

**An archaeological evaluation
at the Central Clinic, High Street,
Colchester, Essex
May 2006**

**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Knight Developments Ltd**

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1 Summary

The site lies in Insulas 23 and 24 of the Roman town. Its north-western half coincides with Scheduled Ancient Monument Colchester Castle and Upper Castle Park (Essex SAM 1).

The north-south-running gravel street separating Insulas 23 and 24 was well preserved on the north side of the site, but heavily truncated on the south side. As was expected in the Roman town, there were Roman structures on either side of the street (presumably town-houses). The remains of these included three wall lines, patches of tessellated and mortar floors, and areas of gravelling (yards or paths). Over most of the site, the highest significant archaeological horizon was a layer of Roman clay which is probably the debris resulting from the demolition of the Roman buildings. The Roman remains were heavily truncated by post-medieval and modern pits and service trenches, especially on the south side of the present clinic buildings.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Central Clinic site, High Street, Colchester, on behalf of Knight Developments.
- 2.2 The site lies partially over the south edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument Colchester Castle and Upper Castle Park (Essex SAM 1). The boundary of the scheduled area bisects the site, so that the north-western half of the site is in the scheduled area, and the south-eastern half is outside it (Fig 3).
- 2.3 Planning consent has not yet been submitted for this site. Conversation with Martin Winter, the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO) and Deborah Priddy of English Heritage led to the writing of a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of evaluation trenching, with the aim of providing information on the impact of the proposed work on any surviving archaeological remains on the site. As the site is partially a scheduled ancient monument, consent was sought from the Department of Culture, Media and Sports for consent to evaluate the site. This was granted by letter on 17th February 2006.
- 2.4 Site work took place between the 15th and 24th May 2006. Post-excavation work was carried out between 26th May and 20th June 2006.
- 2.5 The development site is centrally located in the eastern half of the town centre, within the town wall, on the north side of the High Street, with Castle Park to the north and west and Greyfriars Community College to the east. The site is centred at National Grid Reference or NGR TM 0002 2532.
- 2.6 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The Central Clinic site lies in the east central part of the Roman town, straddling two blocks or *insulae* (the gravel street dividing Insulas 15/23 and 24 runs north to south through the site). To the north of the site lies Castle Park, with its Norman keep and earthworks and remains of the Roman town, and to the east is the site of the medieval Grey Friars friary.

The archaeological background to this site has been explored in a desk-based assessment (CAT Report 324). A brief summary is given below (sections 3.1-3.4).

3.1 Colchester Castle and associated buildings and earthworks

The surviving keep lies due west of the clinic. The castle originally comprised an inner bailey around a keep, and an outer bailey extending north to the Roman town wall; only the keep and bailey ditch and bank now survive. The castle was built in the late 11th century and became ruinous early in the 17th century. The date of destruction of the bailey walls and the filling in of the moat is uncertain. In 1693 the keep was partly demolished, and only two storeys now remain. This was the largest Norman keep in Britain, at 152 x 110 ft (bigger than the White Tower in London).

Excavations in 1932-3 immediately south of the keep revealed the foundations of a two-period church or chapel (VCH 9, 241-7; Hull 1958; Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER nos 12223-12227).

3.2 Roman remains in Insulas 15/23 of the Roman town

Introduction

Shortly after the Roman conquest of AD 43, a fortress was built at Colchester (Camulodunum) as a base from which the Roman armies advanced west and north. Within six years, the conquest of lowland Britain being substantially complete, the fort was converted into a colony (*colonia*) and veteran soldiers were retired there as advocates for the peace and stability of Roman empire and to act as a backup force in times of emergency. As Camulodunum was the original capital city of the Roman province of Britain, a temple was also erected, east of the old fortress, but in the area included within the later colony. After the town was sacked by Boudica in AD 60/61, London became the provincial capital, and Camulodunum dropped out of the mainstream of political and military history.

The Castle Park, to the north and north-west of the clinic site, includes the site of the Roman temple, now completely enclosed by the fabric of the later Norman keep.

The Roman remains include much of the apparatus of a Roman town (Fig 2), for instance drains, and Roman streets dividing up the *insulae*. One would normally expect the *insulae* of a Roman town to be filled with buildings (mainly town houses), at least on the street frontages. Through the collective efforts of local antiquarians and archaeologists over many years, quite a lot of detail of these *insulae* and their buildings is known (Hull 1958; CAR 6).

Insula 15 (Fig 2)

This *insula* lies due north of the clinic site, and coincides with most of the Hollytrees Meadow. Internal detail is quite well known. The principal building is the L-shaped structure which now lies under the east side of the children's playground (Fig 1 'Roman building'). This has been known since 1853 when it was first discovered by P M Duncan, who thought it was a bath-house because of its concrete floor and the water running through it. It was partly excavated in 1927 (Hull 1958, 107-113) and again in 1954 (Crummy 1980, 271). Although there was no direct evidence in the form of inscription or statuary, Hull was in favour of interpreting it as a *carcer* (prison) because of its sunken floor and the slave chains found in it. However, he decided to interpret it as a building of ritual or religious use – a temple of the eastern god Mithras (ie a mithraeum). Nowadays, archaeologists are less confident on interpretative issues, and a more prosaic use for this building (a ?waterworks) is now accepted. Oddly enough, the building is surrounded by a wall, double on its south and east sides, which would be more normal in a structure which had some special significance.

A drain emerges from the building and runs along the road edge and north through Duncan's Gate (also discovered by P M Duncan), after which it drains into the Roman ditch outside the wall. It is still possible to peer down into the drain through two metal grilles, near the children's playground and near Duncan's Gate.

From the 1920s excavations and a watching brief in 1984 (CAR 6, 368-73), we know that there were extensive buildings on the north and west sides of the *insula*, including a very interesting-looking small building immediately to the west of the old mithraeum (it now lies directly under the children's playground). It is not known if this was a temple or a shrine.

With regard to the depth of surviving remains (below modern ground-level), the south wall of the mithraeum is only 20cm below modern ground-level, and the north-

south street separating Insulas 7/8 and Insulas 15/23 shows as a parch-mark in dry weather, indicating that it lies very close to the surface.

Insula 22

This *insula* lies due west and north-west of the clinic. The archaeological remains in this *insula* can only be described as exceptional (Fig 1). Its principal feature is a building which was the religious focus of Roman province of Britain, the temple of Claudius, which lies directly under the Norman keep (Fishwick 1995; Hull 1958, 160; EHER nos 12223-12225). It was this structure which embodied the official state worship of the Roman emperor, the divine Claudius. The area around the temple is generally accepted to have been the forum of Roman Colchester, in other words, a combination of market place and meeting place. In every sense, the forum/temple was the focus of the *colonia*.

Henry Laver is credited with first suggesting that the temple of Claudius (which was known to exist from literary sources) was actually located under Colchester Castle keep (Hull 1958, 160-68). This was confirmed by his son Philip Laver and Mortimer Wheeler. Much has been written about the temple (Hull 1958, 160), and there are still several points of contention about its precise form and structure which are beyond the scope of this report.

The temple itself was central within its own sacred precinct (*temenos*) and was built on an artificially created plateau which flattened out the natural slope of the land on the north side of Colchester. This can easily be seen by looking north from Hollytrees House. The temple precinct wall therefore functions as a retaining wall as well as the boundary of a sacred area. Max Hebditch's 1964 excavation showed that the Roman masonry arcade forming the southern boundary of the *temenos* still survives to a considerable degree, being still 15 feet wide and 5 feet 3 inches deep (Hebditch 1971). There is also an impressive gateway to the *temenos* just west of the Castle public house (no 92 High Street). This was seen in a recent evaluation trench on a vacant plot to the east of the street known as Crowther's Entry. Here, the base of the walkway through the gate was located at 2.0m below modern ground (CAT Report 360). The 1950 Cotton excavation across the castle rampart north of Mayors' Walk showed that 9 feet of Roman *temenos* wall still surviving some 4 feet below the surface of the Norman rampart (Hull 1958, 180-89). The same foundation was located at the castle public house during drilling for foundations for an extension (CAT Report 265).

Only one other part of the forum/temple structure is now visible. The pathway leading out of Mayors' Walk and around the west end of Avignon Garden runs through the top of the *temenos* wall, at a point near to its north-west corner. Some detail of other Roman internal structures within the precinct is known. Directly south of the temple was an altar, surrounded by ?statue bases. This now lies under the flower beds in front of the keep. The altar base, flanked by statues, was surrounded by a drain which passes under the south-west corner of the Norman bailey chapel (Hull 1958, 161, fig 81). It is from a Roman statue on this site that the famous head of Claudius may have been taken; this was recovered from the River Alde in Suffolk, and reputedly carried there by Boudica's troops after they had sacked Colchester in AD 60/61 (Potter 1983, 9).

3.3 Previous archaeological investigations on the Central Clinic site

A long, east-west trial-trench (189 feet long and 5 feet wide) was dug across the south face of the proposed new clinic site in 1963. The work was carried out by Brian Blake, on behalf of the Colchester Excavation Committee. In the absence of a site plan, the trench position is only approximately known, but is presumed to be more or less parallel with the south face of the present clinic, and quite close to it.

The trench was dug down (an unspecified depth) to natural sand and gravel subsoil. The report says that 'vestigial' traces were found of the north-south Roman gravel street dividing Insulas 23 and 24, but no other Roman remains. Early medieval pottery at the east end of the trench perhaps gave a hint of the proximity of the Grey Friars site. Miscellaneous Roman and later medieval sherds were recovered from the rest of the trench (CM 1963-64, 9; Urban Archaeological Database or UAD no 3128).

3.4 Archaeological investigations on the adjacent site of Greyfriars Community College

The Greyfriars college site lies due east of the clinic, and takes its name from the friary which was established by 1237 and dissolved in 1538 (UAD no 13136; EHER no 12231). Grey Friars can claim to be one of the most important yet least understood of Colchester's medieval sites. Hardly any excavation has taken place here, and the buildings of the friary had all disappeared by 1847 (*VCH 9*, 306-7).

There is a glimpse of the layout of the friary on John Speed's 1610 map and also on Morant's map of 1748. On both maps a walled precinct is shown, with a small group of buildings (labelled 'Black Friars') standing back from the street frontage, and a gatehouse on Friars Street or Frere Street. The gatehouse still stood in 1622 (*VCH 9*, 306-7). The west precinct boundary wall survives in part as the eastern boundary wall of Castle Park, where it is visible to the east of the children's playground.

At the time of the dissolution, the friary included a hall, infirmary house, chambers, kitchen, bakery, brewery, gardens and four acres of land within the precinct wall. Nothing of the medieval establishment appears to have remained by 1847. Human skeletons found at Greyfriars Community College are believed to derive from medieval graves (UAD no 3833).

Greyfriars Community College (car park) - 2003

An evaluation trench in January 2003 in the car park revealed a depth of modern topsoil and probable post-medieval layers down to 1.5m depth. Natural ground was not reached, and it was suspected that medieval and Roman deposits were deeper down here (CAT Report 219).

Greyfriars Community College (car park) - 2004

A watching brief was carried out in January-February 2004 during the excavation of a trench to replace a stretch of the wall which forms the north boundary of the car park. The trench did not reveal any features of archaeological interest. Unlike the evaluation trench of 2003 (CAT Report 219), this trench did reach natural ground and so any friary-related features should have been exposed here if they survive. It may be that the friary buildings did not extend as far north as the northern edge of the car park (CAT Report 264).

Greyfriars Community College, High Street - 2004

During a small-scale archaeological evaluation in October 2004, on the proposed site of foundations for a lift, part of a Roman tessellated pavement was recorded at a depth of 1.1m. Post-Roman levels in the area had been extensively disturbed by modern service-trenches (CAT Report 290).

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains, and to assess their quality, extent, date and importance.

5 Results (Figs 2-6)

5.1 Trenches

Trench 1

T1 was located on the extreme north edge of the site. It was quite difficult to find a space for this trench, because the flower beds through which it was cut contained a number of service runs and man-hole covers. Its position next to a retaining wall with the Castle Park north of it meant that this would have to be a deep trench.

The trench was excavated down a depth of 2.04m from ground-level at 23.75m to 21.71m. At this point it was abandoned due to the soft nature of the soil, and the attendant risk of working at that depth. Another concern was the possible undermining of the Castle Park retaining boundary wall. The archaeological strata

revealed were all post-medieval and modern topsoils. The ground-level in the adjacent park, at 22.73m, is probably the real ground-level here, with the ground-level in the clinic garden being falsely banked up.

Trench 2

The presence of two live services meant that this trench was split into three parts: west, central and east.

Trench 2 west (Figs 2-3)

Modern tarmac and concrete (Layer or L1 and L2: combined depth 0.35m) were removed to reveal post-medieval and modern topsoil L3, which was 0.7m deep. Finds from L3 were all residual Roman. L3 was removed to reveal L4, an earlier soil horizon. L4 is assumed to be a natural accumulation of soil and other debris over the demolished remains of the Roman buildings represented by the underlying L5. It could, in theory, date from the late Roman period through to the medieval period, but finds from L4 are only of Roman and post-medieval date. It seems likely that the post-medieval finds (two sherds weighing 21g) are intrusive into this layer, and all the Roman material is residual.

L5, under L4, was a soft clay layer containing Roman tile and 2nd-century Roman pottery. Horizons such as these are common in Colchester, and the fact that they are often found lying directly on the floor of demolished Roman structures leads to the interpretation that they represent collapsed clay walls (or the clay component of a timber-framed superstructure with clay infill).

In this case, L5 lay on a gravel surface (Feature or F1). At the time of the evaluation, one possibility was that this gravel was part of the street between Insulas 23 and 24 of the Roman town; the main problem with this interpretation is that the gravel was between 0.9m and 0.5m lower than the level of the street gravel in T2 central (below). It now seems clear, after plotting the street line from known positions in Castle Park to the north, that F1 is unlikely to have been a street surface and much more likely to have been an earlier gravel path or yard surface. There were no finds from F1, but it is sealed by L6 which contains 2nd-century pottery.

There appears to be a patch of soft ground under F1, into which all the overlying horizons (F1, L3-L5) have sunk. This will undoubtedly be an earlier pit or ditch, whose fills have been compressed by the weight of material above. Although it was not seen or excavated, this earlier feature has been labelled F26.

Trench 2 central (Figs 2-3)

T2 central was positioned to intercept the expected line of the Roman street separating Insulas 23 and 24 of the Roman town, which appeared in T2 central as gravel surface F2. The sequence of soils here was the same as in T2 west, except that soil L4 lay directly on the gravel street surface F2. This sloped down from west to east, dropping by approximately 0.45m over the 3.3m exposed length. This indicates that this is the east side of the Roman street (the west side was probably cut through by the service trench in the baulk between T2 west and T2 central). Pea-grit on the former street surface showed that it was relatively well preserved, except for being cut by a line of modern or post-medieval post-holes (F5-F7).

There was no sign of a ditch on the east edge of the gravel street. This corresponds with Rex Hull's three sections across the same street (in what is now Castle Park) which all lack an east ditch (though two have a tile-built drain on their west sides; Hull 1958, 74).

Evidence for a Roman structure east of the street took the form of two parallel robbed-out walls (F3, F4). One (F3) had been entirely robbed of its stone footing, except for a band of loose tile, septaria and mortar debris (separately numbered F24), which was presumably left behind by the stone robbers on the west edge of the trench from which they removed the Roman foundation. Robbed wall F4 took the form of a trench full of loose building materials, probably indicating that the stone robbers had simply tipped any unwanted bits of septaria and tile, along with lumps of mortar, back into the trench. The inner edges of the two robber trenches were 2.9m to 3.1m apart. Rooms on the perimeters of Roman buildings are often interpreted as

corridors or verandahs, but this room is probably too wide for a corridor. The Roman clay layers in T2 east and T3 are probably parts of the same Roman structure.

A curiosity of this trench is another wall east of the robbed walls F3-F4, this time surviving *in situ* as a mortar and septaria wall footing (F10). The gap between this wall and F4 to its east is only 1.1m, which would make a very narrow corridor. The best interpretation is that all three walls are unlikely to belong to the same period of construction, and the evidence recorded in T2 makes it difficult to be certain which walls are earlier and which later.

The clay layer extending between all three walls is L6. This is probably the demolished remains of an earlier building or clay material dumped down to raise the floor levels of this building (or a combination of these two). It is directly equivalent to L5 (above).

Trench 2 east (Figs 2-3)

The sequence of deposits here mirrors T2 west and T2 central. Tarmac and concrete (L1, L2) sealed post-medieval soil (L3), which lay directly on Roman clay demolition material (L6). L6 contained 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery. L4 was absent here; perhaps it had been removed by post-medieval levelling out.

L6 was sealed by a gravel layer F12. This is too far east to have been part of the street, and must be a path or yard surface. In all likelihood, this is associated with one of the construction phases of the building whose walls appeared in T2 central as F3, F4 and F10.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 4)

The sequence of deposits in T3 mirrors those in T2, with tarmac and concrete (L1, L2) sealing post-medieval soil (L3), which lay directly on Roman clay L7 (directly equivalent to L6 in T2). L7 was cut through by two post-medieval pits (F13 and F14). The finds in F13 were only residual Roman, but F14 contained characteristic post-medieval finds such as 'Tudor' brick and clay pipes. There was also a group of Roman building material in F14. This must have been robbed from a nearby Roman wall.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 4)

Underneath the normal sequence of deposits L1-L3, a Roman clay deposit L8 (equivalent to L5-L7 above) was very heavily cut by a series of post-medieval and modern pits and trenches collectively labelled F22. Finds from F22 include later 17th-century clay tobacco pipe fragments and German stoneware (also 17th-century).

One of the features in T4, the linear trench, is worthy of comment. This feature also appears in T5 (below) where it is numbered as F17. Colchester Museum cut a trench across this site in 1963 at an unrecorded location in front of the present clinic buildings. This linear trench may well be the 1963 excavation trench (CM 1963-4).

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 5)

Underneath the normal sequence of deposits L1-L3, significant archaeological remains survived very poorly here. A series of modern cuts F17 (1963 excavation trench?), pit F21, service trench F20 and large cut F31 left significant archaeological deposits in isolated blocks or 'islands'. These were tessellated floor F16 and gravel patches F18 and F19. The tessellated floor ran up to the south edge of the trench, and presumably survives to the south of T2. The gravel patch F19 is on the line of the Roman street exposed on T2, and is undoubtedly part of it, whereas F18 is too far east, and is more likely to have been part of a gravel yard or path.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 5)

This trench was cut through an area of grass rather than the tarmac and concrete of most of the other trenches. Removal of modern topsoil L9 (0.1m-0.15m thick) revealed a varying depth of post-medieval and modern topsoil (L3: between 0.4m and 0.65m thick) overlying a large early post-medieval pit F15. Finds from F15 included a group of butchered cattle bone, peg-tile, and Fabric 21a pottery (Colchester-type ware of the 15th-16th century). Pit F15 cut into a clay layer L8, which is certainly Roman in date and probably equates to the other clay demolition

layers found in the other trenches (eg L5). The fact that pit F15 occupied approximately two-thirds of the area of T6 may be an indication of the intensity of pitting to the rear of the medieval properties on the High Street frontage.

5.2 Boreholes

Three boreholes were drilled by the builders. Borehole 1 encountered topsoil to 1.2m below modern ground. Borehole 2 encountered natural ground at 2.3m below modern ground. Borehole 3 encountered brown clay (presumably Roman) at 2.5m below modern ground and natural sand at 3m below modern ground.

6 Finds (Fig 6)

6.1 Small finds

SF 1, bag 3, L4 (T2)

Pottery counter, 19 grammes, 34 x 40mm, 8mm thick, cut from Roman pot Fabric GB (CAR 10, black-burnished ware, category 2), dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. Pottery counters are found in large numbers at Colchester. A variety of uses have been suggested for these, ie gaming counters, reckoning counters or children's toys. This example has no ground edges, so is classified as group 3. It is made from black-burnished ware, which is the pot fabric most commonly used for pottery counters in Colchester (CAR 2, 93).

SF 2, bag 16, F11 (T2). No 1: Fragment cut out from copper-alloy sheet, roughly L-shaped, each long dimension 30mm and 35mm. Buckled and bent. Probably post-medieval rather than residual Roman.

No 2: lace-end, less than 0.1 gramme. 26.5mm long. Type I lace-end, with single river hole. Date range usually c AD 1375-1550/75 (CAR 5, 13).

6.2 The Roman pottery (Fig 6)

by Stephen Benfield

The evaluation produced approximately 2.7 kg (276 sherds weighing 2,675 g) of Roman pottery. Approximately 1.0kg (1,059g, 73 sherds) is from contexts dated as Roman, and approximately 2.7kg (203 sherds, 2675g) was recovered from post-Roman features. The main value of the Roman pottery is in helping to provide a dating for Roman contexts, but it also provides a record of the quantity and types of Roman pottery recovered from the site. Overall dates for the Roman pottery for each numbered finds bag are set out in Table 2.

The fabrics were recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for CAR 10 in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. The full fabric names for each of the lettered codes are given in Table 1 (below). Where possible, the corresponding fabric designation for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection has been included with the listed fabrics (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958). Samian vessels are recorded where possible using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers. One unusual mortarium stamp is illustrated (Fig 6).

Table 1: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names (after CAR 10).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
AA	amphoras, all types excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium amphoras	
N	Gaulish amphoras	GAL AM 1
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1/2
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
CB	Colchester red colour-coated roughcast ware	COL CC2
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	LVN CC
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	
Koln	Cologne (Lower Rhineland) colour-coat ware	KOL CC
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	
ON	mica-gilt wares	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	
WC	miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	

Table 2: stratified Roman pottery from Roman dated contexts, with pottery spot dates.

Trench	Cont	Bag	Fabric CAR 10 and form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments	pottery spot date
T2	L4	3	AA GX GB EZ Gaulish amphora, Cam 268	5	68	includes small find: pottery counter in Fabric GB dated early 2nd-mid-late 3rd century Fabric EZ sherd is probably Nene Valley (Fabric EA) and dated early-mid 3rd century+	early-mid 2nd to 3rd ?early-mid 3rd/4th century
T2	L4	5	AJ DJ GX	19	444		Roman, ?1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T2	L5	1	AA(N) BA(SG) DJ GX Gaulish amphora - Gauloise 4, Dr 18, Cam 198	22	235	Gauloise 4 rim	2nd century
T2	L6	6	CZ GB? Cam 278?	2	16		early 2nd-3rd century
T3	L4	7	BA(EG) CZ DJ GB GX TZ, Walters 79, Cam 37B, Cam 268?	15	188		residual Roman, late 2nd-3rd century
T5	F16	18	BA(EG) DJ GB GX HZ, Cam 37B? Cam 268	10	108		late 2nd-3rd century
totals				73	1,059		

Table 3: Roman pottery from post-Roman contexts.

Trench	Cont	Bag	Fabric CAR 10 and form	sherd quantity	weight (g)	comments
T3	F14	10	HZ	1	75	part of large storage jar, 1st-2nd/3rd century
T2	L4	2	AA AJ BA(CG) BA(EG) CB CZ DJ GA GB HZ KX ON Dr nos 33,18/31,31?, 31R? Cam nos 40B, 268, 279C, 392? 305, 406	87	1,109	Fabric ON base sherd from a large mica-gilt jar or bowl, late 3rd-4th century
T2	L4	3	AA GX GB EZ Gaulish amphora, Cam 268	5	68	includes small find: pottery counter in Fabric GB dated early 2nd-mid-late 3rd century; Fabric EZ sherd is probably Nene Valley (Fabric EA) and dated early-mid 3rd century+ early-mid 2nd to 3rd, ?early-mid 3rd/4th century
T2	L4	5	AJ DJ GX	19	444	Roman ?1st-2nd/early 3rd century
T2	L5	1	AA(N) BA(SG) DJ GX Gaulish amphora- Gauloise 4, Dr 18, Cam 198	22	235	Gauloise 4 rim, 2nd century
T2	L6	6	CZ GB? Cam 278?	2	16	early 2nd-3rd century
T2	F3	17	CZ DJ EA GA GX Cam 39A Cam 268 Cam 392 Cam 407	12	175	early?-mid 3rd to mid 4th century
T2	F4	14	GA GX WC Cam 305A	6	60	late 3rd-4th century
T2	F7	12	BA(?EG) GB GX WC	5	41	residual Roman, mid 2nd-mid-late 2nd century
T2	F9	4	GX GB, Cam 278?	4	34	residual Roman, ?early 2nd-3rd century
T2	F11	15	TZ, Cam 497 variant	1	91	mortarium rim with stamp previously unrecorded in Colchester, one end broken away toward lip of flange and the other running up against rim bead, with three horizontal herringbone-like palm fronds or leaves, appears to be one block stamp (rather than three adjoining impressions), dated here as other Colchester herringbone stamps (CAR 10, 205); residual Roman, mid-late 2nd/early 3rd century
T3	L4	7	BA(EG) CZ DJ GB GX TZ, Walters 79, Cam 37B, Cam 268?	15	188	residual Roman late 2nd-3rd century
T3	F13	8	AA GX	4	35	residual Roman
T3	F14	10	BA(SG) GA GB GX, Dr 22/23 Cam 279	6	46	Fabric BA(SG) form Dr 22/23 dated pre-Flavian, residual Roman early 2nd + prob mid 3rd-4th century
T5	F16	18	BA(EG) DJ GB GX HZ, Cam 37B? Cam 268	10	108	late 2nd-3rd century
T6	L03	9	GX HZ	5	25	residual Roman
totals				203	2,675	

Pottery discussion

As only a relatively small quantity of Roman pottery came from the site from late or post-Roman contexts, only a short discussion highlighting a few general points is included here.

The date range of the Roman pottery recovered spans the whole of the Roman period. However, most of the closely datable pottery is of mid Roman (2nd- to 3rd-century date) and a smaller proportion of later Roman (mid 3rd- to 4th-century date). Recognisable early Roman (1st- to early 2nd-century) pottery is virtually absent. Only one sherd from F14 (T3) can be dated as pre-Flavian (between AD 43 and AD 69), and there are no recorded sherds from even common 1st-century forms such as the jar form Cam 266 or the bowl form Cam 218. Also almost all of the samian is of at least early 2nd-century date and there is only one South Gaulish (1st-century) sherd. Given that much of the pottery recovered is from post-Roman or late Roman contexts, this is probably only to be expected in a small pottery sample. Perhaps slightly more surprising is that, while some of the pottery could date to the very late Roman period (the late 4th-early 5th century), most notably the flanged bowl form Cam 305, there are no diagnostic sherds such as Oxford red colour-coated wares, Mayen ware or late shell-tempered wares. Also other recognisable 4th-century pottery such as Hadham oxidised wares are not recorded. However, except for Hadham wares, none of the very latest dated Roman pottery fabrics are particularly common and their absence may well be simply a reflection of the size of the sample.

There is one sherd from the evaluation that is of intrinsic significance. This is a mortarium rim sherd (form Cam 479) with a previously unrecorded multiple herringbone or palm frond stamp on the flange. This comes from the post-Roman feature F11 in T2. The stamp has been illustrated (Fig 6) and is described separately below.

Illustrated Roman pottery

Fig 6. T2 F11 [find bag 15] mortarium stamp previously unrecorded in Colchester. The stamp is on the flange of a form Cam 479 (variant) and has three horizontal short herringbone-like palm fronds or leaves side by side and all aligned in the same direction. It appears to be one block stamp rather than three adjoining impressions of one small stamp. One end of the stamp is missing where the lip of the mortarium flange is broken away; the other end of the stamp ends at the rim bead and it is not clear whether it could have continued further, though it is assumed to be the end. The stamp is assumed to be within the same date range as the herringbone stamps commonly found on Colchester mortaria (mid 2nd-early 3rd century; *CAR 10*, 205).

6.3 Faunal remains assessment

by Julie Curl of Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Introduction

A total of 2.181kg of faunal remains, consisting of 49 pieces, was recovered from the Central Clinic site. The remains included butchered domestic animals, a domestic dog, a de-spurred cockerel and a butchered otter bone. Some pathological specimens were also noted. No human remains were found in this assemblage.

Methodology

All of the bone was briefly examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present and the amount of material that could produce measurable, ageable bone; bone was briefly scanned to determine if bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets. The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included as a table with this report.

The assemblage

A total of 2.181kg of faunal remains, consisting of 49 pieces, was recovered from the site. Bone was found in eleven contexts throughout three of the trenches, with the majority of the remains coming from T2 (Table 4).

The assemblage is in reasonably good condition. Several complete or near complete elements were noted, although much of the bone was fragmentary due to butchering and wear. Some contexts of a later, post-medieval date included remains that were more worn than the rest of the material in the same fill, suggesting that some of the later bone is redeposited.

All of the bone recovered from this site was of animal or bird origin. No human remains were found.

Observations and discussion

Trench 2

Just over 78% of the faunal remains, totalling 1.661kg, was produced from T2, with much of the material of a medieval or later date; just 330g were of a Roman date.

Much of the bone in T2 belonged to butchered cattle or sheep/goat; the butchering included evidence of food production and skinning. One cattle metatarsal from L4, (3) showed a pathology, visible on the joint surface, that is probably osteochondritis, a condition that can occur in young adult animals that have undergone physical stresses. The Roman deposit L4 produced more butchered cattle bone (7), including a chopped horn-core that suggests some horn-working activity.

One chopped pig femur was also found in L4, (7), along with a single bone of a small adult dog (a small spaniel or terrier).

Of interest in T2 is one otter tibia, which has been cut/chopped, from L5, (1). Presumably this otter was butchered for the skin; other otter finds have been found in Roman contexts, such as at Exeter (Maltby 1979) and at Head Street in Colchester (Curl 2001). Otters would have been much more common in the Romano-British period and popular for their pelts through to the post-medieval period.

Also of interest in T2 are the domestic fowl bones in a 15th-/16th-century fill. Four fowl bones were recovered from F11, (15); one of the tarsometatarsus bones had had the spur removed. Removal of spurs has been previously recorded in Colchester from Roman and late medieval/post-medieval contexts (CAR 12); the removal would have probably been to prevent cockerels fighting and harming other birds.

Trench 3

A little under 17% of the bone, amounting to 280g, was found in three contexts in T3. The post-medieval bone consisted of butchered cattle, including a cut (skinned) metatarsal in F14, (10) which showed age or stress growth at the proximal end of the bone, indicating a mature animal.

Trench 6

A total of 111g of bone (5% of the whole assemblage) was found in one context of a 15th- to 16th-century date in T6. The remains from F15, (9) consisted of butchered cattle vertebrae fragments.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The remains from all periods appear to be largely derived from the butchering and food waste from domestic stock. Some hunting of wild animals is suggested by the otter bone.

Skinning was noted on domestic animals and on the otter bone, suggesting probable industrial activity involving skins during the Romano-British period; further industrial activity in this period on a small scale is indicated by the chopped horn-core.

No further work is necessary on this particular assemblage.

Table 4: catalogue of the faunal remains, listed by trench and context.

Trench	F/L no	Date	Context	Ctxt Wt (g)	Ctxt Qty	Species	Sp. Qty	Modifications	Details
T2	L5	2nd/ Roman	1	64	8	mammal	6		
T2	L5	2nd/ Roman	1			cattle	1	chopped	vertebrae
T2	L5	2nd/ Roman	1			otter	1	butchered	tibia, adult, cut/chopped - skinned
T2	L4	post-Roman	3	155	1	cattle	1	cut - skinned	metatarsal, osteochondritis
T2	L4	post-Roman	7	175	4	cattle	1	heavily chopped	talus
T2	L4	post-Roman	7			sheep/ goat	1	cut/chopped	scapula
T2	L4	post-Roman	7			pig	1	chopped	femur
T2	L4	post-Roman	7			dog	1		small femur, small-med terrier/spaniel
T2	F7	post-med	12	33	1	cattle	1		third molar, some wear, young adult
T2	F8	post-med	13	5	1	mammal	1	chopped	sheep/goat radius fragment?
T2	F4	medieval?	14	16	1	sheep/ goat	1	chopped	tibia
T2	F11	post-med	15	224	15	mammal	8	butchered	skull, vertebra fragments
T2	F11	post-med	15			sheep/ goat	2	chopped	radius, axis vertebrae
T2	F11	post-med	15			cattle	1	cut - skinned	calcaneus
T2	F11	post-med	15			domestic fowl	4	cut/chopped	2 tibiotarsus; 2 tarsometatarsus - one de-spurred
T2	F3	medieval?	17	989	5	equid	3		tibia, femur fragments
T2	F3	medieval?	17			cattle	1	chopped	metatarsal, adult
T2	F3	medieval?	17			mammal	1		
T2	L4	post-Roman	7	129	6	cattle	2	chopped	metatarsal, horn, both chopped; horn-working?
T2	L4	post-Roman	7			mammal	4	butchered	fragments
T3	F13	post-med	8	33	1	cattle	1	chopped	femur head
T3	F14	post-med	10	247	3	cattle	3	cut - skinned	metatarsal, rib fragments. Age/stress growth on metatarsal
T6	F15	15th/ 16th	9	111	3	cattle	3	chopped	vertebrae fragments

6.4 Other finds

Post-Roman pottery fabric numbers are after *CAR 7* and Cunningham 1985.

D = discarded.

Table 5: other finds.

Context	Find no	Quantity	Wt (in g)	Description	Date
F3	17	1	26	<i>opus signinum</i> mortar. D	Roman
F3	17	5	65	oyster shells	Roman
F3	17	8	478	mortar (1 x 217 <i>imbrex</i> mortar kept as sample). D	Roman
F3	17	1	151	<i>tegula</i> flange	Roman
F3	17	3	230	<i>tegula</i> flat pieces. D	Roman
F3	17	2	257	Roman brick. D	Roman
F3	17	2	180	Roman <i>imbrex</i> . D	Roman
F4	14	1	339	Roman brick. D	Roman
F4	14	2	142	<i>tegula</i> flat bits. D	Roman
F4	14	3	89	indeterminate brick/tile bits. D	Roman
F4	14	3	79	septaria bits. D	Roman
F4	14	1	75	mortar	Roman
F4	14	1	7	iron nail, complete, square section, medium subrectangular head, length 63mm	
F7	12	3	179	<i>tegula</i> flat pieces. D	Roman
F7	12	2	13	indeterminate tile scraps. D	Roman
F8	13	1	142	curiously notched <i>tegula</i> flange	Roman
F8	13	3	61	plain red <i>tesserae</i>	Roman
F8	13	1	62	<i>imbrex</i> . D	Roman
F8	13	4	61	indeterminate tile scraps. D	Roman
F8	13	1	1	flint, not real. D	
F8	13	1	8	iron nail, square section, medium subrectangular head, incomplete	
F9	4	1	13	Fabric 20 sandy medieval grey ware	13th century
F9	4	1	6	iron nail, square section, medium oval head, incomplete	
F11	15	1	64	<i>tegula</i> flat piece	Roman
F11	15	2	58	probable peg-tile	medieval or later
F14	10	1	660	Roman brick with surface markings (cross, star)	Roman
F14	10	2	1026	Roman brick. D	Roman
F14	10	2	776	Tudor brick fragments (1 x 356 kept as sample). D	post-medieval
F14	10	3	438	Roman <i>tegula</i> flat bits. D	Roman
F14	10	1	50	very thin <i>imbrex</i> kept for reference (10mm thick)	Roman
F14	10	6	341	peg-tiles (1 x 163 kept for reference)	medieval or later
F14	10	2	87	Fabric 40 (PMRE) base and body sherd	17th-18th century
F14	10	3	14	clay-pipe stem fragments, bore 2mm, later 18th century (Clarke 2001, 246)	later 18th century
F15	9	1	635	Roman <i>tegula</i> flange	Roman
F15	9	2	420	Roman brick (295g) Roman <i>tegula</i> flat piece (125g). D	Roman
F15	9	4	523	peg-tiles (1 x 129 with peg hole kept for reference). D	medieval or later
F15	9	5	243	Colchester-type ware, inc early Fabric 21a with overall white slip & green glaze (see CAR 7, fig 75.27 for shape)	15th-16th century
F15	9	10	434	Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, inc three rims; one looks early A2, others H-type flat-topped rims; one has heavy applied cordon apparently in loops under rim - no close parallels in CAR 7	13th century
F15	9	1	22	plain red <i>tessera</i>	Roman
F22	11	7	366	Fabric 40 (PMRE), two mug or jug bases, and body sherds	17th-18th century
F22	11	1	208	Frechen ware (Fabric 45d), most of neck of bottle with 'Bellarmine' face mask	late 16th-17th century
F22	11	1	10	Fabric 46 tin-glazed earthenware body sherd	mid 16th-mid 18th century

Context	Find no	Quantity	Wt (in g)	Description	Date
F22	11	1	3	clay-pipe stem fragment, bore 2.5 to 2.75mm, later 17th century (Clarke 2001, 246)	later 17th century
L3	18	4	79	plain <i>tesserae</i> , two red, one cut from a buff Eccles-type tile, and one of which is from an amphora	Roman
L4	2	3	74	plain red <i>tesserae</i>	Roman
L4	2	1	86	plain white painted plaster	Roman
L4	2	2	383	<i>tegula</i> flanges	Roman
L4	2	1	149	box tile	Roman
L4	2	1	323	Roman brick. D	Roman
L4	2	1	144	<i>imbrex</i> . D	Roman
L4	2	1	172	<i>tegula</i> flat bit. D	Roman
L4	3	1	226	box tile	Roman
L4	3	2	237	<i>imbrex</i> . D	Roman
L4	3	2	365	<i>tegula</i> flat bit. D	Roman
L4	3	3	24	iron nails, square section, small and large subrectangular heads, incomplete	
L4	5	1	475	<i>tegula</i> flange	Roman
L4	5	1	353	buff <i>tegula</i> flange (Eccles type)	Roman
L4	5	4	772	buff <i>tegula</i> flat bits (Eccles type). D.	Roman
L4	5	1	24	iron nail, heavily corroded, incomplete	
L4	7	5	107	indeterminate Roman tile/brick bits (4, 75g). D <i>imbrex</i> (32g). D	Roman
L4	7	1	17	Fabric 20 sandy medieval grey ware	13th century
L4	7	1	4	Fabric 40 (PMRE) or glazed Fabric 21a	15th-18th century
L5	1	4	79	iron nails, heavily corroded, incomplete	
L6	6	1	152	<i>tegula</i> flange	Roman
L6	6	8	154	plain red <i>tesserae</i> , one of which is made from an <i>imbrex</i>	Roman

7 Discussion

The archaeological remains

The site divides naturally into three parts: remains west of the Roman street; the Roman street; and remains east of the Roman street.

Remains west of the Roman street

In essence, there is a blanket of post-medieval and later soils lying over the remains of demolished Roman structures. The post-medieval soils extend to 1.35m below modern ground in the south-east corner of the site (T6) and to 2.04m below modern ground in the north-west corner (T1). An auger hole drilled at a point in between these points established a topsoil cover of 1.5m at that point (Fig 2).

Under this topsoil blanket, Roman remains consist of a gravel surface F1 sealed by a clay layer (T2) and a Roman clay layer (T6). These clay layers probably derive from demolished Roman structures in the vicinity.

The Roman street

The street surface, at its highest, is between 0.9m and 1.3m below modern ground. The west side of the street has been truncated by a service trench, and the exposed section was only 3.2m (10 feet 6 inches) wide. As there is no indication that the street extended any further to the west than the position of the service trench, its maximum width appears to have been approximately 7.5m. For comparison, this same street has been measured at three points further to the north. First, at 38m north of T2, it was measured at 5.5m (18') wide (though its west edge was eroded here). The street was better preserved at 85m and 205m north of T2, where widths of 7.9m (26') and 8.5m (28') are recorded (Hull 1958, 74). The width of the street in T2 would therefore appear to be slightly narrower than normal, but not radically so. It

is interesting to note that the street must reduce considerably in size to fit through Duncan's Gate, which is only 3.25m (10' 8") wide.

In fact, the east-west Roman street separating Insulas 6 and 14 is closer to the width of the street in T2. It has been measured at four places: 7.18m (23' 7") and 7.46m (24' 6") near the bandstand, 3.65m (12') wide under the café, and 5.48m (18ft) wide in Hollytrees Meadow (Fig 1).

Remains east of the Roman street

A Roman structure of unknown function (probably a town-house) stood east of the street in Insula 24. Three wall lines were found in the east end of T2. Two were robbed out, and a third survived *in situ* (top of structure at 1.3m below modern ground). It is unlikely that all three walls were contemporary, so at least two phases of construction are indicated. There was no corresponding floor level for this town-house, but a Roman mortar floor exposed 1.50m below modern ground in later post-hole F8 supports the idea of a multi-period building. The highest surviving Roman deposit was a clay layer L6, at 1.35m below modern ground. This is either a dump layer dumped to raise and/or level the ground for the construction of the house floors (now missing), or it is the layer of clay debris resulting from the demolition of the structure. A patch of gravel F12 is probably a yard or path surface contemporary with the Roman structure.

The Roman clay layer (L7) exposed in T3, although 12m south of T2, is very likely to be similar to L6 in T2.

The general situation of Roman levels in T4 and T5 is that they survive closer to modern ground-level than those elsewhere on the site, but are also much more heavily cut through by modern pits, trenches and services. As a consequence, they only survive as 'islands' – eg Roman gravel patches F18 and F19 (0.4m and 0.32m below modern ground respectively), and a small area of tessellated pavement F16 (0.4m below modern ground), which runs into the south edge of T5 and presumably survives more extensively south of T5. T4 also has a clay layer (L8) which matches L6 and L7 in T2 and T3. As T4 and T5 are so far south of T2 and T3, it is not possible to say for certain whether the Roman materials exposed here are part of the same structure as that seen in T3, or a different one.

Whichever building it belongs to, the tessellated pavement F16 is the highest surviving floor level, and perhaps the best indication of what the (missing) floors of this Roman house may have looked like.

The position of the Brian Blake trenching in front of the clinic site is not exactly known, but the linear trenches F17 and F30 (and F29?) may be parts of it.

Site finds give added detail to the outline picture of street and buildings. Roman deposits produced evidence for light industrial activity here including the working of horn-cores, and the butchering of otters (presumably for their skins). The post-Roman pit in T6 produced a group of butchered cattle vertebrae. Pits on this side of the site are probably related to the properties on the High Street frontage, one of which may have been a butcher's shop.

Greyfriars

The Central Clinic lies directly west of the site of the Grey Friars friary. Sherds of medieval pottery assumed to be associated with the monastery were found in the 1963 evaluation trench (CM 1963-64), but no medieval finds were retrieved in 2006.

8 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2006.54.

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11 Glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CM	Colchester Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
cut	a feature of unknown purpose
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, maintained by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from the 20th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
PMRE	post-medieval red earthenware
post-med	post-medieval, the period from c 1500 to c 1900
residual	an early find in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410 approximately
temenos	sacred area defined by a wall around a temple site
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by CM
U/S	unstratified, ie no context

12 Context list

Context	Trench	Description	Cuts/ seals	Finds nos and description	Context date
F1	T2	Roman gravel street surface	F26	none	Roman
F2	T2	Roman gravel street surface		none	Roman
F3	T2	robbed-out Roman wall footing		17: Roman pot 3rd-4th century, Roman brick, animal bone, mortar, oystershells	medieval?
F4	T2	robber trench, presumed medieval	F24, F25, L6	14: Roman pot 3rd-4th century, animal bone, Roman brick/tile	medieval?
F5	T2	one of a line of small pits/post -holes (F5-F9)	F2	none	post-medieval/ modern
F6	T2	one of a line of small pits/post-holes (F5-F9)	F2	none	post-medieval/ modern
F7	T2	one of a line of small pits/post -holes (F5-F9)	F2	12: Roman pot mid-late 2nd century, animal bone, Roman brick/tile	post-medieval/ modern
F8	T2	one of a line of small pits/post- holes (F5-F9)	F2, F23	13: animal bone, Roman brick/tile, <i>tesserae</i>	post-medieval/ modern
F9	T2	one of a line of small pits/post -holes (F5-F9)	F2	4: residual Roman pot early 2nd-3rd century, medieval pottery Fabric 20 of 13th century	post-medieval/ modern
F10	T2	wall footing	L6	none	Roman
F11	T2	pit	F10	15: residual Roman pot 1st-2nd/3rd century, Roman brick/tile, animal bone, peg-tile	post-medieval
F11	T2	pit	F10	16: copper-alloy lace tag, copper-alloy sheet	post-medieval
F12	T2	gravel surface		none	Roman
F13	T3	pit	L7	8: Roman pottery, animal bone	post-medieval
F14	T3	pit	F13, L7	10: residual Roman pot 1st-2nd/3rd century, 2nd-3rd/4th century, animal bone, peg-tile, Tudor brick, clay pipe	post-medieval
F15	T6	pit	L8	9: residual Roman pottery, Roman brick/tile, animal bone, peg-tile, Fabrics 20 and 21a pottery of 13th-15th/16th century	15th/16th century or later
F16	T5	tessellated floor			Roman
F17	T5	pit	F16, F18-F21	none	modern
F18	T5	metalled surface		none	Roman
F19	T5	metalled street surface		none	Roman
F20	T5	service trench	F17, F19	none	modern
F21	T5	truncated clay wall		none	Roman
F22	T4	pit complex		11: Fabrics 40, 46, 45d (group date 17th century), clay pipe (later 17th century)	post-medieval

Context	Trench	Description	Cuts/ seals	Finds nos and description	Context date
F23	T2	mortar floor		none	Roman
F24	T2	rubble foundation		none	Roman
F25	T2	clay floor		none	Roman
F26	T2	ditch into which Roman street has slumped		none	Late Iron Age or Roman?
F27	T4	cut	L8	none	modern
F28	T4	cut	L8	none	modern
F29	T4	trench	L8	none	modern
F30	T4	trench	L8	none	modern
F31	T5	cut	F17	none	modern
L1	T2-T4	tarmac	L2	none	modern
L2	T2-T4	concrete	L3	none	modern
L3	T1-T5	topsoil	F5, F11, F13, F15, F17, F20, F22	18: Roman pottery of late 2nd-3rd century, Roman <i>tessera</i>	
L4	T2	early topsoil	F2-F4, F12, F14	2: Roman pot 3rd-4th century, animal bone, Roman brick/tile, painted plaster, <i>tesserae</i>	post-Roman
L4	T2	early topsoil	F2-F4, F12, F14	3: Roman pot , 2nd-3rd century, 3rd-4th century, animal bone, Roman brick/tile including box tile	post-Roman
L4	T2	early topsoil	F2-F4, F12, F14	5: Roman pot, 1st-2nd/3rd century, Roman brick/tile including buff tiles	post-Roman
L4	T2	early topsoil	F2-F4, F12, F14	7: residual? Roman pot, late 2nd-3rd century, (Fabric 20) and Fabric 21a or 40 pot , animal bone, Roman brick/tile	post-Roman
L5	T2	clay demolition debris	F1, F26	1: Roman pot, 2nd century, animal bone, Roman brick/tile	Roman 2nd century
L6	T2	clay demolition debris	F23, F25	6: Roman pot, early 2nd-3rd century, Roman <i>tesserae</i>	Roman 2nd-3rd century
L7	T3	clay demolition debris (=L6)		none	Roman
L8	T4	clay demolition debris	F16, F18	none	Roman
L9	T6	topsoil	L3	none	modern

Distribution list:

Knight Developments

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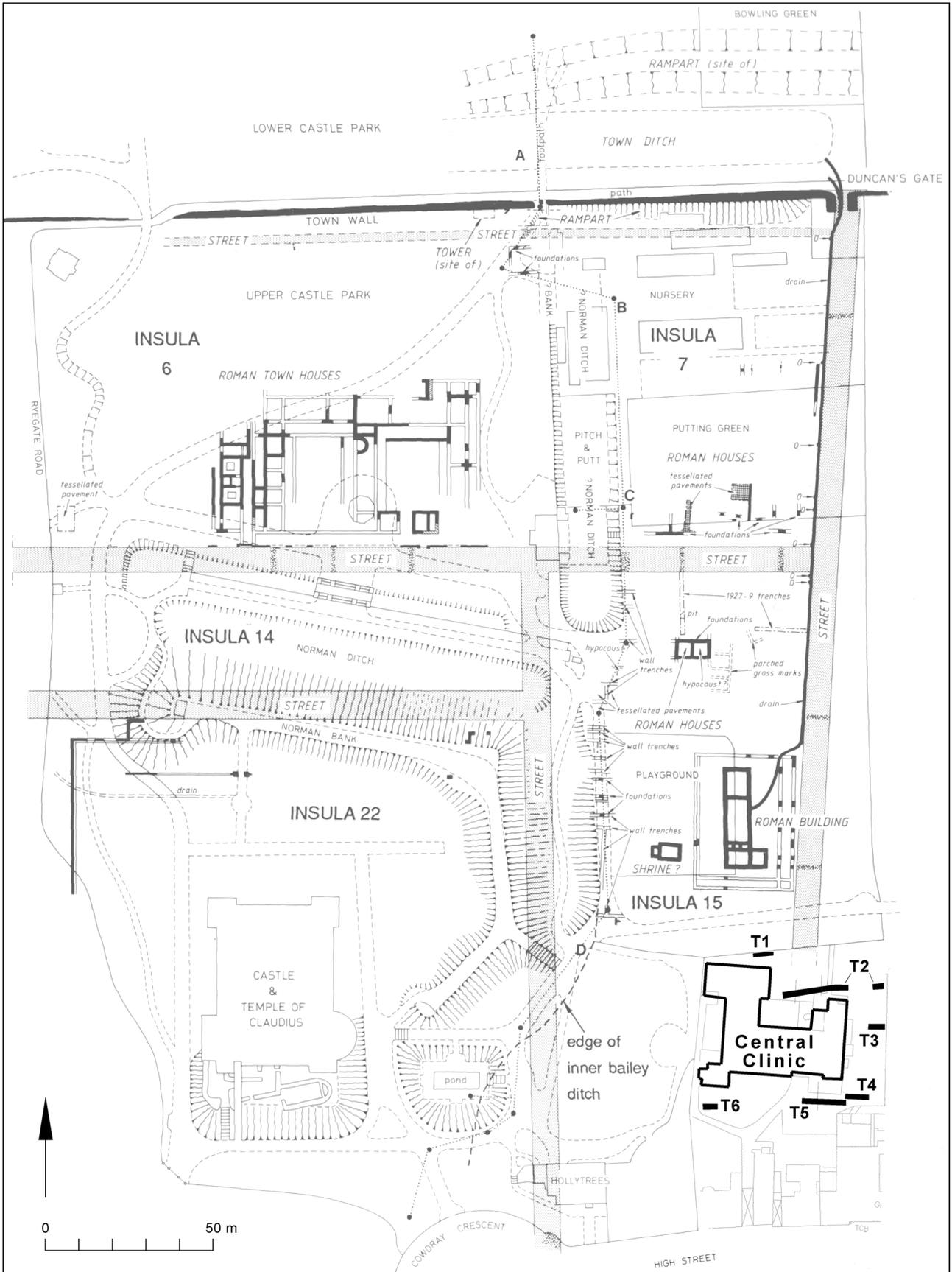
tel./fax: (01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 26.06.06

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Fig 1 Site location showing trench positions, with detail of the Roman remains in Castle Park (after CAR 6, 369).

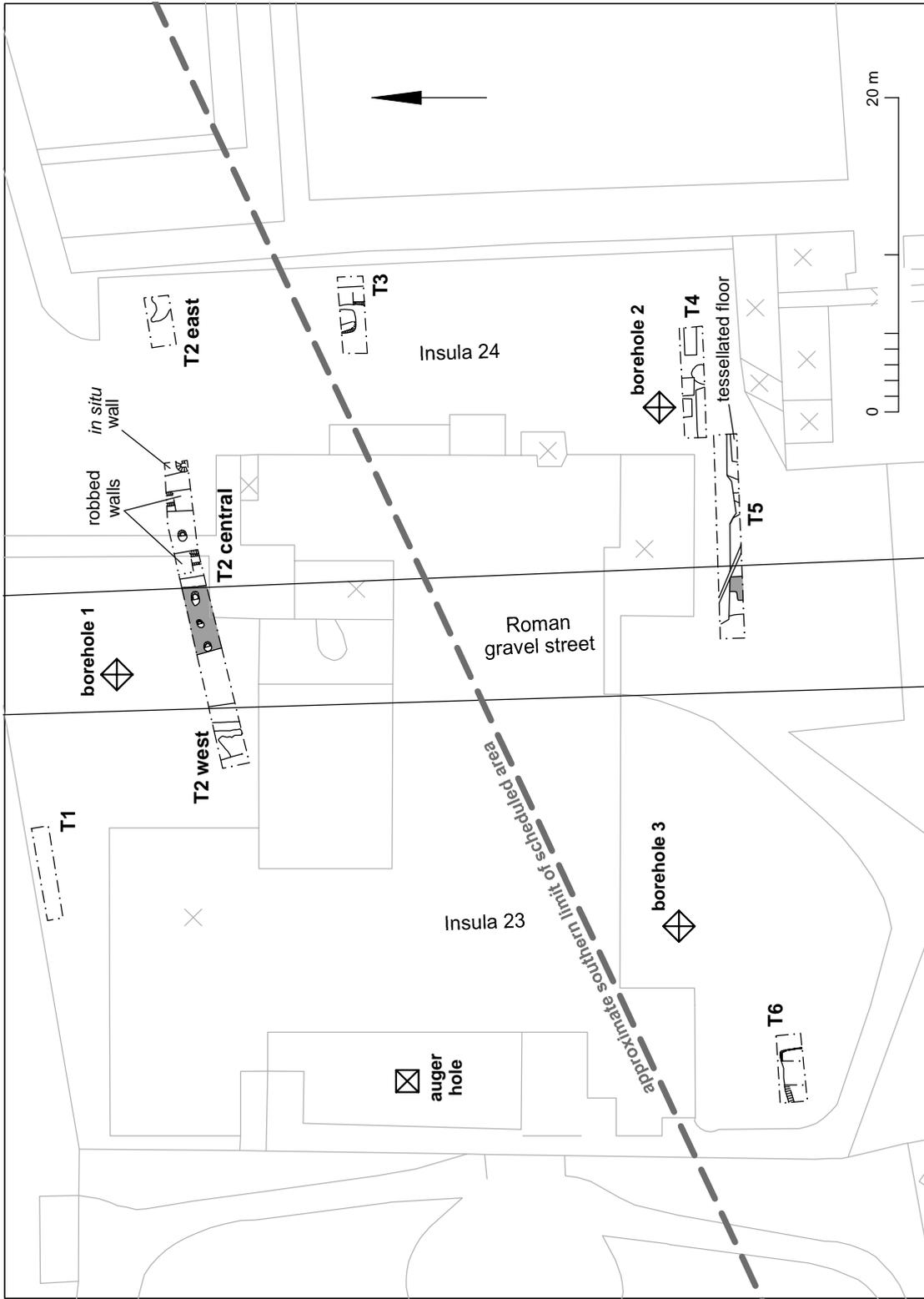


Fig 2 Trench location, with Roman street.

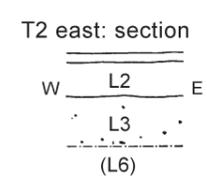
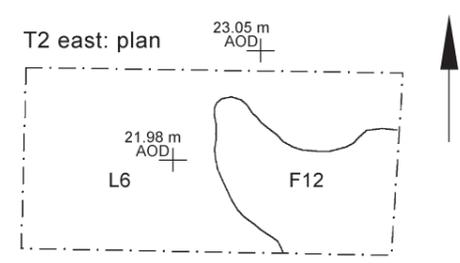
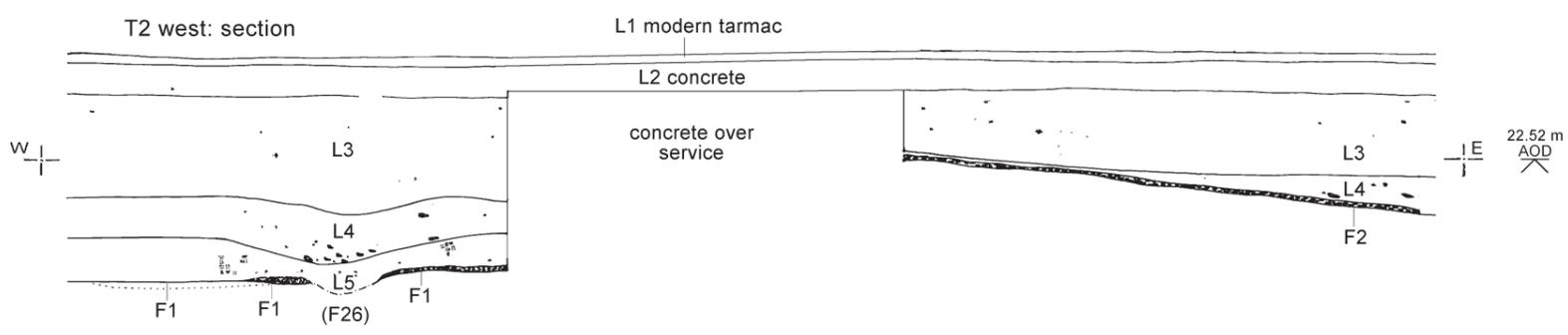
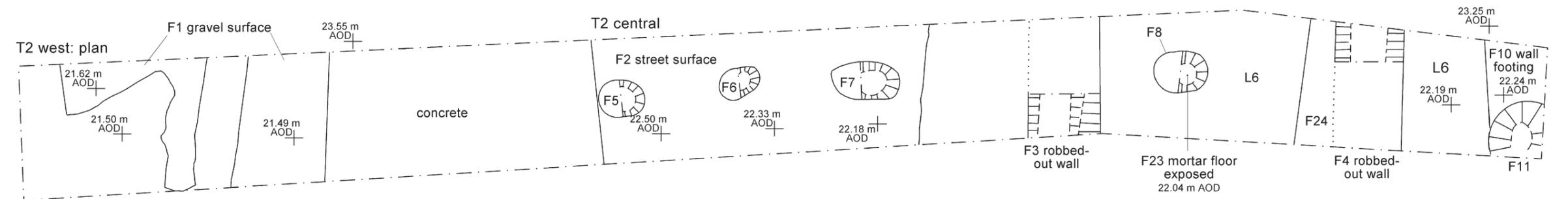


Fig 3 T1 and T2: plans and sections.

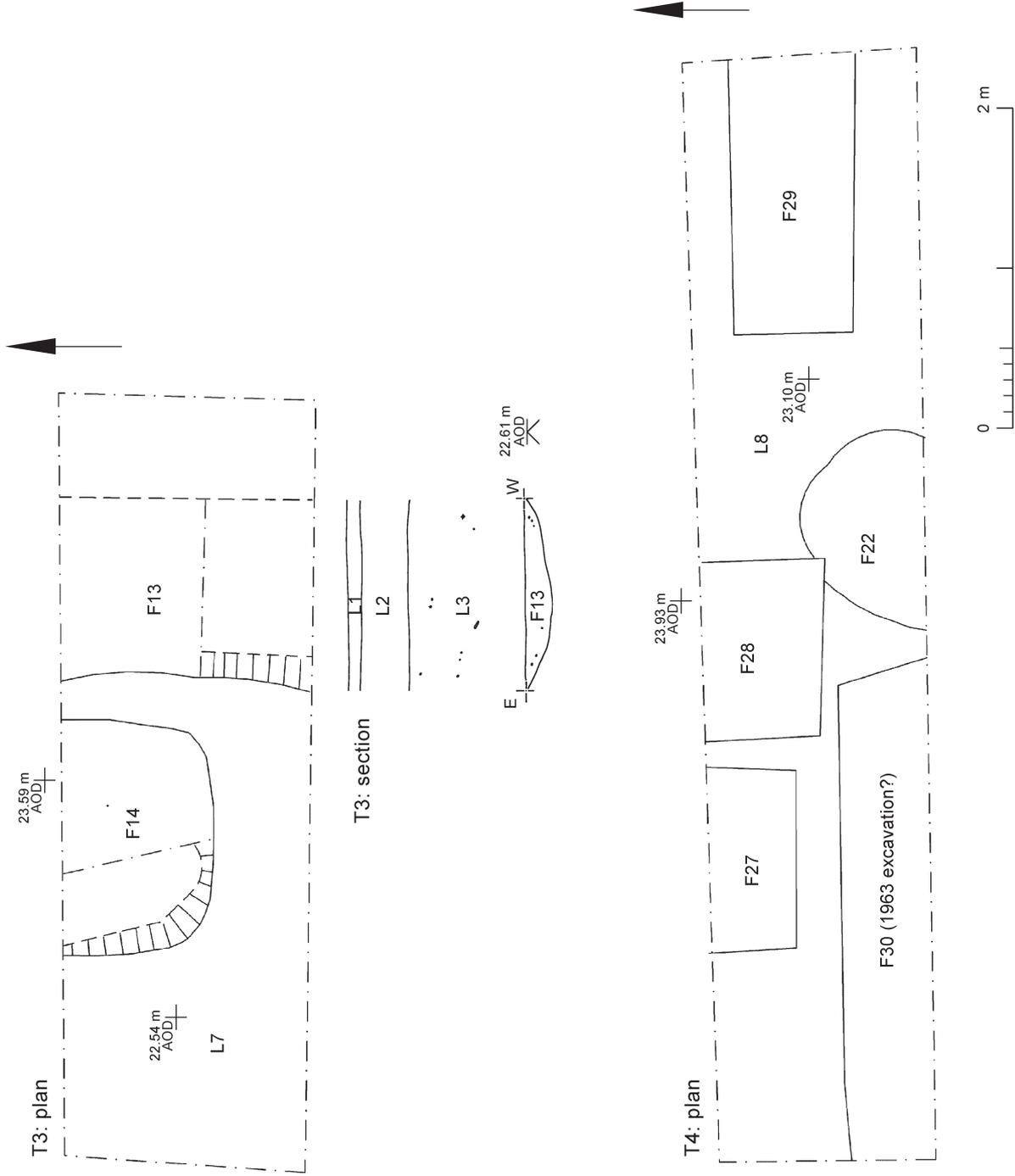


Fig 4 T3 and T4: plans and sections.

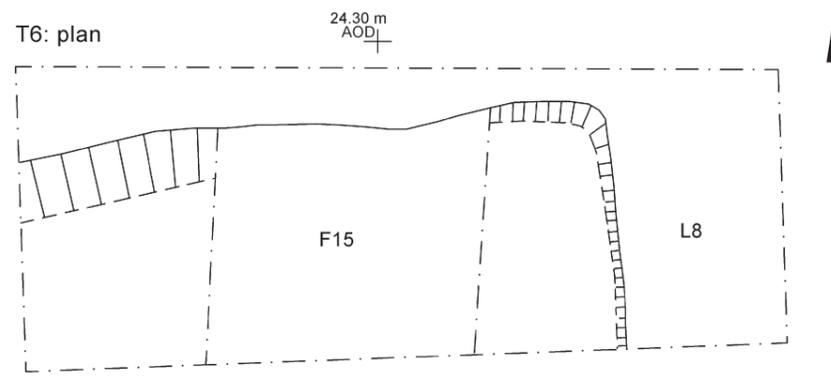
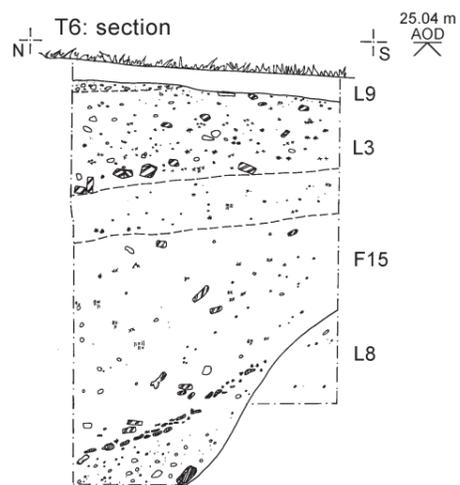
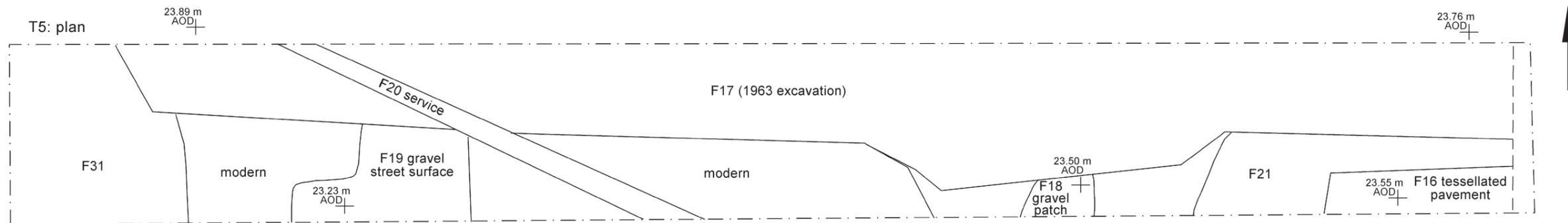


Fig 5 T5 and T6: plans and sections.



Fig 6 Herringbone mortarium stamp (T2, F11).

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: Central Clinic, High Street, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TM 0002 2532	Site code: Museum accession code 2006.54
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2006	Size of area investigated: Six trenches in 0.25ha site
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? <i>Yes</i>	Related EHER/UAD nos: EHER nos 12223-12227 and 122231; UAD nos 3128, 3833, 13136
Final report: CAT Report 372 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The site lies in Insulas 23 and 24 of the Roman town. Its north-western half coincides with Scheduled Ancient Monument Colchester Castle and Upper Castle Park (Essex SAM 1). The north-south-running gravel street separating Insulas 23 and 24 was well preserved on the north side of the site, but heavily truncated on the south side. As was expected in the Roman town, there were Roman structures on either side of the street (presumably town-houses). The remains of these included three wall lines, patches of tessellated and mortar floors, and areas of gravelling (yards or paths). Over most of the site, the highest significant archaeological horizon was a layer of Roman clay which is probably the debris resulting from the demolition of the Roman buildings. The Roman remains were heavily truncated by post-medieval and modern pits and service trenches, especially on the south side of the present clinic buildings.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: June 2006