

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching
in the car-park of the
Adult Community College,
Grey Friars, High Street, Colchester, Essex
January-February 2007**

**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Essex County Council**

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1 Summary

The investigation was a partial evaluation to find remains of the friary of 'Grey Friars'. The investigation demonstrated the existence of medieval, post-medieval and possibly Roman archaeological features on the site, most of which are to be found at approximately 1m below ground-level. The possible Roman feature was a robbed foundation. Romano-British material was found residually in later contexts. One piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery suggests occupation on the site between the 5th to the 7th centuries.

In T1, a wide medieval foundation is likely to represent part of the friary church. Next to it was a large amount of building rubble. A copper-alloy buckle typical of that worn on a monk's girdle came from this rubble. Three pieces of floor tile and four fragments of worked stone all point to a monastic building. In T2 was another medieval wall foundation, at right-angles to that found in T1 and probably part of the same building or perhaps a cloister attached to the church. The layer of demolition debris sealing these features contained medieval and post-medieval material indicating that these buildings continued in use well after the Dissolution of 1538. Further south, no foundations were exposed but there were two probable medieval sand-quarry pits. A linear spread of building rubble and a large pit filled with building rubble most likely derive from demolished friary buildings such as the church, cloister, precinct wall or the gatehouse. Although no graves were exposed, one piece of skull was found, which was probably already disturbed out of its original context.

Activity following the Dissolution of the monastery is evidenced by spreads of building rubble in T2 which appear to have functioned as some kind of surface or walkway. Several other post-medieval pits and ditches were exposed.

A WW2 air-raid shelter was exposed, dating to the time of the site's use as the County High School for Girls.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching which was carried out in the car-park of the Adult Community College at Grey Friars. This archaeological investigation, which was not a full evaluation, was requested by site owners Essex County Council. The site is due to be sold; however, no planning applications for redevelopment of the site have yet been submitted.
- 2.2 Grey Friars is located in the town centre, on the northern side of the High Street, at the top of East Hill, and is centred on NGR TM 0012 2532. The evaluation site is currently used as a walled car-park, by the college and members of the public, and is accessed via Castle Road.
- 2.3 The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in late January-early February 2007.
- 2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), who also monitored the project. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in 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), and Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003). Other sources used are *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 Grey Friars occupies an area of high archaeological potential and is situated close to three scheduled ancient monuments, although it is not scheduled itself. The site lies on the eastern side of the walled part of the town, occupying an area which appears

to approximate to Insula 24 of the Roman town. This *insula* was situated a short distance to the east of the Temple of Claudius, fronting the Roman town's main street and close to the town's east gate. Insula 24 is a relatively unexplored part of the town centre and very little is known about any Roman remains that might survive within it. The limited Roman remains recorded to date suggest that the *insula* was probably occupied by private houses and that the remains of an east-west Roman street might survive under the northern boundary of the Grey Friars car-park.

3.2 Grey Friars derives its name from the Franciscan friary which was established here shortly before 1237 and dissolved in 1538. The friary extended as far north and east as the Roman town wall and incorporated the areas subsequently occupied by Roman Road and Castle Road as well as the Adult Community College site itself. Map evidence suggests that a substantial part of the main friary buildings, including the cloisters and the church, may survive under the college car-park. Grey Friars is one of the most important yet least understood of Colchester's medieval archaeological sites. Hardly any excavation has taken place here. The buildings of the friary had all disappeared by 1777, judging by the cartographic evidence.

The Grey Friars at Colchester were given various land grants in the 13th and 14th centuries so that, by the time of the Dissolution, they owned a block of land between the High Street (this part of which was called Frere Street, after the friary), the town wall, and the castle bailey ditch. The friary included a church, hall, infirmary house, lodgings, kitchen, bakery, brewery, gardens, and four acres of land within the precinct wall (VCH 9, 306).

After the friary was dissolved in 1538, Henry VIII granted the land to Frances Jobson. It passed through various owners until the middle of the 18th century when the land was sold to the Rev John Halls. Halls built a new house on the street frontage in 1755 (the central part of the Grey Friars building), and laid out gardens to the rear. After his death, the house and garden and land to the north ('Priory Field') were sold by auction in 1813. The auction lot describes the house and then the grounds (Gurney 1998, 10-11):

'... three stall stables, brew house, and various outbuildings, all of the most substantial brick and in perfect repair, lawns and pleasure grounds, fishponds, and a capital kitchen garden, partly walled and well stocked with fruit trees, another garden completely walled round, dry gravel walks, productive orchard, farm yard and outbuildings, enclosed by walls, the whole occupying a frontage of about 170 yards...'

From 1824, the land to the north of the house and garden, which had previously been pasture (Priory Field), became botanic gardens. In 1847, the whole site was sold again and Priory Field was developed for housing (Roman Road and Castle Road; VCH 9, 306-7; Gurney 1998, 11).

Grey Friars house and its garden remained in private ownership until 1908 when it was bought by French nuns who opened a school here. They were responsible for adding the wings to either side of the Grey Friars house in 1908-1910. In 1920, the premises were bought by Essex County Council for use as the junior school of the Colchester County High School for Girls (CCHS), until it moved to its new buildings in Norman Way in 1957. In World War 2, air-raid shelters were constructed here. In 1964-65 it adopted its present function as an Adult Community College (Gurney 1998, 11).

Compared to the documentary evidence, the archaeological evidence is sparse. William Wire, between 1847 and 1857, recorded the discovery of several skeletons at Grey Friars, found in a row with heads orientated to the west. On the lot map accompanying the 1847 sale catalogue for Grey Friars (Essex Record Office C32), Wire wrote that they were found in the kitchen garden and that he believed they were probably monks from the friary. The upper car-park of the college is on the site of the kitchen garden. To the north of the car-park, a watching brief on groundworks at the rear of 67 Castle Road in 1997 recorded a late medieval pit or trench containing food waste and domestic rubbish which is probably associated with the friary (CAT ref 7/97c; UAD event no 3528). To the west, a long archaeological trench excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee at the front of the Central Clinic in 1963 recorded early medieval pottery at the east end, giving a hint of the proximity of the friary site (Colchester Museum Annual Reports 1963-4, 9).

- 3.3** CAT has carried out various small investigations at Grey Friars. An evaluation trench excavated against the north wall of the car-park in 2003 revealed a depth of modern topsoil and probable post-medieval build-up layers down to 1.5m below the car-park ground-level. Natural ground was not reached in this trench (CAT Report 219). A trench dug when part of the wall was replaced in 2004 reached natural sand at 1.9m below car-park ground-level (CAT Report 264). No Roman or medieval features were revealed. A tessellated pavement was recorded to the rear of the Grey Friars building in 2004, at 1.1m below ground-level (CAT Report 290). However, no evidence of the friary was found during this work nor during some works to improve access in 2006 (CAT Report 369). A detailed assessment of the archaeological remains of Grey Friars can be found in CAT Report 391.

4 Aims

The general aim of the evaluation was to locate, identify, and assess the quality of any surviving archaeological features. Specifically, the purpose of the work was to ascertain whether any remains of the friary survive and in what state, to confirm the location of the buildings and the graveyard, and to find out the depth of the dark earth sealing the remains with a view to developing a suitable mitigation strategy.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The six trenches were dug using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket down to natural sand and gravel or the first archaeological horizon.
- 5.2** Trenches were located on the northern and eastern parts of the car-park to target expected buildings and burials of the friary. Trees and a hedge were avoided as were below-ground steel ties which projected out from the newly-replaced portion of northern car-park wall.
- 5.3** Potential archaeological deposits which were exposed were cleaned by hand where it was safe to do so. Individual records of layers were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.4** Section drawings were made at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Most features and trenches were plotted using an Electronic Distance Measuring Device (EDM). Manual plans of certain features were made at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50.
- 5.5** Finds and small finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned finds numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.6** Colour photographs of the trenches and features were taken with a digital camera.
- 5.7** A metal detector was used to check spoil heaps.

6 Results

6.1 Evaluation trenches (Figs 2-3)

The evaluation consisted of six trenches (T1-T6) totalling 83.35m in length and 141.2 square metres in area.

6.2 Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)

20m x 1.8m.

Between 1.2m and 1.4m deep.

Ground-level at southern end of trench: 23.06m AOD.

Ground-level at northern end of trench: 21.94m AOD.

T1 was located in a grassed area in the eastern part of the car-park. At the northern end of the trench, topsoil and subsoil were removed to reveal, at 1m below ground-level, a mortar-rich layer of demolition debris (L3) with abundant peg-tile. This layer contained Roman brick and tile and 14th-century pottery but also later finds such as clay tobacco pipe and 18th-century pottery. Removal of L3 exposed earlier features which are thought to belong to the friary, namely a 2.4m-wide mortared stone foundation on an east-west alignment (F1), made of courses of heavily mortared stone and peg-tile with a course of gravel on a layer of sandy soil. To the north of

this foundation was a spread of building rubble (L4), consisting of septaria, peg-tile, lumps of mortar, and other stone cobbles, perhaps flint or sandstone. A 500mm-deep sondage was dug through L4 to establish whether more of F1 survived underneath. It showed that foundation F1 was at least 500mm deep, as was the layer of building rubble (L4). The obvious interpretation of L4 would be demolition rubble from F1; however, L4 contained septaria and F1 did not.

The central part of the trench was cut through the remains of a WW2 air-raid shelter (F2). This appeared to have already been demolished, with the trench cutting through large chunks of reinforced concrete and exposing the concrete base of the shelter. At the southern end of the trench there was more demolition debris (L3) which had been cut into by a large pit full of modern rubbish (F13). Underneath L3 was a layer of even more concentrated mortar (L22) containing peg-tile and a medieval floor tile. This layer had been cut into by a pit (F7) and a linear (F10).

Table 1.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground- level |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L1 | Topsoil | - | modern | at ground- level |
| L2 | Dark brown sandy silt topsoil merging into post-medieval garden soil similar to L7 and L9 | Clay tobacco pipe, peg-tile 18th- to 20th-century pottery | post-medieval to modern | 400-450mm |
| L3 | Layer of demolition debris consisting of mortar and much peg-tile; sealed F1, F4, L4, F7, F8, F10 | Roman CBM, Roman pottery, Roman coin, clay tobacco pipe, 14th- to 18th- century pottery, ?18th-century glass bottle, iron nails | post-medieval | 1.0m |
| L4 | Spread of building rubble to the north of F1 consisting of septaria, peg-tile, lumps of mortar and other stone cobbles, perhaps flint or sandstone | Roman ceramic building material (CBM), peg-tile, worked stone and white painted wall-plaster, also a copper-alloy buckle and copper-alloy lace end, iron nails | medieval | 1.1m |
| L5 | Hard gravel layer at base of pit F8; may be a continuation of F4 | - | medieval | 1.35m |
| L22 | Layer of demolition debris made up of several layers (L22a-L22c), mainly yellow mortar with some cream and pink, 230-270mm thick; sealed by L3, cut by F7, F10 and F13; previously thought to be a feature | Stone – Greensand, animal bone, medieval floor tile, peg-tile | medieval or post-medieval | 1.3m |
| F1 | Wide foundation (1.2m wide or 2.4m including F4) on an E-W alignment, constructed of mortared stone (sandstone?); metalling F4 is probably a course within F1 | Peg-tile, worked stone fragments, glass sherd, slate fragment, 17th- to 18th-century pot sherd | medieval, continuing to post-medieval | 1.25m |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|------------------------|
| F2 | Air-raid shelter made of reinforced concrete | Galvanised steel bucket | 1939-1945 | 1.4m |
| F3 | Small shallow pit cut into L3 or may be an undulation within L3 | Roman tile, 15th- to 16th-century pottery, animal bone | late medieval or post-medieval? | 1.0m |
| F4 | Metalling to the south of F1 and within F1; probably a course of gravel within F1 | 1 sherd of Roman pot, 15th- to 16th-century pottery, peg-tile | medieval, continuing into post-medieval period | 1.2m |
| F5 | Tip line of dark brown sandy silt with pit F13 | Peg-tile | modern | above 1.34m |
| F6 | Tip line of dark brown sandy silt within pit F13 | Peg-tile, pantile, post-medieval and modern pottery, brick, clay tobacco pipe, iron concretion, china, flowerpot, stones | modern | above 1.34m |
| F7 | Small straight-sided pit cut into demolition debris L22 | Animal bone, clay tobacco pipe, 17th-century pottery, Roman brick | post-medieval | 1.34m |
| F8 | Small pit with a hard gravelly base (L5) | 1 sherd of Roman pottery, <i>tesserae</i> , 15th- to 16th-century pottery, iron nail | post-medieval? | 1.19m |
| F10 | N-S aligned linear cut into demolition debris L22 | Peg-tile | post-medieval | 1.34m |
| F11 | Dark feature with indistinct edges – probably an undulation within L3 | Peg-tile | post-medieval | 1.1m |
| F12 | Dark feature with indistinct edges – probably an undulation within L3 | Peg-tile, iron nail | post-medieval | 1.1m |
| F13 | Large rubbish-pit with tip lines | Peg-tile, post-medieval and modern pottery, oyster shells, stone, slate, animal bone, buff Roman tile | modern | just below the surface |

6.3 Trench 2 (Figs 2-3 and 5)

19.35m x 1.5m.

Between 1m and 1.2m deep.

Ground-level at western end of trench: 21.2m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench: 21.1m AOD.

T2 was excavated in a tarmac area in the north-eastern part of the car-park, as near to the walls as possible. Between 750mm and 900mm of modern overburden and post-medieval accumulation was removed before a post-medieval layer of demolition debris (L8) was encountered. This layer of debris contained mortar and was more pronounced in the eastern end of the trench. The central part of the trench was left unexcavated due to the presence of a large soakaway. To the west of the soakaway were three linear features (F15, F16, F17) all aligned north-south and sealed by L8. F15 was a 600mm-wide robbed wall foundation containing peg-tile, Roman pottery and tile, *opus signinum*, *tesserae*, painted wall-plaster and oyster shells. This feature was partially excavated and found to be unrobbed further down.

It could be either Roman or medieval, and probably robbed in the medieval period. F16 consisted of two patches of building rubble made up of peg-tile, Roman ceramic building material, mortar chunks, and stone. 17th- to 18th-century pottery gives the feature a post-medieval date. This feature was cleaned but not excavated. Nearby was a 2.5m-wide gravel feature (F17) with a line of peg-tile and stone debris on the surface. At first it appeared to be some sort of surface with a raised platform or walkway formed by the peg-tile and stone. Excavation revealed the feature to be a shingle-filled ditch. A partial section was cut through F17. Its depth was not established. Various Roman and post-medieval artefacts were collected from F17 and also one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery of 5th- to 7th-century date. None of these three features were cutting natural; however, what appeared to be a natural brown silty clay was exposed by the machine at the western limit of the trench, at 1.3m below ground-level.

The demolition debris (L8) continued to the east of the soakaway. The debris sealed two probable medieval features; a wide ditch (F19) and a mortared foundation (F20). F20 was found at the extreme eastern end of the trench. It was not fully exposed by hand but, from what was exposed, it was seen to be at least 1m wide, at least 170mm deep, and aligned north-south. This foundation was constructed of septaria, flint, sandstone, pebbles and peg-tile. Roman pottery and 15th- to 16th-century pottery were retrieved while cleaning F20, and thus it is likely to be medieval in date. The ditch F19 was on the same alignment as the foundation. It was partially excavated by the machine and not bottomed. The Roman finds within the fill of F19 and the lack of post-medieval material makes it likely to be a medieval feature. However, the ditch appears to cut F20 and therefore must post-date it.

Another ditch (F18) at right-angles to F19 had been cut through layer of demolition debris L8. The eastern end of F18 was clearly visible and stopped short of F19. The 14th-century pottery in its fill probably derived from medieval remains that it had disturbed. There was also Roman and modern pottery in its fill.

Table 2.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground- level |
|-------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| L6 | Tarmac surface with varying thicknesses of hogging or crush sub-base | - | modern | at ground-level |
| L7 | Dark brown sandy silt topsoil merging into post-medieval garden soil, similar to L2 and L9 | Peg-tile | post-medieval/ modern | 300-400mm below ground-level |
| L8 | Layer of demolition debris similar to L3; light yellowy brown clayey silt 280mm thick, cut by F18, sealed F15, F16, F17, F19 and F20; more pronounced at eastern end of trench | - | post-medieval | 750-900mm |
| F15 | Robbed wall foundation 600mm wide, aligned N-S; unrobbed further down | Peg-tile, Roman pottery and tile, <i>opus signinum</i> , <i>tesserae</i> , painted wall-plaster, oyster shells | ?Roman or medieval wall foundation robbed in ?medieval period | 1.13m |
| F16 | N-S linear spread of building rubble made up of peg-tile, Roman CBM, mortar chunks, and stone | Iron nail, clay tobacco pipe, peg-tile, 17th- to 18th-century pottery, Roman pottery, | post-medieval | 1.0m |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|--|---------------|------------|
| | | Roman brick, slate, <i>tesserae</i> , animal bone | | |
| F17 | 2.5m-wide shingle-filled ditch, aligned N-S, with a line of peg-tile and stone debris on the surface; also a pile of winkle shells on the surface. The gravel was fairly compact on top (a surface?), but there was loose pea grit further down; not fully sectioned, therefore depth not established | Sherd of Anglo-Saxon (5th- to 7th-century) pottery, peg-tile, Roman pottery, Roman CBM, <i>tesserae</i> , animal bone, oyster and winkle shells, glazed floor tile, slate, early 18th-century pot sherd, copper-alloy wire | post-medieval | 950mm-1.0m |
| F18 | E-W aligned ditch cut into L8; mixed fill of grey brown sandy silt with sand patches and mortar flecks | 14th- to 19th-/20th-century pottery, clay tobacco pipe, Roman pottery and CBM, iron nails | modern | 900mm |
| F19 | N-S aligned 2.7m-wide ditch sealed by L8, adjacent to F20 and the eastern end of F18; only partially dug (by machine), so depth not established | Iron object, Roman pottery, Roman CBM, <i>tessera</i> | medieval? | 1.0m |
| F20 | N-S aligned mortared foundation only partially exposed by excavation, but at least 1m wide and at least 170mm deep; made of septaria, flint, limestone or sandstone, pebbles, peg-tile | Peg-tile, Roman pottery and CBM, 15th- to 16th-century pottery | medieval | 1.18m |

6.4 Trench 3 (Figs 2-3 and 6)

9m x 1.8m.

1.5m deep.

Ground-level at western end of trench: 23.13m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench: 23.21m AOD.

T3 was located on the eastern side of the upper car-park. A deep layer of accumulated dark soil sealed a mortar-rich layer of demolition debris (L10), likely to be post-medieval in date. Removal of L10 exposed a large pit (F21) and a spread of building rubble (F22). The large pit was deep down, at 1.3m below ground-level, and cut natural sand (L11), making it likely to have been a sand-quarry pit. However, the greenish hue of its outer fills did resemble cess. Medieval pottery and peg-tile from pit F21 indicates a medieval date. The linear spread of building rubble (F22) was made up of Roman CBM, peg-tile, septaria, Greensand stone and large pebbles, all with mortar adhering but not actually mortared together. One fragment of human skull was found on the spoil heap (finds no 42) in the same vicinity as the rubble from F22. A search was made of this end of the trench in order to identify the grave from which the skull came. No grave was found, nor was any more human bone found on the spoil heap. It can only be assumed that this find came from a grave in the vicinity which had already been disturbed.

Table 3.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground- level |
|-------------------|--|---|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L6 | Tarmac and hogging | - | modern | at ground- level |
| L9 | Dark brown sandy silt topsoil merging into post-medieval garden soil similar to L7 and L2; mortar flecks | Peg-tile, coal, china, ginger ale bottles | post-medieval to modern | 190mm |
| L10 | Mortar-rich layer of demolition debris sealing F21 and F22 | Roman CBM, peg-tile, oyster shells, modern china (possibly from L9) | post-medieval? | 1.9m |
| L11 | Orange natural sand cut by F21 and F22 | - | Glacial | 1.04m |
| F21 | Large sand-quarry pit, filled with several fills (F21a-F21d), some of which had a green hue (not dug – too deep) | Peg-tile, Roman tile, 13th- to 14th?-century pot sherd | medieval | 1.3m |
| F22 | Spread of building rubble on a N-S alignment, made up of Roman CBM, peg-tile, septaria, Greensand stone and large pebbles with mortar adhering but not actually mortared together; sealed by L10 | Peg-tile, Roman CBM including box tile | medieval | 1.04m |

6.5 Trench 4 (Figs 2-3 and 7)

9m x 1.8m.

Between 1.47m and 1.7m deep.

Ground-level at western end of trench: 23.1m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench: 23.1m AOD.

T4 was excavated in the upper car-park, to the east of T3. The soil profile was similar to T3 and a second probable medieval sand-quarry pit was revealed (F23) at 1.14m below ground-level. F23 was cut by a linear feature (F24). Neither feature was dug due to the depth of the trench.

Table 4.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground- level |
|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L6 | Tarmac and crush | - | modern | at ground- level |
| L9 | Dark brown sandy silt topsoil merging into post-medieval garden soil similar to L7 and L2 | Clay tobacco pipe, modern pottery and glass | post-medieval to modern | 150mm |
| L10 | Light brown sandy silt with abundant yellow mortar; sealed F23, cut by F24 | Roman brick and tile, peg-tile | post-medieval? | 900mm |
| L11 | Orange natural sand, cut by F23 | - | Glacial | 1.46m |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|--|---------------------------|-------|
| L12 | Layer of mortar within pit F23 | Roman tile, Greensand stone, other stone | medieval | 1.47m |
| L13 | Light brown sandy silt with mortar flecks and fragments; cut by F23? | Brick and tile fragments, one small piece of slate | medieval | 1.5m |
| L14 | Yellow brown clay with gravel sealing F23 and cut by F24; sealed by L10 | - | medieval or post-medieval | 1.1m |
| F23 | Large sand-quarry pit with a stony fill with green tinges; there was a dump of mortar within F23 (L12); (not dug – too deep down) | - | medieval | 1.14m |
| F24 | Linear feature on a NE-SW alignment with a dark fill with flecks of brick and mortar; cut F23 (not dug – too deep down) | - | post-medieval? | 1.07m |

6.6 Trench 5 (Figs 2-3 and 7)

9m x 1.8m.

1.2m deep.

Ground-level at western end of trench: 23.81m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench: 23.91m AOD.

T5 was positioned in the upper car-park. 1.05m of modern and post-medieval material was removed, exposing a large pit which took up most of the length of the trench (F25). The pit was packed only with building rubble: large chunks of septaria and flint, and small to medium stones and mortar, with peg-tile and Roman brick and tile. A scoop taken out of the pit with the machine showed its depth to be 700mm. F25 cut natural sand (L11). It is likely that this is a dump of building material from a demolished medieval building, probably part of the friary.

Table 5.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground-level |
|----------------|--|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| L6 | Tarmac and crush | - | modern | at ground-level |
| L11 | Orange sand | - | Glacial | 1.2m |
| L15 | Medium grey orangey brown sandy silt topsoil, with root action | Modern pottery | modern | 140mm |
| L16 | Light to mid orangey brown sandy silt, with root action, small stones and mortar flecks – make-up? | Modern pottery, clay tobacco pipe, peg-tile, post-medieval brick | modern | 600mm |
| L20 | Mid orangey grey brown sandy silt with mortar flecks – accumulation layer | - | post-medieval? | 740mm |
| L21 | Light orange brown silty sand with frequent stones; sealed F25 | - | post-medieval? | 1.1m |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|---|-------|
| F25 | Pit containing building rubble, ie septaria, flint, other stones, Roman brick and tile, peg-tile all with mortar adhering, plus mortar | Roman CBM, peg-tile | post-medieval pit containing medieval building rubble | 1.05m |
|-----|--|---------------------|---|-------|

6.7 Trench 6 (Figs 2-3)

9m x 1.8m.

2m to 2.3m deep.

Ground-level at western end of trench: 24.11m AOD.

Ground-level at eastern end of trench: 23.95m AOD.

T6 was located in the upper car-park. There was a great depth of modern and post-medieval material sealing the medieval remains, and, as in T5, the soil profile revealed some make-up layers indicating some dumping of material. The trench was excavated down to natural sand (L11) which was encountered at 1.9m below ground-level and lower in places. At the base of the trench, cut into natural, was a pit which contained peg-tile and a large amount of horse and/or cow bones (F26). This could not be planned in detail because spoil from the sides kept falling in and obscuring it.

Table 6.

| Feature/ Layer | Description | Finds | Date | Depth below ground- level |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L6 | Tarmac and crush (with Terram matting on the eastern side of trench) | - | modern | at ground-level |
| L11 | Natural sand | - | Glacial | 1.9m |
| L15 | Medium grey orangey brown sandy silt topsoil, with root action | - | modern | 150mm |
| L17 | Mid brown sandy silt with mortar and brick and tile flecks; accumulation layer sealing F26 | Tesserae, peg-tile, oyster shells | post-medieval | 1.2m |
| L18 | Medium brown silty clay make-up, central part of trench only | - | modern? | 630mm |
| L19 | Loose mortar layer, not present the whole way along – make-up | Oyster shells, Roman tile, peg-tile | modern or post-medieval? | 900mm |
| F26 | Pit with animal bone (not dug – too deep) | Animal bone, peg-tile | medieval? | 2.2m |

7 Finds

7.1 The post-Roman pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass

by Howard Brooks

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and CAR 7): Fabric 97 (Anglo-Saxon 'brickearth' fabric); Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 41 (Tudor Green); Fabric 42 (Border ware); Fabric 45c (Raeren stoneware); Fabric 45d (Frechen stoneware); Fabric 46 (tin-glazed earthenware); Fabric 48b (English

porcelain); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone); and Fabric 50 (Staffordshire slipware). A list of fabrics by context is given in the catalogue below. Full quantification can be found in the archive.

Comment

This is a typical group of Colchester post-medieval pottery, consisting mainly of Fabric 40 PMRE and Fabric 48d modern ironstone, with smaller quantities of other wares such as German stonewares (Fabrics 45c-45d) and tin-glazed earthenwares (Fabric 46). One residual hand-made Anglo-Saxon sherd points to Anglo-Saxon activity on this site before the construction of the friary.

The pertinent question about this group is whether it is an ordinary domestic group, or whether it is particularly monastic. This question was asked by Helen Walker with regard to the medieval pottery assemblage from the 2002-2004 excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, near Maldon, Essex (Walker 2006). Her conclusion was that the pottery was not particularly monastic in its content, in that it contained wares seen on normal domestic sites. Furthermore, she explained that the presence of various imported wares was due to the site's proximity to the port at Maldon rather than to its monastic status.

The Beeleigh group was more specifically associated with a religious house (the west edge of the original abbey lay only 20m beyond one of the trenches) and was also a more closed group, in that the material was associated with buildings demolished along with the abbey at the time of its Dissolution in 1536 (Brooks 2006). This group from Grey Friars has the potential to contain material associated with the friary, but also with later use of the site, including as a garden. It would seem difficult, therefore, to make any definitive comments about the relationship of the pottery to the friary, tempting though that may be.

However, there are several aspects of this group which mark it out as being from a possible 'high status' site. First, there is more imported material here than in the normal Colchester group, particularly the German stonewares. Second, there is a fragment of Tudor Green ware, which is not common in Colchester. Does the presence of this material relate to the friary? If so, it would relate to the very end of the friary's existence as a religious establishment, and quite possibly to the time of the Dissolution and the early years of its use as a non-monastic, domestic site.

Catalogue of pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass

T1

F1

Finds no 9: PMRE (Fabric 40) glazed sherd, 17th-18th century.

Glass fragment, translucent with slight weathering, 19th century?

F3

Finds no 7: (1) Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century; (2) Raeren ware (Fabric 45c), late 15th century.

F4

Finds no 6: Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century.

F6

Finds no 13: (1) PMRE (Fabric 40) sherds from large vessels, 17th-18th century; (2) modern ironstone (Fabric 48d), 19th-20th century; (3) English porcelain (Fabric 48b), 19th century.

Clay tobacco pipe, 17th century.

F7

Finds no 14: PMRE (Fabric 40) glazed dish, with 'Maltese Cross' stamp on interior of rim; exact parallel with *CAR 10*, fig 133.12, 17th century.

Clay tobacco pipe, mid-17th century.

F8

Finds no 12: Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century.

F13

Finds no 16: (1) heavy rim sherds in PMRE (Fabric 40); large jars or cisterns?, 18th-19th century?; (2) Staffordshire slipware (Fabric 50), late 17th early 18th century; (3) modern-looking ironstone (Fabric 48d) plate rim, 20th century?

L2

Finds no 5: (1) PMRE (Fabric 40) base of large jar, 18th-19th century; (2) modern ironstone (Fabric 48d), 20th century.

Base of green glass wine bottle, probably 18th century.

L3

Finds no 3: (1) medieval sandy coarse ware (Fabric 20), 14th century; (2) Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century; (3) Tudor Green ware (Fabric 41), 15th-16th century; (4) tin-glazed earthenware (Fabric 46), late 16th-mid 18th century; (5) PMRE (Fabric 40), glazed, 17th-18th century.

Clay tobacco-pipe bowl and stem fragment, mid 17th century.

Finds no 5: base of green glass wine bottle, probably 18th century.

Finds no 8: (1) Raeren ware (Fabric 45c), late 15th century; (2) Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century; (3) Frechen ware (Fabric 45d), late 15th or 16th century; (4) unidentified medieval ware.

Finds no 10: (1) Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century; (2) Raeren ware (Fabric 45c), late 15th century; (3) green glazed Surrey white ware?, 14th/15th century.

T2

Between F15 and F16

Finds no 25: modern ironstone (Fabric 48d), 20th century.

Clay tobacco pipe, mid 17th century.

F16

Finds no 24: PMRE (Fabric 40), glazed, 17th-18th century.

Two plain clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments; bore diameters 3 mm, late 17th or 18th century.

F17

Finds no 28: Westerwald ware (Fabric 45f), early 18th century.

Finds no 27: Fabric 97, hand-made Anglo-Saxon brickearth fabric; sherd from shoulder of cooking pot, rough but hard fabric with flint and grit content and a little surface marking due to vegetable matter burning out during firing.

F18

Finds no 32: (1) flowerpot (Fabric 51b), 19th-20th century; (2) PMRE (Fabric 40), 17th-18th century; (3) Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), 15th-16th century; (4) medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20), 14th century.

Clay tobacco-pipe bowl and stem fragments, mid 17th-mid 18th century.

F20

Finds no 29: Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a) with green glaze, 15th-16th century.

T3

L10

Finds no 37: modern ironstone (Fabric 48d), 19th-20th century.

F21

Finds no 41: Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), green glazed over an overall white slip; unusual form, fragmentary, almost like a handle with a normal fixing point onto a pot, but it is a flat, decorated extrusion of some kind, 13th-14th century?

T4

L9

Finds no 39: clay tobacco-pipe stem, mid-17th century.

Unstratified

Finds no 38: modern stoneware (Fabric 45m), 19th-20th century.

Dark green glass beer bottle, 19th-20th century.

T5

L15

Finds no 44: modern ironstone (Fabric 48d) sherds, willow pattern, 19th-20th century.

L16

Finds no 45: flowerpot (Fabric 51b), 19th-20th century.

Plain clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment; bore diameter 3 mm, late 17th or 18th century.

Unstratified

Finds no 46: plain clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment; bore diameter 2 mm.

7.2 Roman pottery
by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The evaluation produced only a small quantity (825 g) of Roman pottery. The pottery was recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for **CAR 10**, in which all the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 7). Where appropriate, reference has been made to the corresponding fabric types described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each finds number (Table 8; see Appendix). The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric, and the identifiable pottery forms present in each fabric type. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot date was recorded for each finds number.

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

| Fabric code | Fabric name | National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric |
|-------------|---|---|
| AA | amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras | |
| CZ | Colchester and other red colour-coated wares | COL CC2 |
| DJ | coarse oxidised and related wares | COL WH |
| 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 | |
| TZ | mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent | COL WH |
| WB | grey slipped wares | |

Discussion

Only a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered, and almost all came from T1 and T2. The date range of the pottery fabrics and form types present spans the 1st-4th centuries. However, the closely datable pottery is primarily of 1st- to 3rd-century date, and the majority can be dated to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century.

While there is no pottery that is specifically of 1st- to early 2nd-century date, there are a few sherds, including two base sherds, in Fabric DJ, that are probably from flagons which can be dated to the 1st-2nd/early 3rd century. One of the flagon bases (T2, F17, finds no 27) has a number of faint scratches inside the footring which were made post-firing. The scratches are between about 25 mm and 30 mm long. These appear to form two groups of nearly-parallel lines, one group consisting of 3 lines and the other of 4 lines, with one group cutting across the other. A sherd, possibly from a Gaulish amphora (Fabric AA), can also be dated to the same period. However, most of the closely datable pottery is of early 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century date. This consists primarily of sherds in BB2 or black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB), sherds from vessels of black-burnished ware type in pale grey wares (Fabric KX), and identifiable mortarium forms of probable local origin (Fabric TZ).

Forms recorded in Fabric GB are Cam 39 (dish) and Cam 278 (jar), and mortarium form types in Fabric TZ are Cam 496 (variant), Cam 501 and Cam 504/505. The specific form types in Fabric KX could not be clearly identified. There is also one sherd from a late Colchester colour-coated beaker (Fabric CZ) of early 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century date, and a local grey ware (Fabric GX) jar of form Cam 268 dated as early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. Clearly identifiable late Roman, mid-late 3rd- or 4th-century, pottery is absent. However, there is a sherd from a Cam 39 dish (Fabric GA) which, while appearing first in the mid 2nd century, was still a current form in the late Roman period.

7.3 The small finds and bulk ironwork

by Nina Crummy

(numbers in brackets are finds numbers)

Introduction

This small assemblage contains one residual Roman coin, but the other objects that can be dated are all late medieval or early post-medieval. The majority are probably of pre-Dissolution origin.

A fragment of a buckle for a girdle is of particular importance in view of the nature of the site. The type, with oval outer loop and rectangular inner strap-attachment loop, is found far more often on monastic sites than secular ones, and may have been made specifically for use with the monastic habit. Examples vary in size and some may have a round rather than oval outer loop. There are five examples from Battle Abbey, two from St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, and one from the hospital chapel at Partney, Lincolnshire (Geddes 1985, 158 nos 15-19; Sherlock & Woods 1988, 181, no 14 and 211, no 24; Crummy forthcoming in Atkins forthcoming). Two have been found in recent excavations at Whitefriars, Norwich (Crummy in prep in Clarke in prep). One from Merton Priory in Surrey was found *in situ* on a girdle in a burial (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 102). Stratified examples suggest a date covering the 15th to 16th centuries, with the latter ones often associated with Dissolution demolition debris.

Coin

SF 4. T1. (1) L3. Demolition debris. Copper-alloy coin: House of Constantine copy, reverse *Fel Temp Reparatio*, as CK 25. AF 350-60.

Copper-alloy

SF 3. T1. (19) L4. Building rubble. Fragment of a copper-alloy buckle with oval outer loop and rectangular inner one. The leather strap would have been wrapped around the latter and secured by a riveted mount, as on an example in the Museum of London, which retains part of the strap (Egan & Pritchard 1991, fig 65). Length 36 mm, width (if complete) 46 mm.

SF 1. T1. (11) L4. Building rubble. Fragment of a copper-alloy lace-end of Colchester Type 1 with riveted top (CAR 5, 13). Length 20 mm.

SF 2. T2. (33) F17. Linear feature. Curved fragment of copper-alloy wire. Length 27 mm.

Lead

SF 5. T1. (2). Unstratified. Lead offcut or bent strip. Length 38 by 26 mm.

Iron and composite bone and iron

SF 6. T2. (21). Unstratified. Iron knife with two-piece bone handle secured by three pairs of iron rivets. Both plates of the handle are decorated with an incised lattice. Most of the blade is missing. What remains is narrow and both back and edge are straight. Total length 164 mm, length of handle 99 mm. Date probably late 16th or 17th century.

SF 8. T1. (4). Unstratified. Iron knife blade fragment. The back and edge are straight; the edge rises to the tip. Length 108 mm, width 37 mm.

SF 7. T2. (31) F19. Ditch? Tapering iron object, obscured by corrosion. Length 72 mm, width 30 mm (corrosion measurements).

T1. (3) L3. Demolition debris. Two iron nails, both with flat round head. Lengths 61 mm (clenched) and 60 mm.

T1. (12) F8. Pit. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 56 mm.

T1. (20) L4. Building rubble. Two iron nails, one with flat round head, one with damaged square/rectangular head. Lengths 64 and 78 mm.

T2. (25) between F15 + F16. Robbed wall foundation/spread of building material. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 65 mm.

T2. (32) F18. Linear feature. Two iron nails, heads obscured by corrosion. Lengths 47 and 44 mm.

T1. (7) F12. Shallow feature. Iron nail, head obscured by corrosion. Length (bent) 45 mm.

7.4 Floor tile and worked stone

by Howard Brooks

Finds no 9: 3 fragments of worked stone from F1 in T1.

Finds no 13: a medieval floor tile from F6 in T1.

Finds no 17: 1 fragment of worked stone from F10 in T1.

Finds no 18: a medieval floor tile from L22 in T1.

Finds no 20: 1 fragment of worked stone from L4 in T1.

Finds no 27: a glazed floor tile, medieval or post-medieval from F17 in T2.

8 Discussion (Fig 1)

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of Roman, medieval and post-medieval archaeological features on the site, most of which are to be found at approximately 1m below ground-level.

There was one possible Roman feature, a robbed foundation (F15) in T2, but this could equally be medieval. Roman artefacts were found residually in later contexts. One Roman coin, several *tesserae*, some *opus signinum* mortar, and a small quantity of Roman pottery were retrieved, mainly from T1 and T2. Particularly ubiquitous was Roman tile, which was found in secondary contexts, having been re-used in the medieval buildings. The scarcity of Roman features may be explained by later disturbance or masking by medieval and post-medieval features.

One piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery, occurring residually in post-medieval feature F17 in T2, hints at occupation on the site between the 5th and the 7th centuries.

The main aim of the evaluation was to locate the friary buildings. In T1, a wide foundation (F1/F4) could represent part of the friary church. Its size, its east-west alignment and the medieval pottery associated with it all support this interpretation. Nearby was a large amount of building rubble. Interestingly, a copper-alloy buckle typical of that worn on a monk's girdle came from this building rubble. Three pieces of floor tile and four fragments of worked stone also came from T1, all of which indicate a monastic building. The sealing layer of demolition debris containing medieval and post-medieval material indicates that these buildings continued in use after the Dissolution. T1 suffered disturbance from the construction of a WW2 air-raid shelter and the digging of a large pit.

In T2 was another wall foundation (F20), at right-angles to that found in T1 and probably part of the same building or a cloister attached to the church. A large soakaway in the middle of the trench had probably disturbed further remains.

Further south, no foundations were exposed but there were two possible medieval sand-quarry pits, in T3 and T4 (F21 and F23). The pottery suggests that they are medieval and that they were likely, therefore, to have been used by the friary.

Although no structural remains were seen in this southern part of the site, there were traces of buildings in the form of a linear spread of building rubble in T3 (F22) and a large pit filled with similar material in T5 (F25). This rubble most likely derives from friary buildings such as the church, cloister, precinct wall or the gatehouse on Frere Street.

No graves were exposed, and therefore the site of the friary graveyard in what was a later kitchen garden has not been verified. However, one piece of human skull was found in T3, which had probably been displaced from its original context.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery from the site is of higher status than that from a normal domestic site. The date of the pottery relates to the very end of the

friary's existence as a religious establishment, and quite possibly to the time of the Dissolution and the early years of its use as a non-monastic site.

Activity following the Dissolution of the monastery in 1538 is evidenced by spreads of building rubble in T2 (F16 and F17) which appear to have functioned as some kind of surface or walkway. In T1, a linear feature (F10) and a small pit (F7) were cut into demolition debris. Their function is unknown. As mentioned above, the sealing layer of mortar-rich demolition debris over most of the medieval features, where datable, seems to be post-medieval. This substantiates the cartographic evidence that the buildings were not completely demolished until the 18th century.

9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code COLEM 2007.7.

10 Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was supervised by K Orr, and undertaken by B Hurrell, C Lister and D Ross.

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12 Abbreviations

| | |
|-----|--|
| AOD | Above Ordnance Datum |
| CBM | ceramic building material |
| CK | 'Part 2: bronze Roman imperial coinage of the Later Empire AD 346-498', by R A G Carson & J P C Kent, in <i>Late Roman bronze coinage</i> , by R A G Carson, P V Hill, & J P C Kent, 1972 (London) |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| U/S | unstratified, ie without any context |

13 Glossary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| feature | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts' |
| layer | distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c AD1500 |
| modern | period from the 19th century onwards to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| <i>opus signinum</i> | pinkish mortar used in Roman buildings and made using crushed tile |
| peg-tile | rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c 1200 and continued to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern |
| post-medieval | from c AD 1500 to around the late 18th century |
| Roman | period of assimilation of Britain as part of the Roman Empire, c AD 43-410 |
| <i>tesserae</i> | small ceramic cubes used for floors in Roman buildings |

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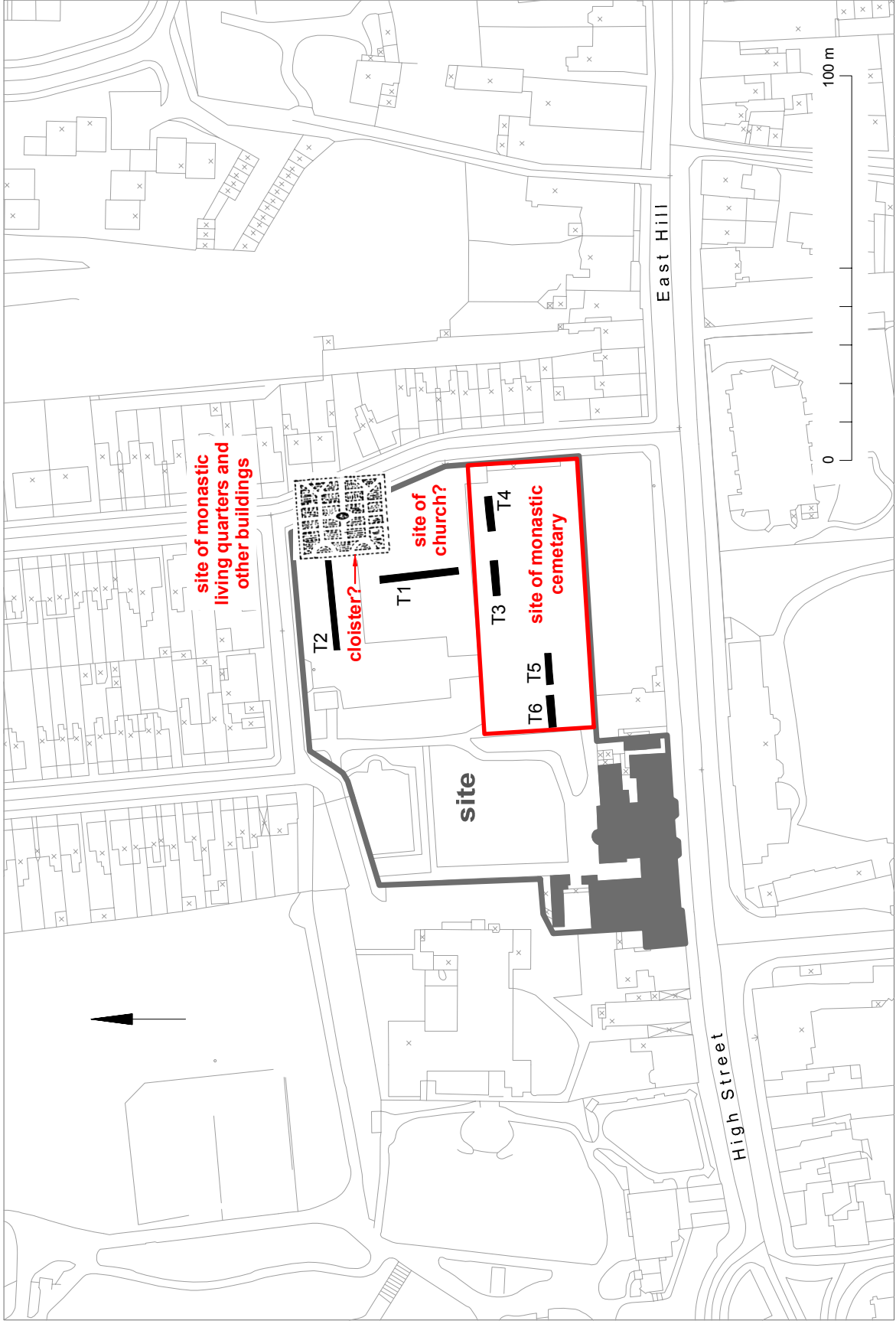
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14 Appendix

Table 8: Roman pottery.

| trench | context | finds number | weight (g) | Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types) | Roman pottery spot date |
|--------|-------------|--------------|------------|---|---|
| T1 | F4 | 6 | 14 | GX 1 sherd, Roman. | Roman |
| T1 | F8 | 12 | 3 | GX 1 sherd, Roman. | Roman |
| T1 | L3 | 3 | 77 | AA 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. GX or KX 1 sherd, Roman, ?early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. | 1st-3rd century, ?early 2nd-3rd century |
| T1 | L3 | 10 | 75 | GX 1 sherd, Roman, possibly 1st-2nd century | Roman, possibly 1st-2nd century |
| T2 | F17 | 27 | 169 | DJ 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century. GX 1 sherd, Roman. | Roman |
| T2 | F15 | 23 | 60 | TZ 1 sherd, Cam 496, mid 2nd-mid 3rd century. | 2nd-mid 3rd century |
| T2 | F15 and F16 | 25 | 80 | GB 1 sherd, Cam 278, Hadrianic to mid-late 3rd century. GX 5 sherds, Cam 268, early-mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. WB 1 sherd, lid. | early 2nd-3rd century |
| T2 | F15 | 35 | 3 | CZ 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. | early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century |
| T2 | F16 | 24 | 9 | GB 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GX 2 sherds, Roman. | early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century |
| T2 | F17 | 26 | 7 | GX 1 sherd, Roman. | Roman |
| T2 | F18 | 32 | 117 | GA 1 sherd, Cam 39, mid 2nd-4th century. GX 8 sherds, Roman. TZ 1 sherd, Cam 501, mid-late 2nd to ?mid 3rd century. | mid 2nd-4th century |
| T2 | F19 | 31 | 48 | DJ 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century. | probably 1st-2nd century |
| T2 | F20 | 29 | 26 | GB 1 sherd, Cam 39, early Antonine-3rd century. GX 1 sherd, Roman. | mid 2nd-3rd century |
| T2 | U/S | 22 | 83 | TZ 1 sherd, Cam 504/505, ?3rd century. | ?3rd century |
| T3 | U/S | 36 | 20 | GX or HZ 1 sherd, Cam 270B, 1st-2nd/3rd century. | 1st-2nd/3rd century |
| T5 | U/S | 46 | 34 | GB 1 sherd, Cam 278, early to mid-late 2nd century. KX 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. | early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, possibly early to mid-late 2nd century |



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Fig 1 Site location, showing trenches in relation to a conjectural layout of Grey Friars friary.

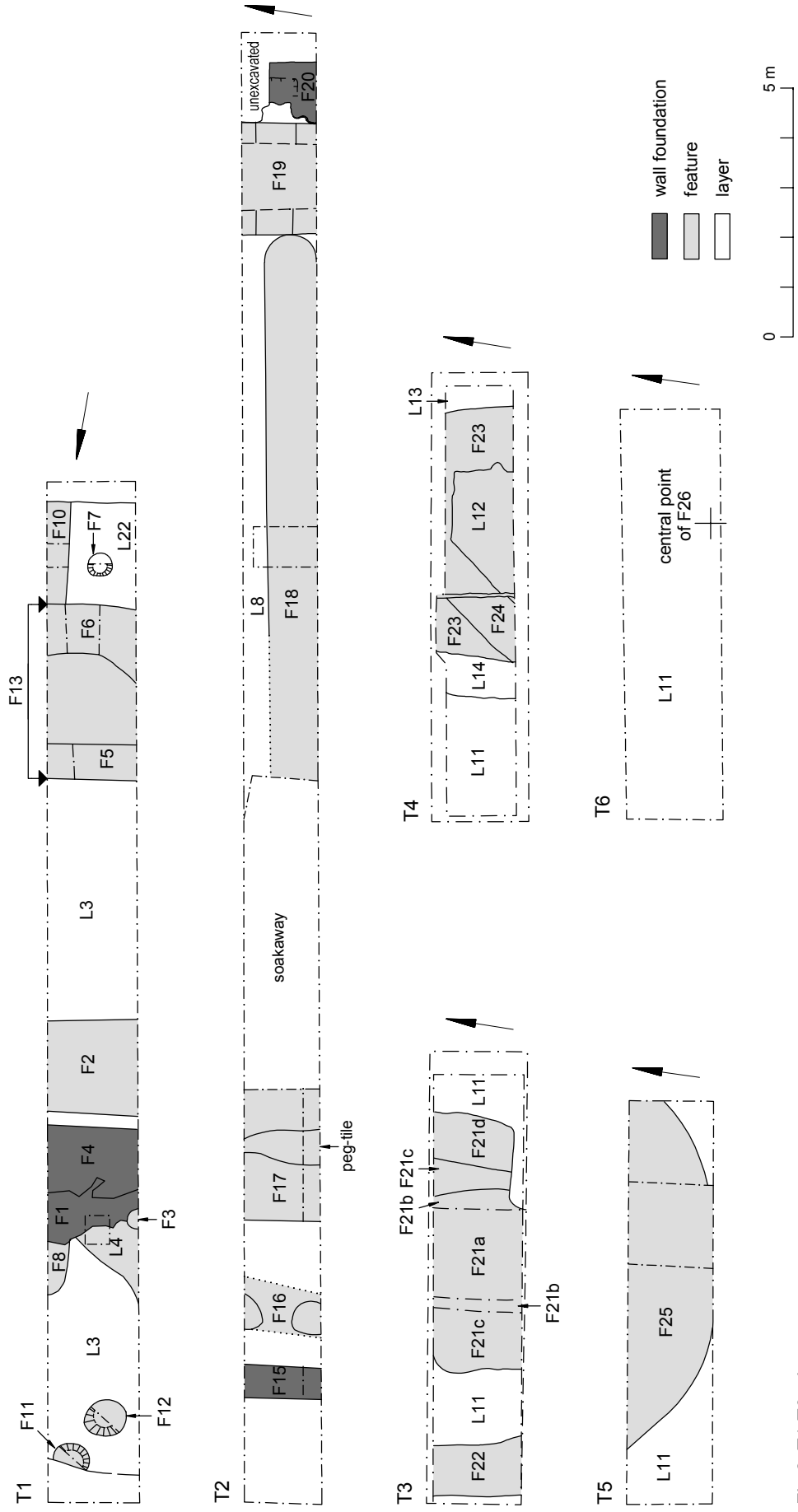


Fig 2 T1-T6: plans.

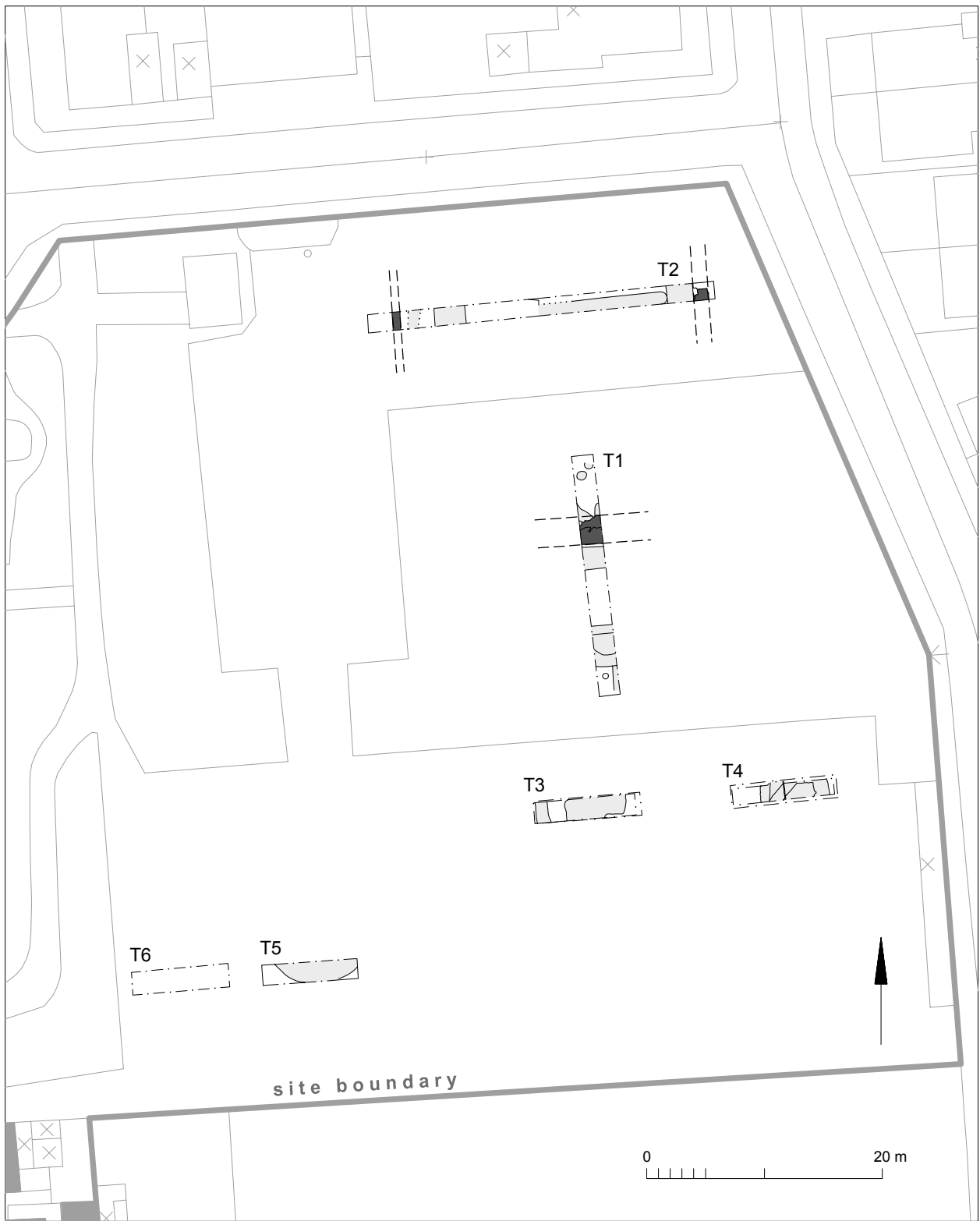


Fig 3 Plan of trenches.

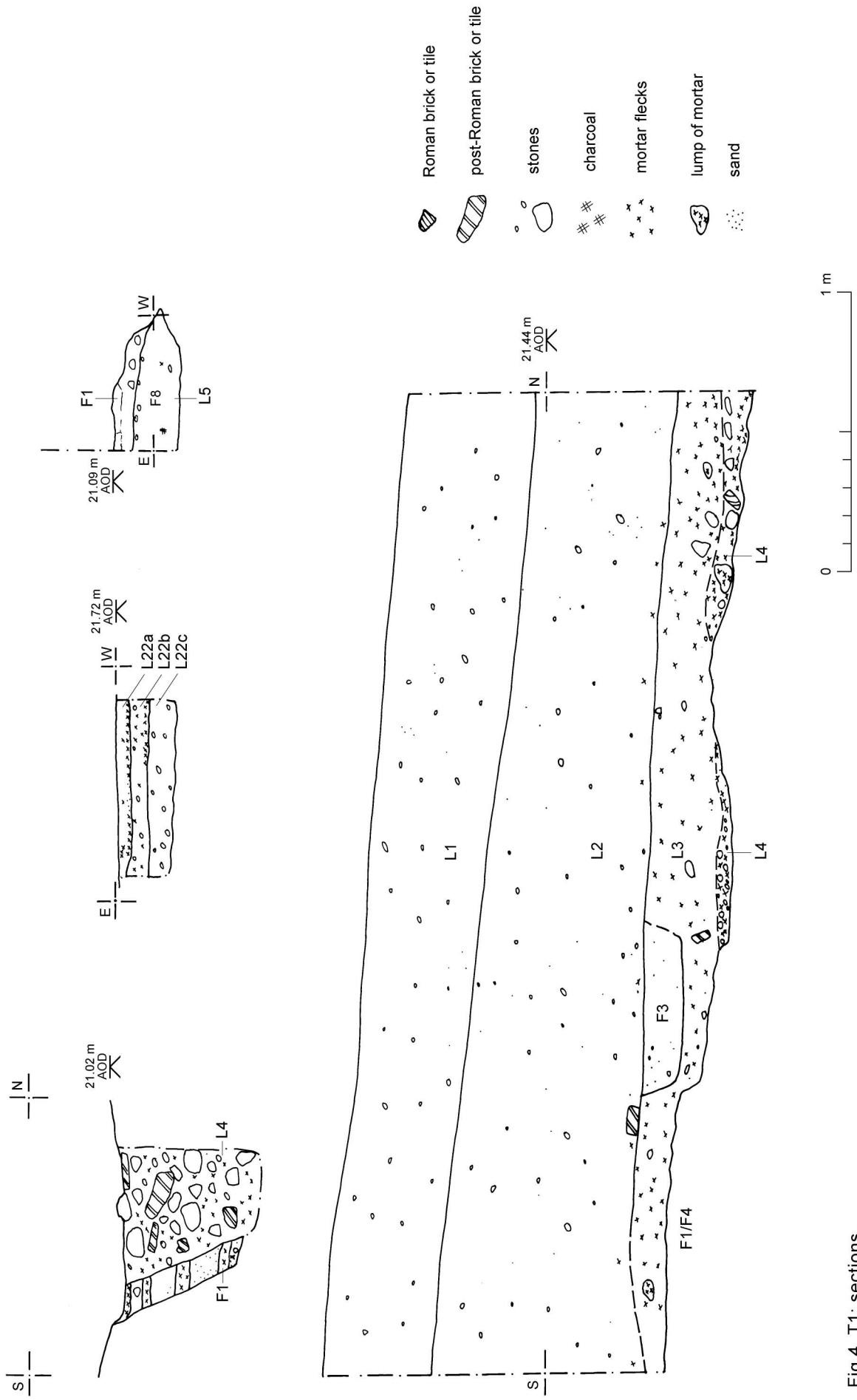


Fig 4 T1: sections.

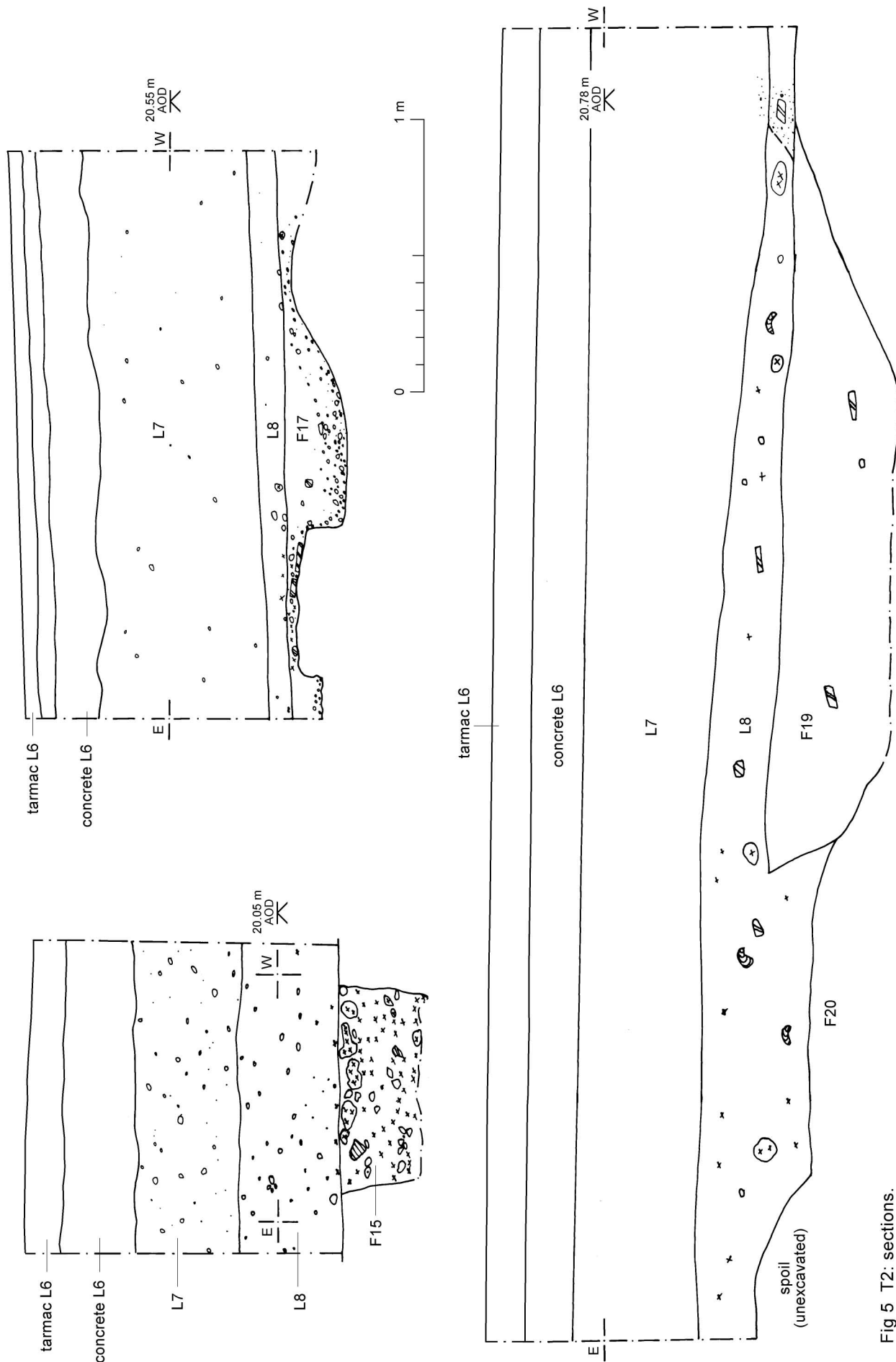


Fig 5 T2: sections.

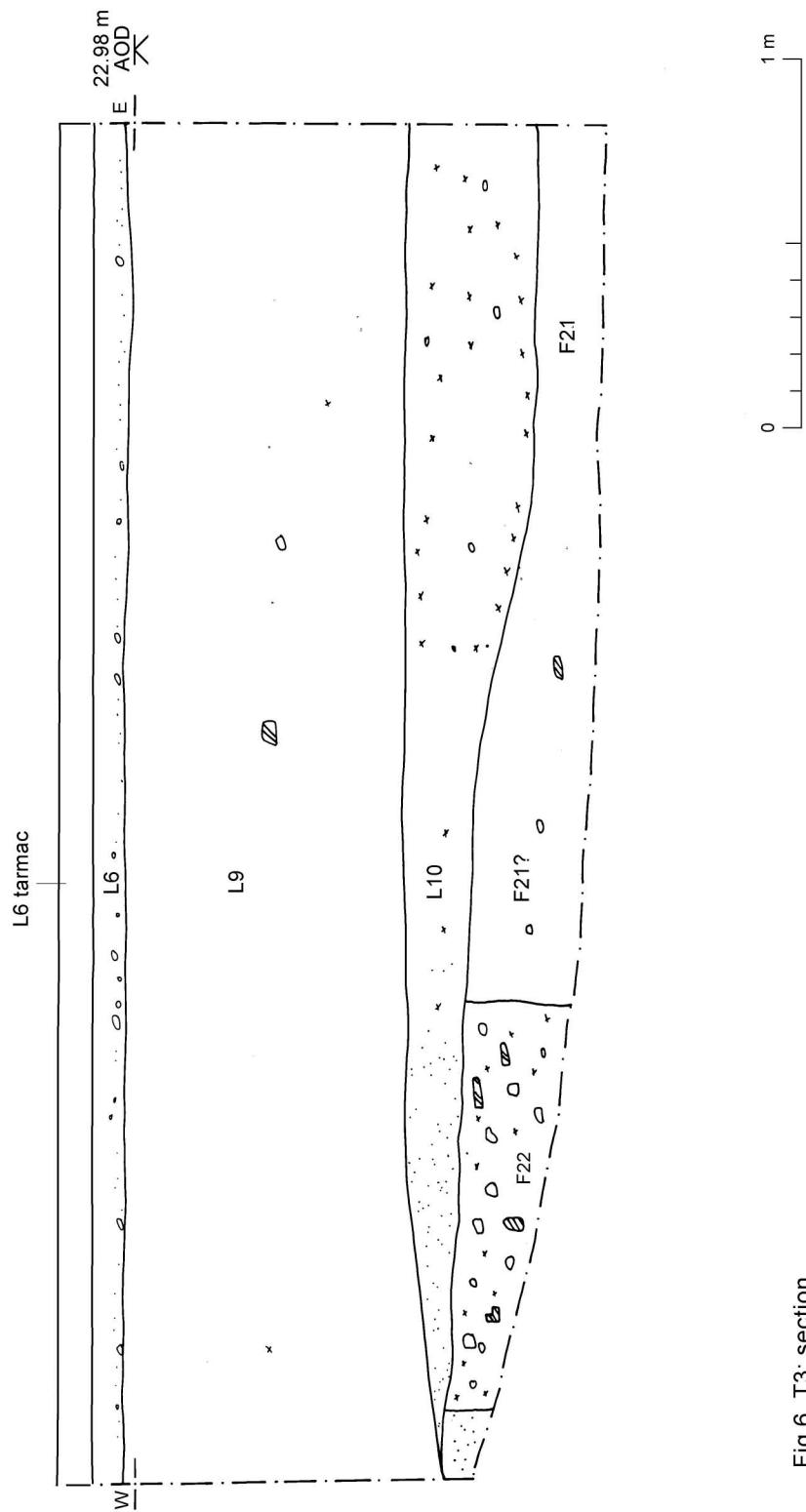


Fig 6 T3: section.

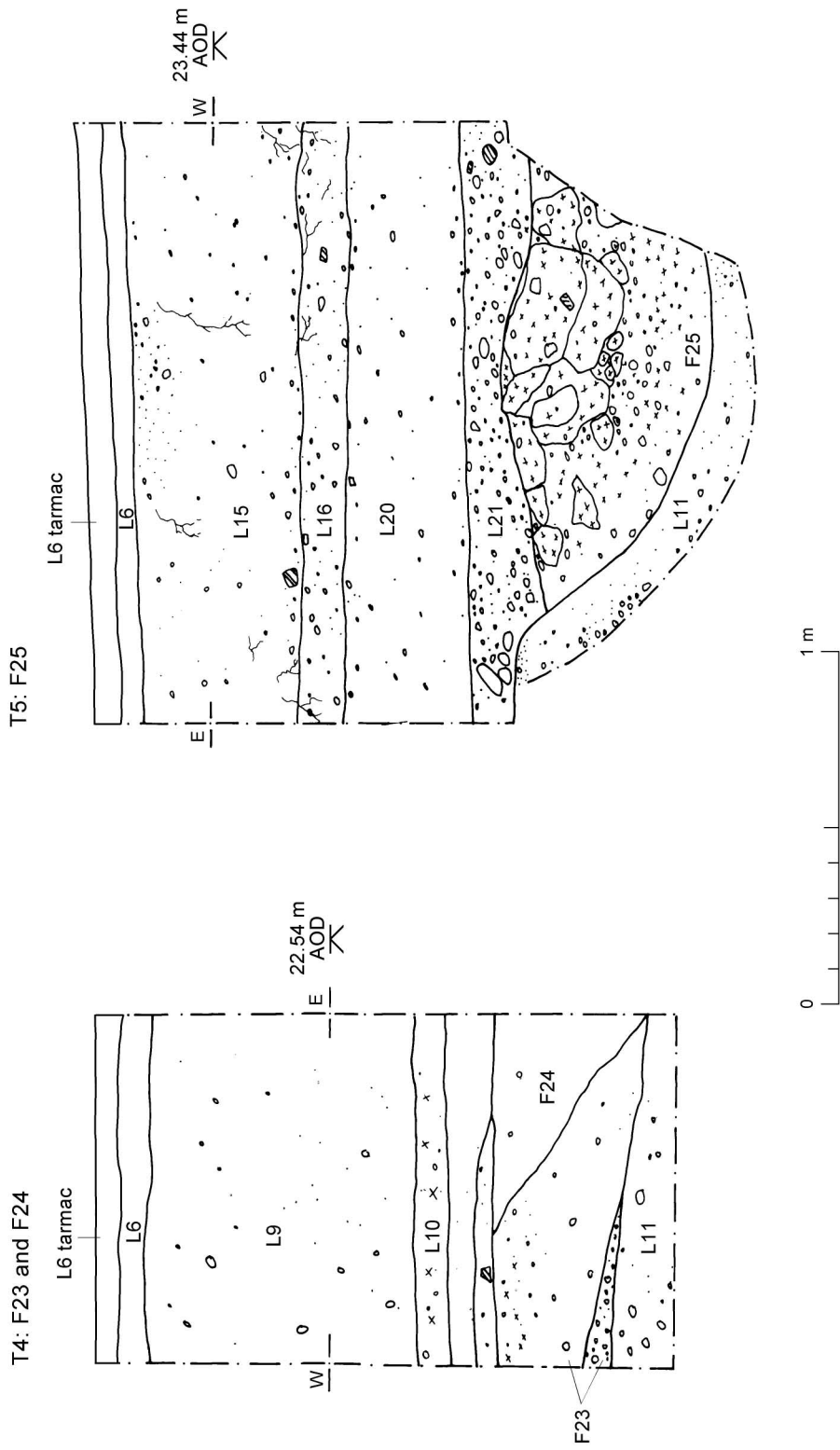


Fig 7 T4 and T5: sections.

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

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| Site address: the car-park of the Adult Community College, Grey Friars, High Street, Colchester, Essex | |
| Parish: Colchester | District: Colchester Borough |
| NGR: TM 0012 2532 | Site code: COLEM: 2007.7 |
| Type of work: Trial-trenching evaluation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: 19th January-2nd February 2007 | Size of area investigated: 6 trenches in an approx 70m x 80m site |
| Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums | Funding source: Essex County Council |
| Further seasons anticipated? Yes | Related UAD and EHER nos: UAD event nos: 156, 591, 620, 3128, 3528, 3833, 3962, 4027, 4039, 13136 - EHER no 12231 |
| Final report: CAT Report 408 and summary in <i>EAH</i> | |
| Periods represented: ?Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval, WW2 | |
| <p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The investigation was a partial evaluation to find remains of the friary of 'Grey Friars'. The investigation demonstrated the existence of medieval, post-medieval and possibly Roman archaeological features on the site, most of which are to be found at approximately 1m below ground-level. The possible Roman feature was a robbed foundation. Romano-British material was found residually in later contexts. One piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery suggests occupation on the site between the 5th to the 7th centuries.</i></p> <p><i>In T1, a wide medieval foundation is likely to represent part of the friary church. Next to it was a large amount of building rubble. A copper-alloy buckle typical of that worn on a monk's girdle came from this rubble. Three pieces of floor tile and four fragments of worked stone all point to a monastic building. In T2 was another medieval wall foundation, at right-angles to that found in T1 and probably part of the same building or perhaps a cloister attached to the church. The layer of demolition debris sealing these features contained medieval and post-medieval material indicating that these buildings continued in use well after the Dissolution of 1538. Further south, no foundations were exposed but there were two probable medieval sand-quarry pits. A linear spread of building rubble and a large pit filled with building rubble most likely derive from demolished friary buildings such as the church, cloister, precinct wall or the gatehouse. Although no graves were exposed, one piece of skull was found, which was probably already disturbed out of its original context.</i></p> <p><i>Activity following the Dissolution of the monastery is evidenced by spreads of building rubble in T2 which appear to have functioned as some kind of surface or walkway. Several other post-medieval pits and ditches were exposed.</i></p> <p><i>A WW2 air-raid shelter was exposed, dating to the time of the site's use as the County High School for Girls.</i></p> | |
| Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 219, 264, 290, 369, 391 | |
| Author of summary: Kate Orr | Date of summary: February 2007 |