

**Stage 1b archaeological evaluation,  
Alienated Land Area S2 (north and north-west),  
Colchester Garrison,  
Colchester, Essex**

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# 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by thirty one trial-trenches was carried out on the Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) Area N and NW, a site flanked by Roman Way (to the west), the Berechurch Dyke (to the east) the GAL Area S2 (south) 2007 excavation site (to the south), and the remaining part of the Roman Barracks (to the north).*

*Archaeological features were thinly spread, and modern disturbance has had a noticeable impact on the underlying archaeological sequence.*

*A small number of flints represent passing activity in the Neolithic period, but the first indication of permanent activity takes the form of three ditches dated to the prehistoric period, or else sharing alignment with dated prehistoric ditches found previously at Colchester Garrison. Together, these represent the fragmentary remains of an Iron Age, pre-oppidum landscape.*

*The principal result of the Area S2 N and NW evaluation has been the discovery of nine Roman field ditches defining a Roman farmed landscape which (again) shares the broad NW/SE or SW/NE alignment of the Roman landscape revealed by previous evaluations at Colchester Garrison. A principal component of the farming landscape was a gravel trackway which shared the alignment of the other Roman field ditches. Wheel ruts cut the surface of gravel trackway, and a number of post-holes are probably associated either with the trackway or the surrounding farmland.*

*The general lack of large quantities of Roman (or earlier) finds indicates that this was essentially a rural landscape, although finds such as quern fragments show that a farmstead or other settlement cannot be too far away.*

*The post-medieval landscape was more fragmentary than the Roman landscape, and consisted of a few ditch fragments and post-holes. Residual medieval pottery hints at an earlier phase of fields which has otherwise disappeared.*

*However the bulk of the post-medieval and modern features relate to the barracks themselves. Infrastructure and structural elements were identified across the site, as well as significant truncation no doubt caused when the Roman Barracks were remodelled and landscaped in the mid 20th century.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on a 'Stage 1b' archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching carried out ahead of Taylor Wimpey's Colchester Alienated Land development Areas S2 North and S2 North West (together termed S2 North previously) at the former Roman Barracks, Colchester Garrison (Fig 1). The land parcel is currently under the ownership of Taylor Wimpey for redevelopment.
- 2.2 The site is flanked by the Berechurch Dyke to the east, the GAL Area S2 (south) evaluation and excavation site to the south, Roman Way to the west, and the northern half of Roman Way Camp to the north.
- 2.3 The site coincided with the southern half of the Roman Way Camp, so the evaluation trenches were cut into a combination of grassed areas, areas of tarmac and concrete hardstanding (including the parade ground).
- 2.4 The site is centred on NGR TL 9950 2215 (Fig 1).
- 2.5 Due to constraints, only a small part of the trial trenching (0.9% sample) had previously been undertaken on behalf of RMPA Services in advance of outline planning permission in 2002 (Stage 1a). The archaeological strategy required the level of trenching for full planning permission to be at total of 3% by area. A further 1,514 square metres was required (following full planning) to make up the full 3% sample, and comprised a total of 841m linear metres of 1.8m wide trenches (Fig 2). The information obtained from the combined Stage 1a and 1b evaluations has been

used to determine whether further mitigation (excavations, watching briefs or avoidance strategies) are required ahead of or during the construction phase. The trial trenching has therefore been undertaken sufficiently in advance of the main construction phase to allow for the results to be assessed by the CBCAO and for RPS and CBCAO to agree any further mitigation that may be required. At present it is already established that the proposed road link connecting S2 North to the built out area S1 to the east, will require pre-excavation of the Berechurch Dyke to formation/ service depth level (once established). The full mitigation strategy will follow this evaluation stage.

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 A specific archaeological proposal (Written Scheme of Investigation or WSI) for Area S2 (north) has been submitted to and approved by the CBCAO (RPS 2009).
- 2.8 The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey in association with RPS Planning, between 2nd and 18th August 2010. Post-excavation work was carried out in August, September and October 2010.
- 2.9 In addition to the Archaeological Strategy (RPS 2004) and the Area S2 (north) WSI (RPS 2009), 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 for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). 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 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site* (CAT Report 97, by Kate Orr, 2000), and will only be summarised here.
- 3.2 The site (like much of the land south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre) falls 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 that 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 (LIA) and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. Apart from these two large centres (above), it is likely that there were a number of 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: figs 8, 11 here). 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 - *The Colchester Garrison PFI project, Colchester Essex: a report on the 2003 excavation of Areas 2, 6 and 10 - August to November 2003 - CAT Report 292 July 2005*) have established that they are latest Iron Age prehistoric/early-mid Romano-British in date. They represent the trackways, 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 moderate/high status late Middle Iron Age roundhouse 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. Within the Taylor Wimpey development, prehistoric features including a structure were found within Area Q, whilst 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 routeway (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 NE 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, Jan 2006, and forthcoming).
- 3.5 The east-west orientated circus is approximately 450m in length and 70m wide with a central 'spina' barrier and was used for chariot racing. Elements identified to date include the seating *cavea* within internal and external (buttressed wall), two entrances through the southern *cavea*, a lowered racetrack dirt surface (the removed topsoil was presumably used to construct *cavea* banks on which seating was constructed), a segment of the semi-circular end of the circus, a fragment of the starting gate structures and a monument base on the line of the spina. The Roman burial grounds tend to flank the circus and the routeway within J1.
- 3.6 Trial-trenching work was undertaken to the immediate east of S2 North at Area S1 in 2002 and was largely blank. 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 was indicated by its standing remains to the south of Berechurch Hall Road - where the dyke and bank are a Scheduled Ancient Monument).

- 3.7 The 2004 works 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 (fig 5 for location). 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, 9). The upper levels of the dyke will be impacted by the eastward link road from S2 North into the constructed area of S1 (figs 3 and 5). This link will be included within the S2 North development phase and the impacts upon the dyke (design details to be prepared) will require prior archaeological mitigation works (following this evaluation stage).
- 3.8 Area R (East) to the west of Roman Way also produced some evidence of prehistoric activity (CAT Report 207, September 2002). This included a ring gully, presumably of a roundhouse in trench R6.
- 3.9 The S2 (South) evaluation and excavation in 2007 to the south of S2 North and NW (CAT Report 428) provided the following results: Excavation Site A (south of S2 NW) contained a pit/tree throw of Iron Age date and undated post-holes, but was of little archaeological interest. The earliest remains were encountered within Site B (directly south of the eastern area of S2 NW) where a small post-hole produced a sherd of 'Beaker' pottery (late Neolithic to early Bronze Age) and a possible post-hole defined roundhouse apparently associated with late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery. A small ditch defined stock corralling system was also located within the excavation area and was possibly used for close confinement and sorting of sheep (narrow entrances). The system was poorly dated but may also have been prehistoric. The building in particular is likely to have been associated with two similarly dated pits found during the stage 1a evaluation in 2002 of the S2 North/NW evaluation area (see below) and may together indicate a zone of prehistoric activity.
- 3.10 Site C, located adjacent to Berechurch Hall Road (south of S2 North) included a Neolithic 'Grooved Ware' sherd within a tree-throw pit and a rectangular paddock/enclosure of medieval ditches linking to a wider field-system. A series of pits and post-holes within the enclosed area may indicate that this paddock was associated with a settlement fronting the medieval version of the road. Site D (located south of the south-east corner of S2 North) included a middle Iron Age pit/tree throw and a medieval ditch forming part of the field-system identified to the west in Site C. It was noted that the ditch may have recut an Iron Age version of the boundary. It was in turn recut by a post-medieval boundary ditch, which was later replaced by a second phase of ditched enclosure, shown on Chapman and André's Map of 1777. The enclosure was contemporary with an agricultural building interpreted as a small cruck style barn, defined by a rectangle of foundation trenches with a southern porch.

3.11 The southern area of Roman Barracks (Area S2) was partially evaluated in 2002 (CAT Report 207) as Stage 1a (0.9% sample) and comprised 9 trenches (fig 2). Of these trenches S1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were located in the western area now identified as S2 North West whilst trenches S6, 7, 8 and 9 were located over the remainder of S2 North. Specifically in S2 North West the two trenches (1 and 3) in the western area contained three undated ditches, the central trench (2) was heavily disturbed by services, but the two southern trenches (4 and 5) produced both late Iron Age/early Roman ditches and (in the case of the longer trench 5) a prehistoric pit. The area now termed S2 North included a 100m long southern trench (6) that produced a smashed early Iron Age vessel, potentially associated with settlement and several possible late iron Age/Roman field ditches. The trenches in the south-eastern area (8 and 9) also contained single undated ditches whilst the north-eastern trench (7) was blank. In summary there are hints of prehistoric activity, possibly small scale settlement in the southern area of S2NW and S2North. The trial-trenching also suggested (although this will need to be confirmed) a rural agricultural landscape throughout the Roman period, and appears at present (pending completion of the evaluation) to have remained agricultural through the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods until the construction of Roman Barracks in the mid 20th century.

## **4 Aims and strategy**

The general aim of the evaluation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected area. The overarching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:

- To identify whether the concentration of early Iron Age pottery within evaluation stage 1a trenches S4 and S5 are illustrative of wider prehistoric activity/settlement, or whether the pottery was deposited within contemporary landscape features, away from their settlement source.
- To elucidate the nature of the Iron Age landscape prior to and during the oppidum period.
- To establish whether there are any Late Iron Age or early Roman landscape features that may have be related specifically to the Berechurch Dyke, located to the east of S2 (North).

## 5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2- 8)

This section gives an archaeological summary of each of the 31 trenches with context and finds dating information.

### Trench 1: summary

Located in the NW corner of the S2 (N and NW) evaluation area (hereafter referred to as 'the site'), T1 contained two archaeological features: ditch F76 and natural pit F77.

Ditch F76 was aligned NW/SE, an alignment shared with other prehistoric and Roman field ditches at Colchester Garrison. Although undated, it may be assigned to the Roman period on the basis of this alignment. The same ditch was recorded in the 2002 Stage 1a evaluation T1 (15m to the SE of the current trench). Also, its alignment makes it reasonably certain that it is the same ditch as F79 in T3 and F99 in T20 of the current evaluation.

F77 was a small irregular cut whose fill contained manganese flecking, indicative of a natural origin (perhaps a tree-throw pit).

Trench 1 was excavated through a modern topsoil (L1), and post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 1: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F76	ditch	--	undated – Roman?
F77	natural pit	--	-

### Trench 2: summary

Located in the western side of the site, T2 contained no archaeological features (a defunct modern service duct was observed at the south end of the trench).

### Trench 3: summary

Located on the western edge of the site, T3 contained two ditches (F79 and F81) and a pit (F80).

Ditch F79 is aligned NW/SE, in common with the Roman field system first identified at the Garrison in the PFI fieldwork of 2002 (CAT Report 207). The same ditch has been identified as F76 in T1 to the NW, and as F99 in T20 to the SE. Fragments of lava quern stone were recovered from the fill of F79. Lava querns were not imported into Britain until the mid-1st century AD, and so this feature is likely to be of Roman date.

F81 was the south terminus of a ditch whose alignment (almost N-S) differed slightly from that of F79. Some prehistoric ditches on this alignment were identified in the 2007 evaluation of Area S2 (south) in 2007 (CAT Report 404, fig 2), and it may well be the case that this ditch, though undated by finds, is of prehistoric date.

F80 had a leached-out fill, indicating that it was of natural origin (such as a tree-throw pit. however the profile is even and minor charcoal flecking may suggest stump removal during agricultural clearance rather than natural wastage.

### Trench 3: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F79	ditch	quern	Roman
F80	natural pit	--	undated
F81	ditch	--	undated (prehistoric ?)

### Trench 4: summary

Located in the northern part of the site, T4 contained two natural features: pit F55 and ditch F56. Neither of the features contained datable material. Both had leached-out fills and irregular, indicative of a natural origin. F55 may have been a tree-throw pit, and F56 a glacial channel.

T4 was excavated through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2) which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 4: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F55	natural pit	--	undated
F56	natural linear	--	undated

### Trench 5: summary

Located on the northern edge of the site (in the centre of the former parade square), T5 contained significant archaeological deposits, mainly in the centre of the trench.

Two areas of compacted gravel surfacing (F41 and F65) may be the remains of consolidated gravel surfaces of trackways. F41 is undated, but F65 contained a Roman *tegula* tile fragment and residual Iron Age sherds. Features F44, F50, F53, F60, F61, F63 and F82 are also on the same alignment, and may therefore be associated with the gravel surfaces. As they are generally cut into the gravel, it seems reasonable to interpret them as wheel-ruts. The ruts and gravel surfaces are probably the remains of trackways aligned broadly NW/SE, which is the alignment of the Roman field system identified previously at the Garrison (eg, in Areas 6 and 10, excavated in 2003: CAT Report 292), and which is reflected in ditch alignments elsewhere on this site (eg, in T1 and T3 above).

Also associated with the two potential trackways are clusters of post-holes (referred to as Groups 1 and 2). Group 1 (F45-F49, F60 and F64) are associated with gravel surface F41, the majority being on its eastern side, with two isolated examples (F60 and F63) on its west side. Group 2 (F66-F75, F83-F87) are associated with gravel surface F65. As with Group 1, the Group 2 post-holes were, for the most part, located on the eastern side of gravel surface F65, with isolated examples to the west (F66, F74 and F75). These post clusters may be the remains of fence-lines related to stock management.

Ditch F43 was on an alignment at right-angles to the trackways. This may indicate that it is of Roman date, and part of the field system associated with the trackways. A similarly-aligned ditch was seen 25m to the SW (F51 in T7), although not in T6 75m to the SW.

Pit F42 to the west of F41 was probably associated with the trackway and surrounding agricultural landscape. Pit F36 in the east end of the trench contained modern material compressed into its fill (it also contained a residual flint).

T4 was excavated through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), and post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4). L3 was substantially thicker in the central part of T5, possibly filling a hollow-way caused by the repeated movement of traffic along the trackway.

### Trench 5 : context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F36	pit	flint	modern
F37	natural linear	--	-
F41	compacted gravel (track-way)	--	undated – Roman?
F42	pit	--	undated – Roman?
F43	ditch	--	undated – Roman?
F44	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
F45-F49	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F50	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
F52	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F53	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
F60-F62	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
F63	stake-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F64	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F65	compacted gravel (track-way)	<b>8:</b> ?MIA/LIA sherds <b>10:</b> Roman tile fragment ( <i>tegula</i> )	Roman
F66-F75	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F82	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
F83-F86	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F87	wheel rut	--	undated – Roman?
L2	subsoil	<b>5:</b> Roman tile fragment ( <i>tegula</i> )	

### Trench 6: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T6 contained no archaeological features. A modern service run (probably a communications cable) crossed the western end of T6.

### Trench 7: summary

Located, as was T5, on the northern edge of the site (in the centre of the former parade square), T7 contained two features: natural pit F40, and ditch F51. The pit had an irregular profile and a leached-out fill with traces of manganese (was this a tree-throw pit?).

Ditch F51 aligns with and is undoubtedly the same as F43 in T5, 25m to the NE. This ditch was part of the Roman field system associated with the trackway identified in T5.

T7 was excavated through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), which sealed features and natural at the south end of the trench. Post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2) was identified in the northern half of T7. This sealed natural sand and gravel (L4).

### Trench 7: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F40	natural pit	--	-
F51	ditch	--	undated- Roman?

### Trench 8: summary

Located in the northern part of the site (and on the southern edge of the former parade ground), T8 contained a number of archaeological features.

Natural pits F38 and F39 (both undated, and with irregular profiles indicating possible tree-throw pits).

Other archaeological features were seen in section at the eastern end of the trench. These included a compacted gravel surface (F106) truncated by modern activity and sealed directly by L3. This appears to be a continuation of the gravel surface(s) F41/F65 in T5. Associated with the gravel surface (as in T5) were a number of post-holes (F107-F111) which are likely to be the remains of a fence line associated with the trackway and the wider agricultural landscape.

T8 was excavated through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), which sealed features and natural at the west end of the trench. Post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2) was identified in the eastern part of T8. This sealed natural sand and gravel (L4).

### Trench 8: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F38	natural pit	--	undated
F39	natural pit	--	undated
F106	compacted gravel surface (track-way)	--	undated – Roman?
F107	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F108	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F109	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F110	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?
F111	post-hole	--	undated – Roman?

### Trench 9: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T9 contained no archaeological features (a modern service run was observed in the south end of the trench (drainage?).

### Trench 10: summary

Located on the northern edge of the site, T10 contained no archaeological features. Substantial modern disturbance coincided with the N end of T10. Its NW part has been subject to recent demolition associated with the construction of the new Merville barracks complex to the north, and the removal of the former accommodation blocks of Roman barracks. Parts of the footings of the removed buildings could be seen in T10.

### Trench 11: summary

Located in the eastern half of the site, T11 contained a number of archaeological features. Undated ditch (F26) had a right-angled plan, and may be the corner of an enclosure. Post-holes F27 and F28 may be associated with F26. F26 cut an earlier and undated gully F30.

Pits F29, F31 and F32 all appear to be of natural origin, with shallow irregular profiles and leached-out fills (tree-throw pits?). Charcoal deposits in F32 may

indicate deliberate tree-stump removal as part of land clearance for agriculture, rather than natural wastage.

T11 was excavated through modern humic topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 11: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F26	ditch	--	undated
F27	post-hole	--	undated
F28	post-hole	--	undated
F29	natural pit	--	-
F30	gully	--	undated
F31	natural pit	--	-
F32	natural pit	--	-

#### Trench 12: summary

Located on the eastern side of the site, T12 contained a ditch (F17) which shares a NE/SW alignment with F43 in T5 and F51 in T7. Finds recovered from its fill indicate a Roman date. It is undoubtedly a field ditch forming a part of the Roman field system whose principal component on this site is the trackway seen in T5 and T8.

T12 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 12: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F17	ditch	3: Roman sherd: 1st-mid 2nd?	Roman

#### Trench 13: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of the evaluation site, T13 contained seven features, the majority of which appear to be of natural origin (either tree-throw pits, or glacial channels: F1-F3, F57-F59).

Pit F4 was a post-medieval or modern field ditch (coal and slate fragments in its fill).

T13 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 13: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F1	natural pit	--	-
F2	natural linear	--	-
F3	natural linear	--	-
F4	pit	slate, coal	modern
F57	natural pit	--	-
F58	natural pit	--	-
F59	natural pit	--	-

### Trench 14: summary

Located in the SW corner of the site, T14 contained two ditches (F98 and F101) and a pit (F102). F98 approximately shares an alignment with field ditches (undated but presumed Roman) in T7 (F51) and T5 (F43) to the NE, and may therefore be a Roman field ditch forming part of the Roman farmed (the prehistoric sherds in its fill may be residual here).

Probable pit or ditch terminal F101 appears to be cut by F98, its leached-out fill indicating a possible prehistoric date. Pit F102 was also most probably natural in origin (tree-throw pit?). All of the features were cut by a defunct modern service conduit (communications?).

Like the other trenches in soft areas of the evaluation, T14 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 14: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F98	ditch	13: Neo-BA/EIA sherds	Roman?
F101	ditch terminal	--	Prehistoric?
F102	natural pit	--	-

### Trenches 15, 16: summary

Located on the western side of the site, T15 and T16 contained no archaeological material or features.

### Trench 17: summary

Located in the western-central part of the site, T17 contained a possible tree-throw pit (F54). T17 also contained a service run (drainage?) cutting the southern edge of F54.

T17 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 17: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F54	tree-throw pit	--	-

### Trench 18: summary

Located in an area of hard standing in the centre of the site, T18 contained no archaeological features, although a modern service run (water?) was seen in the central part of the trench.

### Trench 19: summary

Located on the south-western edge of the site, T19 contained two archaeological features: a field ditch F103 and a post-hole F105. Material recovered from the fill of F103 indicates a late medieval or post medieval in origin.

The post-hole feature F105 is isolated and contained no finds. It may be associated with ditch F103.

T19 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 19: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F103	ditch	15: medieval sherd 13th-16th cent, peg-tile fragments	Late medieval or post-medieval
F105	post-hole	--	undated

### Trench 20: summary

Located on the southern edge of the site, T20 contained a ditch (F99). Its alignment indicates the possibility that it is the same ditch as F79 in T3 and F76 in T1 of the current evaluation. However, it was shallow with a gently sloping profile, unlike the steeper-sided and deeper Roman ditches. Its fill contained prehistoric pottery, indicating a potential prehistoric date. F79 in T3 contained Roman lava quern, so if this is the same ditch line, then the BA/EIA pottery is residual.

It is therefore uncertain whether this is a prehistoric ditch whose alignment is shared by the later (Roman) field system, or whether it is a prehistoric ditch.

T19 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 20: context and finds data

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F99	ditch	14: Pottery Neo-BA/EIA	prehistoric or Roman?

### Trench 21: summary

Located on the southern edge of the site in the officers' tennis court, T21 contained two ditches (F78 and F96). The alignment of the ditches indicates that they may intercept or join at right-angles some 6m south of the trench edge, to form a potential enclosure (presumably of agricultural function). Pottery recovered from the fill of F78 indicates a Roman date for the ditch (and ?enclosure).

The trench was positioned and cut through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), and a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), this sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4)

### Trench 21: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F78	ditch	7: Roman sherds, 1-2nd	Roman
F96	ditch	--	undated

### Trench 22: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T22 contained no archaeological features.

T22 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 23: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T23 contained a number of features, the majority of which were natural (tree-throw?) pits: F89, F90 and F94 and natural ditches (glacial channels?): F88, F91-F93).

However, ditches F92 and F93 had regular profiles and shared an alignment observed in other parts of the S2 site. Ditch F92 is dated to the Roman period or later by virtue of cutting an earlier feature (F95) which contained early Roman pottery. Ditch F93 is dated by a piece of tile which was probably part of an imbrex roof tile. It is also possible that this was a peg-tile, thereby alternatively dating the ditch to the later medieval or post-medieval period.

The ditches were probably agricultural, forming either a narrow trackway, or field boundaries within the wider Roman farmed landscape. A modern service run (drainage?) along the western edge of T23 truncated all of the features. This drain was probably associated with the sergeants mess to the west.

T23 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 23: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F88	natural linear	--	-
F89	natural pit	--	-
F90	natural pit	--	-
F91	natural gully	--	-
F92	ditch	--	Roman
F93	ditch	12: ?imbrex fragment (or peg-tile?)	Roman? (or later?)
F94	natural pit	--	-
F95	ditch	11: probable early Roman sherd; undated fired clay	early Roman

### Trench 24: summary

Located in the centre of the site to the east of the former RHQ building, T24 contained no archaeological features. However, the trench was heavily disturbed by a large number of modern services running into the RHQ building (electricity, communications, water and drainage).

T24 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 25: summary

Located in the central eastern area of the site T25 contained two undated features: ditch F33 and pit F34. These are both likely to be natural in origin, owing to the shallow nature of the cuts. However the trench was positioned in an area of hard-standing and the trench section shows that there was some degree of reduction in the construction of the surface (L3) which is likely to have removed some stratigraphy. T25 was cut through modern tarmac hard standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), and a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), this sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4)

### Trench 25: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F33	gully	--	undated
F34	pit	--	undated

### Trench 26: summary

Located in an area of hard-standing (former tennis courts) in the south-eastern part of the site, T26 contained an undated pit (F18) whose profile indicates a natural

origin (possibly a tree-throw pit), although minor charcoal flecking may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal as part of land clearance.

T26 was cut through modern tarmac hard-standing and its associated sub-base material (L3), and a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), this sealed natural sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 26: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F18	pit	--	undated

#### Trench 27: summary

Located on the eastern edge of the site adjacent to the Berechurch dyke, T27 contained five archaeological features. Two appear to be natural linears or elongated tree-throw pits with irregular profiles (F12 and F15), and one a (tree-throw?) pit with leached fills and slightly irregular profiles (F7).

The fill of ditch F5 contained pottery whose fabric type is found in vessels throughout a fairly broad period (Neolithic to Iron Age). Ditch F5 may be associated with the prehistoric field systems seen elsewhere at the Garrison, but is on a similar alignment to the Roman field ditches.

Pit F16 cut both F5 and F15. Its fill contained modern brick fragments, and it is likely to be a military feature associated with the former Roman Barracks.

T27 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 27: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F5	ditch	1: Neo-BA/EIA pottery	BA/IA?
F7	natural pit	--	undated
F12	natural linear	--	undated
F15	natural linear	--	undated
F16	pit	brick fragments (not recovered)	modern

#### Trench 28: summary

Located on the southern edge of the site T28 contained four natural features: linears (F19, F21) with irregular profiles typical of glacial activity, and pits (F20, F23) with irregular profiles and substantial deposits of manganese in their respective fills, indicating either glacial activity or tree throws. In addition to the natural features there was significant modern disturbance of the eastern end of the trench, primarily by a large water main (the easement of which was observed by CAT in 2007).

T28 was cut through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

#### Trench 28: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F19	natural linear	--	undated
F20	natural pit	--	undated
F21	natural linear	--	undated
F23	natural pit	--	undated

### Trench 29: summary

Located in the south-eastern part of the site, T29 contained three natural features. Linears F22 and F25, and pit F24.

T29 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 29: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F22	natural linear	--	undated
F24	natural pit	--	undated
F25	natural linear	--	undated

### Trench 30: summary

Located in the south eastern corner of the site, T30 contained seven features, six of which (F6, F9-F11, F13-F14) were probably natural features. F8 at the north end of the trench was the exception. Ditch F8 shared a NE/SW alignment with F43 in T5 and F51 in T7. Finds recovered from its fill indicate a Roman date. It was probably a field ditch (albeit a relatively deep example) forming part of the Roman field system whose principal component on this site is the trackway seen in T5 and T8. However, its scale (148cm wide and 72cm deep) could alternatively indicate that it formed part of an enclosure ditch.

T30 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 30: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F6	natural linear	--	-
F8	ditch	2: Roman pottery, 1st cent	Roman
F9	natural pit	--	-
F10	natural pit	--	-
F11	natural pit	--	-
F13	natural pit	--	-
F14	natural linear	--	-

### Trench 31: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of the site, T31 was excavated to compensate for trenching lost as a result of tree-protection fencing and minor problems of accessibility in the west of the site.

T31 contained a ditch (F100). The trench was positioned to trace the potential continuation of F17 in T12. It is possible that F100 is the terminal end of F17, but the alignment was slightly off-line, and the profile differed. It is more likely that F17 terminated somewhere between T12 and T31, and that F100 was an unassociated feature ditch of probable agricultural nature (its even profile makes it unlikely to be have been natural).

T31 was excavated through topsoil (L1), which sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2), which sealed natural geological sand and gravel deposits (L4).

### Trench 31: context and finds data.

Feature	Description	Dated finds	Period
F100	ditch	--	undated

## 6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

### 6.1 Introduction

The types of bulk finds material and the total quantities recovered are set out in Table 1. These are listed by context in Section 12 (below). In addition one metal small find (SF1) was recovered and this is described separately below.

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	18	60
Ceramic building material (CBM)	5	151
Lava quern	5	202
Worked flint	2	7
Burnt flint	1	21
Fired clay	1	10

Table 1. Type and quantities of finds

### 6.2 Pottery

#### Introduction

The prehistoric pottery fabrics broadly follow those used for recording assemblages in Essex (Brown 1988). The Roman and post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester fabric series: *CAR 7* (post-Roman) and *CAR 10* (Roman). Additional fabric type Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW) has been introduced this is described separately below. The pottery fabrics recorded together with the quantity of each fabric type is listed in Table 2. The pottery is listed by context in Table 3.

Additional Roman pottery fabric type:

Fabric RCW, Romanising coarse ware. Sherd thickness is generally medium to thin. Surfaces are dark grey-brown. The fabric is grey-brown with red-brown margins and contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog. The fabric sometimes has a tendency to laminate (see Going 1987, Fabric 45).

Fabrics	Fabric name	no	wt (g)
<b>prehistoric</b>			
B	Hand-made, flint-tempered, S-M size flints	1	2
C	Hand-made, flint-tempered, S-M size flints with occ. L flint	4	13
I	Hand-made, sand-tempered, S-M size common sand	4	6
	total	9	21
<b>Roman</b>			
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	1	1
GX	Roman sandy grey wares	4	7
RCW	Romanising coarse ware	3	10
	total	8	18
<b>medieval</b>			
21	Medieval sandy orange wares	1	21

Table 2. Fabric names and quantity of pottery by fabric type

Tr. no	ctxt	finds no.	Fabric code	no.	wt (g)	abr	description	spot date
T5	F65	8	I	4	6	**	dark sandy fabric	?MIA-LIA
T12	F17	3	GX	1	5		flat plain bowl rim	1-M2C?
T14	F98	13	C	3	10	**	some sand visible in fabric, v. similar to F99 sherd	Neo-BA/EIA
T19	F103	15	21	1	21	*	thick, flat sherd	13-16C

Tr. no	ctxt	finds no.	Fabric code	no.	wt (g)	abr	description	spot date
T20	F99	14	C	1	3	**	some sand visible in fabric, v. similar to F98 sherd	Neo-BA/EIA
T21	F78	7	RCW	1	2			1-E2C
			?RCW	1	1	**	oxidised, ?surface worn away	1C
			GX	3	2		frags.	Rom
T23	F95	11	?DJ	1	1		soft red sandy fabric. prob Rom	E Rom
T27	F5	1	B	1	2		dense s-m size flint	Neo-BA/EIA
T30	F8	2	RCW	1	7	**	oxidised, ?surface worn away, some burn out organic temper	1C

**Table 3. Pottery by context**

### Pottery discussion

The pottery was recovered from nine contexts in nine of the evaluation trenches. Much of the pottery is extremely fragmentary with small abraded sherds, some of which are difficult to identify with certainty. The average sherd weight about 3g, but drops to just over 2g if the single largest sherd (T19, F103 finds number 15) is not included. Also, a few small fragments (weighing less than 1g) from F95 (T23) finds number 11, could not be classified and might be fired clay. These are not included in the pottery tables (Tables 2 & 3) or the bulk finds appendix (Section 12 below). All of the sherds are body sherds apart from one small Roman rim fragment from F17 (T12).

It is clear that there are sherds of pottery dating to the prehistoric period, the Roman period and to the medieval period (Table 2).

The prehistoric pottery consists of flint-tempered sherds (containing burnt crushed flint fragments) and sand-tempered sherds. The flint-tempered sherds, recovered from F98 (T14) F99 (T20) & F5 (T27) cannot be more closely dated than as Neolithic-Bronze Age/Early Iron Age; but are unlikely to date later than this. The hand-made sand-tempered sherds from F65 (T5) can be dated as Middle Iron Age, although a date overlapping with the Late Iron Age date (in the early-mid 1st century BC) is also possible.

There is a surprisingly small quantity of pottery which can be dated to the Roman period. The more closely datable sherds among this small collection are of early Roman (1st century) date. One sherd from F78 (T21) is clearly a Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW), other abraded sherds from the same context and from F8 (T30) can also probably be classified Fabric RCW. These can probably be dated to the 1st century and might be pre-Flavian. The only other closely datable Roman sherd is a small rim in a sandy grey ware (Fabric GX). This sherd is from a plain, flat-rimmed bowl and as such probably dates to the period of the 1st century. It was recovered from F17 (T12).

A sherd of medieval sandy orange ware (Fabric 21), which can be dated broadly as 13th-16th century, was recovered from F013 (T19). At 21g, this is by far the largest sherd recovered during the evaluation.

## 6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

### Introduction

Only a very small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. This consists of a total of five pieces, together weighing 151g. These came from four contexts located in three of the trenches (Table 4)

Tr. no.	ctxt	finds no.	type	description	abr.	no.	wt (g)	spot date
T5	F65	10	?Rom tile	poss. tegula piece, scar from ?flange at edge, medium sand fabric, very abraded, base thickness 16 mm,	**	1	45	Rom
	L2	5	Rom tile	tegula, orange/red, medium sand fabric, base thickness 16 mm, height at flange 45 mm (recovered from L2 above F42)	*	1	87	Rom
T19	F103	15	tile	?peg-tile (or poss imbrex, edge frag.) pieces, red fabric, medium sand, one with pale slit inclusions, 10-11 mm thick		2	10	?med/post-med
T23	F93	12	tile	?peg-tile (or poss imbrex, edge frag.) piece, red fabric, medium quartz sand inclusions, 10 mm thick		1	9	?med/post-med

**Table 4. Ceramic building material (CBM) by context**

### CBM Discussion

All of the CBM recovered is red in colour with medium sanded fabrics which have few other visible inclusions. Where significant other inclusions do occur these consist of pale firing clay/silt. The fabrics are broadly described alongside the descriptions of the tile pieces in Table 4.

The earliest dated CBM is a piece of flanged Roman *tegula* roof tile. This abraded piece came from L2 (T5), but was located directly above F42 and is probably associated with that feature. Another piece of very abraded tile with a lip along one edge, possibly where a flange was removed, is also probably a piece of a Roman *tegula*. The thickness of the base of these tiles, at 16 mm, suggests a mid second century date or later (Black 2004)

The remainder of the CBM consists of small pieces from thin, flat tiles, about 10-11 mm thick. These pieces are probably from peg-tiles, however the edges of Roman *imbrex* tiles are of commonly of similar thickness and can be quite flat. That the identified Roman tile pieces (above) are more abraded than these thin tile pieces might support an identification as peg-tile. Also, the fragments from the context F103 (T19) would not be out of place as peg-tile as pottery from this features can be dated to the medieval period. The other piece was recovered from the context F93 (T23).

The probable peg-tile pieces themselves cannot be closely dated. It can be noted that based on the archaeological sequence at Harwich (Essex), peg-tiles appear from the 13th century, but probably only become relatively common from the 14th century onward (Ryan 1993, 97). The standard late medieval peg-tile remains basically unchanged into modern times.

## 6.4 Worked flint

*Incorporating comments by Adam Wightman*

### Introduction

Only two pieces of worked flint were recovered. They are listed and described in Table 5. One came from the surface of F36 (T5) and the other from F78 (T1). Both pieces are blades and can be dated to the period of the earlier Neolithic. One of the blades might have been made into a burin (Butler 2005, 131-32 & fig 55). Neither piece has any patination.

Tr no.	ctxt	finds no	type	no..	description	spot date
T5	F36	4	blade	1	small blade, possible striking platform preparation scars, flake scars on dorsal face, distal end broken/snapped off & spall chipped from edge, possible burin but may be retouched where the spall has been removed	late Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic
T21	F78	7	blade	1	blade, lipped at distal end, striking platform preparation, cortex covering part (one side) of dorsal face, flake/blade scar on other side of dorsal face and this edge has ?use damage within area of natural concave section of edge, some edge damage also on lipped (distal) end	late Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic

**Table 5. Worked flint by context**

## 6.5 Miscellaneous finds

A small number of other finds were recovered as single examples of a particular finds type (Section 12, below) and are reported here together.

A single piece of fired clay (weight 10 g) was recovered from F53 (T5) finds number 6. It is irregular, but rounded and quite abraded. The piece has a pale coloured, medium sanded fabric. This is the only find from this context and cannot be closely dated; however, a later prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age), Roman or medieval dating is most likely.

A small piece of burnt flint (21 g) came from, F95 (T23) finds number 11. This context also contained a sherd of pottery dated as early Roman. Burnt flint is commonly associated with a prehistoric date and other finds which can be dated to the prehistoric period (worked flint and a small fragment of prehistoric pottery) were recovered from the site. However as a single small fragment it cannot be closely dated.

## 6.6 Small finds

A single metal small find was recovered (SF 1). This is a section of an iron knife blade and is described below. This was recovered from a context which also contained a medieval pottery sherd dated to the period of the 12th-16th century. The limited degree of corrosion does not suggest a residual Roman piece and if complete the blade could be similar to a medieval example in *CAR 5* (fig 78, no. 3108).

SF 1, F103 (T19) finds number 16.

Single edged iron (Fe) knife blade. Corroded but recognisable as a knife blade. The blade is triangular in section with a broad flat back 4-5 mm wide. The tip blade itself has been snapped, possibly where it met a tang for the handle, and the very tip also broken away. The surviving blade length is 105 mm and the maximum surviving depth of the blade piece is 19 mm. The weight of the piece is 30 g.

## 6.7 Finds discussion

The evaluation produced only a small quantity of finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date.

The earliest dated of the finds recovered are worked flints. These are two blades, one of which might be a burin, which can be dated typologically to the late Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic. A small quantity of abraded prehistoric pottery was also recovered, both flint-tempered and sand-tempered. The flint-tempered sherds can be broadly dated to the period of the Neolithic-Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The few hand made sand-tempered sherds are probably of Middle or early Late Iron Age date (c 400/350-50 BC).

Surprisingly there is only a very small quantity of Roman finds, consisting of just eight or so small pieces and fragments of pottery and two pieces of roof tile. Almost all of this material, including the tile, is abraded suggesting a significant depositional history prior to residing in the contexts from which it was recovered. The more closely dated pottery suggests an early date in the Roman period, that is 1st century and possibly pre-Flavian. However the relatively thin bases of the *tegula* roof tiles, based on current understanding, are indicative of a date in the mid 2nd century or later. It is noted that there is no Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery present among the small assemblage.

There is a single piece of medieval coarse ware pottery which can be dated to the 13th-16th century. This came from F103 (T19) and tile pieces associated with this feature, also that with F93 (T23), are probably from peg-tiles dating to the medieval or post-medieval period. Most of an iron knife blade (SF1) was also recovered from F103 and is possibly of medieval date.

## 7 Discussion

### General

The GAL Area N and NW evaluation has revealed a relatively low level of archaeological activity. In places, this was due to modern disturbance, which has had a noticeable impact on the underlying archaeological sequence.

Despite this, and in common with other areas of land investigated as part of the Colchester Garrison PFI project, there was evidence for phases of field systems dating to the prehistoric, Roman, and post-medieval periods.

Eight of the thirty-one trenches contained no significant archaeological features (some had modern service runs, etc). The total number of excavated features, by period, was as follows:

prehistoric	3
Roman	7
Roman?	33
medieval	0
post-medieval and modern	3
undated	5
natural features	47

### Prehistory

Two late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints are the earliest evidence for human activity. However, it seems likely that these represent passing activity here, and not permanent settlement. The first indication of permanent activity takes the form of a field ditch containing prehistoric (probably Iron Age) pottery, and a two other ditch fragments whose alignment is similar to prehistoric ditches found previously at Colchester Garrison. Together, these represent the fragmentary remains of an Iron Age, pre-oppidum landscape.

In addition to these two ditch fragments, residual prehistoric pottery was found in three Roman ditches.

### Roman period

The principal result of the Area S2 N and NW evaluation has been the discovery of nine field ditches defining a Roman farmed landscape which shares the broad NW/SE or SW/NE alignment of the Roman landscape investigated by previous evaluations at Colchester Garrison (RPS/CAT Report 292).

Of the nine ditches, only six contained Roman-period finds, and the other three are assigned to the Roman period on the basis of shared alignment. In one case, a ditch appeared to define the corner or an enclosure, of unknown purpose (stock enclosure?).

A principal component of the farming landscape was a metalled (gravel) trackway. There were two separate areas of gravel metalling, one of which was dated by a piece of Roman roof tile (tegula). Although it appeared not to have flanking ditches, the trackway did share the broad NW/SE alignment of the other field ditches. Notably, the alignment does not exactly tally with the Berechurch Dyke, although for reason for this is unclear at this stage.

Of particular interest were seven associated ruts, six of which were in the surface of gravel trackway, and one 1m to the east. These would appear to be good evidence for the passage of wheeled transport along the trackway.

Other elements of this Roman farming landscape were twenty-two post-holes which, with two exceptions were beyond the gravel surfaces. None were in straight lines indicative of fences or other structures, but (in the absence of other evidence) a general agricultural function may be inferred.

The general lack of large quantities of Roman (or earlier) finds indicates that this is essentially a rural landscape, although the occasional tiles and finds such as quern fragments show that a farmstead or other settlement cannot be too far away.

### **Post-medieval/modern landscape**

The post-Roman landscape was more fragmentary than the Roman landscape. One ditch dated by peg-tile fragments was part of the post-medieval landscape predating the construction of the Roman Barracks. The fact that it contained residual medieval pottery hints at an earlier phase of agriculture and fields which has otherwise disappeared. There were also a number of undated features (ditches, post-holes) which may belong to this period.

However the bulk of the post-medieval and modern features related to the barracks themselves. Infrastructure and structural elements belonging to buildings which can be traced on the 1949 garrison plan have been identified across the site. Further evidence of recent garrison activity takes the form of truncation in the central and south-eastern part of the camp, no doubt caused when it was remodelled and landscaped in the mid 20th century.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

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IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MAP 2	1991	<i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , second edition (EH)
RPS	2004	<i>Research design for archaeological evaluations, excavations and watching briefs on Alienated Land, new garrison, Colchester</i>
RPS	2009	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Stage 1b archaeological evaluation, Area S2 North and S2 North-west, Colchester Garrison. November 2009</i>
Ryan, P	1993	'A brick typology for Cressing Temple', pages 93-104 in Andrews, D D (ed) <i>Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex</i> . ECC Planning Department.
Shimmin, D	1998	'A Late Iron Age and Roman occupation site at Kirkee and McMunn Barracks, Colchester, Essex', in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , <b>29</b> , 260-69

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA RR	Council for British Archaeology Research Report
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
CM	Colchester Museums
context	specific location, especially one where finds are made
dyke	pre-Roman earthen rampart and ditch
EH	English Heritage
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
EIA	Early Iron Age
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a feature such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Iron Age	period immediately before the Romans, dating from 800 BC to AD 43
LIA	Late Iron Age (mid 2nd century BC to Roman invasion AD 43).
MIA	Middle Iron Age (5th century to mid 2nd century BC)
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
oppidum	the pre-Roman Camulodunum, defended by dykes including Berechurch
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (before the Romans)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning (project consultants)
RRCSAL	Report of the Research Committee, 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.

## 12 Bulk finds list

Tr no.	Ctxt	find no.	pot no.	pot wt (g)	CBM no.	CBM wt (g)	W. ft. no.	W. ft. Wt (g)	other finds/notes	finds spot date
T5	F36	4					1	2	w flt = flint blade	earlier neo
	F53	6							fired clay 1 @ 10 g	
	F65	8	4	6						(prehist. M-LIA)
		10			1	45				Rom
	L2	5			1	87			CBM is from above F42	Rom
T12	F17	3	1	5						Rom 1-M2C
T14	F98	13	3	10						prehist. Neo-BA/EIA
T19	F103	15	1	21	2	10			(SF1-Fe knife blade)	med 13-16C
T20	F99	14	1	3						prehist. Neo-BA/EIA
T21	F78	7	5	5			1	5	w flt = flint blade	Rom
	F79	9							rounded lava quern lump (40 mm thick) & frags 5 @ 202 g	Rom/med
T23	F93	12			1	9				?Rom/med
	F95	11	1	1					burnt flint 1 @ 21 g	Rom
T27	F5	1	1	2						prehist. Neo-BA/EIA
T30	F8	2	1	7						1C E Rom

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### Distribution list:

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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 19.10.10

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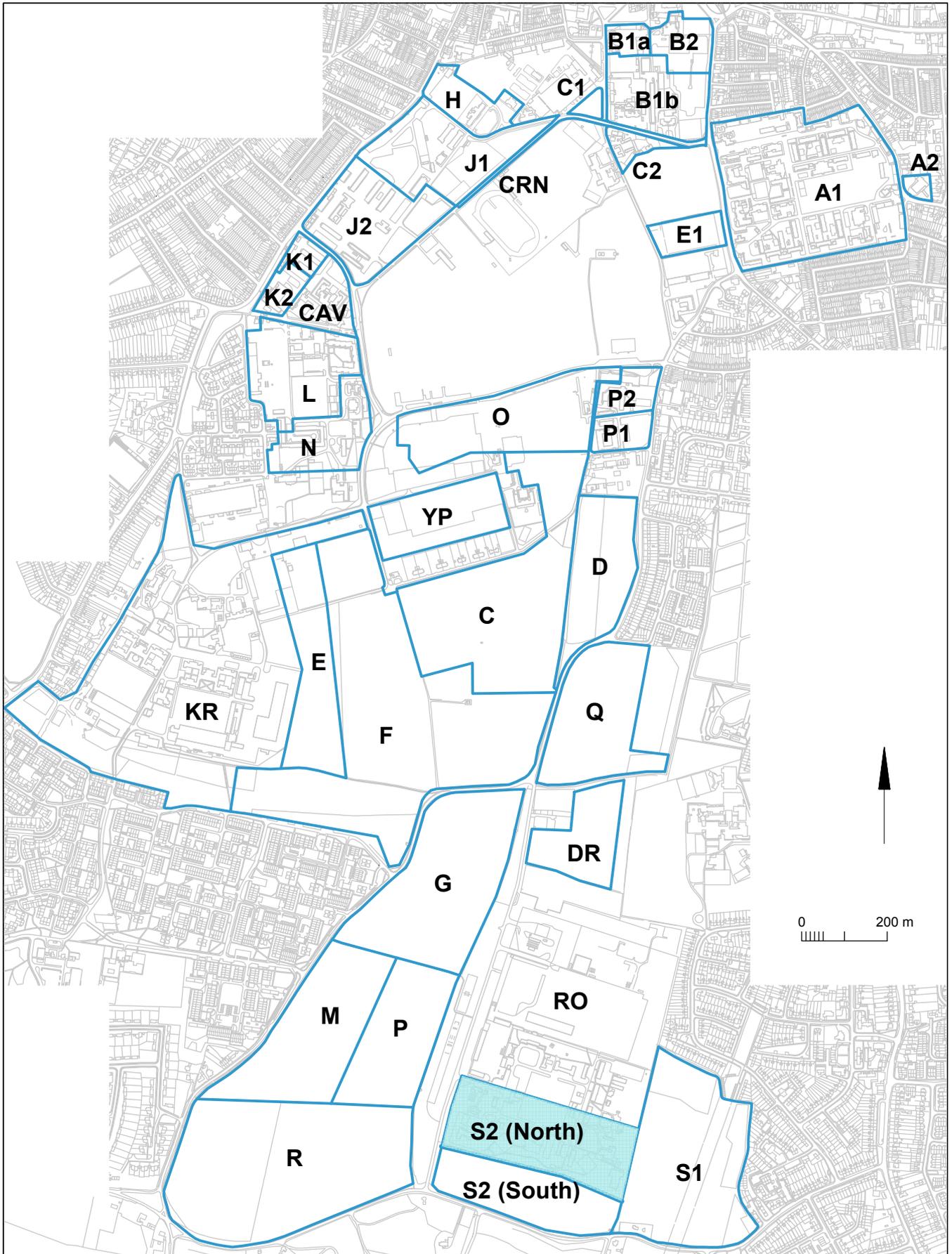


Fig 1 Area location plan, shown shaded.

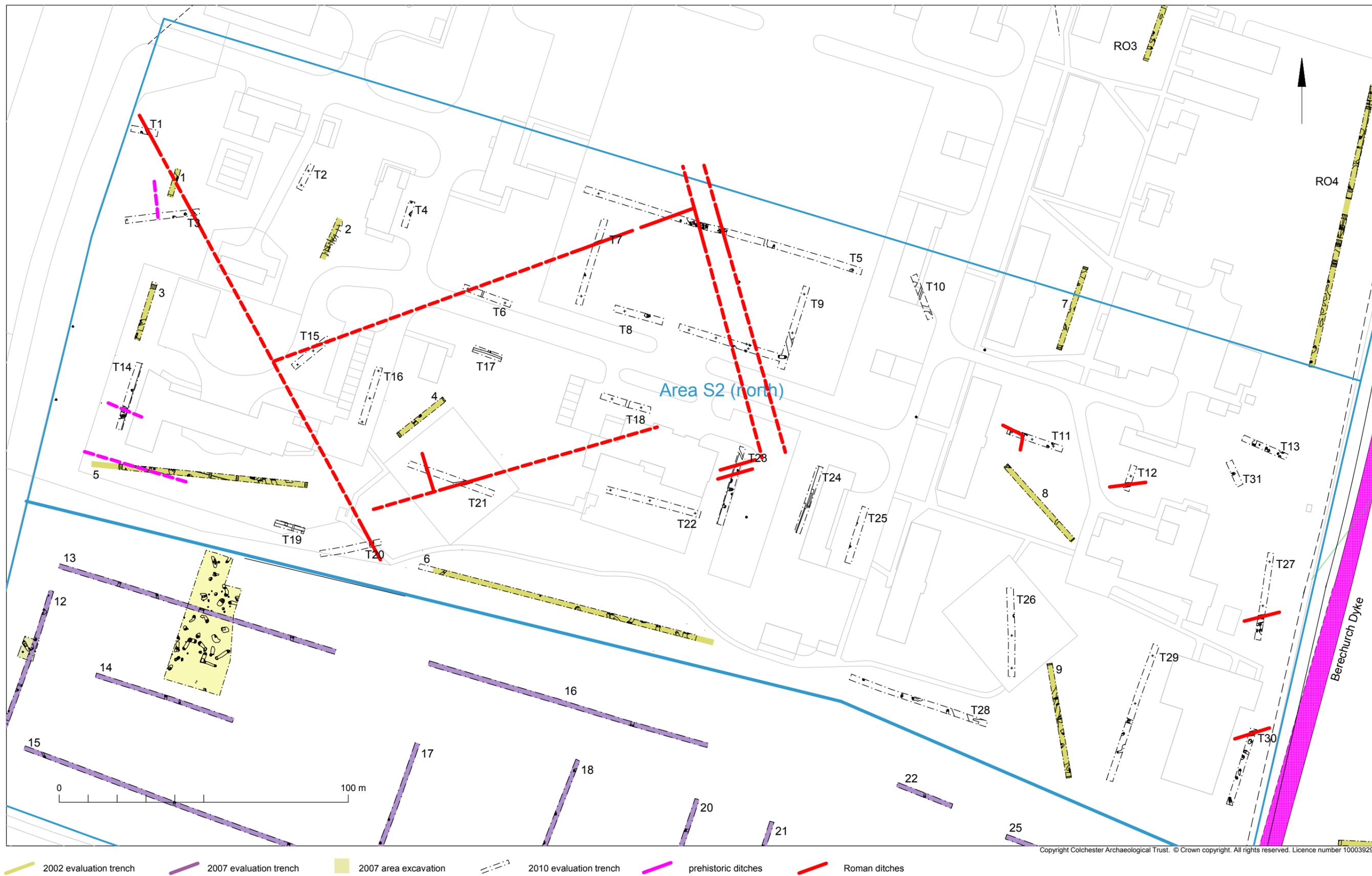


Fig 2 Trench location plan.

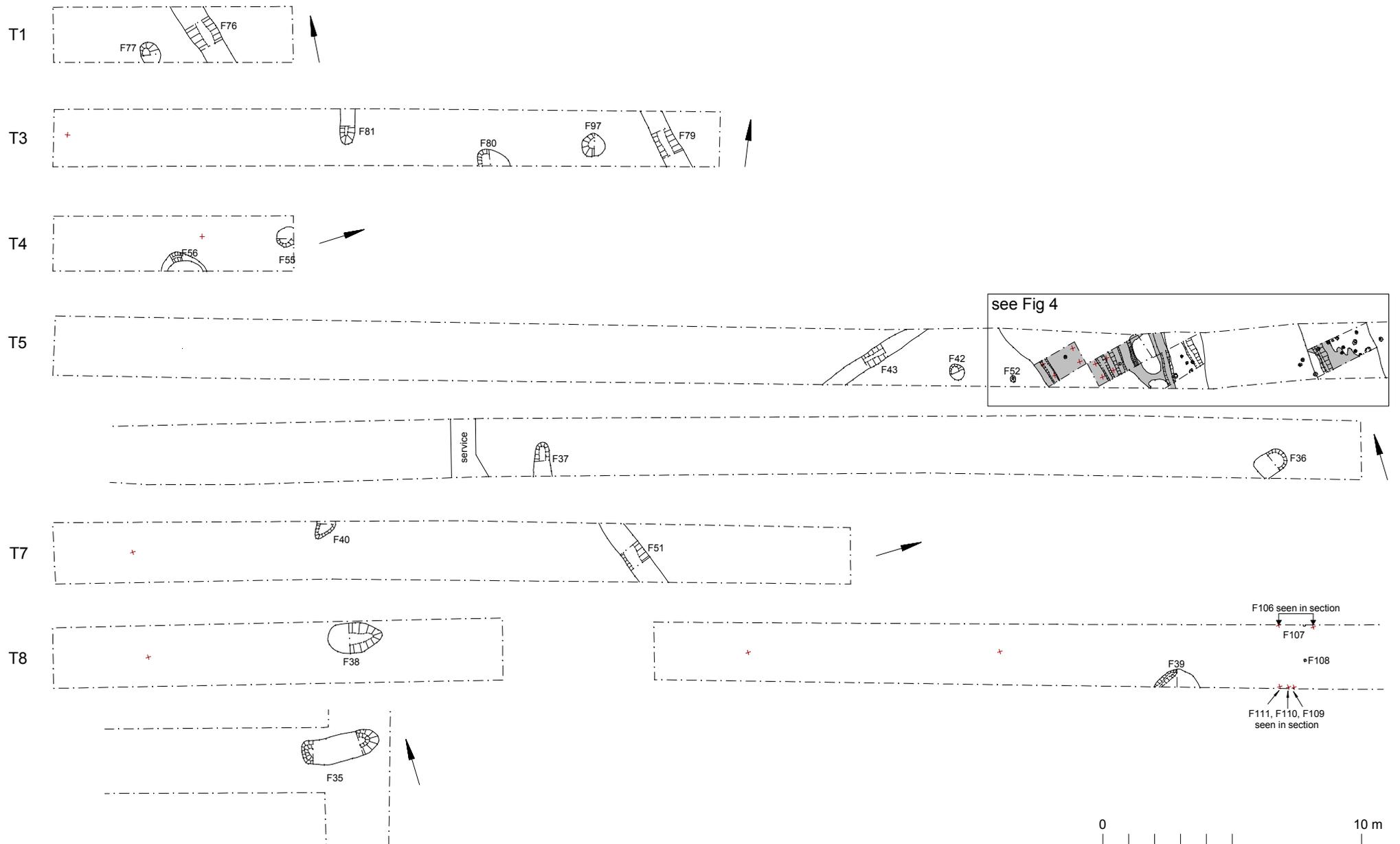


Fig 3 S2 North results (T1, T3-5, T7, T8).

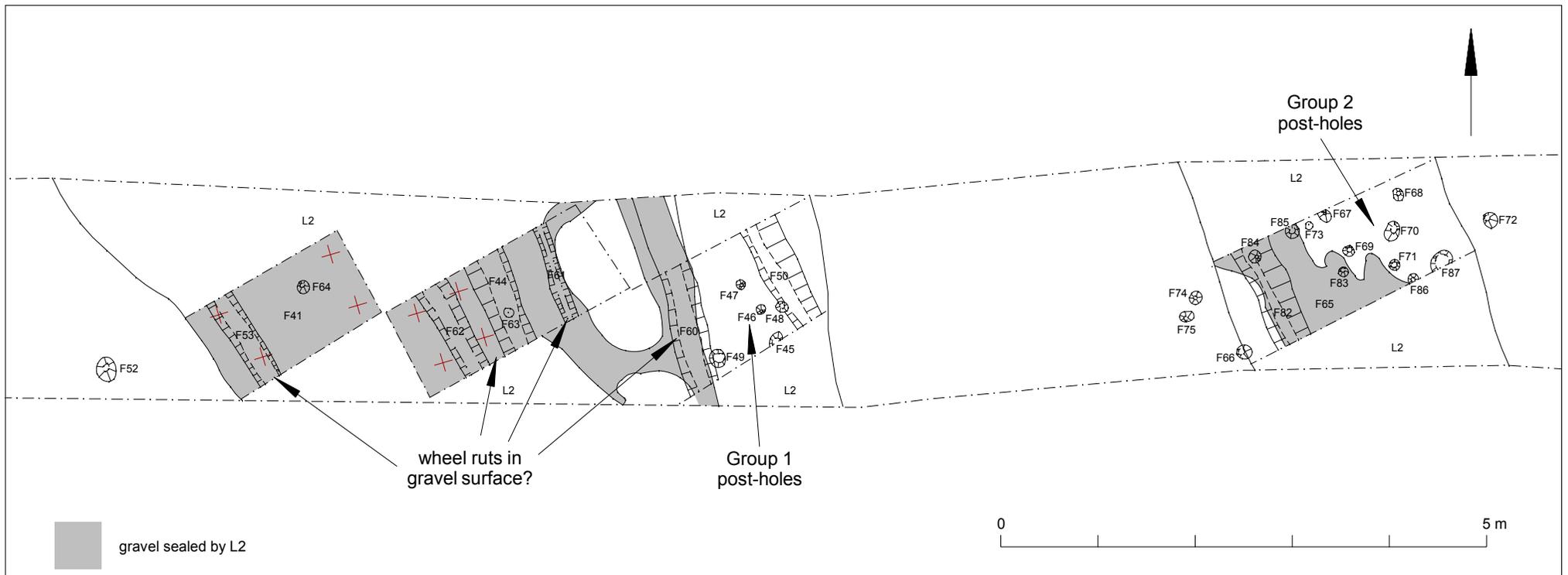


Fig 4 Insert to Fig 3 - detail of T5.

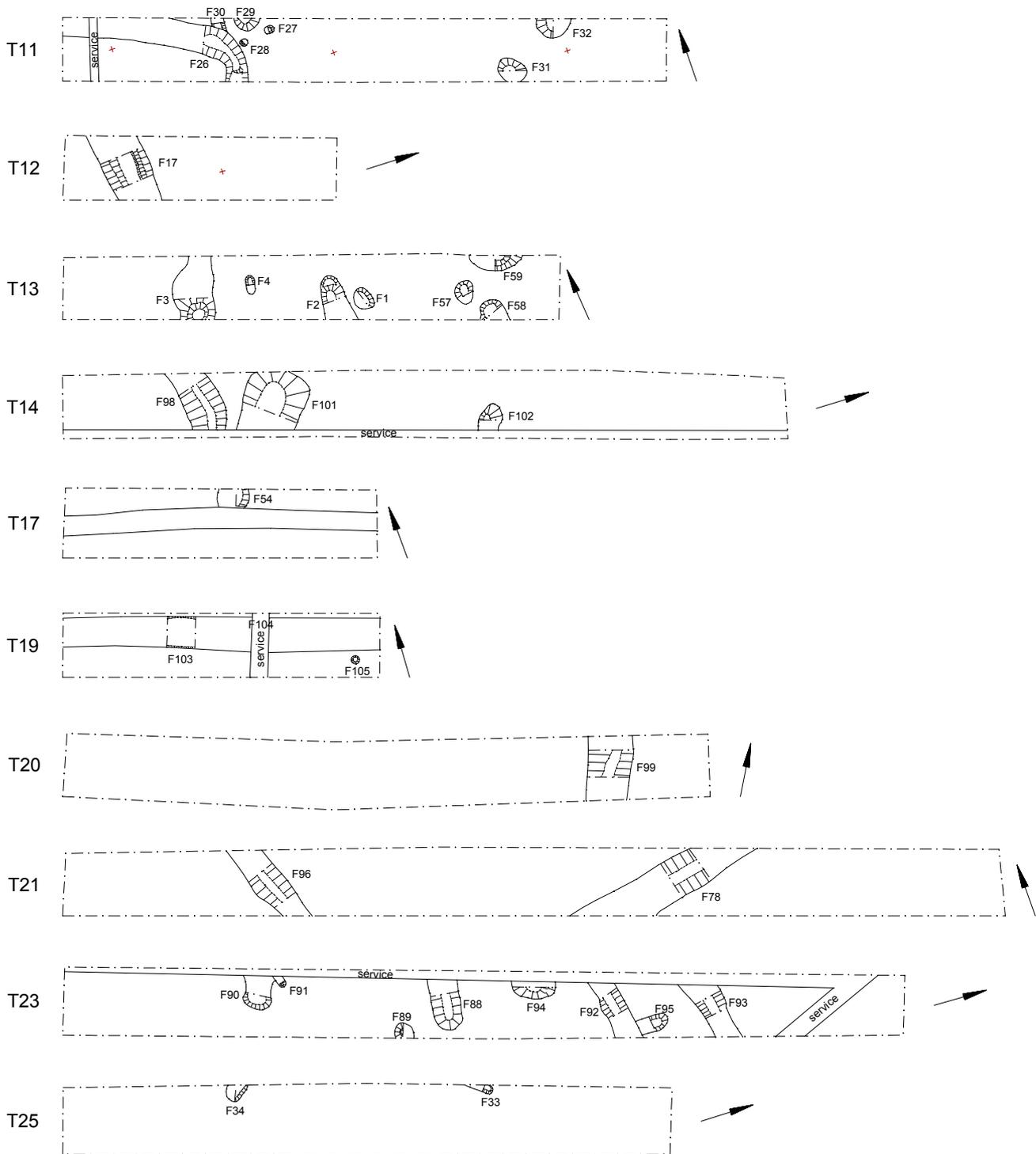


Fig 5 S2 North results (T11-14, T17, T19-21, T23, T25).

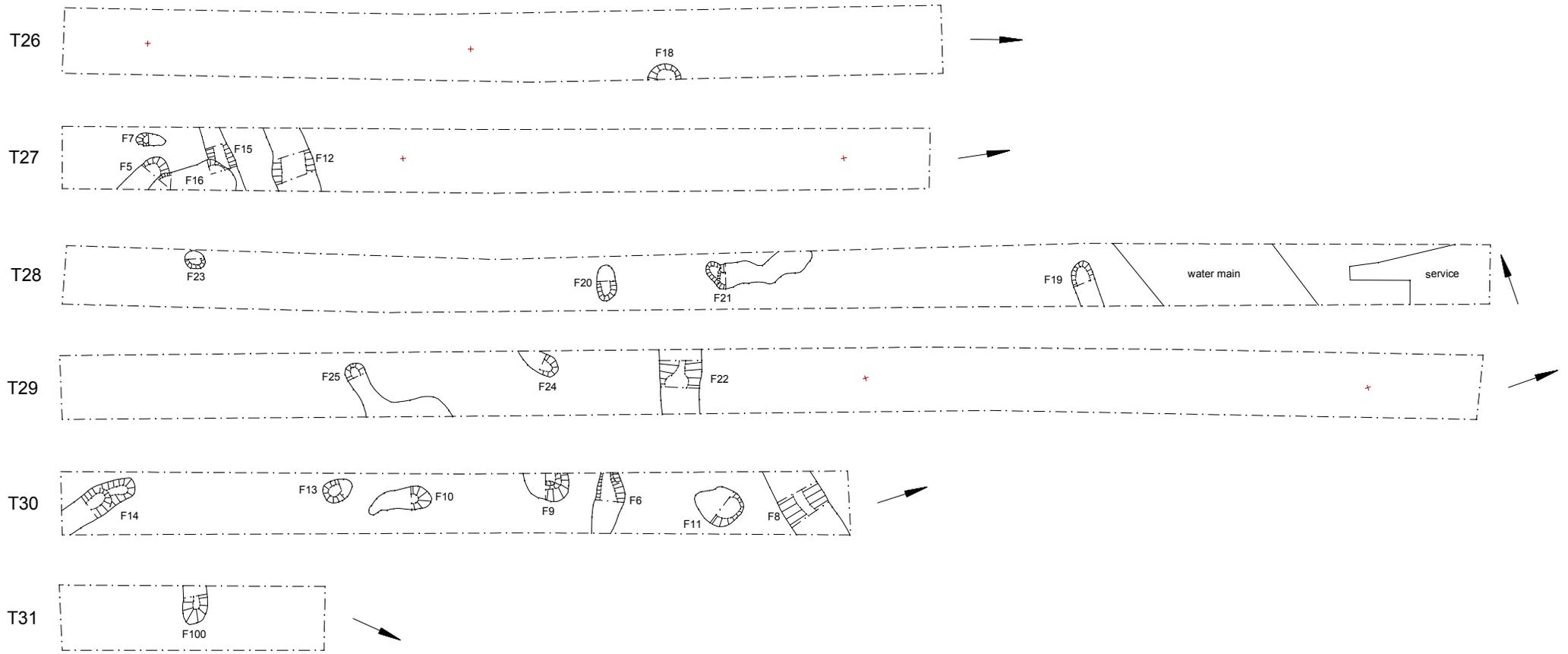


Fig 6 S2 North results (T26-31).

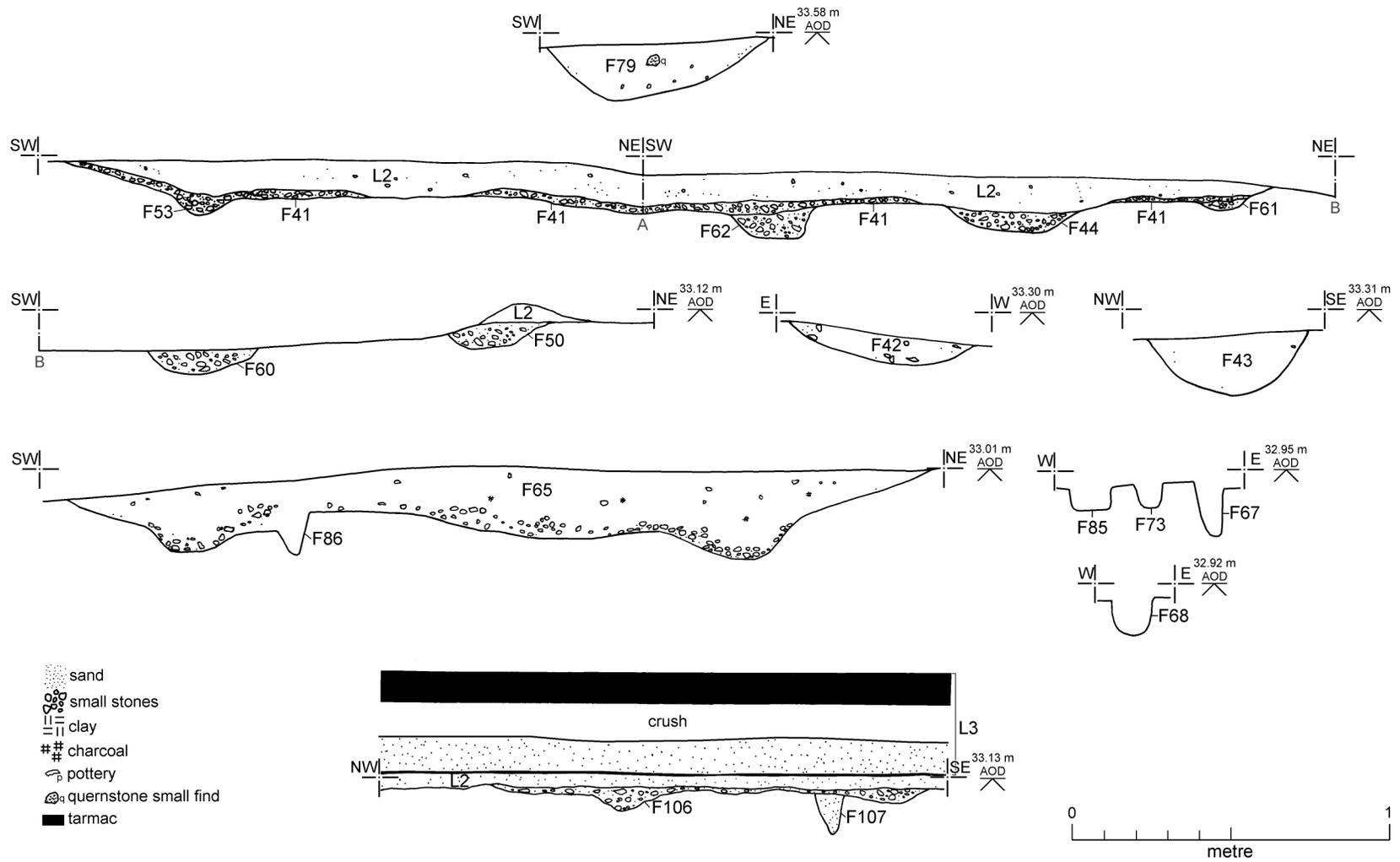


Fig 7 T3 (F79), T5 (F4-3, F44, F50, F53, F60-2, F65, F67-8, F73, F85-6), T8 (F106-7): sections.

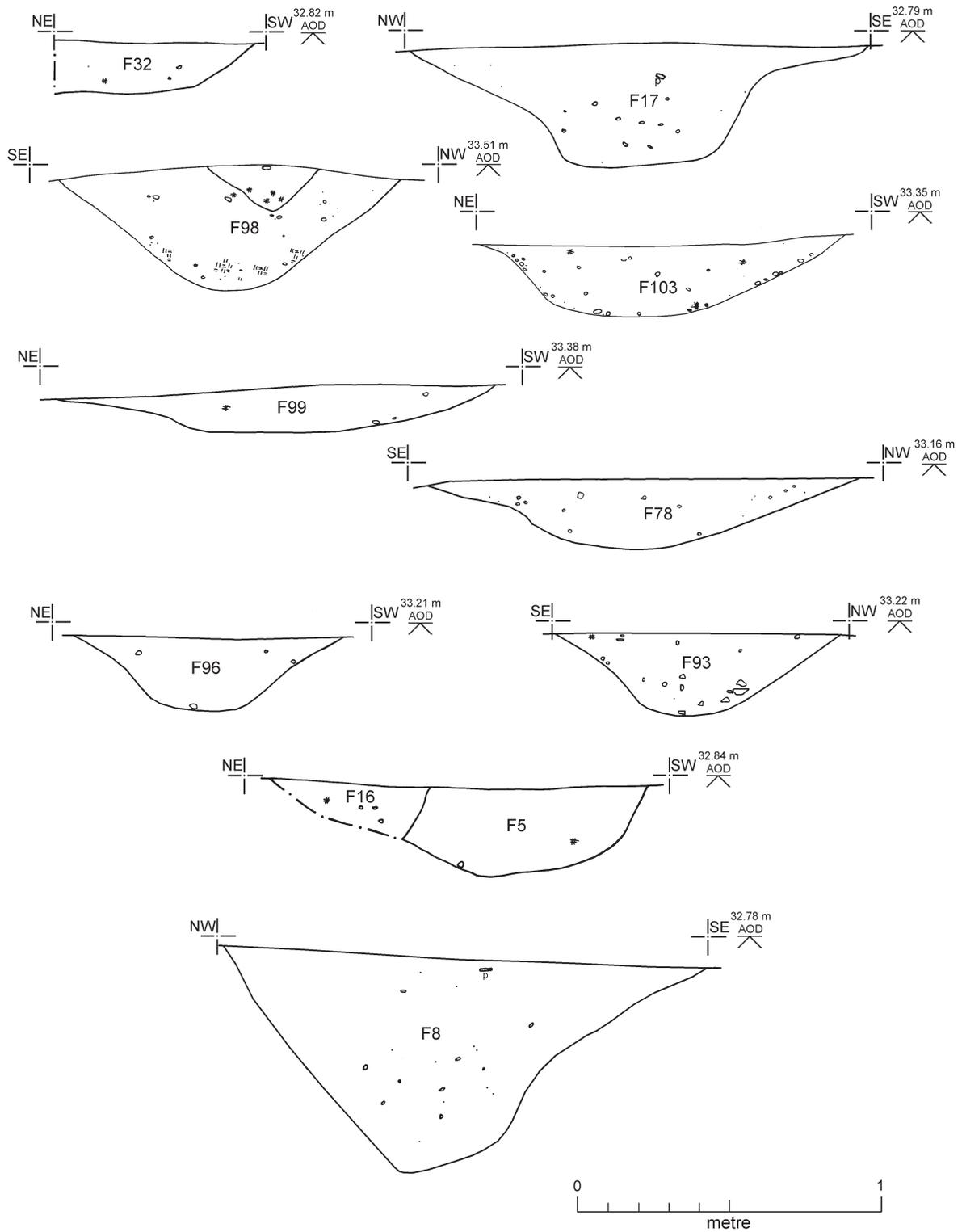


Fig 8 T11 (F32), T12 (F17), T14 (F98), T19 (F103), T20 (F99), T21 (F78, F96), T23 (F93), T27 (F5, F16), T30 (F8): sections

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> Garrison Alienated Land Area N and NW, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> NGR TL 9950 2215 (c)	<b>CAT Project code:</b> 06/10d
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> August-September 2010	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 30 trenches (total length 841m) in a site of approx 7.5 hectares
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2006.127)	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related UAD nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 565 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation by thirty one trial-trenches was carried out on the Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) Area N and NW, a site flanked by Roman Way (to the W), the Berechurch Dyke (to the E) the GAL Area S2 (south) 2007 excavation site (to the S), and the remaining part of the Roman Barracks (to the N). Archaeological features were thinly spread, and modern disturbance has had a noticeable impact on the underlying archaeological sequence.</i></p> <p><i>A small number of flints represent passing activity in the Neolithic period, but the first indication of permanent activity takes the form of three ditches dated to the prehistoric period, or else sharing alignment with dated prehistoric ditches found previously at Colchester Garrison. Together, these represent the fragmentary remains of an Iron Age, pre-oppidum landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The principal result of the Area S2 N and NW evaluation has been the discovery of nine Roman field ditches defining a Roman farmed landscape which (again) shares the broad NW/SE or SW/NE alignment of the Roman landscape revealed by previous evaluations at Colchester Garrison. A principal component of the farming landscape was a gravel trackway which shared the alignment of the other Roman field ditches. Wheel ruts cut the surface of gravel trackway, and a number of post-holes are probably associated either with the trackway or the surrounding farmland. The general lack of large quantities of Roman (or earlier) finds indicates that this was essentially a rural landscape, although finds such as quern fragments show that a farmstead or other settlement cannot be too far away.</i></p> <p><i>The post-medieval landscape was more fragmentary than the Roman landscape, and consisted of a few ditch fragments and post-holes. Residual medieval pottery hints at an earlier phase of fields which has otherwise disappeared. However the bulk of the post-medieval and modern features relate to the infrastructure of the barracks.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 404	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2010