

**An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation
at St Helena School,
Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex
April 2013**



**report prepared by
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**commissioned by Ingleton Wood
on behalf of St Helena School**

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1 Summary

St Helena School is within the oppidum of Camulodunum and the Later Iron Age and Roman trading depot at Sheepen. The site of the proposed new building lies 20m north-west of a Romano-Celtic temple and within its precinct. An evaluation by four trial-trenches revealed three Roman pits, a compacted gravel layer (surface), and a dump of ceramic building material. One of the pits contained a group of five, low-denomination Roman coins dated to c AD 43-64. These are from a hoard or purse group possibly deposited at the time of the Boudican revolt, pre-dating the construction of the temple in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

2 Introduction, planning and archaeology background (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation carried out on the sports pitches on the northern side of St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, in April 2013 (NGR TL 8836 5850 (c)). Proposed work is the construction of a new food technology block on open ground on the edge of the sports field.

Archaeological background

This section is based on major published works on the archaeology of Colchester by C F C Hawkes and Rex Hull (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958), and by Philip Crummy (Crummy 1980, 248-52; Crummy 1997; *CAR 11* with C F C Hawkes), supported by other records held by Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the Urban Archaeological Database held by Colchester and Ipswich Museums.

The site is in an area of high archaeological importance - the enclosed *oppidum* of Camulodunum, and specifically within the trading depot at Sheepen, which is (along with Gosbecks) one of the principal centres of the *oppidum*. Extensive excavations prior to the construction of the Avenue of Remembrance (then the Colchester Bypass) in the 1930s showed that this area was an important focus of Late Iron Age settlement and early Roman military activity (Hawkes & Hull 1947). The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-British temples (Hull 1958), and the current site is only 20m NW of one temple, and is within its precinct (sacred enclosure).

Recent evaluations and watching briefs in response to small-scale development in and around the school have revealed substantial Roman deposits showing that well-preserved Roman stratigraphy may survive here (CAT Reports 188, 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544).

Planning

A large part of the Sheepen site (ie the modern Hilly Fields, the Colchester Institute and its playing fields, and St Helena School and its grounds) is Scheduled Ancient Monument (Listing 1002173). A planning application has not yet been submitted to the LPA, but will be forthcoming. A discussion with Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) and Deborah Priddy of English Heritage confirmed that archaeological work would be required prior to construction. Following the guidelines in *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012), a brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by CBCAO (CBC 2013). In response to this, Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI: CAT 2013). The archaeological work was commissioned by Max Chapman of Ingleton Wood on behalf of St Helena School, and was carried out by CAT on the 10th-11th of April 2013. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and standards and practices contained in the documents CAT 2012, IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, CIM 2008a, CIM 2008b, EAA 14, EAA 24, and English Heritage 2006. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the works was granted by English Heritage on 3rd April 2013 (their reference S00057070).

3 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains likely to be disturbed by the proposed works, in particular the Roman temples.

4 Evaluation results (Figs 2-4)

This section gives an archaeological summary of evaluation trenches (T1-T4), with context and finds dating information.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through two layers: a thin modern topsoil 200mm thick (L1), and silt/clay 350-400mm thick accumulation horizon L2, which it sealed. L2 sealed natural boulder clay with occasional patches of gravel (L5), and also L3 (Roman compacted gravel) and L4 (a dump of ceramic building material). There were three Roman pits in T4, ie F1 and F2 cutting natural L5, and F3 cutting gravel L3.

Trench 1: summary

T1 contained no archaeological cut features, but there were two Roman layers, ie a patchy gravel surface covering most of the eastern two-thirds of the trench (L3), and a dump of Roman building debris at the western end of the trench (L4). Natural ground (L5) was exposed at the extreme western end and over the eastern third of the trench.

Context	Description	Date
L3	compacted gravel surface	Roman, mid-late 1st or early 2nd century
L4	dump of building material	Roman, mid-late 1st century

Trench 2: summary

Compacted gravel surface L3 was exposed along the whole length of T2. Roman pottery, brick/tile, glass and a Roman bronze hairpin were recovered from L3.

Context	Description	Date
L3	compacted gravel surface	Roman, mid/late 1st-2nd century



Plate 1: T1, view west.



Plate 2: T2, view north-west.

Trench 3: summary

T3 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Natural (L5) was exposed along the whole length of the trench.



Plate 3: T3, view north.



Plate 4: T4, showing section through pit F1, view north.

Trench 4: summary

T4 contained three Roman pits (F1-F3), and compacted Roman gravel L3. Pit F1 contained Roman pottery dated mid- to late-1st century AD, CBM, iron nails, animal bone, and a group of five copper-alloy coins dated c AD 43-64. F2 contained one sherd of Late Iron Age or 1st-century pottery. F3 contained pottery, CBM, stone fragments and animal bone, and may be later in date because it cut gravel surface L3.

Context	Description	Date
F1	Pit	Roman, mid-late 1st century, with coins 2nd-3rd century
F2	Pit	Late Iron Age to Roman, mid-late 1st century
F3	Pit	Roman, early to mid 2nd century or later

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield, with Nina Crummy (small finds)

Introduction

The bulk finds (all Late Iron Age and Roman in date) are listed and quantified in Table 1. There were also six individually numbered metal small finds (SF) which include five Roman copper-alloy coins from one context F1 (T4) which probably represent a small hoard or purse group dated to c. AD 43 to AD 64. The small finds are reported separately below.

Table 1: type and quantities of bulk finds.

Finds type	quantity	weight
Pottery	66	1,497
Ceramic building material (CBM)	42	3,653
Glass	1	2

Stone	4	3,091
Iron nails	7	84
Animal bone	23	351

Bulk finds

The bulk finds are listed and described by context in Table 3 (below).

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recorded with reference to the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (*CAR 10*), with the addition of Fabric GTW for Late Iron Age-type grog-tempered ware, and Fabric BPW for butt-beaker parchment ware (Tomber & Dore 1998: Fabric NOG WH3 North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic) white ware 3). Roman vessel forms refer to the *Camulodunum* (Colchester) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1963) and samian forms refer to Webster 1996. The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: pottery fabrics.

Fabric	description	Fabric date
AA	Amphorae: all (excluding Dressel 20 & Verulamium region amphorae)	Roman
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20	M1-E3C
BPW	Butt beaker parchment ware	L1C BC-L1C AD
BA(SG)	South Gaulish plain samian	M-L1C
BA(EG)	East Gaulish plain samian	M2-M3C
BX(SG)	South Gaulish decorated samian	M-L1C
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (M1-2/3C)
GTW	Late Iron Age-type grog-tempered ware	M/L 1C BC-M1C AD
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	1-2/3C
TR	<i>terra rubra</i>	late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD
- TR1A	<i>terra rubra</i> Fabric 1A	
- -TR2	<i>terra rubra</i> Fabric 2	
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares	late 1st century BC-late 1st century AD

Table 3: finds by context and find number (key: RBT=Roman brick or tile).

context	finds no	finds description	finds spot dating
T1, L2 accumulation	7	Pottery Roman (2@ 29 g) Fabric BA(EG) (1 sherd) Dr 31(?) (mid 2nd-mid 3rd century); Fabric DJ, 1 sherd, flagon base (M1-2/3C) CBM Roman (14@ 1325 g) mostly red sandy fabrics with some cream, <i>tegula</i> (?) (1 piece) abraded (thickness 24 mm) unusual piece as the flange appears to be very thin; <i>imbrex</i> (5 pieces) one cream fabric; Roman brick (1 piece), RBT (7 pieces) including cream fabric pieces	Roman, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century
T1, L3 gravel surface	6	Pottery Roman (7@ 505 g) Fabric AA (1 sherd) probably from a <i>salazon</i> or wine amphora (E/M1-M2C) Fabric AJ (4 sherds) joining sherds from the base of a Dressel 20 amphora (M1-2C); Fabric DJ (1 sherd) (M1-2/3C); Fabric UR (1 sherd) Cam 28 platter in greyware fabric - dated Claudian-Flavian (M1-L1C)	Roman, mid-late 1st/early 2nd century

context	finds no	finds description	finds spot dating
		CBM Roman (1@ 49 g) <i>imbrex</i> tile piece in red, sandy fabric	
T1, L4 demolition debris	4	Pottery Late Iron Age and Roman (16@ 285 g) Fabric BX(SG) (1 sherd) Dr 29 festoon design, pattern similar in design to Niblett 1985 fig. 45 no 57, but not identical and lacking upper beaded boarder (Tiberio-Claudian); Fabric DJ, (11 sherds) prob all from the same flagon, Cam 140 (Claudian-early Flavian); Fabric GTW (3 sherds) one from a Cam 229 ripple shouldered jar, other two in harder fabric with pale grog (M/L1C BC-M1C AD); Fabric HZ (1 sherd) thick sherd, abraded surface; Fabric TR(1A), (1 sherd) platter form. CBM Roman (14@ 1092 g) most in red sandy fabric with two cream fabric pieces; <i>tegula</i> (4 pieces) one 19 mm thick base with lower cut-away (Warry 2006, Type A26 but with slightly rounded cut rather than angled) dated by Warry as M1-E2C, base pieces from other tiles 14 mm & 20 mm thick; <i>imbrex</i> (4 pieces) one in cream fabric; Roman brick (3 pieces) 30 mm & 35 mm thick; misc RBT(3 pieces including cream tile which is possibly part of a <i>tegula</i> . Stone (1@ 2469 g) septaria	Roman, pre-Flavian to early Flavian (mid-late 1st century AD)
T2, L3 gravel surface	5	Pottery Roman (1@ 14 g) Fabric GX (oxidised), probably part of a knob from a lid (Roman 1-2/3C). CBM Roman (2@ 80 g) one small red fragment, presumed Roman (abraded) and one larger cream piece (abraded). Glass Roman (1@ 2 g) curving, plain, blue coloured piece, some air bubbles in the fabric (dated 1-2C AD - prob Claudian-Flavian) Small find (SF6) Roman copper-alloy hairpin (Cool - Type 24) dated later 1st-2nd century	early-mid Roman, probably mid/late 1st-2nd century
T4, F1 pit	8	Pottery Roman (29@ 385 g) Fabric AJ (2 sherds) both probably from Dressel 20 amphora (M1-2C); Fabric BA(SG) (1 sherd) Dr 17 (1st century, prob Claudian-Flavian); Fabric BPW (1 sherd) Butt Beaker sherd (L1C BC/E1C AD-M/L1C AD); Fabric DJ (1 sherds) (M1-2/3C); Fabric GTW (6 sherds) inc Cam 259 (E-M1C AD), mostly dark surfaces and well fired, probably 1C AD; Fabric GX (10 sherds) inc Cam 218? (M1-E2C); Fabric HZ (4 sherds); Fabric TR1A, Cam 4B platter (Tiberian-Claudian); Fabric TR2 (2 sherds) platter base (L1C BC/E1C AD- M1CAD) CBM Roman (1@ 15 g) one small red fragment, slightly abraded Iron Nails (7@ 84 g), all flat round heads, consists of 4 small (35-40 mm) & 3 medium (50-70 mm) Animal bone (21 (4 pieces & 17 flaking fragments) @ 326 g) large mammal - Cattle mandible with fragments of longbones Small finds (SF1-5) Five copper-alloy coins, group dated c. AD 43-64	Roman, mid-late 1st century (c AD 43-64)
T4, F2 pit	3	Pottery Roman (1@ 62 g) Fabric GTW (M/L1C BC-M1C AD)	Late Iron Age (mid/late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD)
T4, F3 pit	1	Pottery Roman (2@ 9 g) Fabric DJ, 1 sherd broken into two joining pieces (M1-2/3C).	early-mid Roman (?early-mid 2nd

context	finds no	finds description	finds spot dating
		<p>CBM Roman (10@ 1,092 g) red sandy fabric apart from one piece of <i>tegula</i> in cream fabric; <i>tegula</i> (2 pieces) one cream fabric (thickness 26 mm), other red probably from the back edge of a <i>tegula</i>; <i>imbrex</i> (1 piece) misc RBT (7 pieces). Stone (3@ 622 g), septaria (2 pieces); unidentified sandstone/igneous rock (with no reaction to hydrochloric acid) (1 piece) (?E-M2C+) Animal bone (2@ 25 g) large mammal, bone pieces, one with butchery cut-mark</p>	century+
T4, L3 gravel surface	2	<p>Pottery Late Iron Age and Roman (8@ 208 g) Fabric AJ (1 sherd) (M1-2C); Fabric GX (4 sherds) Cam 218 (M1-E2C), Cam 257 (Claudian-early Flavian) includes a sherd in a very sandy fabric similar to BB1 (2-4C) but probably is a local (black surfaced) grey ware; Fabric GTW (3 sherds) two from large jars, one from the base of a bowl/jar with pale grog-temper (M/L1C BC-M1C AD)</p>	Roman (mid 1st century-early 2nd century), probably mid-late 1st century

Discussion

The most closely-dated of the bulk finds is the pottery. Apart from one piece of samian dated to the later 2nd-3rd century, which came from L2 (T1), the more closely-dated sherds are 1st century. These are from pottery types which are either not current, or become much less common, after the early Flavian period (c AD 69-79). Although some of the pottery has date ranges that extend into the 2nd century, the closely-dated sherds suggest that most is probably contemporary with large assemblages previously recovered from sites at Sheepen dated to the period c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). The range of pottery types present is also broadly comparable with those from Sheepen. These include the sherds from Gallo-Belgic imports (Fabric TR & BPW) which date to the late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD and South Gaulish plain samian (form Dr 17) and decorated samian (form Dr 29). There are also sherds of grog-tempered ware (Fabric GTW) including the jar form Cam 229. Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware appeared in the mid-late 1st century BC and probably did not remain current much beyond the conquest period at Colchester (although surviving longer elsewhere). The presence of sherds which can be assigned a post-conquest date from all of the contexts indicates that they are Roman, rather than Late Iron Age, and that most probably date to the period c AD 43-60 or shortly after, although one context - L2 (T1) - is clearly of late 2nd-century date or later. Some of the grog-tempered sherds may be residual, as may some of the Gallo-Belgic imports, although residual pottery is difficult to identify as all of the early-dated pottery would probably still have been current at the time of the conquest.

Assuming that the pottery provides an accurate picture of the date of the finds assemblage overall, it is interesting to look at the Roman CBM. This is mostly associated with L2 and L4. The majority of closely-identified pieces are from roof tiles, either *tegula* or *imbrex*, with some pieces from Roman bricks. The one *tegula* lower cut-away (L4 (T1)) is very similar to a type which has been proposed as being of early Roman date (Warry 2006, fig 1.3, A26), and a similar cut-away type is identified among roof tiles from a building considered to have been destroyed during the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61 at the St Mary's hospital site in Colchester (Benfield forthcoming). However, it can be noted that, where the base thickness of identified, *tegula* tiles could be measured (four pieces). These were between 14 mm and 20 mm, with one piece of cream-coloured tile having a thickness of 26 mm. It has been suggested by Ernest Black that, in general, Roman roof tiles at Colchester

with a base thickness of less than 20 mm may not have been common before the later 2nd century (Black forthcoming). While it is acknowledged that the CBM assemblage is small and that individual tiles vary slightly in thickness across the base but, on average, the *tegula* tile here appears to be relatively thin, possibly indicating 2nd-century or later date.

In terms of overall dating, the tile could indicate that some of the contexts, notably the demolition/dump material L4 and the accumulation L2 may date later than 1st century, although the tile is not considered to be secure dating evidence and the dating is very speculative. However, one piece of samian pottery from L2 (T1) can be closely dated to the later 2nd-mid 3rd century. While this could suggest that some of the pottery might be residual, overall there appears to be little or no reason (based on the bulk finds) to assume that most of the contexts are not of mid-late 1st-century date. It can be noted that a single piece of Roman glass recovered (L3 (T2)) is a strong blue colour and is in keeping with a finds assemblage of Late Iron Age-early Roman date (Price & Cottam 1998, 15).

The small quantity of animal bone (from two contexts F1 and F3 (T4)) consists of broken pieces, including a number of deteriorating/degraded bone flakes from F1. The bone appears to be from cattle, including pieces from long bones and a mandible. Overall, the quantity and the condition of the bone indicates that it does not survive well on this site.

The small finds

by Nina Crummy

A small hoard or purse group of five low denomination copper-alloy coins from Trench 4 F1 consists of an illegible as, an as of Agrippa minted under Caligula (AD 37-41), two copies of Claudius I asses (c AD 43-64) and a dupondius of Antonia minted under Claudius I (c AD 41-54). The date of this small deposit cannot be very precisely determined. As Nero minted no base-metal coins until near the end of his reign, irregular Claudian coinage is generally dated from c AD 43 to AD 64 (CAR 4, 75, Hoard 24; Kenyon 1992, 306-7). Agrippan aes were still in circulation in the Claudian and early Neronian periods, and one, along with five Claudian coins, is part of a hoard from Culver Street dating to c AD 60/1. The surfaces of most of the F1 coins are in very poor condition, comparable to some from Boudican burnt levels in the town centre, and it may be that the revolt of AD 60/1 also provides a context for the deposition of this group. Whereas Kenyon has suggested that Colchester was a centre for the military production of Claudian copies in the aftermath of the invasion of AD 43 and has proposed tight date ranges for a gradual debasement based on quality, size and weight (Kenyon 1987; Kenyon 1992), analysis of die-linked coins from Spain, Gaul and Britain suggests that Claudian coins found in Colchester are products of Iberian mints opened up to supply coinage to the north-west provinces, and in particular to troops campaigning in Britain, with any debased locally-struck versions being copies of Iberian products (Besombes & Barrandon 2000).

A copper-alloy hairpin from T2 L3 is a plain type produced in the later 1st and 2nd century (Cool 1990, 170, Type 24). The curved lower part of the shaft is typical of damage in use.

SF 1. (10) F1. Illegible as, the surfaces largely missing. The profile of a left-facing Julio-Claudian head is visible on the obverse. Diameter 26 mm; weight 5.4 g.

SF 2 (11) F1. Claudius I as, copy, incomplete and the surfaces damaged. Obverse, illegible. Reverse, Minerva advancing right, brandishing spear and holding shield. *RIC* 100. Diameter 25 mm; weight 3.96 g.

SF 3. (12) F1. Antonia, *dupondius*, incomplete and surfaces damaged. Obverse, illegible. Reverse, -/AR AVG P M TR P IMP, Claudius togate, standing left, S C in field. *RIC* (Claudius) 92. Diameter 29.5 mm; weight 6.89 g.

SF 4. (13) F1. Claudius I as, copy, incomplete and the surfaces damaged. A marked axial indentation on one face appears as only a slight ridge on the other. Lacking surface cracking on the ridged face, this mark is most likely to have been caused by pressure from a hard edge such as a tool, booted foot or hoof. Obverse, illegible. Reverse, Minerva advancing right, brandishing spear and holding shield. *RIC* 100. Diameter 23 mm; weight 3.73 g.

SF 5. (14) F1. Agrippa, as. Obverse, -/A L F COS III, left-facing head with rostral crown. Reverse, Neptune standing left, draped, holding vertical trident and dolphin on extended right hand, S C in field. *RIC* 58. Diameter 26 mm; weight 6.63 g.

SF 6. (9) L3, Trench 2. Copper-alloy hairpin of Cool Group 24 (1990, 170). The head is elliptical in section and slightly damaged, but appears to be original. The lower end of the shaft is curved and the tip has lost the outer layer of metal. Length (bent) 107 mm.

6 Discussion

It is self-evident that an evaluation within the *temenos* (sacred precinct) of a Roman-Celtic temple (Colchester Temple II) will be of interest. The 2013 trenches did not coincide with the *temenos* wall or the temple itself (which are 5m north of the eastern end of T1 and 10m south of the southern end of T2 respectively) but a common feature of several projects at this site is the discovery of gravel surfaces (as in L3 exposed in 2013 T1, 2013 T2 and 2013 T4). The first discovery of gravel within the precinct was in 1935, when Hawkes and Hull trenched the site and first discovered the temple (Hull 1958, 224-33), and their trench intercepted a band of gravel approximately 12m wide. Interestingly, this was only 7 m to the west of the gravel in 2013 T4, and may be regarded as the same gravel layer. The next was the gravel intercepted during the CAT evaluation on the eastern side of the school site in 2007. This evaluation cut four trenches outside the *temenos*, and three within it. One of the 2007 trenches within the *temenos* intercepted the robbed-out *temenos* (precinct) wall (as T1, F1: CAT Report 414, 3), and also revealed a patch of gravel.

Pit F1 is of particular interest as it contained the coin hoard. This consists of five copper-alloy coins, representing a small hoard or purse group made up of four asses and a dupondius. The earliest of the coins is an as of Agrippa minted under Caligula (dated c. AD 37-41) and the latest two copies of Claudius I (dated c. AD 43-64). The date of the coins and the condition suggest the possibility that were lost during the Boudican revolt (c. AD 60/61) as opposed to the coins being a votive deposit, although no Boudican debris was noted on the site, making the former explanation for the presence of the group the less likely of the two. The dump of brick and tile (L4) is also of interest. It appears to butt against the compacted gravel at the eastern end of T1. The straightforward explanation of this dump as debris from a phase of temple repair or demolition is slightly, but not fatally, complicated by the absence of mortar.

How do the 2013 finds fit in with Hull's (Hull 1958) interpretation? Hull describes three phases of activity at Sheepen (I-III) prior to the construction of Colchester Temple II. Coins of Domitian (AD 81-96), apparently well stratified in the make-up for the portico, appear to place the construction of the temple at the very end of the 1st century, if not into the early 2nd century (Hull 1958, 229). The 2013 gravel surfaces seem consistently to belong to the mid-to-late 1st century, as do the pit F1 (containing the coin hoard) and pit F2, so these features could all pre-date the temple, and be part of the general 'Sheepen-period' activity here (ie AD 5-60) before the temple was built. It can be noted that gravel surfaces pre-dating the masonry temple were recorded by Hull in

1935 (Hull 1958, 226). The other 2013 contexts, that is, pit F3 and the CBM dump (L4), are later as all contain 2nd-century or later material.

The group of five coins are of particular significance because if, as seems likely, they formed a votive deposit, then their presence on the site suggests that Temple II dates from the mid 1st century or the temple was pre-dated by another one on the same site.

7 Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are published online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building materials (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council

feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HEM	Historic Environment Management
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
<i>imbrex</i>	half tub roof tile to cover tegula flanges (plural <i>imbrices</i>)
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to the Roman invasion of AD 43
Late Iron Age	from around 200 Bc to AD 43
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
sealed	covered over, and therefore post-dated
<i>tegula</i>	Roman tile, with flanges covered by <i>imbrices</i> on complete roof

10 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2013.16.

11 Contents of archive

Finds archive

1 Museum boxes containing all retained finds (CBM, pottery, small finds)

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

- this report
- original site record (context and finds sheets)
- section drawings
- trench sheets
- digital photo log
- attendance record
- sundry papers
- digital photos on disc

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Distribution list:

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Date: 22.05.13

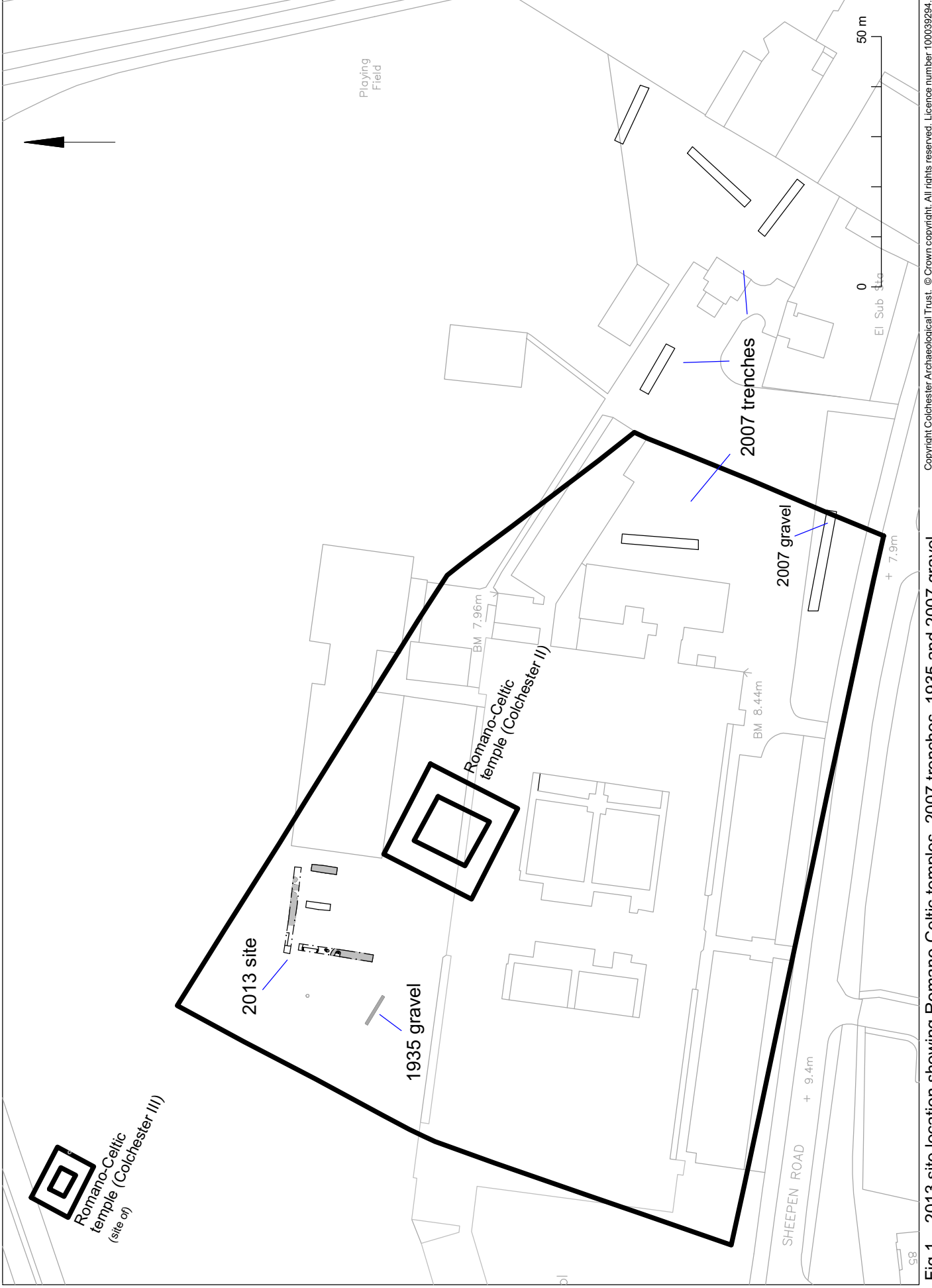


Fig 1 2013 site location showing Romano-Celtic temples, 2007 trenches, 1935 and 2007 gravel

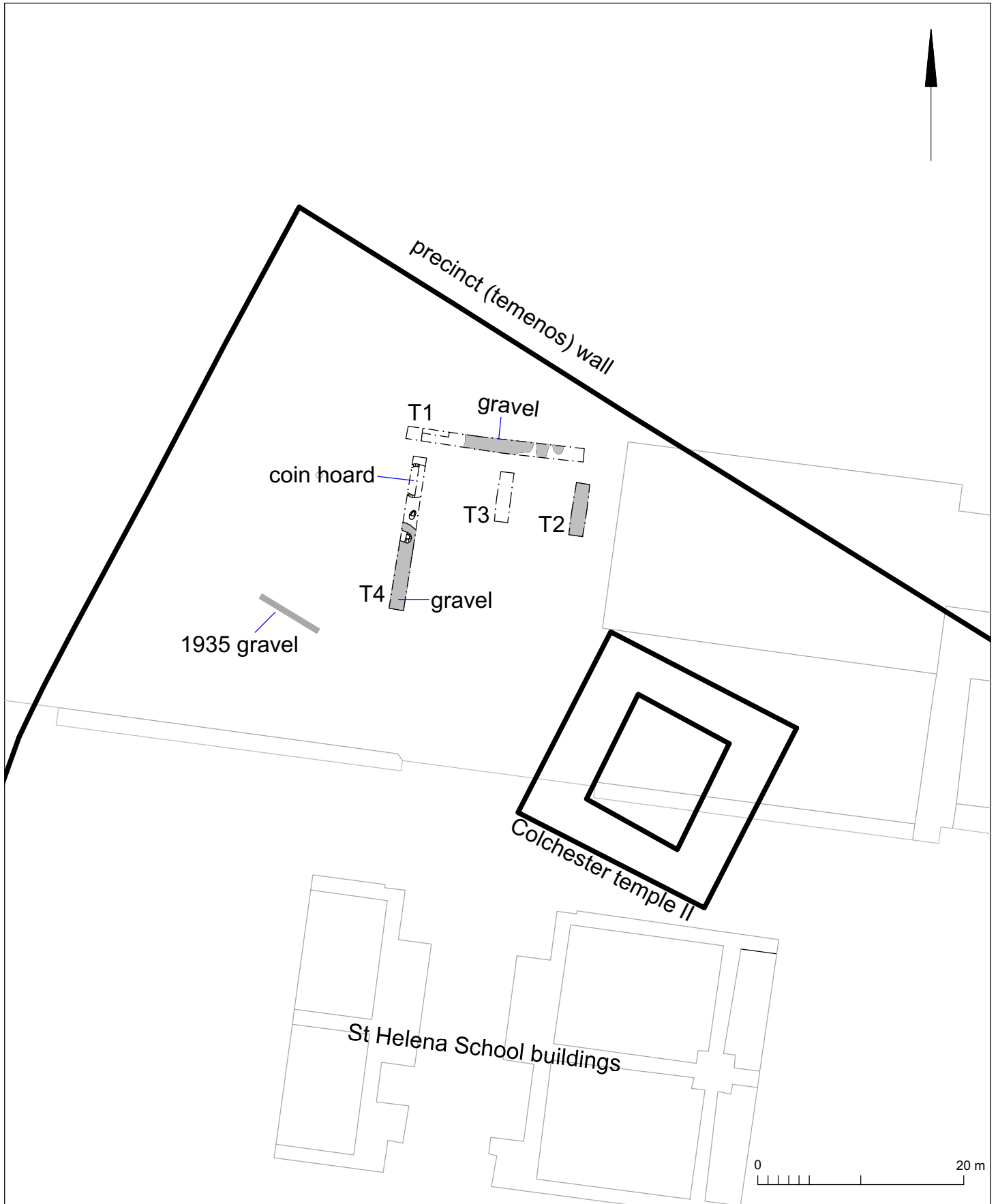


Fig 2 Trench locations, showing coin hoard and gravel surfaces

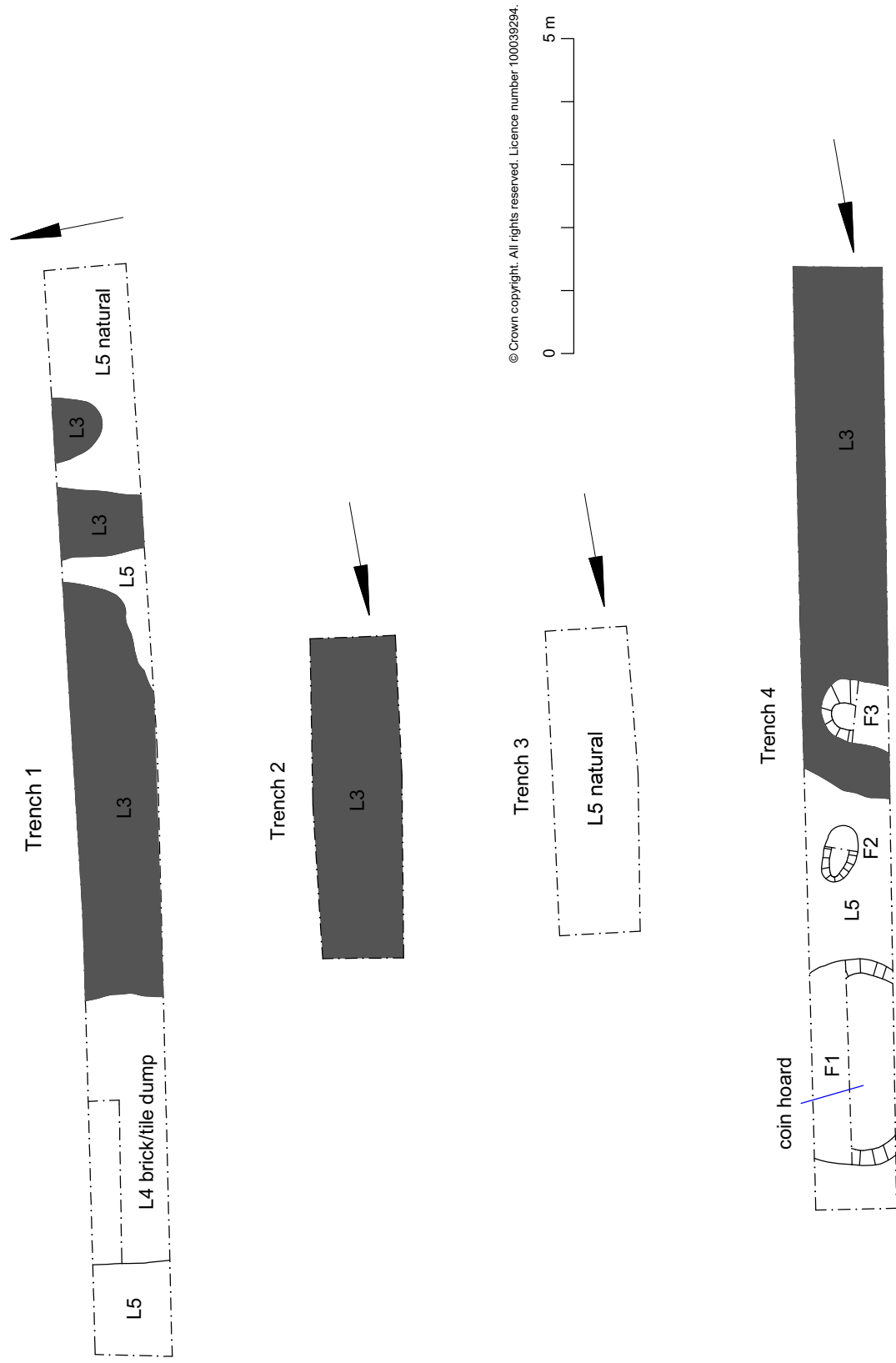
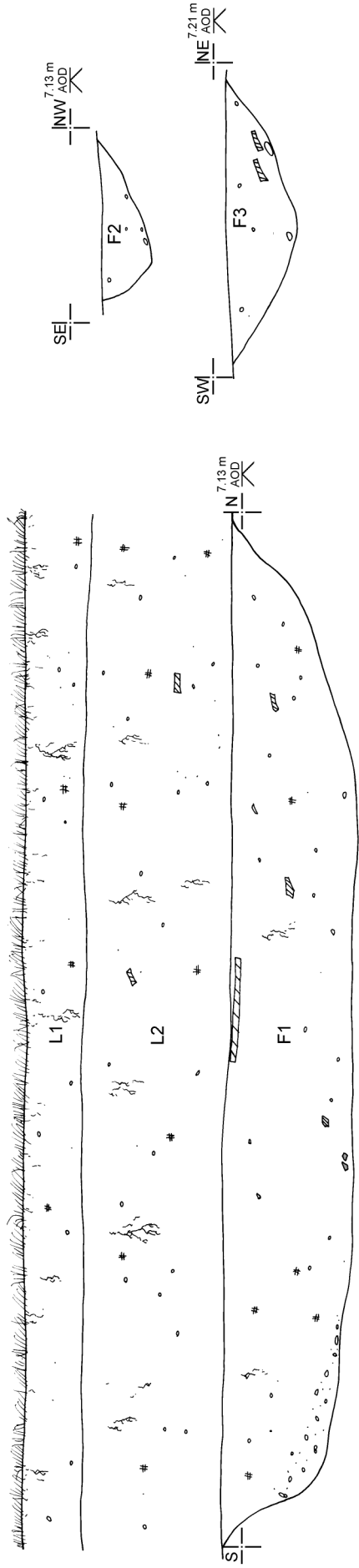
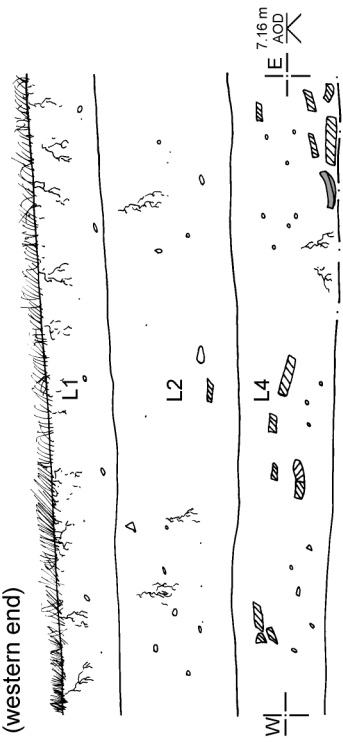


Fig 3 T1- T4: detailed plans. Gravel areas are shown as grey tone.

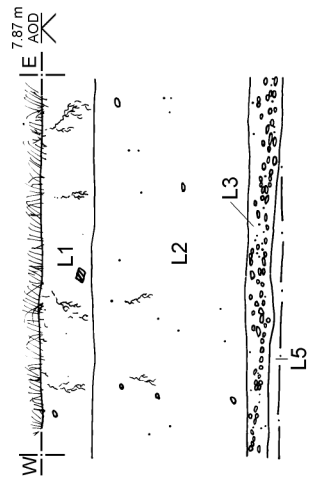
T4



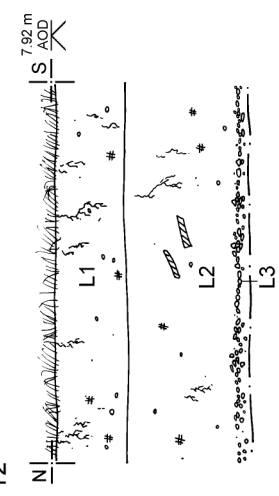
T1 (western end)



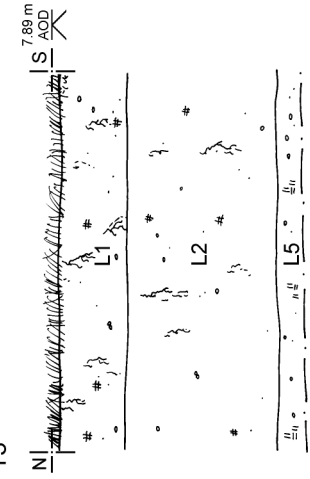
T1 (eastern end)



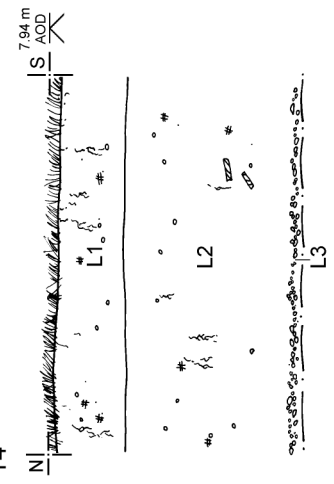
T2



T3



T4



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- ||| clay
- ## charcoal
- ▨ Roman brick and tile
- ⬢ pottery
- √ roots

Fig 4 Sections (F1-F3) and representative trench sections (T1-T4).



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 8836 5850 (c)	Site codes: CAT project – 13/04a Museum accession - 2013.16
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 10th-11th April 2013	Size of area investigated: 35m of trenches
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER number: SAM 1002173
Final report: CAT Report 699	
Periods represented: Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>St Helena School is within the oppidum of Camulodunum and the Later Iron Age and Roman trading depot at Sheepen. The site of the proposed new building lies 20m north-west of a Romano-Celtic temple and within its precinct. An evaluation by four trial-trenches revealed three Roman pits, a compacted gravel layer (surface), and a dump of ceramic building material. One of the pits contained a group of five, low denomination Roman coins dated to c AD 43-64. These are from a hoard or purse group possibly deposited at the time of the Boudican revolt, pre-dating the construction of the temple in the late 1st or early 2nd century.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544	
CBC monitor: Martin Winter	
Keywords: Roman, temple, precinct, gravel surface, coin hoard	Significance: */**
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: May 2013