) | 422 (14.18) | 0.07 (1.97) |
| GRS | 67 (49.26) | 910 (30.58) | 0.67 (18.87) |
| OXS | 6 (4.41) | 41 (1.38) | 0.05 (1.41) |
| STOR | 14 (10.29) | 752 (25.27) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| Total | 136 | 2976 | 3.55 |

**Table 4** Quantification of pottery in pits [27], [31], [51]=[57] and [60] by fabric group

Pit [51]=[57] contains sherds from a minimum of ten vessels of which two are clearly anomalous. An OXS bead and flange rim dish (B6) and a HAD OX2 collared flagon comparable to an example recorded at Verulamium (Wilson 1983, 324: vessel 1703) are clearly of 4th-century AD date. Vessels of similar date are present in ditch [38] and as sparse sherds in layers (12) and (13), therefore these fabrics (and possibly HAD BS) may be intrusive from such a source or represent

later Roman disturbance of early to mid-2nd century AD features. The remaining fabric and form types are consistent with an early to mid-2nd century AD date and include a LEZ SA2 Drg.27 cup in L56 and a LEZ SA2 Drg.36 dish in layer (58). Further fine ware vessels are present in the form of beakers in COL CC2 and GRF1 that were not produced until the mid-2nd century, suggesting a comparable date of deposition to the pottery in pit [53]. The GRF1 beaker is plain rimmed with an oval body, comparable to an example previously recorded at Great Dunmow (Going and Ford 1988, fig. 50.55). Two COL CC2 beakers are present although the form of only one is clear. This vessel is a plain bag shaped beaker with a cornice rim (H20) comparable to previously recorded examples at Great Dunmow (Going and Ford 1988, fig. 55.1), while the second COL CC2 is represented by body sherds from hunt-cup (H28) that display the body and a tail of a barbotine dog. The remaining vessels in pit [57] are GRS jars with everted bead rims (G19, G23 G24) comparable to those common in pit [53].

The sparse sherds recovered from pit [60] include fragments from an LEZ SA2 Drg.31 dish in fills (61) and (67), and notably a single fragment of COL SA. Colchester samian (COL SA) is characterised by a much siltier fabric that its Gaulish counterparts (Tomber and Dore 1998, 133) and remains relatively rare even in assemblages across Essex. The fragment in layer (61) is part of a small foot ring, probably from a Drg.27 cup, although this identification remains tentative. The LEZ SA2 Drg.31 dish was probably produced during the mid–late 2nd century AD which, combined with the GRS, BSW and HAD RE jars (G19, G23 and G24) in pit [60] also suggest a date in the mid-2nd century. Pits [27] and [31] contain only isolated Roman sherds that have no further diagnostic value.

| Fabric | Sherd Count (%) | Weight (%) | R.EVE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| COL CC2 | 4 (22.22) | 36 (11.50) | 0.15 (28.85) |
| OXF RS | 2 (11.11) | 33 (10.54) | 0.08 (15.38) |
| HAD OX2 | 2 (11.11) | 33 (10.54) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| ROB SH | 3 (16.67) | 9 (2.88) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| BSW | 1 (5.56) | 11 (3.51) | 0.06 (11.54) |
| GRS | 4 (22.22) | 31 (9.90) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| OXS | 1 (5.56) | 14 (4.47) | 0.18 (34.62) |
| STOR | 1 (5.56) | 146 (46.65) | 0.05 (9.62) |
| Total | 18 | 313 | 0.52 |

**Table 5** Quantification of pottery in Ditch F38 by fabric group

### *6.1.1.3 The Pottery from Ditch [38]*

The 18 sherds (313g) of pottery recovered from ditch [38] (Table 5) are in contrast to the pottery from the pit groups and are typical in terms of both form and fabric of late Roman assemblages in the region. Particularly notable are the presence of an OXF RS bowl imitating samian form Drg.30 (Young 2000: type C46.1) and body sherds of ROB SH, that together suggest a date in the mid-4th century AD or later. The STOR sherds are indistinguishable by fabric from those present in the early to mid-2nd century AD pit groups but the rim profile: an upright bead (or ‘golf-club) rim is typical of late Roman assemblages, as previously recorded at Great Dunmow (Going and Ford 1988, fig. 53.17). Also present is a COL CC2 dish that appears to be copying dishes being produced by the Oxfordshire industry (Young 2000: types C44/C45) themselves copying samian Drg.31s. Similar dishes have

been recorded at Colchester (Hull 1963, 106: vessel 25) and probably represent late products of the colour-coated ware industry that remained at Colchester in the late Roman period.

*6.1.1.4 Pottery from Layers (01), (02), (04), (05), (09), (11), (12), (13), (20) & (26)*

The 334 sherds (4,246g) of pottery from these layers (Table 6) include a substantial element of early to mid-2nd century pottery, but the presence of sparse late Roman and post-medieval sherds indicates that the bulk of these sherds have probably been re-deposited. The post-medieval sherds are present in layers (01), (04), (09) and (13), and include fragments of glazed red earthen-wares and tin-glazed white earthen-wares that date to the 17th century or later. Each layer containing post-medieval sherds, as well as layers (02), (05) and (20) contained low quantities of pottery, where as relatively substantial groups of Roman sherds are present in layers (12) (119 sherds, 1,939g) and (26) (131 sherds, 1,330g).

| Fabric | Sherd Count (%) | Weight (%) | R.EVE (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| LMV SA | 2 (0.60) | 76 (1.79) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| LEZ SA2 | 17 (5.09) | 125 (2.94) | 0.10 (2.73) |
| CNG BS | 1 (0.30) | 16 (0.38) | 0.13 (3.55) |
| COL CC2 | 7 (2.10) | 16 (0.38) | 0.05 (1.37) |
| OXF RS | 1 (0.30) | 6 (0.14) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| LON RE | 4 (1.20) | 22 (0.52) | 0.50 (13.66) |
| GRF1 | 1 (0.30) | 3 (0.07) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| HAD WS | 5 (1.50) | 7 (0.16) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| UNS WS | 3 (0.90) | 22 (0.52) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| VER WH | 3 (0.90) | 9 (0.21) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| HAD OX1 | 15 (4.49) | 91 (2.14) | 0.17 (4.64) |
| HAD OX2 | 1 (0.30) | 24 (0.57) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| HAD RE | 6 (1.80) | 81 (1.91) | 0.1 (2.73) |
| COL BB2 | 4 (1.20) | 79 (1.86) | 0.15 4.10) |
| BSW | 34 (10.18) | 323 (7.61) | 0.60 (16.39) |
| GRS | 153 (45.81) | 1729 (40.72) | 1.81 (49.45) |
| OXS | 11 (3.29) | 47 (1.11) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| STOR | 52 (15.57) | 1468 (34.57) | 0.05(1.37) |
| Post-medieval | 14 (4.19) | 102 (2.40) | 0.00 (0.00) |
| Total | 334 | 4246 | 3.66 |

**Table 6** Quantification of pottery from Layers (01), (02), (04), (05), (09), (11), (12), (13), (20) and (26) by fabric group

The diagnostic sherds in the layers are not insignificant in quantity but contain few sherds of intrinsic interest. Notable elements include the substantial presence of dishes, accounting for 32.51% of the total R.EVE for the pottery from the layers, which are virtually absent in the groups from discrete features (except in samian ware). The dishes are predominantly plain rim (B1) or bead rim types (B2/B4) in BSW, GRS and COL BB2 that appear contemporary with the early to mid-2nd century pit groups. Also of early to mid-2nd century date is a CNG BS platter copying samian form Drg.18 that is the only occurrence of the fabric in the assemblage. Samian forms (in LEZ SA2) from this period also include a Drg.33 cup in layer (05), a Drg.31 in layer (12) and part of the base of a Drg.29 bowl in

layer (26). The late Roman pottery in the layers is very limited, but includes a body sherd of OXF RS mortaria in layer (13) (mortaria are otherwise absent in the assemblage), as well as a BSW bead and flange rim dish (B6) and COL CC2 funnel-neck beaker (H32) in layer (12).

### *6.1.2 Conclusions*

The group of vessels recovered from pit [53], deposited *c.*AD 150–160, clearly correlate with the pattern of supply and deposition previously recorded in cremation groups adjacent to the site (Fawcett 2005) and *c.*120m to the east in the 1970–72 excavations (Wickenden *et al.* 1988). Specifically this includes the deposition of at least 13 vessels including beakers, bowls, flagons, jars and storage jars that are broadly comparable to those previous recorded in fabric, form, and in the combinations in which they appear to have been deposited. These vessels are fragmentary but substantially or near completely represented but the level of disturbance they have been subject to is unknown (both ploughing and rabbit-action were identified factors in the 1970–72 excavations). It remains unclear whether a single cremation group is represented or not. Thirteen vessels would be a high number of vessels in comparison to the previously recorded groups therefore it seems likely that at least two groups may be represented. The mixing of sherds from vessels between fills in pit [53] mitigates against multiple cremation groups being deposited into one pit. Furthermore the scattered sherds in pit [53] and the other early to mid-2nd-century pits may conceal the presence of further deliberately placed vessels (with the missing portions removed by truncation or otherwise absent). This may be especially true of samian ware vessels which thus far cannot be identified as ‘deliberately-placed’ in this group but are present as scattered sherds, and are known to have been a consistent component in previously recorded cremation groups.

While the early to middle 2nd century AD was the focus of activity on this site, the presence of sparse late Roman sherds in ditch [38] and as possibly intrusive material is a clear indication of continued Roman occupation or re-occupation.

## 6.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Sue Anderson

A total of 76 fragments of CBM weighing 3,152g was collected from 16 contexts. Of this, 20 pieces (1,715g) were Roman, the remainder being late medieval or post-medieval (54 fragments, 1,389g) and undated (two fragments, 48g). In addition, there were 35 fragments of fired clay (689g) from seven contexts.

### *6.2.1 Methodology*

The CBM was quantified by context, fabric and type, using fragment count and weight in grams. Roman forms were identified with the aid of Brodribb (1987). The presence of burning, combing, finger marks and other surface treatments was recorded. Roman tile thicknesses were measured and for flanged tegulae, the form of flange was noted and its width and external height were measured. Data was input into an MS Access database, and a full catalogue is available in archive.

### *6.2.2 The assemblage*

Table 7 shows the quantification by fabric and form.

| Fabric | Code | RBT | FLT | IMB | BOX | RT | LB | UN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fine sandy | fs | | | 1 | | 7 | 1 | |
| Medium sandy | ms | 1 | | | | 36 | | |
| fs with frequent clay pellets | fscp | 2 | | | 2 | | | |
| ms with frequent clay pellets | mscp | 3 | | | | 4 | | |
| fs with flint | fsf | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| ms with flint | msf | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| fs with abundant mica | fsm | 1 | | | | 3 | | |
| ms with abundant mica | msm | | | 2 | | | | |
| fs with frequent voids | fsv | | | | | | | 1 |
| ms with calcareous inclusions | msc | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| ms with grog | msg | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total | | 12 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 52 | 2 | 2 |

**Table 7** CBM by fabric and form.

Fabrics were generally very similar throughout the periods, with a background matrix of fine clay which contained occasional clay pellets, mica, flint and/or ferrous fragments. This meant that small and abraded fragments were sometimes difficult to identify with certainty.

#### *6.2.2.1 Roman tile*

Twelve fragments were identified as Roman tile (RBT) of uncertain type. Most of these were heavily abraded, but it was possible to measure thicknesses for five pieces. These varied between 20–41mm and probably include flanged tegulae and wall/floor tiles.

Two fragments of a single flanged tegula (FLT) were collected from layer [04]. This tile was 17mm thick and the flange measured 24mm wide and 38mm high. The flange was rectangular in section with a slight internal slope.

Four fragments were identified as imbrices (IMB), although it is possible that some of these could be later ridge tile or field drain fragments. They were between 11–14mm thick and some had sanded undersides.

Two fragments of box flue tile (BOX) with combed wavy line keying were collected from layers (65) and (67). Both were 19mm thick and it is possible that they were fragments of a single tile.

#### *6.2.2.2 Post-Roman tile*

The majority of fragments in this assemblage were pieces of plain roof tile (RT), many of which were quite heavily abraded. A few pieces had reduced cores and these may be of medieval or late medieval date, but most of the fragments were probably post-medieval. Of the four fragments for which peg hole shapes survived, three were circular and one was probably square.

Two tiny fragments of late brick (LB) were collected from pit fill (28).

#### *6.2.2.3 Unidentified*

Two fragments from layer (11) were too heavily abraded for identification, but are likely to be pieces of Roman tile.

### *6.2.3 Fired clay*

Like the tile, much of the fired clay assemblage was heavily abraded. Five main fabric groups were identified, all with a similar background matrix to the tile. Table 8 shows the distribution of fragments.

| Fabric | code | daub? | render? | un |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medium sandy with moderate to coarse chalk | msc | 1 | | 20 |
| Medium sandy with clay pellets | mscp | | | 2 |
| Medium sandy with coarse flint | msf | | | 3 |
| Medium sandy with abundant mica | msm | 1 | | |
| Fine with grass/straw inclusions (impressions) | org | | 5 | 3 |

**Table 8** Fired clay by fabric and type.

Most of this material comprised undiagnostic lumps, although a few pieces had smoothed flat or convex surfaces. Chalk-tempered fired clay was often used to form oven domes and some of these fragments were convex, suggesting they may have had this function.

Two fragments had wattle impressions and have been classified as possible daub, though frameworks of withies could have been used for other purposes, again including oven dome formation. A few fragments from pit fill (54) were flat on both surfaces and *c.*5–7mm thick; these may have been used as render against a flat surface. Two large fragments from context (56) and layer (65) had flat surfaces and were both over 35mm thick with no impressions on their undersides; their function is uncertain.

### *6.2.4 Discussion*

This small assemblage provides evidence for moderate to high status Roman structures in the vicinity, which utilised ceramic roof tiles, possibly floor or wall tiles, and hypocaust tiles. The fired clay is not intrinsically datable, but some of it may belong to the same period. Some of the fragments may be from an oven or kiln, and others could represent a timber-framed structure.

The post-medieval CBM from the site probably represents a background scatter which reached the site during agricultural activity, specifically manuring or the re-use of fragments for stabilising trackways and gateways, whilst the land was still open fields.

## 6.3 Spindle Whorl

By Sarah Percival

A single fragmentary spindle whorl was recovered from the fill of pit [53], which also contained a considerable quantity of late Romano-British pottery. The spindle whorl has two flat surfaces of roughly equal size and carinated sides (form B3, Walton Rogers 2007, fig. 218) and is made of poorly mixed clay with a mix of small flint and quartz sand inclusions. Dating of the object is uncertain, Walton Rogers suggests that spindle whorls of this shape have a long currency starting in the Iron Age and continuing through into the 7th century AD (Walton Rogers 2007, 25).

## 6.4 The Flint

By Sarah Bates

Three struck flints were recovered from the site. There is a small squat hard hammer struck flake, a scraper on a fairly thick roughly subcircular hard hammer struck flake with retouch of its distal edge and a small thick flake with retouch of one edge and a notch in the opposite edge. It has been used as a tool although it is uncertain as to whether the notch was deliberately formed.

The nature of the small hard hammer struck flints suggests that the material is most likely to date to the later prehistoric period. It is probably of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

## 6.5 Lava

By Sarah Percival

A large and extremely friable piece of grey vesicular lava and four small chips from the same object were found in the fill of pit [53]. The lava pieces weigh 488g and are much worn with no surviving worked surfaces. Lava was imported from north-east of the Eifel region of Germany throughout the Roman period (Watts 2002, 58). The trade had ceased by the 5th century and was not restarted until the 8th century (King 1986, 95).

## 6.6 Metalworking debris

By Sarah Percival

Thirty-four pieces of metalworking debris weighing 1,871g were recovered from four contexts, the bulk of the material coming from two fills within pit [53] with single pieces coming from layer (26) and from metal-detected finds (74). The pieces from all contexts represent iron smelting waste and include three pieces of vitrified clay lining. The vitrified lining pieces have distinctive orange outer surfaces composed of highly fired clay from the furnace lining. The inner surfaces of the pieces are dark grey with a glassy vitrified appearance. An incomplete circular blowing hole or tuyère with a diameter of 25mm is preserved in one lining fragment. The remainder of the assemblage consists of dark grey vesicular slag which accumulated below the tuyère and within the hearth bottom.

## 6.7 Small Finds

By Rebecca Crawford

Seventeen metal and bone objects from this site were singled out for further work and description. This includes objects from the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and modern periods, and also several unidentified, undatable finds.

The Iron Age is represented by an iron brooch fragment, (SF16) probably a Nauheim derivative type from *c.*80 BC–AD 20 (Hattatt, 1994). The x-ray aided the identification of this object, which shows up as a bi-lateral two coil spring, with the bow probably of flattened metal, incomplete, with missing pin (Fig. 11). No catch-plate is visible. These Nauheim-type brooches are usually found on the Continent, with rare examples from southern Britain, these only lasted around a century and were quickly replaced by the La Tene III type brooches. Examples have been

found from previous excavations in Essex, including at Stansted Airport (Havis and Brooks, 2004, 275, fig. 179, no. 1), Orsett 'Cock' enclosure (Carter, 1998, 80, fig. 50, no. 2), and Colchester (Crummy, 1983, 7, fig. 2, nos 1–9). This find was metal-detected and therefore unstratified.

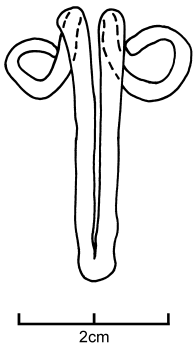



Figure 11. Brooch SF 16 (drawn from x-ray)

The Roman period small finds are slightly tenuous, with the exception of the vessel glass, which is very definitely Romano-British in origin. The vessel glass is an out-turned rim fragment (SF 4) which is slightly cloudy, containing air bubbles and is blue-green in colour. This possibly came from an unguent bottle or flask, and is similar to Price and Cottam's (1998) fig. 78. This fragment was located within the fill of a pit [57] which also contained a large quantity of Roman pottery; it is therefore well stratified and the dating of the pottery may help with the dating of this item, which may be *c.*1st–2nd century AD.

Two other items are possibly Roman, one of which is a bone pin/needle (SF 5). This object was located within the same fill of the above vessel glass, which has helped with the dating of the item. It is an unfinished, tapering, slightly rough, shaft of a needle or pin, with remnant of a point at one end. This example is similar to an object found in Colchester (Crummy 1983, 151, fig. 185, no. 4340). These bone pins appear in other periods, most notably Saxon, but the stratified nature of the context makes it likely that this item may be Roman. The other possible Roman object is an iron punch (SF 1). Parallels have been found which are both Roman (Manning 1985, 9–10, plate 5, A25 and A26) and medieval (Andrews and Penn 1999, 42, fig. 38, no. 2), which illustrates the point that metalworking tools have changed very little over centuries of use. The context this item came from also contains post-medieval items, including clay pipe and pottery, making it an unsafe context for dating; indeed, if this item is Roman then it is of a residual nature, along with the pottery and building material of Roman origin also in this context.

The medieval period is represented by a single item, a copper-alloy button (SF 10). This object is a moulded, sub-biconvex discoidal button with integral drilled shank, although the loop is missing; the indented decoration is a central circle-and-dot design. This item was found within the fill of a pit [31], which contains both Roman and post-medieval finds, the dating for this button rests on a parallel found in 'Metal Buttons' by Brian Read (2005, 11, no. 34) dating from the 15th century.

Seven objects are undatable, and one is modern. The modern small find (SF 17) is an iron wing nut, identified using the x-ray. The undatable finds consist of an iron knife blade (SF 15) which is a scale tang type with no discernible features to aid dating and is from an unstratified, metal-detected context. There is also an iron

nail shank (SF 11) from the fill of a pit [53]; a possible implement or tool, made of iron, (SF 6) also from the fill of a pit [57], which consists of a square-sectioned rod tapering to a splayed, broken, spoon shaped terminal; unknown function. An iron strip fragment (SF 7) with remnants of mineralised wood on both sides and a V-shaped notch at one end also comes from pit [57] and remains unidentified. A corroded leaf-shaped fragment of iron (SF 3) from the fill of pit [53], with some remnants of mineralised wood to the surface, also remains unidentified. A tapering iron object (SF 9) from layer (12) is undatable.

The majority of the non-small found metal objects consist of iron nails, 39 in total, recovered from a variety of contexts. The complete examples range long from 25mm to 90mm, there are many incomplete examples, some without heads and some with, some are too badly corroded to see the head. There is a range of heads including domed and T-shaped. Also recovered were three objects of copper alloy and iron which are probably of late post-medieval or modern date.

## 6.8 Coins

By Andy Barnett

During the excavations and test-pitting two coins (SF 8 and 13), a trade token (SF 2) and a coin-weight (SF 14) were recovered, as were a 3rd-century radiate, a heavily clipped silver penny and coin-weight and a trade token from Great Dunmow itself. All bar the radiate are from unstratified contexts.

The 3rd-century radiate (SF 8) is badly damaged, worn and corroded. It was recovered from pit [57] which contained only 2nd-century pottery. The coin was found in loose during cleaning of the pit section and was probably introduced from the topsoil or subsoil during that process. Coins of similar date have been found in the locality. With the proximity of the proposed line of ‘Stane Street’ Roman road and the subsequent activity that such a road would engender it is surprising that more coins were not recovered.

The clipped penny (SF 13) and the coin-weight (SF 14) were in circulation at the same time. The penny is a prime example of the illegal process of ‘clipping’. The legends on the obverse and reverse have been removed completely, the edge has been pared down to the inner circle. The ¼ ryall coin-weight is a nice example of its type. They do not turn up very often and usually in a much worse state of preservation. It has no surface corrosion but the detail is a little indistinct.

The trade token (SF 2) is an issue on behalf of Edward Keatchener a locksmith in the town of Great Dunmow. Produced in the mid-17th century these tokens were minted to help alleviate the shortage of small change that occurred throughout the country during this period.

## 6.9 The Faunal remains

By Julie Curl

### *6.9.1 Methodology*

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When

possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context examined.

### *6.9.2 The assemblage*

A total of 5.330kg of faunal remains, consisting of 252 pieces, was recovered from excavations at this site. Bone was produced from fourteen contexts, with most remains from pit fills and deposits, some bone was recorded under general finds numbers. Much of the bone was associated with Roman ceramics, some was found with post-medieval material.

One cattle metacarpal in pitfall (58) showed a little canid gnawing at the articular ends and suggests some scavenging or butchering waste used for food for domestic dogs. One foot bone in (50) had been burnt, further burnt fragments were seen in (54) and (56).

### *6.9.3 Results and discussion*

At least five species were identified. Cattle were the most frequent and sheep/goat amounting to just over a third of the cattle total; single bones of pigs were found in three fills. Two lower limb bones from a butchered equid were seen in the pit fill (58). Two wing bones from an adult woodcock were recorded from the pit fill (61).

Two kilos of animal bone (37% of the whole assemblage) was produced from (58), which included a range of primary and secondary butchering and meat waste from cattle; very heavy cut marks were seen on one pelvis where meat was removed and a knife cut on a metacarpal from skinning. Some waste from sheep/goat, pig and a small equid were also seen in (58).

Horncores were produced in six of the 14 contexts and many of these show chops and cuts that would suggest waste from hornworking activity. Several large cattle horncores were recorded in (63) which bear a range of chops and cuts near the base. A range of five more horncores were found in (54), which have been chopped and cut near the base, presumably in preparation for hornworking; the horns included both short-horn type and substantial bases of long-horns.

A small lesion was noted on the proximal articular surface of a cattle metacarpal in (58), this lesion may be attributed to osteochondritis dissecans (Roberts and Manchester 1995) and can indicate some physical or dietary trauma as a developing juvenile, possibly starting a life in traction early. A cattle metacarpal in (05) shows some distortion and abnormal growth at the proximal end, possibly due to an arthritic disease.

### *6.9.4 Conclusions*

The bulk of this assemblage appears to be derived from primary butchering and working waste with a few better quality food elements disposed of with this rubbish. It is likely that much of the bone waste has been disturbed and redeposited.

The woodcock is interesting. It is a bird of wet woodland and, like other waders, popular for food. Unlike many other waders which may be only winter visitors, the woodcock is present all year round and was found in the Roman faunal remains at Head Street, Colchester (Curl 2004) and Alcock (2001) says woodcock (along with ducks, pigeon and geese) added variety to the Roman diet.

This is a very small assemblage that would not produced much more worthwhile data if analysed further, therefore no further work is needed on this particular assemblage.

# 7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

## 7.1 Plant macrofossils and other remains

By Val Fryer

### *7.1.1 Method statement*

Four samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken and four were submitted for assessment. The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 10. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

### *7.1.2 Results*

Cereal grains, seeds and tree/shrub macrofossils were present within all four samples, although mostly as single specimens within an assemblage. Preservation was generally poor, with the cereals being severely puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) and the other macrofossils being very fragmented. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted within all four assemblages, but other plant remains, namely small legumes (*Fabaceae*), grass (*Poaceae*) fruits, a hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment and a small piece of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone, were only recorded from samples 1 and 2. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout and were particularly abundant within the assemblages from samples 2, 3 and 4. Other plant remains were scarce, although well preserved charred buds were noted within sample 2.

The fragments of black porous and tarry material, which were present throughout, were possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Other materials occurred infrequently, but did include small bone fragments and pellets of burnt or fired clay.

### *7.1.3 Conclusions*

The assemblage from sample 2 is typical of material recorded from a number of other Roman cremation deposits within the eastern region (for example at Hanford House, Colchester (Fryer 2004). Wood/charcoal would appear to have been the favoured fuel for the pyre, although the presence of buds and a hazel nutshell fragment may indicate that brushwood was used as either kindling or a supplementary fuel. The weed seeds are probably derived from plants burnt *in situ* beneath the pyre and the cereals within this deposit are almost certainly accidental inclusions, as there are insufficient to constitute an offering to the deceased. The remaining assemblages are too sparse for accurate interpretation, although it is possible that all three contain material derived from the disturbed cremation within pit [53].

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The earliest evidence recovered from the site dates from the later Neolithic or Bronze Age and is represented by the three hammer struck flints, two of which were recovered from the same pit [53]. The lack of contemporary features suggests these items to be residual and redeposited although it does indicate activity in the area. Similarly the retrieval of the Nauheim derivative brooch fragment dating to *c.*80 BC–AD 20 may suggest an Iron Age presence in the vicinity prior to the Roman conquest but no features could be attributed to this period and the nature of the deposit it was found in makes it a somewhat unreliable indicator of settlement.

The limited recovery of this pre-Roman conquest material and complete absence of prehistoric features suggests that a settlement first emerged at Dunmow in the 1st or 2nd centuries AD. As has been suggested elsewhere (English Heritage 1999) the projected line of Stane Street runs east–west a short distance to the south of the current excavations, although no trace of the road itself was found during the current fieldwork. It is possible that the area excavated would have been land to the rear of a property fronting onto this Roman road. The survival of *tegulae* and box flue tile associated with mid-to late 2nd-century pits appears to indicate buildings of medium to higher status in close proximity and presumably to the south. The burnt clay evidence may also indicate the presence of wooden structures as well. The evidence for at least one and possibly two cremation groups mirrors the evidence found at several other excavated sites in the area where small family groups were buried towards the peripheries of a settlement. (Wickenden 1988). For some reason, perhaps due to increased pressure upon land or the need for raw materials for further construction, a series of pits were dug at the rear of the property and in so doing they appear to have disturbed the previously deposited cremations. These cremations were then reinterred within one of these pits upon backfilling, which likely occurred in a single event. The disturbance of these cremations at what appears to be a fairly short time after they were interred seems a little odd however it may coincide with a change in land-use brought about by increased pressure on space.

The nature of the backfill material suggests domestic activity upon a very diverse scale, ranging from smelting, butchering and horn working to possible traces of a kiln, presenting either a far more self sufficient image of urban settlement than our concept of it today or perhaps that this part of the town was industrial in character. Previous archaeological observations (Wickenden 1988) have also noted industrial remains in this area. Little evidence survives to indicate continued usage into the 3rd century beyond a coin of this date, however a ditch containing a piece of 4th-century pottery was identified beneath the concrete path to the western edge of the excavation. Given its limited survival interpretation of the function of this ditch is somewhat difficult to determine but it is aligned at right angles to the projected line of Stane Street and may have formed some kind of later property boundary.

After the 4th century the land seems to have reverted to agricultural use as no substantial activity can be identified until the modern day, at which point the area roughly corresponding to the previously grassed area was probably truncated removing any earlier features.

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

| Context | Category | Description | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 2 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 3 | Deposit | Grey brown silt/ gravel layer | Modern |
| 4 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 5 | Deposit | Grey brown clay silt layer | Roman |
| 6 | Cut | Pit/ Ditch? | Roman |
| 7 | Deposit | Gravel deposit layer | Modern |
| 8 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Modern |
| 9 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Modern |
| 10 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Modern |
| 11 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Post-medieval |
| 12 | Deposit | Grey silty loam layer | Modern |
| 13 | Deposit | Brown sandy silt layer | Modern |
| 14 | Deposit | Crushed concrete | Modern |
| 15 | Deposit | Brown sandy silt layer | Modern |
| 16 | Masonry | Concrete | Modern |
| 17 | Deposit | Layer | - |
| 18 | Cut | Modern services | Modern |
| 19 | Deposit | Fill of [18] | Modern |
| 20 | Deposit | Layer | Modern |
| 21 | Deposit | Layer | - |
| 22 | Cut | Water pipe | Modern |
| 23 | Cut | Gas pipe | Modern |
| 24 | Cut | Plastic duct | Modern |
| 25 | Cut | Existing building foundations | Modern |
| 26 | Deposit | Brown sandy silt | Post-medieval |
| 27 | Cut | Pit. Same as [44] | Modern |
| 28 | Deposit | Fill of [27]. Same as (45) | Modern |
| 29 | Cut | Pit | Modern |
| 30 | Deposit | Fill of [29] | Modern |
| 31 | Cut | Pit | Modern |
| 32 | Deposit | Fill of [31]. Same as (64) | Modern |
| 33 | Cut | Metal pipe | Modern |
| 34 | Cut | Ceramic pipe | Modern |
| 35 | Cut | Possible pit | ? |
| 36 | Deposit | Fill of [35] | ? |
| 37 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | ? |
| 38 | Cut | Ditch | Roman 4th century |
| 39 | Deposit | Fill of [38] | Roman 4th century |
| 40 | Deposit | Fill of [38] | Roman 4th century |
| 41 | Deposit | Yellowish brown layer | ? |
| 42 | Deposit | Same as (37) | ? |
| 43 | Deposit | Same as (26) | Post-medieval |
| 44 | Cut | Pit. Same as [27] | Modern |

| Context | Category | Description | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | Fill | Fill of [44]. Same as (28) | Modern |
| 46 | Cut | Water pipe | Modern |
| 47 | Deposit | Fill of [46] | Modern |
| 48 | Void | Void | - |
| 49 | Void | Void | - |
| 50 | Fill | Fill of [53]. Same as (54) | Roman 2nd century |
| 51 | Cut | Pit. Same as [57] | Roman 2nd century |
| 52 | Fill | Fill of [51]. Same as (56) | Roman 2nd century |
| 53 | Cut | Pit | Roman 2nd century |
| 54 | Deposit | Fill of [53]. Same as (63), (50) | Roman 2nd century |
| 55 | Void | Void | - |
| 56 | Deposit | Fill of [57]. Same as (52) | Roman |
| 57 | Cut | Pit. Same as [51] | Roman 2nd century |
| 58 | Fill | Fill of [57] | Roman |
| 59 | Finds | Unstratified finds | - |
| 60 | Cut | Pit | Roman 2nd century |
| 61 | Deposit | Fill of [60] | Roman 2nd century |
| 62 | Fill | Fill of [53]. Same as (54), (50) | Roman 2nd century |
| 63 | Fill | Fill of [53]. Same as (54) | Roman 2nd century |
| 64 | Fill | Fill of [27] | Modern |
| 65 | Deposit | Yellowish brown clay layer. Fill of [60] | Roman 2nd century |
| 66 | Deposit | Orange brown clay layer. Fill of [60] | Roman 2nd century |
| 67 | Deposit | Greyish brown clay silt layer. Fill of [60] | Roman 2nd century |
| 68 | Deposit | Greyish brown silty gravel layer. Fill of [60] | Roman |
| 69 | Deposit | Gravel layer. Fill of [57] | Roman |
| 70 | Deposit | Greyish brown silt layer. Fill of [57] | Roman |
| 71 | Cut | Pit | Modern |
| 72 | Deposit | Fill of [71] | Modern |
| 73 | Deposit | Fill of [60] | Roman |
| 74 | Finds | Metal-detected finds | - |
| 75 | Finds | Metal-detected finds | - |
| 76 | Deposit | Grey brown silt layer | Modern |

## Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

| Period | Feature type | Quantity |
|---|---|---|
| Unknown | Pit | 1 |
| Roman (42 to 409AD) | Pit | 3 |
| | Ditch | 1 |
| Modern (1900 to 2050 AD) | Pit | 4 |

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

| Context | Material | Quantity | Weight (g) | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Pottery | 3 | 21 | Post-medieval |
| 01 | Pottery | 3 | 11 | Undiagnostic |
| 01 | Ceramic Building Material | 3 | 101 | Post-medieval |
| 01 | Clay pipe | 2 | 3 | Post-medieval |
| 01 | Animal bone | - | 6 | Undiagnostic |
| 02 | Pottery | 1 | 6 | Undiagnostic |
| 02 | Ceramic Building Material | 9 | 157 | Post-medieval |
| 04 | Pottery | 18 | 154 | Roman |
| 04 | Pottery | 5 | 28 | Post-medieval |
| 04 | Pottery | 2 | 14 | Undiagnostic |
| 04 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 86 | Roman |
| 04 | Ceramic Building Material | 10 | 209 | Post-medieval |
| 04 | Clay pipe | 2 | 4 | Post-medieval |
| 04 | Glass - bottle | 1 | - | Post-medieval |
| 04 | Animal bone | - | 40 | Undiagnostic |
| 05 | Pottery | 26 | 485 | Roman |
| 05 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 122 | Roman |
| 05 | Animal bone | - | 138 | Undiagnostic |
| 05 | Shell - oyster | - | 6 | Undiagnostic |
| 09 | Pottery | 2 | 27 | Roman |
| 09 | Pottery | 1 | 32 | Post-medieval |
| 11 | Pottery | 3 | 33 | Roman |
| 11 | Pottery | 4 | 26 | Post-medieval |
| 11 | Pottery | 1 | 2 | Undiagnostic |
| 11 | Ceramic Building Material | 14 | 413 | Post-medieval |
| 11 | Animal bone | - | 9 | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 48 | Roman |
| 12 | Ceramic Building Material | 3 | 51 | Post-medieval |
| 12 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 33 | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | Fired Clay | 3 | 17 | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | Flint - worked | 1 | - | Prehistoric |
| 12 | Animal bone | - | 251 | Undiagnostic |
| 13 | Pottery | 13 | 143 | Roman |
| 13 | Pottery | 2 | 7 | Post-medieval |
| 13 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 47 | Roman |
| 13 | Ceramic Building Material | 6 | 117 | Post-medieval |
| 13 | Animal bone | - | 18 | Undiagnostic |
| 20 | Pottery | 4 | 8 | Roman |
| 26 | Pottery | 133 | 1325 | Roman |
| 26 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 45 | Roman |
| 26 | Ceramic Building Material | 5 | 116 | Post-medieval |
| 26 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 60 | Undiagnostic |
| 26 | Fired Clay | 1 | 57 | Undiagnostic |
| 26 | Metalworking Debris | 1 | 0 | Undiagnostic |

| Context | Material | Quantity | Weight (g) | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | Animal bone | - | 221 | Undiagnostic |
| 28 | Pottery | 2 | 23 | Roman |
| 28 | Ceramic Building Material | 4 | 33 | Post-medieval |
| 32 | Pottery | 2 | 92 | Roman |
| 32 | Ceramic Building Material | 5 | 150 | Post-medieval |
| 39 | Pottery | 16 | 280 | Roman |
| 39 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 82 | Roman |
| 39 | Animal bone | - | 30 | Undiagnostic |
| 50 | Pottery | 183 | 10013 | Roman |
| 50 | Fired Clay | 6 | 34 | Undiagnostic |
| 50 | Metalworking Debris | 8 | 307 | Undiagnostic |
| 50 | Flint - worked | 1 | - | Prehistoric |
| 50 | Animal bone | - | 118 | Undiagnostic |
| 52 | Pottery | 10 | 290 | Roman |
| 52 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 187 | ? Roman |
| 52 | Animal bone | - | 144 | Undiagnostic |
| 54 | Pottery | 586 | 18700 | Roman |
| 54 | Fired Clay | 10 | 74 | Undiagnostic |
| 54 | Metalworking Debris | 24 | 1472 | Undiagnostic |
| 54 | Flint - worked | 1 | - | Prehistoric |
| 54 | Lava | 4 | 493 | Undiagnostic |
| 54 | Animal bone | - | 518 | Undiagnostic |
| 56 | Pottery | 23 | 485 | Roman |
| 56 | Fired Clay | 4 | 170 | Undiagnostic |
| 56 | Animal bone | - | 552 | Undiagnostic |
| 58 | Pottery | 75 | 1453 | Roman |
| 58 | Animal bone | - | 2000 | Undiagnostic |
| 59 | Pottery | 46 | 690 | Roman |
| 59 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 74 | Roman |
| 59 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 118 | ? Post-medieval |
| 59 | Animal bone | - | 146 | Undiagnostic |
| 61 | Pottery | 16 | 324 | Roman |
| 61 | Fired Clay | 10 | 211 | Undiagnostic |
| 61 | Animal bone | - | 46 | Undiagnostic |
| 63 | Pottery | 5 | 57 | Roman |
| 63 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 126 | Roman |
| 63 | Animal bone | - | 1015 | Undiagnostic |
| 65 | Pottery | 4 | 254 | Roman |
| 65 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 260 | Roman |
| 65 | Fired Clay | 2 | 139 | Undiagnostic |
| 65 | Animal bone | - | 470 | Undiagnostic |
| 67 | Pottery | 5 | 46 | Roman |
| 67 | Ceramic Building Material | 2 | 484 | Roman |
| 67 | Animal bone | - | 51 | Undiagnostic |
| 74 | Metalworking Debris | 1 | 92 | Undiagnostic |
| 75 | Pottery | 2 | 16 | Roman |

| Context | Material | Quantity | Weight (g) | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75 | Animal bone | - | 5 | Undiagnostic |

## Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

| Period | Material | Quantity |
|---|---|---|
| Unknown | Ceramic building material | 2 |
| Prehistoric (500000BC to 42AD) | Flint | 3 |
| Roman (42 to 409AD) | Pottery | 1230 |
| | Ceramic building material | 20 |
| | Coins | 1 |
| | Glass | 1 |
| | Metalworking debris | 8 |
| | Fired clay | 1 |
| Medieval (1066 to 1539AD) | Coins | 2 |
| Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD) | Pottery | 14 |
| | Ceramic building material | 54 |
| | Coins | 1 |

## Appendix 3: Ceramic Building Material

| Ctxt | Fabric | Form | No | Wt/g | Abr | T | Fl h | Fl w | Peg | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | fsm | RT | 1 | 15 | + | | | | | | pmed |
| 01 | msg | RT | 1 | 31 | | | | | | | pmed |
| 01 | ms | RT | 1 | 54 | + | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 02 | fs | RT | 1 | 37 | | | | | 1 x R | | pmed |
| 02 | mscp | RT | 4 | 77 | + | | | | | | pmed |
| 02 | msf | RT? | 1 | 19 | | | | | | poss LB | pmed |
| 02 | fscp | RBT | 1 | 24 | ++ | | | | | | Rom |
| 04 | ms | RT | 5 | 103 | ++ | | | | | soft | lmed+ |
| 04 | fs | RT | 2 | 62 | | | | | 1 x R | | pmed |
| 04 | ms | RT | 1 | 44 | | | | | | hard-fired | pmed |
| 04 | fsf | FLT | 2 | 86 | + | 17 | 38 | 24 | | | Rom |
| 04 | fsf | RBT | 1 | 29 | + | | | | | | Rom |
| 04 | ms | RBT? | 1 | 13 | + | | | | | | Rom |
| 05 | msc | RBT | 1 | 122 | | 30 | | | | | Rom |
| 11 | ms | RT | 9 | 274 | + | | | | 1 x S | | lmed/pmed |
| 11 | fs | RT | 3 | 91 | | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 11 | msg | UN | 1 | 23 | + | | | | | poss RBT, no surfaces | ? |
| 11 | fsv | UN | 1 | 25 | + | | | | | RBT or LB | ? |
| 12 | ms | RT | 3 | 51 | + | | | | | | lmed? |
| 12 | fscp | RBT? | 1 | 33 | ++ | | | | | | Rom? |
| 12 | msm | IMB | 1 | 48 | | 11 | | | | may be later | Rom? |
| 13 | ms | RT | 5 | 96 | + | | | | 1 x R | | lmed/pmed |
| 13 | fsm | RT | 1 | 20 | + | | | | | | lmed/pmed |

| Ctxt | Fabric | Form | No | Wt/g | Abr | T | Fl h | Fl w | Peg | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | fsf | RBT | 1 | 47 | + | 20 | | | | | Rom |
| 26 | ms | RT | 5 | 116 | + | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 26 | mscp | RBT | 3 | 82 | ++ | | | | | | Rom |
| 26 | fs | IMB | 1 | 23 | | 14 | | | | | Rom |
| 28 | ms | RT | 1 | 15 | | | | | | | med/lmed |
| 28 | fs | RT | 1 | 9 | + | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 28 | msc | LB | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | pmed |
| 28 | fs | LB | 1 | 4 | + | | | | | | pmed |
| 32 | ms | RT | 4 | 100 | | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 32 | fsm | RT | 1 | 50 | | | | | | occ coarse Fe | pmed |
| 39 | fsm | RBT | 1 | 82 | + | 20 | | | | | Rom |
| 52 | msf | RBT | 1 | 186 | + | 41 | | | | occ organic impressions | Rom |
| 59 | ms | RT | 2 | 118 | | | | | | | lmed/pmed |
| 59 | fsf | IMB? | 1 | 74 | | 12 | | | | | Rom? |
| 63 | msg | RBT | 1 | 125 | | 36 | | | | | Rom |
| 65 | fscp | BOX | 1 | 260 | | 19 | | | | COWL | Rom |
| 67 | fscp | BOX | 1 | 429 | | 19 | | | | COWL | Rom |
| 67 | msm | IMB | 1 | 52 | | 13 | | | | | Rom |

Notes: T – thickness; Fl H – flange height; Fl W – flange width.

## Appendix 4: Fired clay catalogue

| Ctxt | Fabric | Type | No | Wt/g | Colour | Surface | Impressions | Abr | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | msc | | 3 | 18 | orange-red | | | + | |
| 26 | msc | daub? | 1 | 57 | mixed | | wattle 14mm diam | | |
| 50 | org | | 3 | 27 | buff | 1 smoothed? | | | |
| 50 | msc | | 2 | 5 | orange | | | + | |
| 50 | mscp | | 1 | 3 | orange | | | + | |
| 54 | org | render? | 5 | 35 | buff-orange | roughly smoothed | | + | some appear to be from flattish slabs 5–7mm thick |
| 54 | msc | | 2 | 10 | orange | | | + | |
| 54 | mscp | | 1 | 6 | orange | | | + | |
| 54 | msm | daub? | 1 | 10 | black | | wattle, large | + | |
| 56 | msf | | 3 | 159 | buff-black | 1 smoothed | | + | smoothed piece 37+mm thick |
| 56 | msc | | 1 | 10 | grey | | | + | |
| 61 | msc | | 10 | 210 | buff-orange | some smoothed, convex | | + | |
| 65 | msc | | 2 | 139 | buff-orange | smoothed | possible edge? | | 1 piece 35+mm thick |

## Appendix 5: Small Finds

| SF No. | Context | Material | Qty | Description | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 04 | Iron | 1 | ?Punch | ?Roman |
| 2 | 01 | Copper Alloy | 1 | Token | Post-Medieval |
| 3 | 54 | Iron | 1 | Unidentified fitting | Undiagnostic |
| 4 | 56 | Glass | 1 | Vessel rim | Roman |
| 5 | 56 | Bone | 1 | ?Pin / Needle | ?Roman |
| 6 | 58 | Iron | 1 | Implement/tool | Undiagnostic |
| 7 | 58 | Iron | 1 | Strip | Undiagnostic |
| 8 | 58 | Copper Alloy | 1 | Coin | Roman |
| 9 | 12 | Iron | 1 | Tapering object | Undiagnostic |
| 10 | 32 | Copper Alloy | 1 | Button | Medieval |
| 11 | 50 | Iron | 1 | Nail shank | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | 50 | Ceramic | 10 | Spindle whorl | Undiagnostic |
| 13 | 74 | Silver | 1 | Coin | Medieval |
| 14 | 74 | Copper Alloy | 1 | Coin | Medieval |
| 15 | 74 | Iron | 1 | Knife blade | Undiagnostic |
| 16 | 75 | Iron | 1 | Brooch fragment | Iron Age |
| 17 | 75 | Iron | 1 | Wing nut | Modern |

## Appendix 6: Coins

| Small Find Number | 2 | Context Number | 01 |
|---|---|---|---|
| State | Post-Medieval | | |
| Ruler | | | |
| Denomination | Trade token | | |
| Date | | | |
| Mint/Moneyer | | | |
| Metal | Copper alloy | | |
| Obverse Legend | EDWARD KEATCHENER | | |
| Obverse | Legend around a pair of crossed keys | | |
| Reverse Legend | OF DUNMOW LOKSMITH | | |
| Reverse | | | |
| Coin Description | The token is a little worn and has some surface corrosion. | | |
| Diameter | 16mm | | |
| Weight | | | |
| Reference | Dickinson, M, 2004, Seventeenth Century Tokens of the British Isles | | |

| Small Find Number | 8 | Context Number | 58 |
|---|---|---|---|
| State | Rome | | |
| Ruler | Not known | | |
| Denomination | Radiate | | |
| Date | 3rd century | | |
| Mint/Moneyer | | | |
| Metal | Copper alloy | | |
| Obverse Legend | Illegible | | |
| Obverse | Radiate bust right | | |
| Reverse Legend | Illegible | | |
| Reverse | Female figure standing left, right arm extended. | | |
| Coin Description | Very worn with damaged edges. | | |
| Diameter | 17mm x 15mm | | |
| Weight | | | |
| Reference | RIC, Vol IV and V | | |

| Small Find Number | 13 | Context Number | 74 |
|---|---|---|---|
| State | Medieval | | |
| Ruler | Edward IV | | |
| Denomination | Penny | | |
| Date | 1464–1474 | | |
| Mint/Moneyer | Not known | | |
| Metal | Silver | | |
| Obverse Legend | Not known | | |
| Obverse | Crowned bust facing | | |
| Reverse Legend | Not known | | |
| Reverse | Long cross with quatrefoil in centre. Three pellets in each angle | | |
| Coin Description | This penny is worn and has had both legends removed due to heavy clipping. | | |
| Diameter | 14mm x 12mm | | |
| Weight | | | |
| Reference | Wren, C.R, 1995, The English Long-Cross Pennies 1279–1489 | | |

| Small Find Number | 14 | Context Number | 74 |
|---|---|---|---|
| State | Medieval | | |
| Ruler | | | |
| Denomination | Coin-weight | | |
| Date | 1464–1470 | | |
| Mint/Moneyer | | | |
| Metal | Copper alloy | | |
| Obverse Legend | None | | |
| Obverse | Ship with sword and shield above | | |
| Reverse Legend | None | | |
| Reverse | Blank | | |
| Coin Description | Coin-weight for a ¼ Ryall | | |
| Diameter | 10mm | | |
| Weight | | | |
| Reference | Withers, P and B, 1995, Lions, Ships and Angels | | |

## Appendix 7: Catalogue of Other Metal Objects

| Context | Material | Qty | Description | Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Iron | 6 | Nail group | Undiagnostic |
| 01 | Iron | 3 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 04 | Iron | 2 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 05 | Iron | 1 | Nail | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | Iron | 7 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 12 | Iron | 1 | Strip | Modern |
| 26 | Iron | 1 | Plate fragment | Undiagnostic |
| 50 | Iron | 2 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 54 | Iron | 3 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 58 | Iron | 1 | Nail | Undiagnostic |
| 61 | Iron | 1 | Nail | Undiagnostic |
| 74 | Iron | 3 | Nails | Undiagnostic |
| 74 | Copper Alloy | 1 | Tack | Undiagnostic |
| 75 | Iron | 10 | Nails | Undiagnostic |

## Appendix 8: Flint

Flint by context

| HER | Context | Cat. | Type | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BAU 1894 | 12 | flak | flake | 1 |
| BAU 1894 | 50 | retf | retouched flake | 1 |
| BAU 1894 | 54 | scpf | scraper | 1 |

Flint catalogue

| HER | Ctxt | Cat. | Type | No. | Wt(g) | Comp. | Cort. | Prim. | Pat. | Sharp | E.dam. | Hinge | Burnt | Non-str. | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BAU 1894 | 12 | flak | flake | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | quite | | 0 | 0 | 0 | sm squat hh |
| BAU 1894 | 50 | retf | retouched flake | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | slight | 0 | 0 | 0 | qu sm thick fl with prob ret of parts of edges, poss notch may be accidental but ret on opp edge forms scr-like edge |
| BAU 1894 | 54 | scpf | scraper | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | some | 0 | 0 | 0 | qu sm and thick hh fl with ret around distal part, is chipped on ret edge |

## Appendix 9: Faunal Remains

| Context | Ctxt Qty | Wt (kg) | Species | NISP | Ages | Butchering | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 2 | 0.018 | Cattle | 1 | adult | | molar |
| 13 | | | Mammal | 1 | | | |
| 26 | 17 | 0.221 | Cattle | 2 | adult | butchered | horncores |
| 26 | | | Sheep/goat | 4 | adult | | |
| 26 | | | Pig | 1 | | knife cuts | calcaneus, several deep cuts |
| 26 | | | Mammal | 10 | | | |
| 39 | 1 | 0.03 | Cattle | 1 | | | |
| 50 | 35 | 0.118 | Cattle | 1 | | butchered | metatarsal, butchered and some canid gnawing |
| 50 | | | Sheep/goat | 3 | adult | chopped | split metatarsal, vertebrae, scapula |
| 50 | | | Pig | 1 | juv | | intermediate phalange, burnt white |
| 50 | | | Mammal | 30 | | | small fragments |
| 52 | 17 | 0.144 | Cattle | 1 | adult | chopped | proximal metacarpal |
| 52 | | | Mammal | 16 | | butchered | |
| 54 | 58 | 0.518 | Cattle | 8 | adult | cut/chopped | range of horncores, metacarpal, carpal, horn fragment |

| Context | Ctxt Qty | Wt (kg) | Species | NISP | Ages | Butchering | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | | | Sheep/goat | 3 | adult | cut/chopped | metacarpals, one burnt grey |
| 54 | | | Mammal | 47 | | butchered | fragmentary, two pieces burnt white |
| 56 | 12 | 0.552 | Cattle | 5 | adult | cut/chopped | large horn - chopped at tip, horn fragments, distal phalange |
| 56 | | | Sheep/goat | 1 | juv | | mandible, Dp4 in full wear |
| 56 | | | Mammal | 6 | | butchered | |
| 58 | 79 | 2000 | Cattle | 19 | range | cut/chopped | horns, scapulas, pelvis', metapodials, phalange, jaws+ |
| 58 | | | Sheep/goat | 3 | adult | cut/chopped | 2 metacarpals, 1 metatarsal shaft |
| 58 | | | Pig | 1 | subadult | | mandible, M3 in low wear |
| 58 | | | Equid | 2 | adult | chopped | metapodial fragment, distal phalange |
| 58 | | | Mammal | 54 | | butchered | |
| 59 | 4 | 0.141 | Cattle | 2 | adult | chopped | mandible fragment, proximal metacarpal |
| 59 | | | Sheep/goat | 1 | juv | butchered | mandible with Dp4 in full wear |
| 59 | | | Mammal | 1 | | | |
| 61 | 6 | 0.046 | Sheep/goat | 1 | adult | chopped | humerus |
| 61 | | | Bird - Woodcock | 2 | adult | ?chopped | 2 humeri |
| 61 | | | Mammal | 3 | | butchered | fragments |
| 63 | 6 | 1.015 | Cattle | 6 | adult | cut/chopped | range of horncores, including very large long-horns |
| 65 | 10 | 0.47 | Cattle | 7 | adult | chopped | long horncore, horn fragments, metacarpal, tooth |
| 65 | | | Mammal | 3 | | | |
| 67 | 4 | 0.051 | Cattle | 1 | adult | | proximal phalange |
| 67 | | | Mammal | 3 | | | |
| 75 | 1 | 0.005 | Mammal | 1 | | | fragment, very worn, smooth surface |

## Appendix 10: Environmental Evidence

| Sample No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Context No. | 43 | 50 | 73 | 67 |
| Feature No. | | 53 | 60 | 60 |
| Feature type | Layer | Pit | Pit | Pit |
| Cereals | | | | |
| Triticum sp. (grains) | x | x | x | xcf |
| Cereal indet. (grains) | xcf | x | | |
| Herbs | | | | |
| Fabaceae indet. | x | x | | |
| Large Poaceae indet. | | x | | |
| Tree/shrub macrofossils | | | | |
| Corylus avellana L. | | x | | |
| Prunus spinosa L. | x | | | |
| Other plant macrofossils | | | | |
| Charcoal <2mm | xx | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx |
| Charcoal >2mm | x | xxxx | xxxx | xxxx |
| Charcoal >5mm | | x | x | x |
| Charred root/stem | x | x | | |
| Indet.bud | | x | | |
| Indet.seed | | x | | |
| Other remains | | | | |
| Black porous 'cokey' material | x | xx | x | x |
| Black tarry material | x | | x | |
| Bone | x | x xb | | x |
| Burnt/fired clay | x | x | x | x |
| Ferrous globules | x | | | |
| Small coal frags. | x | | | x |
| Small mammal/amphibian bones | | x | | |
| Sample volume (litres) | 14 | 30 | 8 | 8 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | <0.1 | 0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 |
| % flot sorted | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Key to Table: x = 1–10 specimens; xx = 10–50 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare b = burnt