

**Interim assessment report  
on Stage 2 archaeological excavations,  
Alienated Land Area S2 (south),  
Colchester Garrison,  
Colchester, Essex  
February-March 2007**

**report by CAT in association with RPS  
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Site B: TL 9935 2209;  
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## 1 Summary

*Following an evaluation earlier in 2007, four sites with a total area of approximately 0.5 ha were excavated on the sports pitches south of the Roman Way Camp (ie on Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area S2 (south)), Sites A-D. This land is situated inside the oppidum of Camulodunum, with the Berechurch Dyke (one of Camulodunum's defences) extending along its eastern side.*

*These excavations revealed a number of phases of occupation. Early prehistoric flints, Grooved Ware and a Beaker sherd may indicate a passing presence here in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages. The first permanent settlement is marked by a possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age round-house. A single ditch approximately at right-angles to the Berechurch Dyke may date to the Iron Age although a later (Anglo-Saxon or medieval) date is also possible. There was no firm evidence of Late Iron Age activity here, and only a minor Roman presence can be demonstrated, presumably because in both periods this was farmland inside the oppidum. However, a small stock control system probably used for the close handling of sheep and tentatively dated to the Roman period shows some pastoral use of this landscape. Elements of a farmstead's enclosure (probably fronting onto the medieval precursor of Berechurch Hall Road) and further field boundaries were laid out in the medieval period. These may have been maintained and added to up to the mid 18th century. At that time, a small agricultural building, possibly a barn, was erected. Later, but still in the 18th century, the old field system was rendered redundant by the creation of a large enclosure. This is shown on the Chapman and André map of 1777, and appears to contain a large building, which would have stood beyond the east edge of Site D. This enclosure was itself no longer used by the final quarter of the 19th century.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is an assessment report on the archaeological excavation of four sites (Sites A-D) on the Taylor Wimpey (formerly Taylor Woodrow) Alienated Land redevelopment Area S2 (south), south of the Roman Way Camp, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.
- 2.2 The finds reports provided here are at the final assessment stage, although some further work will be required to incorporate the data into the final analysis report for project Phases 3-5 that will include combined finds reports for all areas. The finds will also be further considered in any wider-ranging discussion in later analysis texts. With regard to the sites themselves, the preliminary analysis of the sites and their place in the landscape (as given below) will be amended as necessary and incorporated into a wider-ranging assessment and analysis report on Alienated Land Phases 3-5 at a future date, in line with the project-wide research themes as defined in *Research design for archaeological evaluations, excavations and watching briefs on Alienated Land, new garrison, Colchester* (RPS 2004).
- 2.3 Area S2 (south) is currently a grassed area, and was until recently used as sports pitches. The site is flanked by the Berechurch Dyke to the east, Berechurch Hall Road to the south, Roman Way to the west, and the Roman Way Camp to the north.
- 2.4 The centres of the four excavated sites are: Site A, NGR TL 9928 2208; Site B, TL 9935 2209; Site C, TL 9957 2193; Site D, TL 9967 2197 (Fig 1).
- 2.5 An overall archaeological strategy has been provided for the project by RPS (RPS 2004). This provides an outline framework for the mitigation of the archaeological impacts on the Alienated Land.
- 2.6 The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey in association with RPS, between 19th February and 26th March 2007. Post-excavation work was carried out from March to October 2007.
- 2.7 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) written by RPS (RPS 2007), and agreed with Colchester Borough Council's Archaeological Officer (CBCAO).
- 2.8 In addition to the archaeological strategy (RPS 2004), all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and*

procedures (CAT 1999), 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), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (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**

- 3.1** The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment area has already been comprehensively explored in CAT Report 97 and in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the excavation (*Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Stage 2 archaeological excavations Area S2 (south), Colchester Garrison*, RPS 2007). Only a brief summary will be given here.
- 3.2** The site, like much of the land to the south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre, lies within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system which surrounded it. The Garrison area occupies the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, and one of the defensive dykes (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison, to the immediate east of Roman Barracks.
- 3.3** As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two main centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead, and possibly the home of Cunobelin; and at Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum*. One of these was identified by the field boundaries, paddocks and other features recorded at Kirkee McMunn Barracks in 1994 (Shimmin 1998). A large area of cropmarks is recorded over the southern part of the Garrison area. Geophysical survey has confirmed and added to the pattern of linear cropmark features (CAT Report 184). The open area excavations conducted ahead of the construction phase for the new garrison (CAT/RPS Report 292) have established that they are latest Iron Age prehistoric/early-mid Romano-British in date. They represent the track/droeways, paddocks and field boundaries of a rural settlement of that period.
- 3.4** The other principal discovery from the wider area of the new garrison comprised a late Middle Iron Age round-house within a ditched enclosure south of the former Ypres Road. This site appears to pre-date the *oppidum*, and, as such, demonstrates that the landscape was farmed and occupied by at least one relatively wealthy farm prior to the construction of the dyke system. Other prehistoric features including a structure were found within Area Q, while the zone closest to the Roman town has produced a Roman building (Area E), two major clusters of Roman burials (Area C2 and Area J1), and a major Roman droeway (Area J1). In addition, and most significantly, a stone-built monumental Roman circus, currently unique to Britain, has been discovered during excavations in Alienated Land Areas C1, C2 and J1 to the north-east of Area J2 in 2004 and 2005, with further walls and a monument base uncovered during service works at Napier Road in 2006 (CAT Report 361).
- 3.5** The circus was orientated east-west and was approximately 450m in length and 70m wide, with a central barrier. Elements identified to date include: the seating *cavea* with internal and external walls; one, possibly two, entrance ways through the southern *cavea*; a lowered racetrack dirt surface; a segment of the semi-circular end of the circus; a fragment of the starting gates; and a monument base on the line of

the central barrier. The Roman burial grounds which have been found in the vicinity flanked the circus and the driveway within Area J1.

- 3.6** More locally to Area S2 (south), and in line with the overall Archaeological Strategy for the Colchester Garrison project (RPS 2004), trial-trenching evaluation has been carried out in Area S2 on two occasions. These evaluations have provided an archaeological framework for the immediate area, and identified several foci where the 2007 excavation areas could be positioned. In the first phase of trial-trenching in 2002, it was not possible to trial-trench in Area S2 (south), and trenching was confined to Area S2 (north), which is the Roman Way Camp immediately north of Area S2 (south), ie trenches S1-S11. Here, evaluation suggested a rural agricultural landscape throughout prehistory and the Roman period. The area then remained essentially unchanged through the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods until the construction of Roman Barracks in the mid 20th century (CAT Report 207). The following summary was provided in the WSI for this project;

*The trial-trenching in 2002 within S2 and Roman Barracks suggested a rural agricultural landscape throughout prehistory and the Roman period. The area has remained so through the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods until the construction of Roman Barracks in the mid 20th century. Specifically, no prehistoric or Iron Age remains were recorded during the trial-trenching work in Area S1 in 2002. Further fieldwork within Area S1 was however necessitated by design requirements for the installation of a new service in 2004 close to the estimated course of the Berechurch Dyke. Exploratory archaeological trenches were also required to firmly establish the precise location of the Berechurch Dyke within S1 and thus to enable the creation of a green 'corridor' between the residential development Areas S1 and S2, in which to preserve its remains. Three 50m x 0.5m trial-trenches were excavated across the projected line of the dyke (its line as suggested from its standing remains to the south of Berechurch Hall Road — where the dyke and bank are a Scheduled Ancient Monument). The works (CAT Report 273; Archaeological trial-trenching at Area S of the Garrison Urban Village, Colchester, Essex. May 2004) identified the dyke in all three trenches but the southern two (adjacent to S2 south) show that the dyke has been severely truncated there by a large ditch whose upper fill contained modern material. The later ditch runs north-south parallel to the eastern side of Roman Barracks and is probably associated with it. Since the Berechurch Dyke alignment is slightly oblique to the eastern edge of Roman Barracks by the northern of the three trenches, the Berechurch Dyke ditch was found to be intact, lying well to the east of the later ditch. As expected several Roman finds were recovered from its upper fill. The remains were of the same dimensions as the defensive ditch as previously recorded (CAR 11, p 9).*

*The Roman Barracks evaluation in 2002 (CAT Report 207, September 2002) comprised nine trenches. Several undated ditches were identified and these, based on other areas of the Garrison where dating evidence was more prolific, are most likely to be of Late Iron Age/Roman date. Residual prehistoric pottery of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date was recovered from Trenches RO4, 5 and 6 adjacent to S2 (south) (within Taylor Woodrow Area S2 (north)). These finds included much of the base of an Early Iron Age bowl and suggest activity in the landscape, possibly settlement, in the area. Area R (East) also produced some evidence of prehistoric activity (CAT Report 207, September 2002). This included a ring gully, presumably of a round-house in trench R6.*

- 3.7** To complete the required 3% evaluation, a further fifteen evaluation trenches were cut in Area S2 (south) in 2007 (evaluation trenches T12-T26; CAT Report 404). These revealed a number of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval ditches representing fragments of three distinct landscapes. The following text was provided in the WSI:

*The S2 (south) evaluation in January 2007 provided the following results: The earliest remains were encountered within T13 in the north-western area of the site where a shallow ditch, potentially relating to an early field system, contained*

*a large collection of Early Iron Age (c 800-600 BC) pottery. T2 on the western edge of the site produced Middle Iron Age pottery from within a pit or ditch which may also relate to nearby settlement. The central area of the site produced only low densities of archaeological features and is considered to be of low potential. However, several features in the eastern trenches (T21, T23, T24 and T26) may relate to Iron Age activities, possibly including settlement, in the vicinity of the Berechurch Dyke. These include ditch F29 in T24 which runs parallel to the dyke, some 140m to the west, a parallel ditch and a post-hole in the same trench (the latter could be part of a structure or fence) and pits within T21 and T26. Indeed T26 appears to represent a cluster of features of potential later Iron Age date. The slight evidence for Iron Age fields may be respected by the Roman landscape in the eastern area of Area S2 (south) where it is likely to have been aligned with and perpendicular to the dyke. However, two ditch lines of probable Roman date in the western area of Area S2 (south) run north-west/south-east apparently following the alignment of a known Roman trackway which ran through the landscape to the west. Medieval and/or post-medieval ditches found within the central and western area of S2 (south) were aligned with the dyke again and thus with the modern landscape grain.*

## **4 Aims and strategy**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The general aim of the excavation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected Area S2 (south). The overarching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:

- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the foundation of Camulodunum (are there further indications of late Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement?),
- elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*,
- address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland.

### **4.2 Specific aims relevant to this area**

The following specific research aims are considered relevant to this area:

- To identify whether the concentration of Early Iron Age pottery within evaluation trench T13 relates to a rare example of an Early Iron Age settlement within the otherwise sparsely occupied eastern area of the later *oppidum*, or whether the pottery was deposited within a contemporary landscape feature, away from its settlement source.
- To elucidate the nature of the Iron Age landscape prior to and during the *oppidum* period.
- To establish whether the Middle to Late Iron Age features within the eastern and western parts of the area relate to settlement and, if so, whether they pre-date or are associated with the Berechurch Dyke, located to the east of Area S2 (south).

### **4.3 Strategy**

**4.3.1** Four sites were proposed for archaeological excavation (comprising an initial combined area of 4,350 square metres). Extensions agreed during the excavations with the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) increased the overall area up to approximately 0.5ha.

**4.3.2** Site A comprised an initial 25m<sup>2</sup> (5 x 5m) centred on a Middle Iron Age pit or ditch terminal within evaluation trench T12. The aim was to further clarify the nature of this feature and whether it was isolated.

**4.3.3** Site B comprised an initial linear excavation 40m by 10m in extent (400m<sup>2</sup>) designed to further clarify the nature and context of the Early Iron Age ditch in the north-western part of Area S2 (south), ie evaluation trench T13. The site was extended using part of the available contingency (see below).

- 4.3.4** Site C was an L-shaped area 60m in length and up to 4m in width (1,600m<sup>2</sup>) in the south-eastern part of Area S2 (south). The area was designed to clarify the nature of the potentially later Iron Age ditches which are aligned parallel with the Berechurch Dyke and whether pits and post-holes in this area relate to structures and/or settlement at this vicinity. The site was extended using part of the available contingency.
- 4.3.5** Site D was a rectangular area 50m by 30m in extent (1,500m<sup>2</sup>) in the eastern part of Area S2 (south). The purpose of the site was to investigate the nature of Iron Age activity within the close vicinity of the Berechurch Dyke, as suggested by features within evaluation trench T26. The site was also designed to clarify the date and nature of medieval or post-medieval landscape features located by the evaluation. The site was extended using part of the available contingency.

## 5 Results of the excavation (Figs 2-14)

This section gives an archaeological summary of each of the four excavated sites.

### Site A (Figs 2-3, 6)

Site A was located on the western edge of the area. It originally measured 5m x 5m but was subsequently extended by 2m at its southern end, giving a total excavated area of approximately 35 square metres.

Site A contained six features: five post-holes (F1, F2, F3, F5, F6) and a short linear feature (F4).

It is difficult to interpret these features because of the small size of the excavated area and because of the complete lack of dated finds. The five post-holes (F1-F3, F5-F6) may have been part of a structure or structures which is or are not readily apparent. The linear feature (F4) may be a long oval pit or tree hole, or it may have been part of a field ditch relating to agricultural activity in this area.

The excavated fills contained daub and charcoal flecks. As similar fills were seen in prehistoric or Roman features elsewhere on the Garrison, these features may be of prehistoric or Roman date.

The excavated area of Site A coincides with the part of the evaluation trench T12 which contained two features (F5 and F6 – these are shown in brackets on Fig 3). Although F6 was undated, F5 contained Middle Iron Age pottery and appears to have been part of the same feature. It may be the case that some or all of the undated features in Site A are also of this date.

### Site B (Figs 2-3, 7-9)

Site B was located on the western side of the area, 60m to the east of Site A. In its final form, following extension, it was an irregular area measuring 45m north-south, 20m wide east-west on its south edge, and 10m wide on its north edge, giving a total excavated area of approximately 760 square metres.

Fifty-three features were identified, of which nine were irregular 'natural' features possibly caused by the removal and clearance of trees (F13, F27, F33, F51, F98-F102). These were grouped mainly in the central part of Site B. Charcoal flecking in their fills may indicate that tree stumps have been burned and dug out. Occasionally, archaeological finds come from these 'natural' features; prehistoric pottery was found in F13 and F33. This suggests that they remained open, at least in part, after the removal of the tree stump.

In the northern part of Site B, a series of post-holes (F18, F21-F25, F78-F81) appeared to form a post-ring 8.37m in diameter. This post-ring may be part of a 'round-house'. Dating evidence from associated post-holes consists of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery from F18 and F25. The possible round-house could therefore be either Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in date. The latter date is indicated, given the large assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery (c 800-600 BC) that was recovered from a shallow feature immediately adjacent to the round-house (evaluation feature F7). For comparison, the Middle Iron Age round-house excavated on Garrison Alienated Land Area 2 in 2003 had an outer post-ring 9.2m in diameter, and an outer gully (missing from the Site B example) which was 11.2m in

diameter (CAT/RPS Report 292, 9-10, figs 6-8). The slightly smaller size of the Site B round-house and the lack of an outer post-ring is more consistent with a Late Bronze Age date or Early Iron Age date for this structure.

A group of three post-holes (F16, F17, F103) at the north edge of the site may be the remains of another post-built structure; whether domestic or agricultural is difficult to say. In connection with the round-house to the south, a piece of daub with wattle holes, possibly deriving from a structure such as a round-house, came from post-hole F16.

Other scattered features, while not resolving into obvious structures, do suggest a phase of prehistoric activity here, probably contemporary with the possible round-house. These are pit F48 and post-hole F49, paired post-holes F9 and F19, and isolated post-holes F11 (in the southern part of the site) and F86 (on the south edge of the site). A tight cluster of possible post-holes F82-F85 yielded a single Beaker-period sherd (F82) which suggests some activity here at the end of the Neolithic period or the beginning of the Bronze Age. The two struck flints are dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic (finds no 1 from F10), and probably Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (finds no 12 from L2). While these support the general idea of prehistoric activity here, the Mesolithic flint date is earlier than the ceramic dates for the Site B features.

In the southern part of Site B, a number of short lengths of ditch (F7, F8, F87) and short linear features (F88, F89), with widths of between 1.0 and 1.25m, formed a coherent pattern. There is a possibility that intercutting pits/post-holes F9 and F19 (both dated by Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery), in line with F7, were also related. The fills of F7, F8, etc were recorded as medium yellow-brown silty clay (F7) and medium grey-brown sandy silt (F8). Such a relatively tight grouping of features at right-angles to each other would normally be interpreted as part of a rectilinear structure resting on ground beams. However, the U-shaped forms are clearly drainage-related, while the terminal ends and sides of F7 and of F8 contained multiple stake holes consistent with hurdle fences along their edges. In addition, F88, which extends at an angle of 45 degrees from the general alignment, does not readily make sense as part of such a structure, but other features do share the general alignment, and may be connected; particularly post-holes F9 and F19, perhaps F102 (a 'natural' feature), and perhaps the three undated post-holes F30-F32. If these other features are part of related gates or structures, then the overall complex would date to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. However, a single Roman sherd from F87 combined with a total lack of prehistoric sherds from the ditches suggests that a Roman or later date may be more appropriate. The main rectangular enclosure was approximately 6m by 4.5m with connected L-shaped ditch F87 forming a connected rectilinear space of a similar size, and F89 and F88 linking the defined space F87. Post-hole F32 is interpreted as representing the post of a swing gate across the open southern side of the 'main enclosure'. It is contended that the unusual ditch form with swing gate and associated wattle hurdle (stake holes) was a close stock-handling system, probably for sheep handling (see detailed interpretation in the discussion below).

The presence of a sherd of medieval pottery in short ditch F91 in the north-east corner of Site B shows that it, and possibly other features on this site, are of a later period.

### **Site C** (Figs 2, 4, 10, 11, 14).

Site C was located in the south-eastern part of the area. It was an L-shaped area, the western side of which was a rectangle measuring 42.0m x 21.0m, and whose eastern arm measured 39.0m x 19.0m, giving a total excavated area of approximately 2,500 square metres (or 0.25 ha). A small extension was conducted on the west side of Site C following discussion with the CBCAO to define the relationships between two ditches at right-angles to each other.

Archaeological features were concentrated in the southern half of Site C. Although there were a few post-holes and pits, the main discovery was a series of ditches defining a medieval paddock or plot system containing sufficient pottery finds to suggest adjacent settlement (to the south). Based on misalignment between

ditches, it can be speculated that an initial medieval enclosure was further subdivided at a slightly later date.

The first field system was defined by east-west ditch F37 and two north-south ditches F36 and F55 which ran south off it, more or less at right-angles. The eastern ditch of this system (F55) was first recorded in the 2007 evaluation (as F30 in evaluation trench T24). Further, since F55/F30 aligns precisely with F28 in evaluation trench T23, it is clear that F28 is also the same field ditch (both F28 and F30 were undated in the evaluation). The three ditches seem to define a rectilinear enclosure or paddock approximately 34m wide (115 feet or 7 poles). Dating for this phase is scant, comprising two sherds of medieval pottery (Fabric 13, early medieval ware) dating to the 12th-13th century from ditch F37 and a sherd of 11th- to 12th-century pottery from ditch F55. Ditch F36 contained a single Iron Age sherd. However, the relationship of ditch F36 to ditch F37, in which F36 terminates immediately adjacent to F37, suggests that the two were contemporary. Other finds from ditches F37 and F55 included a fragment of medieval Mayen lava quern, plus residual Roman brick (two pieces) and Roman pottery (one sherd). Strictly speaking, the medieval quern and potsherds date the time when the ditch was filled in, not the date when it was first dug out. It may therefore be argued that the ditches could be slightly earlier than 12th-13th century.

A second phase of this field system is suggested by the presence of a double-ditched droveway or stock-control feature defined by ditches F46 and F47 (west side) and F38 (east side), extending obliquely across the middle of the enclosure defined by ditches F36 and F55. Finds dating from these ditches is similar to that from ditch F37, ie Fabric 13 early medieval ware (30 sherds) and two fragments of medieval Mayen lava quern, plus residual Roman brick (two pieces) and Roman pottery (two sherds). There is no evidence from finds dates or stratigraphy that this droveway is later in date, but the way the north end of its east ditch F38 terminates 2m short of the east-west ditch F37 supports the interpretation that F38 respected F37. The later phase therefore comprised the droveway and enclosure as a contemporary layout. Further, the presence of two post-holes (F53, F54) suggests that a field gate was constructed here to control the east-west movement of stock.

It is not so clear what adjacent pit F52 was used for. It is tempting to see it as a continuation of the droveway's west ditch F46/F47, but it is slightly out of alignment for that. Nor does it form any obvious continuation of what looks like the gate structure F53/F54. It also contained a good group of early medieval pottery (39 sherds of Fabric 13). The overall quantity of 11th- to 13th-century pottery from the medieval features suggests adjacent occupation – possibly just to the south, set back from the medieval precursor of Berechurch Hall Road.

There are a number of other features to consider. First, there was a row of post-holes extending up the centre of the later droveway (F43-F45). These may represent some sort of fence connected with the droveway. There were four features to the east side of the droveway. One (F56) was dated to the Middle Iron Age by a potsherd and may represent an earlier, ie pre-medieval phase, of activity on the site. Pottery of a similar date was found in residual contexts in later ditches F36, F37, F46 and F47. This group of pottery points to a Middle Iron Age phase of activity here.

Three other features (F60-F62) were undated. On the west side of the droveway, a single pit F42 contained a sherd of Roman pottery. Given the amount of residual Roman material in medieval ditches on this site, this pit may be either Roman or medieval in date.

On the north side of the site, 1.7m-diameter pit F59 was probably later medieval or post-medieval, as it contained peg-tile in its upper fill as well as medieval pottery. However, the straight-sided cut was 0.85m deep as excavated, with a full depth of 1.35m suggested by augering. The feature resembled a well or cistern (it held water during the excavation), although other functions such as tanning or retting are possible. Given its proximity to the medieval plot to the south, it is considered that the feature was used for watering stock associated with the medieval period on this site and that the later tile had accumulated within a slump at its upper level long after the working life of the feature had ended. On the north edge of the site was an undated pit F58 and an undated gully F57. It is difficult to interpret the gully, as so

little of it appears on site. It is aligned at right-angles to the later droveway, which may suggest that it belonged to that medieval phase rather than to the earlier field system.

#### **Site D** (Figs 2, 5, 12-14)

Site D was located on the eastern edge of the area. It measured 50 x 30m, giving a total excavated area of 1,500m<sup>2</sup>. The site was slightly extended on its northern side to fully define the extent of a post-medieval building.

The principal discoveries were the robbed-out ground-plan of a post-medieval agricultural building built on earth-fast timber plates, and a large ditched enclosure which appears on the Chapman and André map of Essex (1777) but not on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey sheet XXVII, which was surveyed in 1875-76 and published in 1881. The remaining features were principally post-medieval field ditches, although one ditch was stratigraphically earlier and could be prehistoric.

Unlike Sites A-C, there is a good stratigraphical sequence here, which allows us to suggest the following site phasing:

##### *Period 1: Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age*

An undiagnostic prehistoric struck flint indicates some prehistoric activity here before Period 2. Middle Iron Age residual pottery was recovered from ditches F66 and F67 and also from pit F35 excavated in evaluation trench T26.

##### *Period 2: Middle Iron Age to medieval*

An east-west ditch F66 was sectioned in five places. Sections 3 and 1 (Sx 3 and Sx 1) showed its maximum width and depth to be 1.4m and 0.36m respectively. Dating evidence was confined to a burnt flint and a Middle Iron Age sherd. Since this ditch is cut by post-medieval ditch F67, it must be post-medieval or earlier. There is no Roman material from this feature, and, given its alignment with medieval ditches in Site C to the west, a medieval date might be considered likely. However, a dissimilarity of fill type with the medieval ditches in Site C, and an absence of medieval pottery, cast doubt on this interpretation. Another possibility is that the later ditch F67, which is similarly aligned and contained post-medieval finds, was a recut or re-used version of the medieval system while F66 could be an Iron Age landscape remnant that had survived as a hedge or tree line, following ditch silting. This would explain the relatively fresh condition of the Middle Iron Age sherd. Therefore an Iron Age date for F67 cannot be ruled out. If the ditch was Middle Iron Age in date, then it would be particularly significant since it would suggest a longevity of landscape alignment in this corner of the *oppidum*. This alignment of features is to be expected following the construction of the Berechurch Dyke in the Late Iron Age or early Roman period, but, for the ditch to date to the Middle Iron Age, we would have to assume that the dyke was overlaid on an orientation close to the pre-existing landscape orientation. One further complication to add to the dearth of dating evidence is the similarity of early Anglo-Saxon fabrics to those of the Middle Iron Age.

##### *Period 3, phase 1 (with elements continuing into phase 3?): post-medieval, pre-1777*

A field ditch F67 was cut obliquely across the line of the earlier ditch F66, which may not necessarily have completely disappeared from view. The new ditch would presumably have been accompanied by the creation of a bank (and hedge?), evidence for which has presumably been removed by later ploughing. F67 was sectioned at seven points (Sx 1-Sx 7), and Sx 1 showed its maximum width and depth to be 2.00m and 0.56m respectively. Dated material in F67 included Tudor brick, peg-tile, and unclassified post-medieval pottery. This group can date to the early to mid 18th century, which would fit with the stratigraphical relationship with the Period 3, phase 2 ditch (below). This ditch was also intercepted by evaluation trench T26, where it was numbered F37. Peg-tile came from this context.

Two more ditches belong to this phase. The first is a ditch F68, which extended more or less parallel to ditch F67 (above). The only dated find was a residual, prehistoric struck flint from Sx 1, but peg-tile came from this context when it was excavated as F33 in evaluation trench T26. There were two post-holes (F70, F71) in

the terminus of ditch F68. These may have been part of a gate structure closing off an entrance to a field. The terminus of F68 was also cut by pit F69. A narrow ditch F74, on the same alignment as F68, may also have been contemporary and was cut obliquely by a later post-medieval building (see below).

*Period 3, phase 2 (continuing to phase 3): post-medieval, pre-1777*

The most interesting feature on this site was a rectangular structure defined by slots F63-F65 and post-holes F75-F76. To use the standard description of medieval and later structures, the building was of three bays, with a midstrey or porch-like extension in the south side of the central bay. The metric dimensions (10.8m long and 5.4m wide) suggest a structure with an original intended size of 36 feet long and 18 feet wide, with three 12-foot-wide bays. The absence of a hearth would seem to rule out a domestic use, and the presence of the midstrey perhaps confirms that this was an agricultural barn.

The beam slots suggest that the structure had solid walls on all sides, with the exception of two places. First, the south wall of the east bay did not have a continuous beam slot marking the position of a ground plate, but instead had two post-holes (F75, F76). This suggests a difference of construction here – either a solid wall which was for some reason built with posts, or, more likely, an open wall structure. Second, and more plausibly, there was a gap in the beam slots in the east side of the east bay (ie between F63 and F64) which may suggest a doorway in that position. The structure is likely to have been a cruck barn located at the edge or corner of a field, and is likely to have been used to store grain and/or hay.

The slots were sectioned in a total of ten places, showing a maximum width and depth of 0.54m and 0.16m respectively. Slots of this type are normally interpreted as ‘beam slots’, which once held the ground plates of a timber-framed building. The dated evidence from the beam slots consists almost entirely of fragments of peg-tile and post-medieval brick, with the exception of a single sherd of a teapot in Jackfield ware (Fabric 48j), or a similar ware, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The lack of any obvious *in situ* rotted beams, and the slight irregularity of width and depth of the beam slots, suggest that these slots were produced by the robbing out of the timbers, rather than by the original construction of the building. The presence of peg-tile in all the beam slots may be explained in two ways: either they are fragments used to level up the original timbers, or they are fragments which fell into the beam slots when the building was demolished.

The building appears to have been inserted into the gap between the termini of the two ditches just mentioned (F68 and F93) and overlies ditch F74. The third ditch (F93) is placed in this phase because it was cut by Period 2, phase 3 ditch F73. F93 was excavated in two places, and Sx 1 showed its maximum width and depth as 0.60m and 0.06m respectively. It is likely that the earlier ditches F68 and F67 were still represented in the landscape by hedges during phase 2 as the building appears to have been built up against this boundary. Similarly, it is likely that the barn continued into phase 3 (below) as ditch F73 clearly returns to respect the barn.

*Period 3, phase 3: post-medieval – after AD 1777 and before AD 1874-6*

A radical change in the field pattern is suggested by the presence of ditch F73. This cut across the field system represented by (almost) parallel ditches F67 and F68, and created a new enclosure, most of which lies off-site. The enclosure ditch had a small internal offshoot (F94). Perhaps this was a small drainage gully, or, as this lies where an internal bank may be expected, it may represent an earlier line of the enclosure ditch. Within the enclosed area was a large and shallow feature (F95), which is best interpreted as an erosion hollow caused by the intensive movement of stock on this land.

Ditch F73 was clearly only the north-western corner of a large enclosure which lay mainly off-site. As indicated above, because the ditch corner respected the barn, which was probably still in existence when ditch F73 was cut. If so, then, in phase 3, the barn probably sat in the corner of a field formed by the hedged version of phase 1 ditch F68 and the new ditch F73.

## 6 Finds (Fig 14)

### 6.1 The prehistoric pottery

by Stephen Benfield

#### Introduction

The prehistoric pottery from the evaluation will be combined with that from the excavation for the overall assessment and analysis. The evaluation report (CAT Report 404) included a prehistoric pot report by Paul R Sealey (notes taken by H Brooks). This included twelve sherds (49g) of later Middle Iron Age pottery from evaluation trench T12, F5 which was included in the excavation area. The group includes hand-made sherds in a fine fabric with grog and a little sand temper. One sherd is from a flat-based vessel. A further decorated Middle Iron Age sherd was recovered from a plough mark in evaluation trench T14. F18 in evaluation trench T12 also produced an undiagnostic flint-tempered sherd.

Two groups of pottery dating to the earliest Iron Age (c 800-600 BC) were recovered from evaluation trench T13, in evaluation feature F7 (a shallow scoop adjacent to the ?round-house). In total, 73 sherds (767g) were recovered, making this comfortably the largest assemblage of prehistoric pottery from the Area S2 (south) sites. The sherds are flint-tempered with hardly any sand. Diagnostic sherds include a small Late Bronze Age rim with an internal bevel, a situlate-shaped vessel with straight sides and a high shoulder with finger-tip decoration, and a number of flat-based sherds. The base sherds exhibited rough-casting treatment of the undersides while the oxidised outer surface of most of the sherds is typical of vessels of the period.

The excavation produced a total of approximately 43 sherds and some small fragments of prehistoric (pre-Belgic) pottery. The total weight of this pottery is 290 g. This pottery was recovered from three separate sites, ie Site B, Site C and Site D. The prehistoric pottery fabrics (Table 1) follow those devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988). For each site, the number of sherds and weight of the pottery was recorded by fabric for each feature by finds number. Where more than one fabric type is recorded, a total weight of prehistoric pottery for that finds number is also given. This is set out in the catalogue of pottery listed below. The Grooved Ware sherds were kindly identified by Nigel Brown of Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management team.

**Table 1: prehistoric pottery fabrics used in this report.**

size of inclusions:  
S = small (<1 mm)  
M = medium (1-2 mm)  
L = large (>2 mm)  
density of inclusions:  
1 = less than 6 per square cm  
2 = 6 to 10 per square cm  
3 = more than 10 per square cm.

Fabric B	flint, S-M 2
Fabric C	flint, S-M with occasional L
Fabric D	flint, S-L 2 poorly sorted
Fabric E	flint, and sand S-M 2
Fabric F	sand, S-M with addition of occasional L flint
Fabric H	sand, S 2
Fabric I	sand, S-M 2-3
Fabric M	grog, often with some sand or flint and occasional small rounded or sub-angular voids
Fabric P	sparse very fine sand, may have occasional M-L flint or sparse irregular voids
Fabric V	flint S-M 1

#### Prehistoric pottery discussion

Sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from Site B, Site C and Site D. Most of the pottery came from Site B, ie 33 sherds weighing 177 g from the excavation to add to the 73 sherds (767 g) from the evaluation. Although 95 g was recovered from

Site C, this consisted of just eight sherds. Only two sherds (one broken into many fragments), weighing 18 g, were recovered from Site D. Site B is about 200 m away from Site C and Site D, which are only about 50 m apart.

The earliest closely datable pottery consists of four sherds of later Neolithic Grooved Ware from Site C. These sherds came from the pit/tree throw hole F56 (finds no 38). All of the sherds are decorated with incised lines. There were three joining sherds from the wall of a vessel (Fig 14.1). These have a small post-firing hole drilled through the wall of the pot. There is also a single large wall sherd, from just above the base of a flat-bottomed bowl or tub-like vessel (Fig 14.2). It is possible that these sherds are all part of one pot.

Several other sherds can also be closely dated. There was a body sherd from a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker from Site B (Fig 14.3). This came from F82 (finds no 58). There are also a number of sand-tempered sherds that can be dated to the Middle Iron Age. Among these are a rim sherd from Site D (Fig 14.4). This came from F66 (Sx 3; finds no 41). Also, a lower body sherd from a jar or bowl, retaining a fragment of the pot base, from Site C (Fig 14.5). This came from F37 (Sx 3; finds no 35). Two sand-tempered body sherds from Site C, one from F36 (Sx 1; finds no 20) and one from F46 (Sx 1; finds no 27), can also be dated as Middle Iron Age.

The remainder of the pottery, ie 34 sherds, consists of small- to medium-sized body sherds. Apart from two sherds, all of these come from Site B. The 32 body sherds from Site B are flint-tempered or have a mixture of sand-temper and flint-temper. There are 21 flint-tempered sherds, eight with sand and flint-temper and three that are sand-tempered. While not closely datable, these sherds are probably of Late Bronze Age-Early/Middle Iron Age date. During the Bronze Age, pottery in Essex is dominated by exclusively flint-tempered fabrics, but from the Late Bronze Age to the Early and Middle Iron Age, flint-tempered fabrics are replaced by sand-temper and sand-with-flint-temper (Brown 1988, 269). The more diagnostic forms from the evaluation (from F7) hint at an Early Iron Age (c 800-600 BC) date for the overall assemblage.

### **Further work**

For the final analysis report, it is proposed to illustrate a selection of prehistoric sherds from the 2007 evaluation.

## **Catalogue of prehistoric pottery from the excavation**

### **Site B**

**F9**, finds number 8 (1 g); Fabric B, flint-tempered sherd flake, brown surface and fabric, abraded.

**F11**, finds number 2 (6 g); Fabric E, sand and flint-tempered sherd, 7 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, heavily abraded and probably missing, grey-brown fabric and interior surface.

**F12**, finds number 10 (3 g); Fabric B, flint-tempered sherd, 6 mm thick, brown surfaces, dark grey fabric.

**F13**, finds number 3 (6 g); Fabric B, flint-tempered sherd, 7 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, grey-brown fabric and interior.

**F18**, finds number 6 (1 g); Fabric C, flint-tempered sherd flake, dark brown surface and fabric, abraded.

**F19**, finds number 9 (total weight 8 g); Fabric E (6 g), sand- and flint-tempered sherd about 6 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, dark brown inner surface, grey-brown fabric, common small-medium flint-temper and sand; Fabric F (2 g), abraded small sherd in dark grey sandy fabric.

**F25**, finds number 15 (39 g); Fabric C, three flint-tempered sherds, all about 6 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, dark brown inner surface, dark grey-brown fabric, sparse flint-temper.

**F25**, finds number 68 (total weight 30 g); Fabric D (16 g), two flint-tempered sherds, 6 mm thick, oxidised light brown surface, grey-brown fabric with dark brown interior; Fabric E (14 g), sand and flint-tempered sherd, 5 mm thick, oxidised light brown surfaces, with grey-brown fabric, interior abraded.

**F26**, finds number 16 (7 g); Fabric E, two sand and flint-tempered sherds, 6 mm thick, dark grey surfaces, dark brown fabric.

**F33**, finds number 17 (9 g); Fabric E, sand and flint-tempered sherd, 6 mm thick, dark brown exterior, interior dark grey-brown, fabric dark brown to dark grey-brown.

**F35**, finds number 22 (total weight 40 g); Fabric B (7 g), flint-tempered sherd, about 8 mm thick, wipe marks on surface, reddish-brown surfaces, dark-grey fabric; Fabric C (22 g), five flint-tempered sherds, 6-8 mm thick, brown external surface, dark-grey fabric and interior; Fabric C (4 g), three abraded flint-tempered sherds or fragments, brownish-red surfaces, brown fabric; Fabric H (7 g), sandy sherd, 6-7 mm thick, brown external surface, grey-brown fabric and internal surface.

**F48**, finds number 29 (total weight 11 g); Fabric D (5 g), flint-tempered sherd and fragment, sherd 6 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, dark brown interior and fabric; Fabric E (6 g), sand and flint-tempered sherd, 6 mm thick, reddish-brown exterior surface, dark brown interior and fabric, flint temper in sandy fabric.

**F49**, finds number 30 (2 g); Fabric B, flint-tempered sherd flake, interior broken away, brown surface, dark grey fabric.

**F82**, finds number 58 (5 g);  
Illustrated Fig 14.3. Beaker sherd, Fabric P, flint-tempered, 4 mm thick, decorated with incised lines, reddish-brown surfaces and fabric.

**F86**, finds number 59 (total weight 9 g); Fabric C (4 g), flint-tempered small sherd and a fragment, sherd, 6-7 mm thick, brownish-red surfaces and reddish-brown fabric; Fabric F (2 g), abraded, small, sand and flint-tempered sherd; Fabric H (3 g), abraded, small, sandy sherd.

### Site C

**F36**, Sx 1, finds number 20 (16 g); Fabric I, sand-tempered body sherd, about 8 mm thick, reddish-brown oxidised surfaces and fabric, abraded.

**F37**, Sx 3, finds number 35 (28 g);  
Illustrated Fig 14.5, Fabric H, sand-tempered sherd, about 6 mm thick, lower body sherd retaining a fragment of the base, from a jar or bowl, dark brown surface and interior, dark grey fabric.

**F46**, Sx 1, finds number 27 (4 g); Fabric I, sand-tempered body sherd flake, red-brown oxidised exterior surface and brown fabric, abraded.

**F47**, Sx 1, finds number 25 (3 g); Fabric D, abraded flint-tempered sherd flake, reddish-brown surface, brown fabric.

**F56**, finds number 38 (total weight 44 g); four sherds, possibly all part of one pot;  
Illustrated Fig 14.1, Grooved Ware, probably grog-tempered, Fabric M (13 g), three joining sherds, 6 mm thick, decorated with incised lines, post-firing hole, dark grey fabric with dark brown interior surface, outer surface black and slightly vitreous and this appears to be a surface deposit, occasional small voids in the fabric which has a slightly corky appearance.  
Illustrated Fig 14.2, Grooved Ware, probably grog-tempered, Fabric M (31 g), body sherd from just above the base, 6 mm thick, decorated with faint horizontal grooves in a band above base, three angled incised lines above, dark grey fabric with dark brown interior surface and brown exterior surfaces.

### Site D

**F66**, Sx 3, finds number 41 (17 g);  
Illustrated Fig 14.4. Fabric I, sand-tempered rim sherd, about 6-7 mm thick, with joining fragment, rounded rim, slightly internally thickened, brown exterior surface, reddish-brown interior, grey fabric.

**F67**, Sx 7, finds number 64 (1 g); Fabric V, fifteen or so sparsely flint-tempered small fragments, probably originally all one sherd, brown and grey-brown.

### Further work

A representative sample of the pottery assemblage to add to the existing drawings will be illustrated for the final analysis report and publication (notably pottery from the evaluation feature F7). Further work will include a synthesis report by Paul R Sealey with S Benfield (to include the finds from the forthcoming evaluation on adjacent Area S2 (north)) as part of the overall analysis of prehistoric pottery on the Alienated Land sites.

## 6.2 The Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

Only a very small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from Sites A-D. 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 2). The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). For each site, the number of sherds and the identifiable pottery forms were recorded by fabric for each context by finds number. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot date was recorded for each finds number.

**Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR 10*).**

Fabric code	Fabric name
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

The pottery from the evaluation consisted of two sherds from two features. One of the sherds was a rim, probably from a bowl, in Roman coarse grey ware (Fabric GX), weight 9 g. This was recovered from F32 (finds no 9) in evaluation trench T25. The sherd was abraded, and is probably of 1st- to early 2nd-century date. The other sherd was recovered from F12 (finds no 3) in evaluation trench T12. It is from an ovoid jar or cooking pot with a small everted rim. The fabric is coarse, with small holes from burnt out organic temper (Fabric HZ), weight 26 g. The vessel is pottery form type Cam 256, dated as mainly pre-conquest (*CAR 10*, 478). It occurs among the pottery assemblages recovered from the Sheepen site at Colchester, dated c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 269; Niblett 1985, 3). However, the form is only scarcely represented in assemblages from the Roman fortress and early *colonia* (*CAR 10*, 478).

The pottery from the excavation consisted of fifteen sherds (107 g). There were three sherds from Site B and twelve sherds from Site C. Almost all of the pottery consisted of abraded grey ware (Fabric GX) body sherds, with an average sherd weight of 7 g. The impression is of Roman occupation in the vicinity but not on the excavated sites. Only three sherds can be closely dated: a sherd from F47 (Sx 2, finds no 36), that appears to be from a jar in Fabric KX, probably of early-mid 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century date; a rim from L2 (finds no 11), probably from a jar of form Cam 266 dated 1st-early 2nd century; and a sherd in early grey ware fabric, from F59 (finds no 37), that is possibly of 1st- to 2nd-century date.

### Catalogue of Roman pottery from the excavation

#### Site B

**L2**, finds number 11 (5 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, jar rim, Cam ?266, degraded fabric with cracked surfaces, probably 1st-early 2nd century.

**F35**, finds number 22 (1 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, abraded, Roman.

**F87**, finds number 61 (6 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, slightly abraded, Roman.

### Site C

**F37**, Sx 1, finds number 19 (9 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, abraded, Roman.

**F39**, Sx 2, finds number 34 (64 g); Fabric GX, 9 sherds with small fragments, slightly abraded, Roman.

**F47**, Sx 2, finds number 36 (20 g); grey ware sherd with burnished band and lines, ?Fabric KX, Cam ?278, 1 sherd, ?early 2nd to mid-later 3rd century.

**F59**, finds number 37 (2 g); Fabric GX, 1 sherd, abraded, Roman, ?1st-2nd century.

## 6.3 The post-Roman pottery

by *Howard Brooks*

All post-Roman pottery fabric descriptions are after *CAR 7*.

### Sites A-D

**L2**, finds number 11 (5 g); sherd of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 13th century.

### Site B

**F91**, finds number 60 (4 g); sherd of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 13th century.

### Site C

**F37**, Sx 1, finds number 18; two sherds of Fabric 13 early medieval grey ware, 12th-13th century.

**F38**, Sx 1, finds number 21; base sherd of Fabric 13 medieval sandy grey ware, 11th-12th century.

**F38**, Sx 2, finds number 34; two sherds of Fabric 13 early medieval sandy ware, 29 g, 11th-12th century ; three sherds of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 41g, 11th-12th century.

**F46**, Sx 1, finds number 27 (4 g); unidentified sherd, medieval?

**F47**, Sx 1, finds number 25; three sherds of Fabric 13 early medieval grey ware, 39g, 11th-12th century; two sherds of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 23g, 12th-13th century.

**F47**, Sx 1, finds number 28; two sherds of Fabric 13 medieval sandy grey ware, 11th-12th century.

**F47**, Sx 2, finds number 36; interesting group of 22 Fabric 13 medieval sandy grey ware sherds, 450g, including one F1 internal lid-seated, one bowl with thickened flat top and internal bead, and one A2 plain flat-topped; these rim types are typical of later 11th to later 12th centuries.

**F52**, finds number 32; 39 sherds Fabric 13 medieval sandy grey ware, including one F1 internal lid-seated, 11th-12th century.

**F55**, Sx 2, finds number 56 (30 g); sherd of of Fabric 13 early medieval sandy ware, 11th to 12th century.

**F59**, finds number 37; 5 sherds of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 12th-13th century.

### Site D

**F63**, Sx 4, finds number 46; sherd of Fabric 48j Jackfield ware teapot, or a Fabric 40 copy of this, late 17th to 19th century.

**F67**, Sx 2, finds number 40 (93 g); sherd of post-medieval red earthenware, post-medieval.

**F67**, finds number 52 (18 g); unidentified post-medieval base sherd; has rather a 'stoneware' feel, but oxidised surface and clear glaze is not stoneware, post-medieval.

**F73**, finds number 65 (10 g); sherd of Fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware, post-medieval.

**F73**, Sx 2, finds number 67; 3 sherds of Fabric 48e yellow ware, 19th-20th century.

### **Further work**

No further work on this material is necessary.

## **6.4 Flints**

*by Hazel Martingell*

Six worked flints were recovered by the excavation (five flakes and one blade).

### **Site B**

Four of the flakes and the one blade came from this site. The blade (finds no 1) is of good quality and is either Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date. One of the flakes (finds no 12) has the criteria for a late prehistoric artefact, and is probably Late Bronze Age/iron Age in date.

### **Site D**

One flake came from this site.

### **Discussion**

During previous fieldwalking and evaluations in 2002 (CAT Report 184) there appeared to be two slight clusters of worked flints, ie twelve artefacts, in GUV Area B (2002.8 km C) and eleven worked flints in GUV Area D. The recovery of more worked flints increases the evidence for prehistoric activity during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and later prehistoric periods in the Garrison area as a whole.

### **Flint list**

F10, finds number 1, one blade, tertiary, Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

L2, finds number 12, one flake, tertiary, oblique angled platform, later prehistoric.

F26, finds number 16, one flake, tertiary.

F35, finds number 22, one flake fragment, tertiary.

F68 Sx 1, finds number 47, one flake, primary.

unstratified, finds number 31, one flake, primary.

The evaluation recovered one flint flake, from evaluation trench T12, F5.

### **Further work**

No further work on this material is necessary.

## **6.5 Other material culture**

*by Nina Crummy*

### **Iron**

The ironwork is all from Sites C and D and is medieval or later in date. As well as nails, the assemblage includes part of a rotary key and a small knife of the size appropriate for personal use rather than a specific craft.

Site C (33) F52. Pit. Medieval. Knife with whittle tang. The back and edge are straight. Length 112 mm, width 15 mm.

Site D (66) F67 Sx 5. Ditch. Post-medieval. a) Nail with the head and upper part of the shank of another corroded onto it. Maximum length 66 mm. b) Nail, incomplete. Length 62 mm.

Site D (43) F73 Sx 1. Ditch. Post-medieval. a) The bit and part of the shank of a large rotary key. Length 64 mm. b) Bolt or nail with square-section shank. Length 158 mm.

Site D (65) F73 Sx 1. Ditch. Post-medieval. Two nail shank fragments. Lengths 53 and 31 mm.

### **Stone**

The stone comes from all four sites within the area. A fragment of sandstone from Site A is probably part of a natural water-worn cobble. Site B produced a water-worn flint cobble that had been used sometime in the prehistoric period as a potboiler, and a small sandstone cube with worn upper and lower surfaces. The function of the

cube is uncertain. Although its square shape appears to be deliberate, its size and rough edges militate against its having been used as a polishing stone. It may have been used as building stone.

The remaining pieces, from Sites C and D, are fragments of lava quern stones. All come from medieval or post-medieval contexts, and, although worn, may be of medieval or early post-medieval date rather than residual Roman. Rhenish lava hand querns were imported both in the Roman period and again from about the 7th century until the early post-medieval period. They are the commonest medieval quern stones found in Colchester and also at Norwich (CAR 5, 36-9; Margeson 1993, 202). The success of these imports in southern and eastern England, over quern stones from native sources such as Pennine Millstone Grit, highlights the important role of trade with the Rhineland in many commodities for this region.

- SF 5. Site A (62) F2. Post-hole. Prehistoric/Roman. Fragment of fine-grained sandstone, recently broken. All three surviving surfaces are worn but not highly polished. Probably part of a natural water-worn cobble. Maximum dimensions 39 by 36 by 30 mm.
- SF 6. Site B (22) F35. Pit. Prehistoric/Roman. Cube of coarse sandstone, with very worn/polished upper and lower surfaces and rough edges. 32 by 32 mm, 18 mm thick.
- SF 4. Site B (14). Large water-worn flint cobble with burnt surface, probably used as a potboiler. It has a natural round perforation on one side where a tubular fossil, such as a belemnite, formed and later dropped out. Several other shallow holes on the surface are probably also natural, and the surface is also spalled as a result of either hammering or more likely burning followed by rapid cooling. Maximum diameter 97 mm; weight 633 g. Usage such as this is typical of prehistoric flint assemblages.
- SF 2. Site C (35) F37 Sx 3. Ditch. Medieval. Two small abraded fragments of Mayen lava with no original surfaces remaining. Weight 15 g.
- SF 8. Site C (26) F47 Sx 1. Ditch. Medieval. Fragment of a square/rectangular block of weathered and abraded Mayen lava. Originally part of a quern stone, this fragment is similar in size and form to palm-sized rubbing stones. Length 73 mm, width (incomplete) 41 mm, 27 mm thick.
- SF 1. Site C (55) F55 Sx 1. Ditch. Medieval. Fragment of a quern stone of coarse vesicular ?Mayen lava. Part of the grinding surface has an angular rebate where the thickness of the stone was reduced around the hopper. The underside is roughly pecked. Maximum dimensions 95 by 87 mm, 33 mm thick.
- SF 3. Site D (54) F73 Sx 1. Ditch. Post-medieval. Fragment from the rim of the lower stone of a Mayen lava quern stone; both surfaces are flat and there are traces of harp or sickle dressing on the one used for grinding. The rim has traces of angled grooves. Maximum dimensions 184 by 103 mm, 42 mm thick.

### **Structural daub**

A small quantity of structural daub came from F16 on Site B. Although very few fragments were recovered, they show the use of both wattles and riven timber, suggesting that the material derived from a round-house or similar large structure.

Site B (13) F16. Six small fragments of sandy clay daub, one retaining part of a wattle void and another a void from a piece of riven timber. Total weight 203 g.

### **Further work**

For the analysis report, it is proposed to illustrate the medieval knife (Site C, pit F52), and the key (Site D, F73).

## **6.6 Other finds (listed numerically by site and feature)**

### **Site B**

**F7**, finds number 7 (6 g); 3 indeterminate daub/pot scraps.

**F9**, finds number 8 (0.3 g); charcoal.

**F16**, finds number 5 (19 g); 6 prehistoric pot or daub scraps.

**F17**, finds number 4 (2 g); 7 charcoal fragments.

#### **Site C**

**F37**, Sx 3, finds number 35 (7 g); unidentifiable tile fragment.

**F37**, Sx 4, finds number 63 (112 g); ?Roman tile.

**F38**, Sx 1, finds number 21; 2 Roman tile fragments, 793g; 1 ferruginous stone, 70g.

**F38**, Sx 2, finds number 34 (11 g); 9 small daub pieces.

**F38**, Sx 3, finds number 57 (1 g); Roman tile scrap.

**F43**, finds number 24 (41 g); approximately 30 small daub fragments.

**F47**, Sx 1, finds number 25; tiny fragment of lava quern, less than 1g (Roman or later).

**F47**, Sx 1, finds number 28 (5 g); 2 small daub fragments.

#### **Site D**

**F63**, Sx 2, finds number 44 (142 g); post-medieval brick fragment, D.

**F63**, Sx 3, finds number 45; 2 brick fragments, 60mm thick, D.

**F63**, Sx 4, finds number 46  
Five frogless bricks, 465g, 100mm x 60mm x ?, D.  
1 animal bone, 2g, D.

**F63**, Sx 5, finds number 48  
Five post-medieval brick fragments, 250g, D: 2 buff 50mm thick; 3 100mm x 60mm x ?, D.  
Peg-tile fragment with hole, 122g, D.

**F63**, Sx 6, finds number 49  
Five frogless brick fragments, 3,388g, 4 inch x 2.5 inch (100mm x 60mm x ?).  
Tudor brick, 374g, 45mm x ? x ? mm, D.  
Five pantile fragments, 1,538g, D (1 kept, 1,235 g).  
Two buff brick fragments, 140g, 50mm thick, D.

**F64**, Sx 2, finds number 50 (93g); 7 post-medieval brick fragments, D.

**F65**, Sx 2, finds number 51 (1,508 g); 7 post-medieval brick fragments, 70mm x ? x ?, D.

**F66**, Sx 2, finds number 53 (4 g); burnt flint.

**F67**, Sx 1, finds number 39 (33 g); peg-tile, D.

**F67**, Sx 2, finds number 40  
Tudor brick, 50mm thick, 445 g, D.  
Two brick fragments, 253 g, D.  
Iron fragment, 31 g.  
Greensand lump, 463 g.  
Two peg-tile fragments (one with hole), 209 g, D.

**F67**, Sx 4, finds number 42 (19 g); peg-tile fragment, 11mm thick, D.

**F67**, Sx 5, finds number 66  
Roman brick fragment, 43mm thick.  
Two peg-tile fragments (1 with hole), 184 g, D.  
Post-medieval brick, overfired, 100mm x ? x ?, 281 g, D.  
Two fragments of green bottle base, 19th or 20th century, 340 g.

Two iron nails.

**F73**, finds number 65

Post-medieval frogless brick of Tudor size, 170+mm x 90mm x 50mm, 1,542 g.

Buff brick fragment, 431g, 50mm x ? x ? D.

Forty-six post-medieval brick fragments, 806 g, D.

Three fragments green glass, 6 g, 19th-20th century.

Two iron nails.

**F73**, Sx 1, finds number 43

Two pantile fragments, 762 g (1 D, 1 x 384g kept).

Five post-medieval floor bricks, 1,768 g - 4 D (1 x 351g kept), typically 120mm x 32 mm x ? (1.75 inches x 4.75 inches x ?).

Post-medieval brick fragment, 46 g, D.

Four peg-tile fragments, 60 g, D.

Two iron nails.

No further work on this material is necessary.

## 7 Discussion

For the purposes of these sites, this discussion will take an overview of the remains excavated on the four sites, and will include the results of the 2007 evaluation where appropriate. At a later date, it is anticipated that the preliminary assessment offered below will be amended as necessary and incorporated into a fuller analysis report covering a wider area of the Garrison. This will be in line with the project-wide research aims as outlined in RPS 2004.

Five periods of activity are suggested. Unless otherwise stated, the word 'area' refers to Garrison Alienated Land Area S2 (south) in this section.

### Period 1 – Neolithic and Early Bronze Age

There are a number of separate strands of evidence for activity in this period. There were six prehistoric struck flints, all found in residual contexts (five from Site B and one from Site D). One of the two datable pieces dates to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. Four sherds of Grooved Ware of the later Neolithic were recovered from a grubbed-out tree throw hole in Site C. The only other stratified find of this general period was a single Beaker sherd from F82 in the southern part of Site B. Whether these sherds represent some kind of structural deposition evidence is an attractive idea, but is difficult to demonstrate.

There were a number of other features on Site B which are interpreted as 'tree-throw holes or tree grubbing-out pits. Given the later Neolithic datable evidence from one of these, it is tempting to suggest that many of the undated pits were produced by Neolithic or Bronze Age farmers pulling down trees to make space for crop planting.

### Period 2 – Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age

There was a relatively large group of stratified Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pottery from the area, providing good evidence of occupation in those periods. The focus of activity is shown by the distribution of the pottery – 944 g (evaluation plus excavation) from Site B, 95g from Site C and only 18g from Site D. This clearly shows that the main area of activity was on Site B, with less activity on Sites C and D respectively. It is also of some interest that there seems to be a difference in the date of the prehistoric pottery between the three sites. On Site B, the pottery was all of a flint-tempered type which would be typical of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and of the period c 800-600 BC (where diagnostic sherds were recovered from the evaluation), but the pottery from Site C was much more sand-tempered and typical of the Middle Iron Age. At face value, this suggests a drift in the focus of activity from Site B eastwards over the few centuries between the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age periods. However, the twelve sherds of

Middle Iron Age pottery from the evaluation on Site A may rather demonstrate that a low level of Middle Iron Age activity was carried out across Area S2 (south). This low density is in accordance with the levels that may be expected within a working landscape, but do demonstrate a settlement site within Area S2 (south).

The focus for the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age phase of that activity was a post-circle, possibly the inner post-ring of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age round-house 8.37m in diameter. If this structure was a round-house, then it conforms to the general pattern of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age houses, which tended to have a single post-ring and had not yet developed the double post-ring style of buildings typical of the Iron Age. Reconstructed examples of excavated Bronze Age and Iron Age house at the Flag Fen site near Peterborough illustrate this point very well, with the earlier houses typically having single post-rings and low roofs, while the Iron Age houses are larger and more elaborate, with a double post-ring.

Two out of the eleven post-holes forming the post-ring contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. The excavated evidence is not strong enough to show whether this pottery was packed into the post-holes at construction or found its way in after demolition or rotting of the round-house. The round-house had no internal features such as a hearth, nor an obvious porch structure.

The apparently isolated position of this Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age house is of great interest in relation to the Iron Age round-house excavated on Garrison Alienated Land Area 2 in 2003 (CAT/RPS Report 292). The Area 2 round-house is thought to represent an isolated Iron Age settlement pre-dating the construction of the *oppidum*. Although prehistoric pottery has been recovered from a number of locations within the Garrison, this Bronze Age round-house on Area S2 (south) can be considered as another pre-*oppidum* occupation site.

Apart from the round-house, there were other Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features here. Eleven post-holes or small pits contained contemporary pottery and may be contemporary with the round-house, and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds were residual in one other feature on this site. Unfortunately, it is really not possible to define structures such as fences, four-post structures, etc. in this group of features. Of particular interest is a fragment of daub with wattle holes from post-hole F16, 9m north of the post-ring. This was probably a fragment of a nearby daub structure such as a round-house. In addition, a large assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from evaluation trench T13. This came from evaluation feature F7, situated slightly outside the post-ring of the round-house. This feature was interpreted in the evaluation report as a ditch (CAT Report 404, 3, fig 2). However, the excavation makes it clear that F7 does not continue to either the north or south of the evaluation trench position, so this feature can be re-interpreted as a shallow pit.

As was mentioned above, relatively small amounts of Middle Iron Age pottery came from Sites A (49 g from the evaluation), C and D, to the east. The only stratified material, ie not obviously residual, was from a pit F56 on Site C. This may be evidence of settlement activity here which is not otherwise obvious. More Middle Iron Age pottery came from otherwise undated ditches F36 and F66 on Sites C and D, ie a sherd in each. However, in both cases, the ditches fit in with the medieval landscape, and therefore the pottery may be residual. The other possibility, one that seems more likely for the Site D ditch, is that a Middle Iron Age landscape boundary line had survived the intervening centuries as a hedge or tree line. A further pit (F35 from the evaluation) and residual finds demonstrate a Middle Iron Age presence, albeit slight, in Site D.

One of the two datable flint pieces dates to the Bronze Age or Iron Age and is probably associated with the settlement evidence at Site B.

### **Period 3 – Late Iron Age and Roman**

Within the area of the *oppidum*, the expectation would be that Late Iron Age and Roman activity would be demonstrable. In fact, not for the first time on the Garrison sites, there was no apparent Late Iron Age activity. In addition, very little Roman material was found from Sites A-D.

The latest finds from two features on Site B (pits F35 and F89) and one on Site C (pit F42) are Roman, so these could be Roman-period features. But this must be

balanced against the fact that there was a larger group of Roman brick and tile on Site C which was all residual in medieval contexts. Therefore all or most of the Roman material in the area may actually be residual in medieval or later contexts. Although Roman settlement activity in the area cannot be absolutely ruled out, there is a strong possibility that the Roman pottery is, as suggested above, all derived from Roman manure scatter. This would support the interpretation that the main Roman activity in this part of the *oppidum* was arable farming. Several ditches from the evaluation were tentatively dated to the Roman period (see CAT Report 404, fig 2) and, although the dating was based on very low finds densities, they could relate to Roman fields as seen elsewhere in the vicinity (new garrison Areas 2, 6 and 10 and Alienated Land Area Q).

In addition to this evidence for arable farming, it is thought that the short L-shaped ditches on Site B formed a small-scale stock corral system with multiple entrances. Just such corrals have been described by Pryor (1999, 100) under the heading 'Managing and manipulating livestock'. Entrances for the complex at Site B are suggested between the terminal ends of ditches F7 and F8, between F8 and F87, between F87 and F88, between F88 and F89, between F89 and F87, and, with a wide opening into the 'main' rectangular enclosure, between the southern terminal of F7 and the L-shaped corner of F87. A possible gate post across this wide opening is represented by post-hole F32.

The 'main enclosure' was therefore flanked by F7 and F8 and the north-south arm of F87 defines an internal area 6m by 4.5m (approx 27m<sup>2</sup>). Given the narrow entrances (approx 0.5m wide) on the northern and north-eastern sides and the small size of the enclosures, they would only be suited to sheep or pigs. Sheep farming is the more likely as similar-sized corrals are still used today for the confining, inspection and sorting of sheep.

Pryor (*op cit*, 106) states that large yards are required for 'batch handling' of stock where animals can be loosely confined. However, smaller yards are required for 'close confinement'. Pryor based his interpretations of Bronze Age stock systems at Fengate on his understanding of modern systems for stock sorting. One element of the ditch layout at Fengate was the 'funnel' or 'crush' used to funnel animals down so they proceed nose-to-tail as they pass the entrance into a close-confinement handling system. In this model, the juxtaposition of ditches F87, F88 and F89 on Site B may have provided opportunities to sort and select stock before confinement (of the selected category) in the 'main enclosure'. It is postulated that F89 and F88 may represent a 'crush'. As sheep passed through in single file it is suggested that they could be inspected for condition and then split up by, for example, selecting rams (for culling or breeding), lambs (for culling or separation), or ewes (for separation of breeding ewes and scanning for state of pregnancy – ie carrying singles, twins or triplets). The main enclosure could then be used for various functions such as delivering lambs or holding animals intended for exchange.

So-called '3-way drafting gates' were postulated at Fengate (*op cit*, 105) as complex ditch junctions whereby the various categories of animal could be separated in various directions. In this context, the stake holes around the edges and sides of the ditches at Site B can be understood as representing the hurdles which flanked the system and supported gate structures across the entrances.

To summarise, it is thought that the herd was funnelled into the system via 'crush' F88/F89, after which there were three options for sorting. The first option is that categories, eg rams, could be immediately ejected into the open field to the east via the entrance between the east end of ditch F87 and the southern end of F88. The second option would be ejection of sheep, eg lambs, out into a field to the north via the gap between the southern end of F89 and F8. The third option would be to select sheep, eg pregnant ewes, to enter the main enclosure via the narrow gap between the east end of F8 and the north end of F87.

Interestingly, Pryor (*op cit*, 105) suggests that, for handling purposes, approximately two modern sheep could be confined per square metre. If so, then the main enclosure could hold approximately 54 modern sheep and probably more Roman-period sheep. The tentative Roman date for the system is only based on one sherd from the upper fill of F87, and a later date – or indeed an earlier date, if the pottery is intrusive – is possible. If Roman, the corral system appears to have been

placed in a relatively open area, although a north-west/south-east ditch line of possible Roman date is suggested by the evaluation close to the western edge of the corrals (see Fig 2).

The very small quantity of Roman tile supports the idea that there were no substantial Roman structures here.

#### **Period 4 – medieval**

Although there may be a single medieval feature on Site B (F91), the main medieval activity is on Site B, where two connected plot/paddocks with two phases were identified. With regard to the earlier field system, parts of five fields coincided with the excavated area of Site C. The only measurable one was approximately 34m wide (115 feet or 7 poles).

A second phase of this ditch system, if correctly interpreted, is indicated by the presence of a double-ditched droveway extending obliquely across the middle of one of the earlier fields. Further, the presence of two post-holes for a possible field gate was constructed here to control the east-west movement of stock. It is difficult to draw interpretations of the wider farming landscape from small excavations, but it is worth highlighting the fact that a droveway would indicate stock control within the enclosure while arable areas may have been located north of these probable paddocks.

Although there was Roman material in these field ditches (pottery, brick and tile), there is sufficient medieval pottery (39 sherds) to make the medieval dating secure. There was also an adjacent medieval pit with a group of 39 medieval sherds. It is worth mentioning that this group of ditches is the first to be recognised as medieval from the southern Garrison area. This demonstrates the rarity of ditched field divisions of the period beyond the settlement areas. The existence of a moderate assemblage of medieval pottery and other finds including querns from these ditches must indicate adjacent settlement here. This point is further reinforced by the lack of medieval finds in Sites A, B and D. Even though there were no medieval finds from Site D, there is a case for ditch F66 being medieval because it aligns quite closely with east-west ditch F37 on Site C.

In summary, apart from a single pit on Site B, the medieval evidence consists of two ditched compounds and several pits, including a possible well/cistern on Site C with a possible boundary linking through to Site D. The Site C plots/paddocks probably formed part of a farm complex backing onto Berechurch Hall Road to the south. They may even relate to the medieval precursor of Berechurch Hall.

#### **Period 5 – post-medieval**

There were three phases of activity following on from the medieval field system (above). The first is represented by two almost parallel field ditches (spaced 21m to 22m apart), one of which cut through a ditch of the earlier (?medieval) field system. Whether this put the Period 4 field system out of use, or merely modified it, is difficult to say. The new ditches would presumably have been accompanied by banks and hedges, evidence for which have been removed by later ploughing.

The most interesting feature on this site was a rectangular, three-bay building, 36 feet long by 18 feet wide, with a midstrey in the south side of the central bay. This was probably an agricultural barn, such as a cruck barn, the demolition of which is dated by fragments of peg-tile, post-medieval brick, and a single sherd of Jackfield ware (Fabric 48j) to the 17th to the 19th century. Its construction date, though technically unknown, must be in the 17th or 18th century.

The final post-medieval phase began when a large ditch (F74) was cut through the Period 3, phase 1 field system (and presumably put elements of it out of use). Ditch F74 is clearly only the north-western corner of a large enclosure which lay mainly off-site. This interpretation is helped by the fact that we have some cartographic evidence for the date of our Period 3, phases 1 and 2. The Chapman and André map of 1777 clearly shows a rectangular enclosure in the corner of this field (ie Garrison Area S2 (south)), with a building on the Berechurch Hall Road side. (As a matter of interest, the east edge of this field is defined by the Berechurch Dyke, marked in 1777 as 'Antient Intrenchments'.) Immediately to the east of the dyke is another enclosure with unnamed buildings. There are also two marks on the

area rear of the house and within the enclosed area. Although it would be tempting to interpret these marks as two small buildings such as sheds, scrutiny of the map shows that the conventions used here only indicate enclosed land, and nothing more definite. The building shown on the roadside on the Chapman and André map of 1777 must therefore be located beyond the excavated area of Site D, to the east. The presence of the erosion hollow on the excavated site may, indirectly, shed a little light on the use of the building in the enclosure on the Chapman and André map (but beyond the excavated area) – as a cattle barn with an eroded floor.

The Period 3, phase 1 barn beyond the ditched enclosure is not shown on the Chapman and André map of 1777. Although it is difficult to make definitive statements from such cartographic evidence, the absence of the barn and the presence of the enclosure in 1777 may be taken to indicate that, by 1777, our Period 3, phase 2 field system had supplanted our Period 3, phase 1 field system. Further, there is no sign of the Period 3, phase 2 enclosure on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey which was surveyed 1875-76 and published 1881, so the building had clearly been demolished and the site cleared before that date. By contrast, the enclosure east of Berechurch Dyke is still shown as late as the 1922-23 OS map, where it is identified as parcel 1659 containing a house with a well.

### **Dating the field ditches: a reconsideration of the landscape**

It is pertinent to ask whether the excavation of Sites A-D has changed our perception of the landscape as revealed by the earlier evaluation. In truth, the excavations have weakened the case for any field system which pre-dates the medieval period. At the time of the evaluation, several overlapping landscapes were suggested, on very reasonable grounds such as apparent alignment of ditches between evaluation trenches, and small groups of datable finds. It would be wise to review the evidence for each of the phases of ditch suggested in that report.

First, the Iron Age landscape (as shown on CAT Report 404, fig 2). Of the two Iron Age ditches in evaluation trench T13, one has been shown to be a pit on Site B, and the other was an undated feature which was assumed to align with it. Also, an apparent alignment with ditch F12 in evaluation trench T14 now looks less secure. The other hypothetical group of Iron Age ditches coincides with the excavated Site C. Two of the ditches are now known to be convincingly medieval (F38 and F55), and suggested alignments to features in evaluation trench T23 to the north are now less secure. Finally, an east-west ditch in evaluation trench T26 has now been shown to be post-medieval on Site D (F67). However, although these ditches are now discounted, it remains possible that ditch F66 at Site D was of an Iron Age or Roman date. A survival of such a ditch aligned more or less at right-angles to the Berechurch Dyke would not be too surprising given the impact that such a major boundary would have had on the adjacent landscape. For the Middle Iron Age sherd to represent the true date of the ditch it would, however, need to be the case that the dyke respected an earlier landscape orientation, at least up to a point.

In terms of the Roman landscape, none of the features suggested as Roman ditches in the evaluation report were intercepted by the excavation of Sites A-D. The only two ditches suggested as Roman which actually contained Roman finds were at extreme ends of the area – F15 in evaluation trench T15 in the south-west corner and F32 in evaluation trench T25 in the north-east corner. Both of these were aligned in the same direction, ie NNW-SSE. This alignment is convincing because it is at right-angles to the main track or driveway extending through Garrison Areas P, R, and DR, as plotted from cropmark study and geophysical survey in earlier phases of the Colchester Garrison PFI Project (CAT Report 187) and intercepted by trial-trenching in 2002 (CAT Reports 206 and 207). If these seem like convincing fragments of a Roman landscape, then there is good reason to associate this Roman-period reorganisation of the landscape with the early years of the *oppidum* of Camulodunum, one of the defensive lines of which (Berechurch Dyke) extends along the edge of the area. The other ditches suggested as Roman were all undated, and were aligned closer to north-south than the two just mentioned. The two alignments crossing evaluation trench T14 are quite close to the Roman alignment and may therefore be Roman.

The most convincing landscape is the medieval field system, which is confined mainly to Site C with a possible link to Site D (ie the eastern side of the area). However, some of the fragments of undated ditches in other part of the area (ie those intercepted by evaluation trenches T13, T15, T22) align quite closely with the medieval field system. Although a Roman date cannot be absolutely ruled out for the undated ditches, a medieval date seems as likely. The proximity of most of the medieval ditches to the eastern end of the area must point to a connection with the area later enclosed in Period 3.

Evidence for a post-medieval field system is strong, and has been strengthened by the excavation, with lengths of ditch dated to the post-medieval period in evaluation trench T26 being confirmed in the excavation of Site D. It is curious that one post-medieval ditch in Site D (F67) did not appear in Site C, despite heading in that direction out of Site C.

## 8 Acknowledgements

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The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Martin Winter (Archaeology Officer) and for RPS by Rob Masefield.

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CM	2002	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2003	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums</i>
EAA 3	1997	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>3</b> , ed by J Glazebrook
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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from 5th century AD to AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
Beaker	period at end of Neolithic and beginning of Bronze Age which saw the introduction of characteristic Beaker pottery and metalwork to Britain
Bronze Age	period from c 2,500-800 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CM	Colchester Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
EIA	Early Iron Age, period from c 800 BC to 400 BC

EOD feature	explosive ordnance disposal an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
GUV	Garrison Urban Village
IA	Iron Age, period immediately before the Romans, dating from 800 BC to AD 43
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LBA	Late Bronze Age, c 1000 BC
LIA	Late Iron Age, c 200 BC to AD 43
medieval	period from AD 1066 to early 16th century
Mesolithic	period from c 8,000-4,500 BC
MIA	Middle Iron Age, c 400 to 200 BC
modern	dating from Victorian period onwards
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4,500-2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
Ordnance Survey	(maps of 1875-76 and 1922-23 referred to in this report)
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
post-medieval	period from early 16th century to early 19th century
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (before the Romans)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	project consultants
RRC SAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by CM

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently 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 2006.127.

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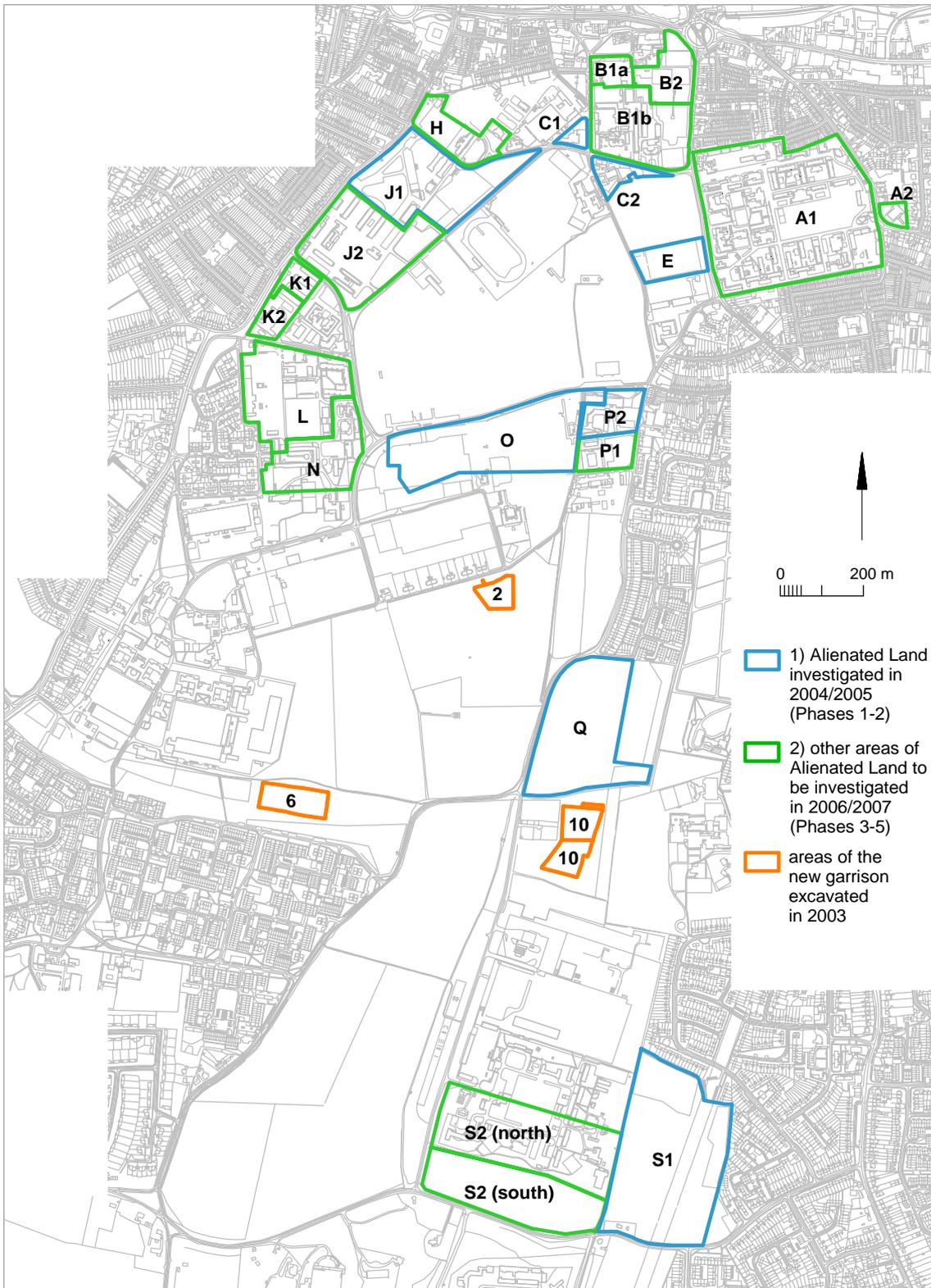
Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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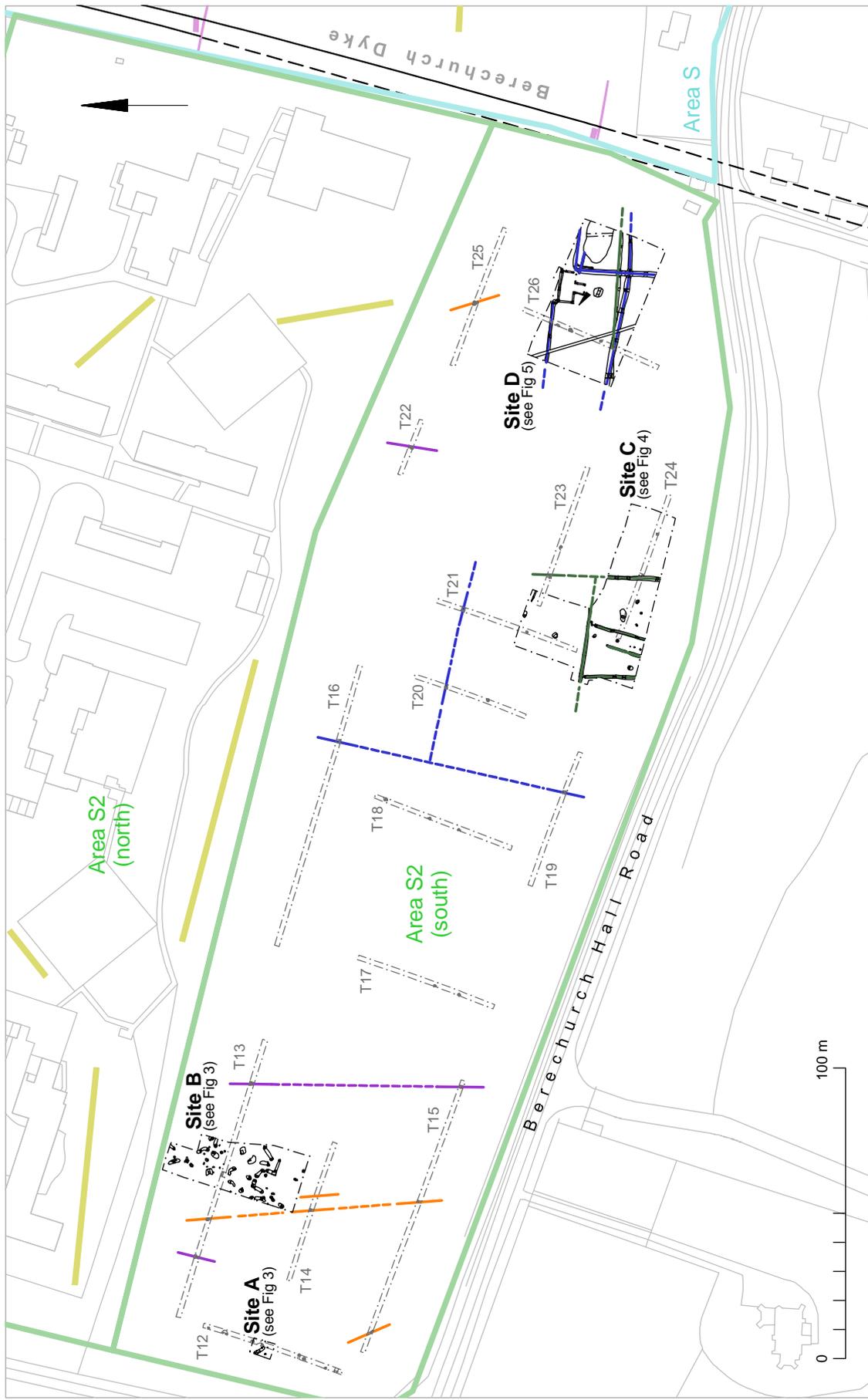
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*Adamsx c:/reports07/garrison Area S2 (south) ex/report428.doc*



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Fig 1 Colchester Garrison, showing location of Alienated Land.



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- 2002 evaluation trench
- 2004 evaluation trench
- 2007 evaluation trench
- - - Roman landscape feature
- medieval landscape feature
- post-medieval landscape feature
- undated landscape feature?

Fig 2 Location of Area S2 (south) Sites A-D.

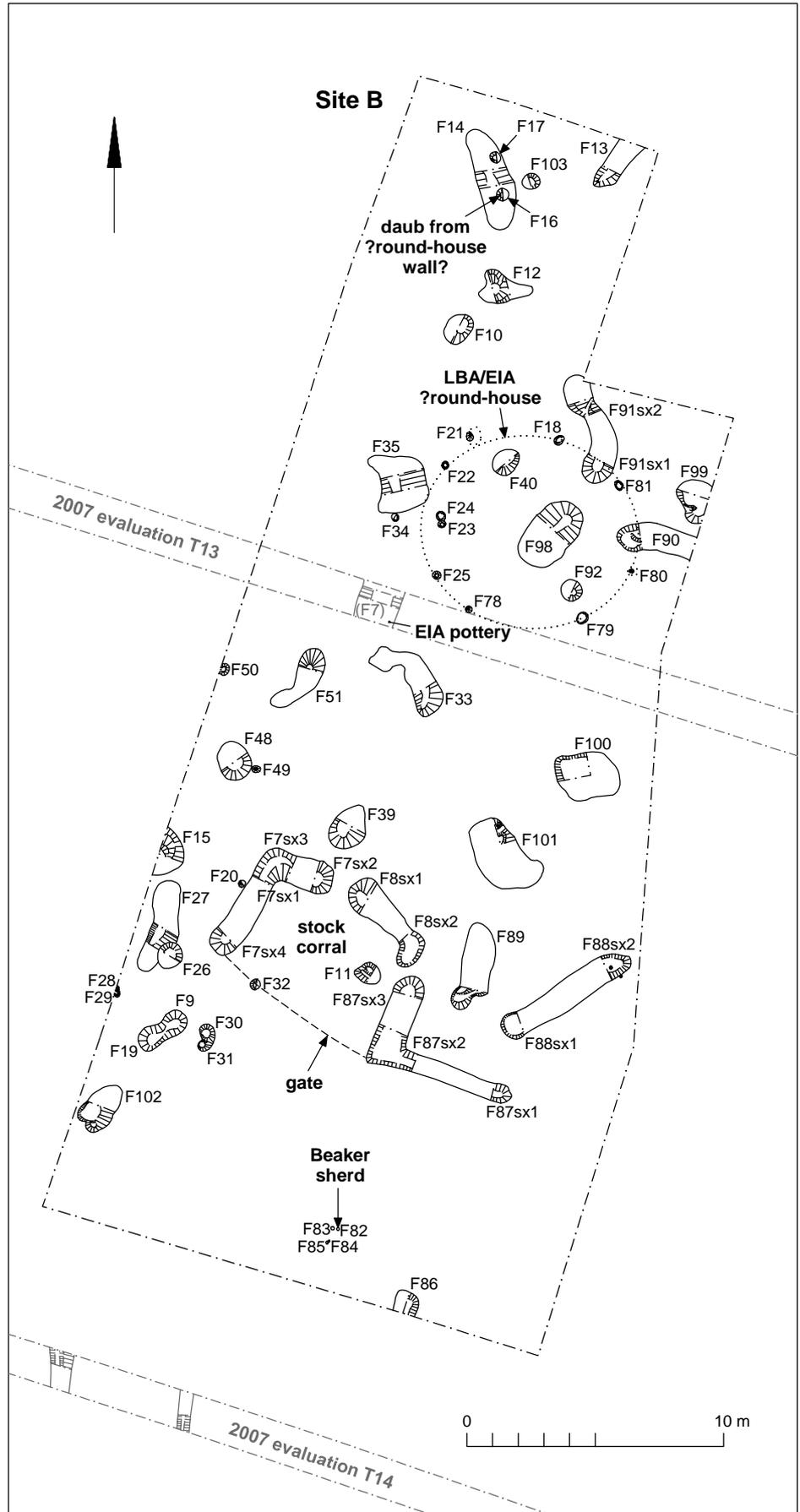
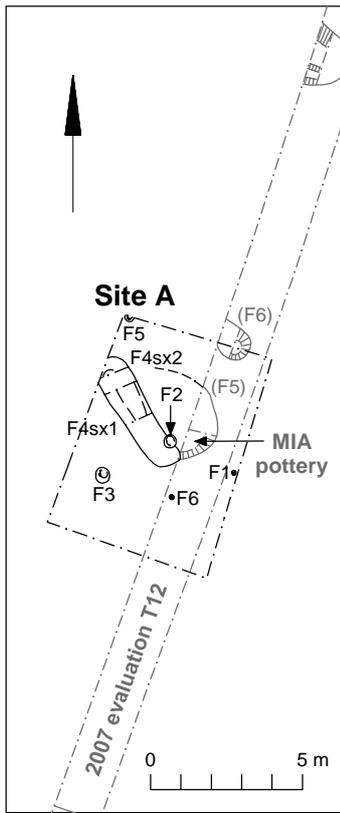


Fig 3 Sites A and B: plans (inserts to Fig 2).

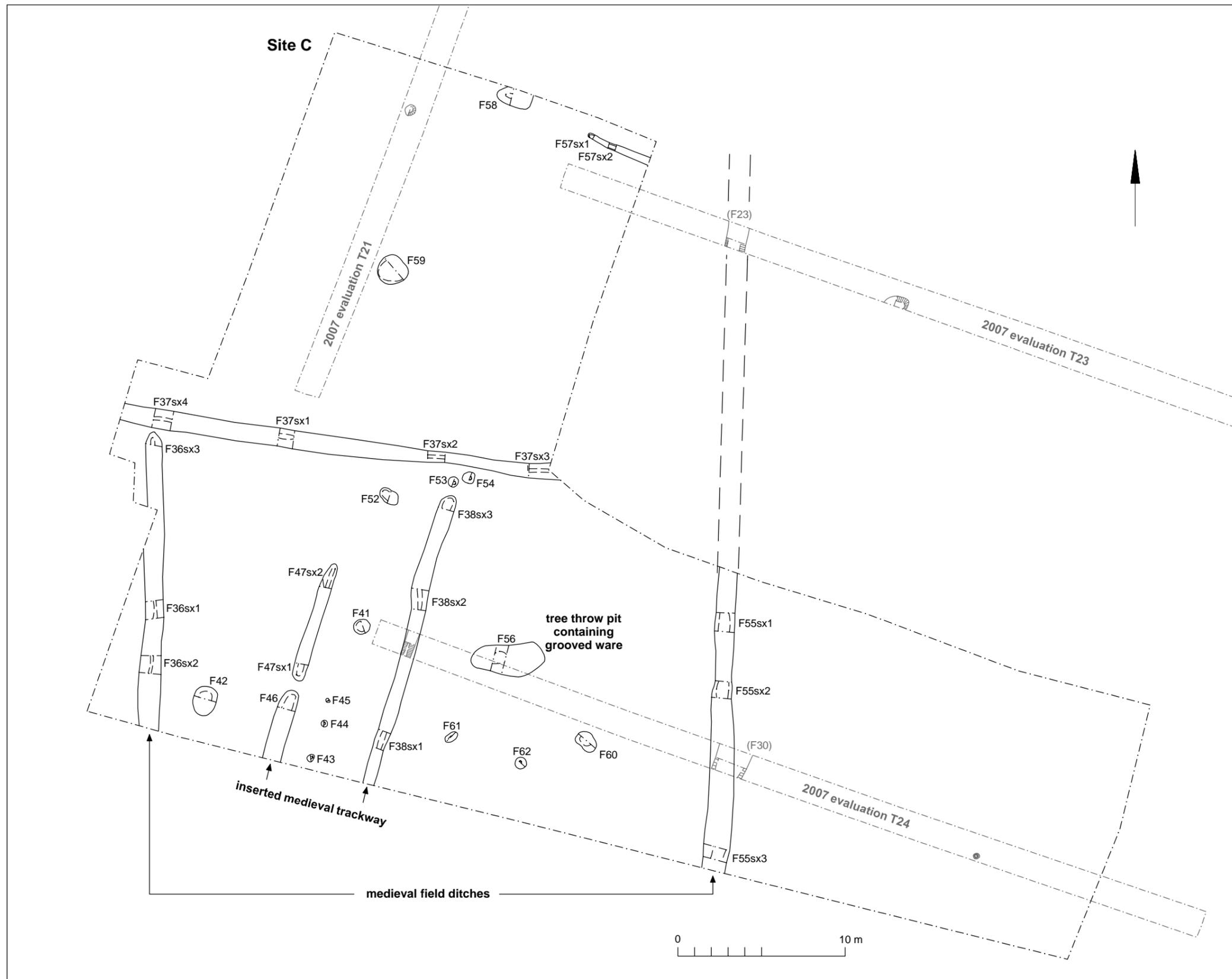


Fig 4 Site C: plan (insert to Fig 2).

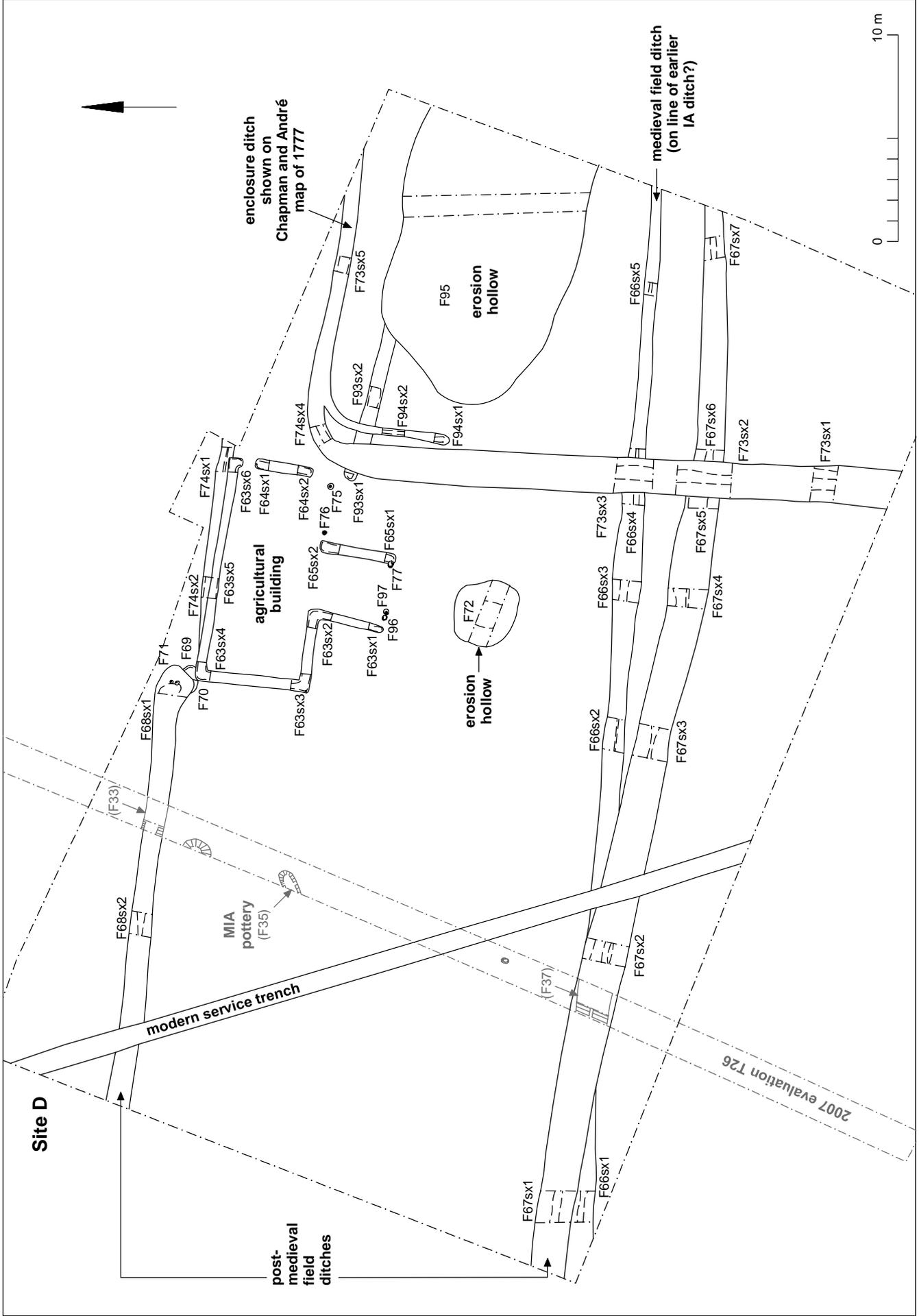
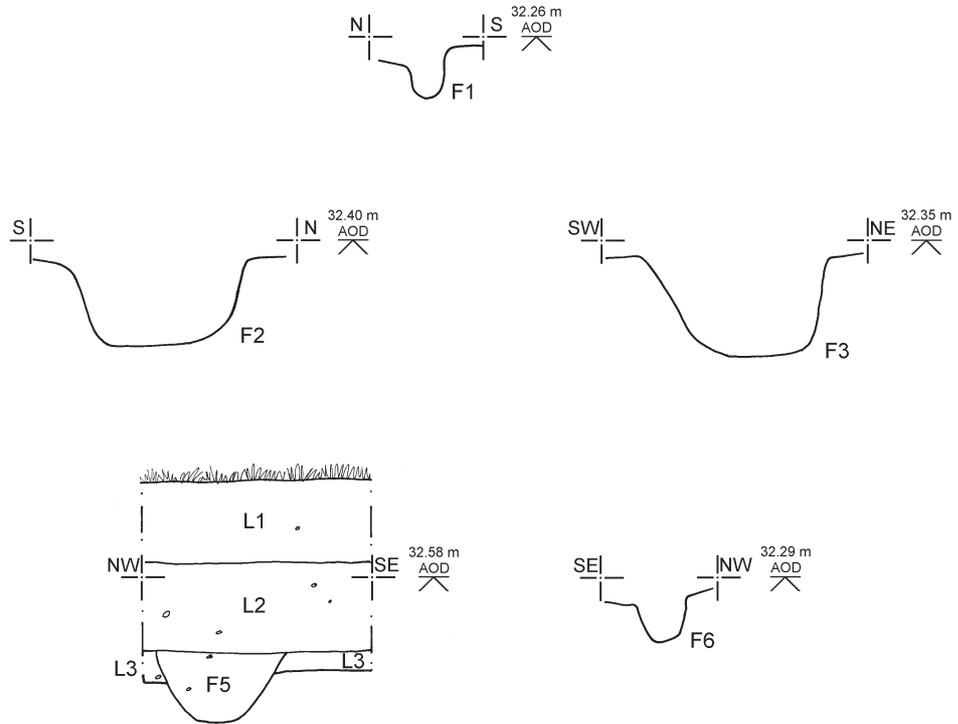


Fig 5 Site D: plan (insert to Fig 2).

post-holes



linear feature

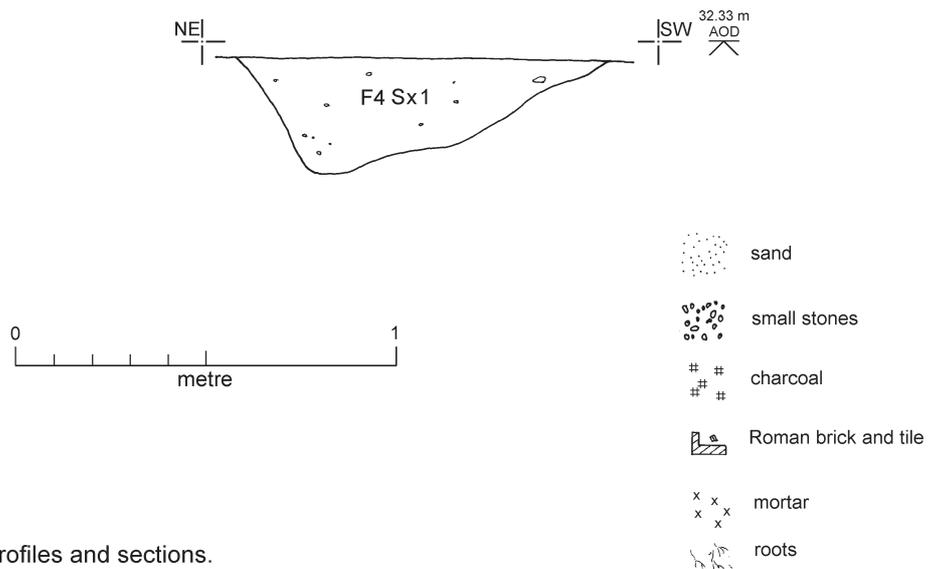
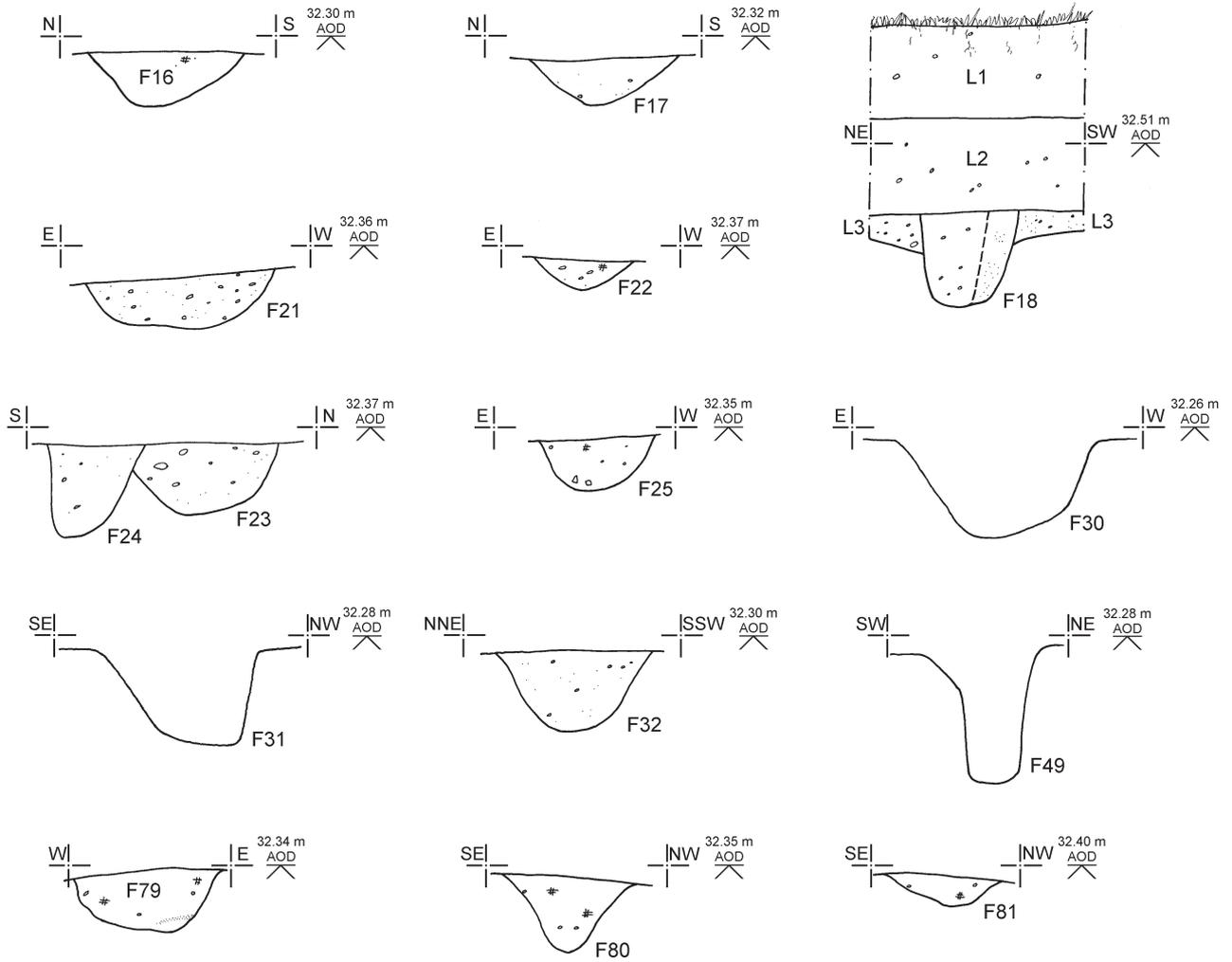


Fig 6 Site A: profiles and sections.

post-holes



pits

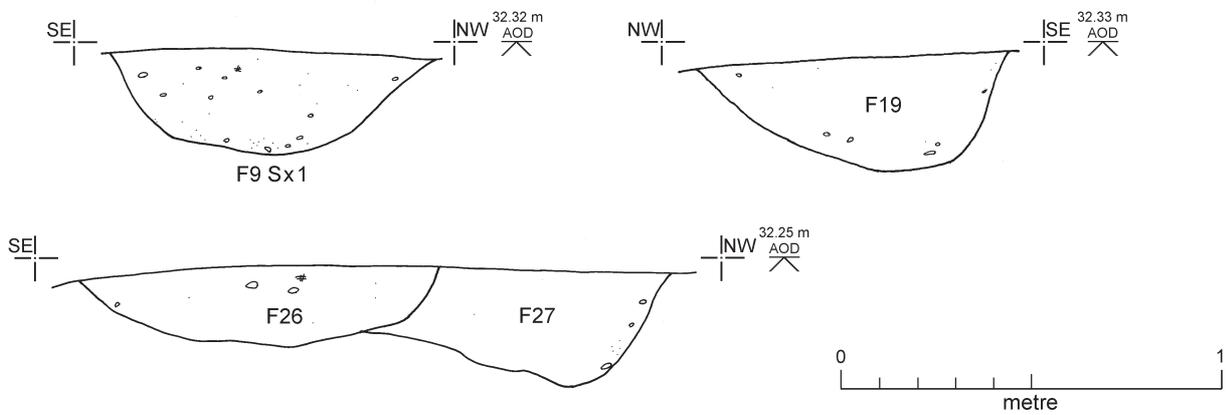
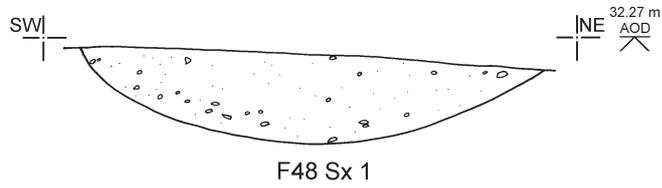


Fig 7 Site B: sections and profiles.

pits



linear features

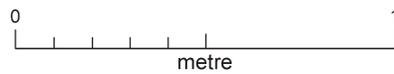
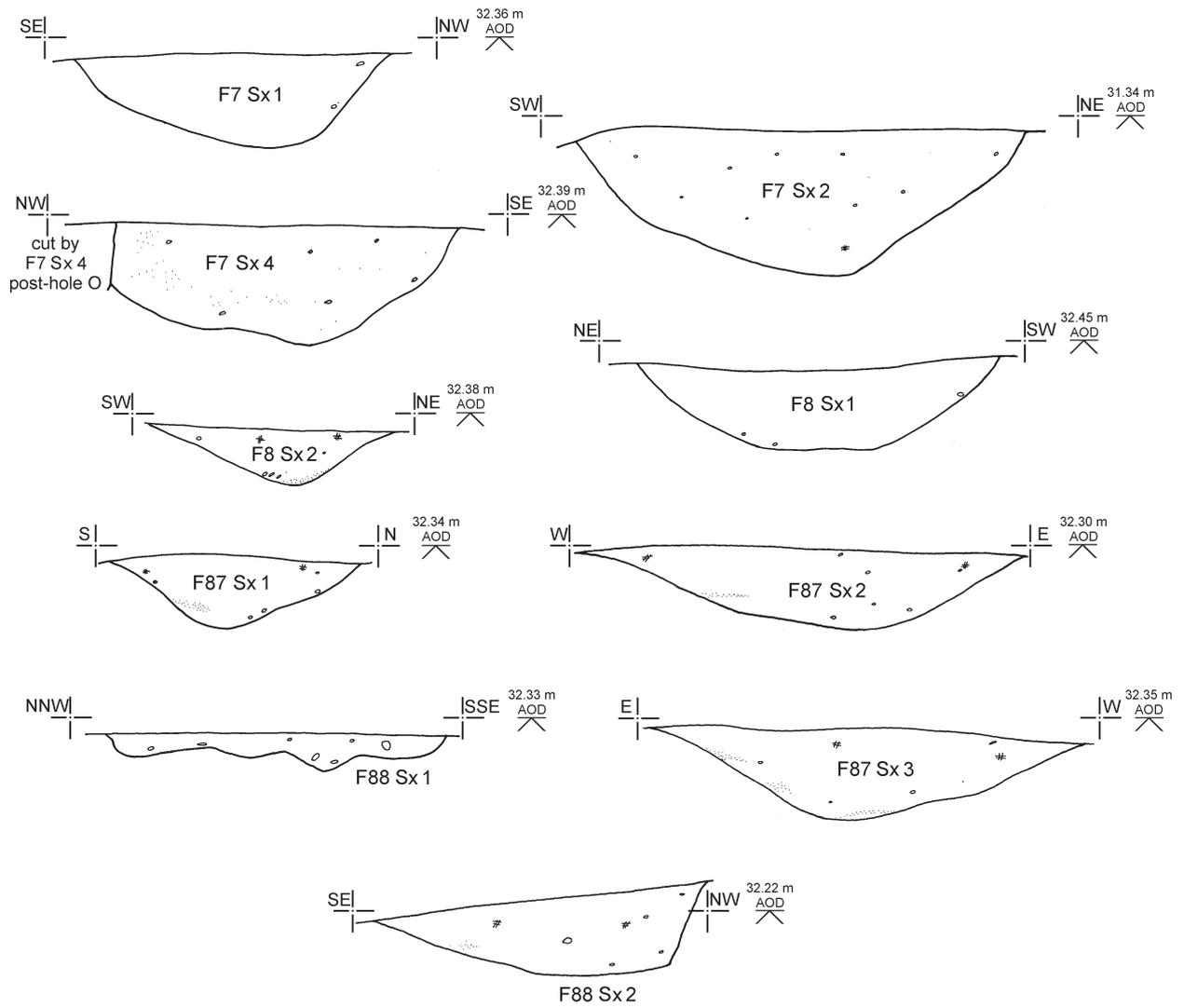
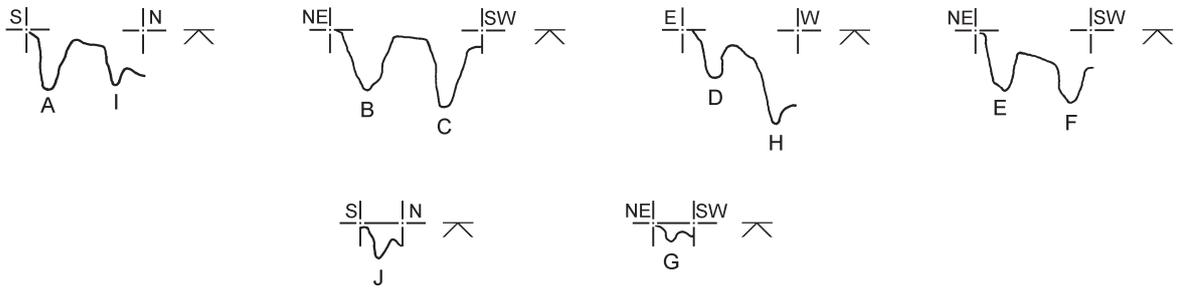


Fig 8 Site B: sections.

F7 Sx 1 post-holes



F7 Sx 4 post-holes



F8 Sx 1 post-holes

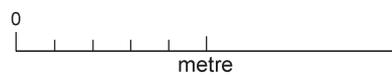
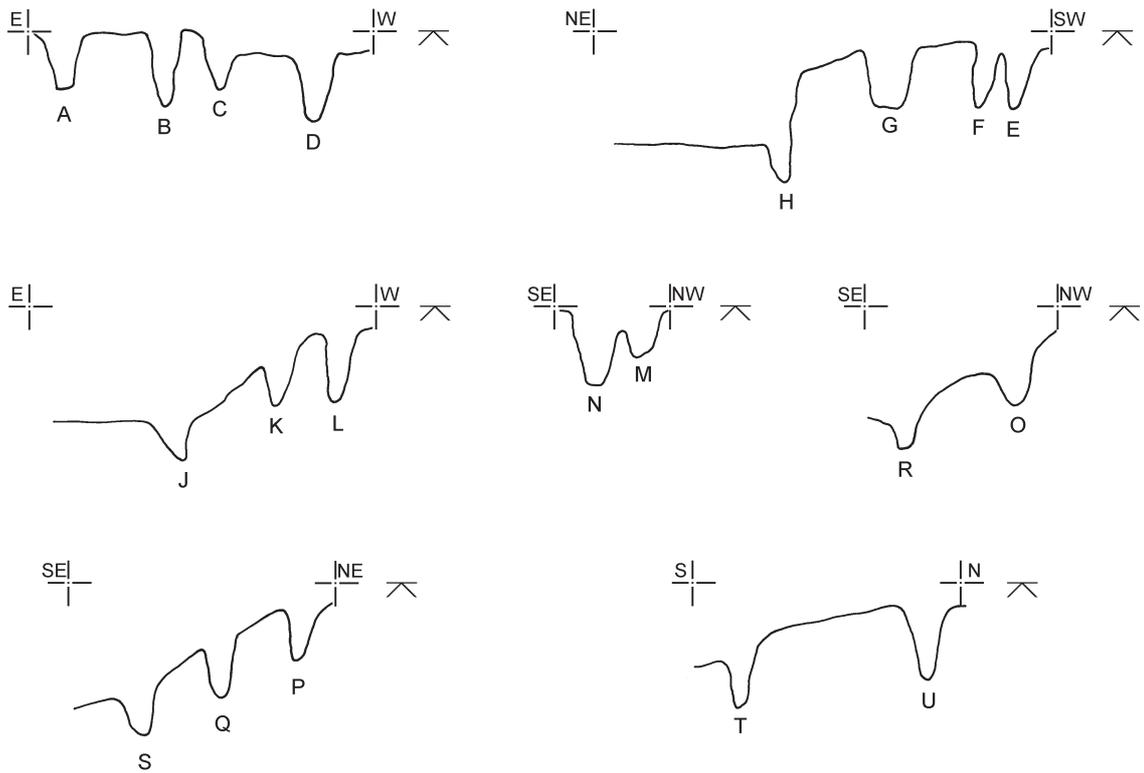
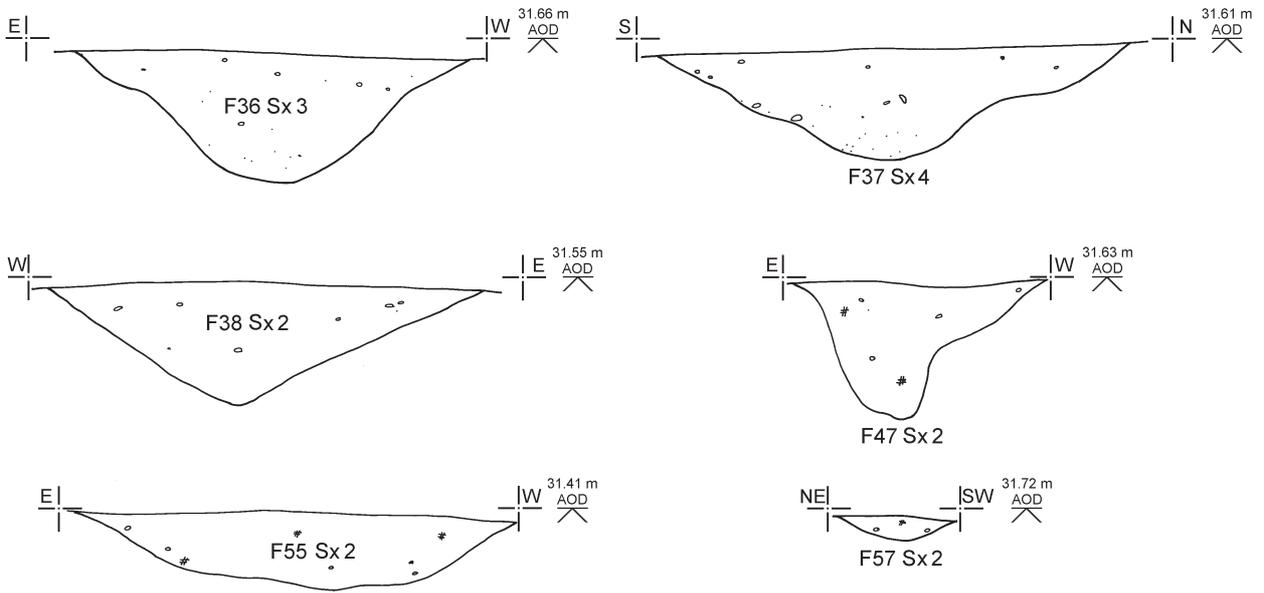
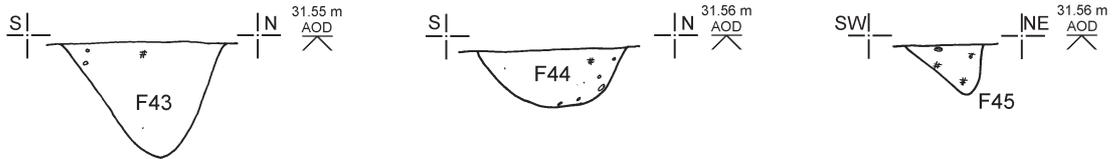


Fig 9 Site B: profiles.

linear features



post-holes



pits

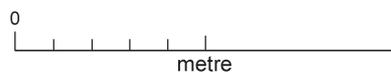
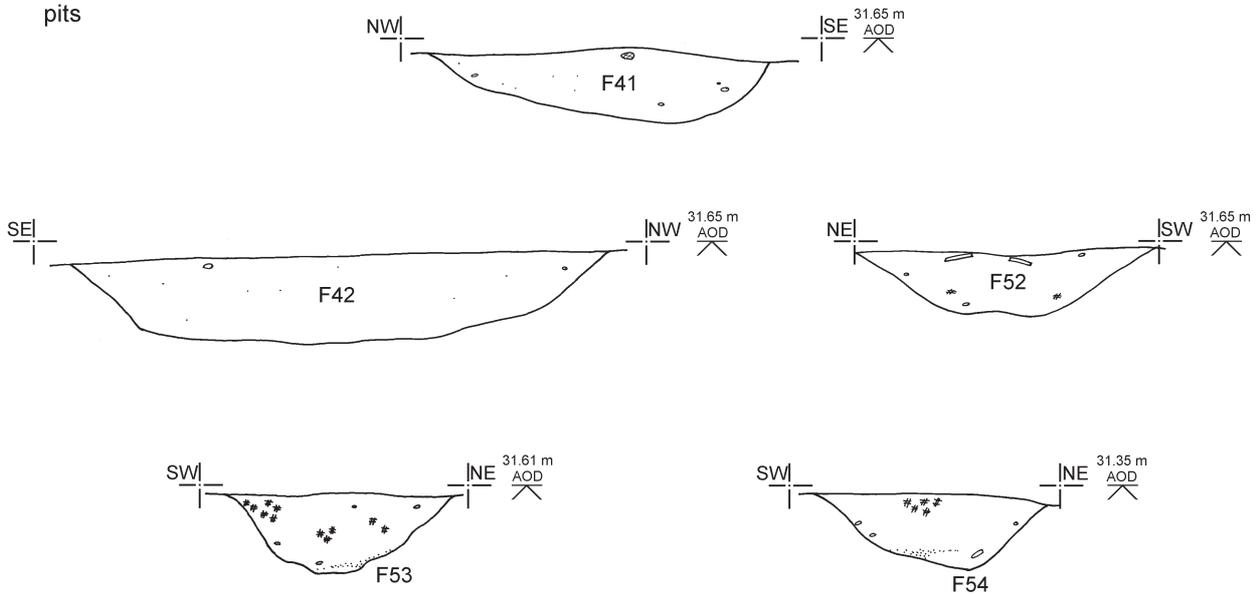


Fig 10 Site C: sections.

pits

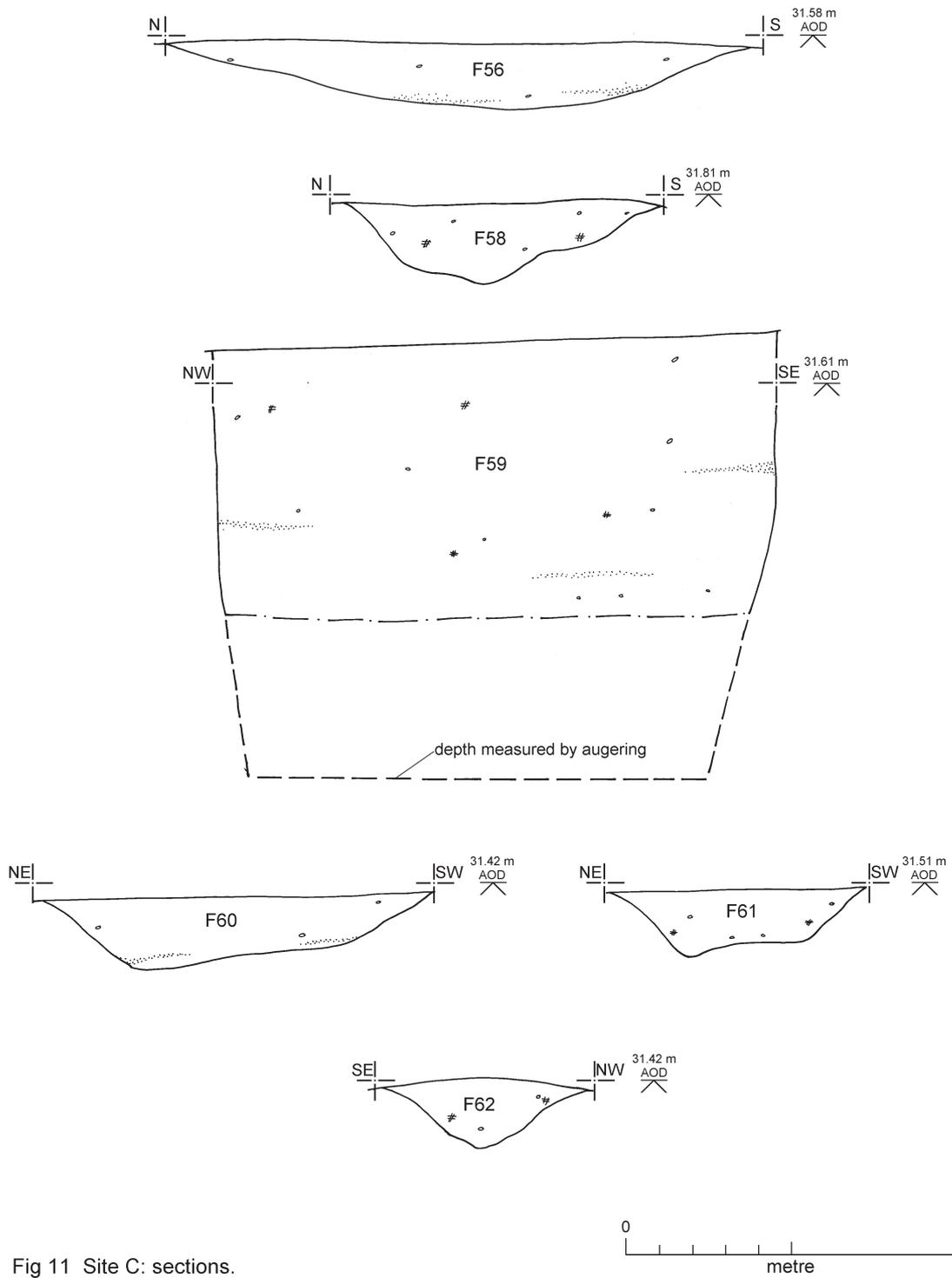


Fig 11 Site C: sections.

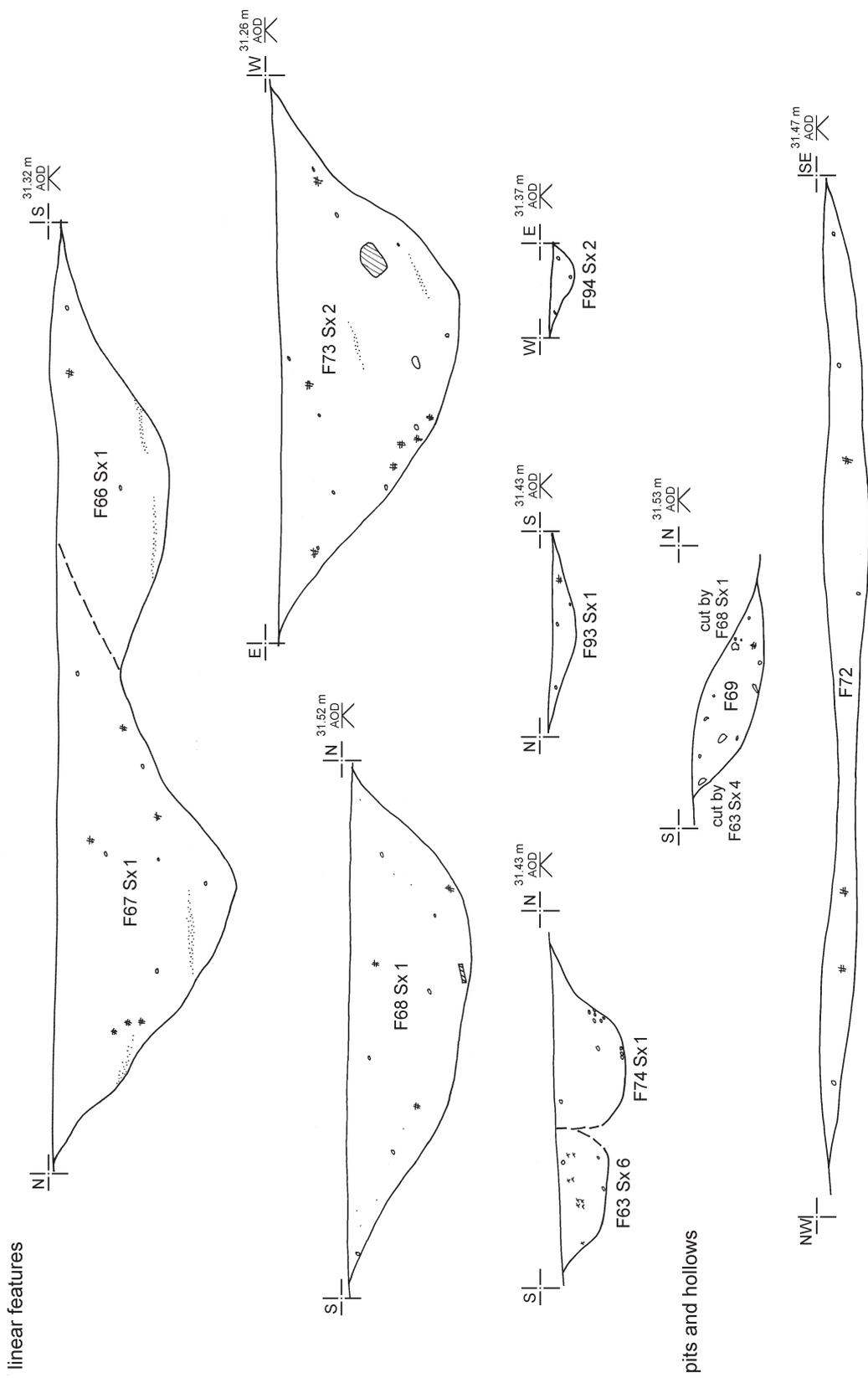


Fig 12 Site D: sections.

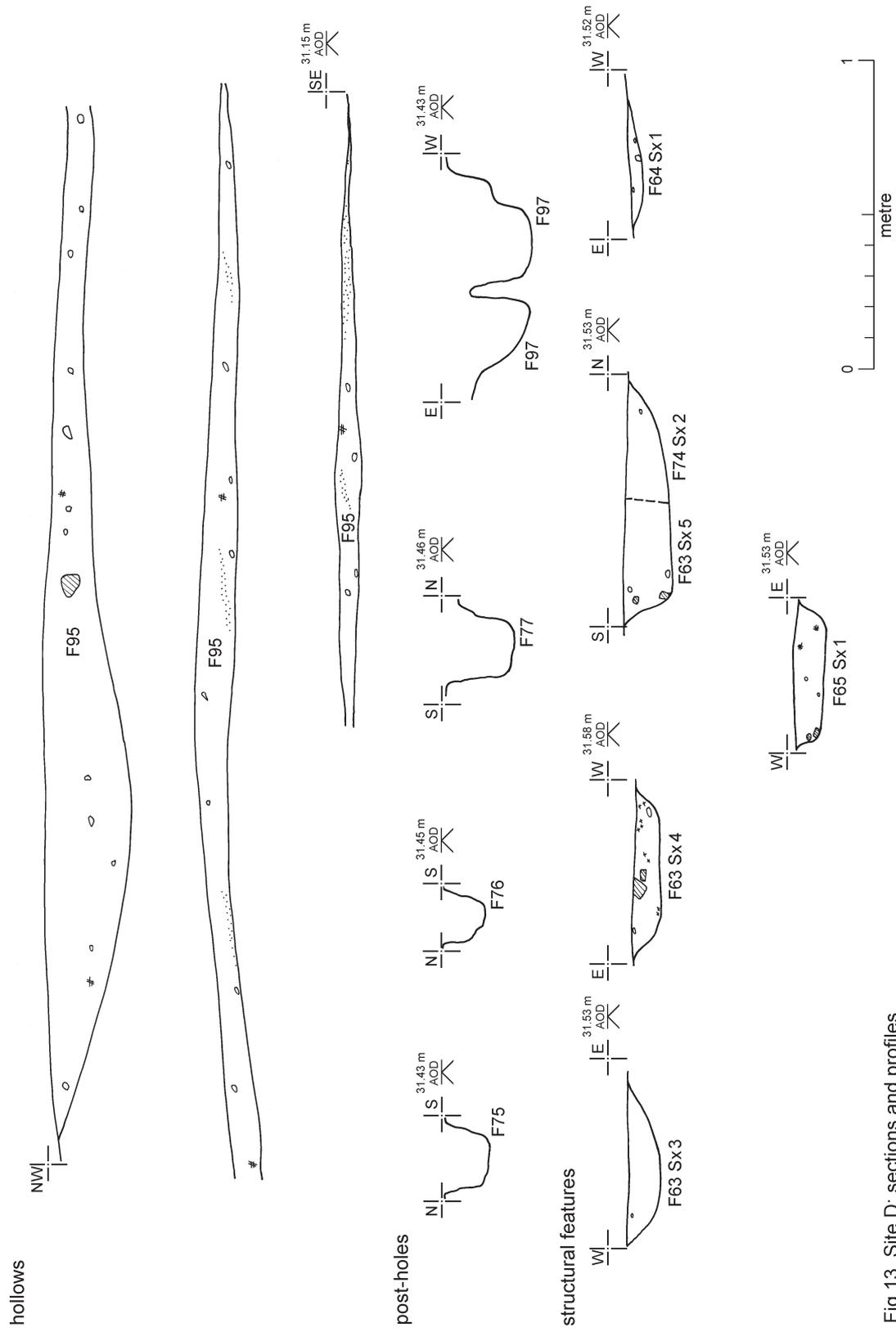


Fig 13 Site D: sections and profiles.

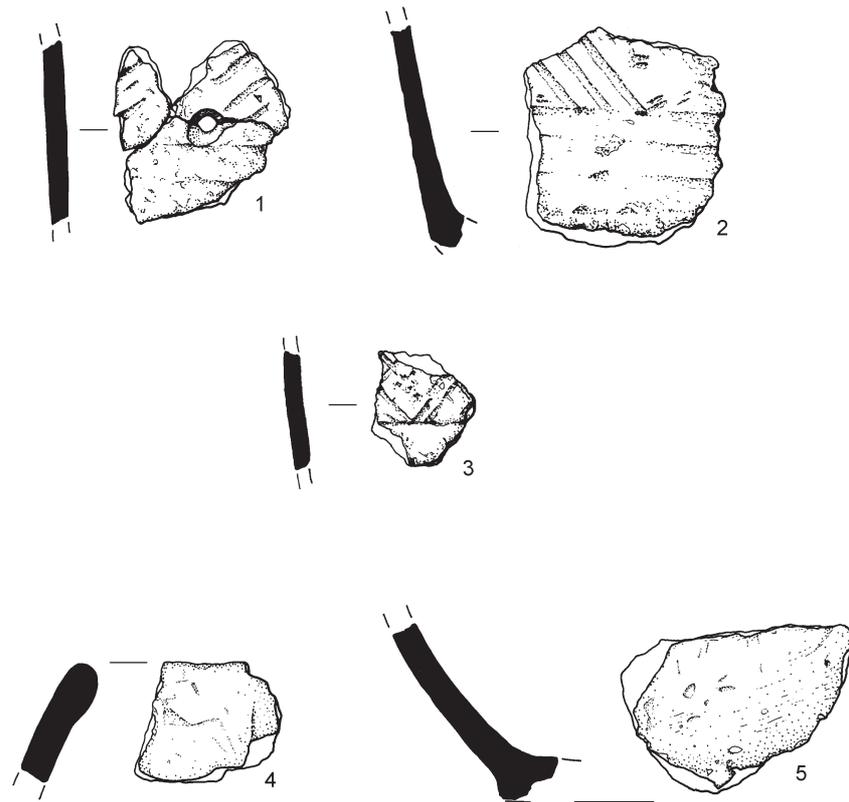


Fig 14 Prehistoric pottery.

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

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> Alienated Land Area S2 (south), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> Site A: TL 9928 2208 Site B: TL 9935 2209 Site C: TL 9957 2193 Site D: TL 9967 2197	<b>Site code:</b> Museum accession code 2007.25
<b>Type of work:</b> Excavation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> February-March 2007	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Site A, 35 sq m; Site B, 760 sq m; Site C, 2,500 sq m; Site D, 1,500 sq m (total area of 0.4795 hectares)
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related UAD nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 428 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Mesolithic/Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>Following an evaluation earlier in 2007, four sites with a total area of approximately 0.5 ha were excavated on the sports pitches south of the Roman Way Camp (ie on Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area S2 (south)), Sites A-D. This land is situated inside the oppidum of Camulodunum, with the Berechurch Dyke (one of Camulodunum's defences) extending along its eastern side.</i></p> <p><i>These excavations revealed a number of phases of occupation. Early prehistoric flints, Grooved Ware and a Beaker sherd may indicate a passing presence here in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages. The first permanent settlement is marked by a possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age round-house. A single ditch approximately at right-angles to the Berechurch Dyke may date to the Iron Age although a later (Anglo-Saxon or medieval) date is also possible. There was no firm evidence of Late Iron Age activity here, and only a minor Roman presence can be demonstrated, presumably because in both periods this was farmland inside the oppidum. However, a small stock control system probably used for the close handling of sheep and tentatively dated to the Roman period shows some pastoral use of this landscape. Elements of a farmstead's enclosure (probably fronting onto the medieval precursor of Berechurch Hall Road) and further field boundaries were laid out in the medieval period. These may have been maintained and added to up to the mid 18th century. At that time, a small agricultural building, possibly a barn, was erected. Later, but still in the 18th century, the old field system was rendered redundant by the creation of a large enclosure. This is shown on the Chapman and André map of 1777, and appears to contain a large building, which would have stood beyond the east edge of Site D. This enclosure was itself no longer used by the final quarter of the 19th century.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 404 (evaluation report)	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2007