

## Excavations at 21-31 Long Wyre Street, Colchester, Essex, in 1998

by Howard Brooks

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Archaeological consultants: CgMs

### Summary

The north-south Roman street separating Insulas 37 and 38a of the Roman town lies under the Co-operative Society's store at 21-31 Long Wyre Street. The store spans a 30m-wide strip along the eastern edge of Insula 37 and a thin slice of the western edge of Insula 38a. Following an archaeological evaluation in 1997 (described above pages 10-25), further excavations were carried out in 1998. Evidence for the following periods of activity was observed:

#### Period I – c 80-100 AD

Several rows of small post-holes with associated sand and clay floors.

#### Period II – early 2nd century AD

Clay floors with occupation dirt on them (no contemporary walls were found).

#### Period III – early to mid 2nd century AD

A building with stone-filled wall-footing trenches and clay floors. Construction of street separating Insulas 37 and 38a.

#### Period IV – mid to late 2nd century AD

A substantial addition to the Period 3 building. A new pebble-in-mortar floor associated with two buried pots (ritual foundation deposits).

#### Period V – late 2nd century AD

An oven, fragments of walls, floor patches.

#### Period VI – early-mid 3rd century AD

A structure defined by slots and associated with a gravel surface. A third ritually deposited pot.

#### Period VII – after AD 270 and later 3rd century

A new house with deep, rubble-in-mortar foundations. Parts of nine(?) rooms coincide with the excavated area, but it was clearly a much larger structure. Some floors tessellated.

#### Period VIII – late 3rd-early 4th century AD

Demolition of the Period VII house.

#### Period IX – early 4th century AD

Various cuts into the demolition debris above (robbing activity?).

#### Period X – medieval

Robbing of Roman walls, followed by digging of rubbish-pits.

#### Period XI – post-medieval

Large-scale pit-digging along the southern edge of the site.

#### Period XII – modern

Walls, concrete stanchions (recent Co-operative Society's building), pits.

### Archaeological strategy

The excavation described here was the second part of an archaeological programme. The first was an evaluation carried out on behalf of the Colchester and East Essex Co-operative Society Ltd by CAT in December 1997 (see pages 10-25; CAT Archive Report 14). That evaluation confirmed the existence of Roman and later deposits on the site, in some cases very close to modern ground-level (in particular the mosaic floor in trench 5).

Following on from this, a mitigation strategy proposed by CgMs was agreed with the clients and Colchester Borough Council by Colchester Borough Council's Archaeology Officer. This involved the raising of parts of the floor to leave a greater amount of archaeological material buried and protected beneath the floors of the new store. The archaeological work described here has been carried out according to the *Mitigation strategy and specification* prepared by CgMs.

### Archaeological background

#### *Previous work in Insulas 37 and 38a (Fig 1)*

The only previous archaeological work on the plots covered by the excavation described here is the 1997 evaluation (pp 10-25).

The site lies on the southern edge of the Roman town, astride the street separating Insulas 37 and 38a (p 11, Fig 1 in evaluation report). In such a position, one would expect to find the Roman street crossing the site and Roman town-houses or other buildings along the street frontage.

There have been many previous discoveries of Roman foundations and tessellated pavements from the vicinity, recorded on the OS 1st edition 1:500 sheet (Fig 3 in evaluation report on p 15 above), and more recently in Hull (1958) and Crummy (CAR 6, fig 2.9). The density of Roman remains in this part of town is graphically demonstrated by the 1:500 OS 1st edition sheet which records, 'Roman foundations found', along the whole length of Long Wyre Street. There is one record of a Roman foundation within the site area, a few metres west of 1997 evaluation trench 2 (cf Fig 2 below and Fig 3 on p 15 above). The position as recorded on the OS map is clearly approximate, because it coincides with 1998 Pile-cap 3 east (Fig 9), in which there is Roman street metalling. It must refer to the wall of a Roman building immediately to the west of the street, perhaps the building one of whose other foundations were seen in Pile-cap 3 centre, to the west of the marked location. The absence of street metalling in 1997 evaluation trench 1 and its presence in trench 2 and in several 1998 pile-caps (Fig 9) help to determine the course of the Roman street, which had not previously been recorded south of the 1978-99 excavation site (Smith & Crummy 1992, 355-65).

There are a few areas where archaeological records are useful (Fig 1). The first is at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (*ibid*), where an area was excavated by CAT in advance of the infilling of part of the Co-operative Society's store (Fig 1, p 53). The cross-roads forming the corners of Insulas 29, 30, 37 and 38a, and the usual paraphernalia of a Roman town – streets, drains, and several different periods of buildings with rubble foundations – were examined during the excavation. To the south of that site, Mr Horace Calver recorded various archaeological remains on the site of the future Co-operative Society's pharmacy after the demolition of The Vine Inn and Martin's the Fruiterers in 1956 (Crummy 1971, 108; also on Fig 1).

South of the site, an evaluation in April 1997 (on the site of what is now the Co-operative Society's jewellery shop) located a Roman foundation or drain 1m below modern ground. At that sort of depth, the foundation/drain is broadly in line with the depth of the Roman foundation found in 1997 evaluation trench 1, given the fall of the land.

## Method

### *A split-level site*

As a result of the mitigation strategy devised for the site, the amount of archaeological excavation was determined by the depth of destruction on those areas of the site where it was impossible to leave archaeological remains unaffected. Therefore various parts of the site were dug to various depths which were determined for engineering and not archaeological reasons. This meant that there was a limit on depth of excavation, and much material below maximum excavation depth remained unexcavated.

From north to south, the depths of excavation were as follows: the main excavation area measured approximately 10 x 12.5m (125 m<sup>2</sup>). This area was split into two: on the northern edge and for most of the north-west corner, proposed construction of the lift shafts meant that depth of destruction was below the bottom of the archaeological horizon. Therefore, in these areas, excavation had to extend down to natural sand. In contrast, the depth of disturbance over the south and south-east part of the site was minimal, and excavation requirements were very slight – in fact, the excavation barely penetrated the top of the Roman levels. As a consequence, medieval robber trenches and medieval and post-medieval pits were left virtually undug in this area, with only a skim of material taken off the top. The finds groups from these features may therefore be of limited value.

Extending south from the south-west corner of the main excavation site was a strip measuring approximately 25 m north-south and 3 m east west (75m<sup>2</sup>), which was the location of a proposed access ramp to the lift shafts. The base of the ramp was inclined, so that depth of required excavation was minimal at the south end, and much deeper at the north end. For this reason, archaeological work at the south end of the extension strip consisted solely of recording what was exposed after removal of the modern overburden.

Apart from the excavation to the three different depths as described above, excavation was also carried out in fourteen pile-cap holes and the tower-crane pit (see below, section 4). The locations of the excavated area, the pile-caps, tower-crane pit and 1997 evaluation trenches are shown on Figures 9, 18 and evaluation report Figure 3 on p 15.

## Discussion and interpretation

### *Period 1a (c 80-90 AD) (Figs 21, 33)*

The earliest activity is represented by a series of post-holes and other cuts into natural sand. The post-holes formed two separate patterns: a right angle, Structure 1 and a straight line, Structure 2. Several layers of green-tinged sand are also associated with this period. Sand of this colour is often associated with cess. A large group of animal bone associated with this period suggests that butchery was taking place on or close to this site.

Although there are a few sherds of Claudio-Neronian samian, the dating of this period is principally based on the associated stratigraphy. This period is clearly early Roman, but the evidence is not strong enough to date it to the pre-Flavian period. In particular, there are no early brooches or glass, pre-Flavian samian is rare, and there is a dearth of coins from the military and early colonial period. It is therefore assigned to the early Flavian period.

The location of this site is particularly interesting, because it lies outside the fortress and early town in the earliest decades of the Roman occupation (ie in CAR 6, periods 1 and 2 – AD 43 to 60/61), but is then included within the later town after the Boudican revolt (ie in CAR 6, period 3 – AD 60/61 to 80).

The Period 1 deposits here should reflect the gradual inclusion of the site within the town proper. The early post-holes here prob-

ably represent light structures, rather than major buildings, lying outside the *colonia*. These structures may be connected with a service industry producing with the large amount of butchered bone associated with this period.

The site also lies quite close to an early bathhouse postulated to lie to the north-east of the site (on the east side of Long Wyre Street; Black 1992). However, no tile of the type which might identify a bathhouse (combed flue tile) was found in any of the early periods.

### *Period 1b (c 90-100 AD) (Figs 20, 33)*

Remains of this period were sealed by the Period 2 floors, and included a few more post-holes and cuts, green sandy layers similar to those of Period 1a, and dumped material under a gravel surface (L67-8). The gravel patch suggests a slight formalisation of activity here. A contemporary pit (F202) contained an as of Claudius (AD 41-54), which must be residual here. The post-holes of Structure 2 may have survived from Period 1a.

### *Period 2 (early 2nd century AD) (Figs 19, 34)*

On the main excavation area, the remains of Period 2 consist of a series of mainly clay floors sealed by charcoal debris. However, as in Period 1, evidence for an early construction date is not strong. The buildings are therefore assigned to the early 2nd century.

There are no certain wall lines associated with these floors, though several can be inferred because of differences in flooring material. From west to east, the deposits were as follows. On the western edge, a possible cultivation soil (L64). To its east, and east of the modern concrete pipe trench (where a missing wall line can be inferred), was an area covered by gravel or sandy gravel – perhaps a yard area.

South-east of the yard area was an area of clay flooring with a burnt surface (L181), contemporary with a small oval-shaped oven (F194). There was also what appeared to be a burnt timber north of the oven (F191).

East of the line of the N-S robber trench (where another wall line can be inferred) were a clay floor (L125) with debris on its surface (L108), occupation dirt to its south, and debris over clay floor and dump to its north. On the east edge of the site, clay floor L128 was capped by occupation dirt L127, and this was sealed by a deposit of charcoal-rich soil (L109).

The hanging lamp (Fig 51.2), which was found in a period 2 charcoally deposit, may suggest that this building was well-appointed.

### *Period 3 (early to mid 2nd century AD): Building 190 (Figs 17, 35)*

Building 190 had only one identified wall line, represented by a wall footing consisting of a right-angled trench filled with broken septaria pieces and gravel (F156). Although unmortared, it was extremely hard. It is presumed here that this wall footing held a plinth or timber upper wall, now missing. This is, in fact, precisely the same construction as found in Period 3 at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (Smith & Crummy 1992, 356). The eastern continuation of this wall has been removed by both the later (Period 7) Roman house wall, and also by its robber trench (Period 10a). However, there was a piece of very similar wall footing (F177) in section in the north face of the site which is very probably a return of the same wall line.

West of the wall line was a clay dump layer (L112). Beyond that (ie on the other side of modern intrusion), there was a brown soil (a cultivation soil: L64). This was cut by various pits and post-holes whose function is unclear. Judging by the radically different material on each side of the modern intrusion, we can take it that a Period 3 wall line has been removed along this line.

Within the angle created by the wall line F156 were an unknown number of rooms. We might guess that a wall line has also been removed by the N-S robber trench cutting across the centre of the excavation area, purely on the basis of the floor types on each side of this line. On its east, there was a clay floor over dumped sandy material with occupation dirt L106 on its surface. Slightly to its south was a similar clay floor (L131), separated (again) by a later robber trench. There was more of this on the extreme east edge of the site (occupation over dumped green sandy layer). The difference between this and the clay floor to its south may indicate a missing wall line (removed by a Period 4 wall). On the west side of the robber trench, the excavated deposits seemed to consist of layers of dumped material capped by occupation dirt (L58-9), and cut by a slot. South of that sequence was dumped clay L117 with a small burnt patch or hearth F201. In section only was a gravel layer L14.

There was also a sequence of contemporary floors on the north edge of the site. First, lying north of the east-west part of footing trench was a dumped clay (L66). To the east, and off site in section only was occupation dirt over floors (L144-5, L152, L154-5). A fragment of thin Purbeck marble veneer and a small amount of white painted wall-plaster associated with it indicate the interior decor.

As for the date of this period, the limits are defined by the Period 3 material which it seals, and the good pottery dating of the overlying Period 4 floors (Period 4b is not before AD 140). Period 3 should be in between these two *termini*. The coarse pottery dating is not very useful, and the samian (date range of AD 54-96) appears to be residual here.

A gravel street was laid in this period, separating Insula 37a and 38 (Fig 18). Finds from material sealed by and sealing the street are not closely dated, but it seems clear that the street is not associated with the early periods (1-2) on this site. The material sealed by the street in both evaluation trench 2 (Fig 7, p 17, L210) and in pile cap 3 east (Fig 28, p 78, L702-3) contained small fragments of burnt clay, typical of redeposited Boudican debris. This can be taken as evidence that the street is post-Boudican in date, and was built over material scraped up from somewhere in the vicinity where Boudican debris was present.

The street sealed a north-south slot or ditch, F568 (Fig 32). This street was observed in several pile-cap hole and in the 1997 evaluation trench 2 (Fig 9). The west edge of the street can be fixed by its presence in Pile-cap 1e and its absence in the adjacent trench 1. The east edge was not found on this site, and the width shown on Figures 9 and 18 is copied from the east-west arm of the crossroads found at 7-15 Long Wyre Street. The alignment on the 1998 site matches exactly that of the southern arm of the crossroads found in 1978 (Smith & Crummy 1992, 356).

#### *Period 4a (mid to late 2nd century AD): Building 191* (Figs 14, 36)

Existing Building 190 was enlarged by the addition of rooms defined by three wall lines (F118, F124). This created Building 191. The new walls were of a mixture of clay blocks, clay over a stone base, and clay with stones on top. Several other presumed wall lines were truncated by later features. The disposition of the walls and various floors suggests a structure with a right-angled corridor (Rooms 1 and 2) extending around a further two rooms (Rooms 3 and 4), with at least one room running off to the north (Room 5). Although there was some considerable replacement of floor-levels, these walls survived throughout Period 4. Judging by differences in flooring, there was probably a separate room (Room 6) south of Room 5. Floors, all newly laid, were as follows:

**Room 1:** A clay dump floor L97 with occupation dirt L96 on its surface.

**Room 2:** A clay dump floor (in section only).

**Room 3:** A clay dump floor L110 with occupation dirt L107, a central burnt clay hearth F163, and a single post-hole F161. This sequence was replaced during this phase by clay floor L100 with occupation dirt L101.

**Room 4:** A clay layer L164 (in section only).

On the east site edge was the contemporary floor. The presumed pathway area on the west site edge had a gravel surface in this period.

Painted wall-plaster associated with this period was all white, including a small *in situ* patch on the north face of the clay-block wall.

#### *Period 4b (mid to late 2nd century AD)* (Figs 13, 37)

Period 4b is defined by the laying of new floors in all the rooms of Building 191. Several were pebble-in-mortar floors, one of which was associated with two foundation deposits.

**Room 1:** A clay dump floor L89 with occupation dirt L87, cut by a single post-hole (F158).

**Room 2:** A pebble-in-mortar floor (seen in section only). This was of the same character as that in Room 3 (below). Occupation dirt or trample lay over the floor surface.

**Room 3:** A pebble-in-mortar floor F121. There was no convincing occupation dirt on the floor surface, as if it had been kept swept clean. A single sherd of Antonine samian (ie not pre c AD 140) firmly within F121 provides valuable evidence for the floor's date.

**Room 4:** A pebble-in-mortar floor F123 (matching Room 3 above). No occupation dirt on its surface.

**Room 5:** A replacement clay floor (L65). Contemporary material in section on the north edge of the site.

On the east site edge L169 (under L168) was the contemporary floor (probably Room 2). West edge of R6 was a dumped clay (yard area?). Beyond that was a soil-rich layer (garden area?). Associated wall-plaster was mainly plain white, with some plain pink.

#### *The Period 4b foundation deposits*

Two buried pots were recovered from below pebble-in-mortar floor F121 (Figs 37, 54). The fact they were complete, upright, covered in a lid (or a tile), and in one case accompanied by animal bones, leaves little doubt that they were deliberately deposited before the laying of the new floor.

The first pot (from F162) was found in a shallow pit cut through the Period 4a floors, and was sealed directly by the new pebble-in-mortar floor. The pot is described in the main finds report (p 38). In summary, it was a coarse grey ware, ovoid jar, dating probably to the 2nd century. It was covered by a broken and incomplete coarse grey ware lid which was too large for the pot. A light whitish stain on the upper surface of the interior is probably due to water being boiled in the pot. However, there was no sign of burning or sooting on the exterior. Though no traces survived, the pot was presumably filled with liquid. The pot was accompanied by several scraps of beef and pork, listed here:

*Bos* (domestic cattle): calcaneum, mandible, femur, atlas, scapula, astragalus, phalanges (8 pieces, 570g)

*Sus* (domestic pig) – teeth in maxilla (1, 58g)

Unidentified large mammal: (2, 12g).

Though the shoulder of beef was presumably edible, the other meat oddments were not choice cuts, and included pig jaw and fragments of cattle feet and spine.

The second pot (from F205) was a coarse grey ware jar, dating to the 1st or early 2nd century. The pot had been buried upright and covered with a piece of Roman brick rather than a proper lid (Fig 54). As with the above pot, earth had fallen into the pot because the brick did not completely cover it. The washed residue of the

contents contained five sherds and many tiny spalls from a BB1 dish or bowl (c AD 120+), and three small fragments of painted wall-plaster. There was a limescale-type deposit on the inner face of the pot, the result of water being boiled in the pot. There were no accompanying bones or other finds.

In summary, the foundation deposits were sealed beneath a contemporary floor, in one instance near the threshold between two rooms (Room 1 and Room 3), and in the second instance in the corner of the room. Neither pot was new, both had been used to boil water, and both were found empty. One was accompanied by cuts or offcuts of meat. It was clearly important that the pots were covered up, even to the extent of using an ill-fitting lid in one case and a lump of tile in the other.

#### *Period 4c (mid to late 2nd century AD) (Figs 12, 38)*

Period 4c is defined by the laying of a new set of floors in Rooms 1-5, as follows: in Room 1, a mortar repair patch had been laid over an occupation dirt deposit (L56), possibly to counteract sinkage (though assigned here to Period 4c, it is also possible that it was laid in the next period (5a)). The occupation dirt lay over a floor of yellowish brown clay loam. Also lying on the clay floor was a hearth (F117, Fig 23). A number of copper-alloy sheet fragments and strip fragments were recovered from the hearth (a fragment of ?arnlet and a copper stud). The surface of this was sampled for both metallurgical and environmental analysis. Both analyses revealed hammerscale fragments, so it seems likely that iron-smithing may have taken place here. Quite how this works in a room interpreted as having been a corridor is difficult to say. There was also a burnt sand patch against the south wall of this room, possibly connected with the hearth activity.

Room 2 (the north-south arm of the corridor) lay entirely below our excavation depth, and potential floors were only seen in section in Pile-cap 6c. Here, a gravelly layer was in the correct position to be the floor, lying over a demolition deposit (demolition of previous phase?).

In Room 3 (south of the clay wall), the floor consisted of clay floor with occupation dirt (L76). This room continued over the break caused by the medieval robber trenches and into the angle of the walls. Here, a clay floor L116 lay over a dump layer.

There was a tiny strip of floor south of the wall line in Room 4, consisting of dumped pale brown clay L21. The floor of Room 5 was clay. North of the robber trench, a dumped floor sequence was contemporary. It is difficult to say whether this was a separate room or was part of Room 1. The same comments apply to a small stratigraphical column on the east edge of the site where there was a contemporary deposit.

Room 6 retained its clay floor from the previous phase.

The situation west of Room 3 is complex. There, a narrow strip of clay dump lay east of a soil-rich layer. This sequence suggests a narrow pathway with a garden beyond (the path had a gravel surface in an earlier period).

Associated painted wall-plaster was predominantly white or pink, with some dark pink stripes on white.

#### *Period 5 (late 2nd century): Building 192 (Figs 11,39)*

A thick layer of clay (L55) was deposited on the old floors of Building 191. This clay, containing chopped-up pieces of painted wall-plaster, was certainly derived from the demolition of Building 191.

On top of the dumped clay were several heavily truncated wall and floor fragments, which constitute Building 192. Though its walls were fragmentary, five rooms could be defined (there were certainly more originally). In Room 1, there were two mortar floor patches (F38, F120). They had no surviving surfaces, and had

probably been robbed. To their west a trench marks the line of a robbed-out wall separating Rooms 1 and 2. In Room 2, there was a dump layer with trample on its upper surface (L52/54). South of that was a clay dump layer.

East of the medieval robber trench the top layer was a greenish (cassy?) layer with two shallow cuts in its upper surface, probably demolition cuts. There was also a deposit of demolition material lying over the Period 5a floor.

#### *The oven*

The best surviving feature of this period was oven F108 (Fig 23) with an associated ashy patch (from raking out the oven) and a stakehole of unknown use. Several pieces of daub, one with a wattle hole, were recovered from the fill. This was presumably from the superstructure. The charcoally deposit at the bottom of the oven was sampled, without any result other than the confirmation that it was wood charcoal. The absence of any evidence suggesting that this was a demolition oven (eg loose nails or melted metal) supports its interpretation as a domestic oven. Curiously, there was a single cream-coloured mosaic cube from F108. This is very slender evidence for a nearby mosaic floor, but the fact that there are robbed floors in this period means that the existence of a nearby mosaic floor cannot be ruled out.

North of the robber trench was a dumped floor (Room 2?). In Room 3, two mortar floor patches (F112) lay over clay dump. A wall consisting of septaria lumps in mortar separated Rooms 3 and 4. In Room 4, occupation dirt lay over a mortar floor patch (F56). Also in Room 4, a contemporary layer of destruction debris was seen in Pile-cap 6c. Floors within the angle of the walls were clay capped by gravel.

Room 5 is defined by the junction of two walls in Pile-cap 5w (F152, F154), which are assigned to this period because their floor-levels seem too low to belong to the Period 7 house (floor-level on Period 7 tessellated floor, 24.97m AOD; level on these floors, 24.56m AOD). Despite the isolation of the Pile-cap 5w deposits from the main sequence, Period 5 is the best fit for these walls and their floors.

A striking feature of the finds assemblage is a large group of bead-rimmed bowls, which must be associated with cooking. Several other strands of evidence need to be considered here. First, Period 4 bones include the highest proportion of burnt bones of any site period. This burning may be associated with cooking. Second, there is a contemporary oven, which may be part of this cooking process. The commonest bones from this period are cattle, pig, roe deer, sheep and chicken. Without stretching the evidence too far, there seems sufficient reason to suspect that there was a large amount of cooking going on very close to this spot in this period. Whether this is purely domestic, or on a small commercial scale, is very difficult to say.

The associated wall-plaster was still predominantly white or pink, and pink with red splashes.

#### *Period 6 (early-mid 3rd century AD) (Figs 10, 40)*

A fresh layer of clay (L7) was dumped over the floors of Building 192. The heavily truncated nature of those floors (above) may indicate large-scale demolition of that building, and presumably recycling of the raw materials. Activity took place which generated two scrappy occupation patches (L37-8) lying on top of the newly-dumped clay. It almost looked as if the rest of these patches had worn away to reveal the underlying clay dump, or perhaps they never covered the whole of the area at all. There was also an adjacent burnt patch (F78) and a hearth (F79) with copper-alloy small finds on its surface. The surface of the hearth was scraped up for metallurgical analysis (Fig 23; report p 45 below). After the excavation of the burnt patch, it was realised that there was a large rotted timber (F77/F90) lying directly under

it, actually within the body of the clay dump. It would have been tempting to see this as a contemporary wall line, but this is impossible due to its stratigraphic position within the dump. It must simply be a collapsed timber from the Period 5 building.

The Period 6 remains in the west side of the site included a good gravelled surface (F76) lying west of the beam slot. The surface was hard, and had obviously been walked on. A coin of Antoninus Pius of AD 150-153 was stratified in F76. It was slightly residual here, but still gives a *terminus post quem* for the surface. The absence of any similar surface west of the modern intrusive pipe suggests that it has removed a wall line, and that the surface was linear (perhaps a path?). When the beam slot was excavated, it was clear that a timber had rotted in it, remaining only as a stain with iron nails irregularly spaced along it and beside it (Fig 24). Towards the north end of the slot, a large post-pit marked the point where there was a slight deviation in the course of the slot, perhaps at the junction of two separate beams.

East of the beam slot, there was a series of rather patchy clay surfaces one of which was burnt. This burning may be seen in the context of the adjacent hearth; whatever activity was going on here (smithing?), burnt floors were inevitable. Apart from the beam slot, there were no contemporary structural features. Perhaps the smithing activity was conducted in the open air, in an area screened off by a fence, with a pathway outside it.

A complete pot (F203, Fig 54), the third foundation deposit from the site, was discovered in the clay surfaces east of the beam slot. The pot was found quite unexpectedly when a baulk was being removed. It was probably in a cut filled with pieces of septaria. A cut had been made into the earlier dump layer, after which the Period 6 floor was dumped on top of it. The pot was an orange, Verulamium region, necked and shouldered jar of the mid 2nd century (the pot was therefore old when buried). A coarse grey ware lid was found (broken) inside the pot where it had fallen in antiquity. A more detailed report will be found below (p 38). The pot contents were sieved, but nothing was found inside it. In this situation, a complete lidded jar would normally be seen as a foundation deposit, the difficulty here being the absence of any obvious related structure, unless it is the beam slot 1m to the west; or perhaps the foundation deposit was connected with the smithing activity.

A contemporary gravel layer (L79) was seen in Pile-cap 6c. A large group of associated wall-plaster is of some interest. The main colour scheme was still dominated by plain white or plain pink, the latter sometimes over-painted darker pink. There were several pieces which show that replastering and repainting was taking place. The lower plaster, typically 8-10mm thick, has been pecked to give a key for the new plaster, which is typically 6-8mm thick. The top layer is pink or red/white stripe. There is also evidence of yellow panels beyond white and red borders. A fragment of thin Purbeck marble veneer is a clue to the interior finishing.

There was a large group of bead-rimmed bowls from this period; perhaps representing a continuation of the cooking activity in Period 6.

*Period 7 (after c AD 270 to later 3rd century): Building 193 (Figs 8, 9, 41)*

Paradoxically, this is the major structural period on the site, but the one which has suffered most badly at the hands of later robbers, both Roman and medieval.

#### Ground-plan

Period 7 saw the construction of a building with deep, rubble-in-mortar footings and tessellated floors (Building 193). The ground plan is given by the later (Period 10a) robber trenches, and is as follows: a line of three rooms, two of them

wholly within the site and one running off the north edge (Rooms 1-3); parallel with those rooms and on their east edge, three rooms running off the east edge of the site (Rooms 4-6); off the west side of Rooms 1-3, an open area, probably a courtyard (Room 7); and south of Room 7, two further badly-defined rooms (Rooms 8 and 9). The mosaic floor found in the 1997 evaluation (pp 12, 22, Fig 15) does not fit readily into this ground-plan. Although it is more likely that it belonged to this period than any other, the possibility must remain that it was earlier.

#### Floors

Surviving floors were few and far between. On the extreme north edge of the site, Room 3 had a floor (F84) consisting of very irregular tile, *tessera* and *septaria* chips in a mortar base including *opus signinum*. This might be termed 'crazy tessellation', and has the feeling of a floor consisting of materials robbed from a previous structure. It lay on a dumped clay base. There were other layers of dumped clay which are assumed to be contemporary build up for the now missing floors in Rooms 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7. The large quantity of *tesserae* from later (Period 9) cuts into Room 2 makes it likely that Room 2 had a tessellated floor. Cubes from mosaic floors were not common on this site (seven in total), but six of them came from the vicinity of Room 2 (four from a robber trench, two from an animal burrow along the north edge of Room 2). While the cubes from the animal burrow are hardly in a well-stratified context, those from the robber trench suggest that there may have been at least a small patch of mosaic floor here. Colours present in the *tesserae* were grey and white.

In Room 9, a tiny patch of plain red tessellated flooring (F99) survived – five rows wide, the longest of which had eight *tesserae*. Its foundation was yellowish brown mortar L46, over orange brown clay L47. Adjacent to the tessellated floor was a patch of *septaria* fragments in brown clay (F100). This might be contemporary and structural, but there was too little of it to be certain. There were no other surviving floors of this period on the main site. However, a patch of tessellated pavement was revealed and recorded during watching brief at site grid north 75 (SGN 75), some 14m south of F99. Though it is unproven, it is not unreasonable to suggest this was a Period 7 floor.

#### Foundations

No Period 7 foundations survived to floor-level, but there were several fragments. Between Rooms 1 and 2 and Rooms 4 and 5, were wall footings of pale brown mortar with *septaria* lumps (F125, F5 respectively – the former at the bottom of the Period 10 robber trench). There was also a thin unrobbed sliver of what appeared to be contemporary foundation material clinging to the south edge of the robber trench along the north edge of Room 2. This consisted of *septaria* and *opus signinum* lumps in brown mortar, and it is all that remains of the foundation between Rooms 2 and 3. This material may have been reused from the robbed foundation between Rooms 2 and 7 (see section headed 'Robbing' on p 31).

In the side of Pile-cap 6c, a clay layer (L84) was seen at the bottom of the Period 10a robber trench between Rooms 1 and 4. There is no reason to suppose that the medieval robbers dumped clay into an empty trench, so therefore this clay must be the original foundation for the Period 7 wall. It filled the width of the trench to a depth of 20cm, above which was the Period 10a robbing debris including lumps of *septaria*.

An enormous group of painted wall-plaster is associated with this period. Plain white or plain pink is still the predominant colour, but there is a higher proportion of red stripe on white than in previous periods, and two pieces show more elaborate border work in grey green and yellow. One interesting piece has a cross of stripes, with brown and grey stripes at right-angles, and the angles bisected by red stripes. Two curved or angled pieces must be

from door or window openings. There is also a piece of Purbeck marble veneer from this period.

#### Terracing and slope

Long Wyre Street slopes gently down from north to south. Is this slope reflected in the Roman remains? The Roman slope is convincingly shown by the difference in Period 7 floor-level at the north end (approximately 25.4m AOD) and floor-level on the tiny surviving patch of tessellation F99 (24.97m), which lies at SGN 89, in the southern site extension. Another fixed point is the patch of tessellated pavement which was recorded at SGN 75, which is at 24.32m. At a simple level, this shows a drop in Roman floor-level of 1.08 m over some 37m north-south distance.

#### Robbing

This has already been discussed above (p 30). There were two robber trenches which must represent robbing earlier than the medieval (Period 10a) phases. These were F69 and F47, robbing out the walls between Rooms 2 and 7, and part of that between Rooms 2 and 3. A coin of Tetricus I in F47 dates this robbing activity (and the construction of the Period 7 house) no earlier than AD 270.

This robbing is paralleled at 7-15 Long Wyre Street, where the Period 5 house (AD 150-275/300) was preceded by a phase of robbing when Period 4 foundations were removed (Smith & Crummy 1992, in *CAR 6*, p 359, fig 13.111).

#### Pottery

An increase in the number of bead-rimmed bowls (compared with Periods 4 and 5) indicates that cooking must still have been an important activity.

#### Correlation between 1998 walls and those found elsewhere in Insula 37 (Fig 1)

It is useful to consider how the main wall lines (ie Period 7) on the 1998 excavation relate to those excavated in 1978-9 at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (Smith & Crummy 1992, in *CAR 6*, 355-65), and recorded by Mr Horace Calver on the site of the future Co-operative Society's pharmacy after the demolition of The Vine Inn and Martin's the Fruiterers in 1956 (Crummy 1971, 108: this is the plot between the 1979 and 1998 excavation sites). Figure 1 here shows that the 1998 foundations especially tie up quite well with Calver's (leaving aside the curious fact that Calver shows foundations crossing the Roman street – perhaps these were medieval). This is particularly so of Calver's long north-south wall **x**, which corresponds with the 1998 north-south wall robbed out by F61, F47 etc, and his east-west line **y**, which corresponds with our robbed wall line F7/F8. Unless Calver's walls were all medieval, they must all belong to the same building. Further, short stretches of north-south foundations recorded by Calver may link up the 1998 site to the 1979 site, with the result that 1998 Building 193 may be the same building as 1979 Building 145. This was Period 5 on the 1979 site (c AD 150-275/300; our site Period 7 here is dated to after AD 270, so the fit is quite possible). Clearly, Calver's foundations are slightly out of alignment with both excavation sites, but this may be due to the exigencies of his watching brief. If a true plan of this structure is to be generated, Calver's foundations will need to be adjusted slightly.

#### Period 8 (late 3rd-early 4th century AD)

This period, like the overlying Period 9, consists of a series of demolition deposits with minor cuts in their top surfaces. There were no deposits of this period in the centre of the site, due to truncation by Period 9 activity. Whether this activity was the robbing out of the Period 7 tessellated floor is uncertain.

On the east edge of the site, there was a thick blanket of Period 8 demolition deposits, L33 and L6. This part of the site was difficult digging. In several instances, edges of features were followed, but they went nowhere. This particularly applies to F67, F72 and

F73, which are now grouped as part of demolition debris L33. L6 and L33 had prodigious quantities of building debris in them, the total weight of *tegula*, *imbrex*, brick, painted wall-plaster and *tesserae* being 103.5 kg.

From the weight of building debris in these contexts, there can be little doubt that they are derived from the demolition of a nearby building, in this case the Period 7 building. There is an interesting difference between the two periods of demolition; the later robbing (Period 9) has a higher proportion of *tesserae* than the Period 8 robbing. This makes sense, because the earlier robbing concentrated on the wall and roof materials, and the later robbing penetrated the floors.

There was a single cut, apparently contemporary with the demolition. Two probably contemporary dump layers were seen in section in Pile-cap 5w.

There were contemporary demolition debris layers in section on the north edge of the site.

#### Coin loss

In contrast to the apparent solidity of the Period 7 building, there is a contrast provided by the coin and other evidence. There is a dearth of later 3rd- and 4th-century coinage from this site, and also a lack of glass. There were no structures after the Period 7 house, merely episodes of demolition whose deposits do not contain coinage. The lack of 4th-century coins suggests that this period (and the following Period 9) did not extend much into the 4th century.

#### Period 9 (early 4th century AD) (Figs 7, 42)

The Period 9 remains consist of a blanket of demolition debris covering the west side of the site, and a series of burnt patches (L34) and robbing cuts over the centre of the site. Apart from the usual debris of pottery, bone and oyster, iron nails, and septaria, the demolition layers also contained a large amount of Roman brick, *imbrex* and *tegula* (7.2 kg) and twelve plain red *tesserae*. This shows clear evidence of demolished roofing and robbed floors. The large numbers of loose *tesserae* found in the cuts strongly indicates that a tessellated pavement used to lie here. There was also a patch of *opus signinum*, not *in situ* but redeposited from somewhere close by (perhaps a robbed floor).

These deposits are all connected with demolition and robbing of the Period 7 Building 193. However, there is an interesting difference; the underlying Period 8 demolition debris contained a far higher quantity of brick and tile debris (fifteen times more). Even allowing for the possible truncation of the top of these deposits (the modern concrete slab lay almost on top), this is still a huge difference. The initial robbing of the buildings in Period 8 had released brick and tile, wall-plaster and *tesserae*. This must therefore have involved the demolition of standing painted walls and roofs (if they had not already collapsed). Perhaps the Period 9 activity was more in the nature of scavenging for odd bits and pieces among the wreckage of buildings which had already been thoroughly robbed.

Demolition cuts were seen in section on the north edge of the site.

#### The Anglo-Saxon period

This has no site period because there were no Anglo-Saxon deposits on the site, only finds. However, the finds are of some interest. They include early Saxon pottery (p 42) dating to c AD 450-750, and Anglo-Saxon tools made from pig fibulae (p 34).

The Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in a residual context in the major E-W robber trench on the north edge of the site (ie between Building 193, Rooms 2 and 3), and in a cut into the top of another robber trench. The robber trenches are convincingly dated to the 12th-13th centuries by a large ceramic group. The Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the top and middle fills of the robber

trench. The question is, where are these sherds from? One mechanism which might explain their presence is as follows. The demolished Roman buildings were, over time, covered in a carpet of soil containing Anglo-Saxon material (whether in cuts or lying loose). This is then covered by a carpet of medieval soil, and this was the level from which the robber trenches were dug. When the robber trenches were dug to remove the Roman foundations, they were dug straight down (as is shown by the excavated profiles), and the process of robbing also involved waste mortar material being dumped back into the trench straight away. In other words, the robbers left a trench which was already a third full of debris. Next, over the coming months, the unsupported sides of the open trenches began to crumble, and objects dropped into the trenches – Anglo-Saxon material from the exposed Anglo-Saxon layers, and medieval material from the medieval layers. The bottom two fills of the robber trench contain only Roman material, and the Anglo-Saxon and medieval material was all recovered from the top three fills (ie the top two-thirds of the trench).

Two pig fibula tools were residual in a post-medieval pit, and the other was from a more difficult context which requires some discussion. It came from L33, a demolition debris layer from site Period 8. This context, as noted above, was difficult to dig, and several cuts which appeared to be features were followed but led nowhere and had to be abandoned (in other words, the finds were simply counted as part of L33 rather than from a separate cut). L33 is well dated by a large group of sherds including Fabric EA (Nene Valley ware) which is dated by Stephen Benfield to the later 3rd or 4th century. If this pig fibula tool is Anglo-Saxon, then it must have come from an unrecognised cut through both L33 and the overlying L8. As an excavator, it is hard to believe that we missed such a cut, when I'm sure we didn't. However, unless the tool is late Roman (and correctly stratified), there is no other way it could have become part of L33.

The re-occupation of the walled area of Colchester within the late Anglo-Saxon period is well established (CAR 1, 70-74), and the bone tools are likely to be contemporary with the early Saxon pottery (above). Early to middle Anglo-Saxon huts have been found on the Lion Walk and Culver Street sites (CAR 1, 1-6; CAR 6, 118-20). A small group of antler-working debris broadly dated to within a range from the 5th to the 8th centuries was found not far away on Site R of the Lion Walk excavations (CAR 5, 88-91), and a small brow tine with cut marks at the base was found on this site in a Period 10a robber trench.

#### *Period 10a – medieval robber trenches (12th-13th century) (Figs 5, 6, 43)*

The foundations of the Period 7 house were robbed during this period.

#### **Dating**

Ceramic evidence (and a piece of slate from robber trench F24) dates the robbing to the 13th century. This is slightly later than most robber trenches excavated at the Lion Walk site, where robbing was nearly all of 11th- or 12th-century date, although some may have been 13th century. There was also Roman robbing on that site; earlier plinths were robbed out in c AD 60-100 (CAR 3, 75). At the site of the previous Co-operative Society's store at 7-15 Long Wyre Street, the robbing was 11th-12th century (Smith & Crummy 1992, 356). There was also Roman robbing there; Period 5 (c AD 150-275/300) robbing of earlier plinths (*ibid*). Residual material in the robber trenches includes the Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery.

#### *Period 10b (13th-16th centuries) (Figs 4, 44) and Period 11 (17th-18th century) (Figs 3, 45)*

Although these periods are separated out on the above plans, the pit digging seems to have been continuous through Periods 10b to 12. It is therefore more sensible to discuss them together.

#### **The medieval and post-medieval pit sequence**

During these periods extensive pit digging took place over the site. In an attempt to relate this pit-digging to individual plots, the plot boundaries shown on the 1896 OS sheet have been transferred to Figures 44-5. Here it can be seen that plot 2 was heavily pitted, implying that the building on this plot was confined to the frontage, and did not spread this far back. The situation is different with plot 1, where the large pit cut (F3, Fig 4) would indicate open ground in Period 10b, but the plot is unpitted in Period 11, and therefore was being built over at that time. This plot was, of course, open in Period 10a when the robber trenches were cut. Plot 3 is quite devoid of pits, and may already have been built up as far back as the part which coincides with our excavation area in Period 10b. Plot 4 has a cess-pit built close to its south boundary. Depth limit here meant that it could not be bottomed. Finds from the fill of the soakaway include ceramics of the 15th/16th century, with the inevitable residual Roman material. Bones representing food waste included cattle, roe deer, and sheep/goat. There were no finds from the construction cut for the soakaway.

#### **Waste disposal**

The good group of intercutting pits offers an opportunity to offer a few comments on waste disposal. There was no bulk sieving of these pits (on the advice of Peter Murphy), nor were any of them totally excavated. We must therefore confine ourselves to general, rather than specific, points.

The first conclusion is that these pits were used for waste disposal on a continuous basis from the 15th century until c AD 1800. This should help us to estimate the date range of properties which must have occupied this site, but have now completely disappeared. After c AD 1800, waste was not, apparently, dumped in pits near the properties, although there were undoubtedly properties here. Two possibilities suggest themselves. First, waste was collected and disposed of elsewhere. Second, the plot became completely filled in with buildings, and there was nowhere left to dig pits. The second is the most likely, since the 1876 OS map shows that the plot is not full, but there are buildings at the rear of the street frontage and in the south-west corner of the plot (coinciding with our excavated area).

Secondly, there is nothing to suggest anything other than a domestic origin for most of the debris in the pits; potsherds, animal bone, shell, glass, tile and brick, etc. However, there is a large group of copper-alloy pins and lace tags from the pit group as a whole (15 copper-alloy pins, 11 lace tags). This may be a normal domestic output, or it may suggest a connection with a tailors' or haberdashers' establishment on Long Wyre Street (a precursor of the recent Co-operative Society's store, in fact).

Thirdly, a large proportion of the finds are residual Roman. In those contexts with groups of measurable material (F29, F37 and F51 combined contained 61 medieval items and 38 Roman items). This means that pits were cut down into Roman deposits, and Roman finds were continually in flow between successive pit cuts. The worrying aspect of all this is the fact that if so many of the finds are Roman, then there must be a proportion of the medieval finds which are also residual.

This pit group produced by far the largest group of bone from the site. Of interest was a larger than usual group of bird bone. A lack of dog gnawing means that waste deposition was swift. Species found include cat, cattle, chicken, dog, duck, deer, goat, horse, pig, rabbit, sheep, swan, and woodcock. Fish bones were also found, though not from sieved samples. There were also several examples of spurred male domestic fowl, which indicates cock-fighting. The metal small finds were mostly dress accessories of the cheapest kind.

*Period 12 (19th-20th centuries) (Figs 3, 45-6)*

Features of this period were primarily the concrete floor slab, concrete stanchions, brick walls and other features connected with the recent Co-operative Society's store. There were also a number of cuts of no particular interest.

**The finds**

The archive report contains the full finds reports, which appear in shortened versions here. The fuller reports here are those concerning material which has a direct bearing on site dating, or where the material, after assessment, warrants fuller publication.

**The coins**

*by J A Davies and Nina Crummy*

Too few coins were recovered from the site to make analysis by Reece's Roman coin periods worthwhile (*CAR 4*, tables 7-8), though this idiosyncratic assemblage is worthy of comment. The site lies outside the area of the military fortress and its annex, and possibly outside the area of the pre-Boudican colony. The dearth of military and early colonial occupation is reflected in the recovery of only one Claudian coin. A *dupondius* of Vespasian from the 1996 evaluation is the only other 1st-century coin. There are seven coins of the 2nd and early 3rd century, usually a period of low coin loss, but only one of the usually well-represented Gallic Empire, and one barbarous radiate. However, none of these coins are stratified in 2nd-century levels, and two fragments from 3rd-century dump on the site are unfortunately illegible. The low number of late 3rd-century coins and the absence of those of the 4th century is probably due to earlier modern development on the site.

The only post-Roman coins recovered are a medieval French jetton and one unidentified post-medieval jetton. Unless stated as being from the 1997 evaluation, the coins are from the 1998 excavation.

**Catalogue**

SF 141, (500) F202. Pit. Period 4.

Claudius, irregular *as*, as *RIC I*: 100, AD 50-60

obv: [TI CLAVDIVS C]AESAR AVG PM TR P IMP; rev: S C, Minerva; 27 mm diameter, 1800 die-axis.

SF 1, evaluation (6) L404. Levelling layer. Roman.

Vespasian, *dupondius*, *RIC 2*: 754(b), mint of Lugdunum, AD 77-8  
obv: IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS VIII PP; rev: FORTVNAE REDVCI, SC

SF 51, (89) F24. Robber trench. Period 10a.

Trajan, *dupondius*, AD 98-117

obv: IMP CAES NERVA —; rev: illegible, standing female figure.

SF 50, (84) F33. Pit. Period 11.

Sabina, *sestertius*, *RIC 3*: 1035, mint of Rome, AD 117-37

obv: SABINA AVGVSTA HADRIANI AVG PP; rev: VENERI GENETRICI, SC

SF 119, (327) F76. Gravel surface. Period 6.

Antoninus Pius, *denarius*, as *RIC 3*: 193, mint of Rome, AD 150-3  
obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TRP —; rev: COS IIII, Felicitas

SF 114, (302) F85. Slot. Period 6-7.

Marcus Aurelius, *as*, *RIC 3*: 1238, mint of Rome, AD 140-44

obv: AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG PII F COS; rev: IVVENTAS, SC

SF 97, (232) L33. Demolition debris. Period 8.

Faustina I, *denarius*, *RIC 3*: 351, mint of Rome, AD 141-61

obv: DIVA FAVSTINA; rev: AETERNITAS, Providentia

SF 75, (165) F7. Robber trench. Period 10a.

Geta, base *denarius*, AD 198-212

obv: PSE[PT GETA] CAES P[ONT]; rev: illegible

SF 137, (465), unstratified.

Caracalla, base *denarius*, AD 201-13

obv: ANTONINVS [PIVS AVG]; rev: illegible, Mars advancing right

SF 32, (49) F37. Cut. Period 10b-11.

Tetricus I, *antoninianus*, Elmer 1941, no 771, mint of Cologne, AD 270-4

obv: IMP C TETRICVS PF AVG; rev: [PAX] AVG

SF 74, (164) F47. Robber trench. Period 7.

Barbarous radiate, AD 270-84

obv: Tetricus I; rev: COMES AVG; 17 mm diameter

SF 44, (69) L7. Dump. Period 6.

Fragment of AE3 coin, illegible. 3rd-4th century

SF 98, (234) L15. Dump. Period 7.

Fragment of AE3 coin, illegible. 3rd-4th century

SF 62, (139) F62. Pit. Period 10b-11.

French jetton, dolphin type, 15th century

obv: illegible, dolphin to left; rev: triple-stranded cross fleuretty, within 4-arched tressure

1998.59

SF 22, (33) F12. Pit. Period 11.

Four fragments of an illegible jetton, 16th-18th century

**The small finds (Figs 51-53)**

*by Nina Crummy*

Only some of the more unusual and archaeologically important pieces from the excavation (1998.59) are illustrated and catalogued in this report. Brief descriptions are given of a representative sample of the other identifiable objects. A full list of objects from both the evaluation and the excavation is to be found in the site archive in Colchester Museums. Unless specifically qualified as from the 1997 evaluation, objects are from the 1998 excavation.

**Roman**

This small assemblage reveals very little about the occupation and activity on the site. The dress accessories consist mainly of hairpins, but also include a finger-ring of probable late Roman date. No brooches were recovered, no doubt a reflection of the site's location outside the military fortress and its annex, and outside the area of the pre-Boudican colony (*CAR 6*, 355), though a 1st-century military rosette stud was recovered from a post-medieval pit. Other personalia consist of tweezers, game counters, and an amulet. The bone counter would have been from a board game, while the pottery counters might have been a young child's toy, as shown by the recovery of a set of stacking grey ware counters from the Mercury Theatre site, Colchester (*The Colchester Archaeologist*, 11, 34). The amulet is a pendant lunula, a type often associated with auxiliary military equipment, but also worn by women and children, and also used on horse harness (Oldenstein 1976, 162-4, Taf 44, 438).

Fittings from a mid 1st-century hanging lamp probably came from the first building on the site and may indicate that it was a quite wealthy establishment, though their fragmentary nature also suggests that they may have been broken and discarded rubbish. However, fragments of thin Purbeck marble wall veneer from early contexts also show that the building was of some quality.

**Dress accessories**

**Fig 51, 1.** SF 48, (78) F33. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy finger-ring with a rectangular central panel decorated with punched dots. The panel is flanked by circular elements, each set with a small piece of ?glass. Maximum diameter 16 mm. Date: probably late 3rd or 4th century.

SF 28, (43) F22. Cut. Period 10b. Bone hairpin, Type 1 (CAR 2, 20-1). Date range, 43-c 200.

SF 49, (79) F4. Concrete pipe and trench. Period 12b. Bone hairpin, Type 1. Date range, 43-c 200.

SF 6, (9) F12. Pit. Period 11. Bone hairpin, Type 1. Date range, 43-c 200.

SF 82, (187) L8. Dump. Period 9+. Bone hairpin, Type 2 variant (CAR 2, 21). Date range, 43-c 200.

SF 61, (136) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Bone hairpin, Type 3 (CAR 2, 21-2). Date range, c 150 to late 4th century +.

SF 138, (480). Unstratified. Bone hairpin, Type 3. Date range, c 150 to late 4th century +.

SF 65, (145) F24. Robber trench. Period 10a. Bone hairpin, crudely made, with random incisions on the conical head. Late Roman.

SF 64, (141) F7. Robber trench. Period 10a. Bone hairpin with flat lozenge-shaped head. 3rd-4th century.

SF 80 (180) F66. Robber trench. Period 11. Copper-alloy hairpin, Type 3 (CAR 2, 29). Roman, possibly late.

SF 5, (5). Unstratified. Copper-alloy hairpin, Type 3. Roman, possibly late.

SF 27, (42) F29. Cut. Period 10b. Shale armlet fragment, plain.

SF 127, (355) F117. Burnt patch. Period 4c. Fragments of a copper-alloy curved strip, possibly an armlet.

#### Toilet implements

SF 132, (382) L89. Clay floor? Period 4b. Copper-alloy tweezers, most of blades missing.

#### Household equipment

**Fig 51, 2.** SF 135/136, (451/452) L108. Burnt layer. Period 2. Copper-alloy fittings from a hanging lamp: five fragments of double loop-in-loop chain, total length about 125 mm; a small ring with fragments of chain attached, external diameter 15 mm; ring with twisted join, external diameter 26 mm; diameter 26 mm, height 27.5 mm. Loeschcke (1919, Abb 38, 1059, 1-2) shows similar chains with lids and rings with twisted joins. Date: mid 1st century.

SF 134 (450) L107. Occupation. Period 4a. Copper-alloy ring-handle fragment, probably from a box (CAR 6, fig 5.23). Date: early Roman.

#### Game counters

SF 112, (290) F85. Slot. Periods 6-7. Bone counter, Type 1 (CAR 2, 91).

SF 89, (125) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Pottery counter made from a grey ware base.

SF 131, (365) F523. Pit. Period 12. Pottery counter made from a grey ware sherd.

SF 155, (212) F67. Cut. Periods 9-11. Pottery counter rough-out, made from a grey ware sherd.

#### Architectural stone

SF 147, (409) F159. Posthole. Period 4. Eight fragments of thin Purbeck marble veneer.

SF 146, (303) F85. Slot. Periods 6-7. Reused fragment of Purbeck marble veneer.

SF 152, (129) F24. Robber trench. Period 10a. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer.

SF 108, 265 L33. Demolition debris. Period 8. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer.

#### Hone

SF 144, (523) F3. Pit group. Periods 10b-11. Stone (?mudstone) veneer fragment, reused as a hone.

#### Stud

SF 130, (358) F117. Burnt patch. Period 4c. Composite stud from a wooden box (as CAR 2, fig 90, 2179-82).

#### Amulet

**Fig 51, 3.** SF 77. (167) L14. Gravel surface. Period 3. Copper-alloy lunula pendant with traces of white-metal coating. The metal is slightly thicker at the centre, and the point at which it starts to thicken is defined by pairs of slanting grooves. The top of the suspension loop has broken off. Height 27 mm, width 29 mm. The type is often associated with auxiliary military equipment, but also worn by women and children, and also used on horse harness (Oldenstein 1976, 162-4, Taf 44, 438). The form is long-lived, probably first occurring in the early 2nd century. A precious metal example was one of several amuletic pendants on an armlet or necklace in the late 4th-century grave of an infant or young child in the Butt Road cemetery (CAR 2, fig 54, 1806; CAR 9, 141).

#### Military equipment

SF 78, (174) F66. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy rosette stud with inlaid decoration, probably niello, as CAR 2, fig 144, 4174-5, fig 151, 4207-8; CAR 6, fig 6.32, 346-8. Date: mid to late 1st century.

#### Function unknown

**Fig 52, 4.** SF 60, (134) F24. Robber trench. Period 10a. Fragment of a cylindrical bone object, with lathe-turned bead moulding and grooves. There is a deep lathe centre mark in the end face. Length 54 mm, diameter 10 mm. A similar, though slightly wider, cylinder came from a site clearance context at Culver Street and was published as post-Roman (CAR 5, fig 106, 3638).

#### Anglo-Saxon

Two tools made from modified pig fibulae, one unfinished, point to Anglo-Saxon occupation in the area, though neither is stratified in an Anglo-Saxon context. A fragment of a Norwegian ragstone hone from a post-medieval or modern pit may also be a pre-Conquest import, but here is listed as medieval ((434) F565).

Pig fibulae with the proximal end removed, the shaft worked to a point, and a head formed by trimming the distal end, are found throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. The form of the head varies from triangular to rounded, and can sometimes be worked to elaborate shapes; some are pierced, others not (Mann 1982, fig 6; MacGregor 1982, fig 48). These objects have been variously identified as dress pins (*ibid* 1982, 91-2), awls (West 1985, fig 30, 14), pins, and needles (Mann 1982, 25-6). However, Riddler (1993, 114) has established that only two British examples are from Anglo-Saxon burials, neither in a position to suggest that it was fixed in clothing, while they are often found associated with finds, such as pin-beaters and loom weights, used in the production of textile on a warp-weighted loom.

A well-made example of this form, with pierced triangular head, came from a ?medieval pit at Culver Street, Colchester (CAR 5, 6-7, fig 2, 4). The finished tool from the Long Wyre Street site was residual in a post-medieval pit, the unfinished one came a feature that cut late Roman demolition debris (L33) and was itself cut by a post-medieval pit. The feature also contained a small finger-ring (Fig 33.8) of probable late medieval date. The re-occupation of the walled area of Colchester within the late Saxon period is well established (CAR 1, 70-74), and both the Long Wyre Street bone tools are most likely to be contemporary with the late Saxon pottery from the site (see Section 5.8). However, early to middle Saxon huts have been found within the ruins of the Roman town (CAR 1, 1-6; CAR 3, 73-5; CAR 6, 118-22) and an earlier date for the tools cannot therefore be entirely discounted. A small group of antler-working debris broadly dated to within a range from the 5th to the 8th centuries was found not far away on Site R of the Lion Walk excavations (CAR 5, 88-91), and a small brow tine with

cut marks at the base was found at Long Wyre Street in Period 10a wall robbing (archive list **SF – (233) F60**).

#### Modified pig fibulae

**Fig 52, 2. SF 55**, (122) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Pig fibula tool, unpierced, point only roughly shaped. Length 121 mm. Date: Anglo-Saxon.

**Fig 52, 1. SF 156**, (212) F67. Cut. Periods 9-11. Pig fibula tool, unfinished and unpierced. The proximal end has been roughly cut to a broad point. Length 129 mm. Date: Anglo-Saxon.

#### Medieval/post-medieval

As with the Roman small finds, this group offers little insight into medieval and post-medieval activity on the site. Most of the pieces are dress accessories of the cheapest kind, deriving from post-medieval and modern pits.

Medieval household equipment is represented by a well-preserved imported pot-quern of German basaltic lava and a slate counter. Allan suggests similar counters from Exeter were cut down from roof tiles to be used as pot lids (1984, fig 168, 35). Slate is unlikely to have been used as a roofing material in Colchester much before the early 13th century (Wood 1965, 294-5; Crummy forthcoming), and roof slates are not frequently found in any period. This piece comes from a Period 10a robber trench. Though the 13th century saw a general surge in the use of slate as a roofing material as the need for precautions against the spread of fire was recognised (Schofield 1984, 75-6), Jope and Dunning have shown that blue slate from Devon and Cornwall was already in use in southern Britain by the late 12th century (1954, 214), and this counter may have been made from a broken slate imported for use on a prestigious building in the town. Devon slate was used for royal buildings at Winchester, Southampton, and Portchester in the late 12th century (Wood 1965, 295), suggesting that Colchester Castle may also have been re-roofed in slate at much the same time.

Lava querns sourced from the Mayen quarries of the Eifel Hills in Germany were first imported into Britain by the invading Roman army. Trade in the stones continued throughout the Roman period, but appears to have ceased in the early Anglo-Saxon period, only to be re-established by middle to late Saxon times. Pot-querns were probably first imported c 1000 (Crawford & Röder 1955, fig 1, 8), and in the medieval period Colchester may have been a port of entry for the trade in these stones (*CAR 5*, 38-9). The date of this unstratified example is uncertain, but its good condition suggests that it is later medieval rather than late Saxon or early medieval.

The Norwegian ragstone hone is also a continental import. This example, from a post-medieval or modern pit, may be pre-Conquest, as the trade in these stones was already well established in the late Saxon period, and continued throughout the medieval period, possibly later.

The size of the iron buckle shows that it came from horse harness, and Egan has pointed out the element of display inherent in similar tinned and grooved examples, which would have caught the light as they moved (1995, 55). The goose radius pen is paralleled in Colchester by one from a medieval or post-medieval pit on the Culver Street site (*CAR 5*, 97, fig 106, 3637).

Other than iron nails, structural fittings consist of small fragments of lead window comes and a hinge pivot, similar to early medieval examples from Goltho Manor, Lincolnshire (Goodall 1987, fig 158, 89-90).

#### Dress accessories

**Fig 51, 4. SF 90**, (213) F67. Cut. Periods 9-11. Copper-alloy wire ring with decorative twisted join. Internal diameter 12 mm. Probably a late medieval finger-ring, worn on the top joint (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 325), though no precise parallel has been

found. The decorative twist is not matched on Roman finger-rings or earrings.

SF –, evaluation (38) F103. Wall footing. Modern. Slightly tapering rectangular one-piece hinged strap-plate, with an iron pin in the fold. Probably from a strap-end with terminal pendant, rather than a buckle. Date: late medieval to post-medieval.

SF 1, (1) F1. Pit. Period 10b. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 1 (*CAR 5*, 7-8).

SF 41, (66) F39. Cut. Periods 10b-11. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 1.

SF 57, (126) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Small copper-alloy pin, probably Type 1.

SF 30, (46). Unstratified. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 1.

SF 53, (113). Unstratified. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 1.

SF 35, (55) F1. Pit. Period 10b. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 2 (*CAR 5*, 7-8).

SF 33, (52) F37. Cut. Periods 10b-11. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 2.

SF 38, (60) F37. Cut. Periods 10b-11. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 2.

SF 10, (16) F12. Pit. Period 11. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 2.

SF 19, (25) F12. Pit. Period 11. Small copper-alloy pin, Type 2.

SF 45, (72) F1. Pit. Period 10b. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1 (*CAR 5*, 12-13). Date range: c 1375-1550/75.

SF 43, (68) F28. Pit. Period 10b. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 31, (47) F37. Cut. Periods 10b-11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 56, (123) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1?

SF 11, (17) F15. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 23, (35) F15. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 24, (36) F15. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 2, (2). Unstratified. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 1.

SF 34, (53) F37. Cut. Periods 10b-11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 2 (*CAR 5*, 12-13). Date range: c 1550/75-1700+.

SF 148, (65) F4. Concrete pipe and trench. Period 12b. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 2.

SF 13, (19) F15. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 2.

SF 54, (120) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Copper-alloy lace-end, Type 3 (*CAR 5*, 12-13). Date range: end of the 15th century.

SF 16, (22) F12. Pit. Period 11. Copper-alloy loop of wire with a twisted join. Probably used on clothing as an eyelet for laces.

#### Household equipment

**Fig 53, 8. SF 142**, (515). Unstratified. Upper-stone from a pot quern of German vesicular basaltic lava. The harp dressing on the flat lower face is quite well-preserved. The sides are very worn, a characteristic of pot querns, which consist of an upper-stone seated within a basin-like lower-stone. A slight overhang at the top gives the height of the wall of the lower-stone. The upper surface is rounded, with a large dished hopper area around the central perforation for the spindle. Also on the upper surface, set around the spindle hole, are four depressions for a handle. Their varying diameters, profiles and depths suggest that they were not all in use at once. One is very shallow, narrow, and pointed and shows little sign of wear, while another is deep and wide, with a long figure-of-eight-shaped groove in the base that suggests the handle slipped within it. On the underside, sunken keyholes for

the rynd run across the central hole and are stained with iron. Diameter 320 mm, height 89 mm.

SF 145, (294) F553. Robber trench. Period 10a. Slate counter with rough surfaces and edge.

#### Writing equipment

**Fig 52, 3.** SF 109, (266). Unstratified. Pen made from a goose radius. Length 139 mm. Goose radii split across the shaft to produce a point have been identified as pens, penholders, pipettes, and measuring implements (MacGregor 1985, 125-6). Date range: 14th century to early post-medieval.

#### Riding equipment

**Fig 51, 5.** (125) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Fragment of a large iron rectangular buckle coated with tin. The sides are looped for the separately-made roller. On the one surviving side are a pair of angled grooves. Similar buckles from London came from contexts dated c 1270 to 1350 (Egan 1995, fig 42, 35-7).

#### Structural fittings

SF 59, (133) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Two fragments of lead came for fixing glass window panes.

(119) F62. Pit. Periods 10b-11. Iron L-shaped hinge pivot of rectangular-section, with spiked stem and short upright, as Goodall 1987, fig 158, 89-90.

#### Tools

434 F565. Pit. Periods 11-12. Fragment of a Norwegian ragstone hone, very worn, tapering from the surviving end towards the centre, where it has snapped. These schist hones were first imported in the late Saxon period and the trade continued throughout the medieval period.

### Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

The classification follows that used in *CAR 10* where descriptions and discussions of fabric categories and pottery forms listed here are provided. Pottery CAM form numbers refer to the Camulodunum type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). A full catalogue of the coarse pottery is provided in the archive.

The site produced just over 54 kg of Roman pottery of all types, of which 1.9 kg is samian ware and 19 kg amphora. This report considers all the Roman pottery types from the site excluding the samian and amphorae, although they are included in the quantification in Tables 1 and 2. Proportions of fabric categories by weight (excluding the votive pots) for all site contexts are presented in Table 1 and for grouped site periods reflecting broad ceramic phases in Table 2. In terms of the coarse pottery, the grouped site periods correspond to early Roman (1st-early 2nd century), mid-late Roman (2nd-late 3rd century), and late Roman (late 3rd-4th century). The pottery from these grouped site periods is summarised below. Pottery from site contexts up to and including the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1 (Periods 1-2, c 43-60/1) shown in Table 2 was not recognised as a distinct assemblage amongst the small quantity of early Roman pottery and has been separated based on other site-dating evidence. There are no large coherent groups of pottery or unusual forms, and many of the datable fabrics and forms occur sporadically in small quantities or are residual in later contexts. Consequently none of the coarse pottery is illustrated, other than three whole votive pots and a complete flagon (Fig 54).

#### Early Roman pottery (Periods 1-3, c AD 43-early 2nd century)

Pottery from these contexts includes small quantities of sherds of pre-Flavian fine wares (EB & EC), and also *terra nigra*-type wares (UR) which are platter sherds in coarse grey fabrics (UR

Table 1. Roman pottery fabric groups for all contexts by weight.

pottery fabric groups	wt (g)
<b>samian:</b>	
South Gaul (SG)	476
Central Gaul (CG)	865
East Gaul (EG)	250
Colchester (CO)	332
<b>amphorae:</b>	
Dressel 20 (AJ)	11,735
amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region) amphorae (AA)	7,209
<b>mortaria:</b>	
Colchester and imported (TZ)	4,740
Verulamium region (TD)	151
Oxford white/cream fabric, unslipped (TK)	15
Oxford red/grey fabric with cream slip (TN)	25
Nene Valley white/buff fabric, unslipped or with reddish wash (TE)	50
Nene Valley white fabric with red/brown colour-coat (TF)	15
other unsourced mortaria	30
<b>fine wares:</b>	
<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares (UR)	34
Lyon colour-coated ware (EB)	7
early Colchester colour-coated ware (EC)	38
mica-gilt wares (ON)	21
Colchester red colour-coated roughcast ware (CB)	136
Colchester and other red colour-coated wares, except CB (CZ)	336
Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares (CL) – Trier fabric (NF)	6
Nene Valley colour-coated ware (EA)	232
white slipped fine wares and parchment wares (MQ)	54
brown colour-coated ware including Drag form 38 bowls (MR)	30
oxidised Hadham wares (CH)	84
Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated wares (MP)	50
<b>coarse wares:</b>	
coarse oxidised and related wares (DJ)	2,077
Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware (FJ)	54
BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1 (GA)	160
BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (GB)	5,248
black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware (KX)	175
other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares (GX)	16,498
silvery micaceous grey wares (WA)	10
grey slipped wares (WB)	1
fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and North Kent wares) (GP)	3
large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares (HZ)	2,850
shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares (HD)	162
<b>Total (g)</b>	<b>54,159</b>

Table 2. Roman pottery fabric groups for grouped site periods by weight.

		Periods 1-2	Period 3	Periods 4-6	Periods 7-9	Period 10+
<b>Fabrics (by weight in g)</b>	<b>fabric code</b>					
<b>samian:</b>						
South Gaul	SG	46	36	233	6	155
Central Gaul	CG		15	59	307	504
East Gaul	EG			20	55	175
Colchester	CO			42	275	15
<b>amphorae:</b>						
Dressel 20	AJ	345	515	5715	1720	3440
other amphorae	AA	1425	355	1590	2424	1415
<b>mortaria:</b>						
Colchester and imported	TZ	130	250	2180	1200	980
Verulamium region	TD	80		71		
Oxford white	TK					15
Oxford red	TN					25
Nene Valley white	TE					50
Nene Valley colour-coat	TF					15
other mortaria	TY					30
<b>fine wares:</b>						
<i>terra nigra</i> -type	UR	2	20	10		2
Lyon	EB	2				5
Colchester early	EC		5	28		5
mica-gilt wares	ON			6	10	5
Colchester roughcast	CB			22	67	47
Colchester/other red colour-coat	CZ	10		59	39	228
Rhenish (Trier NF)	CL					6
Nene Valley colour-coat	EA				36	196
white slipped/parchment	MQ			47	2	5
brown colour-coat	MR					30
Hadham	CH				35	49
Oxford red colour-coat	MP					50
<b>coarse wares:</b>						
coarse oxidised	DJ	473	197	443	250	714
Verulamium region	FJ		10	5	5	34
BB1(black-burnished type 1)	GA			40		120
BB2 (black-burnished type 2)	GB		2	945	1853	2523
pale grey black-burnished type	KX			10	125	40
coarse grey	GX	338	1157	2846	2865	9292
silver micaceous grey	WA			5		5
grey slipped	WB			1		
London-type	GP					3
heavily-tempered	HZ	1210	95	540	215	790
shell-tempered	HD			30	30	102
<b>Totals (g)</b>		<b>4061</b>	<b>2657</b>	<b>14947</b>	<b>11519</b>	<b>21070</b>
Period weight totals as % of assemblage		7.49	4.90	27.55	21.23	38.84

LTC). There is also a small quantity of pottery from the Verulamium region, both oxidised ware (FJ) and mortaria (TD). Pottery forms recorded are CAM 192 mortaria, CAM 266 jars, CAM 108 beakers, CAM 243-244/246 bowls, and also CAM 271 and CAM 273 storage jars. Examples of early flagon types CAM 140 and CAM 154 come from Period 4 contexts. A single sherd recorded as late Colchester colour-coat ware (CZ) in Periods 1-2 is either misattributed or intrusive.

Mid-late Roman pottery (Periods 4-6, mid 2nd-late 3rd century)

The small quantity of fine wares is dominated by sherds of late Colchester colour-coat vessels (CB & CZ). The only recorded form in these fabrics is the cornice-rim beaker CAM 391, though beaker forms CAM 392 and CAM 396 are recorded in Period 7-9 contexts. There are also small quantities of white-slipped ware (MQ) and mica-gilt sherds (ON). Pottery forms recorded include CAM 195 flanged mortaria, CAM 501 late wall-sided mortaria, CAM 268 and CAM 267 jars, and CAM 305 flanged bowls (KX). There is also a shell-tempered rim sherd (HD) from a necked jar (CAR 10, HD 35; Period 6 context). Two examples of the flagon type CAM 155 (1st-mid 2nd century) are recorded in post-Roman contexts, as are a few sherds of Rhenish ware (CL) in Trier fabric (CL-NF). However, the most common forms recorded are in black-burnished ware type 2 (GB). One aspect of the pottery assemblage from Period 4 onwards (but principally from Period 5 and later) is the relatively large quantity of black-burnished ware type 2 (GB) from the site (5.2 kg), principally of bowls of form CAM 37 but also of CAM 40, with frequent records of these mostly residual in late site contexts (Table 3).

Table 3. Numbers of principal black-burnished type bowl/dish forms recorded by fabric and totalled from individual contexts.

Fabric	GA (BB1)	GB (BB2)	KX	WA	total recorded
<b>CAM form</b>					
<b>37</b>		75	7		82
<b>39</b>	2	3	3		8
<b>40</b>		21	1	1	23
<b>303</b>			1		1
<b>304</b>					0
<b>305</b>	1		11		12

Late Roman pottery (Periods 7-9, late 3rd-4th century, and late Roman pottery in post-Roman contexts, Periods 10+)

Although some pottery types which first appear in Period 7, notably Nene Valley colour-coat (EA) and Hadham wares (CH), are previously recorded from early-mid 3rd-century contexts in Colchester (CAR 10, 297), coin evidence suggests that Period 7 dates to no earlier than the late 3rd century (ie after AD 275).

Amongst the fine wares there is a small quantity of Nene Valley colour-coat (EA), including a lidded bowl form CAM 308, and a small quantity of Hadham ware (CH) in late Roman contexts. However, much of the late Roman pottery, most notably Oxford red colour-coat ware (MP), is residual in post-Roman contexts (Period 10+). The post-Roman contexts included all of the small number of sherds of Nene Valley mortaria (TE & TF) and Oxford mortaria (TK & TN), also most of the shell-tempered sherds (HD).

Late Roman pottery forms recorded from the post-Roman contexts include a brown colour-coat ware (MR) flanged bowl (CAM 316) with white-painted lines, a Nene Valley colour-coat (EA) bead-rim beaker (CAM 410), and a shell-tempered hooked-rim jar (CAR 10; HD type 36).

The illustrated pottery – the votive pots (Fig 54)

Fig 54 – F162 Period 4b. Jar with lid (votive pot)

Fabric GX (coarse grey ware), ovoid jar with slight neck below a flattened slightly undercut rim and basal foot, burnished lightly over lower body, small part of rim broken away. 2nd century.

Fabric GX (coarse grey ware), lid with plain rounded rim, broken, incomplete.

Fig 54 – F203 Period 6. Jar with lid (votive pot)

Fabric FJ (Verulamium region), necked and shouldered jar with plain everted rim and pale orange-coloured surface. CAM 221. The orange colour may indicate a date towards the mid 2nd century, near the end of the Verulamium pottery floruit (CAR 10, 347).

Fabric GX (coarse grey ware), lid with plain rounded rim, broken, incomplete, found inside jar.

Fig 54 – F205 Period 4b. Jar with tile lid (votive pot)

Fabric GX (coarse grey ware), jar with broad cordoned shoulder (plain), exterior burnished apart from neck just under the rim, burnishing also extends over the top of the rim. CAM 218B, 1st-early 2nd century (CAR 10, 477). The vessel also contained four sherds from a BB1 (GA) dish or bowl (c AD 120+).

Fig 54 – L3 Period 6. Flagon

Fabric DJ (coarse oxidised wares) flagon in cream fabric with cupped mouth and plain rim, flat base with foot-ring groove. Probably a local (Colchester) product (CAR 10, DJ type 102).

The samian ware  
by Joanna Bird

Summary (Tables 4 and 5; pp 40-42)

The small assemblage of samian ware ranges in date from the Claudio-Neronian period up to at least the early 3rd century. The 1st-century wares are all South Gaulish, and include seven decorated bowls, of which the earliest is dated c AD 75-95. The plain South Gaulish samian is mainly Neronian to mid-Flavian in date; certainly pre-Flavian plain forms are rare, with single identified examples of Ritt 8, Ritt 12, and Dr 24/25.

Apart from one or two plain sherds from the Trajanic potteries at Les Martres-de-Veyre, the 2nd-century samian all comes from Lezoux. It includes the four plain-ware stamps, of Atilianus i, Caratillus, Macrinus iii and a possibly anonymous potter, and four decorated bowls, dating variously between c AD 125 and the end of the century. The plain wares include some of the latest forms imported, DR 31R, Dr 45, and Walters 79.

The small amount of East Gaulish samian all comes from Trier, and includes a decorated bowl by the Dexter-Censor group of mid to late Antonine date, a Dr 45 mortarium, late versions of the Dr 31 series and the ungritted mortarium/bowl Curle 21. The presence of Trier ware where there are no Rheinzabern products is unusual, but Colchester does have a relatively high proportion of Trier ware for a British site (Bird 1999, 75).

Finally, there are eight pieces of samian from the Colchester workshops, all plain forms, including Dr 18/31 or 18/31R, DR 31, Dr 31R, DR 33, and Walters 79; all are of Antonine date, and mainly mid-to later Antonine.

Table 4. Samian from features.

Feature no	Find no	Comment	Period	Date
102	305	SG sherd	-	probably pre-Flavian
070	191	Dr 27, SG	-	probably pre-Flavian
142	379	Stamped Dr 33 (see Brenda Dickinson report on p 39).	1-7	
105	316	SG sherd	1-7	probably pre-Flavian
167	467	Dr 15/17 (R), SG	2-5	pre-Flavian
145	388	Dr 27 probably, SG	3	Neronian-early Flavian
159	409	1: Dr 18 rim, SG 2: Dr 18/31 rim, CG 3: SG sherd	4	Neronian-early Flavian Hadrianic-early Antonine mid- to later 1st century
121	398	Dr 30 or 37, CG	4b	Antonine
119	348	Rim fragment, Colchester samian	5	Antonine
086	283	CG sherd	5	first half 2nd century
144	384	Dr 27, SG	5	pre- or early Flavian
120	351	Two joining sherds, CG	5a	Hadrianic-Antonine
133	370	1: Dr 18 rim, SG 2: SG sherd	5a	pre- or early Flavian mid to later 1st century
077	299	CG sherd (Les Martres-de-Veyre)	6	early 2nd century
069	193	Ritt 12, SG	7	Neronian
073	199	Dr 31R, Colchester samian	8	mid- to late Antonine
034	202	CG sherd	8-9	Hadrianic-Antonine
049	093	Dr 18 or 15/17, SG	9	pre-Flavian
075	207	Dr 30 or 37, CG: burnt	9	Antonine
067/L033	212	1: Rim, probably Dr 31R, Colchester samian 2: Rims, three Dr 33s, CG 3: Rim, Dr 31, CG 4: Dr 31R, CG 5: Rim, Curle 15/23, CG. See also L033 (bag 519) below.	9-11	Antonine Antonine mid- to late Antonine mid- to late Antonine mid- to late Antonine
024	085	Two joining sherds, Dr 18, SG	10a	pre- or early Flavian
080	267	1: Dr 27 rim, SG 2: SG sherd	10a	Neronian mid- to later 1st century
007	135	Dr 33 rim, Colchester samian	10a	Hadrianic-Antonine
024	155	Rim, Curle 11, CG	10a	Hadrianic-early Antonine
024	144	Dr 33, CG	10a	Antonine
024	088	Dr 18 or 15/17, SG	10a	pre- or early Flavian
007	150	CG bowl/dish sherd	10a	Hadrianic-Antonine
552	295	Dr 33, CG	10a	Antonine
028	076	1: Dr 37, CG. Probably a freestyle hunting scene, including a horseman (Oswald 1936-7, type 245). The long corded motif in the background is similar to ones used by Paternus II and Severus (Stanfield & Simpson 1958, pl 104, no 3, pl 128, no 2). 2: Dr 37 rim, CG, with fragment of ovolo border. 3: Oxfordshire ware sherd with rouletted decoration, Young 1977, form C84.	10b	mid to late Antonine  Antonine second half 4th century
001	071	DR 29, SG	10b	Neronian-early Flavian
022	048	Dr 29 probably, SG, with a fragment of scroll and rosette	10b	c AD 70-85
037	051	Dr 33, CG	11	Antonine
062	125	1: Seven sherds, stamped Dr 31R (see Brenda Dickinson report on p 39). 2: Dr 18 or 15/17, SG 3: Dr 27, SG 4: Dr 37, CG, with double cordon at the base of the decoration 5: Walters 79, CG 6: Dr 31/Lud Sb, EG (Trier)	11	pre- or early Flavian Flavian Hadrianic-Antonine mid- to late Antonine early to mid-3rd century

Table 4 continued.

503	241	Two sherds	11	mid to late 1st century
062	158	Two joining sherds, Dr 31, Colchester samian	11	Antonine
051	107	Dr 30, SG	11	pre- or early Flavian
051	111	Dr 18, SG	11	Neronian
043	208	Oxfordshire ware sherd with rouletted decoration, cf Young 1977, form 79.8	11	second half 4th century
015	030	Stamped Dr 31 (see Brenda Dickinson report on p 39).	11	
066	173	1: Rim, Ritt 12 or Curle 11, SG 2: Dr 35, SG; worn inside. 3: Two sherds, DR 18/31, CG	11	Neronian-early Flavian Flavian-Trajanic Hadrianic-Antonine
064	137	Mortarium sherd, CG; worn inside.	11	mid- to late Antonine
003	039	Rim fragment, probably Dr 38 flange, CG	11	Hadrianic-early Antonine
012	008	1: Dr 18, SG 2: Curle 23, CG	11	Claudio-Neronian mid- to late Antonine
023	094	Footring sherd, probably a bowl (Ritt 12 or Curle 11) but with an unusually high straight foot, SG	11	pre- or early Flavian
002	059	Oxfordshire-ware rim, probably a bowl (cf Young 1977, forms C76-9)	12	mid- to late 4th century
002/L100	484	1: Dr 18 rim, SG 2: Two adjoining bowl sherds, Ritt 12 or Curle 11, SG. See also L100 (bags 474, 483) below.	12	pre-Flavian Neronian-early Flavian
551	278	Dr 45, EG (Trier)	12	late 2nd to mid-3rd century
565	502	Dr 27, CG	12	Hadrianic-early Antonine
004	012	Rim, Dr 31 or 31R, CG	12b	mid- to late Antonine
010	007	Dr 29, SG. Upper zone scroll with pointed leaves and large frilly rosettes, as found, for example, on stamped bowls of Licinus (Knorr 1919, Taf 45, A).	12b	c AD 45-65
004	050	1: Dr 29, SG, with a fragment of the upper zone decoration showing a running hare, probably in a panel. 2: Dr 37, SG. This ovolo, with a small trident tip to the tongue, is recorded for M Crestio and CV Albanus; the motifs below, foliage elements in a saltire, are common on Flavian bowls. 3: Dr 33, CG	12b	c AD 55-75  c AD 75-95  Antonine
150	410	Oxford ware sherd	12b	late 3rd to 4th century

#### The samian potters' stamps

by Brenda Dickinson

Each entry gives: excavation number, potter (i, ii, where homonyms are involved), die, form reading, published example (if any), pottery of origin, discussion, date.

Superscript a and b indicate:

<sup>a</sup> A stamp attested at the pottery in question.

<sup>b</sup> Not attested at the pottery in question, but other stamps of the potter known from there.

1 L007 307 Atilianus i 5d 33 TILI NIM Lezoux<sup>b</sup>.

One of the potter's less common stamps, noted once on form 31R and three times on form 33, including an example from the fort at Wallsend. Atilianus i used other dies to stamp mid- to late Antonine forms, such as 79, 79R, 80 and Tg. c AD 160-200. Site Period 6.

2 F142 379 Caratillus 2a 33 [CARAT]ILLI Lezoux<sup>a</sup>.

This stamp occurs at Camelon, in Antonine I at Birrens (Wild 1975, fig 49, 4) and at South Shields. It has been noted on forms 18/31R and 27, but also on forms introduced in the later

2nd century, such as 80 and (probably) 79. c AD 140-165. Site Periods 1-7.

3 F062 125 Macrinus iii 7b 31R MACRINUS Lezoux<sup>a</sup>.

The use of this stamp on for 31R shows that it was current c AD 160, or later, as does its occurrence in the Wroxeter Gutter hoard. c AD 160-180. Site Period 10b.

4 F015 30 MM on form 31, Central Gaulish.

The potter's name cannot be guessed at, if indeed a name was intended. Other examples of this stamp have been noted on forms 31, 38, and 31R. Its occurrence on the last makes an Antonine date certain, with the likelihood of its use extending beyond AD 160. Site Period 11.

#### The amphora: summary

by Dr Paul R Sealey

The assemblage consisted of 214 pieces, weighing 18.325 kg. The identifiable forms are dominated by Dressel 20 (83 pieces, 10.505 kg: 57% of assemblage by weight, 39% by sherd number), as one would expect from a town-centre site in Colchester. The second largest identifiable group is Gaulish

Table 5. Samian from layers.

Layer no	Find no	Comment	Period	Date
143	486	Two sherds, probably one pot: Dr 29, SG. The lower zone decoration includes a panel containing a saltire with a small pinnate leaf and a five-bladed foliage motif.	1	c AD 50-65
113	444	Dr 27 rim, SG	1b	Neronian
132	481	Dr 24/25 rim, SG	2	Neronian
108	458	1: Two joining sherds, Dr 29, SG. The palmette in the upper zone occurs on bowls with mould-signatures of Modestus (Mees 1995, Taf 141, no 1, with internal stamp of Crestio) and on bowls with mould-signatures and mould-stamps of Murranus (Mees 1995, Taf 148, nos 1, 2, with internal Murranus stamps, Taf 154 no 3, Taf 155 no 1). The four-armed rosette in the festoon at the base is recorded on bowls with internal Murranus stamps (Knorr 1952, Taf 44, B, C). Spurred buds and bands of arrowheads are common Neronian motifs, but the use of this type of small beaded rosette as a scroll binding is uncommon. 2: Dr rim, SG	2	c AD 50-70  Neronian
108	449	Rim, small Dr 27, SG	2	pre- or early Flavian
057	393	Dr 29 rim, SG	2	Neronian
105	432	1: Dr 18, SG 2: Two SG platter sherds	3	pre- or early Flavian mid to late 1st century
106	430	Dr 29 rim, SG, with part of scroll and rosette in upper zone	3	c AD 50-70
560	469	Dr 29 rim, SG	3	pre- or early Flavian
112	443	Dr 18 rim, SG	3	Neronian
504	262	SG platter sherd.	3+	mid to late 1st century
095	402	Dr 27 rim, CG	4	early to mid 2nd century
100	474	Dr 37, CG. The decoration includes an arrangement of large trifold and astragalus motifs flanked by rings, as found in the work of Sacer, Attianus, and Drusus II (Stanfield & Simpson 1958, pl 83 no 12, pl 85 no 9, pl 88 no 6).	4a	c AD 125-150
100	483	1: Dr 27 rim, SG 2: Dr 18, SG 3: SG cup sherd. See also F002/L100 (bag 484) above.	4a	Neronian pre-Flavian mid to late 1st century
111	477	Dr 27, CG	4a	first half of the 2nd century
097	424	Dr 18, SG	4a	Neronian
089	386	Ritt 8 rim, SG	4b	Neronian
089	399	Dr 36, CG	4b	Hadrianic
077	436	Four sherds, Dr 27 rim, SG: edge of stamp is present but not identifiable	4b/c	Flavian-Trajanic
064	387	Dr 27 foot, SG	4b/c	Neronian-Flavian
065	395	Dr 18, SG	4c	Neronian-Flavian
021	322	Dr 27, SG	4c	Flavian-Trajanic
055	328	1: Dr 15/17 rim, SG 2: Rim, Dr 36, SG 3: Two joining sherds, Dr 31R rim, CG	5	pre-Flavian Flavian-Trajanic mid- to late Antonine
007	291	Dr 18/31 rim, CG	6	Hadrianic-Antonine
007	307	1: Stamped Dr 33 (see Brenda Dickinson report on p 39). 2: DR 37, EG, in the style of the Dexter-Censor group at Trier. For the half-medallion with pellets between two plain bands, see Fölzer 1913, Taf 16, no 12	6	mid- to late Antonine
069	353	Dr 33, CG	6-7	Hadrianic-Antonine
016	219	Dr 33, Colchester samian	7	mid- to late Antonine
016	216	Walters 79, Colchester samian	7	mid- to late Antonine
015	226	DR 45, wall fragment, CG	7	mid- to late Antonine
010	210	Walters 79, CG	7	mid- to late Antonine
006	338	Two sherds Dr 18/31 rim, CG	8	Hadrianic-Antonine

Table 5 continued.

033	519	1: Two joining sherds, Dr 18/31 rim, probably intended to be 18/31R, from internal traces. Colchester samian 2: Two sherds, Dr 31R rim, CG 3: Rims, three Dr 31s, CG 4: Dr 31/Lud Sa rim, EG (Trier) 5: Dr 33 rim, CG 6: Two joining sherds, Curle 15/23 rim, CG 7: Flange, probably Curle 21, EG (Trier). See also F067/L033 (bag 212) above.	8	Antonine  mid- to late Antonine Antonine mid- to late Antonine Antonine mid- to late Antonine late 2nd to early 3rd century
005	203	1: Two joining sherds, Dr 33 rim 2: Dr 33, CG 3: Dr 37, CG, top of ovolo border 4: Dr 31, CG	9+	Antonine Antonine Antonine Antonine
008	185	1: Curle 15/23 probably, CG 2: Rim, Dr 31R probably, CG 3: CG sherd	9+	mid- to late Antonine mid- to late Antonine Hadrianic-Antonine
005	206	Dr 18/31, CG	9+	Hadrianic-Antonine

sherds of Gauloise 4 type (43 sherds, 2.205 kg: 12% of assemblage by weight, 20% by sherd count). Many plain body sherds were from unidentifiable forms (79 sherds, 3.855 kg: 21% by weight, 37% by sherd count). The smaller groups of identifiable forms include Dressel 2-4, Kapitän II and *Camulodunum* type 184 (Rhodian). The Rhodian amphoras are reported to be of early Roman and probably military origin. This piece comes from a very early context on this site, where principal dating is a samian date of AD 50-65, which certainly does not contradict a military origin.

A count of those sherds coming from post-Roman residual contexts was as follows: unclassified – 24 sherds; Dressel 20 – 23 sherds; Gauloise – 1 sherd. On sherd count alone, one would expect 4.5 residual Dressel 20 sherds to each Gauloise. The ratio here is 23 to one. This must indicate that the Dressel 20 sherds are considerably more common in later (ie higher) contexts (which are more prone to be cut by later features than the early contexts), than the Gauloise, which are much commoner in earlier contexts.

More details are given in the CAT Archive Report 44.

Graffiti on Roman pottery (Fig 54)

One sherd of a Fabric GX bowl from L8 (Period 9 demolition) bore the graffiti SABINA. A second identical sherd from the same context had the graffiti SA(B?)... , which was presumably another example of the personal name Sabina.

The early Anglo-Saxon pottery  
by Susan Tyler

Summary

A total of 93g of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from four finds contexts: 81, 129, 152, and 155; these are contained within three features F16, F26, and F24.

Catalogue

- 1 Rim sherd. Everted, slightly flattened. Medium hard black fabric with abundant organic temper. Burnish on outer, particularly in neck hollow. Wt 7g. Find no 81, F26.

- 2 Body sherd. ?Cooking pot. Medium hard black fabric with abundant organic temper. Outer burnished black. Inner and core black. Carbonised food residue on inner. Wt 13g. Find no 81, F26.
- 3 Body sherd. Hard fabric with abundant small to medium quartz-sand temper. Inner and core grey. Outer patchy orange-brown/grey. Wt 34g. Find no 81, F26.
- 4 Base sherd. Hard fabric with common small to medium quartz-sand temper. Outer part burnished grey over brown. Inner and core grey. Wt 13g. Find no 129, F24.
- 5 Body sherd. Medium hard black fabric with abundant organic temper. Outer smoothed. Thumb impression on outer surface. Wt 9g. Find no 129, F24.
- 6 Body sherd. Hard dark grey fabric with common organic temper. Wt 2g. Find no 129, F24.
- 7 Body sherd. From a large vessel, probably a cooking pot. Medium soft fabric with common organic temper. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core black. Wt 8g. Find no 129, F24.
- 8 Body sherd. Hard black fabric. Common organic temper. Surfaces smoothed. Wt 2g. Find no 155, F24.
- 9 Body sherd, dark grey fabric with quartz sand inclusions and burnished surface. Wt 5g. Find no 152, F16.

Comments

None of the nine sherds of early Saxon pottery have diagnostic features to help with dating. The predominance of organic tempering suggests the 6th century; although it is difficult to be precise, and the pottery could have been in use anywhere within a date range of c AD 450-750. Hamerow's (1993) discussion of the dating significance of organic and sandy fabrics, with respect to the pottery from the early Saxon settlement at Mucking, suggests that a mixed assemblage of both fabrics is indicative of the period AD 450-550. However, it is difficult to apply this with any certainty to such a small assemblage.

Most of the sherds are fairly unabraded, some with carbonised food residue on their inner surfaces, suggesting use as cooking vessels. This is suggestive of their derivation from Early Saxon occupation on the site.

No Late Saxon pottery was identified.

### Summary of medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

For a fuller version of this report, including detailed spot dating, see CAT Archive Report 44. Important dated contexts are discussed below. A total of 32 kg of pottery was excavated. Fabric descriptions are after Cunningham 1985.

#### 12th- to 13th-century pottery

Robber trench F6 produced small amounts of sand-with-superficial-shell-tempered ware, early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware. Forms comprise a thickened, everted cooking-pot rim in early medieval ware, which could be as early as 11th century, although the presence of medieval coarse ware precludes a date before the 12th century. Robber trench F8 also produced part of a thickened everted cooking-pot rim in sand-with-superficial-shell-tempered ware, which may be 11th or 12th century. Robber trench F24 produced a larger group of similar pottery, although the presence of a sherd of Hedingham ware in 144 provides a date of not before the later 12th to 13th century. There are also a few sherds of ?late medieval sandy orange ware within this feature, but these are likely to be intrusive.

The latest pottery in pit F565 is a sherd of Hedingham ware; it has a buff fabric which is often found on Hedingham ware dating to the second half of the 12th century. There is also an example of a medieval coarse ware H2 cooking-pot rim with a later date of early to mid 13th century (Drury 1993, 81). Similarly pit F701 produced a plain sherd of Hedingham ware with the usual creamy orange fabric and an H2 cooking-pot rim, providing a most likely date of early to mid 13th century. Two other features, pit F48 and robber trench F68 produced one or two sherds of medieval fabrics (namely shell-and-sand-tempered ware, early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware) and could be contemporary with the above, but with such small amounts of pottery, all could be residual.

#### Later medieval pottery

Much more pottery belongs to the later medieval period and the predominant ware is Colchester ware. This is long-lived, manufactured between the late 13th and mid 16th centuries, although here most examples are plain, with a sparse or absent glaze and occasional cream slip-painting, all features indicating a later 14th- to 16th-century date. Groups containing Colchester ware are sometimes accompanied by other types of sandy orange ware, and fragments from Langerwehe stoneware jugs. Langerwehe stoneware was imported from Rhineland Germany from the later 14th to 15th centuries, and its presence may reflect Colchester's importance as a port at this time. Some of these features also contained a few sherds of 'Tudor Green' ware; this was made principally in the late 15th century, but has an overall date range of c 1380-1550. Features containing these wares and therefore dating from the late 14th to 16th centuries are pit sequence F29/F37/F39/F51, and pits F28, F33, F43, F62 and F574. Pits F43 and F62 shared sherds from the same vessel and therefore were open at the same time. Of these features, pits F28, F33 and F62 produced a few sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pushing the date well into the 16th century. In addition, pit F28 produced a sherd of Raeren stoneware, imported from the later 15th to mid-16th centuries. Pit F62 produced the largest group of pottery from this excavation, with 8kg of pottery from Find no 125. As well as examples of wares mentioned above, this feature produced sherds of Siegburg stoneware and a sherd of Cheam white. Other features containing plain late medieval Colchester ware, but without the more closely dated imported and traded wares, are pit F1, cess-pit F81, pit F151 and pit F502. The latter two produced only single sherds of Colchester ware and could be residual. Cut F22 and robber trench F26 contained earlier type slip-coated and green glazed sherds and could be as early as 13th century, although

?later plain sherds are also present. The most common Colchester ware forms are large jugs or cisterns, along with jars, bowls, and a lid. Pit F622 may also be late medieval but the most recent sherd from this feature could be as late as the 17th century.

#### Post-medieval pottery

Pits F12, F15 and F621 produced substantial 17th-century groups. Diagnostic material from pit F12 comprises tin-glazed earthenware, the foot from a Frechen stoneware jug of a type dating from the mid-16th to mid 17th centuries, a sherd of Surrey-Hampshire white ware perhaps from a colander, sherds of 17th-century black-glazed ware and various post-medieval red earthenware kitchen wares.

Pit F15 produced similar wares and closely datable examples comprise part of a polychrome painted albarello dating to around the second quarter of the 17th century, and part of a Westerwald stoneware drinking jug dating from 1665 to 1700, the latest datable piece in this group. Pit F621 produced some semi-complete vessels including a Netherlands tin-glazed earthenware plate dating to c 1640, some Metropolitan slipware and a Surrey-Hampshire white ware ?chamber pot most likely dating to the second half of the 17th century. Pit F17 may also belong to the 17th century and pits F104, F130 and F630 can probably be assigned a post-medieval date, although only one or two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware are present.

Pit F13 produced quite a good group dating to c 1800. As well as the usual wares dating to the late 18th to early 19th centuries, there is part of a caneware teapot, an unusual good-quality find. Nineteenth- to 20th-century pottery occurred in some features but there are no groups of pottery dating to the modern period. Features not mentioned in this summary either contained very small amounts of undiagnostic material or contained such a mixture they cannot be dated.

#### The Roman glass

by H E M Cool

The excavations produced 34 fragments of vessel glass (nos 1 to 30). The majority of the fragments are either undiagnostic blue/green body fragments (nos 11-17) or fragments from blue/green prismatic bottles (nos 18-30). The former category are not closely datable within the 1st- to 3rd-century period, and the latter are common finds from the later 1st to the early to mid 3rd centuries (CAR 8, 179). The fragments from blue/green flasks (nos 7-9) are equally undiagnostic from a chronological point of view as such flasks are in use throughout the Roman period, and again it is only their blue/green colour which narrows the date slightly to the 1st to 3rd century.

Three fragments come from very common and more closely datable forms. No 1 is a fragment from a blue/green pillar moulded bowl, a type that had gone out of use by the end of the 1st century (CAR 8, 15), and nos 2 and 3 are from the ubiquitous colourless cylindrical cups in use during the later 2nd- to mid 3rd-century period (*ibid*, 82). Another drinking vessel may be represented by the small colourless fragment no 4. It is too small to identify with certainty, but it could well come from the lower body of a beaker that was both indented and decorated with arcaded trails around the edge of the indentations like the example from Red House, Corbridge (Charlesworth 1979, 58 no 2, fig 20). These are a hybrid between the common indented beaker of the mid 1st to early 2nd century (CAR 8, 69) and the contemporary arcaded beaker (Isings Form 33). The latter are much rarer than indented beakers in the north-western provinces, so it is somewhat of a coincidence that the only other example known from Colchester came from the excavations at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (CAR 8, 71 no 394, fig 5.5). If this identification of no 4 is correct, the combination of the form and

the good-quality colourless glass which the fragment is made from would suggest a Flavio-Trajanic date.

Two other vessels are represented by nos 5 and 10. The abraded fragment no 5 cannot be closely identified, but the suggested 2nd-century date of the context in which it was found would be appropriate for vessel of good-quality colourless glass with this type of decoration. Bases such as no 10 are not normally closely datable, but the combination of a tubular pushed-in base ring, post-technique scars and blue/green glass is more likely on a vessel of the later 2nd to 3rd centuries than on an earlier one. This base was used as an object before it was finally discarded as the body has been carefully chipped away to leave the base as a glass disc. This is a common type of re-use (CAR 8, 167), though what purpose it served is unclear as the discs are frequently much larger than the glass, bone and pottery disc normally described as counters.

Two fragments of cast window glass were also found (nos 31-2). This is the typical window glass of the 1st to 3rd century. One of these fragments (no 31) has also been re-used as a tool as one edge has been chipped to a sharp edge.

In summary, therefore, this is a 1st- to 3rd-century assemblage with the more closely identifiable vessels being concentrated in the 1st- and in the later 2nd- to mid 3rd-century periods. Unlike many sites at Colchester, there is no material of the mid 1st century, nor are there any fragments of later 3rd- or 4th-century vessels. The assemblage is thus very similar to the small group of vessel fragments found during the excavations at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (CAR 8, table 1.2, 249).

#### Cast and related techniques

- 1 Pillar moulded bowl; rim fragment. Blue/green. Fragment retaining part of 1 rib with tooling mark on top. Present height 45mm. L63 (508).

#### Colourless blown

- 2 Cylindrical cup; rim fragment. Colourless; streaky iridescent surfaces. Vertical rim, edge fire thickened. Rim diameter 85mm, present height 21mm, wall thickness 1mm. F34 (202).
- 3 Cylindrical cup; rim fragment. Colourless. Vertical rim, edge fire rounded. Present height 15mm, wall thickness 1mm. F77 (242).
- 4 Body fragment. Colourless with clouded iridescent surfaces. Convex-curved side with part of indentation and vertical rib. Dimensions 23 x 19mm, wall thickness 1mm. L110 (439).
- 5 Body fragment. Colourless; dulled surfaces. Convex-curved. Broad band of 9 fine abraded lines bordered on each side by slightly broader line. Dimensions 35 x 14mm, wall thickness 1.5mm. F77 (242).
- 6 3 clouded body fragments. F115 (336).

#### Blue/green blown

- 7 Globular flask; neck and shoulder fragment; iridescent surface. Cylindrical neck curving out to convex side, light tooling marks at base of neck. Neck diameter approx 15mm, dimensions 39 x 27mm, wall thickness 2mm. F156 (400).
- 8 Flask?; neck and shoulder fragment; iridescent surfaces. Base of cylindrical neck curving out to convex-curved shoulder. Internal diameter at base of neck approx 35mm, dimension 40 x 35mm, thickness 1.5mm. L3 (211).
- 9 Flask. Blue/green; clouded iridescent surfaces. Cylindrical neck fragment. Dimensions 31 x 15mm, wall thickness 2mm. L10 (210).
- 10 Base fragment; streaky weathered surfaces. Tubular-pushed-in base ring; high kicked base;

post-technique scars on base ring. Side grozed. L7 (264).

- 11-17 8 body fragments. F24 (144); F34 (202); F51 (102); F51 (107); F133 (370); L18 (315) – 2 fragments; L107 (438).
- 18 Bottle; fragment from junction of neck/shoulder. L8 (185).
- 19-20 Prismatic bottles; 2 shoulder and side fragments. F16 (153); L560 (469).
- 21-24 Square bottle; 4 side fragments with angles at 90° F51 (102); F85 (275); L5 (203); L560 (469).
- 25-30 Prismatic bottle; 7 flat side fragments. F47 (171); F67/L33 (212); L36 (326); L8 (185); L33 (212); L560 (469).

#### Cast matt/glossy window glass

- 31 Light green. Fragment grozed to form sharp edge for use as blade or scraper. Length 33 x 22mm. F26 (81).
- 32 Blue/green fragment. L15 (226)

More details in CAT Archive Report 44.

#### The daub

by Nina Crummy

Very few features survive on the pieces in this small assemblage. The only distinctive material worth retaining is from the Period 5b oven, where the impressions of vegetable tempering may be useful for comparative analysis in the future.

For more details, see CAT Archive Report 44.

*The X-rayed iron objects clay tobacco pipes, and unworked stone*

by Nina Crummy

See archive report.

#### Charcoal identification

by Anne-Marie Bojko (Colchester Museums)

This group was mainly oak, with a little hazel, willow and birch. See CAT Archive Report 44.

Charred plant macrofossils and other remains: an assessment

by V Fryer

Twelve samples were submitted for assessment.

#### Method

See archive report.

#### Plant macrofossils

With the exception of charcoal fragments which were abundant in all samples, plant macrofossils were extremely rare. Single grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were noted in samples 323 and 504 respectively. Cereal chaff was not recorded. Seeds/fruits of common weed species were recovered at a very low density and included fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), indeterminate small grasses, dock (*Rumex* sp.), and sheep's sorrel (*R. Acetosella*). Fruits of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike thrush (*Eleocharis* sp.), both common wetland plants, were present as single specimens in samples 274 and 503. Possible fragments of hazel (*Coryllus avellana*) nutshell were recovered from samples 437 and 503 and the latter sample also produced a single bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) seed. Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate buds and seeds and rare fragments of mineral replaced wood.

#### Other materials

Other materials were present in all but sample 504 at a low to moderate density. Fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are possibly derived from the combustion of organic materials at very high temperatures. Probable dietary residues included fragments of mammal bone, egg shell, fish bone and marine mollusc shell. Possible industrial waste included hammer scale, slag and vitrified material.

## Discussion

Because of the extremely low density of material recovered, interpretation of the assemblages is very difficult. Samples 110 and 323 may possibly be derived from a very low-density scatter of refuse, including domestic and industrial residues and structural detritus. The remaining assemblages are inconclusive, and unfortunately contribute little or nothing to the interpretation of the site. It is not possible to ascertain the intended function of any of the buildings represented by the various structural elements, and it is unclear whether the hearths and ovens were intended for industrial or domestic use. However, it is possible that hedgerow waste including hazel, brambles and indeterminate budded stems were used as a fuel source for oven F194 (sample 503). Cereal usage and/or processing appears not to have occurred in the vicinity of the site.

As the low density of material has precluded the exact interpretation of any of the assemblages, it was decided that no further quantitative work should be undertaken.

See CAT Archive Report 44 for table.

## Metallurgical debris

by Lynne Keays

Two samples of soil were taken from hearth F79, and one from hearth F117.

The soil from F117 contained (very broken) hammerscale – a micro-slag produced by iron smithing – while that from F79 also contained fired clay, probably part of the surface of the hearth since it was not vitrified enough to be from the inside of a hearth.

See CAT Archive Report 44 for full report.

## Faunal remains

by Alec Wade

The site produced 3,353 pieces of animal, bird and fish bone weighing a total of 60.899 kg. This material was recovered by hand and included 304 pieces (weighing 5.505 kg) of bone from undated, modern or late post-medieval contexts. The latter is excluded from description in this report. Thirty-two percent of the remaining assemblage was identified by number of pieces (978) and 63% by weight (55.394 kg).

The bone was in moderate condition with little variation apparent in the assemblage. The material was produced by 158 contexts dating to pre-Boudican, Roman, post-Roman, medieval and early post-medieval periods. The table below (Table 6) shows the distribution of the assemblage amongst the main dated periods:

Table 6. Distribution of the bone by period.

Period code	Period	Pieces	Weight (kg)	AV fragment weight (g)
1	pre-Boudican	267	12.210	45.7
2	Boudican	0	0	0
3	1st-late 1st century AD	117	2.948	25.2
4	late 1st-mid 2nd century AD	108	3.053	28.3
5	mid to late 2nd century AD	102	1.731	17.0
6	late 2nd century AD	123	1.080	8.8
7	late 2nd to 3rd century AD	140	1.710	12.2

8	3rd to 4th century AD	152	3.212	21.1
9	4th century AD and later	132	1.838	13.9
10	12th to 15th/16th centuries AD	1564	20.562	13.1
11	17th century AD and later	344	7.050	20.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>3049</b>	<b>55.394</b>	<b>18.2</b>

Most of the bone derived from contexts of the pre-Boudican and medieval/early post-medieval periods which together contained nearly 60% of the material by weight. The average fragment weight for the site as a whole was 18g. The largest fragments by far, at over twice the site average, was the material from the pre-Boudican contexts (over 45g). The low average weight for the abundance of material from the medieval/early post-medieval period (Period 10) can be partly attributed to the higher quantity of bird bone fragments found there.

Table 7 (p 45) shows the distribution of the bone by period, feature type and weight (g). Forty per cent of the bone was deposited in rubbish-pits, mostly in the medieval/early post-medieval periods (Period 10-Period 11). The next largest source of recovered bone was from occupation and cultivation layers which yielded a further 20%, particularly from pre-Boudican deposits.

The following tables (Tables 8-9, pp 46-7) summarise the species and unidentified bone distribution in the assemblage. Each shows the bone by period, number of pieces and weight in grammes. The domestic species of cattle, sheep, goat and pig were the most common species identified and were present in all periods. Together they accounted for 78% of the identified assemblage by number of pieces and 57% by weight. Chicken was also identified in all periods except the pre-Boudican. Goose was found in all periods from the mid/late 2nd century onwards except for the very late 2nd/3rd centuries AD. Horse was present in small quantities in the pre-and post-Boudican, late Roman and medieval/early-post medieval periods. Dog-gnawed bone was noted in the pre-Boudican deposits but the first identified pieces of dog-gnawed bone did not occur until the late 2nd century AD and cat until the very late 2nd-3rd century AD. Both appeared regularly in the later periods.

Basal circumference measurements of four cattle horn-cores from L132 in the pre-Boudican deposits gave a range of 105-135mm. These are at the lower range given by Luff (109-137mm) for other Romano-British cattle in Colchester (CAR 12, 123-4). Luff was able to identify more complete horn-cores of this size as small or short-horned females.

The wild species identified included fallow, roe and red deer, rabbit, hare, duck (including tufted duck), pheasant, woodcock and swan. Red deer and roe deer bone occur in several periods from the pre-Boudican to medieval/early-post medieval and later. Only one piece of antler was recovered, a non-worked piece of red deer tine from a pit (F062) in the medieval/early post-medieval periods. Hare was found in the post-Boudican period and the late 2nd century AD. Fallow deer and rabbit occur in the assemblage in the medieval/early-post medieval period. The 1986 excavation at Long Wyre Street (CAR 12, 25-54) produced a similar list of domestic species with cattle being the most common. Small amounts of red and roe deer bone were also found but fallow deer was absent.

Table 7. Distribution of the bone by weight (g), period and feature type.

Period	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total (g)	%
<b>Feature type</b>											<b>Total (g)</b>	<b>%</b>
Cut feature	28	118	654	156	1	680	388	0	472	0	2497	4.50
Debris, dumping and make-up	544	1448	1882	392	600	0	2542	1838	0	0	9246	16.70
Ditches	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.05
Layers	696	0	0	22	14	0	50	0	0	0	782	1.40
Occupation and cultivation	9948	759	12	727	38	1	0	0	0	0	11485	20.70
Other	2	12	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0.05
Pits	0	2	0	0	0	13	0	0	15342	7050	22407	40.50
Ritual feature	0	0	158	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	0.30
Robbing cuts	0	0	47	157	0	1016	211	0	4560	0	5991	10.80
Structural features	964	324	38	174	200	0	21	0	188	0	1909	3.40
Surfaces and floors	22	285	262	87	227	0	0	0	0	0	883	1.60
<b>Total (g)</b>	<b>12210</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>3053</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>1710</b>	<b>3212</b>	<b>1838</b>	<b>20562</b>	<b>7050</b>	<b>55394</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 8. Distribution of the unidentified bone by number of pieces and period.

Period		1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Grand totals
<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Data</b>											<b>Grand totals</b>
Bird indet.	No of pieces	2	0	7	2	8	0	7	4	67	9	106
	Weight (g)	7	0	10	2	9	0	9	11	151	31	230
Deer (Cervid.)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	38	0	66
Fish indet.	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	20
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	7	38
Large mammal (cattle/horse)	No of pieces	95	44	26	27	28	55	38	36	475	111	935
	Weight (g)	2636	980	664	416	566	790	686	574	7575	1928	16815
Medium mammal (sheep/goat)	No of pieces	11	10	12	9	17	19	20	15	265	49	427
	Weight (g)	64	54	42	63	77	134	115	106	1039	256	1950
Small mammal	No of pieces	1	2	1	6	1	0	0	0	29	3	43
	Weight (g)	4	2	1	7	1	0	0	0	19	3	37
unidentified	No of pieces	20	19	19	22	32	42	21	25	294	43	537
	Weight (g)	83	112	112	55	113	126	38	85	663	154	1541

Table 9. Distribution of the identified species by number of pieces and period.

Period		1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Taxon	Data											Grand totals
Anas (duck)	No of pieces	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
	Weight (g)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	17
Anser (goose)	No of pieces	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	13	5	26
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	12	3	0	11	14	55	29	124
Aythya (tufted duck)	No of pieces	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Weight (g)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bos (domestic cow)	No of pieces	108	22	33	13	5	10	19	11	138	44	403
	Weight (g)	8262	1406	2102	766	92	496	1604	358	7378	2792	25256
Canis familiaris (dog)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	4	3	16
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	40	2	14	0	70	28	154
Capra hircus (goat)	No of pieces	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
	Weight (g)	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	0	78
Capreolus capreolus (roe deer)	No of pieces	1	1	1	2	0	1	3	0	2	0	11
	Weight (g)	16	10	22	12	0	6	52	0	26	0	144
Cervus elaphus (red deer)	No of pieces	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	11
	Weight (g)	428	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	128	432	1142
Cygnus (swan)	No of pieces	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
	Weight (g)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	24
Dama (fallow deer)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
Equus caballus (horse)	No of pieces	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	12
	Weight (g)	260	28	0	0	0	0	0	94	294	0	676
Felis (cat)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	5
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	2	9
Gallus (chicken)	No of pieces	0	3	1	2	6	4	12	9	61	7	105
	Weight (g)	0	6	2	2	6	8	25	22	178	26	275
Lepus (hare)	No of pieces	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Weight (g)	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	8
Oryctolagus (rabbit)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Ovis aries (sheep)	No of pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	14	40
Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	No of pieces	8	5	1	8	12	2	9	9	95	22	171
	Weight (g)	158	64	6	88	139	46	130	114	1430	468	2643
Phasianus (pheasant)	No of pieces	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
	Weight (g)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	8
Scolopax (woodcock)	No of pieces	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Weight (g)	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	6
Sus (domestic pig)	No of pieces	12	9	4	7	2	5	20	18	75	36	188
	Weight (g)	278	284	88	152	26	100	528	428	1332	876	4092
<b>Total sum of fragments</b>		138	42	43	36	37	24	66	51	417	124	978
<b>Total weight (g)</b>		9416	1800	2224	1188	314	660	2364	1034	11046	4671	34717

Table 10. Minimum Number of Individuals represented by the assemblage.

Period	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Species</b>										
Cat (Felis)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Cattle (Bos)	4	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	5	1
Chicken (Gallus)	-	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	5	2
Dog (Canis familiaris)	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1
Duck (Anas)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Fallow deer (Dama)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Goat (Capra hircus)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Goose (Anser)	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	1
Horse (Equus caballus)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Hare (Lepus)	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pheasant (Phasianus)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pig (Sus)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rabbit (Oryctolagus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Red deer (Cervus elaphus)	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus)	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-
Sheep (Ovis aries)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Swan (Cygnus)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sheep or Goat (Ovis capra)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1
Tufted duck (Aythya)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodcock (Scolopax)	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-

Of the wild bird species, only swan was positively identified in the pre-Boudican period but at least one other species of large bird was also present, perhaps a crane or stork. The remaining smaller bird species occur in the assemblage from the early to mid 2nd century AD where woodcock, duck and tufted duck appear. With the exception of tufted duck (which was only identified in that period), these species together with pheasant occur sporadically in the later periods.

A ritual pot burial from the early to mid 2nd century (Period 4) was accompanied by a mature cattle radius and ulna which were fused together. This may have been slightly dog-gnawed, suggesting that the bone was residual before its deposition in the ritual feature.

The minimum number of individual animals represented by the assemblage (based upon the most numerous skeletal elements in the assemblage with reference to maturity, side of body etc) is shown for all identified species in Table 10. Cattle and chicken are the most numerous species by the MNI calculation, followed by sheep and goat.

Fifteen pieces of male chicken metatarsi were recovered. They either had an intact spur (10 examples) or had a missing, presumed broken spur (5 examples). Of those missing a spur, none could be reliably identified as having had it deliberately removed. Only two may have derived from late Roman contexts. The vast majority were all from medieval/early post-medieval or post-medieval periods.

A total of 312 pieces of bone had been cut (10.2 % of the entire assemblage). Only three were identified as being the result of object or tool manufacture. The following table (Table 11) shows the distribution of the cut bone by period.

Table 11. Distribution of the cut bone by number of pieces and period.

Period	Number of cut pieces (not worked)	Worked	Total (cut and worked)	% of group
1	42	1	43	16.1
3	13	0	13	11.1
4	11	0	11	10.2
5	12	0	12	11.8
6	14	0	14	11.4
7	14	0	14	10.0
8	16	0	16	10.5
9	17	1	18	13.6
10	129	1	130	8.3
11	41	0	41	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>10.2</b>

Nearly half of the bone displaying cut marks (47%) associated with butchery were rib fragments. The largest quantity of cut bone (129 pieces) was from the medieval/early post-medieval period (Period 10). Most of the cut bone was of cattle/large mammal bone (72%). Sheep/goat/medium-sized mammal bone accounted for another 15% and pig for 5%.

Three pieces of bone had cut marks associated with working rather than butchery. These were two scapula fragments and a piece of a femur. The earliest was a badly abraded cattle scapula fragment from burnt layer 108 in the pre-Boudican period

(Period 1). Unfortunately its poor condition hinders certain categorising, but it appears to have had a cut across the neck and a piece removed from the blade for further working. A horse scapula from a 3rd/4th-century dump (Period 9, L008) has been sawn up the length of the blade and perpendicularly across the neck, also to remove pieces for working. The final piece of worked bone was a fragment of a large mammal femur from pit F502 in the medieval/early post-medieval period (Period 10) which displays pre-working score marks on its inner surface.

A total of 378 bones displayed evidence of dog-gnawing (12.4% of the assemblage). Dogs are a major cause of bone destruction on any site where they are present. Their actions will have modified the assemblage in certain ways. They prefer to gnaw the less dense bones, avoiding mandibles and teeth altogether. Many of the bones of the smaller species may have been destroyed completely, thus removing them from the bone record. The presence of dog-gnawed bone thus implies a certain degree of residuality within an assemblage. The gnawed bone pieces were distributed amongst the site periods as shown by Table 12.

Table 12. Distribution of the dog-gnawed bone by period.

Period	Gnawed pieces	% of period
1	50	18.7
3	18	15.4
4	11	10.2
5	20	19.6
6	15	12.2
7	12	8.6
8	27	17.7
9	28	21.2
10	152	9.7
11	45	13.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>12.4</b>

Rodent gnawing was noted on two pieces of bone from a dump and from an occupation layer in the mid to late 2nd century AD (Period 5).

#### Period summary

##### Period 1 (late 1st century AD)

The occupation layers contained the second largest quantity of bone deposited on the site, including the largest average fragments of both high meat value parts and primary butchery waste. Evidence of dog-gnawing, often a sign of residuality in the deposition of the bone, was found on 18% of the bone, the highest amount for any period except the mid to late 2nd century AD (Period 5) and 4th century AD and later (Period 9). However, both of these later periods produced much less bone. Given the quantity of bone and the large fragment size, this deposit is the best evidence for butchery on or near the site. Cut types identified on some of the bone were consistent with filleting. The material was dominated by cattle (MNI 4) and a variety of both domestic and wild species including sheep/goat, goat, horse, pig, red deer, roe deer and swan (all MNI 1). Another species of large bird was present (perhaps a crane or stork) but eluded positive identification. Metrical evidence suggests the cattle may have been small or short horned females. The deposits included one

piece of cut bone which may have been associated with bone working rather than butchery.

##### Period 3 (early 2nd century AD)

The bone from this period was contained in dumps of debris, occupation layers and structural features. These produced less than half the quantity of bone of the pre-Boudican period and of a much smaller average fragment weight. The species identified were cattle, chicken, horse, hare, pig, roe deer and sheep or goat (all MNI 1). Cut types identified on some of the material were consistent with dismembering.

##### Period 4 (mid to late 2nd century AD)

Debris, robbing cuts, structural features, floors or surfaces and a ritual feature produced the bone in this period. The species identified, including the most species of wild bird from a Romano-British period were cattle, chicken, duck, pig, roe deer, sheep or goat, tufted duck and woodcock (all MNI 1). The ritual deposit was a pot burial sealed beneath a floor surface and accompanied by a mature cattle radius and ulna (fused together). A cut type noted on one of the other bones was consistent with tenderloin filleting.

##### Period 5 (mid to late 2nd century AD)

Occupation layers, robbing cuts, structural features and floors/surfaces produced less bone than each of the preceding Romano-British phases and of a smaller average weight. The species identified were cattle, chicken (both MNI 2), goose, pheasant, pig, red deer, roe deer and sheep or goat (all MNI 1). A cut type associated with dismembering was found on a roe deer bone. As well as a high level of dog-gnawing, two pieces of rodent-gnawed bone were also recorded.

##### Period 6 (late 2nd century AD)

This period produced the least bone and the smallest average fragment weight on site, which was less than half the site average. The bone was produced by debris, occupation/cultivation layers, structural features and surfaces/floors. The species present included cattle, chicken, dog, goose, hare, pig, sheep or goat and woodcock (all MNI 1). Cut types recorded included dismembering and filleting.

##### Period 7 (late 2nd to 3rd century AD)

The bone from this period was mainly produced by robbing cuts and other cut features. The species present were cat, cattle, chicken, dog, pig, roe deer, and sheep or goat (all MNI 1 except cattle 2). The amount of dog-gnawed bone was the lowest for any period. A cut type associated with filleting tenderloin was recorded on a large mammal bone.

##### Period 8 (3rd to 4th century AD)

This period produced more bone than any other Romano-British phase. The material was mostly derived from debris and robbing cuts. The species present were cattle, chicken, dog, goose, pig, roe deer and sheep or goat (all MNI 1 except chicken 2). The cut bone included one piece of horse bone which may have been worked.

##### Period 9 (4th century AD and later)

This period produced the second largest amount of bone from a Romano-British period which was all derived from debris contexts. It also had the highest percentage of dog-gnawed bone for any period. The species present were cattle, chicken, goose, horse, pheasant, pig and sheep or goat (all MNI 1 except chicken which is 2). One piece of bone had a cut type associated with dismembering.

##### Period 10 (12th to 15th/16th century AD)

This was by far the largest group of bone from the site, most of which was produced by rubbish-pits. The presence of large amounts of bird bone (compared to the other periods) has resulted in a low average fragment weight for this material and also in the second lowest percentage of dog-gnawed bone for

any period (dogs will not generally gnaw bird bone as it splinters very easily). Alternatively this may also suggest that deposition of waste into the rubbish-pits was fairly swift, denying the opportunity for scavenging. The species present were cat, cattle, chicken, dog, duck, fallow deer, goat, goose, horse, pig, rabbit, red deer, roe deer, sheep, swan, sheep/goat and woodcock (all MNI 1 except cattle and chicken 5, sheep/goat 4 and goose 2). This was the widest range of species from any period and also included the only fish bone recovered on the site. A number of spurred males were present in the domestic fowl assemblage, perhaps revealing an interest in cock-fighting. The cut types identified on the other bone were associated with dismembering, filleting, carcass hanging and food preparation. Clearly the quantity of material recovered and the range of butchery activities represented suggests that butchery was taking place in the vicinity of the site. One piece of worked bone was also recovered.

#### Period 11 (17th century AD and later)

A much smaller quantity of bone than that of period 10 (though still larger than any of the earlier periods) also recovered mainly from rubbish-pits. Species identified included cat, cattle, chicken, dog, goose, pheasant, pig, rabbit, red deer, sheep and sheep/goat (all MNI 1 except chicken which is 2).

#### *Conclusion*

The bone assemblage is a direct product of the changing utilisation of the site area through the centuries from the pre-Boudican period to the modern day where the demand for commerce has forced development of the Long Wyre Street site once again.

The urban nature of the assemblage was revealed by the highly fragmented and dog-gnawed state of the bone, most of which would appear to be from butchered animals. Both high and low meat value body parts were found in all periods suggesting that butchery was taking place close enough to the site for all types of bone waste to be deposited there. Alternatively it may suggest that there was actually a fairly intensive utilisation of most parts of the animal including parts generally regarded as 'waste' such as the feet and head.

The usual domestic species of cattle, sheep, goat and pig dominated the assemblage, although wild species were also present in almost all of the periods. Roe deer was the most frequent of these, followed by red deer. Hare was found in Roman contexts and rabbit in the medieval and post-medieval contexts.

The earliest occupation layers contained the second largest quantity of bone deposited on the site, including the largest average fragments of both high meat value parts and primary butchery waste. In comparison the deposits associated with the intensive development of the site during the Romano-British periods contained less bone (by individual period) and perhaps significantly, much smaller fragments.

In the medieval and post-medieval periods, there is a shift in the pattern of deposition, with the intrusion of large rubbish-pits into the site area which produced the largest deposits of bone recovered.

The excavated site area is, of course, only a tiny part of a complex urban environment. It would, however, be tempting to associate trends in deposition such as the less intensive use of rubbish-pits and the reduced fragment size with speculation of a public refuse-disposal system operating in Roman times. However, part of the Romano-British remains were recovered from structural features (including a ritual deposit) and occupational layers which would inhibit both the size and quantity of intrusive bone fragments which could be found there.

There was little evidence of bone or antler working found in any of the periods suggesting that this activity was largely absent from the immediate environment of the site.

The greatest variety of non-domestic fowl species was identified in the early to mid 2nd-century deposits. Rosemary Luff noted that there was an increase in the variety of bird species detected in other Colchester Romano-British contexts (CAR 12, 83). The quantities of domestic fowl (chickens and geese) gradually increases in the later periods with many of the chicken bones in the medieval/early-to-post-medieval contexts being spurred males, perhaps revealing a continued interest in cock-fighting (Luff noted a preference for males in Roman contexts (CAR 12, 90, 142).

A very small quantity of fish bone was recovered from medieval and post-medieval deposits. It should be noted that these were found by hand, and consequently many smaller pieces present in earlier contexts may not have been recovered. Most of the fish bone from other Colchester excavations was also found in medieval and post-medieval deposits.

#### *Acknowledgements*

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#### **An overview of the painted wall-plaster**

The plaster has been catalogued (list in archive).

##### *Period 2*

This is presumably contemporary material, since there are no buildings on this site before those implied by the floors of this period. A small quantity of plaster only. Most of it is a bold and bright medium pink. One tiny piece probably from this period is a blue/grey stripe on a yellow ground.

##### *Period 4a*

This material is probably derived from the demolition of the Period 3 house. A very small quantity, white, with a grey stripe. The sliver of painted wall-plaster on the face of clay wall F118 was white.

##### *Period 4b*

Derived from demolition of the Period 4a house. All white.

##### *Period 4c*

Presumably from the Period 4b house. Forty+ pieces. Predominantly plain white, with some plain pink.

##### *Period 5*

Largish group (60+ pieces), from the Period 4 structure. Predominantly white, with some pink. Occasionally dark pink or pink stripe over white.

##### *Period 6*

Twenty odd pieces. Plain white, occasional plain pink.

##### *Periods 6-7*

From the Period 5 structure. Plain white, but some pink with red splashes. One greenish piece, and one red/white stripe.

##### *Period 7*

From demolition of the Period 6 house. Large group, some pieces 10x10cm, a few 15x10cm. Large areas of plain white or plain pink. Sometimes the pink is overpainted dark pink. Evidence of replastering – several pieces show two layers of plaster. Where visible, the lower plaster is 8-10mm thick and painted white, and the surface has been chipped to give a key for the new plaster (6-8mm thick). New plaster is pink or red/white stripe. One piece shows evidence of panels: a red stripe (18mm+ wide): a plain white border (40mm): a grey stripe (2mm); a yellow-over-white (panel?). Also some pieces are pink with red and white splashes.

### Periods 8-9

This is easily the biggest group (100+) and comes from the demolished remains of the Period 7 house. Still predominantly plain white or plain pink. Some with a red stripe on white or vice versa. Some plain dark pink. One dark pink piece has two faces angled at 130°; it must be from a door or window opening. One fancy piece has white ground, a grey border, and green over yellow on the other side. Another piece is a similar panel to a Period 7 piece (a red stripe (18mm+ wide): a plain white border (40mm): a grey stripe (2mm); and a white (panel?). Another fancy piece has a 23mm-wide border which starts off grey, then blends into green and then yellow, then a 30mm-wide green border, a hard grey border (8mm thick), and white beyond that. Yet another interesting piece is a cross of stripes: a brown and grey stripe at right angles, with the angles split by red stripes (at 45°).

### Period 10a

From the robber trenches. A small group, possibly dropped in from edges. Pink, white and red pieces. One interesting curved piece from a window or door opening.

### Period 10b+

A large group with all the elements above, mainly white and pink, with some red stripe.

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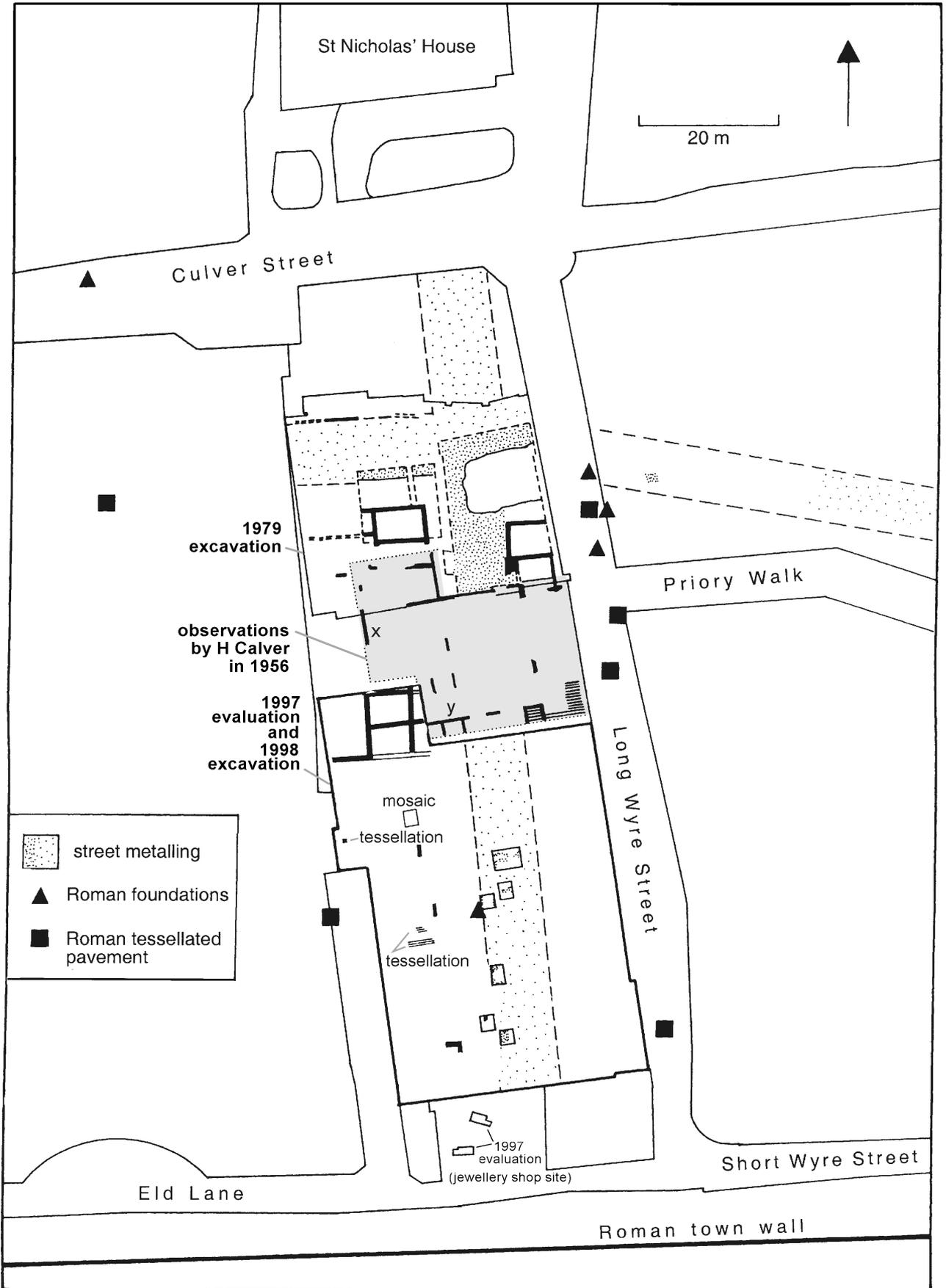


Fig 1 Site area: street metalling and major wall lines recorded in 1997 and 1998, and previous discoveries in the area. Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright NC/2004/24432.

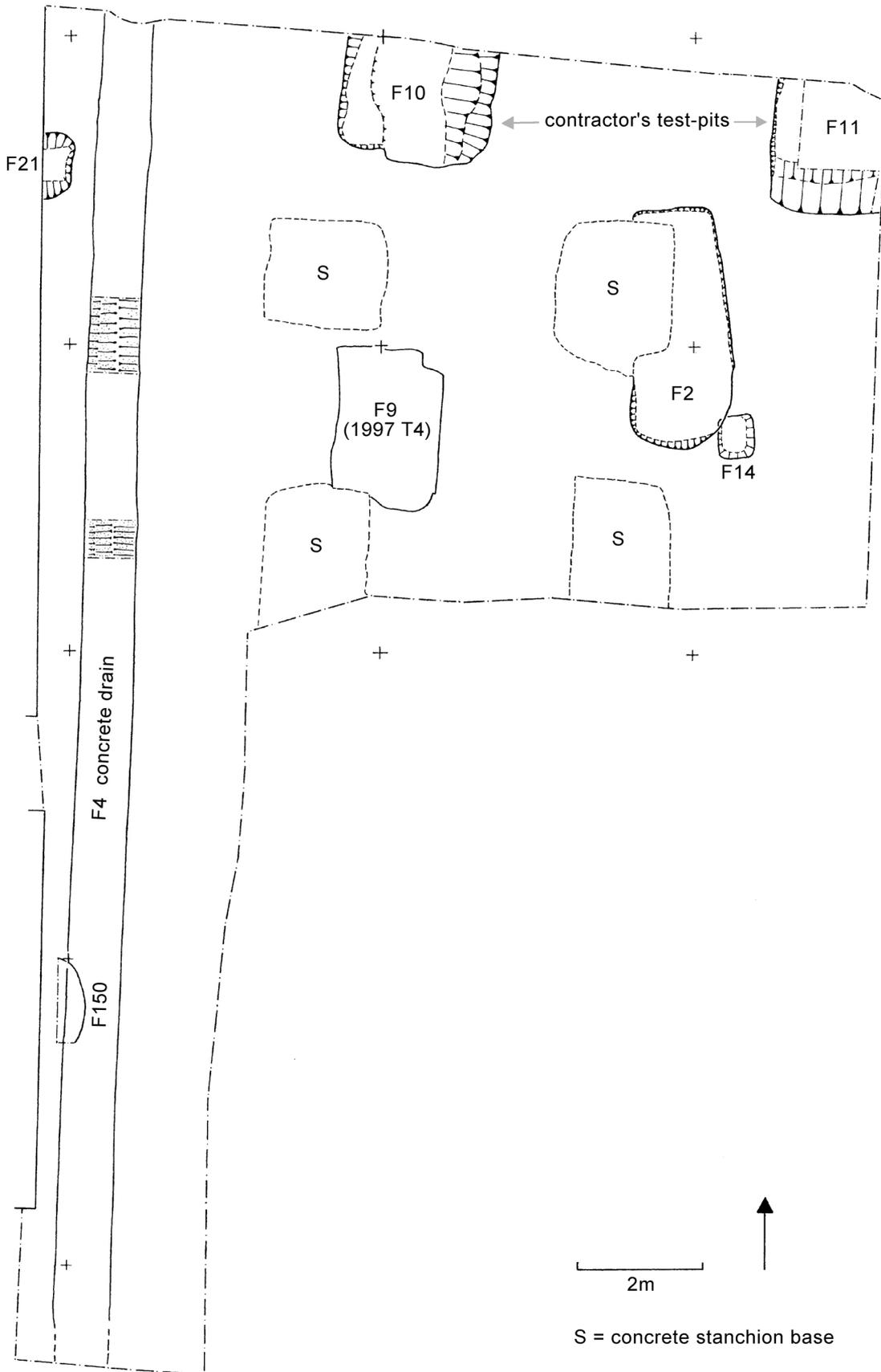


Fig 2 Period 12 Nineteenth-twentieth century features.

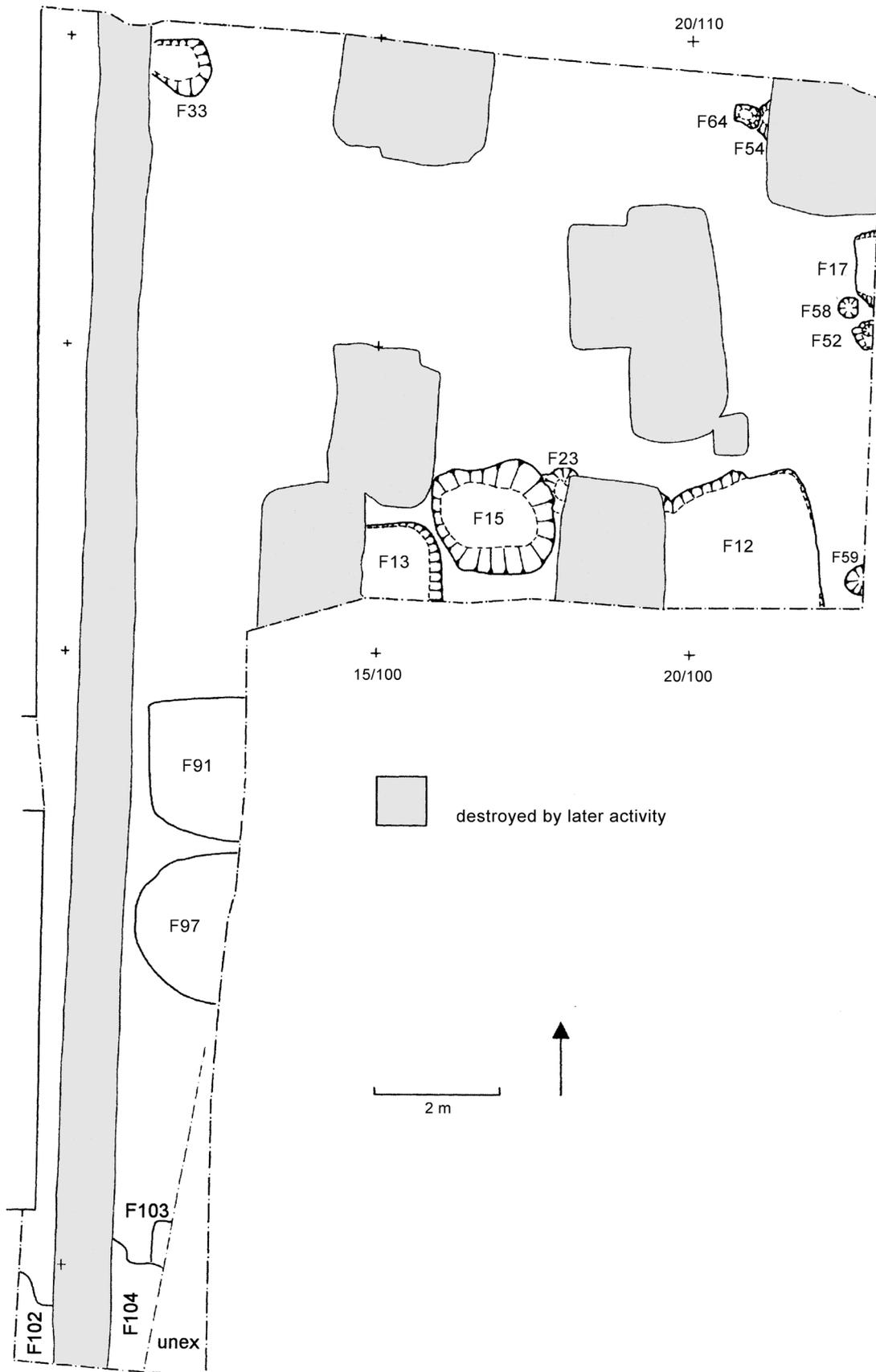


Fig 3 Periods 11 and 11-12, and unphased post-medieval features.

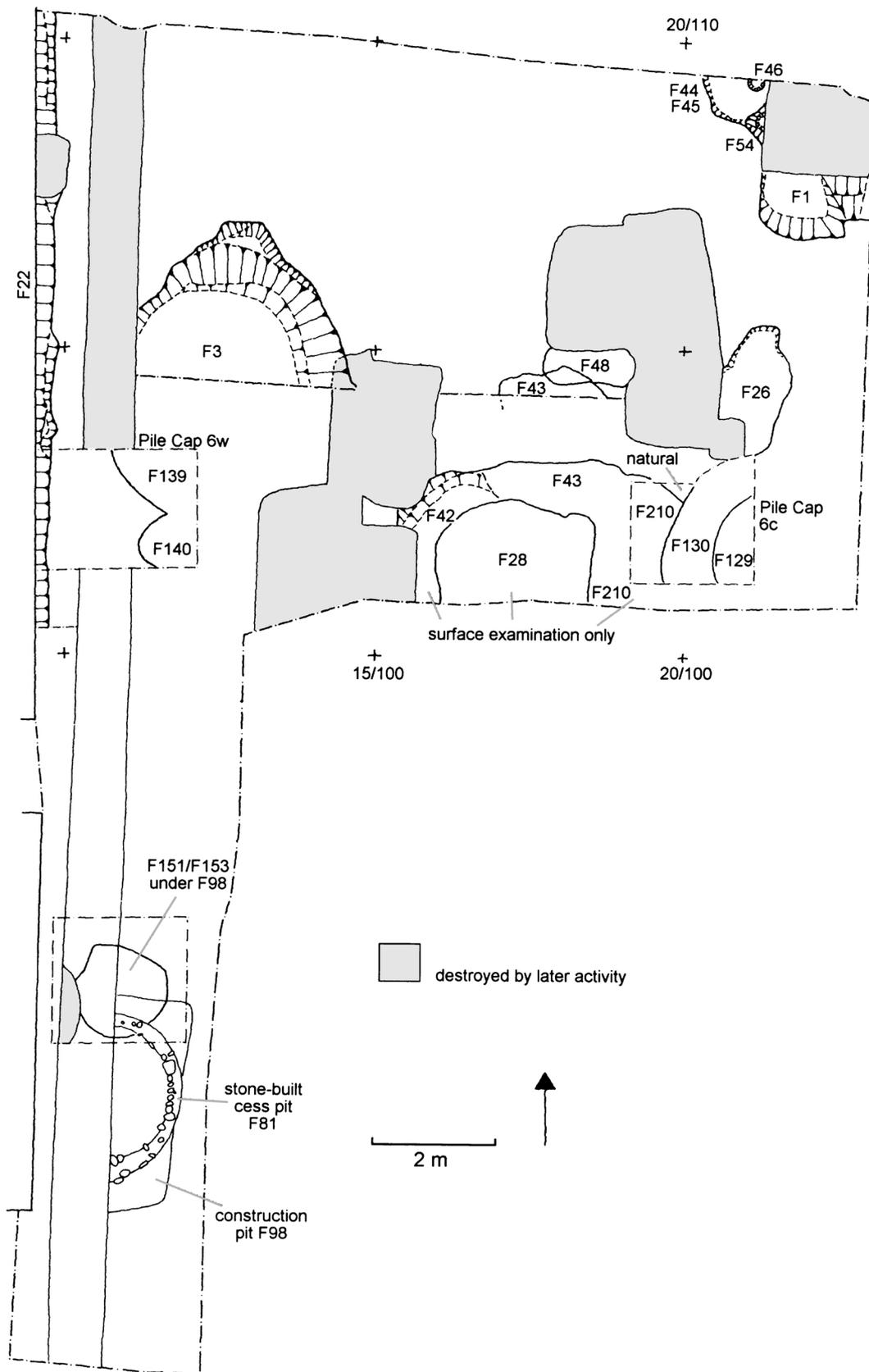


Fig 4 Periods 10b-11 (13th- to 16th-century) features.

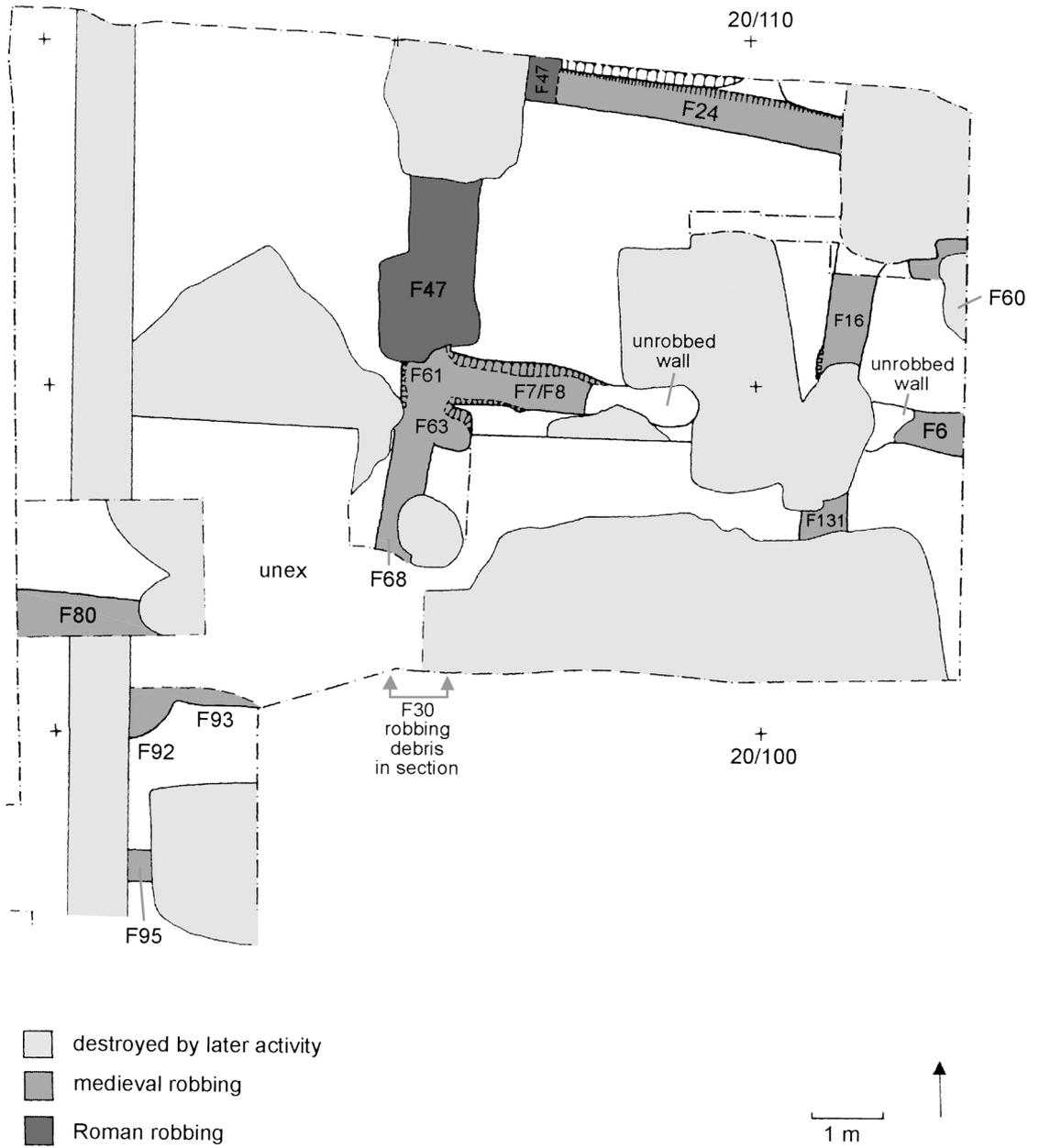


Fig 5 Period 10a (13th-century) robber trenches.

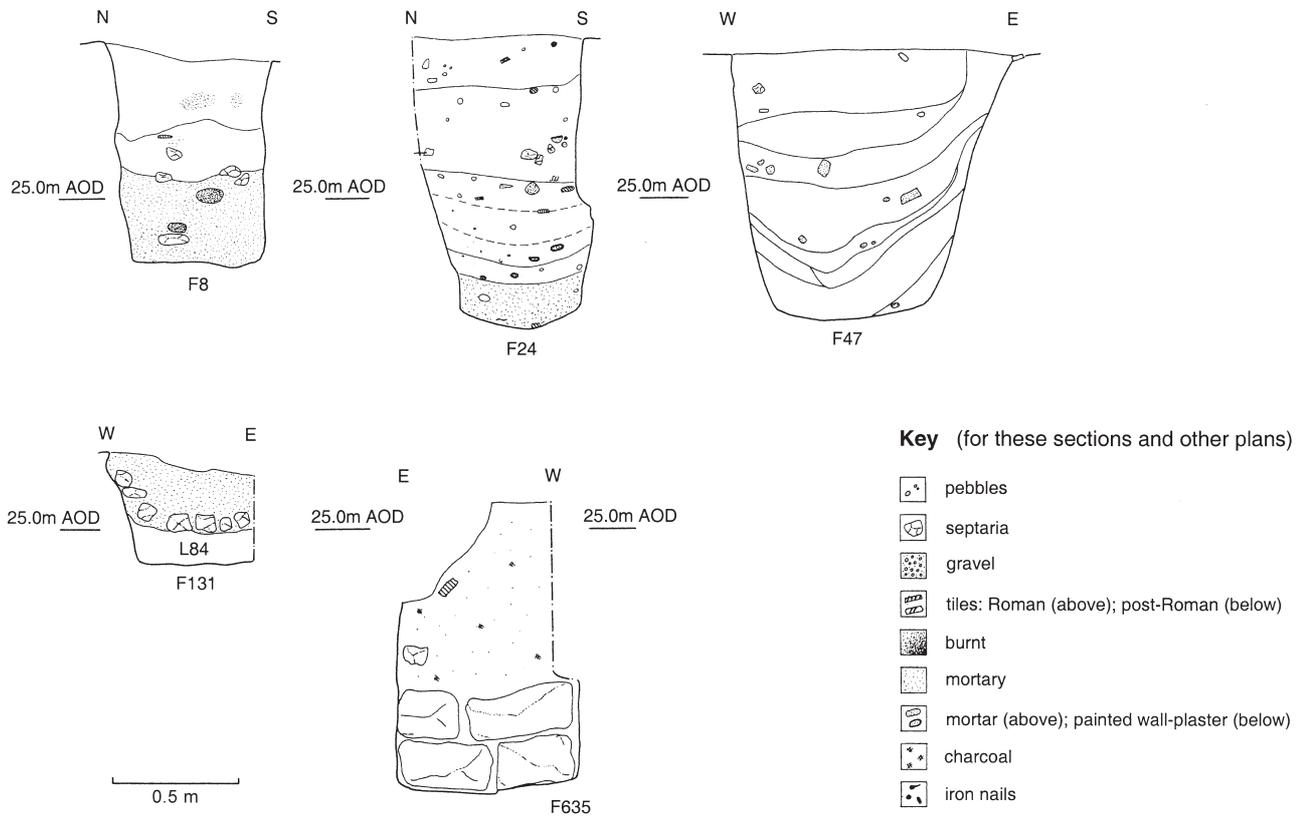


Fig 6 Sections of Roman robber trenches F47 and F635 and medieval robber trenches.

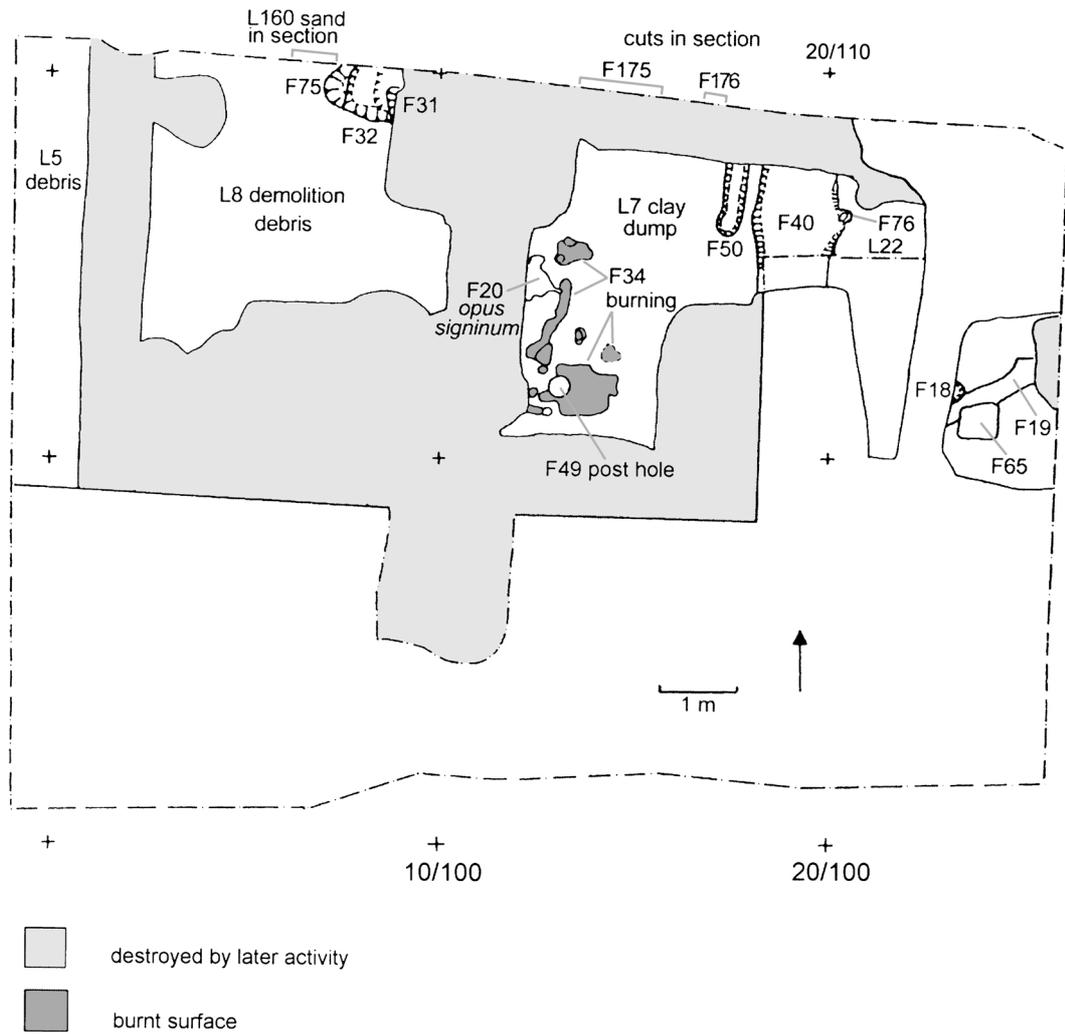


Fig 7 Period 9: early 4th-century features.

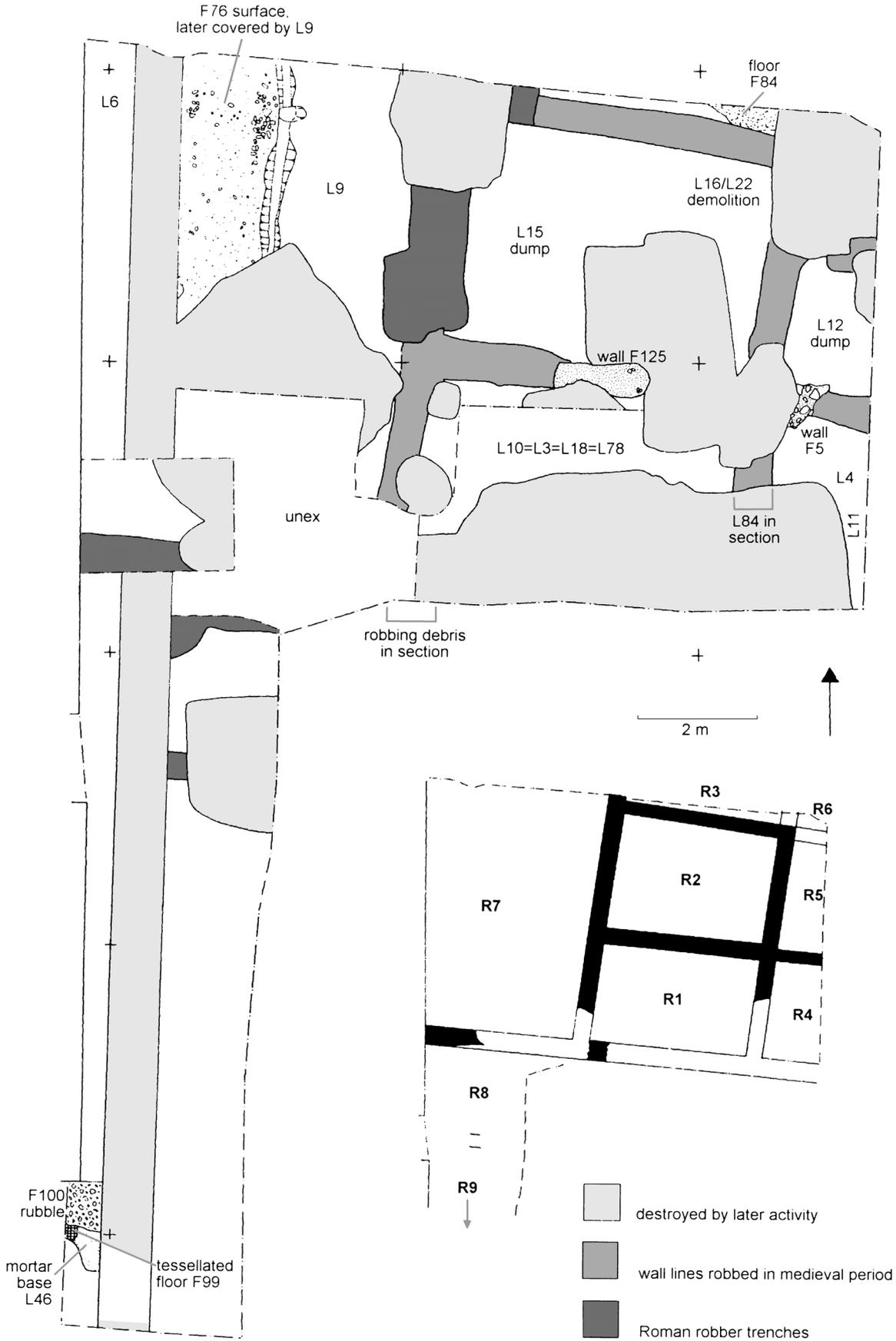


Fig 8 Period 7 (after AD 270): Roman house walls and robbed wall lines. (Inset shows reconstruction of ground-plan.)

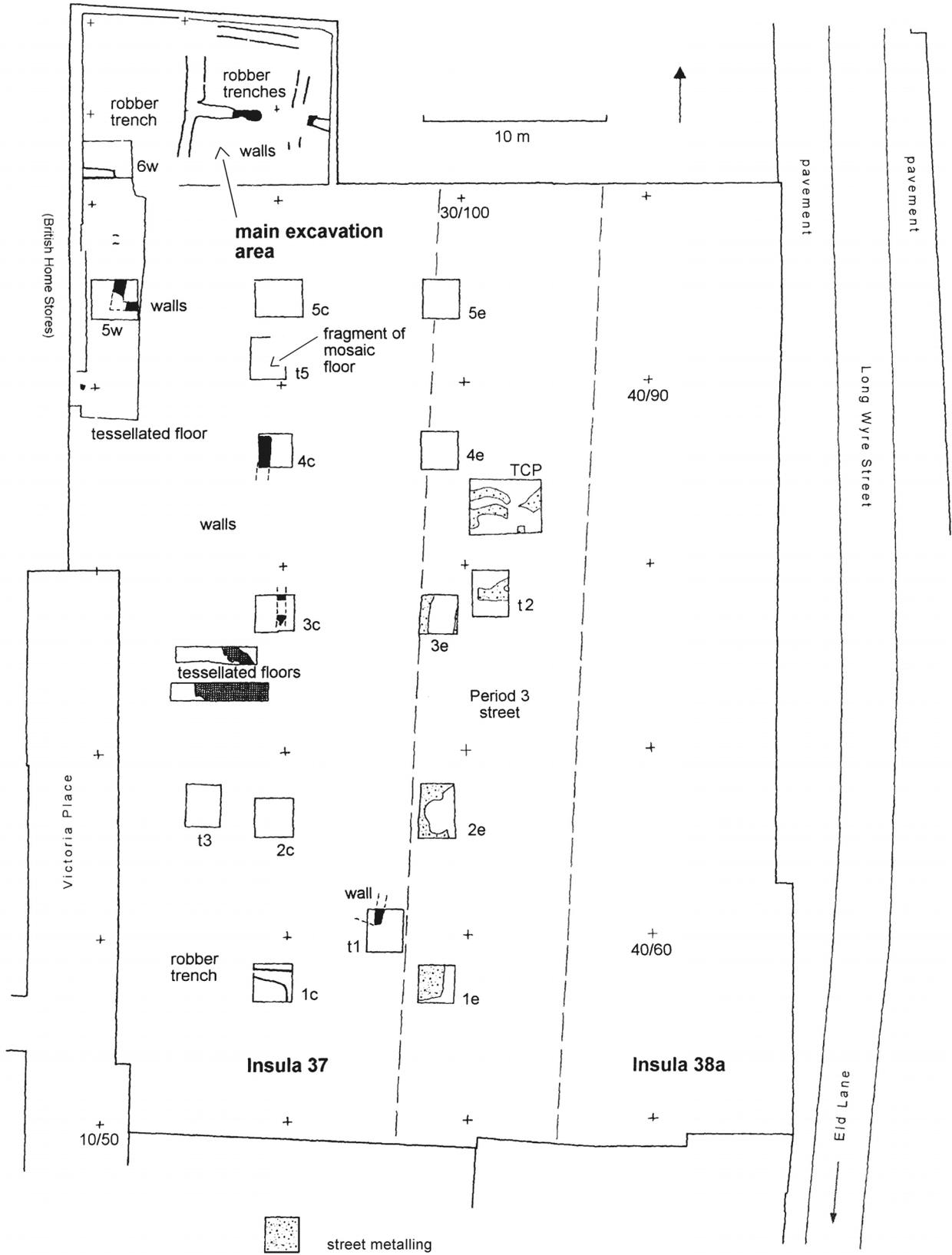


Fig 9 Roman foundations, tessellated floors, robbed walls and street dividing Insulas 37 and 38a. Also showing 1997 evaluation trenches (t1-t3, t5), 1998 pile caps and tower crane pit (eg 1c, 5w, and TCP). Pile cap 6c and T4 are omitted from the plan in order to show the wall lines clearly.

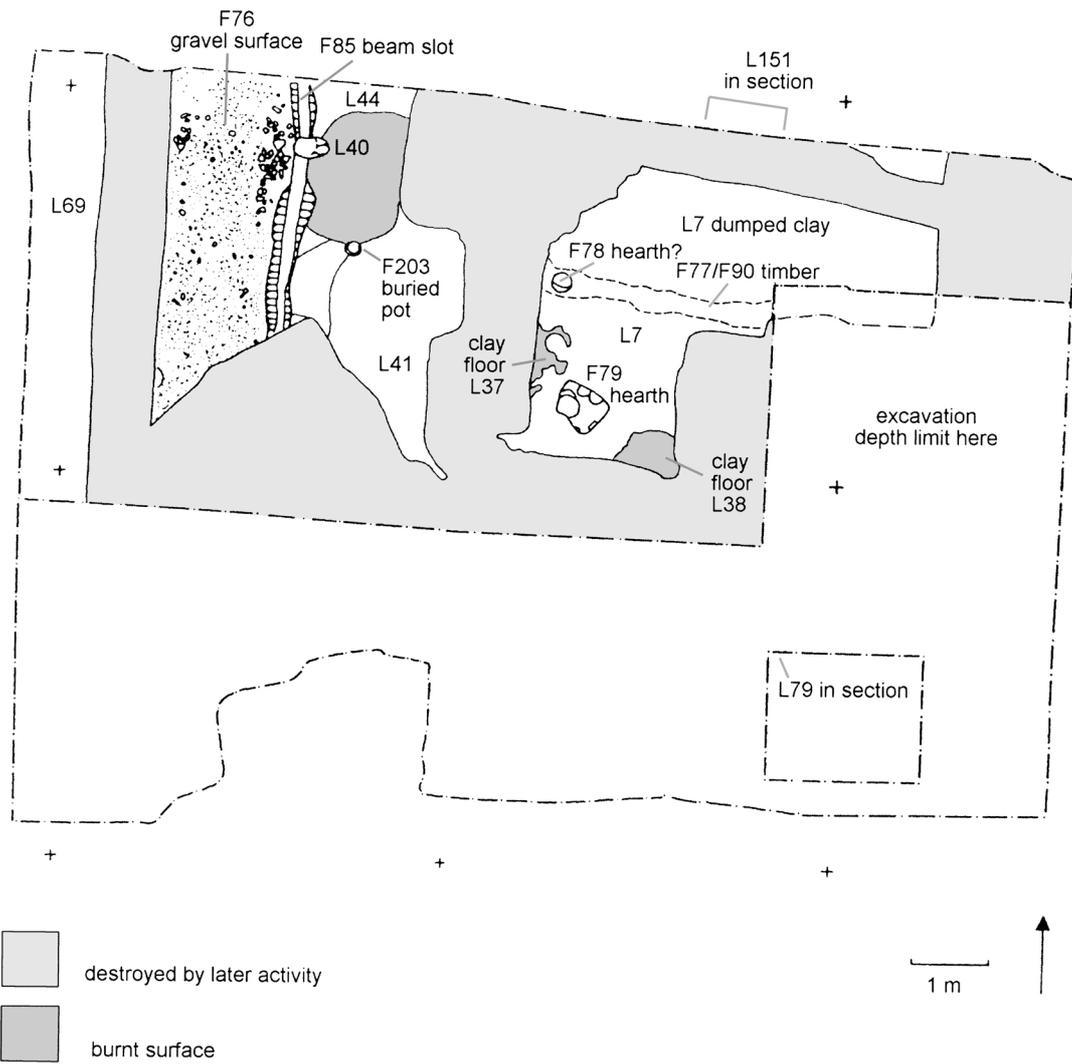


Fig 10 Period 6: early to mid 3rd-century features.

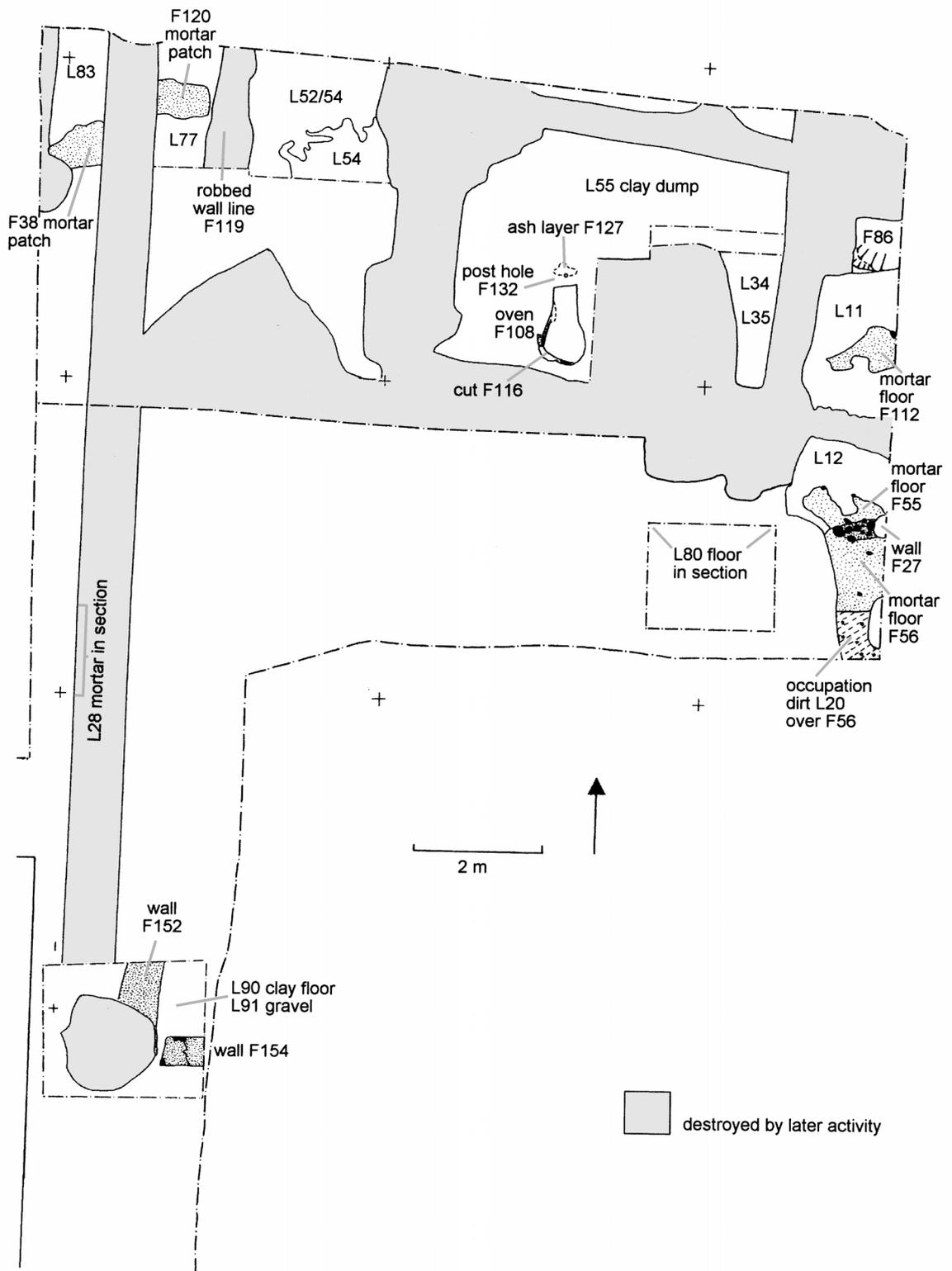


Fig 11 Period 5: late 2nd-century features.

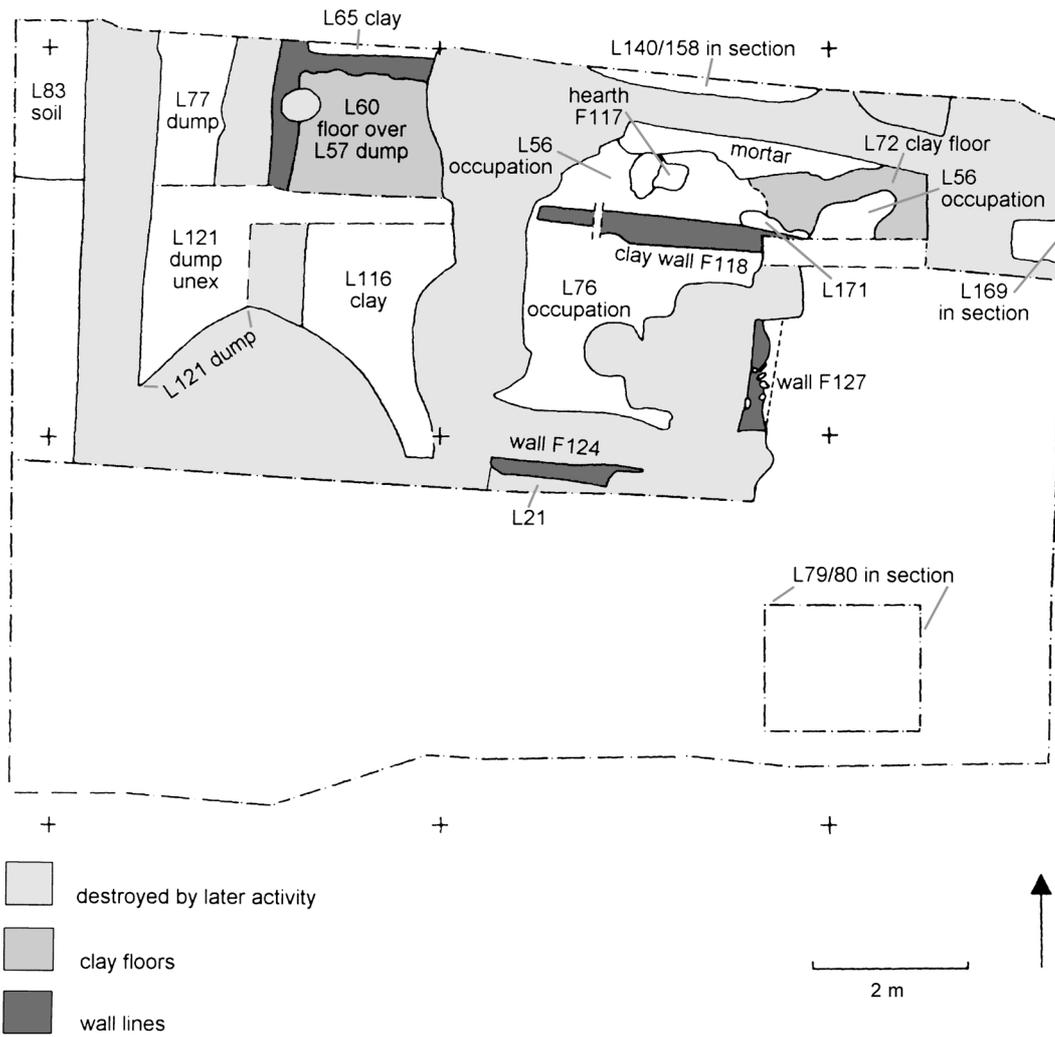


Fig 12 Period 4c: mid - late 2nd-century features.

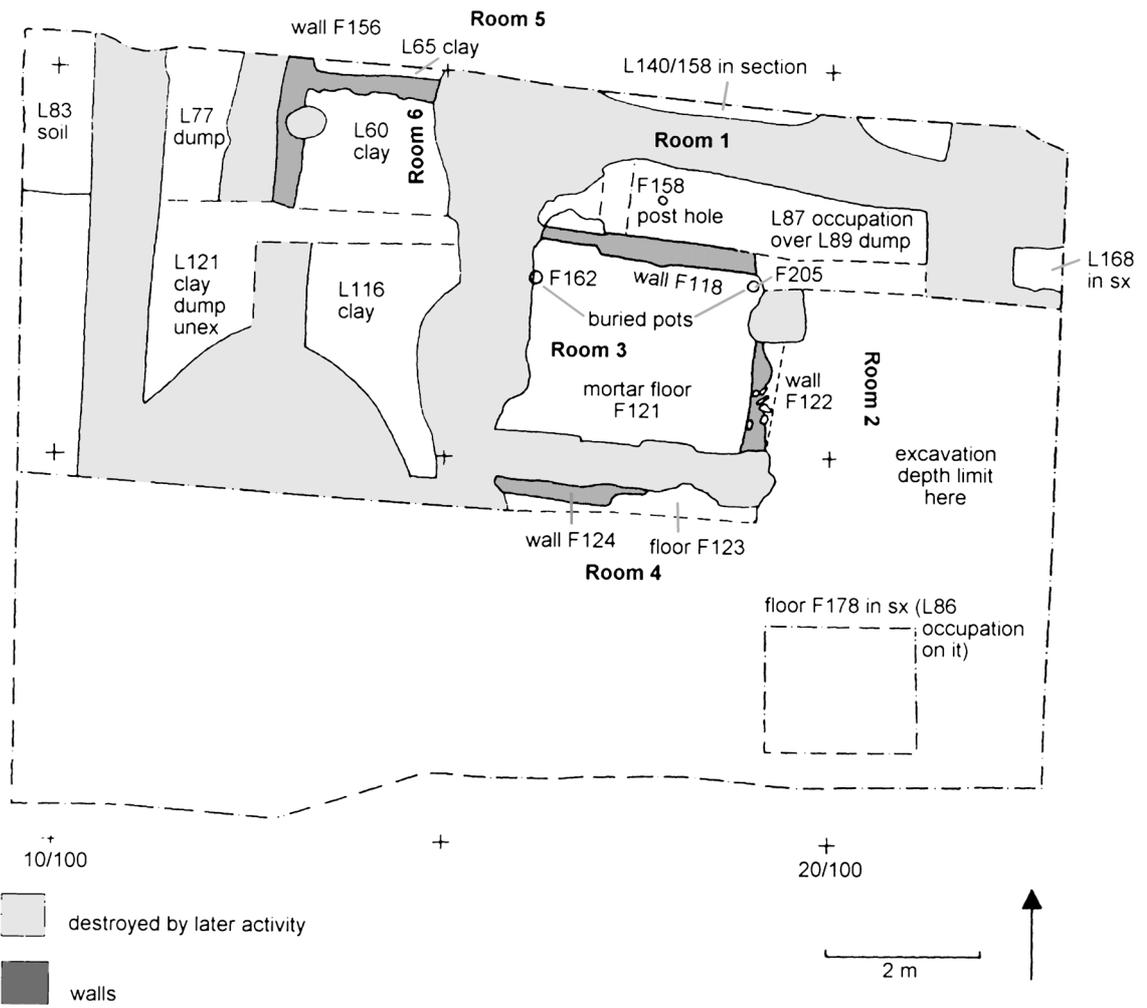


Fig 13 Period 4b: mid - late 2nd-century features.

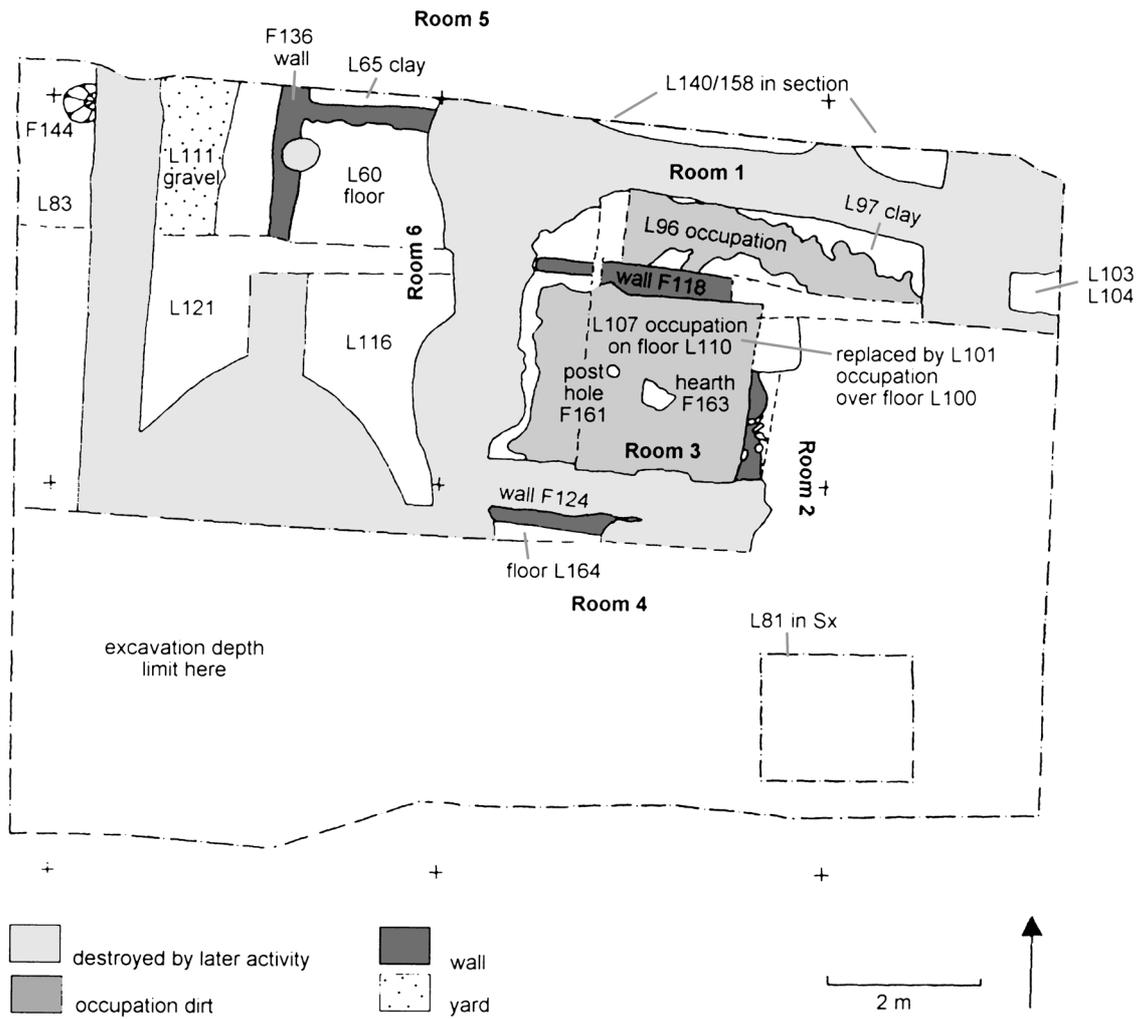


Fig 14 Period 4a: mid - late 2nd-century features.

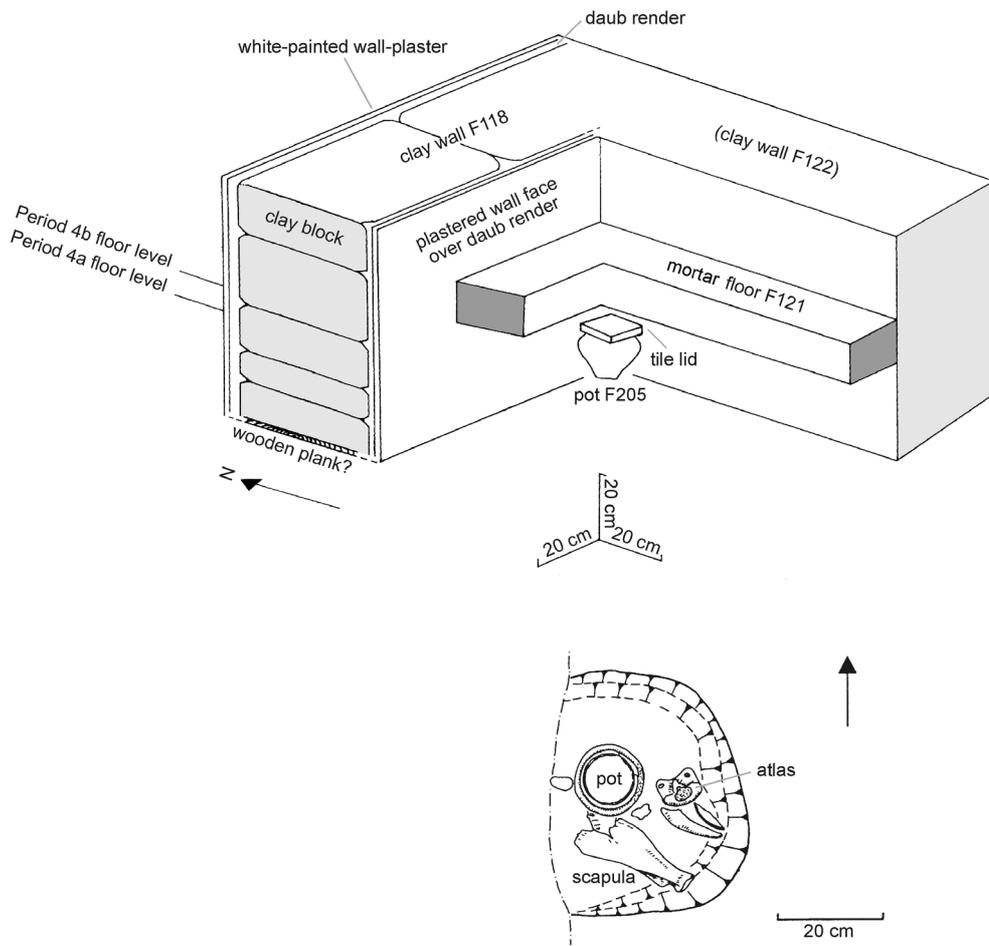


Fig 15 Reconstruction of clay-block wall F118 showing position of foundation deposit F205 under Period 4b floor F121 (left), and detail of foundation deposit F162 (right).

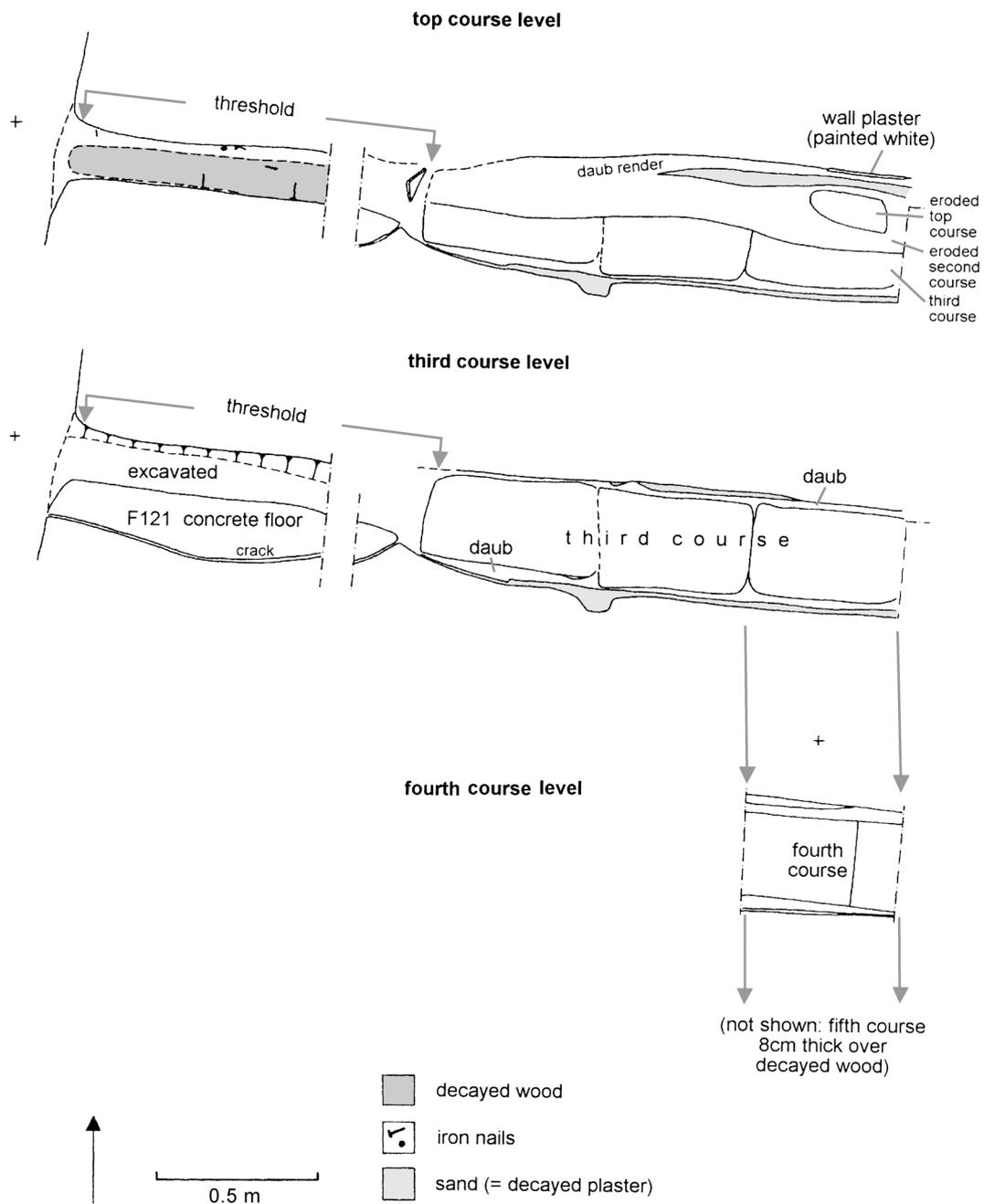


Fig 16 Detail of Period 4 clay-block wall F118.

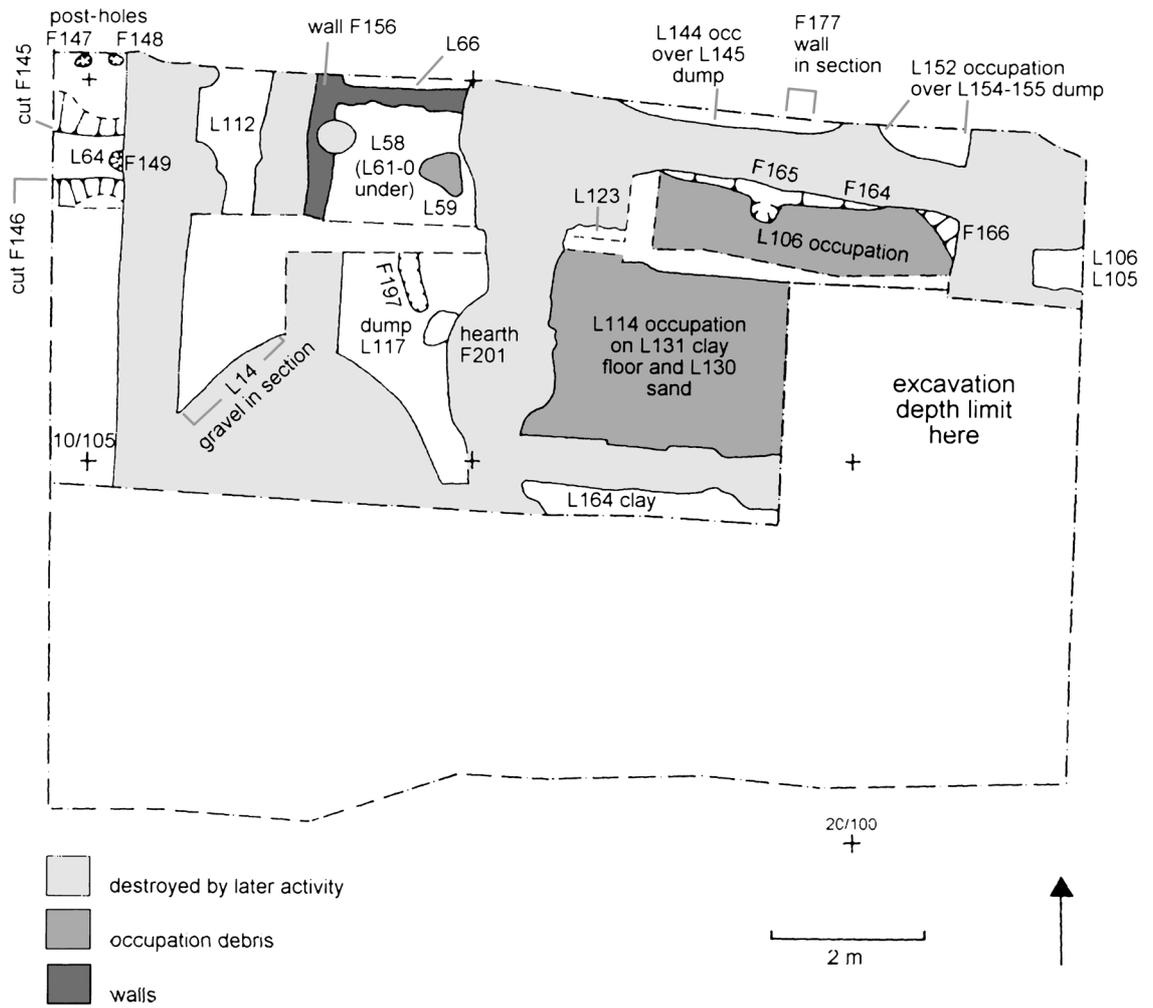


Fig 17 Period 3: early - mid 2nd-century features.

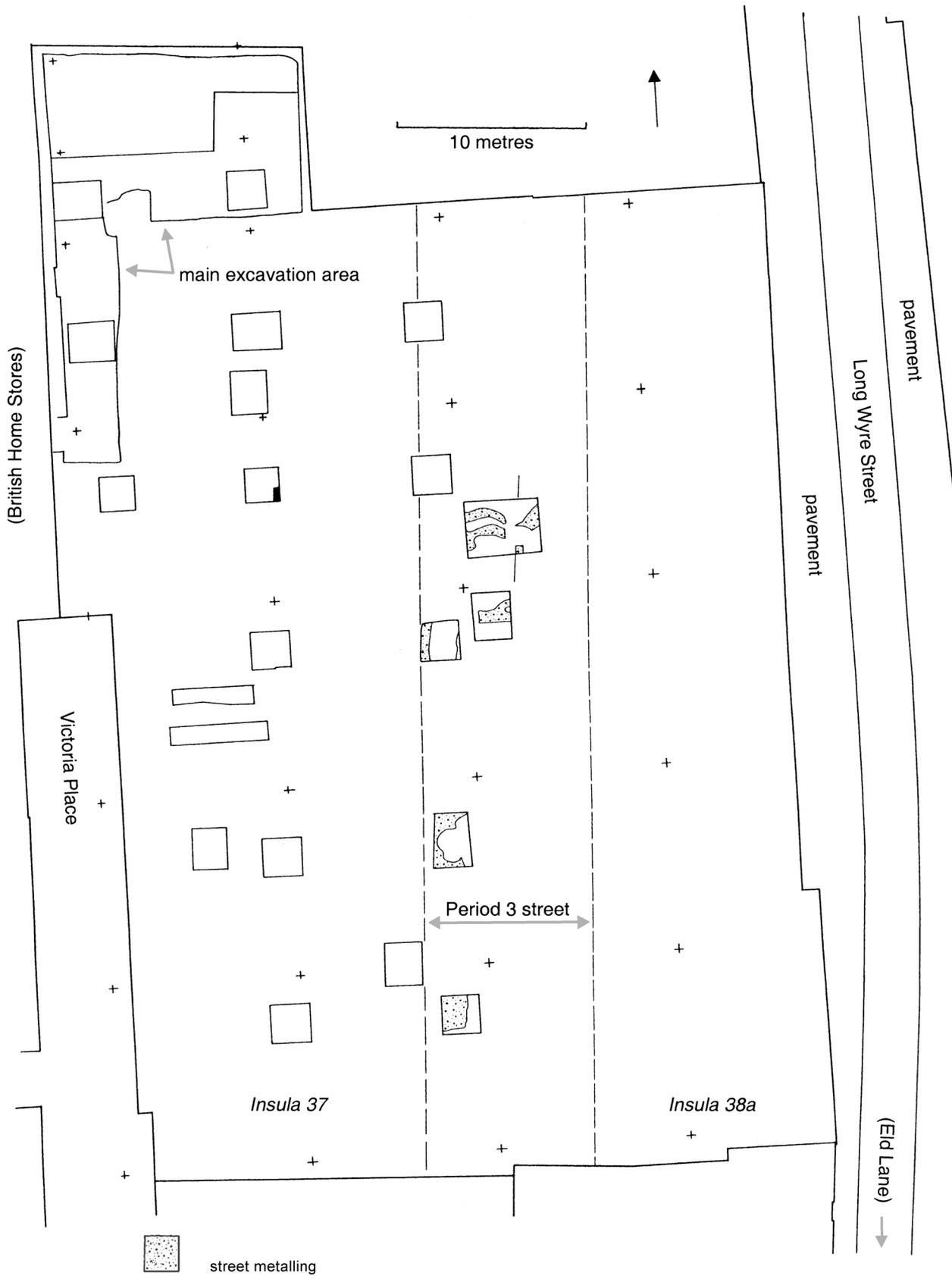


Fig 18 Position of street dividing Insulas 37 and 38a.

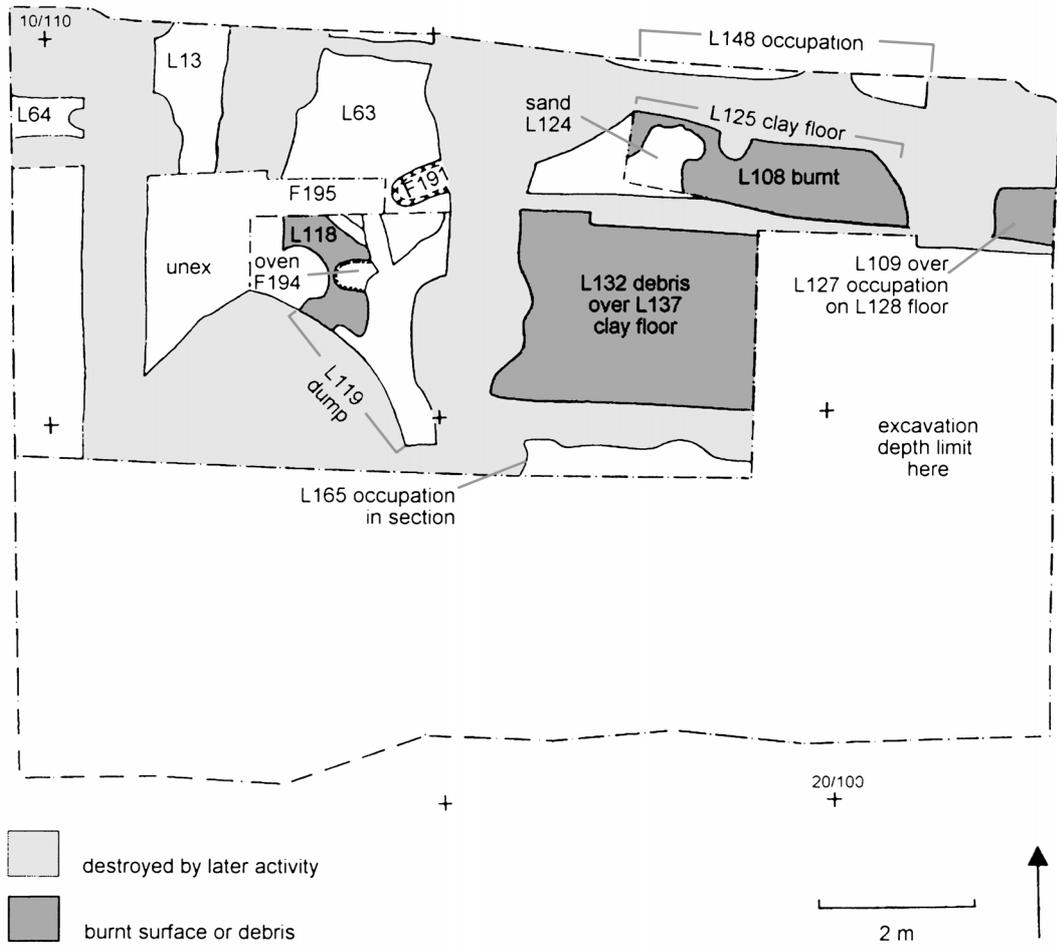


Fig 19 Period 2: early 2nd-century features.

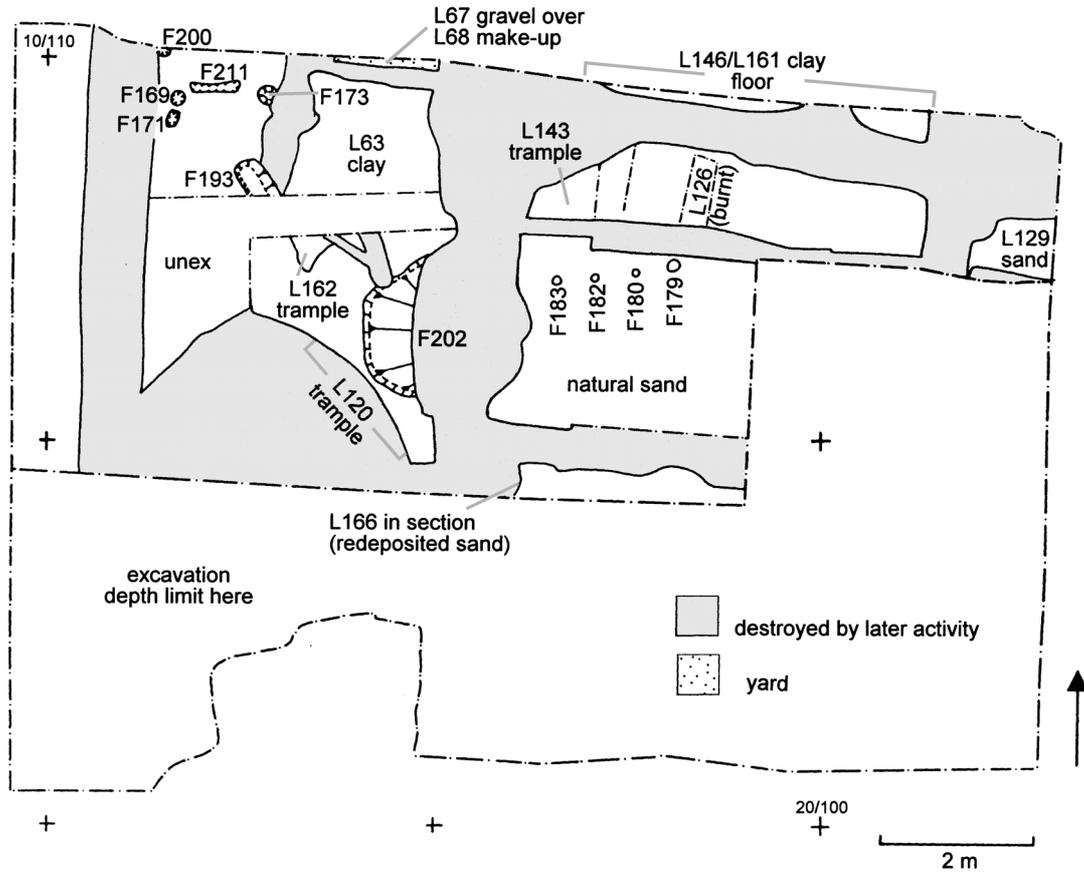


Fig 20 Period 1b: late 1st-century features.

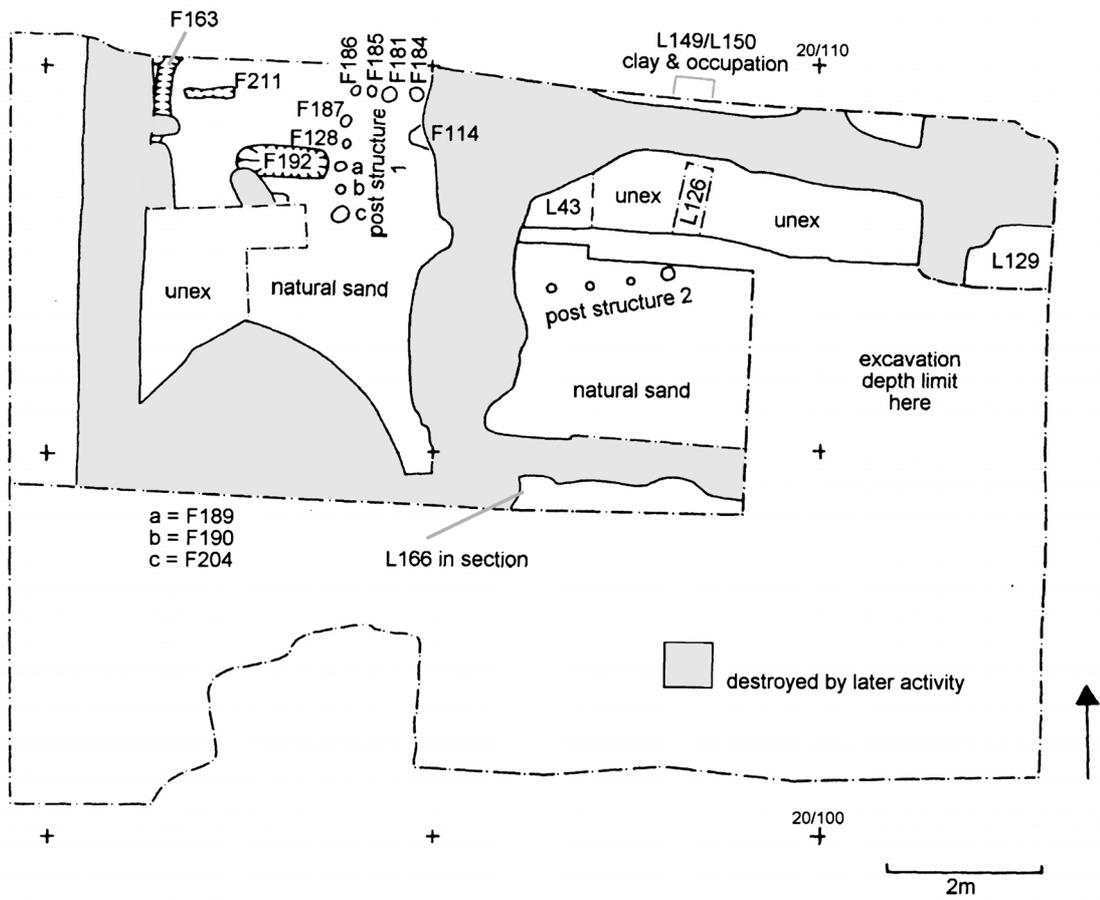


Fig 21 Period 1a: late 1st-century features.

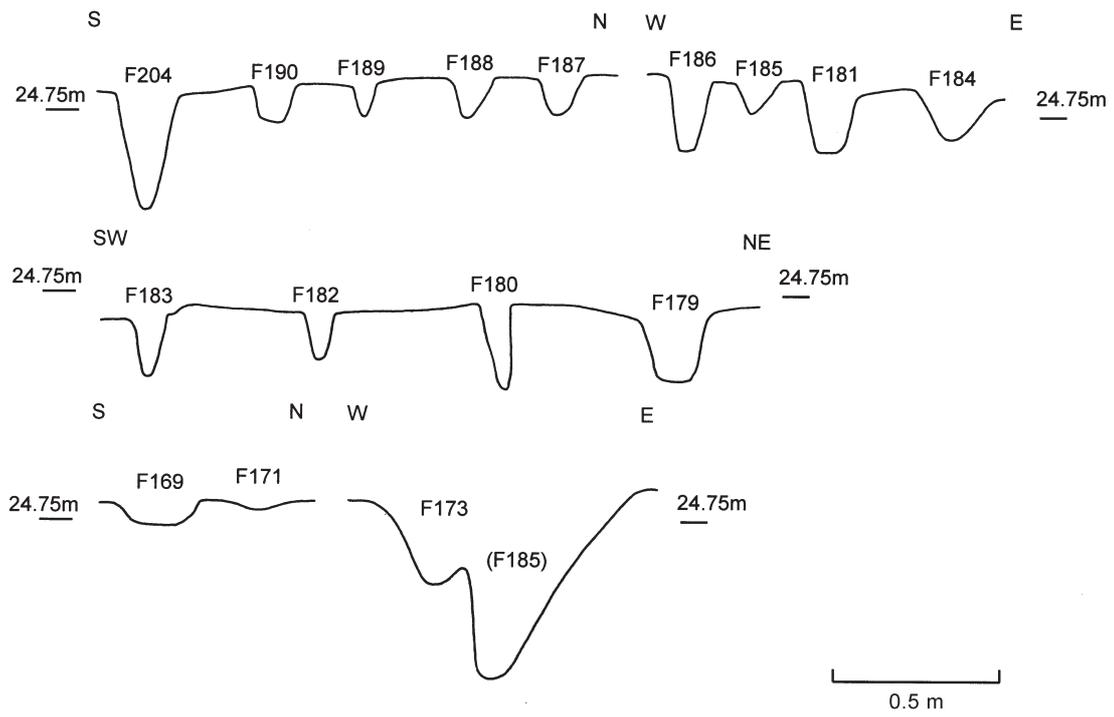


Fig 22 Period 1 Structure 1: feature profile (above); Period 1a, Structure 2, feature profile (middle); and Period 1b feature profiles (below).

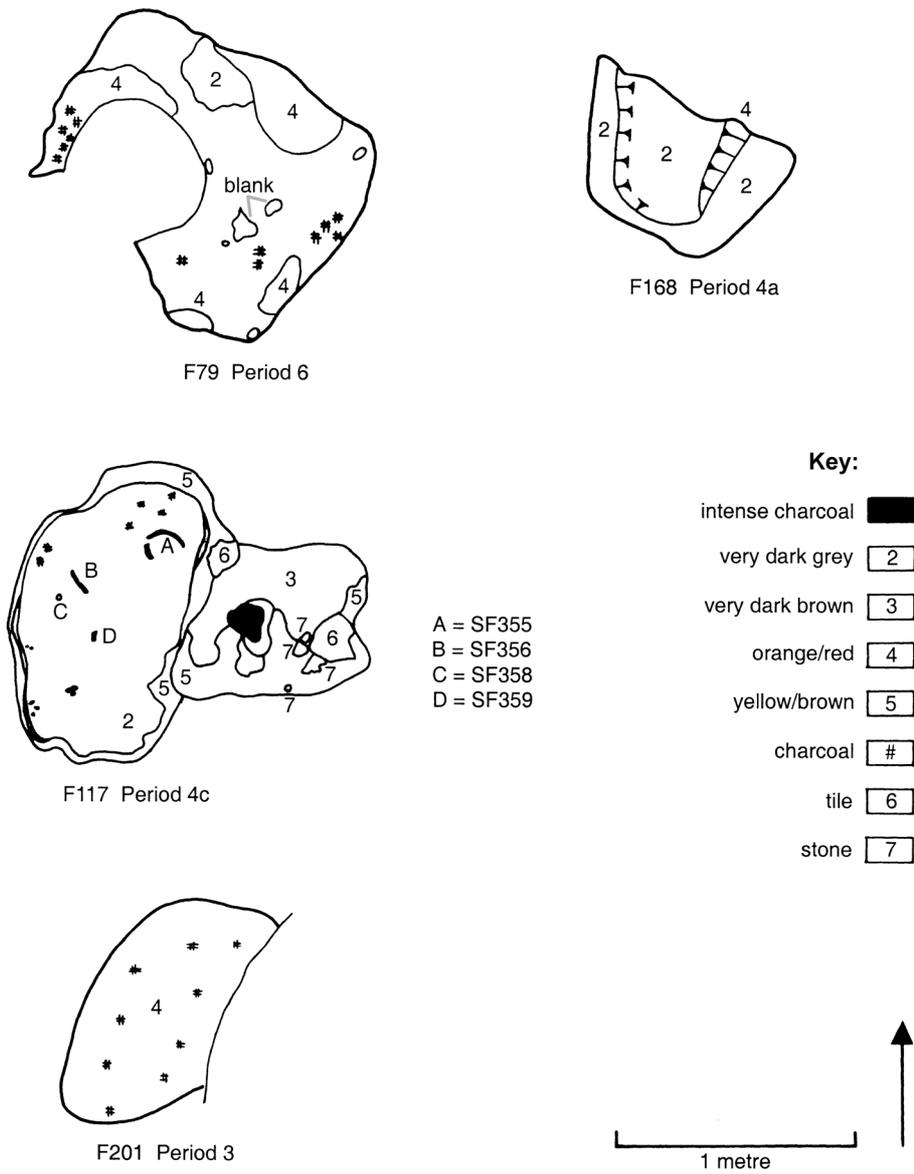


Fig 23 Hearths including the positions of the small finds from F117.

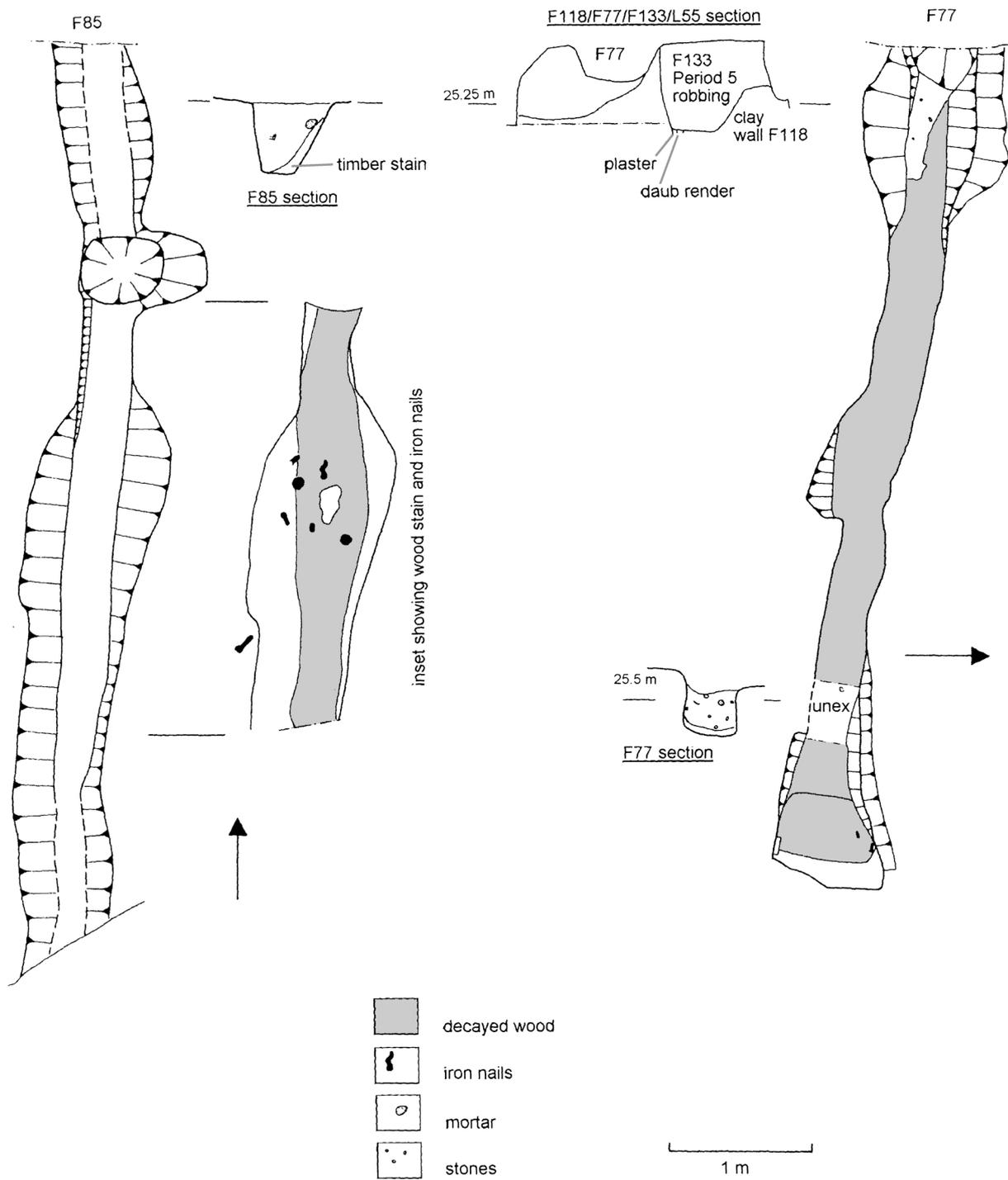


Fig 24 Decayed timbers F85 (Period 6/7) and F77 (Period 6).

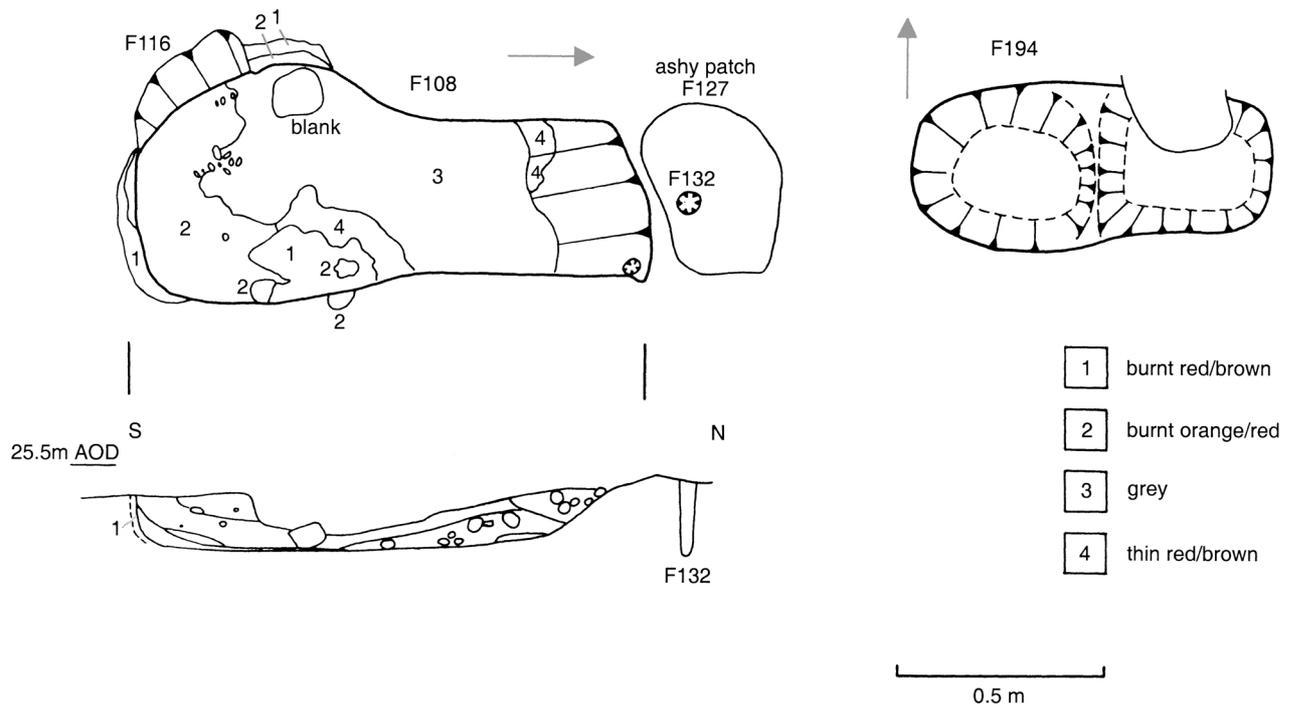


Fig 25 Ovens: F108 (Period 5) – plan and section (left); F194 (Period 2) – plan (right).

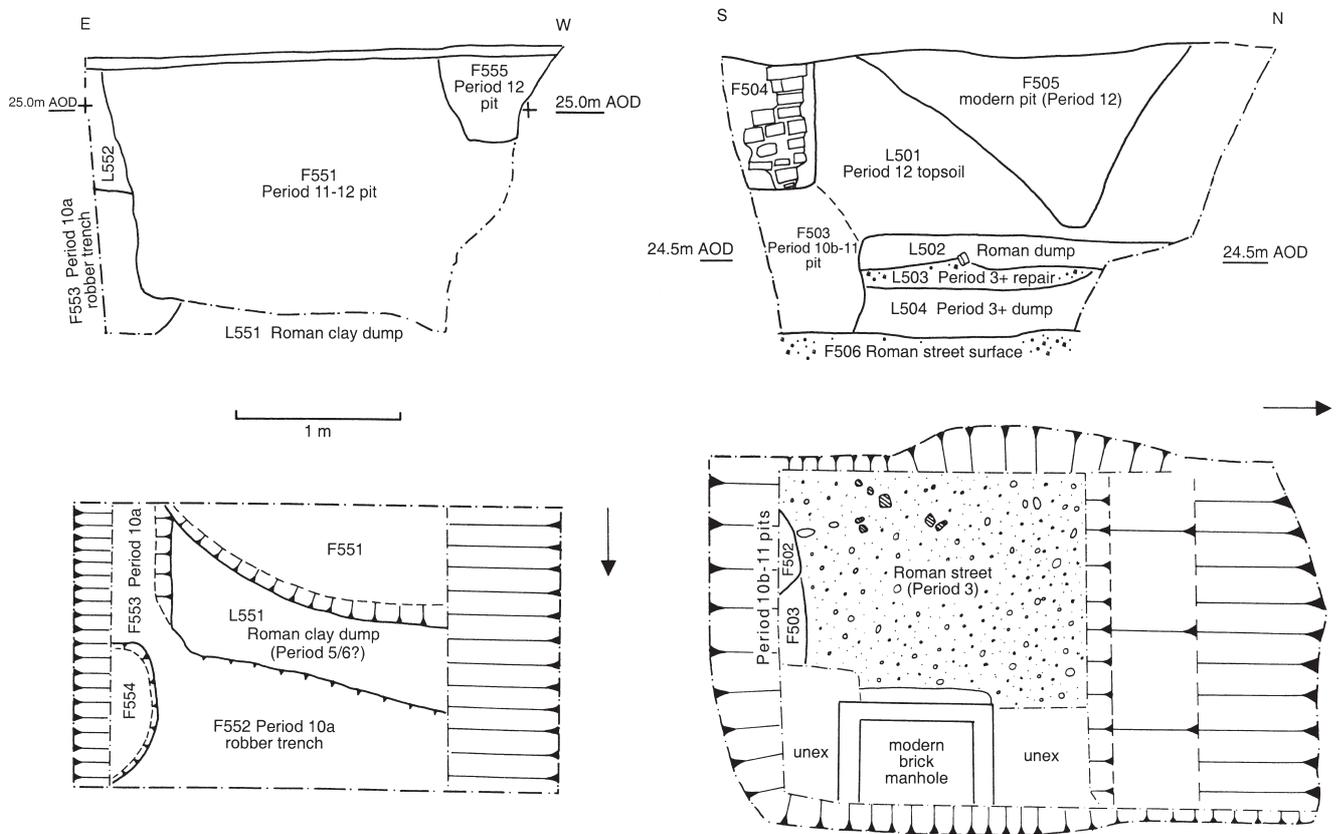


Fig 26 Pile-caps 1 centre (left) and 1 east (right): plan and section.

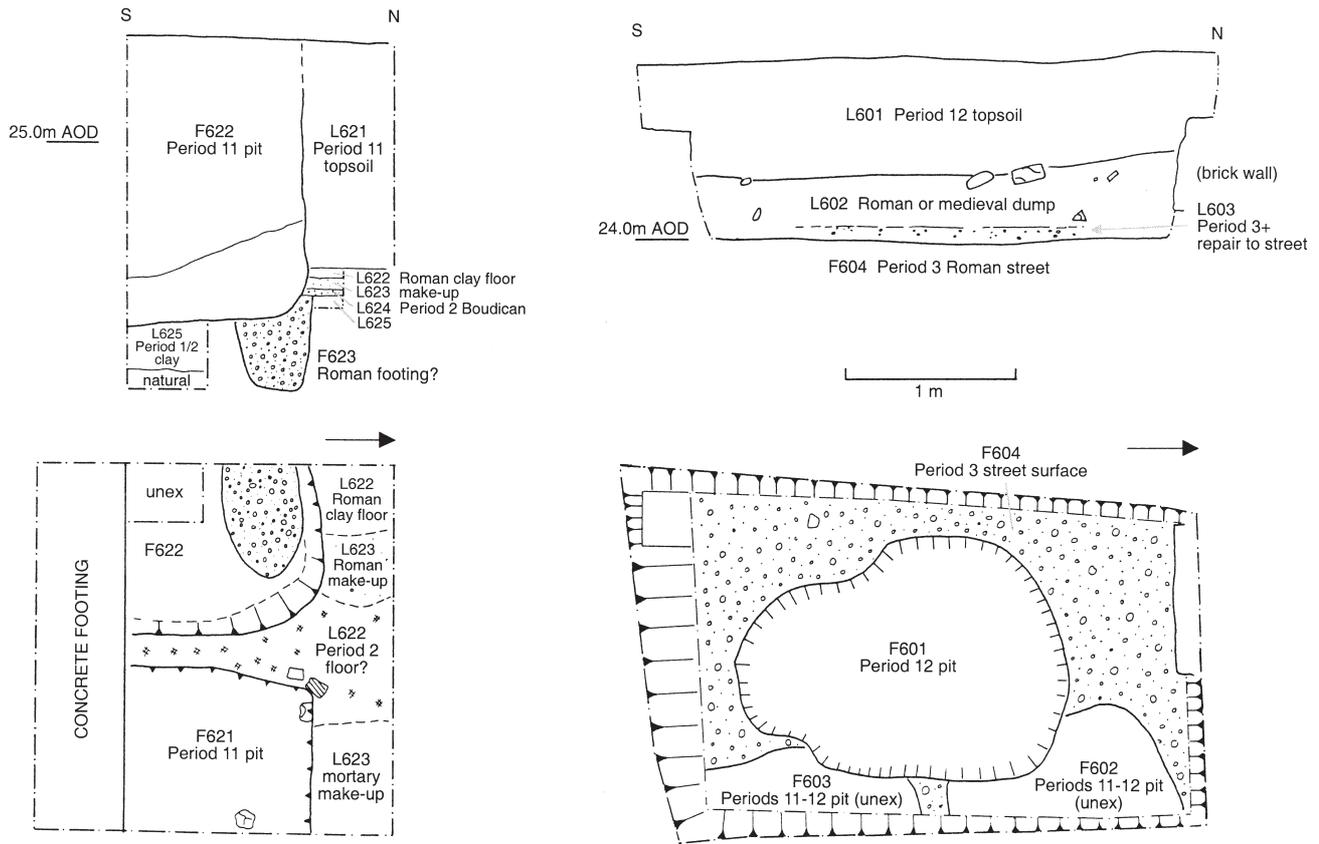


Fig 27 Pile-caps 2 centre (left) and 2 east (right): plan and section.

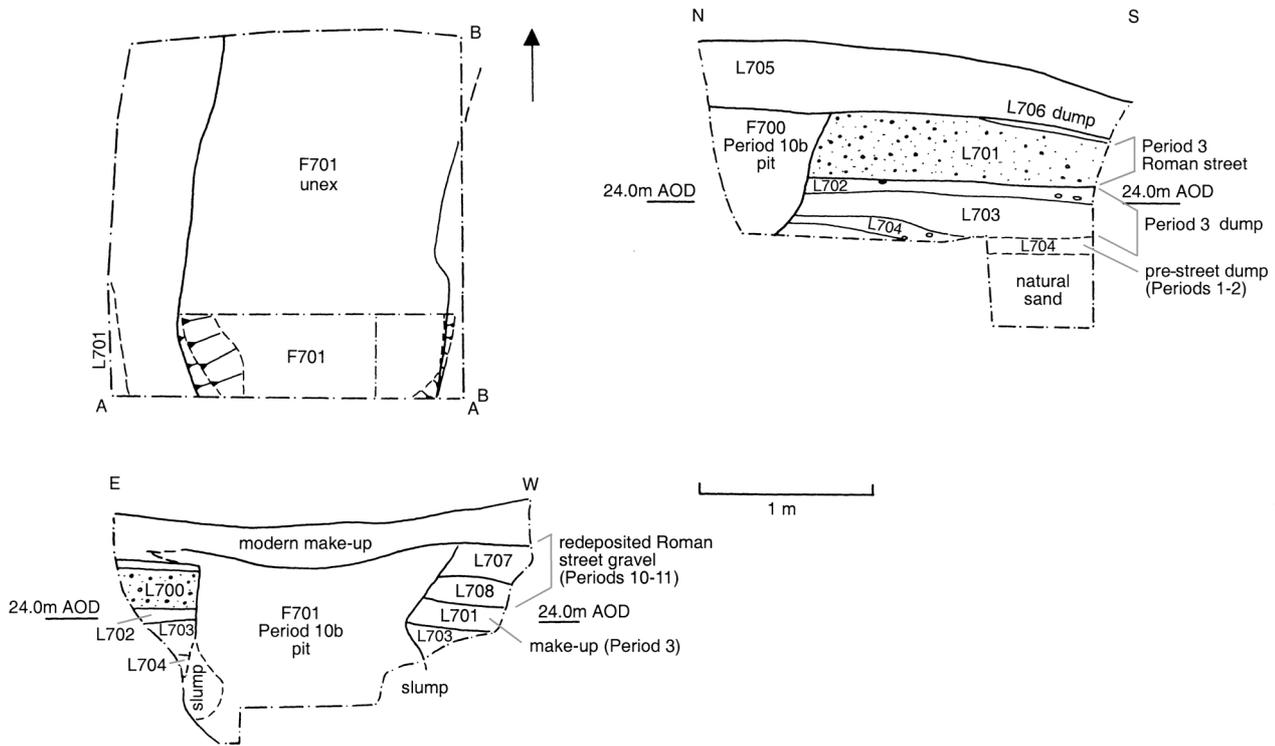


Fig 28 Pile-cap 3 east: plan, and sections A-A (left) and B-B (right).

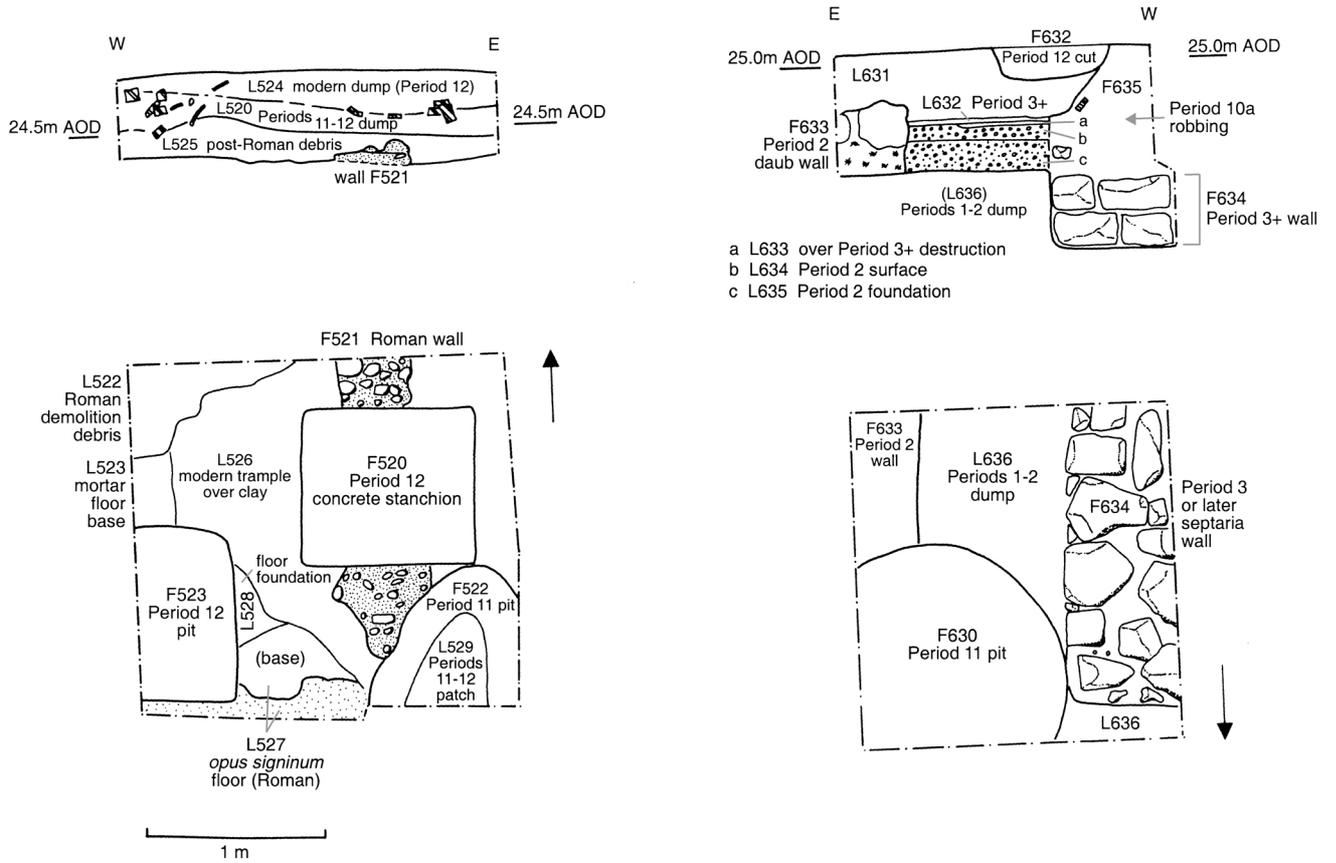


Fig 29 Pile-caps 3 centre (left) and 4 centre (right): plan and section.

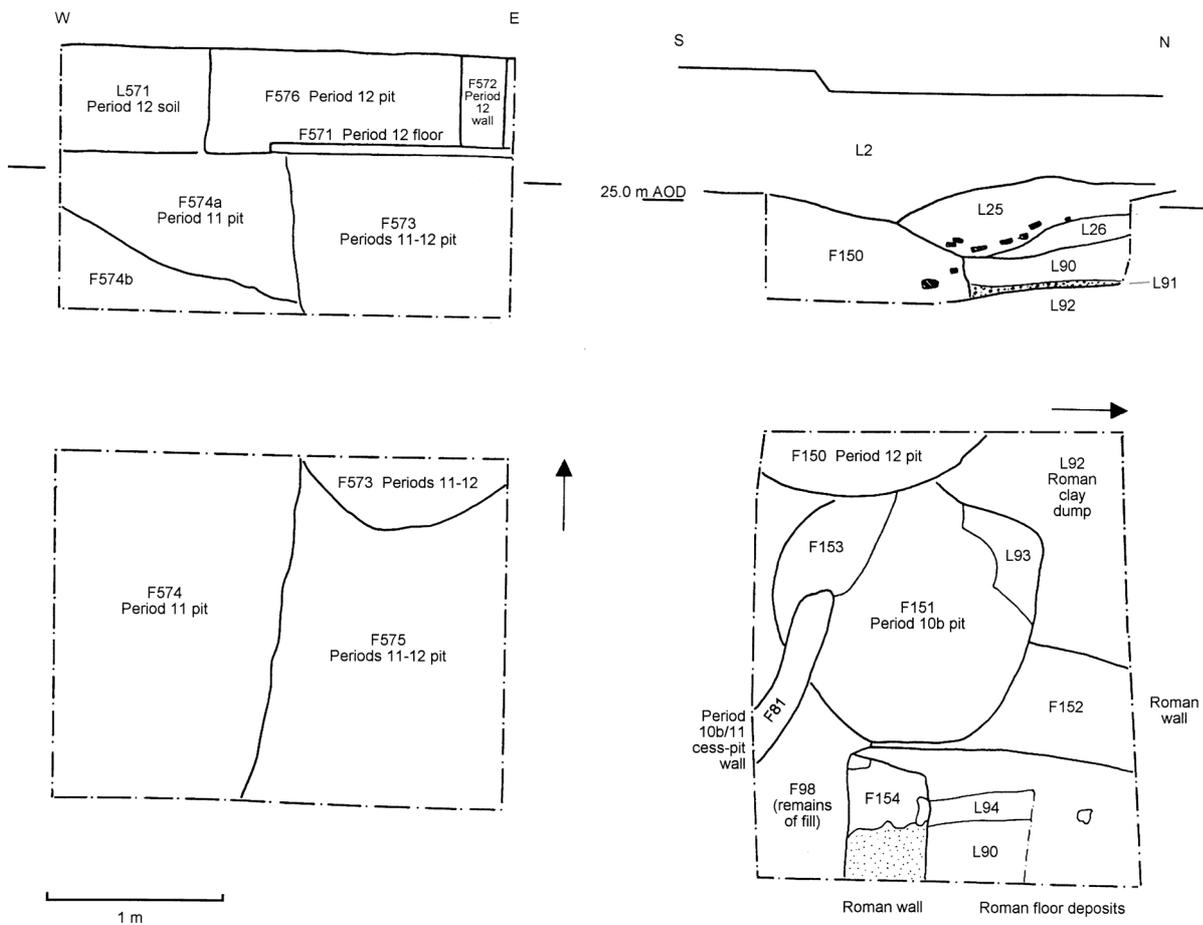


Fig 30 Pile-caps 5 centre (left) and 5 west (right): plan and section.

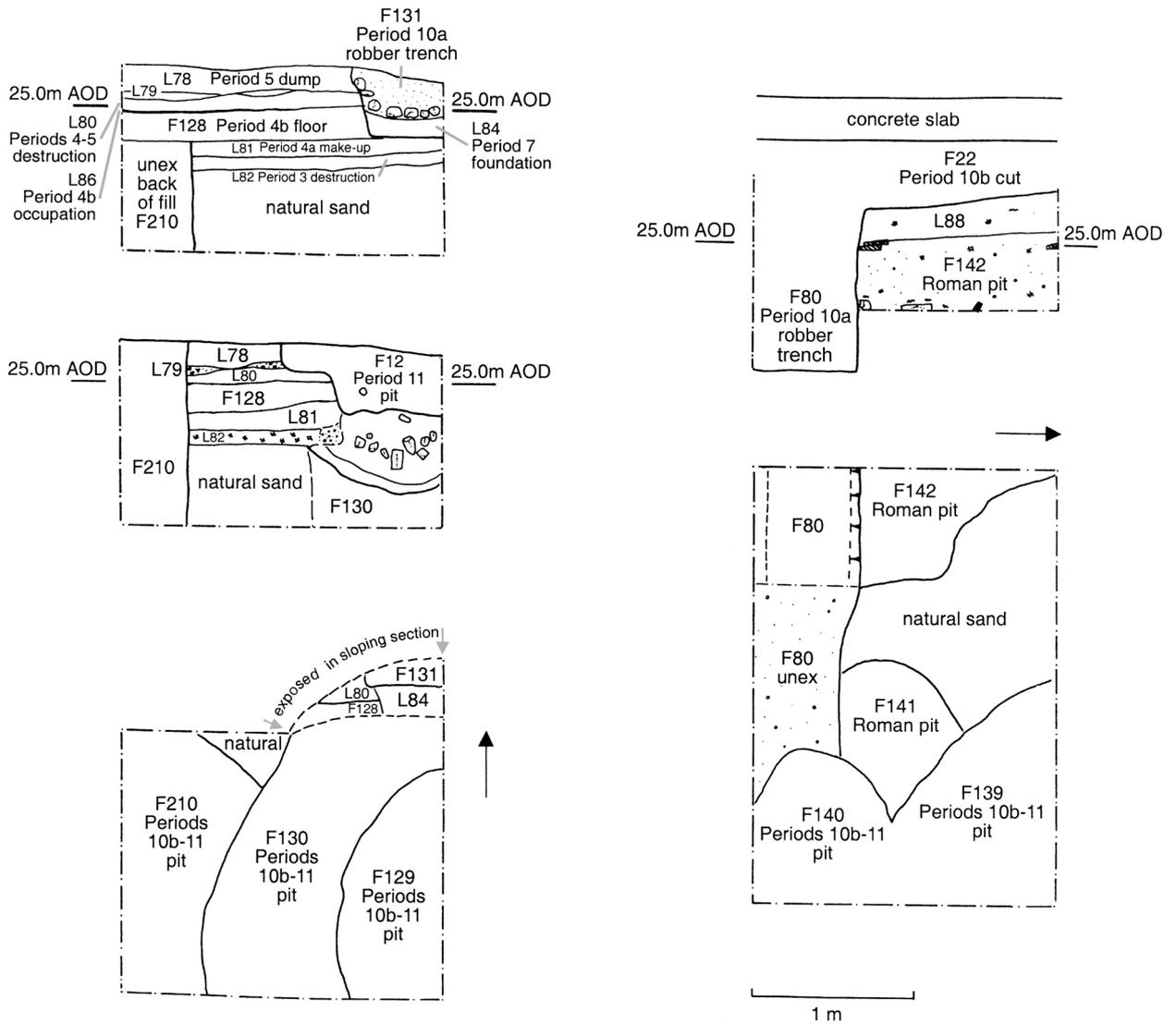


Fig 31 Pile-caps 6 centre (left) and 6 west (right): plan and section.

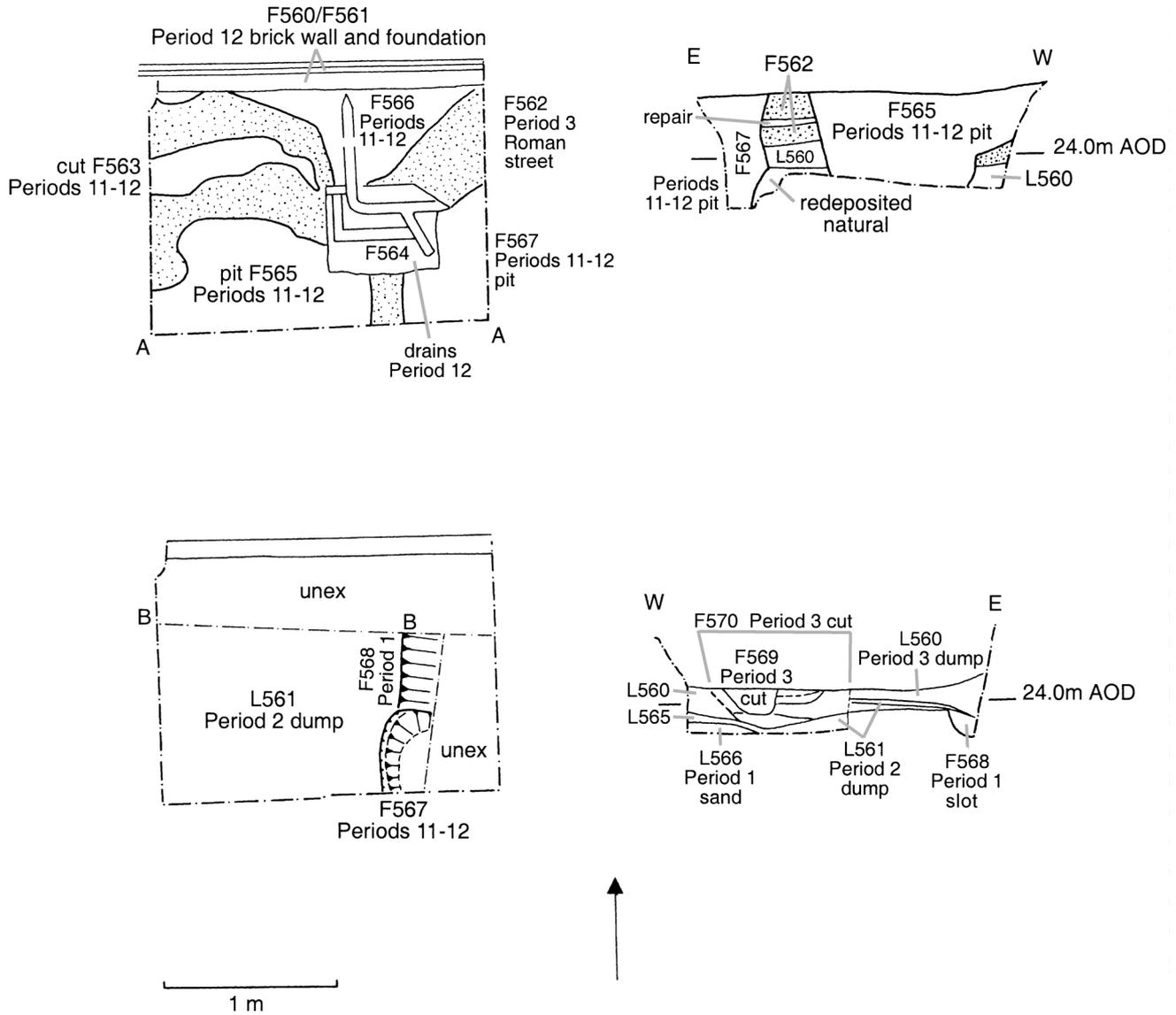


Fig 32 Tower-crane pit.

Plan: at level of Roman street (above left) and after removal of street (below left).

Sections: section A-A, including Roman street (above right) and section B-B, after removal of street (below right).

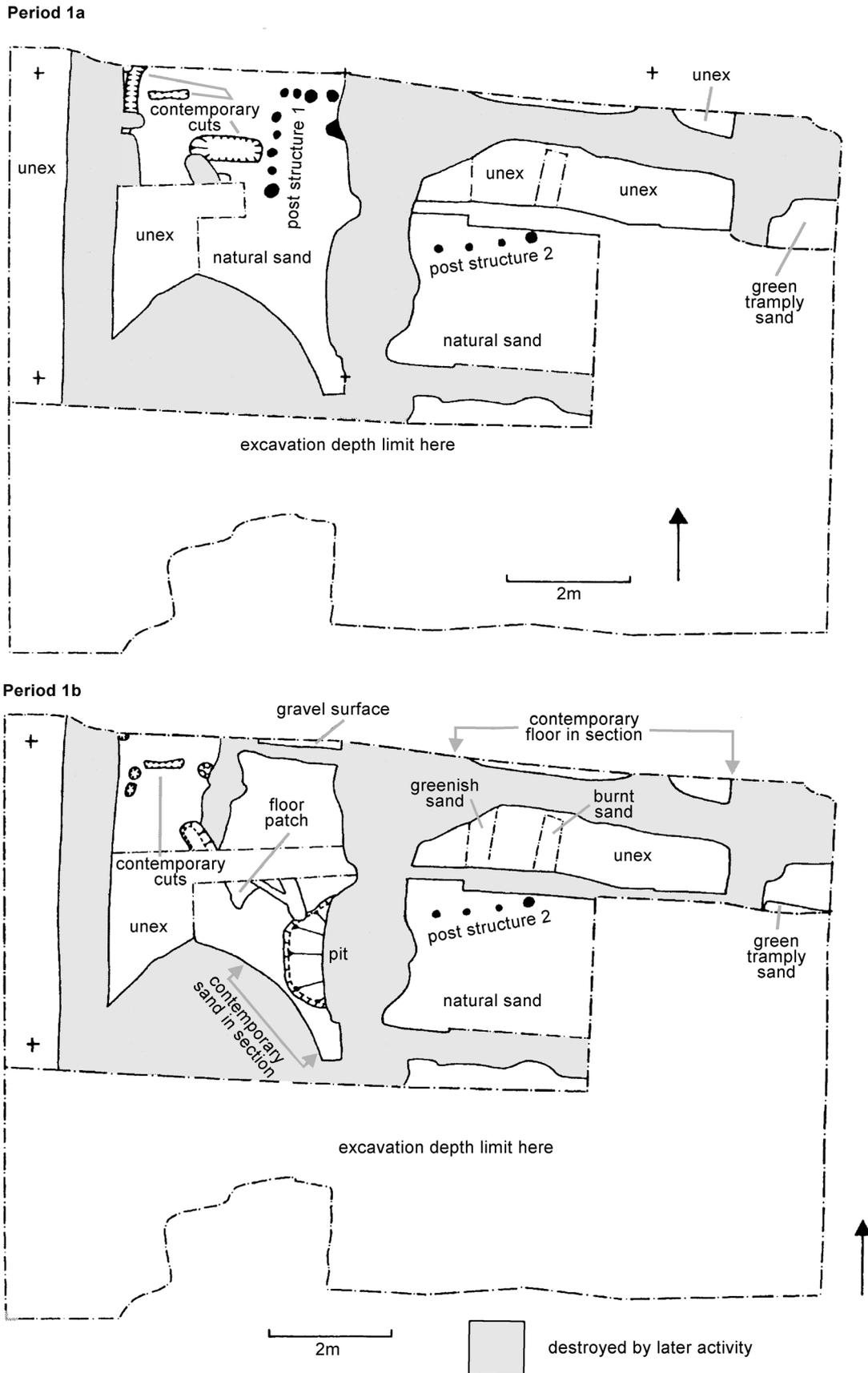


Fig 33 Period 1 (late 1st century) interpretation.

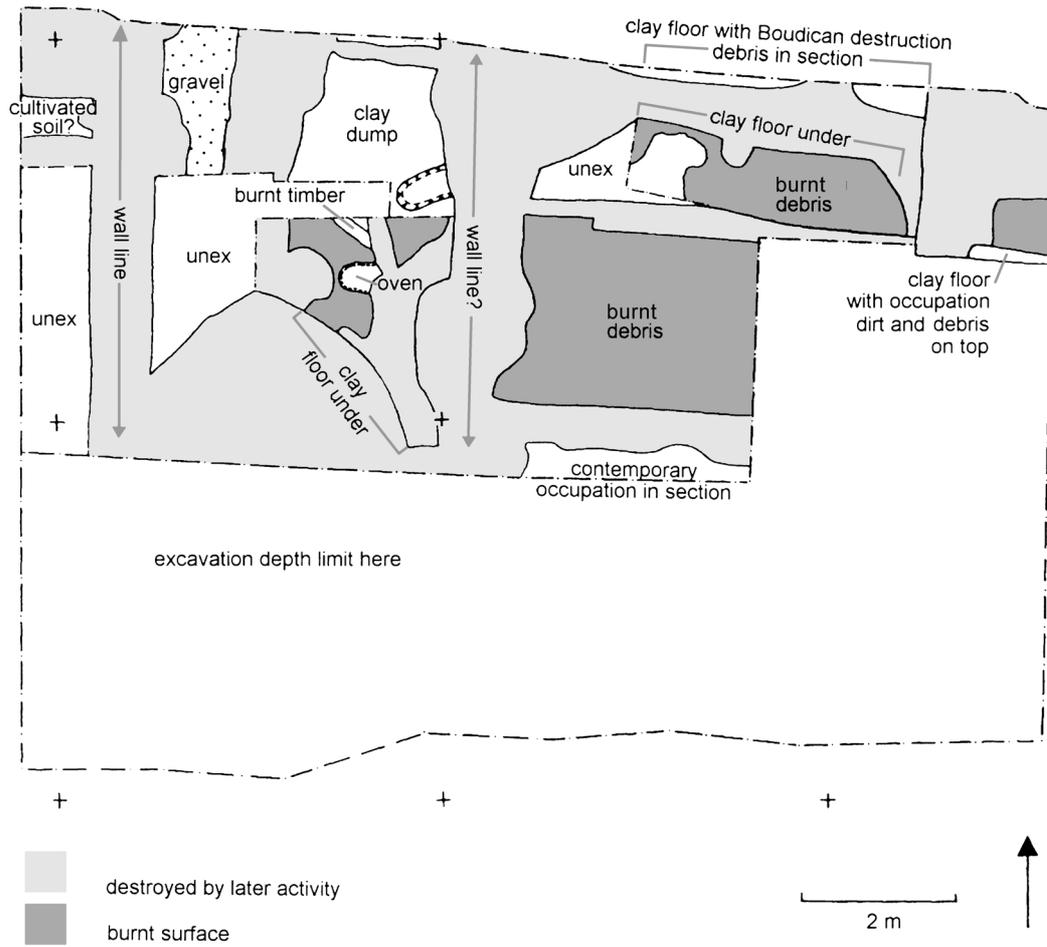


Fig 34 Period 2 (early 2nd century) interpretation.

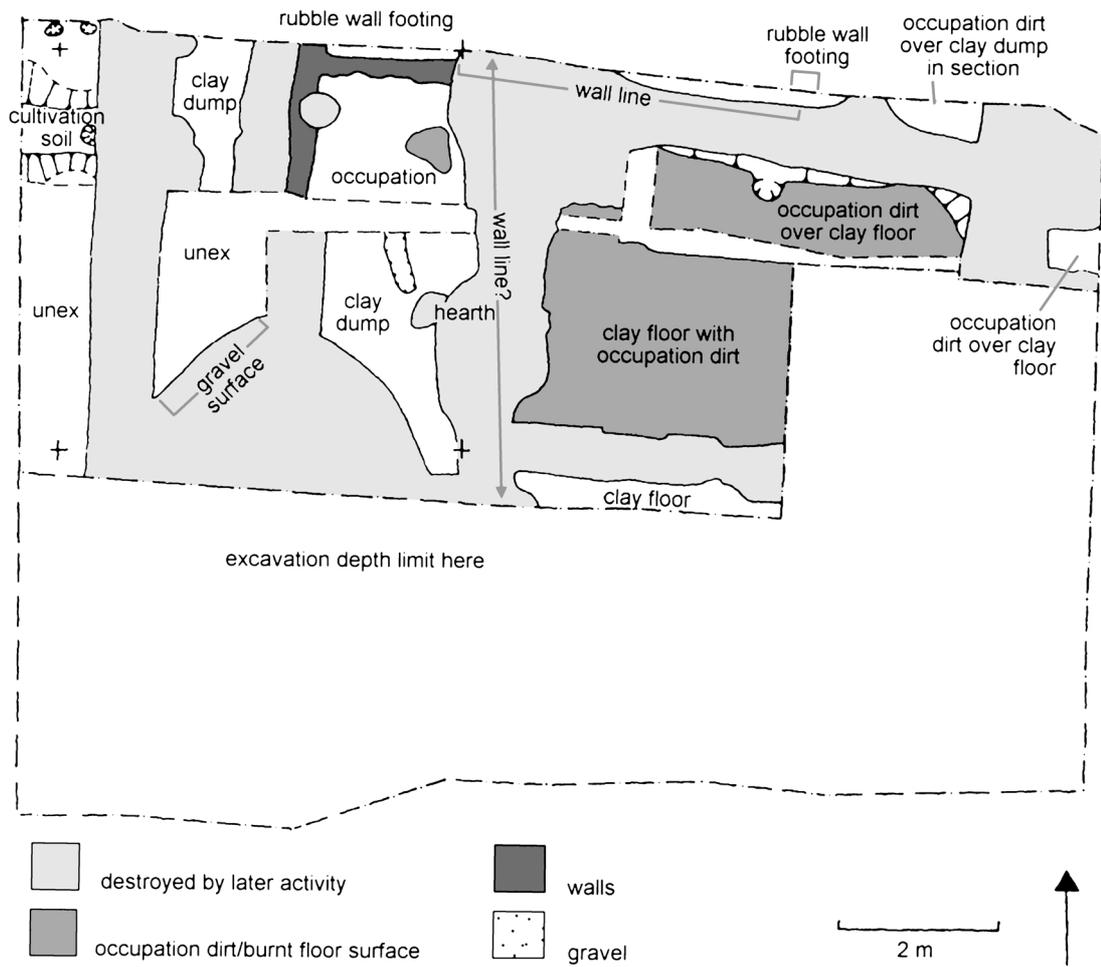


Fig 35 Period 3 (early/mid 2nd century): Building 190 interpretation.

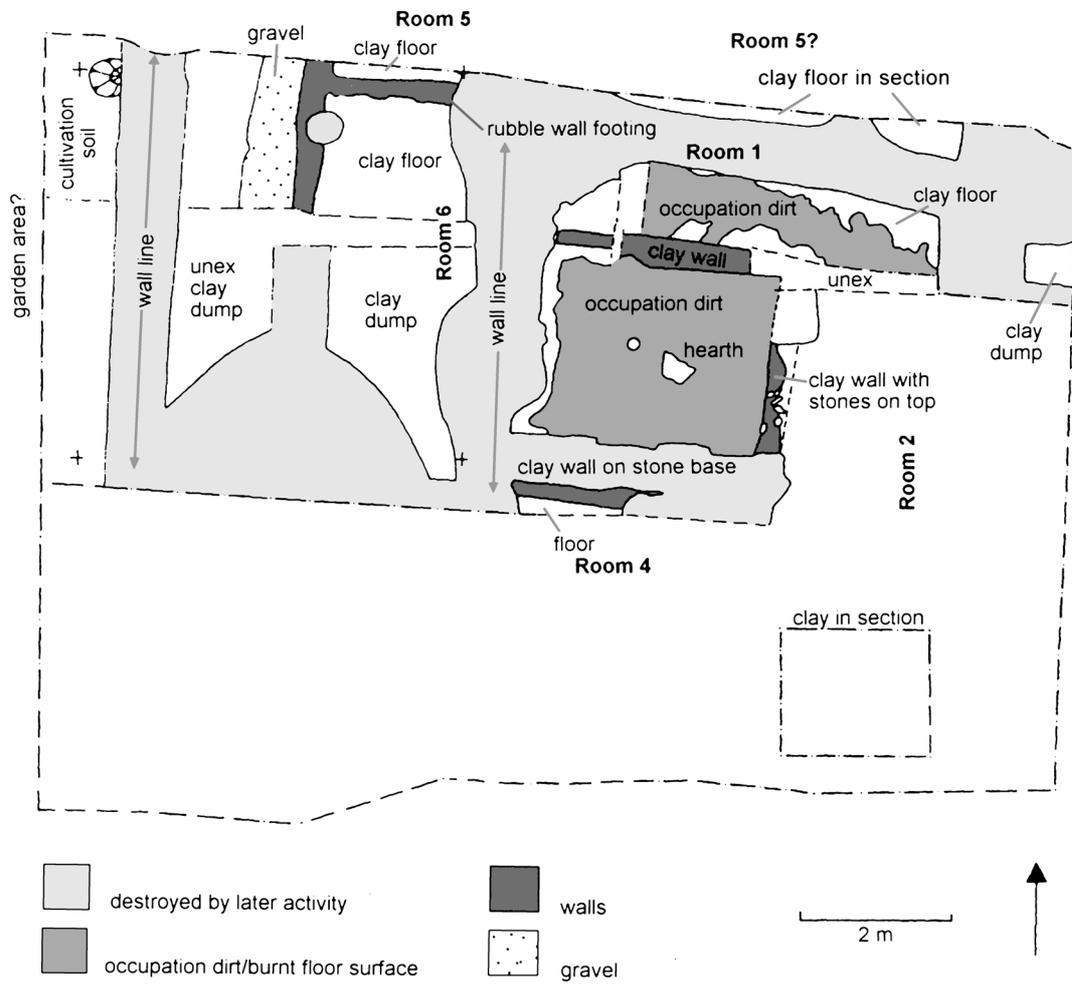


Fig 36 Period 4a (mid - late 2nd century): Building 191 interpretation.

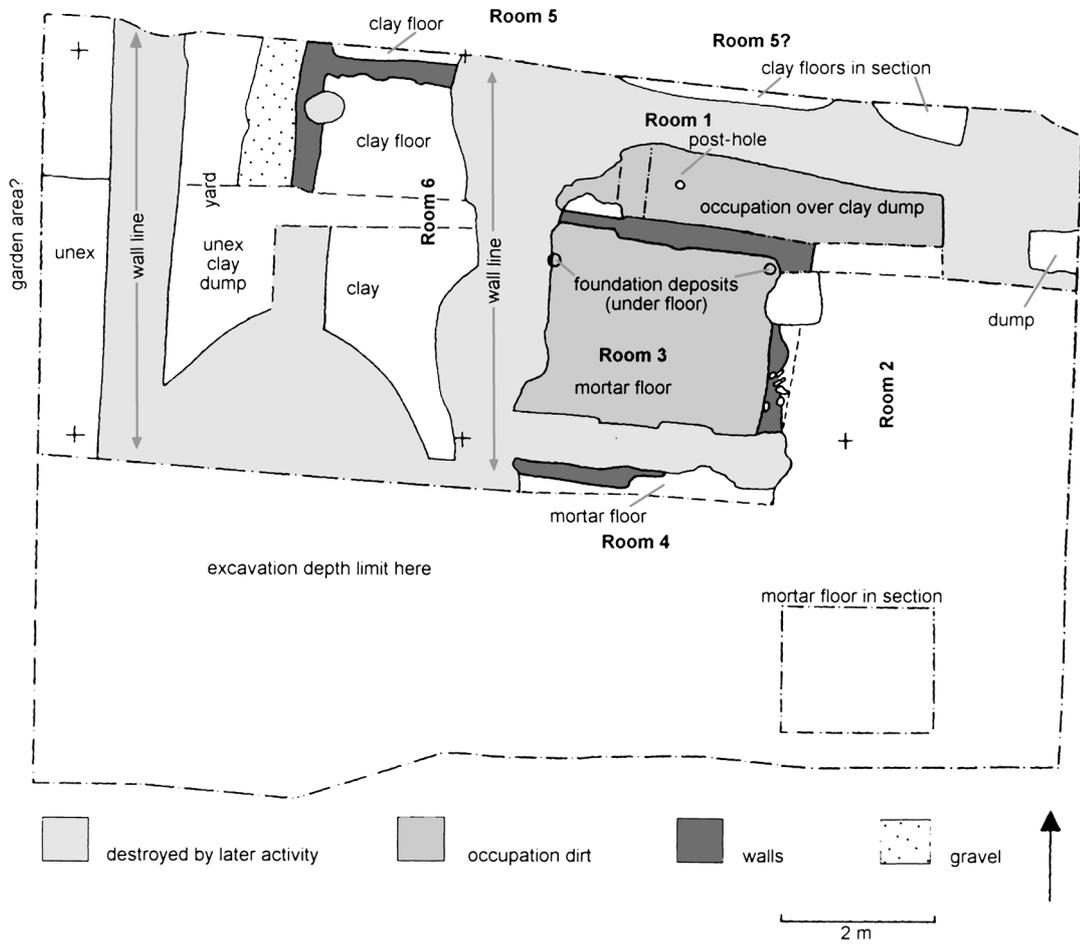


Fig 37 Period 4b (mid - late 2nd century): Building 191 interpretation.

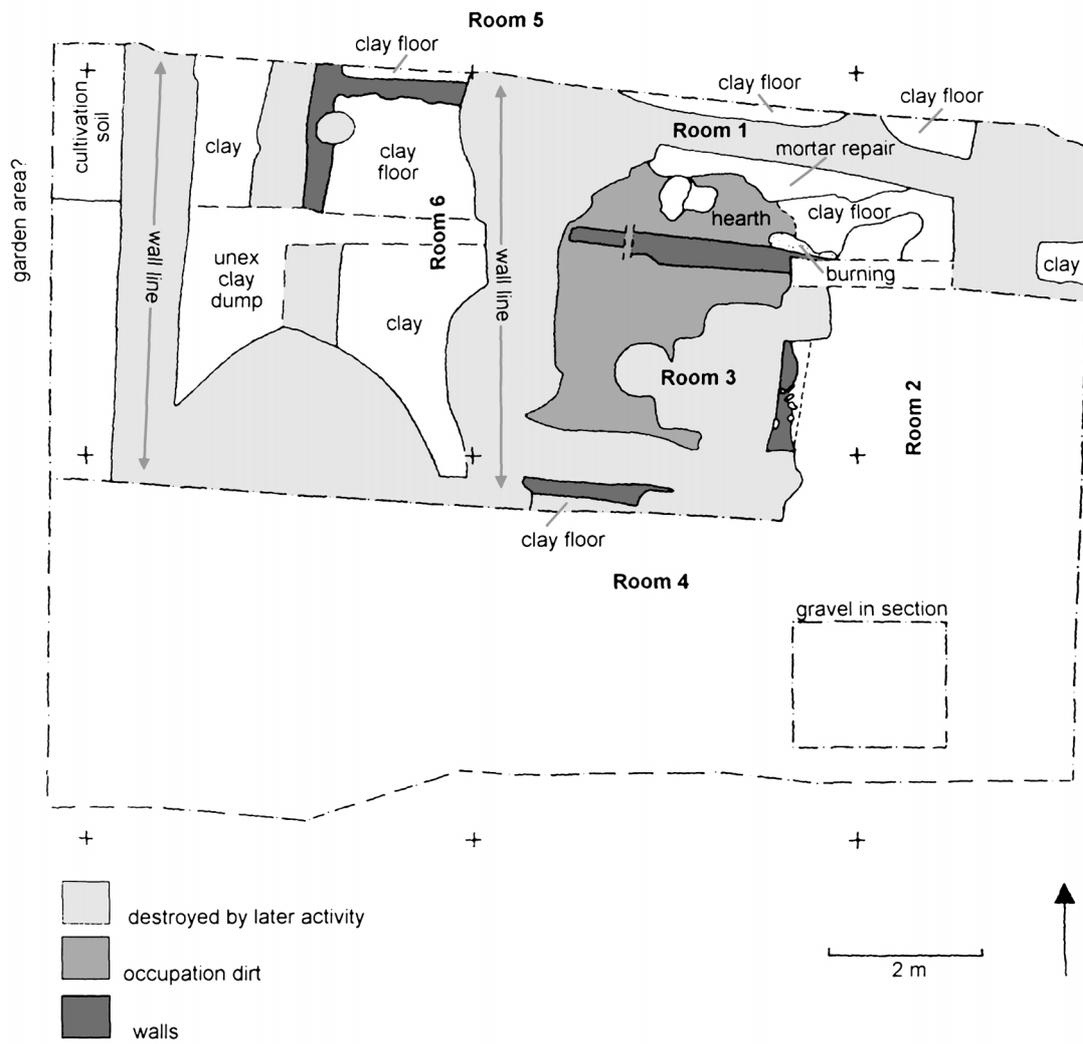


Fig 38 Period 4c (mid - late 2nd century): Building 191 interpretation.

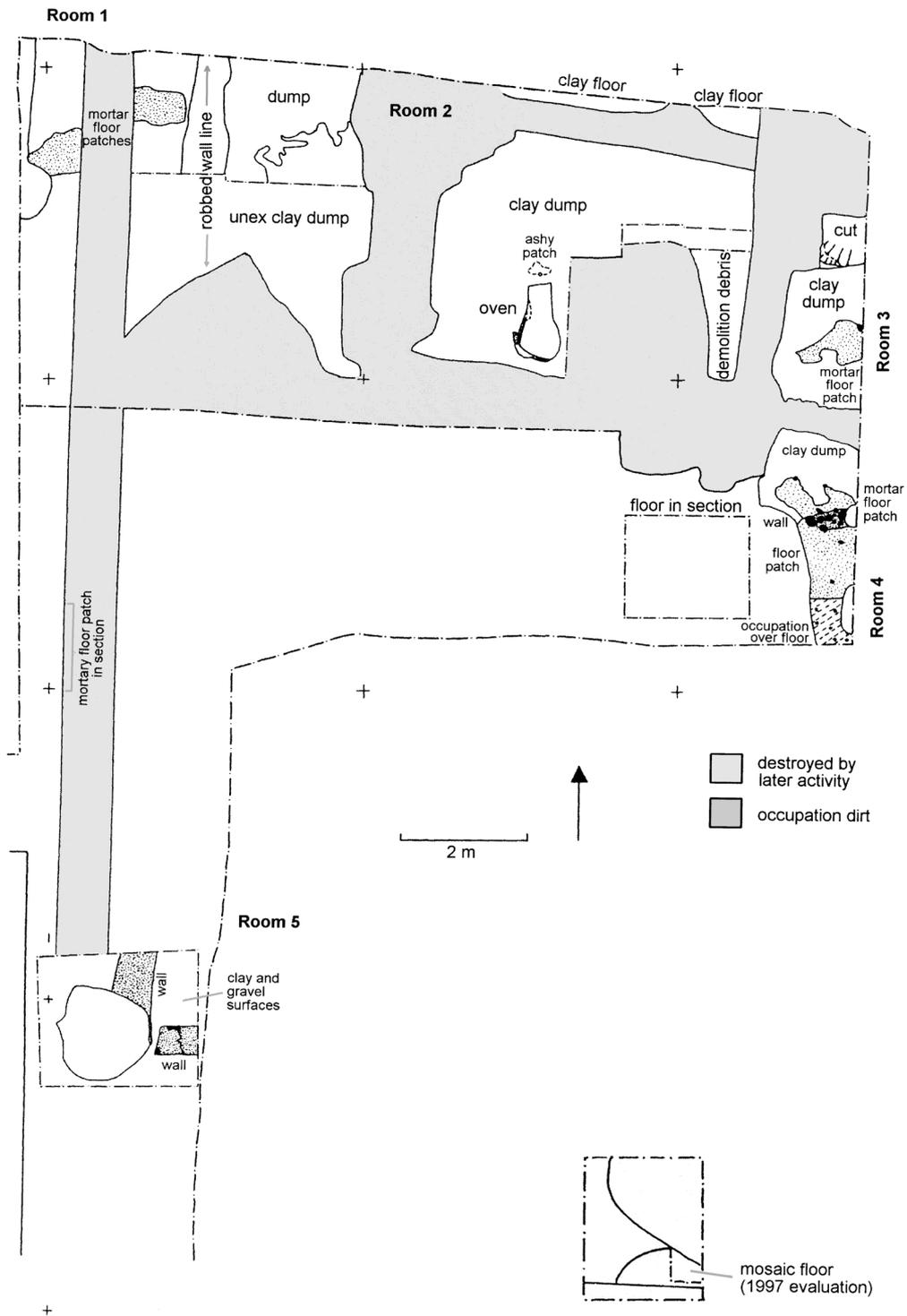


Fig 39 Period 5 (late 2nd century) interpretation.

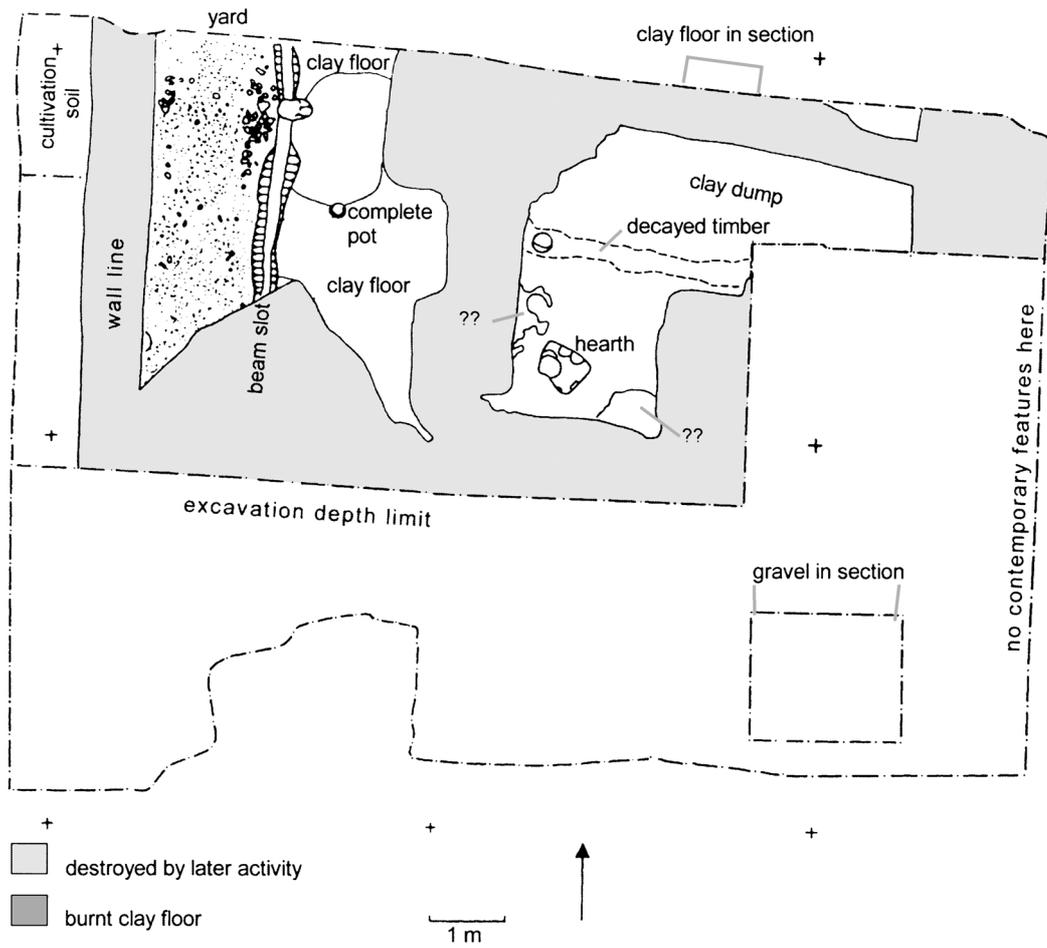


Fig 40 Period 6 (early-mid 3rd century) interpretation.

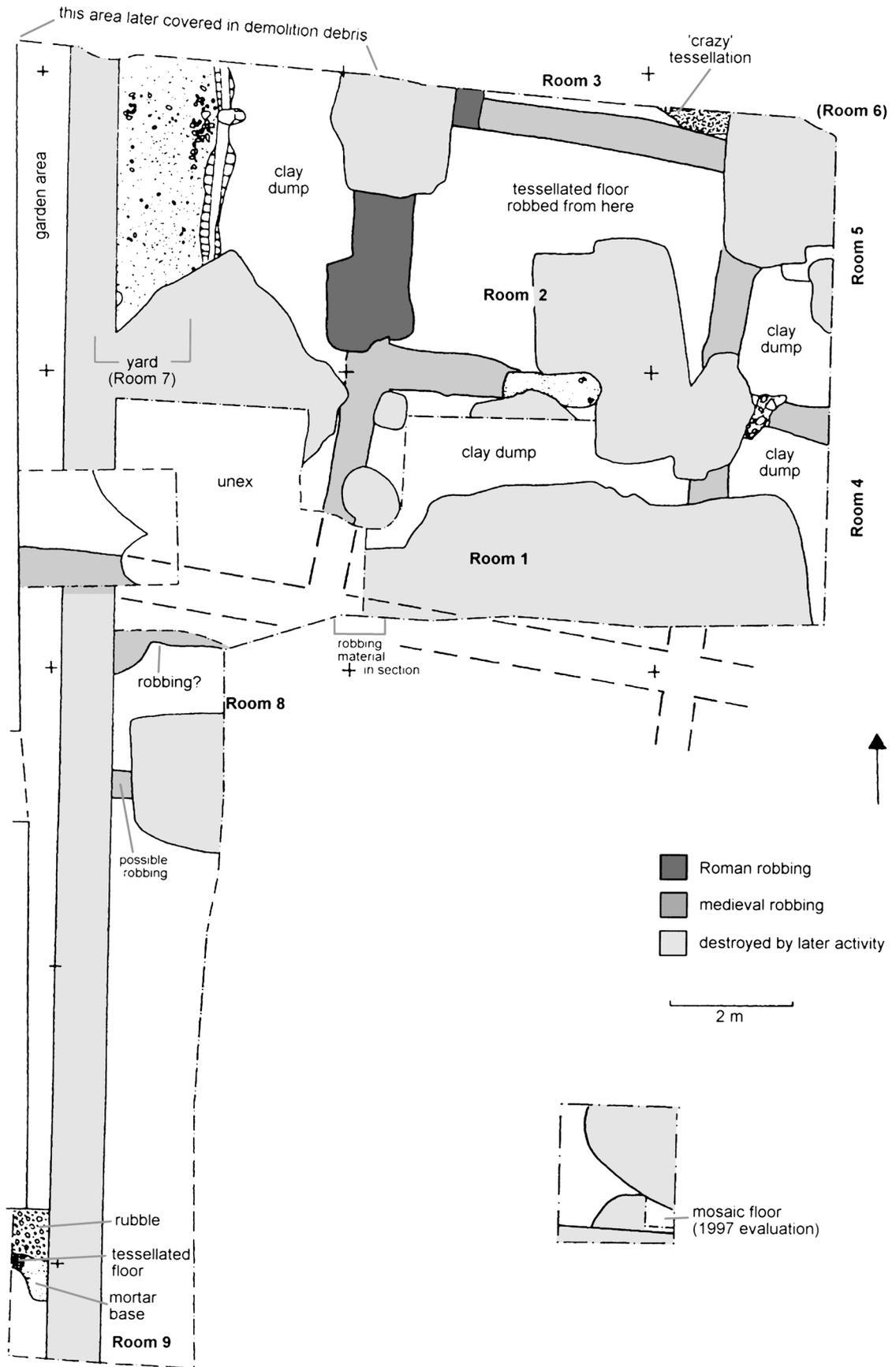


Fig 41 Period 7 (after AD 270) interpretation.

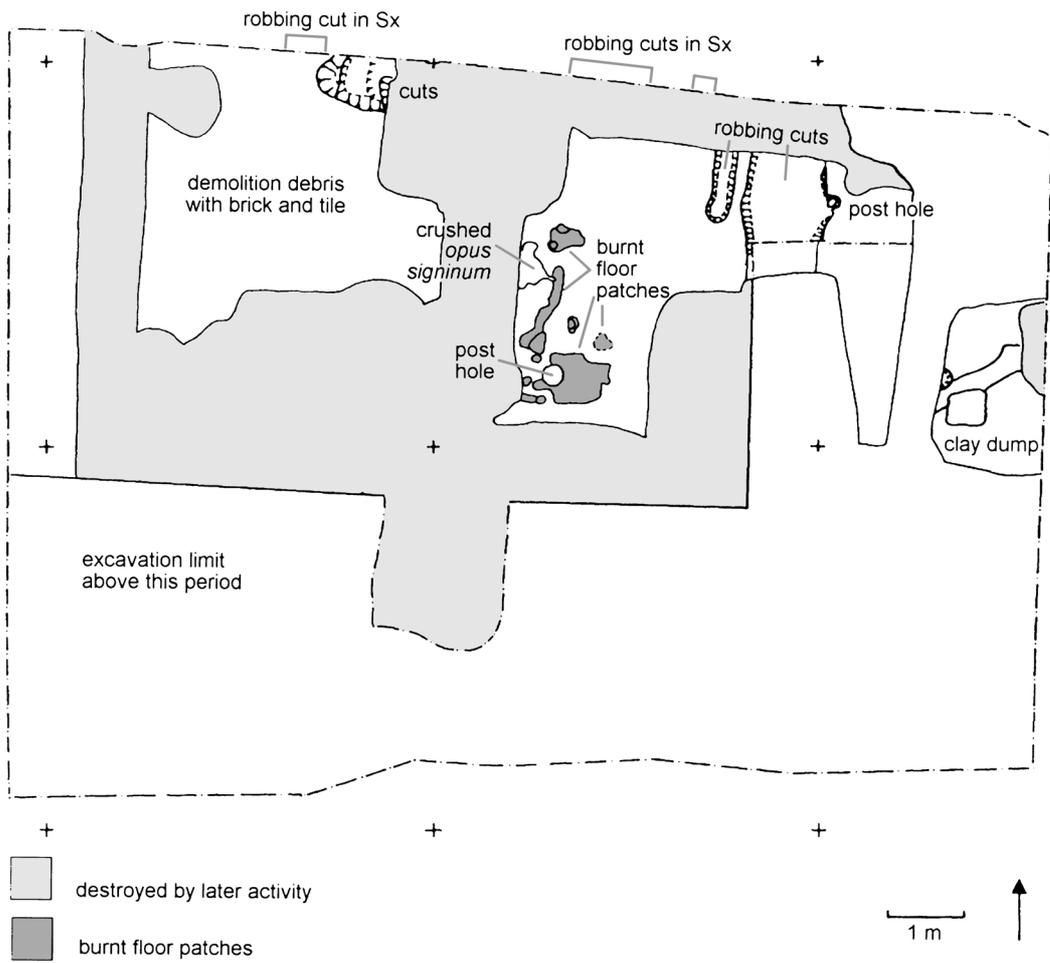


Fig 42 Period 9 (early 4th century) interpretation.



Fig 43 Period 10a (13th century): interpretation.

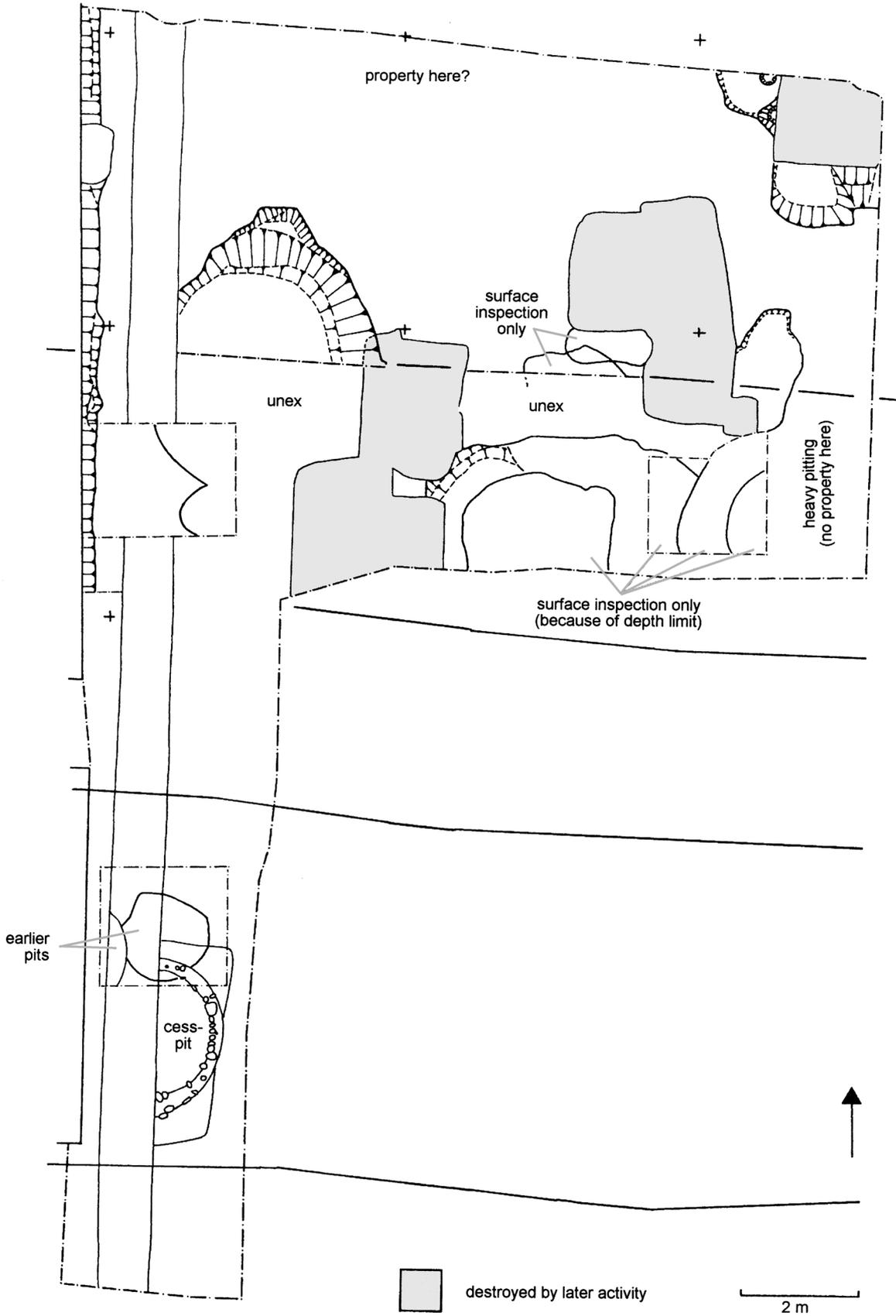


Fig 44 Periods 10b-11: cess-pit and rubbish-pits (13th-16th century). (Victorian property boundaries are shown for comparison.)

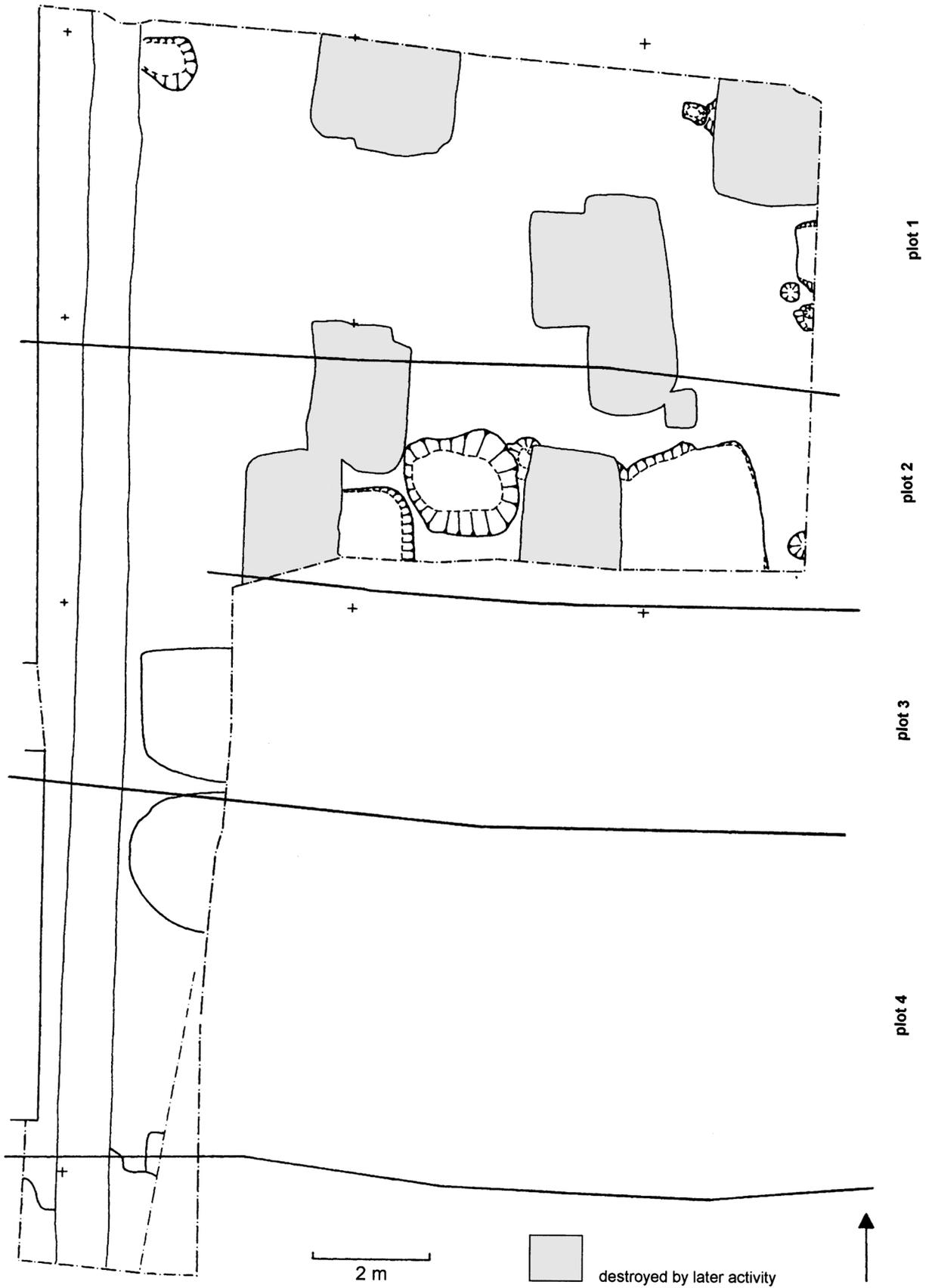


Fig 45 Periods 11-12: pits and other cuts (17th-18th century). (Victorian property boundaries are shown for comparison.)

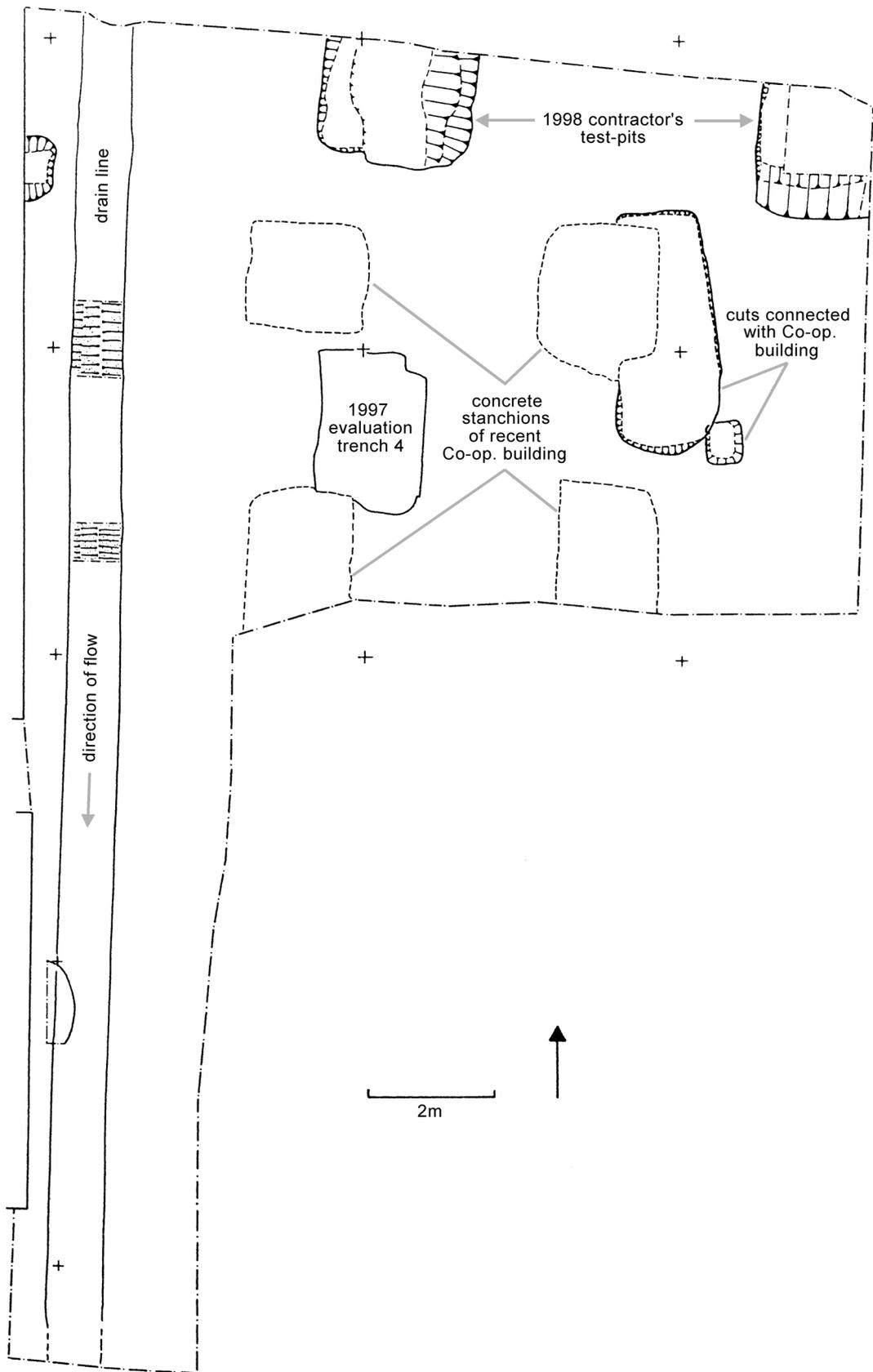


Fig 46 Period 12: Victorian and modern cuts.



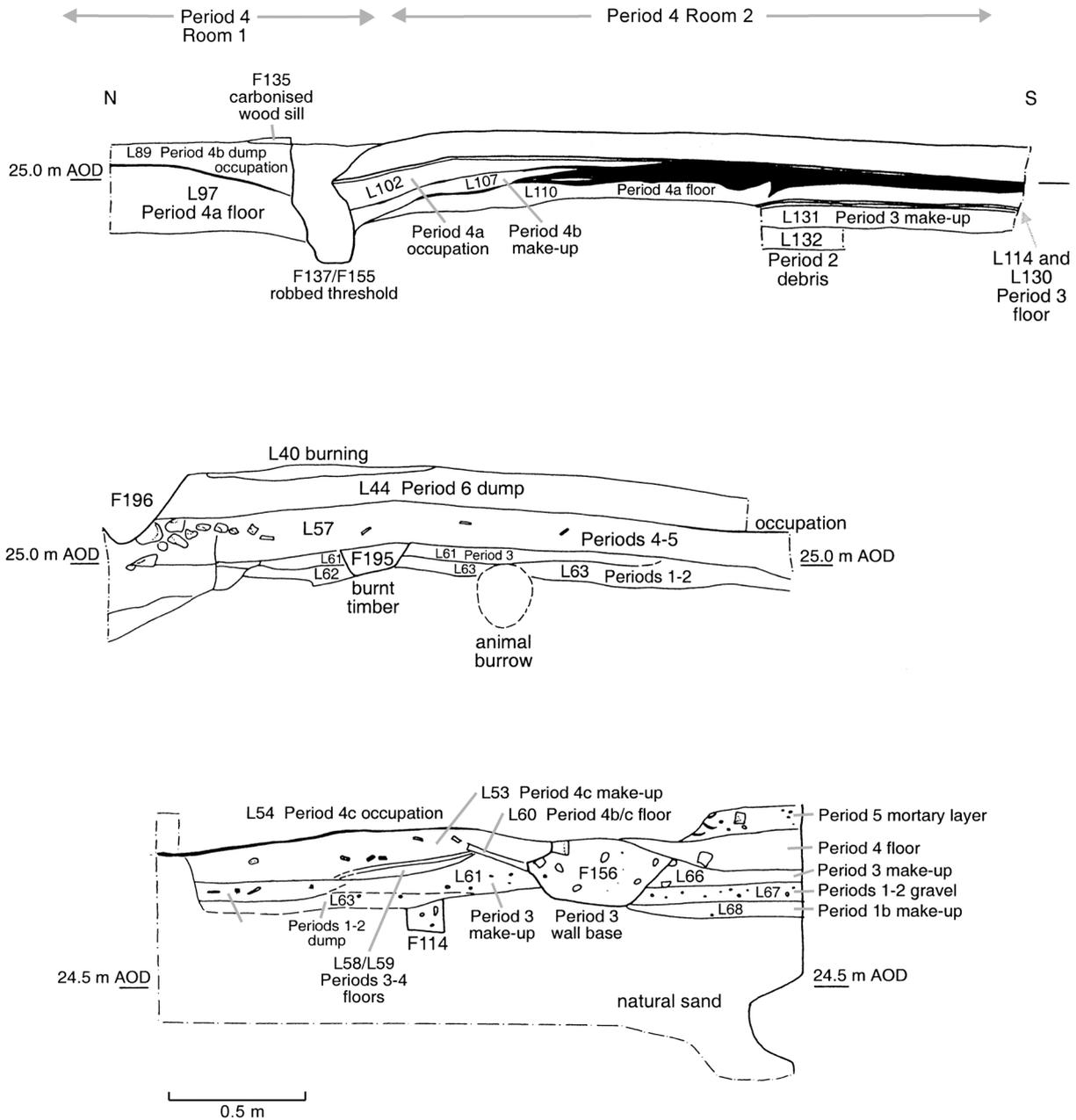


Fig 49 Sundry sections.

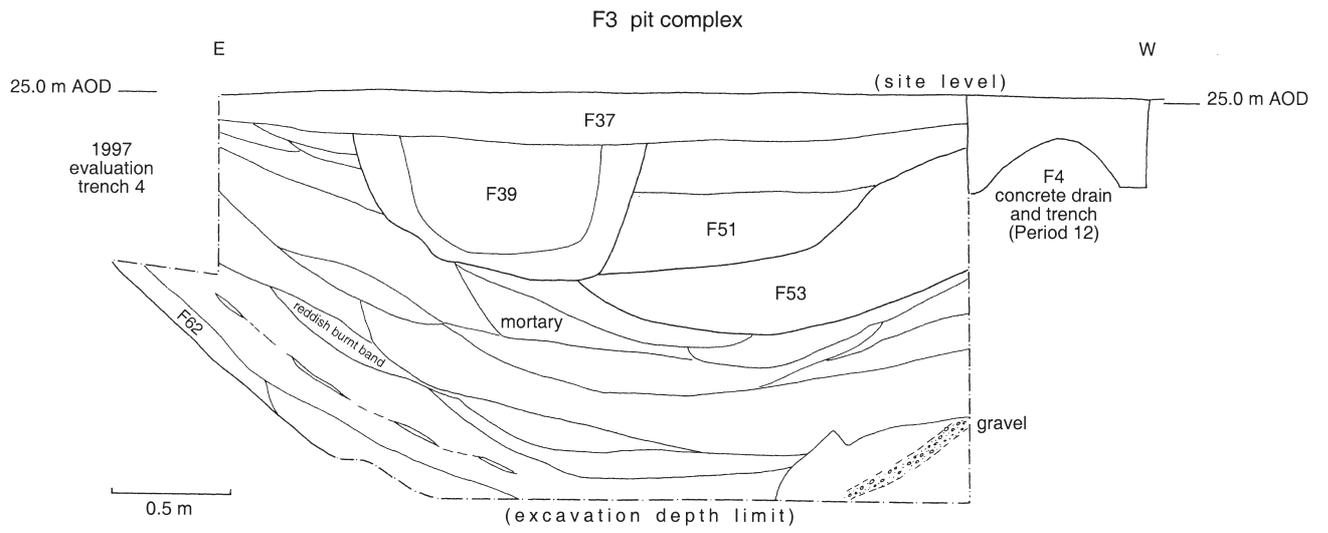


Fig 50 Section of post-medieval pit sequence F3 (Periods 10b-11).

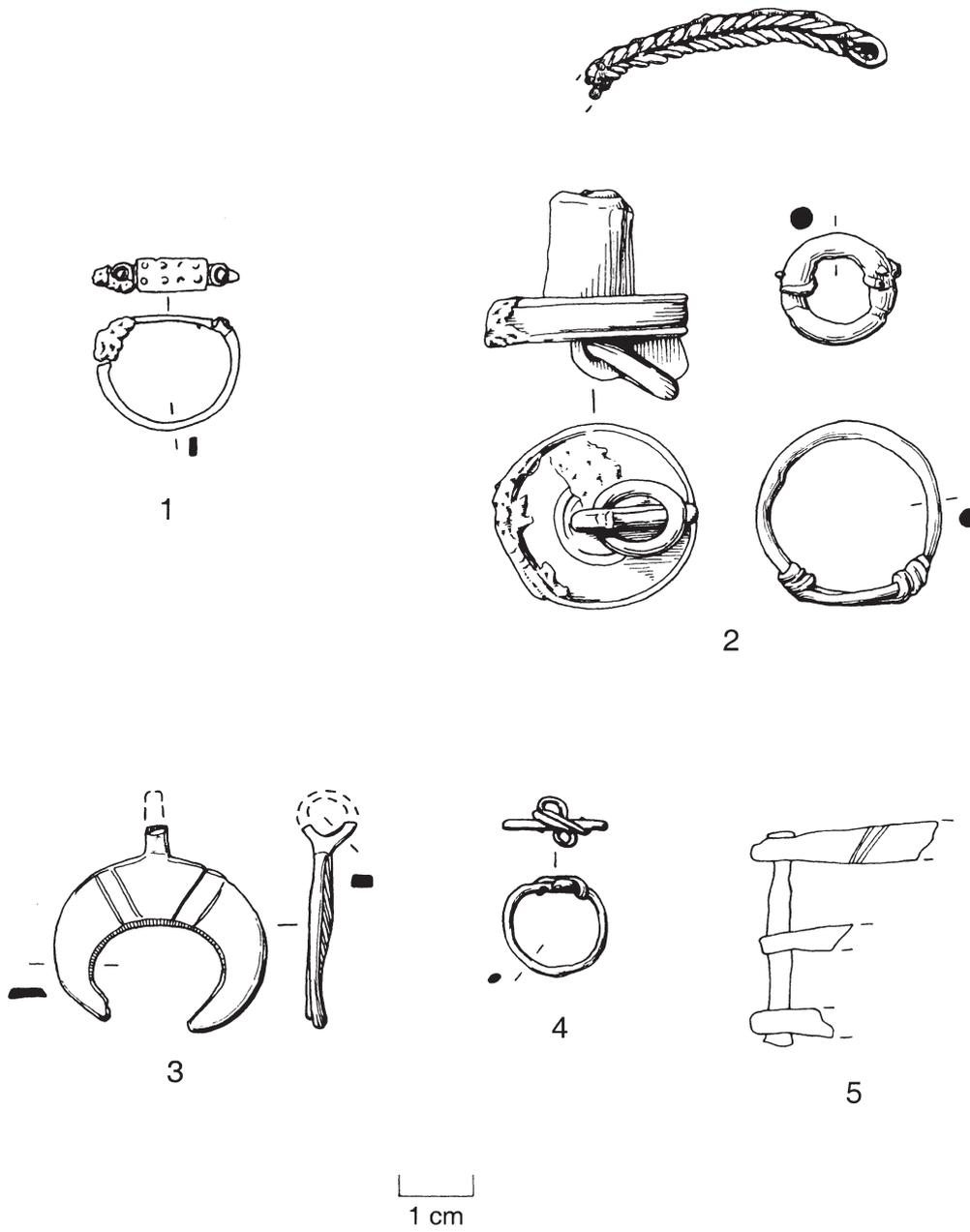


Fig 51 Metal small finds (1:1).

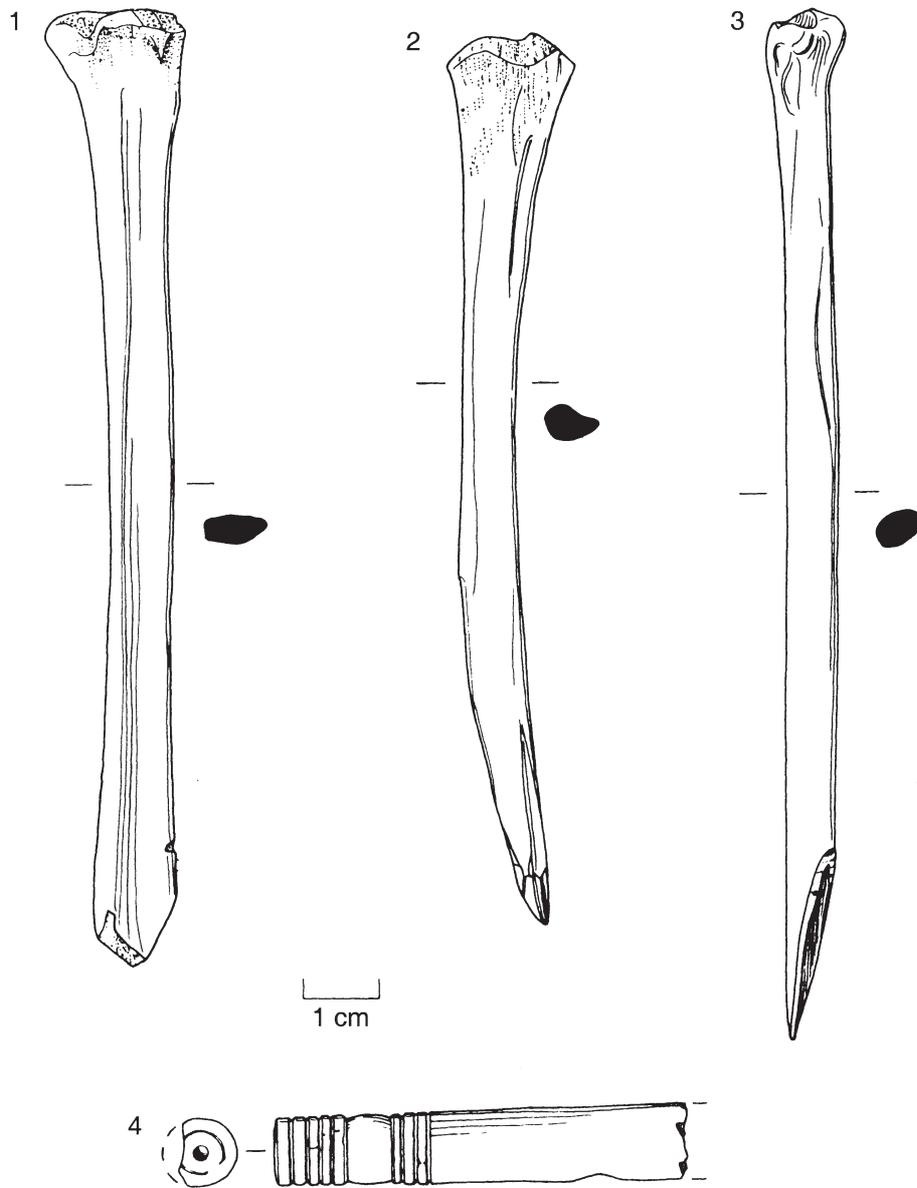
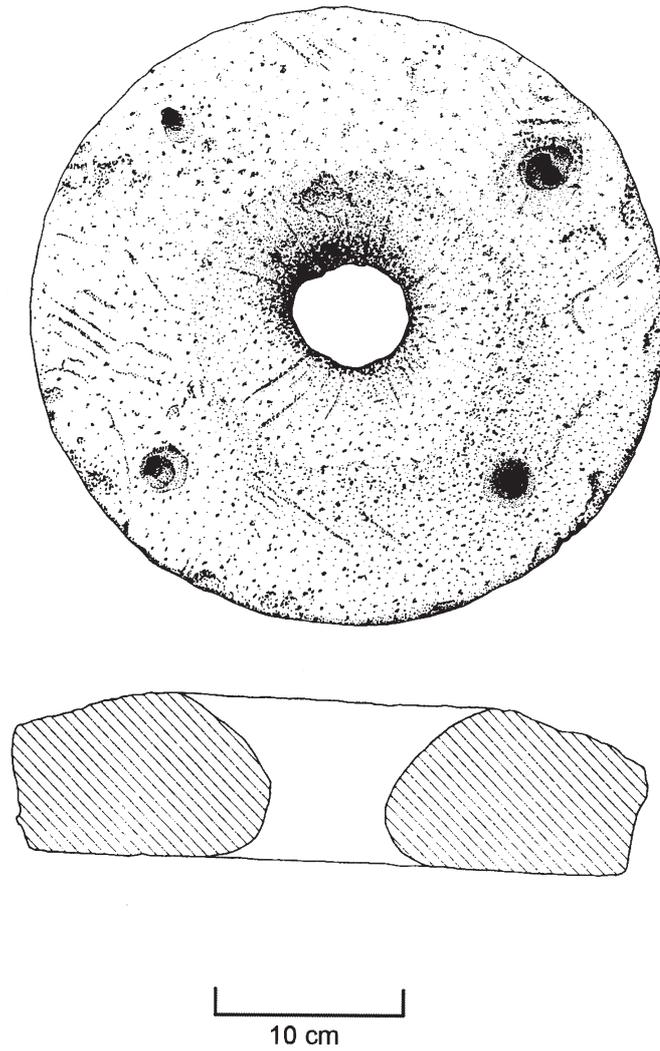


Fig 52 Bone small finds (1:1).



*Fig 53 Unstratified medieval quernstone (finds no 515; 1:4).*

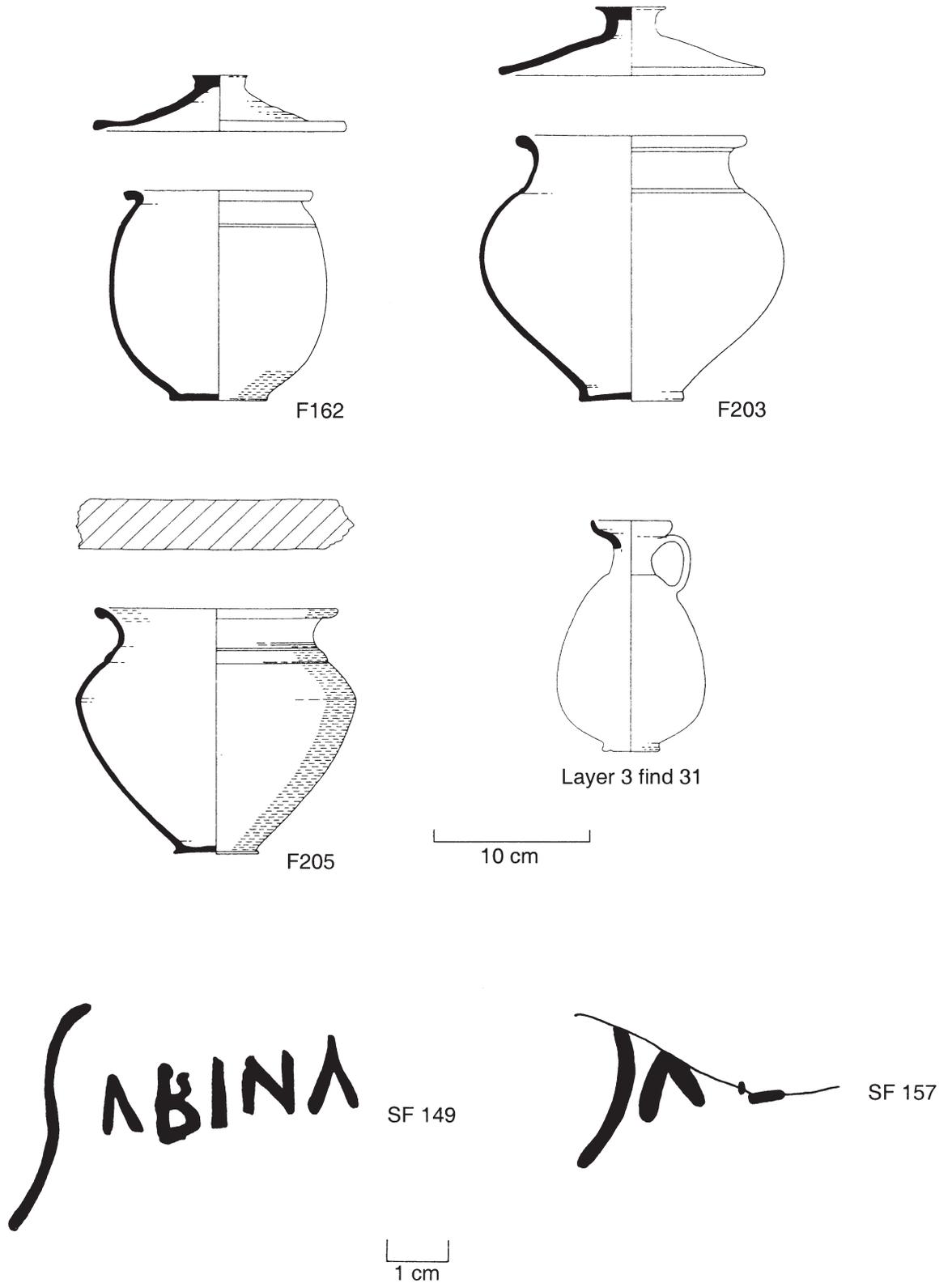


Fig 54 Roman pottery (1:4) and graffiti (1:1).  
 F162 and F205 were found under the Period 4b floor in Room 3. F203 was found associated with the Period 6 slot F25. Find 31 comes from L3 but is not securely provenanced to a particular room. SF 149 and SF 157 are graffiti on pottery sherds from L8 (Period 9 demolition debris).