

**Archaeological investigations
at Kingswode Hoe School,
Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex
October 2011**

**report prepared by
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**commissioned by
Atkins
on behalf of
Kingswode Hoe School**

CAT project ref.: 11/3g
NGR: TL 9836 2523
HEM code: CCKH11

Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: COLEM 2010.56



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CAT Report 623
February 2012

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1 Summary

An archaeological investigation took place at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of an extension to the school building. The ditch of the Sheepen Dyke extended across the south-eastern corner of the site. To the west of this were two parallel, early Roman ditches, both of which had been recut. They probably defined a trackway or driveway. Other features were sparse but included two pits, one of which was broadly contemporary with the trackway, while the other contained a small Bronze Age or Iron Age sherd.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation took place at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundwork in advance of the construction of an extension to the school building. The archaeological work was commissioned by Atkins, on behalf of the school. It was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in October 2011.
- 2.2 Kingswode Hoe School is a community day special school catering for boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 16 years who have moderate learning difficulties. The extension is to the north-eastern corner of the existing main school building (planning application no CC/COL/92/09). The extension will house an outreach centre as well as providing other, improved facilities for the school.
- 2.3 The site is located approximately 867 m due west of the walled area of Colchester town centre (at NGR TL 9836 2523). It lies within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Essex SAM no 46) under the Ancient Monuments Act 1979, and Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained from English Heritage for the archaeological investigation.
- 2.4 The excavation and recording methods used were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the site, which was produced by CAT in April 2011 (CAT 2011). The WSI also set out proposals for post-excavation work, the production of a report, an archive and, if necessary, publication texts. It followed a brief written by Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management (HEM) team officer in June 2010 (ECC 2010).
- 2.5 This report follows the standards set out in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), and also those in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008b), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008c). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14), was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 The site is located on the south-western edge of the Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement and industrial complex at Sheepen (EHER no 11673). This lies in the heart of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was protected by a series of defensive earthworks (dykes), each of which consisted of a bank and ditch. The Sheepen site was extensively excavated in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947) and, more recently, in 1970 (Niblett 1985) and 1971-2 (CAR 11, 131-7). Finds were

prolific, and evidence found on the Sheepen site included remains of a trackway and workshops, and evidence of metal-working and coin manufacture (Crummy 2001, 15-16). Much of the Sheepen area was burnt in AD 60 during the Boudican revolt. Subsequently several temples were built in the north-eastern part of the Sheepen site (*ibid*, 17).

- 3.2 The Late Iron Age settlement at Sheepen was defended on its western side by the Sheepen Dyke (EHER no 11641). This was a large earth bank and ditch, which was probably constructed by c AD 10 (CAR 11, 161-2). A later addition to the Sheepen Dyke extended to the south-west for approximately 340 m ('Ditch 1A') and was sectioned in several places in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 111-12). This stretch was possibly added shortly before the Roman invasion. It was projected to cross the south-eastern corner of the Kingswode Hoe School site. This ditch then continued towards the north bank of a stream, which is represented today by a marked dip in Sussex Road. The Sheepen Dyke was probably levelled and the ditch backfilled shortly after the Roman conquest (Crummy 2001, 90; Hawkes & Hull 1947, 51 & 112).
- 3.3 Many Roman pottery kilns have been excavated in the vicinity of the site, including one (Kiln 25; EHER no 13146) excavated in 1952 within the school grounds (Hull 1963, 155-6).
- 3.4 A scatter of Late Bronze Age features was excavated in 1971 approximately 225 m to the east of the Kingswode Hoe School site (CAR 11, 132-3). This represents the first evidence of structures of Late Bronze Age date at Sheepen.
- 3.5 An archaeological evaluation trench was excavated in the south-eastern part of the site by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit in 2009 (ECC FAU 2010). A ditch aligned south-west to north-east was partly excavated and provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age. A pit containing a pot sherd of possible Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date was also found.
- 3.6 An archaeological watching brief took place in 2010 when three temporary classrooms were moved to the western side of the main school building (CAT Report 578). A few modern features were observed in the foundation pads for the relocated classrooms.
- 3.7 During the excavations at Sheepen in the 1930s, remains were found of post-medieval ditches, approximately 160 m to the north-east of the Kingswode Hoe School site. These probably belonged to a small fort or redoubt, dating to the Siege of Colchester in 1648 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 118, plate 110; CAT 1998).
- 3.8 The earliest part of the Kingswode Hoe School building was constructed in 1888 as a private residence and was formerly known as Kingswood House (Colchester historic buildings forum; web reference below). A brick in the eastern wall, a short distance to the south of the extension, is inscribed with the date 'Sep^t 14 1888'.
- 3.9 There is documentary evidence for a range of WW2 defences within the grounds of the Kingswode Hoe School (EHER no 20509).

4 Aims

The aims of the investigation were to record the depth and extent of any archaeological remains uncovered during the building work, and to assess the date and significance of these remains.

5 Methods (Fig 2)

- 5.1 The eastern part of the site had been occupied by temporary classrooms, which had recently been relocated, while the western part was a surface car-park. The ground-level varied across the site from approximately 33.9 m OD in the western part of the site to approximately 34.6 m OD in

the south-eastern corner. The archaeological monitoring commenced on 4th October 2011, when the contractors, Abacus Build, started digging the trenches for the foundations of the extension. The archaeological investigations continued intermittently until 26th October 2011.

- 5.2 The foundation trenches were dug using a mini-digger with a toothless trenching bucket. The trenches were 450-500 mm wide, with the exception of several lengths of foundation trench for the southern wall which were 600 mm wide. The foundation trenches varied in depth, depending in part on the nature of the deposits encountered. They were typically 1.2-1.5 m deep, but were approximately 2 m deep in the south-eastern corner of the site. The digging of the foundation trenches was monitored by CAT staff, who were given time by the contractors to investigate and record any archaeological remains uncovered, and to collect up the finds unearthed. Due to health and safety concerns, the recording of archaeological deposits in the deeper parts of the trenches had to be done from the modern ground-level by looking down into the trenches.
- 5.3 Monitoring also took place during the digging of service trenches, notably for the drains. These were dug to a similar depth as the foundation trenches. Large pits for soakaways were dug in the north-western and south-eastern corners of the site to a depth of approximately 2 m. Many existing service trenches, for both live and redundant services, were encountered, particularly in the western part of the site.
- 5.4 The ground-level within the footprint of the extension was reduced for the ground-bearing slab. The depth of deposits removed varied from approximately 250-300 mm in the western part of the site, where terracing for the car-park had taken place, to approximately 600-800 mm in the eastern part of the site. The ground-reduction was carried out in two phases by the contractors using a mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket. Firstly, following the removal of the modern topsoil (L1) and tarmac (L4), the deposits were progressively stripped under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. This continued either until archaeologically significant deposits were exposed or until the top of the natural subsoil (L3) was reached.
- 5.5 After this initial phase of ground-reduction, CAT staff were given time to investigate, clean and record the archaeological remains uncovered, and to collect up any finds unearthed. Sections were dug by hand across the ditch found in 2009 (ECC FAU 2010, 6) and also across a similar linear feature further west. Monitoring of the final phase of machine-stripping down to the reduced level then followed.
- 5.6 Individual records of archaeological contexts, such as layers or features, as well as finds, were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Site plans were drawn at 1:20 and sections were drawn at 1:10. The site boundaries, features and levels were tied into Ordnance Datum by Total Station. Standard record shots of the site and of individual contexts were taken on a digital camera. Further details of the recording methods used can be found in the WSI (CAT 2011) and in the CAT document *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2006).

6 Results (Figs 2-4)

- 6.1 The natural subsoil consisted of reddish-yellow gravelly sand (L3). The top of the natural subsoil lay approximately 250-350 mm below the modern ground-level in the western part of the site and approximately 350-500 mm deep in the eastern part of the site (ie in places where no significant archaeological or modern features were present).
- 6.2 An oval pit (F8; Fig 2) was revealed near the eastern edge of the site during trenching and ground-reduction by machine. It measured at least 0.7 m across and 0.6 m deep. It was probably cut by the Sheepen Dyke (F12), although it was not possible to confirm this. The surviving part of F8

was excavated by hand, and a single small sherd of probable Bronze Age or Iron Age date was recovered from it.

- 6.3** A pit containing a single possible Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherd was located in the ECC FAU evaluation trench in 2009 (ECC FAU 2010, 6). This pit lay approximately 3.5 m to the south-west of F8. It was not possible to identify it in 2011, as the area had been disturbed by contractors working on modern services.
- 6.4** Further evidence of activity on or near the site pre-dating the Late Iron Age was provided by three residual flint-tempered sherds of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. These were found in 2011 in Late Iron Age/early Roman contexts (F6, F9, F12). Several pieces of worked flint were also recovered from Late Iron Age/early Roman contexts (F10, F12). These included flakes of possible Neolithic-Bronze Age date.
- 6.5 Sheepen Dyke (Figs 2-3)**
- 6.5.1** The Sheepen Dyke (F12) extended from north-east to south-west across the south-eastern corner of the site. It was initially located in the foundation trenches for the eastern and southern walls of the extension. In the latter, it was possible to obtain an almost complete east-west section, 6 m wide, through the ditch (Sx 1; Fig 3). The western edge of F12 was subsequently exposed for a length of approximately 10 m during ground-reduction. The eastern edge of the ditch and any remains of the bank lay beyond the limits of the site of the extension. The projected total width of the ditch was in the region of 7.0-7.5m.
- 6.5.2** The remains of the dyke (F12) consisted of a broad U-shaped ditch. The bottom of the ditch lay approximately 2 m below the modern ground-level. The lower fill of F12 was 0.9 m thick, and consisted of mixed bands of reddish-yellow gravelly sand and light brown, slightly more loamy fill. Much of this was probably redeposited natural subsoil deriving from the bank and which had been deliberately backfilled into the ditch. There was no visible primary silt, although, due to health and safety concerns, it was not possible to examine the bottom of the ditch in detail.
- The upper fill of F12 was a light greyish-brown sandy loam, approximately 0.6 m thick. This was perhaps sinkage into the backfill of F12, and probably accumulated more gradually during the Roman period. It was sealed by 0.5 m or so of post-Roman deposits, including modern topsoil (L1).
- 6.5.3** A quantity of pottery was recovered from F12, as well as a few fragments of animal bone, a couple of iron nails and several worked flint flakes. Most of this material was recovered during machining and was not securely stratified. The pottery sherds were largely of Late Iron Age date, especially those from the lower fill. However, some sherds of probable post-conquest date were also present, notably in the upper fill. A piece of Roman tile also came from the upper fill. The evidence is, therefore, broadly consistent with a Late Iron Age date for the digging of the ditch and an early Roman date for its backfilling.
- 6.6** A pit (F7; Figs 2, 4) was uncovered a metre to the west of the Sheepen Dyke during trenching and ground-reduction by machine. It was roughly circular, approximately 0.7 m in diameter, and 0.5 m deep. Its upper edges were rather irregular and had been disturbed by modern activity. It was cut by the early Roman ditch F10. The pit had a light greyish-brown fill, the lower part of which contained mottles of reddish-brown burnt daub and grey 'ashy' material. A quantity of pottery of mid 1st-century date, including some probable post-conquest sherds, was recovered from F7.
- 6.7 Early Roman ditches (Figs 2, 4)**
- 6.7.1** Several ditches were uncovered to the west of, and parallel to, the Sheepen Dyke (F12). Approximately 2.5 m to the west of F12 was the ditch (F9), which had been partly excavated during the archaeological evaluation carried out by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit in 2009 (ECC FAU 2010, 6). The ditch was uncovered again in several places in 2011. Initially it was

observed in the north-south foundation trench for the eastern wall of the extension, although there was much modern disturbance in this area. The ditch was then sectioned by machine in the foundation trench that extended east-west across the site from the existing kitchen. The edges of F9 were subsequently revealed for a length of approximately 12 m across the central part of the site during ground-reduction. Finally, a section was hand-dug across F9 near the eastern edge of the site.

- 6.7.2** The ditch F9 was approximately 2.5 m wide and 0.8 m deep (1.2 m below the ground-level). It had a U-shaped profile, in places with a flattish bottom. The upper fill was greyish-brown sandy loam, while the lower fill was pale brown and sandier. The pottery from F9 included sherds of early Roman date, among which were imported samian and amphora sherds. Other finds included, from the lower fill, a piece of Roman brick and, from well down in the upper fill, fragments of a ceramic mould, which had been used for casting a copper-alloy object.



Plate 1: ditch F9, with F10 and F7 in the background, viewed from the south-west.

- 6.7.3** In the south-western corner of the site, a ditch (F11) was revealed by machine in an east-west foundation trench. It was approximately 1.5 m wide and 0.35 m deep (0.7 m below the modern ground-level). Although F11 had been truncated as a result of terracing for the modern car-park, it was probably a continuation of ditch F9. However, it was not possible to confirm this, as F9 and F11 were separated by a series of modern service trenches.
- 6.7.4** A shallower ditch or gully (F10) extended alongside and parallel to the eastern edge of F9. It was located in the same places on the site as F9 although, in the south-western corner, it appears to have been destroyed during terracing for the modern car-park. In the north-eastern part of the site, the two features overlapped slightly. However, further to the south-west, in the east-west foundation trench and during ground-reduction, they were seen to diverge and were clearly visible as discrete features. In the hand-dug section (Sx 2; Fig 4), F10 appeared to cut F9 as well as F7. It seems likely that F10 was a shallow recut of F9.
- 6.7.5** The ditch or gully F10 was approximately 0.9 m wide and 0.25 m deep (0.65 m below the modern ground-level), with a U-shaped profile. The fill of F10 was very similar to that of F9, and consisted of a greyish-brown upper fill and slightly lighter and sandier lower fill. The pottery from F10 included sherds of samian and Gallo-Belgic wares and many of the pot sherds are of early Roman date. A sherd of 2nd-century or later date probably came

from the upper fill of F10. This suggests that F10 had not fully silted up when this sherd was deposited, assuming that it was not intrusive.

- 6.7.6** In the north-western corner of the site, another ditch (F6) was uncovered 8.5 m to the west of, and parallel to, F9. Initially it was located in the east-west foundation trench for the northern wall of the extension, where a section was hand-dug at an oblique angle across the ditch. To the south-west of this section, the edges of F6 were traced for approximately 10 m during ground-reduction. Subsequently, the ditch was sectioned by machine during trenching for a drain. Finally, a section was hand-dug across F6 between the two previous sections.
- 6.7.7** The ditch F6 was approximately 2.5 m wide and 0.8 m deep (1.0 m below the modern ground-level). It had a U-shaped profile, in places with a flattish bottom. The upper fill was greyish-brown sandy loam, while the lower fill was pale brown and sandier. Detailed examination of the final hand-dug section indicated that F6 had been recut (Sx 3; Fig 4). Both phases were similar in depth, but were on a slightly different alignment. There were, therefore, two separate undulations in the bottom of F6. The earlier phase was the more easterly of the two, and its fill was slightly lighter and sandier. Two phases were not distinguished in the oblique, hand-dug section, and perhaps here they had converged. The pottery from F6 included sherds of samian, Gallo-Belgic wares and amphoras. Many of the pot sherds were of early Roman date. Other finds included a rim sherd from an early Roman glass vessel and several Roman brick/tile fragments.
- 6.7.8** The similarities between the ditches F6 and F9-F11, together with the dating evidence, suggest that they were broadly contemporary. They probably defined a trackway or driveway, approximately 8.5 m wide. The ditches were dug early in the Roman period, perhaps shortly after the Sheepen Dyke had been backfilled. Both ditches had been recut, although how long they continued in use is unclear. The dating evidence suggests that it is unlikely that they were in use much beyond the late 1st century. A few sherds of possible 2nd-century date from the ditch backfills indicate that they may not have completely silted-up by this time.
- 6.8** A copper-alloy brooch (SF 2), dated AD 43-c AD 60/5, was found in machine spoil within the area of the probable early Roman trackway. The spoil came from the western part of a short east-west foundation trench which extended from the north-eastern corner of the existing kitchen. Only modern deposits were observed in this trench.
- 6.9 Post-Roman deposits** (Figs 2-4)
- 6.9.1** Across the eastern part of the site, the natural subsoil (L3) and the archaeological features were sealed by a brownish layer (L2), approximately 0.15-0.2 m thick. It probably consisted mainly of subsoil, re-worked and redeposited as a result of post-Roman activity, such as cultivation. This was sealed by dark greyish-brown modern topsoil (L1), 0.2-0.3 m thick.
- 6.9.2** In the western part of the site, the natural subsoil (L3) and the archaeological features were sealed in places by a layer of greyish-brown topsoil (L5), 0.1-0.2 m thick. There had clearly been terracing in this area for the modern car-park, and L5 was either *in situ* topsoil or, more likely, redeposited modern make-up. It was sealed by the existing car-park surface (L4), 0.15-0.25 m thick, consisting of tarmac with a gravelly base.

7 Finds

7.1 Introduction

A quantity of finds was recovered during the archaeological investigation. Where appropriate, the finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context, in line with the recommendations in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological*

materials (IfA 2008c). The small finds are listed in section 7.2, the pottery is discussed in section 7.3, and a piece of Roman vessel glass is catalogued in section 7.4. The other finds, as well as brief descriptions of the pottery, are listed by context in Table 2 in section 13 (the appendix), and further details are available in the site archive.

7.2 Small finds

by *Nina Crummy*

SF 1. (8) F6. Ditch. Roman. Small copper-alloy stud. Roman. Length 9 mm.

SF 2. (10) Unstratified. Copper-alloy Aucissa brooch, missing the pin. Roman. Date range AD 43-c AD 60/5. Length 53 mm.

SF 3. (33) F9. Ditch. Roman. Fragments from a ceramic mould for casting a copper-alloy object. Total weight 62 g.

7.3 Pottery

by *Stephen Benfield*

7.3.1 Introduction

In total, 337 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 5,890 g were recovered from several ditch contexts and two pits. There are a few sherds of prehistoric and medieval pottery, but almost all of the pottery can be dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman periods. Sherd count and weight was recorded for each finds number by context. The pottery for each finds number was briefly examined and spot-dated. Fabric types and identifiable vessel forms were recorded. The fabric names are listed in Table 1 (below). The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabric codes refer to the Colchester fabric series listed and described in *CAR 10*, and also the fabrics in Hawkes & Hull 1947, Niblett 1985 and the National Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). Vessel form types were recorded, where possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Amphoras were recorded following the generally accepted notation for common amphora types used in Tyers 1996. Post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to *CAR 7*. All the pottery, together with a spot-date, is described and listed by finds number for each context in Table 2 in the appendix.

Table 1: list of pottery fabrics.

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Prehistoric</i>	
HMF	hand-made flint-tempered
HMS	hand-made sand-tempered
<i>Late Iron Age and Roman</i>	
AA	amphoras, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras)
AJ	amphoras (Dressel 20) (Tomber & Dore 1998, Fabric BAT AM 1)
BA(SG)	South Gaulish plain samian
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
DZ	fine oxidised wares
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GTW	grog-tempered wares (Tomber & Dore 1998, Fabric SOB GT)
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
HZ(GT)	large storage jars, principally grog-tempered
NOG WH1	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic pipeclay) white ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998)
NOG WH2	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic powdery) white ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998)
NOG WH3	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic sandy) white ware 3 (Tomber & Dore 1998)
RW	Romanising wares (Niblett 1985, 52, Fabric B)

Fabric code	Fabric name
TN	<i>terra nigra</i> (Tomber & Dore 1998, Fabric GAB TN 1)
TR3	Gallia-Belgica <i>terra rubra</i> 3 (Tomber & Dore 1998, Fabric GAB TR 3)
TR4	local oxidised wares imitating imported <i>terra rubra</i> wares
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent
UR	<i>terra nigra</i> -type wares
<i>Post-Roman</i>	
21	medieval sandy orange wares (general)

7.3.2 Discussion

Prehistoric

Four sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. Three are flint-tempered (F6 (7), F9 (23), F12 (18)); the other (F8 (29)) is a thick sherd which is sand-tempered, but also contains some white quartz and flint. It can be noted that the sherd from F8 was the only pottery recovered from that feature, the other three sherds being clearly residual, recovered among later-dated pottery. Close dating of the prehistoric pottery is difficult, although the use of flint-temper indicates a date prior to the Middle-Late Iron Age. The nature of the three flint-tempered sherds suggests a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date, and this seems likely as pottery dated to the Late Bronze Age has been recovered in previous excavations not far from this site (CAR 11, 131-3). The other sherd is more difficult to date, but a Bronze Age or Iron Age date appears likely.

Late Iron Age-early Roman

The assemblage includes Gallo-Belgic wares, samian and amphora imports as well as locally-produced fine and coarse wares. Much of the pottery recovered is difficult to closely date in terms of the Late Iron Age and early post-conquest Roman periods. Many of the fabrics and vessel types are of Late Iron Age ('Belgic') or Gallo-Belgic types (mostly imports) rather than Roman or Romano-British, although a small quantity of 'Roman' coarse wares or imports are present. Most of the coarse pottery (apart from some storage jars, oxidised wares and grey wares) have dark (reduced) surfaces and contain various quantities of grog-temper. These have been divided on a rapid inspection between grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW) and Romanising wares (Fabric RW). Romanising wares encompass a number of fabric variations (Niblett 1985, 52). Here they are generally dark-surfaced, thin-walled, grog-tempered vessels, considered principally to be of Late Iron Age date, and silty or sandy wares of Late Iron Age-early Roman type. The Late Iron Age and Gallo-Belgic pottery types can be considered to be probably contemporary with the Sheepen settlement site, currently dated as c AD 5-61 (Niblett 1985, 3). Some sherds dated to the post-conquest (Roman) period (after c AD 43), were associated with almost all of the features.

Most of the pottery was recovered from four ditches (F6, F9, F10, F12). One of these (F12) is part of the south-western length (Ditch 1A) of the Sheepen Dyke (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate 110; CAR 11, fig 3.1).

The pottery recovered from the fill of Ditch 1A (F12) was mostly obtained from machine-excavation, although stratigraphical observations relating to where this came from within the ditch were recorded. Pottery that can be closely dated to the post-conquest period, or which is probably of post-conquest date, is associated with finds nos 15, 17 and 18. This includes sherds in Fabric GX and Fabric DJ. A mortarium of form Cam 191A (F12 (16)) might be a Late Iron Age import or of early Roman date and possibly of local production (Hartley 1985). These sherds are either mostly associated with the upper fill of F12, or are from more general machine-recovery. However, it should be noted that finds no 17 includes pottery considered mostly to be associated with the lower fill.

The other ditches (F6, F9, F10), and a single pit (F7), all contained some pottery which can be dated to the early post-conquest period. Post-conquest pottery fabrics recorded are South Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(SG)), Spanish amphoras of form Dressel 20 (Fabric AJ), local coarse oxidised wares (Fabric DJ), and grey wares (Fabric GX). The vessel forms Cam 108 (F6 (6)), Cam 243-244/246 (F9 (24)) and Cam 273 (F6 (38)) can also be dated to the post-conquest period. In general, there does not appear to be any significant difference in the nature of the pottery recovered from these features. A single sherd from a bowl of form Cam 37A/38A (dated mid 2nd-early 3rd century) was recovered from F10 (26). Otherwise, all of the stratified post-conquest pottery was current from the early Roman period and most that can be closely dated was not current beyond the late 1st-early 2nd century. The pottery fabrics recorded (which include Gallo-Belgic wares from F6 and F10) suggest a 1st-century, Claudio-Neronian/early Flavian date.

It can be noted that there is also an unstratified sherd that might be of mid-late Roman date. This is a rim sherd from a jar (U/S (27)) which is possibly of form Cam 268 (dated mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century).

Overall, while close dating is difficult, the nature of the pottery recovered from the fill of the Sheepen Dyke (F12) indicates an earlier date than that from the fill of the other ditches (F6, F9, F10). While a few sherds from the dyke (mostly ascribed to the upper fill) can be dated to the post-conquest (Roman) period, the pottery is predominantly of Late Iron Age type and no certain post-conquest pottery is unquestionably associated with the lower fill. Also, it can be noted that, in contrast to the other ditches, the only imports identified from the Sheepen Dyke ditch are Gallo-Belgic wares which were current from the Late Iron Age period and there are no exclusively post-conquest imports. The pottery associated with the other features suggest an early Roman (Claudio-Neronian/early Flavian) date. In general, there appears to be little significant difference in the pottery from each of them, although it can be noted that no Gallo-Belgic sherds were recovered from F9, and there is one sherd dated to the early/mid 2nd- to early 3rd-century date from F10 which, if not intrusive, would indicate a later date for this feature.

Post-Roman (medieval)

A single sherd of medieval pottery with splash glaze was recovered during the machine-excavation of the upper fill of the Sheepen Dyke (F12, finds no 36). This is a medieval sandy orange ware (Fabric 21) and can be broadly dated to the 13th-16th century.

7.4 Roman glass

by Stephen Benfield

A piece of early Roman vessel glass (two joining pieces recently broken) was recovered from the upper fill of Roman ditch F6. This is from a cast, circular plate or bowl with a slightly everted rim in dark emerald green glass. The surviving profile and the measured rim diameter (approximately 170-180 mm) suggest that the vessel would probably have been similar to one illustrated in *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate 88, no 60), which is also in green glass.

Pieces from a number of vessels in strongly-coloured monochrome glass have been recovered from previous excavations at the nearby Sheepen site, of which the majority are dark green (*CAR* 8, 30), and translucent dark green is the dominant colour for all of this type of glass recovered from Colchester (*ibid*, 34). No pieces from monochrome glass vessels have been recovered from pre-Roman contexts at Sheepen, suggesting that all these vessels arrived after AD 43 (*ibid*). Also, glass is extremely rare among pre-Roman contexts at Sheepen, with only three pieces recorded from the first excavations (Harden 1947, 288-9) and none from the second excavations (Niblett 1985, 136). The manufacture of cast

vessels had almost ceased by c AD 60, and of brightly coloured monochrome glass by c AD 65/70 (CAR 8, 213). Overall, this gives a date range of c AD 43-60/70 for the vessel, and it is very unlikely that it would date any later in the 1st century. This dating suggests that it may be of Italian or South Gaulish origin, which appear to have been the main sources for glass imported into Britain in the second and third quarters of the 1st century, being replaced by the Rhineland and elsewhere in the north-west provinces in the later 1st century (Price & Cottam 1998).

(5) F6. Ditch. Roman. Two joining rim pieces, broken during excavation, from a cast, circular plate or bowl in strongly-coloured, monochrome dark emerald green glass. Small, slightly everted rim and inward sloping, straight vessel wall (see CAR 8, fig 2.10, no 198 for similar profile). Fine internal groove just below rim. Dated c AD 43-60/70. Present height 15 mm. Rim diameter approximately 170-180 mm. Weight 7.9 g.

8 Discussion and conclusions

- 8.1 There was slight evidence for prehistoric occupation on the site pre-dating the Late Iron Age. A pit (F8), which contained a possible Bronze Age or Iron Age sherd, was excavated near the eastern edge of the site. Another pit, which contained a Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherd, was found on the site during the archaeological evaluation in 2009 (ECC FAU 2010, 6). Three Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age sherds, as well as several pieces of worked flint of probable Neolithic-Bronze Age date, were residual in later features. A scatter of Late Bronze Age features was found further east in 1971 (CAR 11, 132-3).
- 8.2 The ditch of the Sheepen Dyke extended across the south-eastern corner of the site in more or less the position projected by the 1930s' excavators (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate 112). An east-west section across it was recorded in 2011 as part of the current project in a contractor's foundation trench, although the eastern edge of the ditch lay just beyond the limits of the site of the extension. Despite this, the 2011 section confirmed that this stretch of the dyke (Ditch 1A) was narrower and shallower than the main Sheepen Dyke (*ibid*, 111). It was probably a later addition added shortly before the Roman invasion (*ibid*, 51 & 111-12).
- 8.3 The profile of Ditch 1A uncovered in 2011 was clearly U-shaped, although the 1930s' ditch sections included both U-shaped and V-shaped profiles (*ibid*, fig 27). As in the 1930s' sections, there was little or no evidence of primary silt visible in the 2011 ditch section. This reinforces the interpretation that Ditch 1A had been deliberately backfilled not long after it was dug, or at least cleaned out. This probably took place not long after the Roman conquest (*ibid*, 51 & 112; Crummy 2001, 90).
- 8.4 To the west of the Sheepen Dyke were two parallel ditches (F6 and F9-F11), approximately 8.5 m apart. They probably defined a previously unrecorded trackway, which extended from north-east to south-west and was parallel to the dyke. The finds from the ditches suggest that they were dug early in the Roman period. Both had been recut. The trackway is comparable to other examples excavated within the Camulodunum area (eg CAT Report 292, 14-18 & 23-7; CAT Report 412, 61 & 1088-9).
- 8.5 No traces of banks associated with the ditches survived. If the more easterly ditch (F9) had one, it probably sealed the ditch of the Sheepen Dyke, which had perhaps been backfilled not long before. It was unclear if the bank would also have sealed the probable early Roman pit F7 or if F7 was cut through it.
- 8.6 The trackway appeared to follow approximately the line of the backfilled dyke (Ditch 1A) north-eastwards. This extended towards the former south-west entrance, approximately 160 m to the north-east of the site, which led into the main Sheepen settlement. A small drainage ditch, aligned north-

east to south-west, was uncovered during the 1930s' excavations, approximately 100 m to the north-east of the site (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 112, plates 110 & 112). Gravel metalling was found sealing the backfilled Ditch 1A immediately to the south of this small ditch (*ibid*, 112). This ditch may possibly be a continuation of one of the trackway ditches, perhaps the more northerly one, found in 2011.

- 8.7 Although both trackway ditches had been recut, it was unclear how long they continued in use. No Boudican deposits were identified on the site to help clarify whether the ditches were in use at the time of, or after, the revolt in AD 60/1. Similarly, it is unclear how the trackway related to the re-fortification of the Sheepen site with 'Ditch 2' and the adjacent palisade (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 56, 110 & 120, fig 4; Crummy 2001, 90). A few pot sherds of possible late 1st- or 2nd-century date were recovered from the upper fills of the ditches, suggesting that they had not completely silted-up by this time. After the trackway went out of use, there was little archaeological evidence for activity on the site until Kingswood House was built in 1888.

9 Abbreviations and glossary

amphora	large Roman pottery storage jar, used especially for oil and wine
AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Boudican	dating to the time of the native uprising led by Boudica in AD 60/1
Bronze Age	period from c 2,000 BC to c 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made; usually a layer or a feature
Early Iron Age	period from c 700 BC to c 300 BC
ECC FAU	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex
feature	an identifiable context, such as a pit, a wall or a post-hole
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
<i>imbrex</i>	curved Roman roof tile
HEM	Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management team
hypocaust	Roman underfloor heating system
Late Bronze Age	period from c 1200 to c 700 BC
Late Iron Age	period from c 100 BC to AD 43
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
Middle Iron Age	period from c 300 BC to c 100 BC
modern	period from c 1850 onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
<i>oppidum</i>	a large Late Iron Age settlement, usually fortified
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
residual	finds that were deposited earlier than the context in which they were found
Roman	period from AD 43 to c AD 410
RRCSAL	Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
samian	glossy Roman fine reddish pottery, used mainly as table ware
Sx	drawn archaeological section
<i>tegula</i>	flanged Roman roof tile
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester and Ipswich Museums
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context

10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Atkins for commissioning and funding the archaeological investigation on behalf of Kingswode Hoe School. We would also like to thank the contractors, Abacus Build, for their help on site. The work was monitored by Adrian Gascoyne, senior HEM officer, Essex County Council, and by Debbie Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage.

11 References

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

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| CAR 2 | 1983 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 2: The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester, 1971-9</i> , by N Crummy (reprinted 1995) |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter |
| CAR 8 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by H E M Cool and J Price |
| CAR 10 | 1991 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 1998 | souvenir map of the Siege of Colchester 1648 (Colchester Archaeological Trust) |
| CAT | 2006 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> (Colchester Archaeological Trust) |
| CAT | 2011 | Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological excavation at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester, Essex, April 2011, by A Wightman (Colchester Archaeological Trust) |
| CAT Report 292 | | <i>The Colchester Garrison PFI project, Colchester, Essex: a report on the 2003 excavation of Areas 2, 6 and 10: August-November 2003</i> , by H Brooks & R Masfield, produced in association with RPS, 2005 |
| CAT Report 412 | | <i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex: May 2004-October 2007</i> , by L Pooley, P Crummy, D Shimmin, H Brooks, B Holloway, and R Masfield, 2011 |
| CAT Report 578 | | <i>Archaeological monitoring at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2010</i> , by A Wightman, 2010 |
| CIMS | 2008a | <i>Guidelines on standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (CBC)</i> |
| CIMS | 2008b | <i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CBC)</i> |
| Crummy, P | 2001 | <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester - Britain's first Roman town</i> |
| EAA 3 | 1997 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment</i> , ed by J Glazebrook |
| EAA 8 | 2000 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , ed by N Brown and J Glazebrook |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , ed by D Gurney, ALGAO East |
| ECC | 2010 | <i>Archaeological excavation and monitoring at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester</i> , ECC brief, June 2010, by A Gascoyne |

ECC FAU	2010	<i>Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: archaeological evaluation, Report 2154, unpublished ECC FAU archive report, by P Sparrow</i>
Harden, D	1947	'The glass', in Hawkes & Hull 1947, 287-307
Hartley, K	1985	'The mortaria – discussion and conclusions', in Niblett 1985, 92-3
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R,	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL, 14</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Hull, M R	1963	<i>The Roman potters' kilns of Colchester, RRCSAL, 21</i>
IfA	2007	<i>Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
IfA	2008c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage)</i>
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA, Research Report, 57</i>
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Tomber, R & Dore, J	1998	<i>The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, a handbook, MoLAS, Monograph, 2</i>
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Internet reference

Colchester historic buildings forum:
<http://www.colchesterhistoricbuildingsforum.org.uk/>
accessed 16/11/2011

12 Archive deposition

12.1 The archive from the archaeological investigation, including the site records, photographs and finds, will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, under accession code COLEM 2010.56, in accordance with *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CIMS 2008b)* and *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (IfA 2007)*.

12.2 Contents of archive

- An A4 cardboard wallet containing the site record sheets, 4 sheets of A3 drafting film, sundry papers, and a CD containing digital material including the site photographs.
- Finds: two museum boxes.

13 Appendix: list of finds by context

All weights are in grammes. For the pottery fabric and form codes, see section 7.3.1 (identifications by Stephen Benfield of CAT). Adam Wightman of CAT identified the animal bone and worked flint.

Table 2: list of finds by context.

Context	Find no	Qty	Description	Wt (g)	Comments
machine spoil, upper fill, E-W foundation trench					
F6	3	6	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	155	Fabric NOG WH2, Cam 136 rim; Fabric NOG WH3, ?butt beaker sherd; Fabric DJ, flagon handle; Fabric RW, Cam 231; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F6	3	1	animal bone fragment	70	juvenile cattle femur
upper fill, E-W foundation trench					
F6	4	2?	animal bone fragments	34	damaged by roots, shattered into approximately 40 fragments on lifting; probably from at least two bones: medium mammal radius/metapodial and large mammal ?humerus
upper fill, E-W foundation trench					
F6	6	18	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	421	Fabric AA, body sherd, ?Dressel 2-4; Fabric NOG WH1, flagon/ <i>lagena</i> ; Fabric NOG WH2, unusual thick base from ?beaker or small jar; ?Fabric NOG WH body sherds; Fabric GX, Cam 108, ?Cam 266; Fabric HZ(GT), Cam 270B; Fabric RW, Cam 266 Group date: Claudio-Neronian/Flavian
F6	6	1	<i>imbrex</i> fragment	73	
F6	6	3	Roman brick/tile fragments	239	
F6	6	1	?burnt daub fragment	42	
F6	6	1	animal bone fragment	4	medium mammal (probably pig) radius
F6	6	2	1 iron nail & 1 small nail fragment	6	complete nail 44 mm long; fragment 19 mm long
lower fill, E-W foundation trench					
F6	7	1	prehistoric pot sherd	10	Fabric HMF, body sherd, ?Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age
F6	7	30	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	168	Fabric NOG WH2; Fabric TR3, rouletted beaker; Fabric RW, Cam 266; Fabric GX, ?Cam 92 Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F6	7	2	iron nail fragments	5	20 mm long with head; 17 mm long
recovered during machine-trenching for drain					
F6	30	15	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	301	Fabric AJ (BAT AM 1), Dressel 20; Fabric RW, Cam 218, Cam 266 Group date: Claudio-Neronian/Flavian
F6	30	1	<i>tegula</i> fragment	309	
F6	30	1	Roman brick/tile fragment	14	
upper fill, surface cleaning after ground-reduction					
F6	31	21	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	283	Fabric TR3, rouletted beaker; Fabric GTW; Fabric RW; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
upper fill, hand-dug section					
F6	38	7	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	230	Fabric GTW; Fabric RW; Fabric HZ, Cam 273; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F6	38	1	Roman brick/tile fragment	8	
F6	38	1	burnt flint fragment	39	
F6	38	1	iron nail fragment	8	47 mm long
lower fill, hand-dug section					
F6	39	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	18	Fabric RW, part of pot base (diameter 60 mm) with central hole (diameter 11 mm), thickness 5 mm, edges roughly smoothed – possibly a spindlewhorl made from a pot base; holes in pot bases are not uncommon in this period and it may have been re-used here to form a

					spindlewhorl (comparable in size to CAR 2, fig 71, no 2003)
F6	39	4	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	52	Fabric NOG WH3, Cam 113 butt beaker; Fabric HZ(GT), grey surface Group date: ?Claudio-Neronian
F6	39	1	iron nail fragment	16	45 mm long with head
upper fill, hand-dug section					
F7	40	17	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	272	Fabric DJ; Fabric RW, ?Cam 266; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
lower fill, hand-dug section					
F7	41	23	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	501	Fabric DJ, bowl with small, expanded flat-topped rim in pink-buff fabric; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW Group date: ?Claudio-Neronian
upper fill, hand-dug section, possibly contaminated with F10					
F7	42	4	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	47	Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW (undercut rim from jar/bowl) Group date: ?Claudio-Neronian
F8	29	1	prehistoric pot sherd	4	Fabric HMS/F, thick (9 mm), soft, hand-made body sherd, abraded, sparse grog, some fine flint/quartz, ?Bronze Age or Iron Age
machine spoil, E-W foundation trench					
F9		1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	8	Fabric GTW/HZ(GT), abraded, porridgey surface
upper fill, recovered during ground-reduction in central part of site, some sherds possibly from F10					
F9	23	1	prehistoric pot sherd	35	Fabric HMF, body sherd, thick sherd (8 mm) with abundant fine flint, ?Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age
F9	23	10	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	818	Fabric AJ (BAT AM 1), handle (no stamp), Dressel 20; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW, Cam 260, form not recorded from fortress/ <i>colonia</i> (CAR 10, 479) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
upper fill, hand-dug section					
F9	24	7	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	113	Fabric GTW, sherd with unusual small scar from round ?handle or decorative protrusion; Fabric GX, Cam 243-244/246 (mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century); Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW
middle fill, hand-dug section					
F9	32	12	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	109	Fabric GTW; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW, Cam 218, bead rim Group date: ?Claudio-Neronian
lower fill, hand-dug section					
F9	35	12	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	122	Fabric BA(SG); Fabric AJ (BAT AM 1); Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW Group date: Claudio-Neronian/ Flavian
F9	43	1	Roman brick fragment	624	lower fill, extracted from section (see Fig 4); 31-36 mm thick, longest surviving dimension 134 mm, ? <i>bessalis</i> , possibly from hypocaust <i>pilae</i>
machine spoil, N-S foundation trench, possibly contaminated with F7					
F10	9	4	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	24	Fabric DJ; Fabric GX; Fabric HZ(GT)/GTW Group date: Claudio-Neronian/Flavian
hand-dug section					
F10	26	42	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	350	Fabric BA(SG), abraded, scorched, from large platter or dish; Fabric NOG WH2; Fabric NOG WH3, rouletted ?beaker sherd; Fabric GB, Cam 37A/38A; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW, Cam 218 Group date: Claudio-Neronian, with one sherd early/mid 2nd-early 3rd century (intrusive?)

hand-dug section, possibly contaminated with F9					
F10	34	10	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	51	Fabric NOG WH2; Fabric DJ; Fabric RW Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F10	44	1	worked flint	19	hand-dug section; crude piece, tool of convenience (probably Bronze Age)
W edge, upper fill; foundation trench for S wall					
F12	13	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	3	Fabric GTW?
recovered during machining, N-S foundation trench					
F12	15	3	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	26	Fabric NOG WH2, handle; Fabric DJ; Fabric RW, grog-tempered body sherd with lattice decoration formed by paired, burnished lines Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F12	15	1	animal bone fragment	264	cattle left scapula, some probable cut-marks
recovered during machining of eastern part of E-W foundation trench; probably mainly from upper fill					
F12	16	5	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	113	Fabric TN, platter; Fabric DZ (sparse fine grog), burnished, possibly from a Gallo-Belgic beaker copy; Fabric RW; Fabric TZ, Cam 191A Group date: Tiberio-Neronian
recovered during machining of E-W foundation trench; probably mainly from lower fill					
F12	17	13	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	173	Fabric GTW, large pedestal foot, ?Cam 204; Fabric GX; Fabric RW; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: Claudio-Neronian
F12	17	2	animal bone	29	large mammal (probably cattle) rib and cattle tooth (molar) fragment
F12	17	1	iron nail fragment	8	52 mm long
recovered during machining of western part of E-W foundation trench; probably mainly from upper fill					
F12	18	1	prehistoric pot sherd	6	Fabric HMF, body sherd, ?Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age
F12	18	12	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	371	Fabric NOG WH3, rouletted butt beaker; Fabric GTW; Fabric HZ, Cam 270B; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW; Fabric (UR), grog-tempered base from local Gallo-Belgic platter copy Group date: ?Claudio-Neronian
F12	18	1	tegula fragment	104	
F12	18	1	animal bone	22	juvenile cattle radius (distal end)
F12	18	1	iron nail	14	66mm long
lower fill, near bottom of ditch, mostly extracted from section, E-W foundation trench					
F12	19	8	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	93	Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW Group date: late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
W edge of ditch; small 'buttress' S of E-W foundation trench					
F12	21	9	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	54	Fabric NOG WH1; Fabric GTW; Fabric HZ(GT); Fabric RW Group date: late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
F12	21	1	worked flint flake	2	tertiary flake, broken proximal end, platform preparation, ?retouch on point, piercer (Neolithic)
upper fill, recovered during initial ground-reduction					
F12	25	18	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	578	Fabric GTW; including rim from a cordoned bowl; Fabric HZ(GT), Cam 270B, comb-decorated sherds; Fabric RW Group date: late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
upper fill, recovered during final ground-reduction					
F12	28	4	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	155	Fabric NOG WH2/DJ; Fabric GTW; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD, possibly post-conquest

recovered during machining for manhole S of SE corner of extension; mainly from upper fill of ditch					
F12	36	5	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	69	Fabric GTW; Fabric HZ(GT) Group date: late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
F12	36	1	medieval pot sherd	5	Fabric 21, splash of glaze
F12	37	2	worked flint flakes	22	same context as finds no 36; primary flake with two breaks and tertiary flake with crude retouched edge (probably Bronze Age)
machine spoil, E-W foundation trench, immediately west of F12					
U/S	12	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	5	Fabric TR4, from a girth/globular beaker; late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
found on machined surface at southern end of site					
U/S	14	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	5	Fabric GTW/RW; late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
machine spoil, from foundation trench for S wall, probably from F12					
U/S	20	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherd	13	Fabric HZ(GT); late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
machine clearance in south-eastern corner of site					
U/S	22	2	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	10	Fabric GTW/RW, ?Cam 21; late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD
from machine spoil heaps					
U/S	27	6	Late Iron Age/early Roman pot sherds	104	Fabric GTW; Fabric GX/RW, jar rim ?Cam 268; Fabric HZ(GT), Cam 270B; Fabric RW Group date: Roman

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Date: 17.02.12

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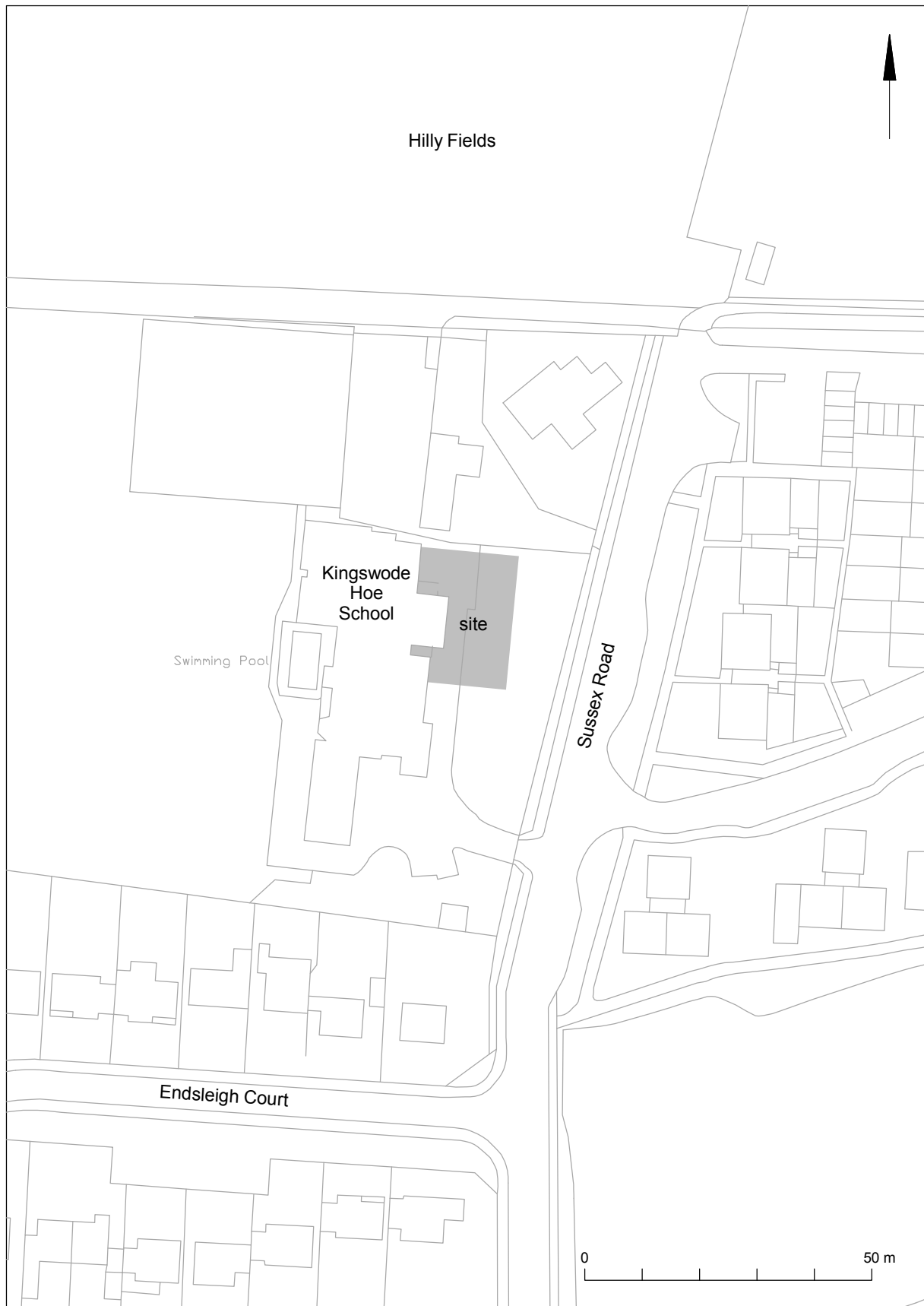


Fig 1 Site location.

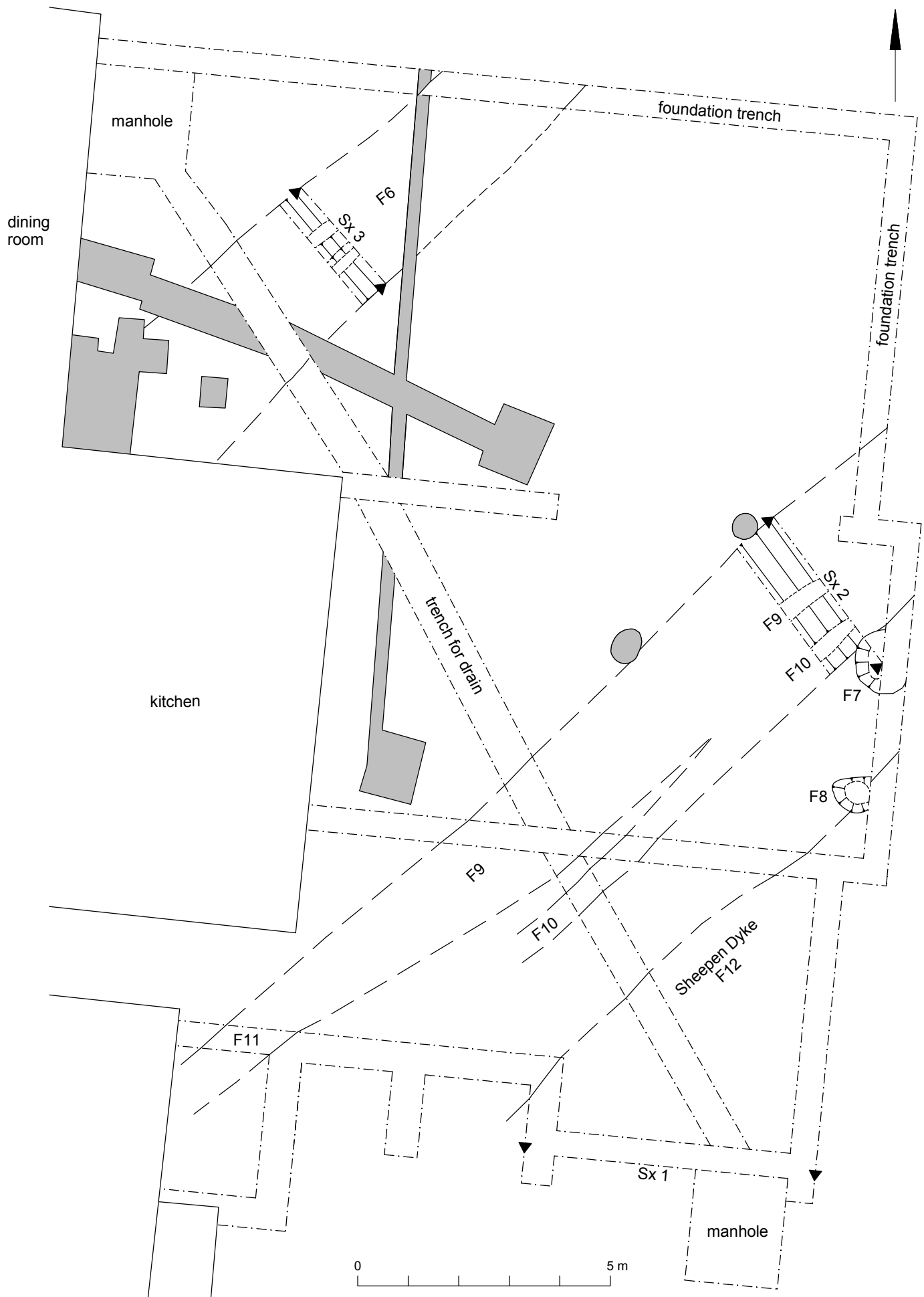


Fig 2 Site plan (areas of later disturbance shown in grey tone).

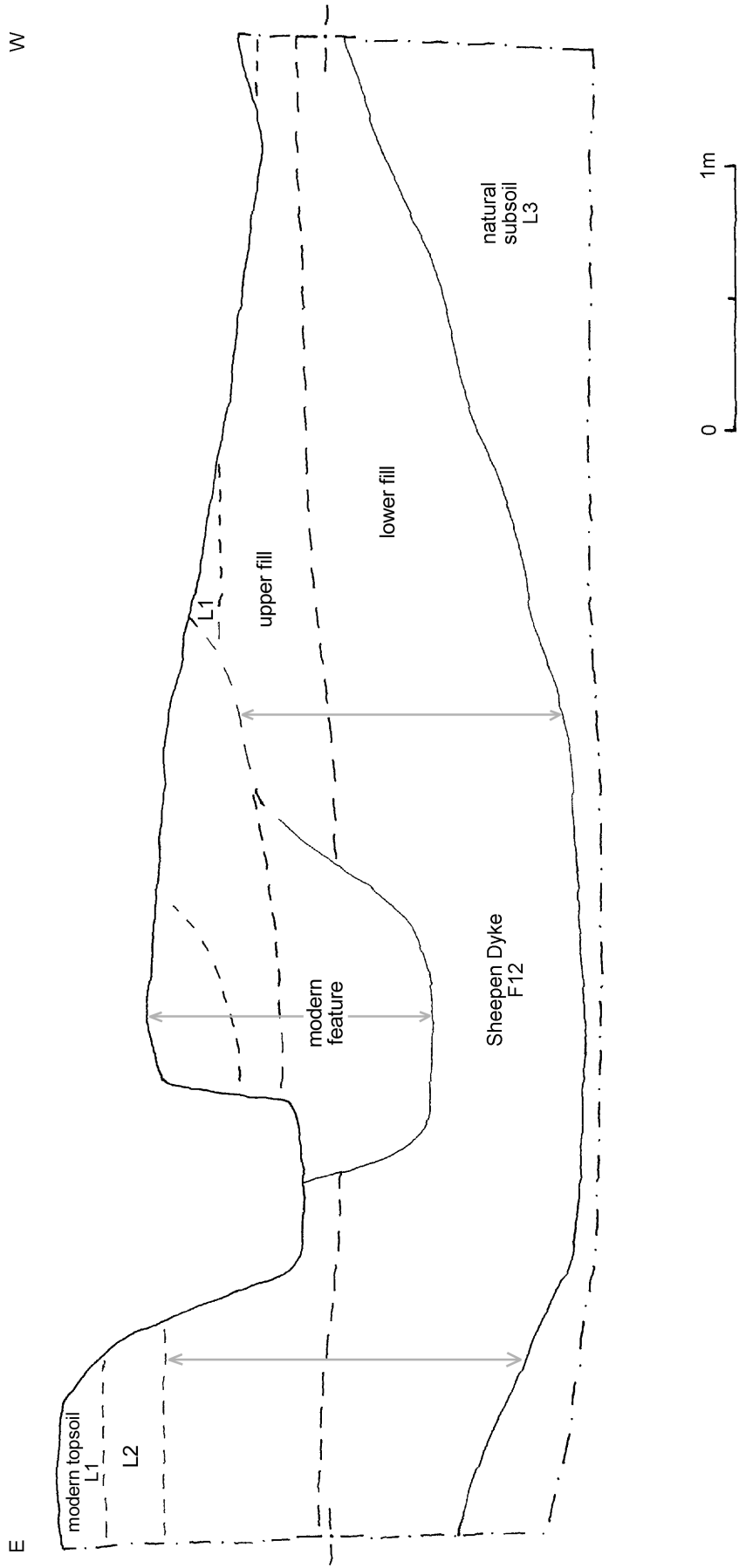
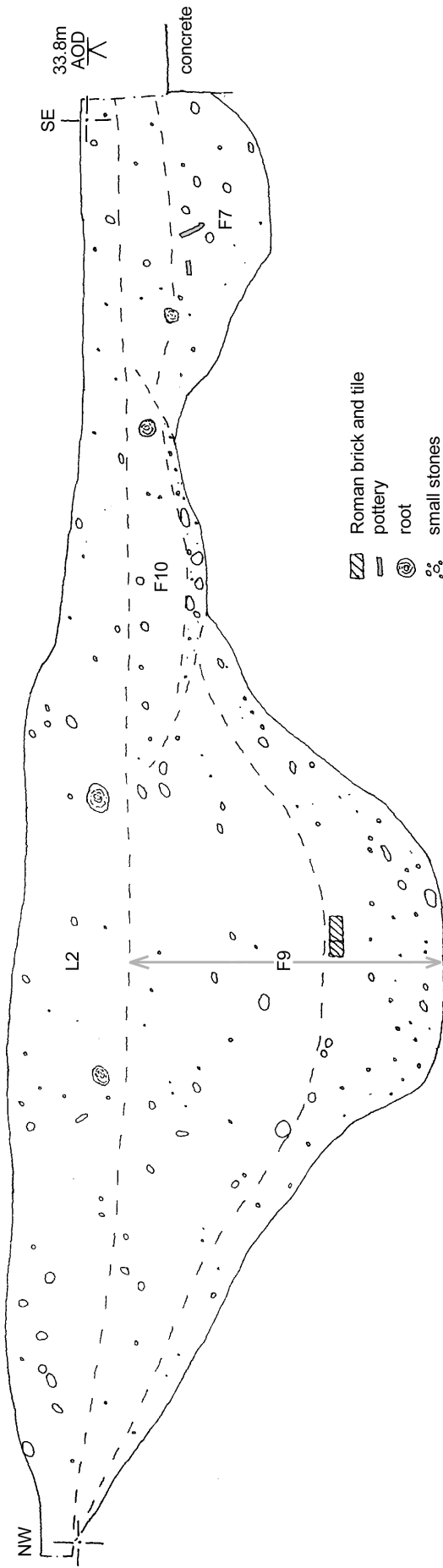


Fig 3 Section 1.

Section 2



Section 3

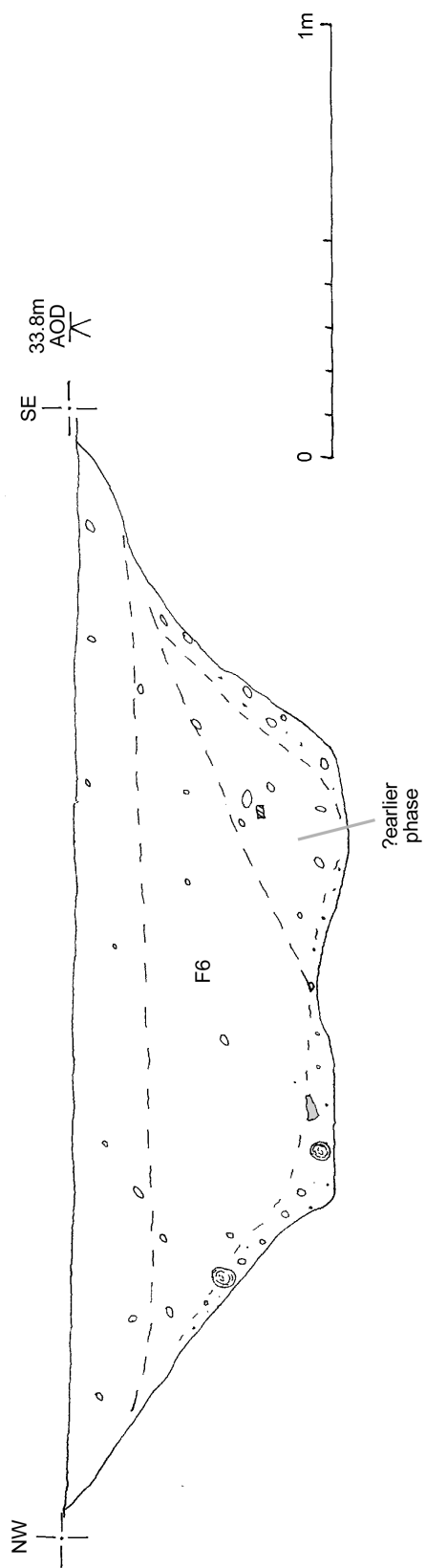


Fig 4 Sections 2-3.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9836 2523	Site codes: CAT project - 11/3g HEM - CCKH11 Museum accession - COLEM 2010.56
Type of work: Excavation/watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2011	Size of area investigated: 286.7 sq m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Client
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER and UAD nos: 11673, 11641, 13146, 20509
Final report: CAT Report 623 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Late Iron Age, Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological investigation took place at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of an extension to the school building. The ditch of the Sheepen Dyke extended across the south-eastern corner of the site. To the west of this were two parallel, early Roman ditches, both of which had been recut. They probably defined a trackway or droveway. Other features were sparse but included two pits, one of which was broadly contemporary with the trackway, while the other contained a small Bronze Age or Iron Age sherd.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: ECC FAU Report 2154, CAT Report 578	
Keywords: Sheepen Dyke, Roman, ditch, trackway/droveway, pottery	Significance: **
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