

**A watching brief at firstsite,  
Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex  
December 2010-March 2011**



**report prepared by  
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**on behalf of  
Colchester Borough Council**

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological watching brief within Insulas 31 and 32 of the Roman town was undertaken by CAT during the installation of services and landscaping works associated with firstsite in Colchester. Roman remains were encountered between 0.45m and 1.10m below modern ground-level and two medieval/post-medieval wells were uncovered just below the surface.*

*Archaeological remains identified during the 2006-8 archaeological investigations at firstsite (CAT Report 477) were encountered again in the 2010-11 watching brief. A gravel surface was identified in a position coinciding with the expected line of the east-west Roman street on the southern edge of Insulas 31 and 32. A wall foundation was also recorded in an area where a Roman building had been previously identified (Building 215 in the Colchester Buildings series).*

*A red tessellated floor was identified in section in the northern access road to firstsite. The floor is believed to be previously unknown and is from a Roman building (Colchester Building 220), perhaps a town-house.*

*Two medieval/post-medieval wells were also uncovered during the groundworks. A stone-lined well was uncovered in the back garden of 15 Queen Street and a brick-lined well was recorded in the northern access road to firstsite. The brick-lined well had been constructed in the back yard of a property which once fronted onto the High Street.*

## 2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This report describes the archaeological work carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Colchester Borough Council (CBC) between December 2010 and March 2011.
- 2.2 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the installation of services and landscaping work associated with firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester.
- 2.3 This report documents the groundworks that CAT archaeologists were called to inspect and those where archaeological deposits were recorded. Other service trenches were excavated without archaeological supervision based on the assumption that archaeological deposits were located below the depth of the trenches. Groundworks inspected by an archaeologist were trenches for surface water drainage pipes (eastern trenches and western trench) and for wall foundations in the northern access road (eastern side and western side), and landscaping including to the rear of 15 Queen Street.
- 2.4 The site is located at NGR TL 0013 2520 (centre of investigations).
- 2.5 All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (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 Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

### 3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

Considerable archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken in the area over the years, and the evidence indicates that this was a residential area in the Roman town (Fig 1). The fieldwork includes work by Hull (Hull 1958) and the 1955 and 1958 excavations (Richardson 1961), work by Dunnett (Dunnett 1971), and work by CAT (Crossan 1990; *CAR 6*; CAT Reports 234, 295, 305, 372, 385, 477, 520).

A combination of chance finds of tessellated pavements (floors), both decorated and plain (eg UAD no 321), together with evidence from archaeological investigations by CAT in advance of the construction of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east (in 1983-84; *CAR 6*, 375-8; UAD no 3033) and the bus station to the west (in 2003; CAT Report 234; UAD nos 3069-3070), show the existence of Roman buildings in this area.

This residential area appears to have included a number of houses with stone-in-mortar foundations dating probably to the 2nd century AD. Some of the houses were probably large and well appointed, with hypocaust (under-floor) heating, and decorated with painted wall-plaster and mosaic floors (eg the Berry Field mosaic, now displayed inside the firstsite building; current location not shown on Fig 1).

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the west (UAD no 307) and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east (UAD no 3033; Fig 1). Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House.

No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or on the site of the former bus station, although Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the current boundary separating the grounds of East Hill House from the former bus station (Hull 1958, 51). An evaluation in 2006 on the site of the Central Clinic (now the Secret Garden block of flats), approximately 150m north of firstsite, located a north-south street, the line of which would have passed between the Roman houses excavated in 1955 and 1958 and crossed the position of the evaluation trench 2003 TD (Fig 1; CAT Report 372). There was a layer of compacted gravel in trench 2003 TD, but it seemed conclusively post-medieval and was almost certainly associated with East Hill House. In retrospect, it is clear that the 2003 TD trench was not deep enough to confirm or refute the line of the Roman street which it was excavated through, as discovered in 2006.

In 1923, an inhumation burial was found on top of a Roman mosaic floor in an area then known as the 'Berry Field' (also 'Bury Field' or 'Berryfield'), which now coincides with the grounds of East Hill House. This burial is probably later Roman or post-Roman, and was laid in a grave, the base of which was close to the Roman floor level (Crummy 1997, 130). The exact findspot of the Berry Field mosaic is uncertain; the two possible findspots for it are shown on Figure 1.

Excavations in 1955 and 1958 uncovered the remains of several Roman buildings in Lewis's garden (later the bus station and now called Lewis Gardens). The remains were numbered as houses i-v by the excavator (Fig 1; Richardson 1961), but they possibly represent three or four buildings.

When the Mulberry Tree Family Centre was built on what was then the kitchen garden of East Hill House in 1983-84, a watching brief undertaken by CAT recorded Roman street gravel, buildings and burials (Fig 1; *CAR 6*, 374-8). CAT also excavated two Roman inhumation burials at this site, ie on the eastern side of Insula 40, in 1983-84 (Fig 1; *CAR 6*, 375-6). The discovery of one loose skull on the

same site shows that there was a third, presumably Roman, burial somewhere in the vicinity.

A Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave, accompanied by a small beaker, was also discovered during an evaluation by CAT in 1990 on the south side of the bus station (just to the south of the area shown in Fig 1: Crossan 1990; Johnson *et al* 2003, 25).

The area has also been subject to geophysical survey: magnetometry in April 2003 by Oxford Archaeotechnics, and resistivity and ground-penetrating radar by Stratascan in July 2004 (Johnson *et al* 2003; Sabin 2004). The results of these surveys indicated the possible presence of structural remains under the northern lawn of East Hill House garden.

CAT has conducted further archaeological fieldwork on the site of firstsite, in the bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House, which is described in this section.

CAT undertook an evaluation by trial-trenching in 2003 in the garden of the Minories art gallery and in the bus station (2003 TA-2003 TD on Fig 1; CAT Report 234). The excavation of four evaluation trenches broadly confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers.

In 2004, CAT undertook an evaluation and a watching brief (2004 T1-2004 T9 on Fig 1; CAT Reports 295 and 305). Nine evaluation trenches were excavated, mostly on the site of the proposed building, and Roman levels were found to lie at depths of between 15 cm and 60 cm, beneath soils which support the hypothesis that the trenched area, the area of the Berry Field, probably remained open from the end of the Roman period onwards. As an adjunct to the excavations, nine engineers' geotechnical sample holes in the trenched area and in the adjacent bus station to the east were observed and the strata noted.

In 2006, CAT undertook a watching brief on a sewer-trench and test-pits in the bus station (sewer-trench ABCD on Fig 1; CAT Report 385). The deeper groundworks impacted late Roman robbing material or demolition debris, sealed by 'dark earth'.

CAT undertook investigations on the site between November 2006 and June 2008, which consisted of six trenches incorporating sixteen test-pits (2006-8 TA-2006-8 TF on Fig 1; CAT Report 477). These investigations revealed a metalled street and parts of a Roman building presumed to be a town-house on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32.

In 2009, CAT undertook an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House, and found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (2009 T1-2009 T3 on Fig 1; CAT Report 520).

## **4 Aims**

The aim of the watching brief was to record the location, date, character, and significance of any surviving archaeological remains.

## **5 Results** (Figs 1-3)

### **5.1 Eastern trenches for surface water drainage pipes (trenches AB and BC)**

(Figs 1, 2)

In January 2011, CAT was called to inspect the trenches excavated for the installation of surface water drainage pipes near the north-eastern corner of the firstsite building (Fig 1).

Trench AB and two square holes for associated inspection chambers had already been excavated prior to the arrival of the CAT archaeologist. The trench was 1.1m to the east of and parallel to the site of trench TE (excavated by CAT in June 2008; 2006-8 TE on Fig 1; CAT Report 477; Fig 2). Archaeological deposits were observed in both of the pits excavated for the inspection chambers, but the 600mm-wide trench was only 350mm deep, too shallow to expose archaeological deposits in this location.

A compacted gravel surface sealed by a dark soil was observed in section in the pit for the southernmost inspection chamber (Fig 2). This gravel surface is believed to be the same as L79 which was identified 2.0m to the north in 2008 (2006-8 TF on Fig 1; CAT Report 477); it is an east-west aligned Roman street on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32.

Further north, the pit for a second inspection chamber truncated a stump of wall foundation constructed of septaria and greensand stone in a white mortar. The foundation was 450mm below modern ground-level and was overlaid by dark soil. This foundation is probably the remains of the same wall indicated by a robber trench (F74) in the 2008 investigations (2006-8 TE on Fig 1; CAT Report 477). The wall is an east-west aligned internal wall in the Roman building numbered Colchester Building 215.

Six days later, CAT was called to inspect trench BC, an east-west orientated trench connecting to the northernmost inspection chamber pit (Fig 2). This trench was 4.5m to the south of and parallel to the site of trench TB, excavated by CAT in 2007 (2006-8 TB on Fig 1; CAT Report 477). The pipe had been installed and the trench partially backfilled in its eastern end. Where possible, an examination of the trench edges was made down the sides of the pipe. The trench was between 1.0m and 1.8m deep.

At the eastern end of the trench, modern turf and topsoil overlay deposits of modern hoggin materials and gravel. Further west, a dense deposit of brick, tile and mortar was observed. Most of the material appeared to be Roman (Fig 2). However, slate, peg-tile and modern white glazed pottery fragments were also recovered from the section. This may correspond with a layer of Roman demolition debris identified in trench TB in 2007 (F40), which appeared to have been disturbed in the post-medieval period.

Subsequently, the excavation of the westernmost 7-8 m of the pipe trench and the pit for the soakaway at the far western end of the trench was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Similar deposits were encountered. Modern turf sealed modern hoggin which in turn sealed a post-medieval topsoil layer. At the far western end of the trench, this topsoil layer overlay natural sand and gravel. One sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of post-Roman pottery dating to the 13th to 16th century were recovered from the upcast soil in this area. Further east, the topsoil appeared to overlie a light grey sandy silt layer containing Roman CBM. Two pits were identified, cut into the natural sand (Fig 2). Based on the findings from trench TB, it is probable that these pits were post-medieval, although the larger pit could be an isolated Victorian cess-pit.

## **5.2 Western trench for surface water drainage pipes (trench DE)**

(Figs 1, 3)

Excavated in March 2011, the pipe had already been installed in the base of trench DE and the trench partially backfilled before the arrival of the CAT archaeologist. The edges of the trench were examined from the top of the trench down the sides of the pipe.

The trench was between 0.7m and 1.4m deep and was excavated through modern hardstanding layers including a concrete car-park

surface, and modern or post-medieval topsoil which had been landscaped during the construction of the D-shaped garden in the grounds of East Hill House (Fig 1). A deposit of dense stone chippings, which resembled greensand stone in a loose mortar, was observed in the base of the trench below the pipe. This may correspond with L51 (Fig 3), a layer of Roman demolition debris identified in trench TC of the CAT 2008 excavations (2006-8 TC on Fig 1; CAT Report 477, 10). Deposits of natural sand were observed in the edge of the current trench. This was probably redeposited sand in the backfill from 2006-8 trench TC (Fig 3).

The square pit at the eastern end of the trench excavated for the soakaway had not been filled with soil or pipework prior to the archaeologist's arrival and was investigated fully (Fig 3). In this area, 650mm of homogeneous modern/post-medieval topsoil directly overlay the orange natural sand. A north-south aligned feature with a dark soil fill was observed in the base of the soakaway (Fig 3). This is likely to have been the post-medieval ditch F65/F32 excavated in TP C2 in 2007 (2006-8 TP C2 on Fig 1; CAT Report 477, 8). A shallow feature also appeared to cut the topsoil on an east-west alignment in the north of the soakaway. This feature could have been another post-medieval or modern flowerbed, similar to F30 identified in 2007 (CAT Report 477, 8).

Roman building materials were observed on the spoil heap (ie brick and septaria fragments) and a sherd of Roman pottery, a *tessera* cube, a sheep tibia and a folded sheet of copper-alloy were recovered from the upcast soil.

### 5.3 Trenches for wall foundations in the northern access road (eastern side (trench FG) and western side (trench HI-JK))

(Figs 1, 4)

The 1.2m-wide trench on the eastern side of the access road was not deep enough to uncover any archaeological deposits (trench FG; Fig 1).

The trench on the western side of the access road (trench HI-JK) was similarly shallow at the southern end (Fig 1). However, the depth of the trench increased to the north until it was 1.15m below modern ground-level at the northern end of the trench. It was in the northern end of the trench that a tessellated floor (F2) and a probable robber trench (F1) were observed. The Roman tessellated floor was constructed from red tile cubes (*tesserae*) bedded in a thin layer of solid white mortar (Fig 4). The mortar overlay a layer of *opus signinum*, which in turn overlay a dense layer of broken brick and tile fragments set in a loose mortar. The *tesserae* were laid in rows which were roughly east-west in alignment. The floor was 0.8m below modern ground-level at 23.8m AOD. The probable, east-west aligned, post-Roman robber trench (F1) was located just to the north of the floor, indicating the presence of a wall next to the floor in this location. The probable robber trench cut a layer of light yellow/brown clayey sand/soil (L4), which also underlay the tessellated floor (Fig 4).

The tessellated floor was only seen in section as the trench had already been excavated prior to the arrival of the CAT archaeologist. The trench had been hand-excavated due to the presence of three live services in the trench. The floor was solid and only sixteen red tile *tessera* cubes were recovered from the spoil heap. This would suggest that very little of the floor was damaged when the trench was excavated. It is, therefore, probable that the floor had already been partly destroyed some time ago when the services and the foundations for the brick wall separating the access road from the garden of The Minorities were installed.

Two sherds of Roman pottery were collected from the spoil heap next to the tessellated floor and a fragment of post-Roman pottery

dating to the 17th-18th centuries was recovered by the machine driver from further south along the trench.

#### 5.4 The two wells (Fig 1)

Two medieval/post-medieval wells were uncovered during the groundworks. In the garden of 15 Queen Street, a brick dome used to cap the well once it was no longer needed was uncovered just below the ground surface (Fig 1). Prior to the arrival of the CAT archaeologist, the brick dome was removed and the fill of the well was excavated using a mechanical excavator (Plate 1). The well was emptied to a depth of 3m, the limit of the mechanical excavator's reach. As it was not possible to empty all of the backfill from the well, the contractors returned much of the material that had been removed.

The well was roughly 1.5m in diameter and was lined with a circular rubble wall, the face of which appeared to have been plastered with mortar. The date of the well's construction is not known, but the absence of bricks in the well lining suggests that it was built in the medieval or early post-medieval period. The bricks in the dome capping the well were relatively large but did not appear to be frogged. The capping would have been constructed when the well was no longer needed. Complete pottery vessels and glass bottles were recovered from the fill of the well along with fragments of white glazed pottery, peg-tiles and other post-medieval building materials.



**Plate 1: well F3, view south-west.**

A second well (F4) was uncovered on the western side of the northern access road to firstsite (Fig 1). This well had been previously uncovered when the road and pavement were constructed and had been backfilled with modern building materials and hoggin. The well appeared to have had a brick dome capping like the one which sealed the well (F3) in the back garden of 15 Queen Street, but most of the dome had been removed when the road was constructed. Unlike well F3, the lining of F4 contained brick and tile as well as stone. There were also two brick culverts in the well lining, one arched (this may have been circular but the bottom half was obscured by the backfill in the well) and one square. However, only the top 0.4m of this well was observed and it is possible that an earlier well lining may have existed further down.

## 6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

The finds recovered are listed in Table 1 below. The pottery fabric codes refer to the Colchester fabric series for Roman pottery listed in *CAR 10* and for post-Roman pottery listed in *CAR 7*. Roman pottery form types refer to the Colchester (Camulodunum) Roman pottery type series (Cam: Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958).

**Table 1: finds by context (CBM = Ceramic Building Material).**

finds no	context	finds	finds spot-dating summary
1	U/S	<b>Pottery</b> Roman: 1@22g Fabric GX, deep bowl with flat rim (Roman); post-Roman, 1@6g, Fabric 21 (13th-16th century)	medieval/post-medieval, 13th-16th century
2	U/S	<b>Pottery</b> Roman: 1@38g, Fabric GX (Roman) <b>CBM</b> 1@10g, small red tile <i>tessera</i> cube (Roman) <b>Animal bone</b> 1@45g, sheep tibia <b>Copper-alloy (SF 1)</b> 1@1g, folded edge of plain sheet fragment or flattened circular piece, with small hole and second, part perforation for attachment, possibly a covering for small, round-bodied wooden object or tool handle	Roman
3	F3	<b>Pottery</b> Post-Roman, 2 pots: 1@231g, Fabric 45M, small jug, handle missing, brown iron-glazed exterior, negative impressed makers' mark <b>GG</b> on base, also small jar Fabric 45m, brown iron-glazed exterior, not weighed as large tree root has grown into it (19th-20th century) <b>Glass</b> 1@160g, complete, moulded medicine (?) bottle, octagonal, in pale blue glass with moulded measure marks up one face (19th-20th century)	19th-20th century
4	F2	<b>Pottery</b> Roman: 2@42g, Fabric GX, rim (Roman), Fabric KX, Cam 40A (mid 2nd-4th century) <b>CBM</b> 16@260g, red tile <i>tessera</i> cubes with white mortar adhering (Roman)	Roman, mid 2nd-4th century
5	U/S	<b>Pottery</b> Post-Roman, 1@25g, Fabric 40A, bowl base, yellow slip decoration, patchy external glaze	17th-18th century

Three of the numbered finds bags contain unstratified finds (U/S) recovered from a trench dug for surface water drainage (finds nos 1-2) and a trench dug for the footings for a wall (finds no 5). These produced finds of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. The pottery and CBM can be dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. With these unstratified finds is one metal small find (SF 1) recovered from the surface water drainage trench (finds no 2). This is a small fragment from the edge of a copper-alloy sheet which has two small perforations for attachment. The slight curve of the two sides of this flattened or folded piece suggests that it may have been part of a covering for a small, round-bodied wooden object or tool handle. The closely-datable finds associated with this finds number are Roman.

There are also finds from two features (floor F2, well F3). The finds associated with F2 consist of Roman pottery and a quantity of *tessera*

cubes which were collected from the spoil heap above the Roman tessellated floor. The pottery includes the dish form Cam 40A in Fabric KX which can be dated to the period of the mid 2nd-4th century. The finds from well F3 consist of pottery and glass which can be dated to the 19th-20th century.

## 7 Discussion and conclusions

The basic stratigraphical sequence encountered on this site consists of layers of modern hardstanding and/or various recent topsoil layers either overlying archaeological deposits such as Roman building remains or gravel streets, or the natural geological sand. The depth of the archaeological deposits varies significantly across the site. Roman deposits were encountered between 0.45m and 1.1m below modern ground-level and the brick domes capping the two wells were uncovered just below the surface.

Archaeological remains found during the 2006-8 investigations (CAT Report 477) were encountered again in the 2010-11 watching brief. Part of the east-west Roman street on the southern edge of Insulas 31 and 32 was observed, the northern edge of which had already been fixed by the 2006-8 investigations. The discovery of a wall foundation from a probable Roman town-house (Colchester Building 215) indicates that more than just robber trenches may survive from the destruction of this building. Deposits encountered in the D-shaped garden of East Hill House during the watching brief were also similar to those seen during the previous investigations and are associated with the landscaping of the garden in the 19th century.

The well (F3) uncovered in the back garden of 15 Queen Street would have supplied water to the medieval/post-medieval property which once occupied this plot. Similarly, the well uncovered in the northern access road to firstsite (F4) would also have been located in the back garden/yard of a medieval/post-medieval property which once fronted onto the High Street. The finds recovered from well F3 suggest that it was backfilled sometime in the late 19th/early 20th century. This would have been after the well became redundant following the installation of the mains water supply. Both wells were probably each capped with a brick dome around this time as a means of sealing them. This was normal in the town centre because of the depth of the water-table (approximately 15m; CAR 3, 26). Other examples of similar wells in the town include those at 7-15 Long Wyre Street (CAR 6, 365) and at Middleborough (CAR 3, 209).

It is possible, though unlikely, that the red tessellated floor exposed in 1924 and published as no 158 in *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958, 207; Fig 1) was part of the same floor uncovered in 2010-11 (F2). The location of the 1924 floor was regarded as being fixed 'sufficiently exactly' by Hull (Hull 1958, 292). He placed it 'east of the arbour' (Hull 1958, 206-7), which is presumably the folly (Fig 1). This means that it should be 10m south of where floor F2 was uncovered. However, the latter was covered in a thick layer of pea grit, suggesting that it had not been previously exposed. Thus the 1924 tessellated floor could be part of the same floor as F2, and Hull's placement of the discovery is not as accurate as he believed it was. Even if both exposures of tessellation are not part of the same floor, it is highly likely that they were parts of the same town-house (Colchester Building 219 to the east; Fig 1). Given the size of many of these Roman town-houses in Colchester, it is conceivable that the Roman Colchester Building 219 and Colchester Building 220 could have belonged to the same house.

## 8 Archive deposition

The finds and paper archive are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2011.45.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the investigation. The fieldwork was managed and undertaken by A Wightman assisted by B Holloway.

## 10 References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are now available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

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## 11 Glossary and abbreviations

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick and tile
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an excavation, usually relates to finds
cut	an excavation of unspecified purpose
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
<i>insula</i>	An area or block within the grid pattern of a Roman town (plural <i>insulae</i> )
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th century to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Survey datum, based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Queen Victoria
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 430
RRCSAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
<i>TEAS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i>
tessellated	(pavement) a floor, the surface of which was made of <i>tesserae</i>
<i>tessera</i>	small plain red ceramic cube (plural <i>tesserae</i> )
UAD	Urban Archaeological database held by CIMS
U/S	unstratified, ie without any context

**Distribution list:**

Colchester Borough Council (Philip Wise)  
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 07.03.12

Adams x c:/reports11/firstsite/report599 zz.doc

## 12 Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 1 x A3 site plan provided by developer
- 1.2 1 x A4 site plan showing survey points
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 MACE phasing sequence table

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photo. record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F4)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 1 x A3 section sheet

### 3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Finds report

### Finds

The finds occupy less than one box

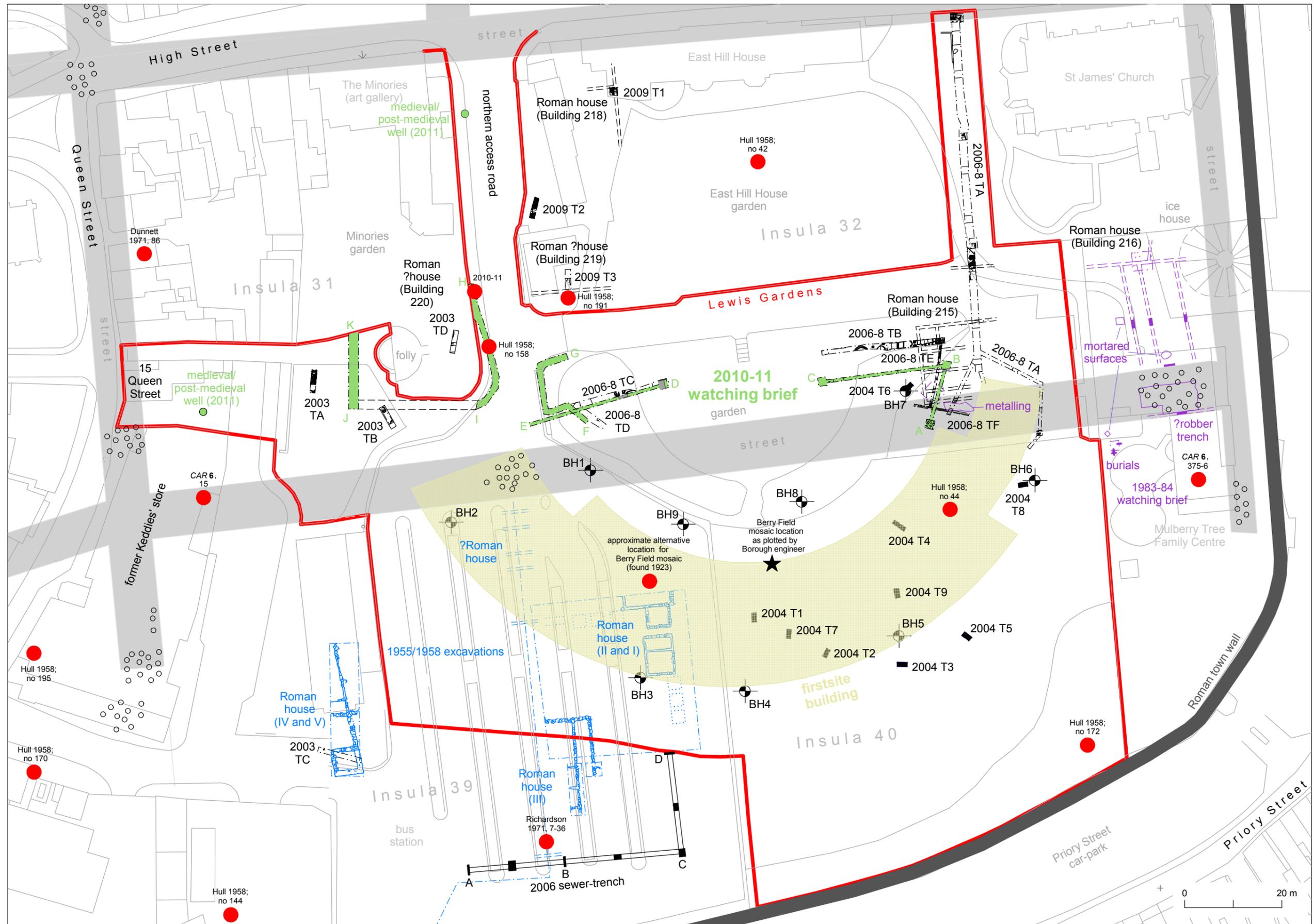
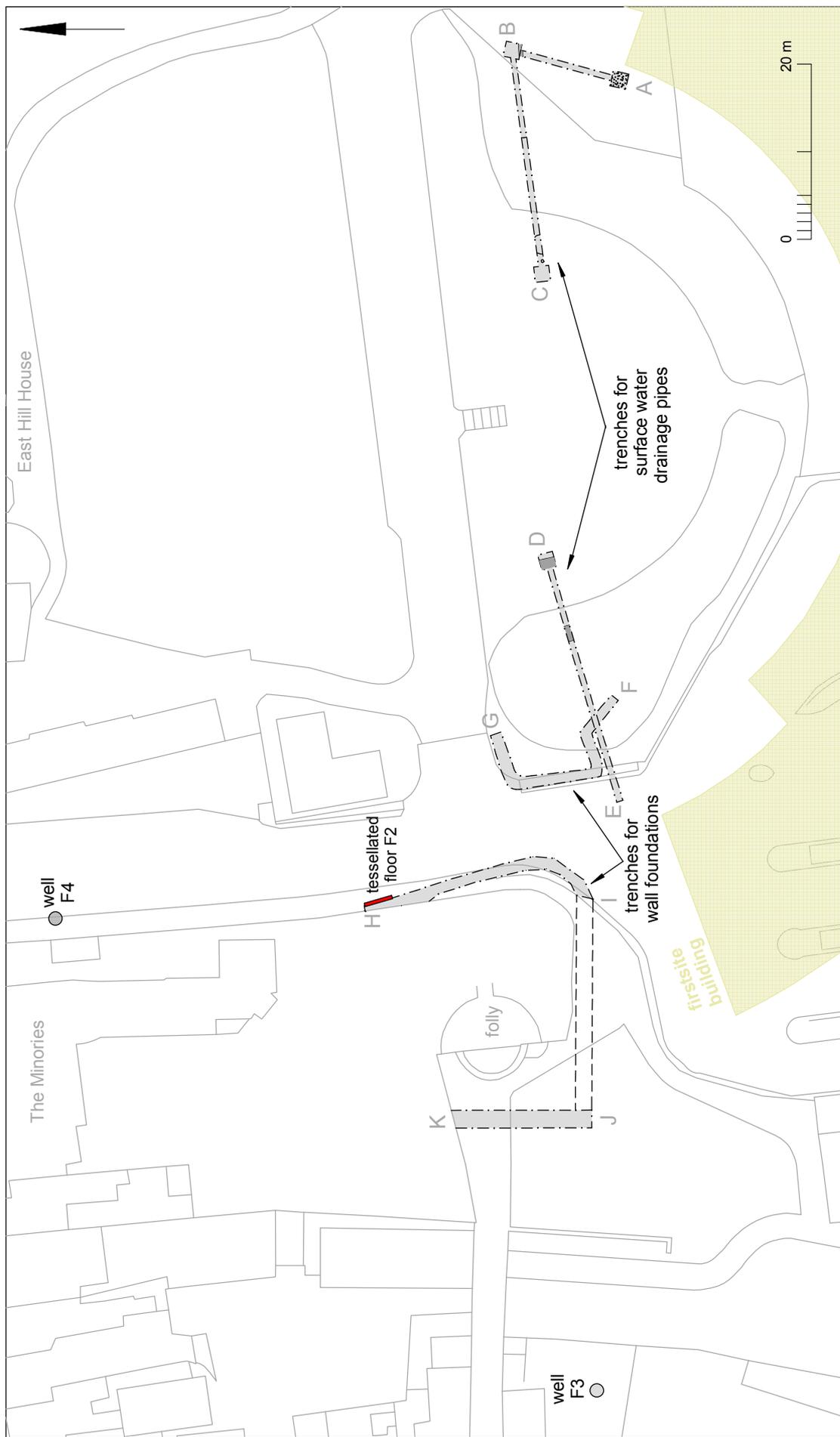


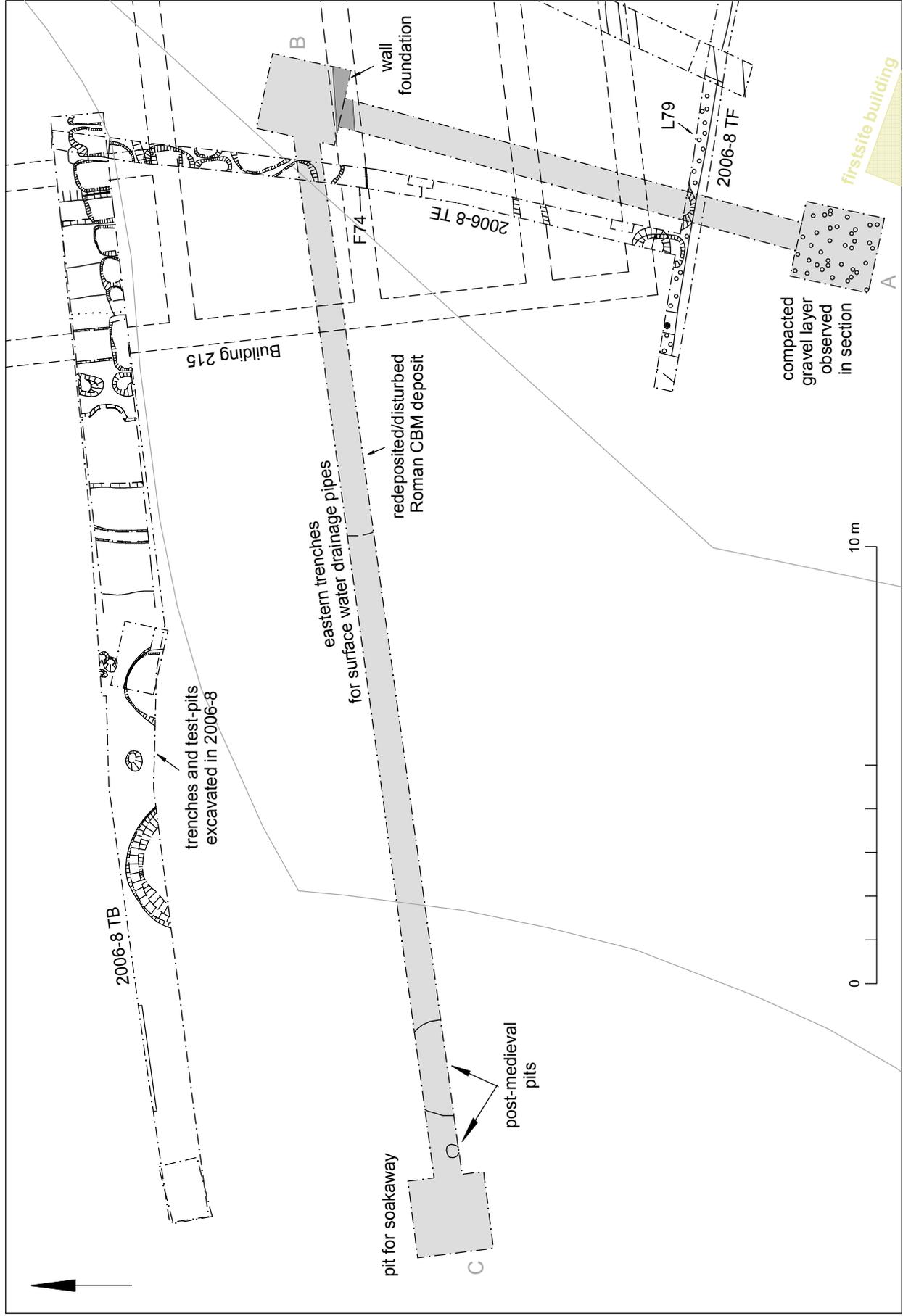
Fig 1 Plan showing the location of the 2010-11 work (green) and previous archaeological excavations and discoveries within and just outside the investigation area (outlined in red). (See bibliography for Dunnett 1971, CAR 6, Hull 1958, Robertson 1961.)

- |     |                        |                                 |                           |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Key | 1955/1958 excavations  | ● tessellated floors or mosaics | ○ = observed metalling    |
|     | 1983-84 watching brief |                                 | == Roman houses           |
|     | 2010-11 watching brief |                                 | ■ projected Roman streets |



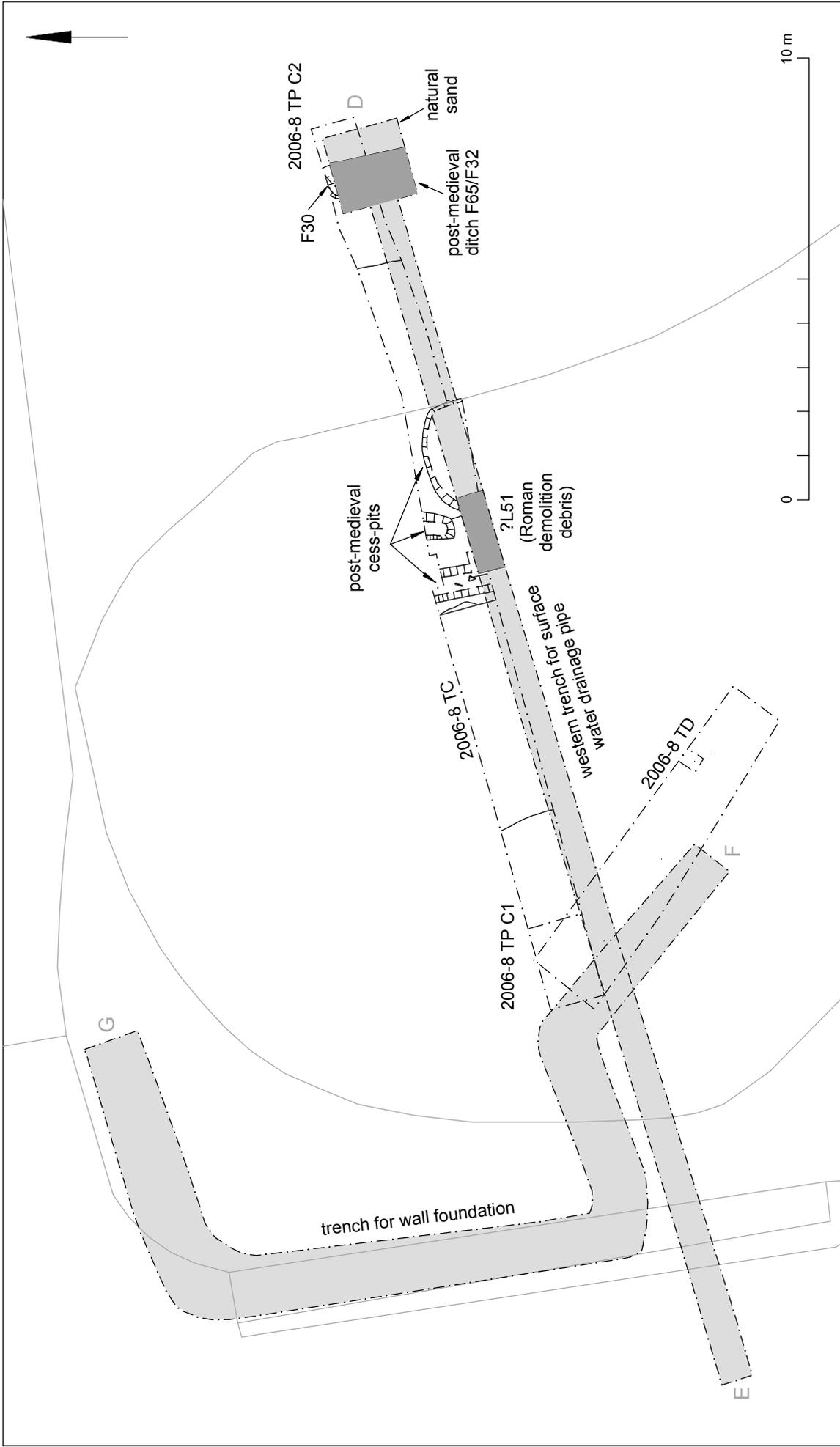
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Fig 2 Site plan, showing the locations of observed groundworks and archaeological features.



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Fig 3 Plan of eastern trenches (trenches AB and BC) for surface water drainage pipes.



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Fig 4 Plan of western trench (trench DE) for surface water drainage pipe.

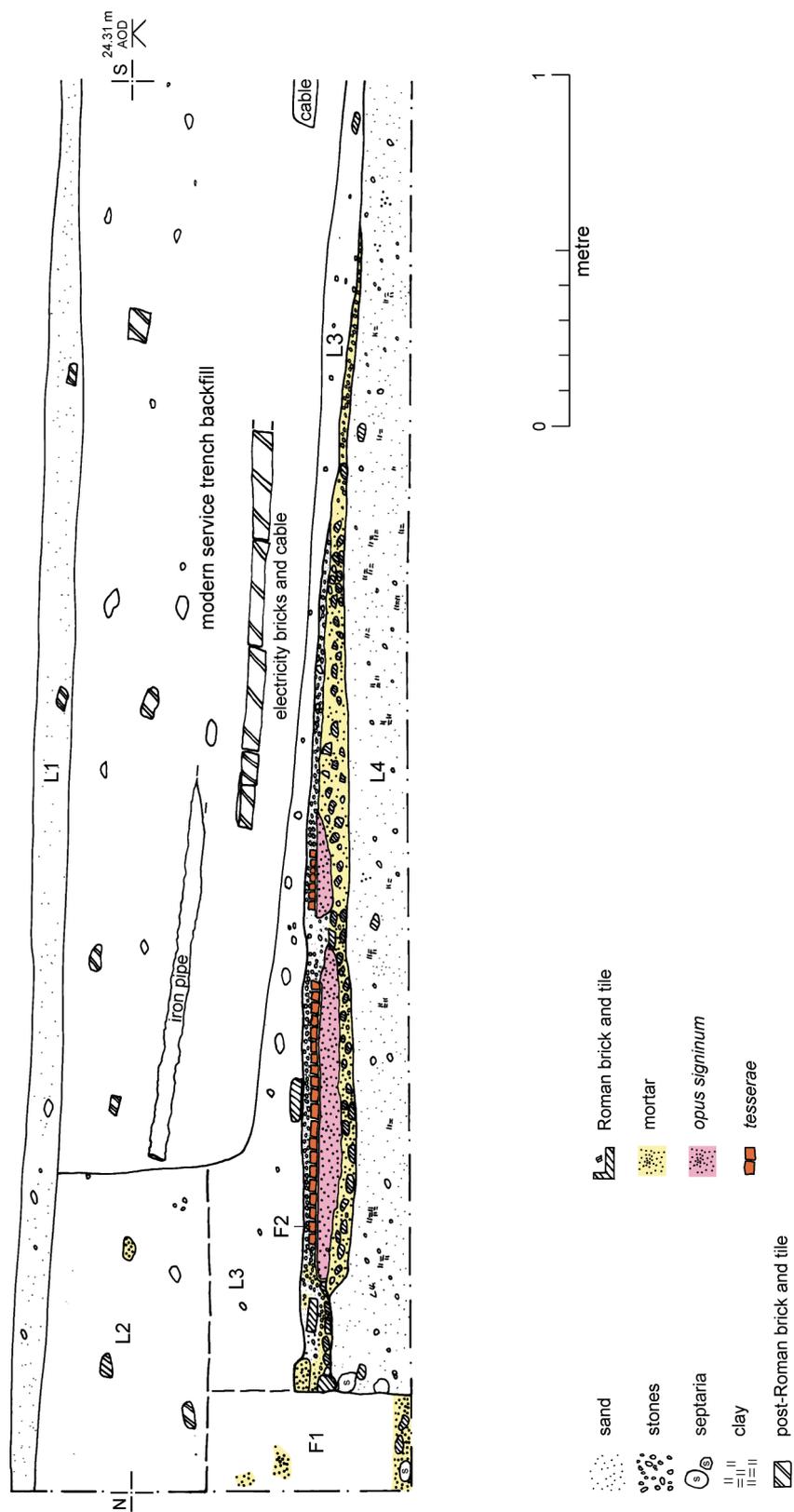


Fig 5 Representative section, showing probable robber trench (F1) and tessellated floor (F2).

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 0013 2520	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project - 10/6d Museum accession - COLEM 2011.45
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> December 2010-March 2011	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 6,000m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER and UAD nos:</b> UAD nos 307, 321, 3033, 3069-3070
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 599 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief within Insulas 31 and 32 of the Roman town was undertaken by CAT during the installation of services and landscaping works associated with firstsite in Colchester. Roman remains were encountered between 0.45m and 1.10m below modern ground-level and two medieval/post-medieval wells were uncovered just below the surface.</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological remains identified during the 2006-8 archaeological investigations at firstsite (CAT Report 477) were encountered again in the 2010-11 watching brief. A gravel surface was identified in a position coinciding with the expected line of the east-west Roman street on the southern edge of Insulas 31 and 32. A wall foundation was also recorded in an area where a Roman building had been previously identified (Building 215 in the Colchester Buildings series).</i></p> <p><i>A red tessellated floor was identified in section in the northern access road to firstsite. The floor is believed to be previously unknown and is from a Roman building (Colchester Building 220), perhaps a town-house.</i></p> <p><i>Two medieval/post-medieval wells were also uncovered during the groundworks. A stone-lined well was uncovered in the back garden of 15 Queen Street and a brick-lined well was recorded in the northern access road to firstsite. The brick-lined well had been constructed in the back yard of a property which once fronted onto the High Street.</i></p>	

<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Reports 234, 305, 385, 477	
<b>Keywords:</b> Roman, street, building, tessellated, floor, medieval/post-medieval, well	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Wightman	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2012