

Archaeological evaluation at St Botolph's (site of former bus station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (twelve trenches) was carried out on land formerly occupied by the bus station and in the back yard of 37 Queen Street, Colchester. A single trench was also excavated in the car park for the former bus maintenance garage off Priory Street.

The remains of Roman buildings were preserved beneath a thick layer of dark soil in eight of the trenches (T3 & T5-T12) at depths of between 1.03m and 1.71m below modern ground level. Early medieval robber trenches excavated to extract building materials from the foundations of Roman buildings were identified in six trenches, with Roman floor layers surviving to the sides. Four of the robber trenches were wider than would be expected for the foundations of private houses and may have been dug to rob larger foundations belonging to a public building or part of a more substantial house. Roman floor surfaces included a tessellated floor and a metalled area in T7 and the remains of a mosaic floor in T3.

T5 was excavated to explore a rectilinear response on a ground-penetrating radar survey which looked to be a Roman building. However, no such remains survived in the trench and any such remains which may have survived in this area appear to have been destroyed, possibly during the excavation of a large pit in the post-medieval period.

The trench excavated on land off Priory Street (T1) was located on the projected line of the town ditch but only modern and post-medieval deposits were identified. A trench excavated in the bus maintenance garage (T2) confirmed that the base of the town wall survives beneath the concrete floor and a trench excavated close to the town wall (T4) encountered deposits that could have been associated with the Roman rampart built up against the inside of the wall.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological work carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in the St Botolph's area of Colchester town centre (Fig 1). The proposed development site lies on the east side of Queen Street, adjacent to, and within, the former Colchester bus station, which was opened on the site in 1961 and closed in 2005. The archaeological work was commissioned by Paul Gajos of Lanpro Services on behalf of Alumno Developments.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (wsi) prepared by Lanpro Services (Lanpro Services 2018).

In addition to the wsi, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c).

3 Archaeological background (Figs 1 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for archaeology in Colchester (listed below), and also the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly known as the UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development area is located within the site of the walled part of the Roman town (*Colonia Victricensis*). The wall (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1003772) (Fig 1) was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudicca. It consists of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and brick. A recent study has concluded that the wall had an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing outer face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very variable.

The bus depot building is on the site of insula (town block) 38b of the Roman town. CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation (five test-pits) on the site in 2017 (CAT Report 1106). This evaluation identified modern wall foundations and demolition debris associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1918, as well as post-medieval pits and a ditch which may have been part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two possible phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart and significant Roman structural remains. In 1931, Rex Hull dug a north/south trench approximately 15m to the rear (east) of the depot, in which he found a number of Roman wall lines and a drain (Hull 1958, p54, fig 22, p216, fig 105). Other discoveries of Roman walls and floors within 20m reinforce the impression that insula 38b was built-up with Roman town houses, in the manner demonstrated by large-scale excavation at Lion Walk and Culver Street to the west (CAR 3, CAR 6).

St James' House on the eastern edge of the development area sits on the projected line of a north/south Roman street (CAR 6, p15 fig 2.9, p790-792) within Insulas 38b and 39 (Fig 3). An archaeological evaluation carried out on the site by CAT in 2018 (CAT Report 1230) identified the remains of a probable plinth for a medieval/post-medieval timber-framed building which would have fronted onto Queen Street as well as a number of pits, a brick-lined soakaway and a small area of cobbled paving which would have been located to the rear of this building. Floors belonging to Roman buildings including mortar floors and the remains of a black, white and red mosaic were identified and in two locations the sequence of Roman floors was found to be over 1m deep, which is unusually deep for this part of the Roman town. No evidence of a north/south Roman Street separating Insulas 38b and 39 was identified in the test-pits. It is possible that the metalled surfaces previously ascribed to this street could be associated with the Roman buildings on the site and that there is no street in this location. The remains of part of a possible 2nd-century building was revealed during the excavation of a cable trench along the eastern side of Queen Street in 1967 close to the entrance of the now-demolished St James' Church Hall. During the construction of St James House in 1969, further building remains were uncovered, including parts of a tessellated floor and north-south and east-west aligned walls (Fig 3).

Excavations carried out beneath Roman House in 1973 to the north of St James' House, revealed areas of metalling, both within the line of the Roman streets and immediately beyond, probably representing gravel footways on the street edge with buildings, probably private houses, beyond (Philip Crummy pers comm). Building remains, including part of a tessellated floor and daub wall, were encountered at a depth of c 150-300mm below 1973 ground level. Tessellated floors, walls, mosaics and

building remains have all been recorded from Insulas 38b and 39 (CAR 6, p15 Fig 2.9), and significant archaeological investigations within the southeast angle of the Roman town (Insulas 31-32, 38b, 39 and 40) have revealed that the whole area was largely residential.

To the east of the development area, a mosaic floor was uncovered in Lewis' Garden (the grounds of East Hill House) in 1923. During further excavations in 1955 and 1958 (Richardson 1961), a number of Roman buildings were recorded, one of which is partially located underneath the former bus station waiting room inside the development area (Insula 39). Two of the houses had hypocausts and from within the demolition and robbing material, painted wall plaster and red, white and grey tesserae were recovered. Later in 1959, a sewer trench dug between the 1955 and 1958 sites (Richardson 1961) showed stretches of wall foundation and a tessellated floor, both on an east-west alignment.

Excavations in 1966 at the rear of 5 Queen Street (Dunnett 1971) identified a 2nd-century Roman building with rubble foundations that had at least three structural phases. The last of these phases incorporated a hypocaust overlaid with a coloured mosaic floor. Observations made during groundworks for the Queen Street multi-storey car park (in 1970), at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (in 1983-84; CAR 6, 375-8) and the bus station (in 2003; CAT Report 234) revealed further Roman structural remains. Works at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre also revealed two Roman inhumation burials and a third displaced skull (CAR 6, 375-6), with evaluation trenches dug by CAT in 1990 (Crossan 1990) revealing a Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave accompanied by a small beaker.

The presence of at least one principal east/west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store (Roman House) (Fig 3) and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre. 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. Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on, or close to, the boundary separating the grounds of East Hill House from the bus station (Hull 1958, 51).

CAT has recently conducted several recent archaeological investigations at Firstsite, in the former bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House. Investigations in 2003 (CAT Report 234) and 2004 (CAT Reports 295 and 305) in the garden of the Minorities art gallery and in the bus station confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers. In 2006, a watching brief in the bus station (CAT Report 385) revealed late Roman robbing material or demolition debris. Investigations in the area between 2006 and 2008 (CAT Report 477) 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, an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (CAT Report 520).

A Ground-penetrating Radar (GPR) survey carried out on the former bus station in 2016 revealed a number of rectilinear features, probably associated with Roman buildings previously identified in the vicinity (Stratascan Ltd, 2016).

4 Aims

The aim of the programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development. Information on the depths at which significant archaeological contexts/deposits survive across the development area was collected to allow the proposed development to be designed in such a way as to have minimal impact on the archaeological resource.

5 Results (Figs 1-25)

The trenches were laid out using a GPS system but their positions were altered slightly if services were known to cross the excavation area. Contrary to the original trench plan (Lanpro Services 2018), Trench 12 was located in the ground to the rear of 37 Queen Street rather than the pavement of the road into the bus station because of health and safety considerations (Fig 1). The hardstanding and some of the overburden was removed from the areas of the trenches using a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was necessary to step-in ten of the trenches to allow safe access for archaeological recording (T3-T12).

Trench 1 (T1 – 2m x 2m)

T1 was located in the former staff car park of the bus maintenance garage on the north side of Priory Street (Fig 1). The car park surface (L43) overlaid a thin layer of dark sandy silt containing modern building materials (L44) and the remains of a possible wall foundation or plinth for a timber-frame (F30) (Fig 3). F30 was constructed from large nodules of septaria, flint and Roman brick in a loose, off-white lime mortar. No post-Roman brick or tile was observed in F30. However, a sherd of 15th-16th century pottery was recovered from beneath the possible foundation.

To the west of F30, a large, deep pit (F29) with multiple fills (see Table 1) was identified beneath the soil layer L44 (Fig 16). Due to health and safety considerations, it was not possible to hand-excavate to the base of F29, so a sondage was excavated using the mechanical excavator. The base of the pit was identified at a depth of 2.65m below modern ground level where it appeared to cut into the natural sand (L74) (Fig 16). Peg-tile, medieval pottery, pieces of slate and a modern glass bottle were recovered from the upper fills of F29. The pit was cut through a deep deposit of homogeneous mid grey/brown sandy silt (L45) which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery and could have been the fill of another large feature.

Table 1 Context list for T1.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F29	48	pit	Large, deep pit with a stepped edge. Multiple fills; sandy loams, deposits of building materials, clay, ash.	19th-early 20th century
F30	50	?wall foundation	large nodules of septaria, flint and Roman brick in a loose, off-white lime mortar	15th-16th century+
L43		hardstanding	Tarmac over crushed brick	20th century
L44		soil accumulation	Dark grey sandy silt.	20th century
L45	49	?pit fill	Homogeneous mid grey/brown sandy silt which continued to a depth of 2.65m below modern ground level.	17th century
L74		natural sand	Probable natural sand identified in machine excavated sondage.	-

Trench 2 (T2 – 2m x 2m)

T2 was located inside the former bus maintenance garage on the line of the Roman town wall. The wall survives to a height of 22.4m AOD 3m to the east of the trench (Figs 1 & 4).

T2 was excavated against the southern wall (F22) of the garage building (Figs 4 & 16) through the concrete floor (L31). The concrete overlaid a layer of loose, dry soil (L32) and a deposit of peg-tile and crushed brick (L33) (Fig 16). It is possible that the layer of peg-tile and brick was from the demolition of the theatre building which previously occupied the site.

The town wall (F23) was uncovered at a depth of 0.7-0.8m below modern ground level (20.59m AOD). The surviving 'surface' of the wall was relatively flat with septaria, brick/tile and *opus signinum* pieces bound together in a white mortar (Photograph 1). A similar mortar was also noted on the inner face of the wall. Based on the composition and solidity of the mortar, it would appear that this stretch of the wall was repaired or consolidated prior to the construction of the garage (possibly as a direct result of its construction).

A hand-excavated sondage against the inner face of the wall was dug through a layer of loose, dry soil (L34) and a similar layer with mortar and septaria pieces (L35) (Fig 16). Both L34 and L35 which may be associated with the work on the wall prior to it being covered over by the garage building.



Photograph 1 T2: The town wall (F23), looking south.

Table 2 Context list for T2.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F22		concrete & brick foundation	The foundations of the bus maintenance garage. The stretch seen in T2 appeared to have been constructed on top of the remains of the town wall.	early 20th century
F23		town wall	The remains of the Roman town wall which had been extensively repaired/consolidated probably sometime in the early 20th century	Roman+
L31		hardstanding	Concrete floor over a thick concrete/brick base.	early 20th century
L32		soil deposit	Deposit of loose, dry soil	early 20th century
L33		deposit of peg-tile and brick	Mostly peg-tile, some brick fragments. Possibly derived from the demolition of the building which occupied the plot previously.	early 20th century
L34	38	loose soil	?modern soil deposited against the town wall following its repair and consolidation and subsequent covering over.	early 20th century
L35		soil and mortar with septaria pieces	Material associated the ?modern repair/consolidation of the town wall prior to it being covered over.	early 20th century

Trench 3 (T3 – 3m x 3m)

T3 was one of two trenches located in the car park to the rear of 37 Queen street (Fig 1). The modern car park surface (L37) overlaid a homogeneous dark soil 0.55-0.65m thick (L54) (Fig 17 Sx3). The only discernible feature cut into the dark soil was a post-medieval ?linear (F39) which contained ash and coal fragments.

A post-medieval pit (F24), a robber trench (F38) and a layer of demolished clay-block wall (L55) were identified beneath L54 at a depth of 1.1m below modern ground level (Figs 5 & 17 Sx3). The robber trench was c 1m in width and had been excavated to recover building materials from the stone and mortar foundation of a Roman building in the late 12th or 13th century. Part of the stone, brick/tile and mortar foundation survived in the base of the robber trench (F40) (Photograph 2). The surviving piece was c 0.4m deep and lay on the natural sand (L74).

It is probable that L55, which was uncovered beneath L54 to the west of robber trench F38, was predominantly composed of the sandy clay from a clay-block wall which overlay foundation F40. In addition to a notable quantity of painted wall plaster, L55 contained nails, animal bone, Roman brick/tile, and Roman pottery dating to the late 3rd to 4th century. L55 had been deposited on to the remains of a mosaic floor (F41) (Fig 17 Sx3 & Sx4). The inside (patterned area) of the mosaic was largely missing, but a border of red tesserae cubes at least 13 rows wide had survived (Photograph 3). Parts of three rows of black tesserae cubes abutted the red border, but all of the other cubes were missing. The tesserae and mosaic cubes were laid on a substantial *opus signinum* base. The surface of the base had a stippled white mortar on its surface which did not retain the imprints of the missing mosaic cubes. It is probable that the cubes had been chipped off of the base during the Roman period, presumably so that they could be re-used elsewhere. Two small, round holes (F45 and F46) in the surface of the *opus signinum* base may have been made during the removal of the cubes (Fig 5). The mosaic base was bedded on a layer of small, rounded stones with septaria chips and small brick/tile fragments (L57) (Fig 17 Sx4) which contained a sherd of pottery dating from the mid 1st to the 3rd century. An earlier sandy clay floor (L58) was seen in section below L57 (Fig 17 Sx4).

Beneath the floor layers, a thick deposit of sandy silt with fragments of Roman brick/tile (L60) was seen in the western edge of robber trench F38 (Fig 17 Sx4). This material was presumably imported to make-up the floor level in the building. A thin layer of dark silt (L61) between the make-up L60 and the natural sand (L74) was observed in a small sondage excavated to find the base of the robber trench (Fig 17 Sx4). L61 could be the remains of the topsoil which covered the area prior to the construction of the first phase of Roman buildings.

The stratigraphy observed in the eastern edge of robber trench F38 was also recorded. Mixed soil and building materials, believed to be associated with the robbing of the building remains (F38), overlaid a layer of gravel (L62) (Fig 17 Sx5) which was broadly comparable to L57 to the west of the foundation. A large fragment of tessellated floor 9x11 rows in size recovered from F38 to the east of the foundation (Photograph 2, front right) could have originally been bedded on the gravel layer. Beneath the gravel, a thin lens of white mortar with orange sand on its surface (L67) overlaid a sandy clay floor which could also be comparable to L58 to the west of the foundation (Fig 17 Sx5). Once again, the sandy clay floor was laid on a thick deposit of make-up (L69 and L70) which overlaid the natural sand (L74).



Photograph 2 T3: Wall foundation F40, robber trench F38, mosaic F41 and the loose piece of tessellated floor (bottom left), looking north.



Photograph 3 T3: The remains of mosaic floor F41.

Table 3 Context list for T3.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F24	43, 67	pit	A large, shallow pit.	16th-18th century
F38	60	robber trench	Wide robber trench dug to remove the foundation of a Roman building (F40).	Medieval, late 12th-13th century
F39	62	?linear	Probable linear feature which terminates in T3. Shallow with lots of ash and coal fragments in fill.	16th-18th century
F40		wall foundation	Surviving piece of wall foundation (largely robbed away- F38) constructed from septaria, greensand and Roman brick/tile. 40cm thick.	Roman
F41		remains of a mosaic floor	Tesserae border, with up to three intermittent rows of black cubes all set on a thick <i>opus signinum</i> base with white mortar on the surface.	Roman
F44		post-hole	Possible post hole.	?Roman
F45		?stake-hole	One of two small, circular holes in the <i>opus signinum</i> mosaic base. Not observable in the Roman deposit overlying the mosaic base. Possibly associated with the removal of the mosaic cubes?	Roman
F46		?stake-hole	See F45 above.	Roman
L37		hardstanding	Tarmac over a mixture of crushed concrete, brick and sand.	20th century
L54		soil accumulation	Dark soil accumulation up to 0.75m thick overlying Roman (& medieval) deposits.	post-medieval
L55	61, 84, 85	remains of a demolished clay-block	Mixed sandy clay from demolished clay-block walls (possibly the wall which sat on F40) deposited on top of the remains of a mosaic floor. Contained small fragments of painted wall plaster throughout (face up and face down). West of foundation F40.	Roman, late 3rd-4th century
L57	66	gravel layer	Bedding layer for mosaic floor F41. Small rounded stones with septaria chips and small brick/tile fragments. West of foundation F40.	Roman, mid 1st-2nd/3rd century
L58		sandy clay floor	Sandy clay floor layer seen in sx. West of foundation F40.	Roman
L60	76	make-up	Thick layer of sandy silt used to make-up the floor level. West of foundation F40.	Roman
L61		soil layer	Thin layer of soil between the natural (L74) and make-up (L60). Could be remnant of original topsoil. West of foundation F40.	
L62	74	gravel layer	Could be equal to L57. East of foundation F40.	Roman, ? 2nd century+
L67		thin mortar layer	Thin lens of white mortar with orange sand on surface (mortar ?floor). East of foundation F40.	Roman
L68		sandy clay floor	Could be equal to L58. East of foundation F40.	Roman
L69		make-up	Make-up layer in floor sequence east of foundation F40.	Roman

L70	75	make-up	Make-up layer in floor sequence east of foundation F40.	Roman, mid 1st-3rd century
L74		natural sand	Natural sand identified in base of robber trench.	-

Trench 4 (T4 – 4m x 4m)

T4 was located c 5m from the inside face of the town wall in the pavement on the southern edge of the bus station site (Fig 1). Beneath a thick sequence of modern hardstanding layers (L37), c 350mm of dark soil (L21) overlaid a slightly lighter sandy silt containing a significant quantity of Roman building materials, oyster shell, Roman pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery (F20) (Fig 18). It is possible that F20 was a large, shallow, medieval pit containing a large quantity of residual Roman material. However, F20 did not have any discernible edges within T4 (Fig 6) and its base appeared to coincide with a thin layer of solid *opus signinum* (L24) which might suggest that it is a large deposit of soil on a north-facing slope, perhaps the rampart associated with the adjacent town wall. Two pits cut F20 (F18 and F19), both of which contained only Roman material but are probably medieval or post-medieval in date.

Beneath F20, a firm layer of sandy-silt (L22) overlaid a layer of small mortar fragments and pebbles (L23) (Fig 17). L23 overlaid a layer of *opus signinum* (L24) with a thin lens of dark silt on its surface (L30). The mortar layer was patchy and only c 30mm thick but covered most of the area investigated and sloped gently to the north. Two deposits of sandy silt (L25 and L36) were identified below the *opus signinum* layer (Fig 6), the lower of which (L36) contained occasional septaria chippings. Further investigations undertaken using a hand auger identified a soft clayey silt (L72) with no notable inclusions beneath L36 (Fig 6). At a depth of c 2.8m below the current ground level the auger encountered a stony deposit and could not penetrate the ground any further.

The datable finds recovered from deposits L22-L25, L30, L36 & L72 were all Roman, with 2nd century pottery recovered from the uppermost deposit (L22) and the material beneath the layer of mortar (L25). It is possible that these deposits are associated with the Roman rampart built up against the inside of the town wall. The *opus signinum* (L24) may have been splashed onto the ground during repairs to the town wall and the thin lens of silt on its surface may have been trodden onto its surface soon after the work took place.

An east-west aligned wall uncovered in the trench for a sewer in 1959 (Richardson 1961) was projected to cross T4 (Fig 2). Neither the sewer pipe or the wall were identified in the hand excavated section of the trench.

Table 4 Context list for T4.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F18	?25	pit	Steep-sided pit cut from immediately below the hardstanding.	medieval/post-medieval
F19	25, 26	pit	Small, shallow pit cut by pit F18.	medieval/post-medieval
F20	27, 30, 82, 31, 32, 28, 29,	pit or rampart material	Either a large, relatively shallow pit or material deposited against a slope (?rampart). No edges identified but possible break of slope seen in section.	?medieval
L37		hardstanding	Thick, steel-reinforced concrete over a thick deposit of crushed brick & concrete. To the south the concrete was overlaid by a tarmac pavement.	20th century
L21	24	soil	Dark grey/brown soil with common, charcoal	?post-medieval

		accumulation	and peg-tile.	
L22	81, 36	?dump layer	Firm medium brown sandy silt with Roman brick/tile, pottery sherds and oyster shells.	Roman, 2nd century
L23	35, 80	loose mortar and gravel layer	Small fragments of mortar and water-worn pebbles with Roman brick/tile chippings and possible chalk/lime nodules.	Roman
L24	41	spread of <i>opus signinum</i> ?construction layer	Thin spread of <i>opus signinum</i> .	Roman
L25	39	dump layer	Layer of mid-brown sandy silt with few inclusions.	Roman, ?2nd century
L30	34	lens of silt on mortar spread L24	Medium brown silt only 10mm thick.	Roman
L36	42, 79	dump layer	Thick layer of medium grey/brown sandy silt with septaria chips	Roman
L72		clayey silt	Mid brown/orange clayey silt identified using a hand auger.	Roman

Trench 5 (T5 – 3.5m x 4.5m)

Trench 5 was located on a rectilinear feature identified during a GPR survey undertaken in 2016 which was believed to be associated with a Roman building (Stratascan Ltd, 2016) (Fig 2). The trench was moved to the south of its original location to avoid services, but was still located over what appeared from the scan results to be the wall-line of a probable Roman building (Fig 1).

A deposit of sandy silt/loam c 2.4m thick was encountered beneath the modern hardstanding (L37). The upper 1.4m of the sandy silt/loam (L13) was darker in colour than the lower 1m (L14) (Fig 7). Peg-tile, post-medieval glass and a sherd of 15th- to 16th-century pottery were collected from L13, whereas only Roman material was recovered from L14. Both L13 and L14 contained very few finds or inclusions.

Probable natural sand (L74) was identified using a hand auger at a depth of 2.9m below modern ground level (Figs 7 & 18). The natural sand was deeper in this area than elsewhere on the site, possibly indicating that T5 was located within a single large, deep feature which had removed all of the Roman deposits from this area.

Table 5 Context list for T5.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
L37		hardstanding	Concrete over crushed concrete, brick and hoggin.	20th century
L13	17	soil accumulation	Dark grey/brown sandy loam with few inclusions.	post-medieval
L14	18	soil accumulation	Medium brown sandy silt with few inclusions.	?post-medieval
L74		natural sand	Probable natural sand identified using a hand auger.	-

Trench 6 (T6 – 4m x 4m)

A modern stormwater drainage pipe was encountered in the centre of T6 at a depth of 1m below modern ground level (Fig 1). The pipe had been laid in a trench cut through a thick layer of dark grey/brown sandy silt (L28) which contained fragments of both Roman and post-medieval brick/tile.

Investigations to the north of the pipe revealed that L28 directly overlaid a layer of mixed silt and sandy clay with loose tesserae and *opus signinum* fragments on the surface (L29) and a robber trench (F21) (Fig 19). All of the finds recovered from F21 date to the Roman period (see finds section below). However, based on findings elsewhere in the town (CAR 1, 48) and on this site, it is likely that the robbing occurred in the early medieval period. It is probable that L29 was a layer of make-up below a tessellated floor which had been robbed away during the medieval period. The north-south orientated robber trench F21 was 0.95m wide (Fig 6) and contained some large septaria nodules as well as Roman brick/tile fragments and mortar.

An examination of the eastern edge of the robber trench revealed three discernible layers between make-up L29 and the natural sand (L74) (Fig 19). A layer of sandy clay (L64), probably derived from the clay-block walls of an earlier phase of building, overlaid a thin layer of burnt sandy clay (L65) which, in turn, overlaid another make-up layer (L66) containing oyster shell, Roman brick/tile and pottery dating to the mid 1st to 2nd century. It was not possible to safely examine the deposits in the western edge of the robber trench.

Table 6 Context list for T6.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F21	33, 73	robber trench	N-S aligned robber trench. Lower fill contained large septaria pieces and mortar.	?early medieval
L26		tarmac	Tarmac layer 200mm thick.	20th century
L27		stone and mortar	Bedding for tarmac.	20th century
L28		soil accumulation	Dark sandy silt overlying Roman deposits.	post-medieval
L29	70	make-up	Mixed sandy clay with loose pieces of <i>opus signinum</i> , Roman brick/tile and tesserae on the surface. Possibly the base for a tessellated floor (loose cubes recovered from its surface).	Roman
L64	71	make-up	Sandy clay used as make-up in the floor sequence east of F21.	Roman
L65		burnt sandy clay	Sandy clay floor or remains of clay-block wall which has been subjected to considerable heat.	Roman
L66	72	make-up	Mixed sandy clay and silt with lots of oyster shell and Roman brick/tile & pottery fragments.	Roman, mid 1st to 2nd century+
L74		natural sand	Probable natural sand seen in base of robber trench F21.	-

Trench 7 (T7 – 2.85m x 6m)

T7 was located within the footprint of the bus station waiting room (Fig 1) where the remains of a Roman building were excavated by K Richardson in 1958 (Richardson 1961).

The remains of two parallel modern brick walls (F6) (Fig 9) were uncovered beneath the concrete and brick rubble from the demolition of the waiting room (L1). The walls both had internal and external buttresses and continued to a depth of 1.15m below modern ground level where they overlay shallow concrete foundations. A dark grey/brown soil containing modern building materials (L4) was excavated by machine from in between the brick walls. L4 continued to a depth of 1.5m below modern ground level where it overlaid a layer of make-up (L5) from beneath the floor of a Roman

building (Fig 20). A steep-sided, L-shaped feature (F7) containing modern glass and pottery cut the make-up layer L5. This feature is interpreted as the base of a trench excavated during the 1958 fieldwork (Richardson 1961). It is probable that the overlying soil L4 was the backfill from these archaeological excavations and that the large, deep hole excavated in 1958 was the reason that deep, buttressed wall foundations were required in this area.

A ?post-medieval pit (F11) and two robber trenches (F8 and F9) were also identified in T7 (Fig 9). Robber trench F9 was 0.75m wide and had been excavated to extract building materials from a shallow wall foundation, a section of which had not been robbed away (F10) (Figs 9 & 20). The foundation was constructed from septaria and brick/tile fragments set in mortar. Robber trench F8 was at right-angles to F9 but was 0.85m wide and continued down 0.3m further than F9 (Figs 9 & 20). Neither wall foundation was constructed on the natural sand. It is likely that the two robber trenches are the 'wall trenches' of House IV identified by K Richardson during her 1958 excavation (Fig 9). This would suggest that other building remains uncovered in 1958 were not fully excavated and remain preserved beneath the site.

Table 7 Context list for T7.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F6		brick walls	Two parallel, deep, brick walls with buttresses on shallow concrete foundations.	mid 20th century
F7	6	archaeological trench	L-shaped, straight-sided trench. Probably the base of an exploratory slot/trench from the 1958 excavation.	1958
F8	7,9	E-W aligned robber trench	The terminal end of an E-W aligned robber trench. At right-angles to robber trench F9. Notably wide (c 1m). Some intrusive finds from previous archaeological investigations.	?early medieval
F9	8	N-S aligned robber trench	Trench excavated to rob foundation F10. Some intrusive finds from previous archaeological investigations.	?early medieval
F10		Roman foundation	Fragment of surviving wall foundation.	Roman
F11		?pit	Probable pit. Possibly excavated to rob building remains from foundation F10.	?post-medieval
L1		modern demolition	Concrete and brick layer from demolition of bus station waiting room.	modern
L4		modern backfill	Probably the backfill from the 1960's archaeological excavations on the site or backfill between the two walls F6.	modern
L5	10	make-up	Mixed sand-clay and silt with Roman brick/tile fragments, pottery, oyster and small stones. Probably a layer of make-up beneath the floors of a Roman building.	Roman
L75		?make-up	Beneath robber trench F8- seen in auger hole in base of robber trench (could be same as L5 if that layer is v.thick).	Roman
L12		?natural	Probable natural.	

Trench 8 (T8 – 4m x 4m)

Trench 8 was located in the pavement to the west of the bus station waiting room (Fig 1). Hardstanding (L11) and a layer of dark grey/brown soil 1.15m thick (L10) overlaid the eastern edge of a Roman tessellated floor (L9) (Photograph 4). Post-Roman brick and peg-tile were noted in the upper part of L10 but only finds of Roman date were

recovered from the lower 0.5m. A single post-medieval pit (F13) cut L10 and the tessellated floor beneath (Fig 10).

A layer of grey/brown silt containing mortar and Roman brick/tile fragments (L46) was uncovered to the east of the tessellated floor (Fig 21). L46 overlaid a layer of compacted gravel (L56) and where the metalling was absent, a compacted layer of mixed sandy clay make-up (L47). Layers L46 and L47 both appeared to continue beneath the tessellated floor and could be layers of make-up laid down before the floor was constructed. Roman pottery dating to the mid 3rd to 4th century was recovered from both L46 and L47 and a coin dating to the 4th century (AD 330-33) was found lying on the surface of metalling L56. There was no evidence of the wall which would have been abutted by the tessellated floor.

To the east of the modern service F14, L46 was cut by a shallow post-hole (F32) (Fig 10). A similar sized post-hole was identified to the west of F14 (F31), but this post-hole appeared to have been overlaid by L46 and cut into L47. However, thin pieces of slate recovered from the fill of F31 could indicate that this post-hole, and possibly also F32, are actually post-Roman in date.



Photograph 4 T8: Tessellated floor L9, looking west.

Table 8 Context list for T8.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F13	12	pit	Post-Roman pit cutting tessellated floor L9.	post-medieval, 16th-18th century
F14		modern drain	Drain encased in concrete.	20th century
F31	53	post-hole	Sealed by L46 on which the tessellated floor L9 was bedded and cut L47. Probably belongs to an earlier phase of Roman building.	?post-Roman
F32	54	post-hole	Shallow possible post-hole cutting L46.	?post-Roman
L9		tessellated floor	At least 15 rows of tesserae. No mortar between the tesserae (probably been washed out). Damaged, uneven floor surface. A few white tesserae, all others red.	Roman, 4th century

L10	13,55	soil accumulation	Thick layer of dark grey/brown soil overlying Roman deposits and covered by modern hardstanding (L11). Cultivated soil from Lewis's Garden?	post-Roman
L11		tarmac & concrete	Alternating layers of tarmac and concrete.	20th century
L46	51, 52	make-up/demolition	Layer of medium grey/brown silt with patches of sandy clay, mortar, Roman brick/tile and oyster. Could be a layer of demolition material or make-up.	Roman, 4th century
L47	65	make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay which is probably derived from the walls of an earlier phase of building and contained small fragments of painted wall plaster.	Roman, 3rd to 4th century
L56	63	metalling	Truncated remains of a metalled surface constructed from small/medium water worn pebbles. Late Roman coin recovered from the surface.	Roman, 4th century

Trench 9 (T9 – 5.1m x 4m)

The brick and concrete foundations belonging to the bus station waiting room (F15) formed the western and southern edges of T9 as well as cutting across the centre of the trench (Fig 1). Due to a leaking water-main somewhere to the north of T9, excavations in the northern half of the trench ceased at a depth of 0.8m below modern ground level. It was not possible to excavate this half of the trench any deeper as the water had made the northern edge of the trench unstable. However, it was possible to continue safely excavating to the south of the central foundation once the water no longer leaked.

A deposit of dark grey/brown soil (L2) c 1.2m thick overlaid a robber trench (F1) and a layer of Roman make-up from beneath the floor of a Roman building (L3) (Fig 22). Modern pottery and clay pipe stems were recovered from the lower 150mm of L2 and a sherd of 14th- to early 16th-century pottery was recovered from the surface of the Roman make-up L3. The robber trench was roughly east-west aligned, up to 0.8m wide and contained pieces of septaria, mortar and brick/tile fragments as well as a single sherd of late 11th- to 12th- century pottery (Figs 8 & 22) (Photograph 6). F1 probably joined a north-south aligned robber trench immediately to the east of the excavated section (Fig 8).

An examination of the southern edge of the robber trench showed that the make-up layer L3 was 0.25m thick and overlaid a thick deposit of sand mixed with dark silt (L8). L8 was probably also a layer of material imported to make-up the ground level inside the building. On the northern side of the robber trench, a layer of sandy clay make-up (L7) similar to L3 also overlaid a deposit of mixed sand/silt (?L8). A trench appeared to have been cut into make-up L7 and filled with horizontal tile fragments bedded in sandy-clay (Photograph 5). It is probable that F2 was the plinth for a timber ground plate on which an internal wall would have been constructed. In the base of the robber trench L8 appeared to overlie the natural sand (L12).



Photograph 5 T9: Robber trench F1, L7 & tile plinth F2, looking north.



Photograph 6 T9: Robber trench F1, looking east.

Table 9 Context list for T9.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F1	1, 14	robber trench	E-W aligned robber trench.	medieval, 11th-12th century
F2	4	tile plinth	Horizontally bedded Roman tile pieces bound together with sandy clay. Possible plinth for a timber ground plate.	Roman
F15		brick & concrete wall	Wall foundations of the bus station waiting room.	modern

		foundations		
L1		modern demolition	Concrete and brick layer from demolition of bus station waiting room.	20th century
L2	2	soil accumulation	Thick layer of dark grey/brown soil overlying Roman deposits and covered by modern hardstanding (L1). Cultivated soil from Lewis's Garden?	post-medieval
L3	3	make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay which is probably derived from the walls of an earlier phase of building. Common brick/tile fragments and mortar.	Roman
L6		tarmac & concrete	Pavement east of bus station waiting room.	20th century
L7		make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay on northern side of robber trench F1 with lenses of mortar fragments in L7 could be additional layers.	Roman
L8		?make-up	Sand mixed with dark silt.	Roman
L12		natural sand		

Trench 10 (T10 – 4m x 4m)

Trench 10 was located in the pavement to the west of the bus station waiting room (Fig 1). Two brick wall foundations (F3) were uncovered at a depth of 0.9m below modern ground level (Fig 1). The foundations were cut by two modern services (F4 & F5). The walls probably belonged to a large late 18th- to 19th- century structure, probably a greenhouse, which is shown in this part of Lewis's Garden on the early Ordnance Survey maps. The wall foundations had been constructed on a layer of dark grey/brown silt (L15) c 0.9m thick. L15 overlaid a deposit of sandy clay make-up (L16) and a robber trench (F16) at a depth of 1.35m below modern ground level (Figs 12 & 23).

The robber trench F16 was roughly east-west aligned, 0.95m wide at the top and at least 1.3m deep from the top of the uppermost surviving Roman deposit (L16) (Figs 12 & 23). A probable Roman pit (F17) was identified in the northern edge of the robber trench and may have also be present in the southern section (L19) (Fig 23). The ?pit was cut into L16, the uppermost of two distinct deposits of sandy clay make-up (L16 and L18) which were separated by a layer of small *opus signinum* fragments (L17). A thick deposit of make-up (L20) was identified in the southern edge of the robber trench which contained fragments of mortar and painted wall plaster.

Table 10 Context list for T10.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F3	5	brick wall foundations	Wall foundations of demolished greenhouse from Lewis' Gardens. Only one brick wide and one course surviving.	Modern, late 18th-19th century
F4		modern drain	Drain encased in concrete.	20th century
F5		service	Cast iron pipe.	20th century
F16	20, 21, 22	robber trench	N-S aligned robber trench.	?early medieval
F17	23	?pit or make-up	Unexcavated ?pit seen in northern edge of robber trench F16.	Roman, 2nd-early 3rd century
L6		tarmac&	Road and pavement.	20th century

		concrete		
L15		soil accumulation	Thick layer of dark grey/brown soil overlying Roman deposits and covered by modern hardstanding (L6). Cultivated soil from Lewis's Garden?	20th century
L16		make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay on northern side of robber trench F16.	Roman
L17		make-up/demolition	Layer of <i>opus signinum</i> fragments on northern side of robber trench F16.	Roman
L18		make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay on northern side of robber trench F16.	Roman
L19		fill of F16 or F17	Medium green/grey sandy silt with mortar.	
L20	75	make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay on south side of robber trench F16. Contained fragments of mortar and painted wall plaster.	Roman
L76		soil accumulation	post-Roman soil accumulation (could have been re-worked during robbing of buildings)	post-Roman

Trench 11 (T11 – 4m x 4m)

Trench 11 was located in the pavement to the north of the bus station waiting room (Fig 1). Beneath the modern hardstanding, two modern services (F33 and F47) and circular brick soakaway (F34) were cut into a dark grey/brown sandy silt (L49) c 0.7m thick (Fig 13). Soakaway F34 was constructed from unfroged red bricks, most of which had been broken in half and laid without mortar.

Two post-medieval ditches (F36 and F37) and a post-medieval ?pit (F42) were cut into L49 at a depth of 1.2m below modern ground level (Fig 24). These features cut an earlier pit or wide linear (F35) which is probably also post-Roman in date and the remains of an *opus signinum* Roman floor layer (L52) (Fig 24). The *opus signinum* was probably the base of a tessellated floor or mosaic the tesserae of which had been robbed for reuse elsewhere. which had been robbed away. Two more layers of make-up were identified beneath L52, a layer of mixed sandy clay and silt containing Roman brick/tile, mortar and painted wall plaster (L53) and a cleaner layer of sandy clay/silt (L71) (Fig 24). First-century pottery and flue tile were recovered from L53 and L71.

Table 11 Context list for T11.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F33		modern drain	Drain encased in concrete.	20th century
F34	78	brick ? soakaway	Round soakaway constructed from unfroged red bricks broken in half and not bonded with mortar.	modern, ?19th century
F35	57	linear or large pit	E-W orientated cut with multiple breaks of slope. Only Roman find recovered.	Roman-medieval
F36	56	ditch	N-S orientated ditch.	late medieval/post-medieval
F37	59	ditch	Terminal end of an E-W orientated linear feature. Possible post-hole in terminal end.	?post-medieval
F42	43, 69	?pit	Steep-sided ?pit.	post-medieval
F47		service	Electricity cable.	20th century
L48		tarmac& concrete	Road and pavement.	20th century
L49		soil	Layer of dark grey/brown soil covered by	post-medieval

		accumulation	modern hardstanding (L11). Cultivated soil from Lewis's Garden?	
L50		?lower part of L49		post-medieval
L51	58	fill of F42?	Mottled medium grey silt. Possibly fill of F42.	
L52		remains of a Roman floor	Broken-up <i>opus signinum</i> , probably the base of a tessellated floor or mosaic.	Roman
L53		make-up/demolition	Mixed dark grey/brown silt, sandy clay and Roman building materials (brick/tile, mortar, painted wall plaster). ?intrusive peg-tile.	Roman, mid-late 1st century
L59		fill of F42?	Mottled dark grey silt. Possibly fill of F42.	
L50		soil accumulation	?lower part of L49	
L63		soil accumulation	Soil immediately above Roman material. Could be same as L50(L49) or material from robbing of Roman floor.	post-Roman
L71		make-up	Sandy clay mixed with silt.	Roman, mid-late 1st century

Trench 12 (T12 – 2m x 2m)

Beneath the hardstanding (L37), a layer of dark grey sandy silt (L38) overlaid a thin layer of mortar, thick roof slate and peg-tile (L39) (Fig 25). L39 contained pottery dated to the 16th-18th century but could have derived from the demolition of a medieval building in the close vicinity. L39 overlaid another layer of dark grey sandy silt (L40) which contained more thick roofing slate and pottery dated from the 15th to 16th century.

A layer of Roman make-up (L41) and a robber trench (F27) were identified at a depth of 1.2m below modern ground level (Fig 25). Two medieval/post-medieval pits were cut into the robber trench (F25 and F26) (Fig 14). A deposit of burnt clay (L42) could have also been the fill of a medieval/post-medieval pit or part of the upper fill of the robber trench itself. The eastern edge of the robber trench was not identified within T12. Although probably early medieval in date, a sherd of probable Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of robber trench F27 and pottery dating to the 2nd to 3rd century was recovered from the surface of the make-up layer L41. One more layer of Roman make-up (L73) was observed in the western edge of robber trench F27.



Photograph 7 T12: Alec excavating robber trench F27, looking northeast.

Table 12 Context list for T12.

context	Finds nos.	Type	Description	date
F25	87,89	pit	Pit cutting robber trench F27.	medieval/post-medieval
F26		small pit/post-hole	Small, unexcavated pit/post-hole cutting robber trench F27.	medieval/post-medieval
F27	47,86, 88,89	robber trench	N-S robber trench, probably over 1m wide.	?early medieval
L37		tarmac and crushed brick	Car park surfacing.	20th century
L38		soil accumulation	Dark grey sandy silt soil covered by car park surface.	post-medieval
L39	44	?demolition debris	Thin layer of mortar, thick roof slate and peg-tile.	post-medieval, 16th-18th century
L40	45	soil accumulation	soil accumulation overlying robber trench and uppermost Roman layer.	medieval-post-medieval
L41	46	make-up	Mixed dark grey/brown silt and sandy clay make-up in Roman floor sequence. Contained brick/tile fragments, mortar and wall plaster.	Roman, 2nd-3rd century
L42		deposit of burnt clay	Orange/red burnt clay in a brown/grey sandy silt matrix. Could be a deposit in the fill of robber trench F27.	medieval/post-medieval
L73		make-up	Deposit of sandy clay in Roman floor sequence on west side of robber trench F27.	Roman

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Finds of prehistoric, Roman, Early-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern date were recovered from the evaluation trenches. The great majority of the finds can be dated to the Roman period. There is a single sherd of hand-made pottery dated as probably Early Saxon and two prehistoric struck flints. All of the finds are listed and described for each trench by context and find number in Appendix 1. A number of individually recorded finds (small finds) are described and discussed separately.

Pottery fabrics concordance

All of the fabrics recorded during cataloguing the pottery are listed and described in Table 13. The Roman and post-Roman fabrics follow those used in *CAR 10* (Roman) and *CAR 7* (post-Roman) for recording pottery in Colchester. In the report Roman pottery vessel types refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1927, Hull 1958) and for the post-Roman pottery to vessel forms in *CAR 7*.

Table 13 Pottery fabrics referred to in this report

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Roman:</i>	
AA	Amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 & Brockley Hill/ <i>Verulamium</i> region)
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian
BAMV	Les Martres-de-Veyre plain samian
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian
BXCG	Central Gaulish decorated samian
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian
CB	Colchester red colour-coated roughcast ware
CH	Oxidised Hadham ware
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares (general)
DZ	Fine oxidised wares
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware
EC	Early Colchester colour-coated ware
FJ	Brockley Hill/ <i>Verulamium</i> oxidised ware
GA	BB1: Black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: Black-burnished ware, category 2
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares
HD(LSH)	Late Roman-type shell-tempered wares
HG	Eifelkeramic/Mayen ware
HZ	Large storage vessels in heavily-tempered coarseware fabrics
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale greyware
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware
MQ	White slipped fines wares & parchment wares
ON	Mica-gilt wares
TG	Oxford, red/grey fabric with red colour-coat & pink grits
TZ	Colchester mortaria (buff fabrics)
WA	Silvery micaceous and pale grey wares
WB	Grey slipped wares
<i>Saxon & Medieval:</i>	
97	Saxon 'brickearth' fabrics (general)
12	Early medieval shelly wares (general)
13	Early medieval sandy wares (general)
13T	Early medieval sandy wares Transitional
20	Medieval sandy greywares (general) - elsewhere 'medieval coarseware'
21	Sandy orange wares
21A	Colchester-type ware
<i>Post-medieval:</i>	
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares
42	Surrey/Hampshire Boarder white ware ('Boarder' ware)
43	Martincamp flasks
45A	Langerwehe stoneware
46	Tin-glazed earthenware (general)
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
51A	Late slipped kitchenware
51B	Flowerpot (modern)

Prehistoric

The only finds that can be dated to the prehistoric (pre-Roman) period are two struck flint flakes (catalogued by Adam Wightman). These come from L55 (84) in T3 and F42 (69) in T11. Both can only be broadly dated as Neolithic-Bronze Age.

A small sherd of hand-made pottery is considered more likely to be Early Saxon rather than prehistoric date (see below).

Roman

Pottery

A significant quantity of Roman pottery was recovered during the evaluation. In total this consists of 955 sherds with a combined weight of 14211 g. The date range of the forms and fabrics recorded (Appendix 1) spans the mid 1st to late 4th century. The range of fabrics includes coarsewares that are imported from the continent, products of regionally important industries and local products (Table 13).

Only a very small quantity of pottery can be closely dated to the pre-Flavian period which could suggest little or limited activity on the site before the late 1st or early 2nd century. The presence of a number of sherds of Late Roman pottery on the site is notable, especially late shell-tempered ware (Fabric HD(LSH)), Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (Fabric MP) and Mayen ware (Fabric HG). These come from T7 (F8), T8 (L10), T9 (F1), T10 (F16) and T11 (F33) although only one or a few sherds of this pottery came from any one context. The forms include a Mayen ware lid seated jar of Gose form 547 (1950) and a Hook-rim jar in shell-tempered fabric. At Colchester these pottery fabrics are primarily associated with contexts dating to after the early-mid 4th century and represent the latest closely-dated Roman pottery commonly found in the town. Much of this pottery has come from sites along the major Roman streets in the central area of the town, notably the main Roman street on the line of the present High Street, and is associated with reduced occupation in the Late Roman period concentrated along the main thoroughfares.

A group of mica-dusted sherds (Fabric ON) from F20 (30) in T4 are probably all part of a single vessel (Photograph 8). The pot has a broad foot base ring, rounded body and narrowing neck with a handle (16 sherds, 226 g), although so far only two sherds from the base have been able to be joined together. The fabric is very sandy and this pot might originate in the Brockley Hill/Verulamium potteries which appear to have produced a small quantity of mica-dusted wares. If so this would indicate a late 1st or early 2nd century date for the pot.



Photograph 8 A group of Roman mica-dusted pottery sherds from F20 (30) in T4.

Of particular interest is a small sherd (6 g) from F20 (30) located in T4. This is decorated with a wavy line in barbotine partly surviving along one edge and two impressed, small (cartouch-like) impressions/stamps containing dots. The pot has a red fabric with slightly metallic looking cream coloured slip. It appears to be Roman and the relatively large quantity of other finds from the context also indicate a Roman date. An angle along one side of the sherd suggests the step at the top of the body for a cornice-

rim, this and the nature of the piece indicating it is from a decorated beaker. However, so far the particular nature of the decoration has proved hard to parallel.

Glass

A few small pieces of glass are, or probably are, Roman in date. Of the three pieces recovered (combined weight 40 g) two are plain blue-green in colour and come from L2 (2) in T8 & L10 (13) in T8. The piece from L2 is part of a bottle base. The remaining small sherd is Roman vessel glass of pale yellow colour and was also recovered from L10 (13) in T8.

Brick & tile

The Roman ceramic building material (CBM) includes pieces from roof tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrices*), flat Roman tile-like brick and flue tiles essential to hypocaust heated rooms. In total this amounts to 344 pieces weighing 37810 g (including *tesserae*). All is broken and almost all is in orange-red coloured fabric with a few pieces that have a cream/white coloured fabric. Only a small amount shows any clear indication of later reuse with mortar over broken edges. The majority of the flue-tile is from box tiles with combed surfaces and a number of pieces have mortar extending across the combed surface showing they had been used for their original purpose.

Of particular interest are several pieces of early Roman flue tile (*CAR 6* Type B1, 262) which can be dated to the 1st century (Photograph 9). These tiles are able to be recognised from their thin walls and internal ribbing and they appear invariably to have lattice scored keying (*ibid* 262). The pieces were recovered from L53 (68) and L71 in (77) T11. Several of the pieces appear to have been used as the surface has traces of white mortar rendering. The pieces from L53 are associated with pottery of Claudio-Neronian date, although one piece of tile from this context appears to be peg-tile of medieval or post-medieval date.



Photograph 9 Selection of early flue tile from T11
(1. (77) L71, 2. (59) F37, 3. (68) L53)

A group of medium-large pieces of Roman tile, including *tegula*, *imbrex* and Roman brick was recovered from L46 (52) in T8. A single large corner piece from a Roman brick was also recovered from F20 (30) in T4. A piece of Roman *mammata* tile (brick) from F1 (1) in T9 is also notable as applied *mammata* on tiles are not often encountered in the town.

A few lower cut-aways (LCA) on *tegula* tiles were noted (Warry 2006). An example of Type A26 was noted on one tile from F21 (73) in T6, and examples of Type A2 & Type C5 on two tiles recovered from context L10 (13) in T6, with one further example of Type C5 from L46 (52) in T8.

Flooring materials

There are a number of tile *tesserae* from floors (50 in total), almost all of which retain fine white mortar from their floor setting. They were recovered individually or in small groups from T3, T4, T5, T6, T8, T9, T10, T11 & T12. They are almost entirely of orange/red coloured tile with one or two that have a cream-coloured tile fabric. With these are several tesserae in dark grey stone. A small group of much smaller size mosaic cubes in white (hard chalk?) and dark grey stone come from L55 (85) in T3, and which also retain fine white mortar from having been set in a floor (Photograph 10). Another small squared stone piece/cube, but with no indication of setting in mortar came from F20 (30) in T4.



Photograph 10 Sample of tesserae from L55 (85) in T3.

Wall plaster

A number of pieces of wall plaster, almost all Roman painted plaster, were recovered. In total there are 53 pieces weighing 3965 g. They were recovered from a six of the trenches (T3, T4, T6, T8, T11 & T12). A large group from F38 (60) in T3 included three large red-painted pieces on a thick (60 mm) buff-brown lime plaster backing as well as small fragments on a thin plaster (10 mm). (Photograph 11). The latter indicates decorative schemes of coloured, bordered panels, the main colours being red and white, with a splashed/flicked paint dado around the lower part of the wall.



Photograph 11 Selection of painted wall plaster from F38 (60) in T3.

Mortar

Roman *opus signinum* (*op sig*) mortar (mortar mixed with crushed brick or tile) was recovered as one or two pieces from contexts in T3 (F38), T4 (F20), T6 (F21) & T8 (L47). A small number of pieces of sandy lime mortar associated with F21 in T6 & L47 in T8 are also associated with Roman finds (a significant quantity in the case of L47) and are likely to be Roman.

Stone

A few pieces of septaria (a local stone type) were recovered from trenches T4, T6, T8 & T9. In total there are 112 pieces with a combined weight of 7222 g. These are mostly of medium size but two large piece with lime mortar adhering to them were recovered from F21 (33) in T6. There are also two pieces of Kent ragstone from T4. These are likely to have been used in building, either in footings or walls (as with the septaria pieces from T6) or in surfaces. Septaria was exploited from the early Roman period, but was probably more difficult to acquire in quantity after the end of the 1st century and it is noticeable that in the 2nd century ragstone from the Medway area of Kent was brought from the construction of the Roman circus.

Medieval

Early Saxon? pottery

There is a single, small sherd of hand-made pottery from F27 (47) in T12 that appears likely to be Early Saxon in date, although (if so) the sherd can only be broadly dated to the period c mid 5th-7th century. A prehistoric (Iron Age) date might also be possible, but is felt to be less likely.

Medieval pottery

Medieval pottery is represented by a small number of sherds in local coarsewares. In total there are 28 sherds weighing 402 g. The majority of the pottery is in Fabric 13 and Fabric 20, broadly dating to the 11th to early 13th century and 13th to 14th century respectively. There is also one sherd of medieval shelly ware, Fabric 12 (c late 11th-12th century). Rims from a number of vessels were present and most are likely to be from cooking pots, although one cistern bung surround was recovered from F29 (48) in T1. Also among the assemblage are sherds of Colchester-type ware, Fabric 21A, broadly of 13th-15th century date. At least two jugs are represented in this fabric, one from L40 (45) in T12 and another from L45 (49) also in T1.

Early roofing slate

Among a number of pieces of slate recovered, there are two pieces from thick, roughly-shaped roofing slates of probable medieval date. They were recovered from L39 (44) in T12. One piece has what appears to be a damaged fixing hole where the initial hole has been broken into a larger hole in the slate.

These slates are associated with high status medieval buildings in the town. Similar slates have been recovered during excavation in the Colchester Castle bailey on the site of the medieval hall (Drury 1982, 348 & plate B). The hall is dated to the Norman period with initial construction of the building dated to the late 11th century (c AD 1074-76) but with later alterations (CAR 1, 67-69). More recently thick slates have come from the former Williams & Griffins department store site (now Fenwick) in the High Street (CAT Report 1150). At this site, the earliest contexts with these slates are late 12th/13th-14th century, although many may represent demolition material or natural losses from a roof suggesting an earlier origin.

Post-medieval and modern

Pottery

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery, broadly dating from the period c 16th to early 18th century, includes several sherds of imported German stoneware, one of which is a poorly-executed frilled base recovered from L3 (17) in T9 probably from a Raeran vessel (Fabric 45C) dated c 15th to early 16th century. Other non-local pots include sherds from a Surrey Border ware pot, probably a porringer, recovered from F39 (62) in T3 and a sherd of Tin-glazed earthenware from L34 (38) in T2. A few other sherds from

vessels in post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware (Fabric 40) and are probably of local manufacture or from relatively close regional sources.

Only a small quantity of modern pottery (c late 18-early 20th century) was recovered. There are a total of 9 sherds, together weighing 172 g. The sherds consist of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares, late slipped kitchen ware with other red earthenware sherds probably from flower pots.

Clay tobacco pipes

Single, plain stem pieces from clay tobacco pipes of post-medieval date or modern date were recovered from F7 (6) & F9 (8) in T7 and from L2 (2) in T9.

Peg-tiles

Pieces of peg-tile were recovered from a number of contexts. F29 (T1) F24 (T3) F13 (T8), L3 (T9), F36 & L53 (T11) F25, L39 & L40 (T12). In total there are 11 pieces with a combined weight of 1170 g). Only one or a few pieces were recovered from each context. These are not closely-dated other than as late medieval to post-medieval but are likely to date to after the late 13th/early 14th century as peg-tiles are known not to have been in common use on buildings in Essex, especially domestic buildings, prior to that time (Ryan 1993, 97). The tile piece from L53 (68) T11 was associated with pottery of Claudio-Neronian date and early Roman flue-tile pieces. This might suggest that it has been misidentified, although it does appear to be peg-tile.

Brick

A single complete unfrosted, red brick, typical of 19th-century bricks in nature and size was recovered from F34 in T11. A half of a brick of near identical type was recovered from F3 in T10 and half of a yellow-cream brick (Suffolk White?) with a shallow frog, dated as late 18th-19th century, came from the same context.

Animal bone identifications and catalogue by Adam Wightman

A total of 287 pieces of animal bone weighing 6122g was hand-collected during the evaluation. The bone has been identified to species, weighed and described in the bulk finds catalogue (Appendix 1).

With the exception of two small assemblages of bone (<5 pieces) from probable Roman layers L25 and L55, all of the animal bone was recovered from medieval and post-medieval contexts. The finds assemblages from these contexts were dominated by Roman finds and it is likely that the majority of the animal bone is also Roman in date and therefore residual in these later contexts.

The assemblages are generally small and there are no obviously useful groups of bone from well-dated or interesting contexts. Of the stratified material, the largest groups (between 25 & 75 pieces) came from early medieval robber trenches (F16, F38), a ?medieval pit or soil dump against the rampart (F20) and the dark soil overlying the surviving Roman archaeology (ie L10). The remainder of contexts with animal bone mostly produced less than 10 pieces. Bones from all of the main domestic species (cattle, sheep & pig) are present, a number of which exhibit butchery marks. Deer bones were also identified. There are also a few examples of dog bones and several bones which exhibit marks typical of dog gnawing. A number of bones of birds are also present.

Other finds

There are a number of other finds recovered in small quantities many of which, of themselves, are not closely datable.

Glass

There are eight sherds of post-Roman glass (weight 227 g). These include seamed modern vessels glass and glass of post-medieval/modern date, with a single small sherd identified as window glass. Most is likely to be of relatively modern date. The sherds come from F29 (T1), F38 and L55 (T3), F7 & F8 (T7), L3 (T9), F42 (T11). The sherd from F8 (9) in T7 is of interest as it comes from the rim of a large post-medieval dish, c 560 mm in diameter, made in a green-tinted glass. The rim has a broad, flat

flange with the edge folded out to form a fine hollow tubular rim (Willmott 2002, p96, ref. 30.1).

Nails (iron)

A total of 19 iron nails, nail pieces or corroded iron that almost certainly represents nails were recorded. They come from contexts in T3 (F38 & L55), T4 (F20), T8 (L10 & L46), T10 (F16) & T12 (L40 & L41). No more than four were recovered from any one context. Where present, the heads are flat and rounded in shape. None of the surviving nails are more than 84 mm in length and there is no indication of any large nails. Although of themselves not closely dated, it is likely, in light of the great majority of closely-dated finds being of Roman date, that most, if not all, are Roman and can be broadly classified as Manning Type 1B (Manning 1985, 134).

Slate

Apart from the identified pieces of medieval roofing slate (see above), there are a further 13 pieces (weight 404 g) recovered as small pieces or laminating pieces of slate from six contexts in five trenches (T1, T4, T7, T8, T12). Many of these are thin pieces, some with regular edges and are likely to be of post-medieval, or more probably modern date. One piece, from L40 in T12, has part of a nail hole suggesting it is a roofing slate and several pieces from L39 (44) in T12 have mortar between parallel slates suggestive of pieces from a modern damp-proof course.

Slag

Single small pieces of slag were recovered from F18 in T4 (weight 38 g) & L51 in T11 (weight 52 g) the latter being a vesicular piece of heavy iron-rich slag.

Heat-altered/burnt stone

A single piece of heat-altered stone (flint) was recovered from F20 (30) in T11. This has a patchy red deposit on its surface.

Shell

A group of twenty large, well-preserved oyster shells were recovered from F20 (27) in T4 associated with a large quantity of finds dated to the Roman period. One or a few shells were present in a few other contexts, mainly oyster shells, but including mussel and carpet shell (F20 in T4) whelk (L66 in T7).

Finds summary & discussion

The finds were recovered from trenches which were excavated to the uppermost level of surviving significant archaeology.

The earliest-dated finds are two struck flints of Neolithic-Bronze Age date. A sherd of hand-made pottery might be later prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age) but is considered more likely to be Early Saxon. The flints indicate some limited activity in the prehistoric period. A Neolithic pit as well as flints, pottery and other prehistoric finds (Neolithic-Iron Age) date have been recovered from previous excavations in the town centre (CAR 6, 21, Brooks 2006). However, the nature and intensity of prehistoric activity on the present site is hard to gauge from these flints which were recovered as residual finds in later contexts. Any traces of prehistoric activity mostly remains buried beneath the later sequence of deposits.

The early Roman period (Claudian-early Flavian) is poorly represented among the more closely-datable pottery. In relation to the development of the Roman town, this might reflect limited use of an area peripheral to the core of the fortress and early *Colonia*, and there is a general absence of Boudiccan deposits, dated AD 60/61 (reflecting areas of occupation up to that time) recorded in the eastern half of the town (CAR 6 fig 2.1). However, one context produced a few sherds of Claudio-Neronian pottery and two moderately large pieces from early Roman flue tiles of similar early date. A few pieces from this type of early flue tile were also recovered from other contexts.

The majority of the Roman pottery reflects the main period of occupation as occurring from the late 1st or early 2nd century into the late Roman period of the late 3rd and 4th century, and this is undoubtedly the period to which many of the other finds recovered also belong. Finds of building material and plaster indicate the site of well-appointed buildings at this time, presumably town houses, with painted walls and both mosaic and tessellated tile floors. A number of pieces from flue tiles indicate possible hypocaust heated rooms. Sherds of the latest-dated Roman pottery types found at Colchester indicate occupation or some activity here up to the very late Roman period.

A single sherd of pottery dated as Early Saxon reflects activity in this area of the town during a period that is not well represented and is poorly understood. There is a general hiatus among the finds from the evaluation until the medieval period of the late 11th to 12th century. Sherds from cooking pots and jugs indicate activity and probably domestic occupation here in the period of the late 11th or 12th to 14th or 15th centuries, although the quantity of material is not large and the average size of pottery sherds is generally small-medium, so that this material is quite broken up and in many cases may be residual. Of interest are a few pieces of medieval thick slate roof tile, associated with high status building in the town, but the context of these finds here in relation to the medieval occupation is not clear. Closely-dated post-medieval finds are also rather limited in quantity as are finds of modern date, but show continued activity and occupation in and around the area.

Small finds

by Laura Pooley

Six Roman small finds were recovered during the evaluation, consisting of a 4th-century copper-alloy coin, a piece of copper-alloy strip, two incomplete bone pins, a fragment of worked purbeck marble and a stone mixing palette.

A Roman 4th-century copper-alloy coin (SF1) was found lying on top of the Roman metalling L56. The coin is a nummus issued by Constantine the Great in AD 330-33 as a City of Constantinople commemorative coin. During the period of AD 307-361, Constantine the Great and his sons issued a number of small bronze coins to commemorate the old capital of Rome and the new capital of Constantinople, to symbolise the equality of the two cities and the importance of Constantinople to the Roman Empire (<http://www.forumancientcoins.com/catalog/roman-and-greek-coins.asp?vpar=458>).

SF1 L56 (63) A 4th-century copper-alloy nummus issued by Constantine the Great in AD 330-333. A City of Constantinople commemorative coin. Obverse: CONSTA[NTINOPOLIS], helmeted bust of Constantinopolis looking left, laureate and holding sceptre in left hand. Reverse: Victory standing left, wings half spread, right foot of prow, holding sceptre in right hand and resting left on shield, mintmark illegible (reverse very worn). Die axis: 4; diameter: 13mm; weight: 1g.

Three small finds were from contexts possibly associated with the Roman rampart, although F20 could have actually been a post-Roman pit (see page 9). A rectangular piece of copper-alloy strip was recovered from L36 (SF2) and two bone hairpins (SF3-SF4) from F20. One of the hairpins is a Crummy (1983) Type 1 pin with plain conical head dated from the ?Flavian period to the 4th century.

SF2 L36 (79) Rectangular piece of plain copper-alloy strip, broken on one short edge, 41mm long, 17mm wide, <1mm thick, 2.1g.

Fig 26.1 SF3 F20 (28) Incomplete bone hairpin of Crummy (1983, 20-21) Type 1 with a plain conical head. These types of bone hairpin consist of a plain tapering shaft, the thicker end of which has been sharpened to a short point. The shaft is regular, smooth and polished but broken with the point missing. Nina Crummy states that pins of this type are found in deposits ranging in date from the ?Flavian period to the 4th century. 58mm long, 3.5-2.5mm diameter, 1g.

Fig 26.2 SF4 F20 (32) Incomplete bone hairpin, tapering shaft and point, head missing. The shaft is regular, smooth and polished. 62mm long, 3-1mm diameter, 0.7g. Roman.

SF6 F20 (31) Fragment of worked purbeck marble with two flat smoothed faces, part of one straight-edge survives (worn and damaged), all other edges broken, 88mm long, 50mm wide, 27mm thick, 182g.

A stone mixing palette (SF5) came from post-Roman soil accumulation L10. Small stone slabs were used as palettes on which cosmetics or medicines were mixed. The palette from St Botolph's has bevelled edges, but, like many other recorded examples, shows evidence of wear (from mixing) on the underside of the palette (Crummy 1983, 57). This suggests that mixing occurred on the underside and that they were kept/displayed with the more decorative side up (*ibid*).

Fig 26.3 SF5 L10 (13) Stone mixing palette with bevelled edges and evidence of wear on the underside where mixing would have taken place. Rectangular in shape with four bevelled edges. Two of the bevelled edges measure 4mm deep with a typical angular lip, the third measures 3-6mm deep with a slightly rounded lip (more of a chamfered edge, possibly the result of wear), and the fourth 7-10mm deep with rounded lip. Unlike the other three, this fourth edge is also on the diagonal, possibly due to wear but perhaps more likely the result of a repair to this side of the palette. Purbeck marble, 72mm by 62mm, 8.5mm deep, 80.9g.

Environmental results

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

A sample (sample 1, finds number 83) was taken from the remains of a demolished Roman building overlying a mosaic floor (layer L55).

The sample (40 litres of soil) was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried. A 50ml flot was produced.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

The plant remains

The sample contained low numbers of charcoal flecks too small to be identifiable and one poorly preserved charred bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) seed. This plant is a ruderal and segetal plant.

Faunal remains, artefacts and significant inorganic remains

No faunal remains, artefacts or significant inorganic remains were present.

Discussion

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for this sample.

Preservation was by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds,

1979, 57). Preservation by waterlogging occurs when plant remains are in anoxic conditions such as sealed pits or layers or a high water-tables (English Heritage 2011, 13).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson & Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

Significance and potential of the sample and recommendations for further work

Only the charred bedstraw seed has any potential to provide information but it is one seed in a 40L sample. A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96). Radiocarbon dating may be possible on this seed.

It is clear that the preservation conditions favour charred and mineralised plant macro-remains so any future archaeological investigations should include bulk/whole-earth sampling.

No further work is recommended on this sample.

7 Discussion

In accordance with the brief for this investigation, the aim was to establish the depth and characterise the nature of the archaeological deposits beneath the bus station site. This was achieved by excavating down to the uppermost significant archaeological contexts/deposit and then undertaking limited excavation of post-Roman features, such as pits and robber trenches, to explore the Roman deposits into which they were cut.

With the exception of T5 (see below), Roman building remains were uncovered in all of the trenches where there was a high probability of finding such deposits (T3 & T6-T12). The building remains were uncovered at depths of between 1.03m and 1.71m below modern ground level (average 1.39m), with the greatest depth of cover over the Roman deposits being in the area around the former waiting room building (Fig 15). Robber trenches excavated to extract building materials from the foundations of Roman buildings were recorded in six of these trenches, with sections of foundation, constructed from septaria set in mortar, surviving in two locations (F10-T7 and F40-T3). The pottery dating evidence from two robber trenches (F1-T9 and F38-T3) indicates that the robbing was taking place in the early medieval period (11th-13th century) as has been found elsewhere in the town (CAR 1, 48). Three of the robber trenches were c 0.7m wide (F9-T7, F1-T9 and F16-T10) which is in keeping with the width of the foundations of private houses of post-Flavian date seen elsewhere in the town. Four of the robber trenches were wider at c 1m in width (F38-T3 (0.95m), F21-T6 (0.95m), F8-T7 (0.85m) and ?F27-T11 (c 1m wide, although only one edge was identified in the trench)) and may have been dug to rob larger foundations belonging to a public building or part of a more substantial house. The evidence from the evaluation suggests that some of the buildings probably had clay-block walls and that some of the walls in the areas around T10, T6 and T3 had painted plaster on their surface.

Three surviving Roman floors were uncovered during the evaluation, a tessellated floor and a metalled surface in T7 and the remains of a mosaic floor in T3. All three types of Roman surface are commonly found in this part of the town where they can survive relatively undisturbed by post-medieval and modern activity. Beneath these floor surfaces were thick deposits of 'make-up', usually dominated by sandy clay, which had been used to raise and/or level the floors of the Roman buildings. In six of the trenches (T6, T7, T9-T12), the uppermost Roman deposit was either make-up or the remains of

opus signinum floors which appeared to have been removed. It is possible that flooring materials may have been robbed from the Roman buildings in these areas during the early medieval period or that post-Roman cultivation destroyed them. In T9, a piece of peg-tile and a shed of 14th- to 16th- century pottery was recovered from the surface of the make-up layer, suggesting that the latter is more likely. In either case, this might explain why a layer of building materials from the demolition of the Roman buildings which is often found elsewhere in the town was not identified above the Roman deposits in any of these trenches.

T5 was excavated to explore a rectilinear response on a ground-penetrating radar survey conducted in 2016 which was similar in size (27m x 8m) and orientation to Roman houses identified on the site during the 1950's excavation (Stratascan 2016) (Fig 2). There were no Roman building remains in T5 and any such remains which may have been in this area appeared to have been destroyed, possibly by a very large post-medieval pit. There was no indication in the trench of what may have produced the response recorded by the ground-penetrating radar.

There appeared to be very little evidence of earlier floor layers amongst the layers of make-up. However, the early floor deposits were only observed in the edges of the robber trenches and were not excavated so it was difficult to say with any certainty. Although the earliest Roman deposits were not extensively explored, the absence of Boudiccan destruction debris (AD 61) and the small quantity of pottery which can be closely dated to the pre-Flavian period suggests that there was little or limited occupation on the site before the late 1st or early 2nd century. This is what would be expected given the present understanding of the development of the Roman town (CAR 6 fig 2.1).

In T4, deposits were recorded which are likely to be associated with the Roman rampart built up against the inside of the town wall. Of particular interest in this sequence of deposits was a layer of *opus signinum* (L24) which appeared to have been dropped or spread across the ground surface in this area. An examination of the external face of the town wall immediately to the south of T4 found that this stretch of the wall had been built using *opus signinum* and that L24 could have been level with the extrapolated height of the top of the foundation of the town wall (19.80mAOD). It is therefore possible that L24 may have been *opus signinum* splashed onto the ground during the construction of the town wall, although the absence of any septaria or brick pieces in the layer is hard to explain. A second potential problem with the *opus signinum* being derived from the construction of the town wall is that pottery sherds dating to the 2nd century appeared to be stratified within the layer beneath L24 (L25). The Roman town wall is generally considered to have been constructed in the 1st century AD (Crummy 2003), so the recovery of 2nd-century pottery from beneath the construction layer would be very significant indeed. However, the external face of the town wall adjacent to T4 has been subjected to extensive post-Roman repair/alteration and it is possible that the foundation could be c 1m below the extrapolated height given above. This could mean that the mortar spread is within the rampart deposits as was seen to the North of Balcerne Gate in the exploration of the rampart by K Richardson in 1951 (Hull 1958).

Very little can be said about the layout of the buildings or streets preserved here, largely because most of the archaeological work which has taken place in this part of the town has involved small, limited investigations. The most recent phase of work supports previous findings which suggest that the area was occupied by well-appointed Roman buildings with painted walls, both mosaic and tessellated tile floors and hypocaust heated rooms.

T1 was located outside of the town wall on the projected line of the town ditch. Most of the trench was located within a large modern pit which appeared to cut another large, deep feature. It is unlikely that this feature was the town ditch as medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from its fill. A possible wall foundation or plinth for a timber frame may have belonged to a property that occupied the plot (120 Priory

Street) before the northern side of Priory Street was cleared to create parking spaces for cars.

The archaeological evaluations undertaken across the development area have shown that medieval and post-medieval features/deposits are more likely to be encountered close to the Queen Street frontage where building remains and back-yard features such as pits ditches, surfaces, wells and possibly ancillary buildings, could be uncovered. The recovery of thick medieval roof slates in T12 may also suggest that a high status medieval building was located somewhere in the close vicinity. The low number of medieval or post-medieval features away from the Queen Street frontage and the accumulation of a thick deposit of dark soil has kept the underlying Roman archaeological remains in this area relatively well preserved.

8 Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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		<i>excavations in advance of the construction of the Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex November 2006- December 2007 and June 2008. Client report by Howard Brooks, with Kate Orr and Will Clarke</i>
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CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
<i>opsig</i>	<i>opus signinum</i>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
RRC SAL	Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2018.42.

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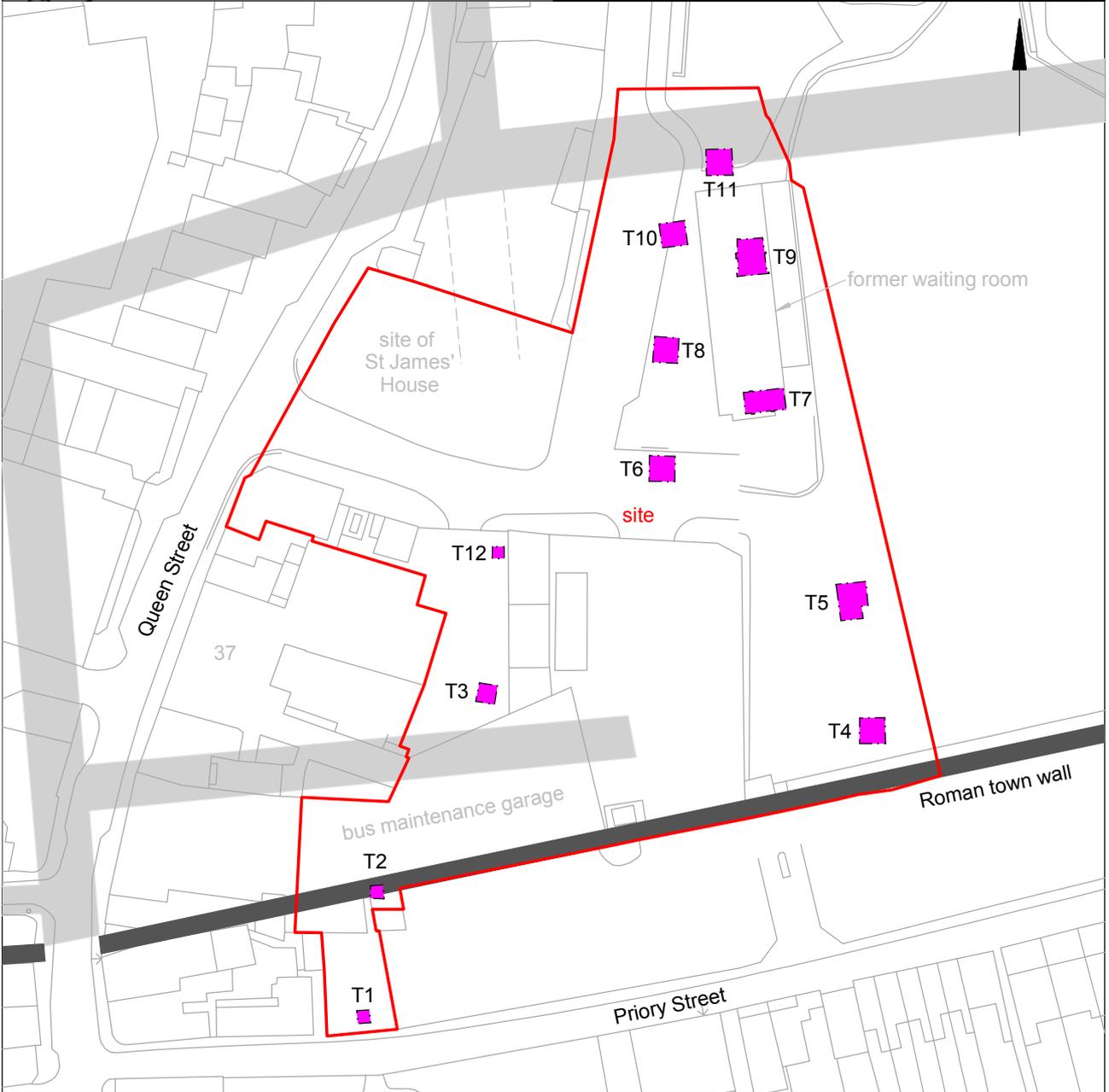
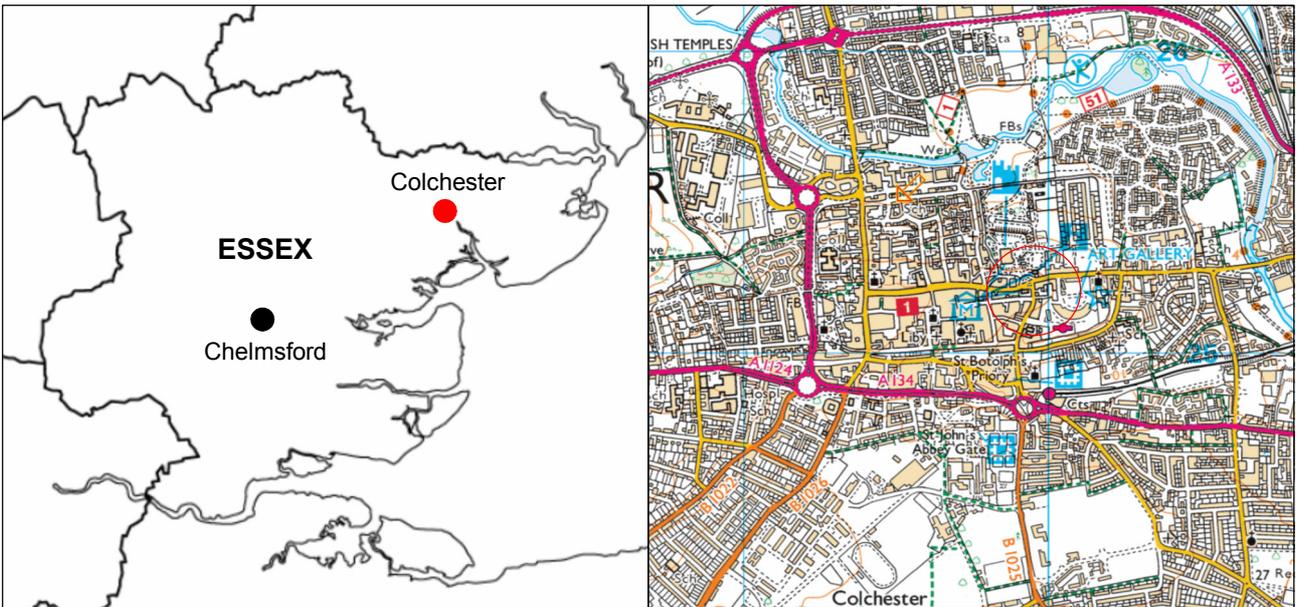
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Date: 02/07/18



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Fig 1 Site location.

■ Roman street layout

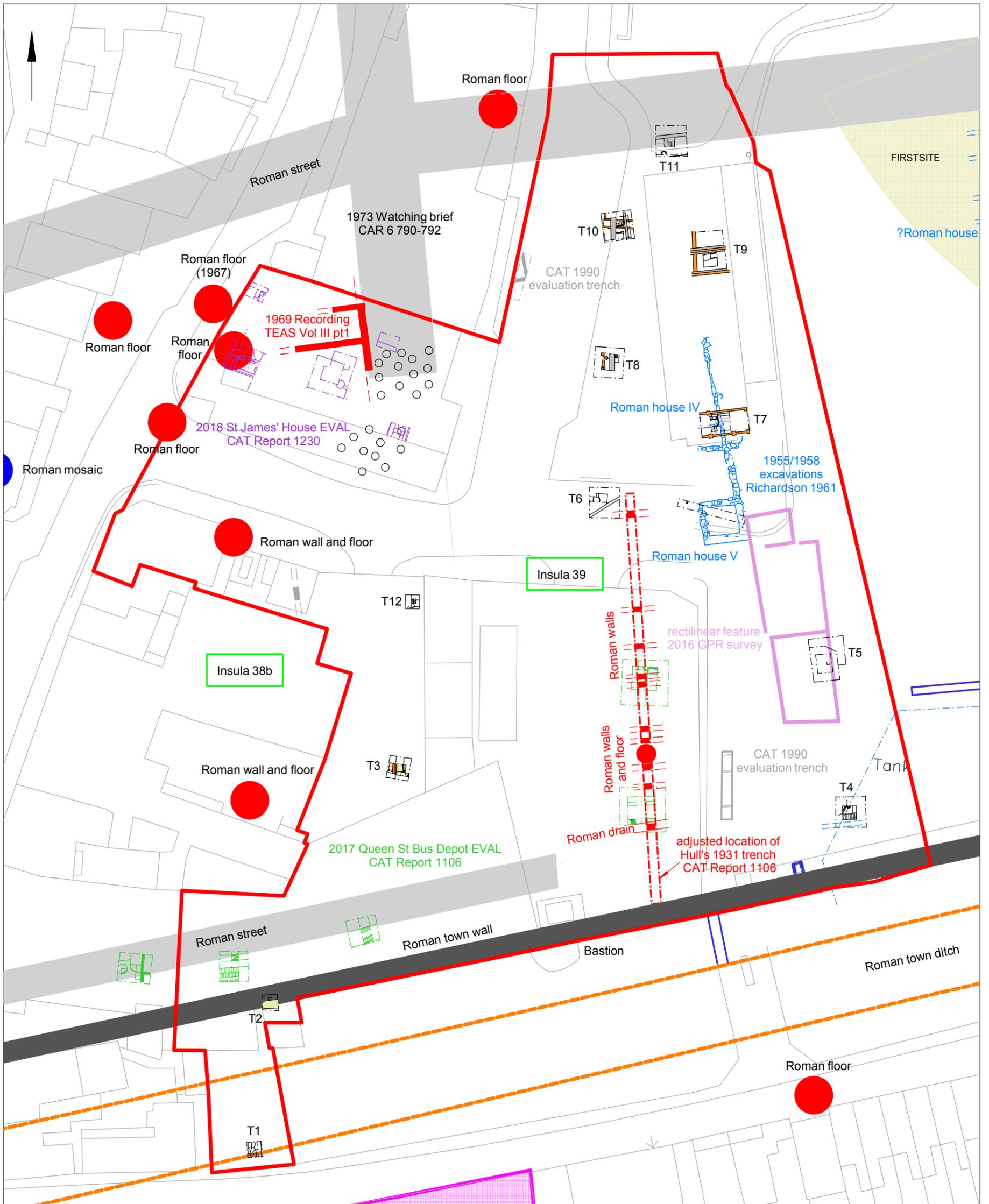


Fig 2 Trenches 1-12 shown in relation to nearby archaeological discoveries.

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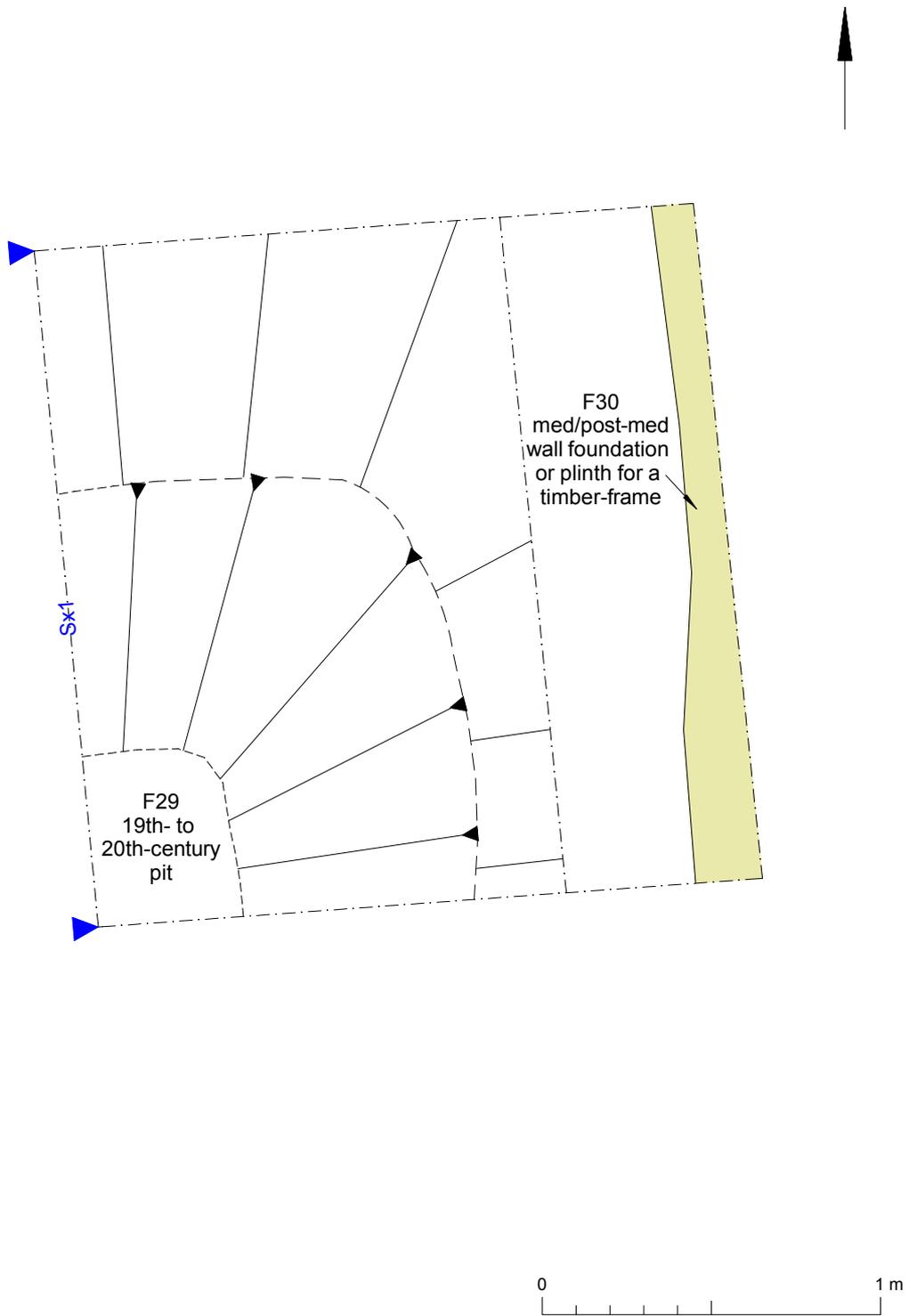


Fig 3 Trench 1: plan.

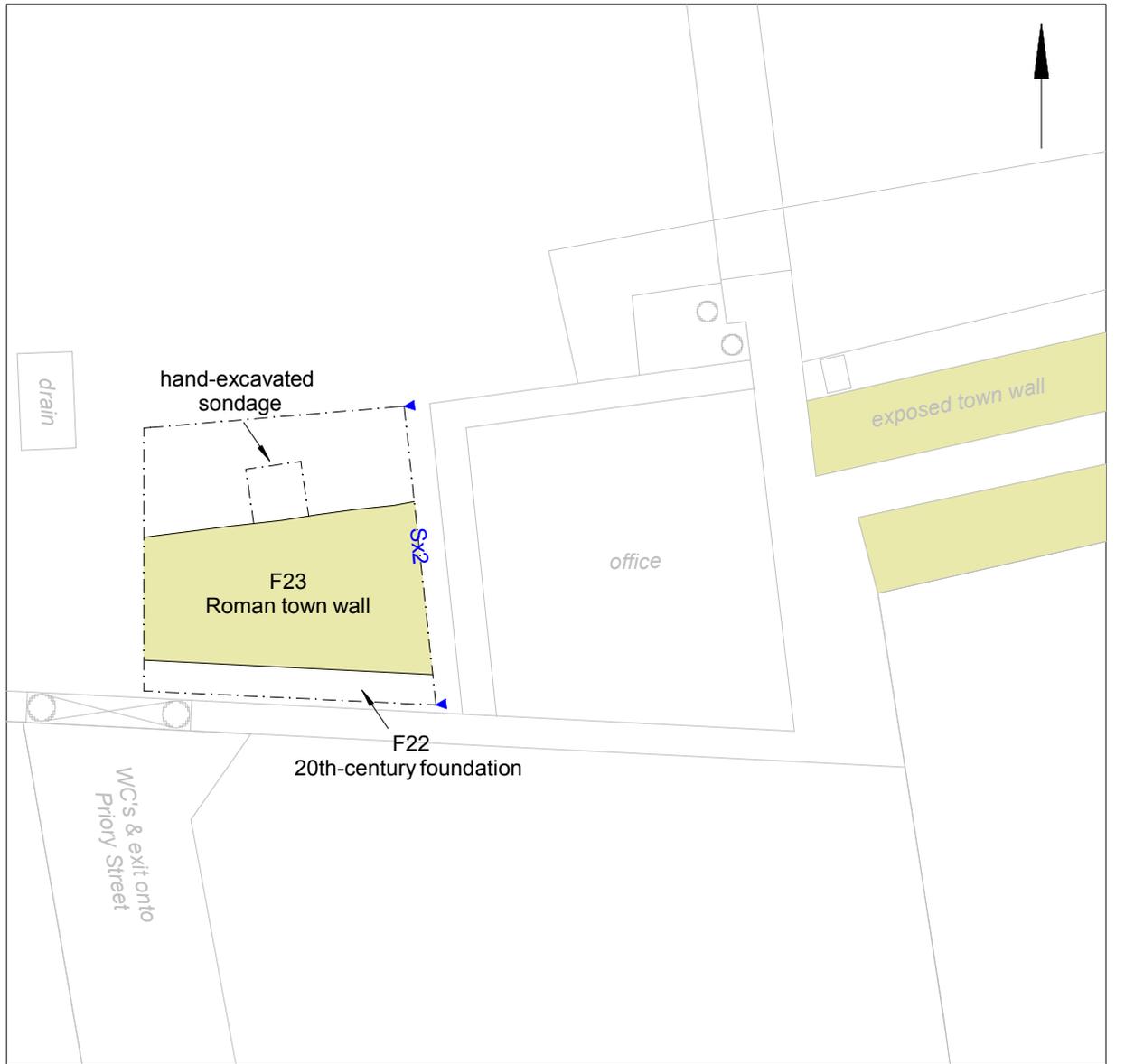


Fig 4 Trench 2: plan in relation to exposed town wall to the east.



Fig 5 Trench 3: plan.

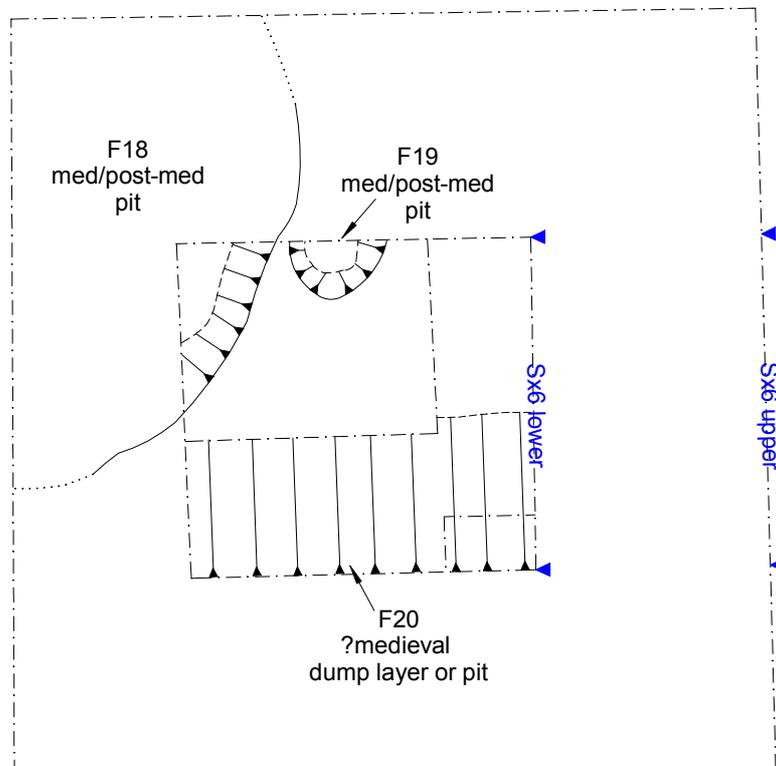


Fig 6 Trench 4: plan.

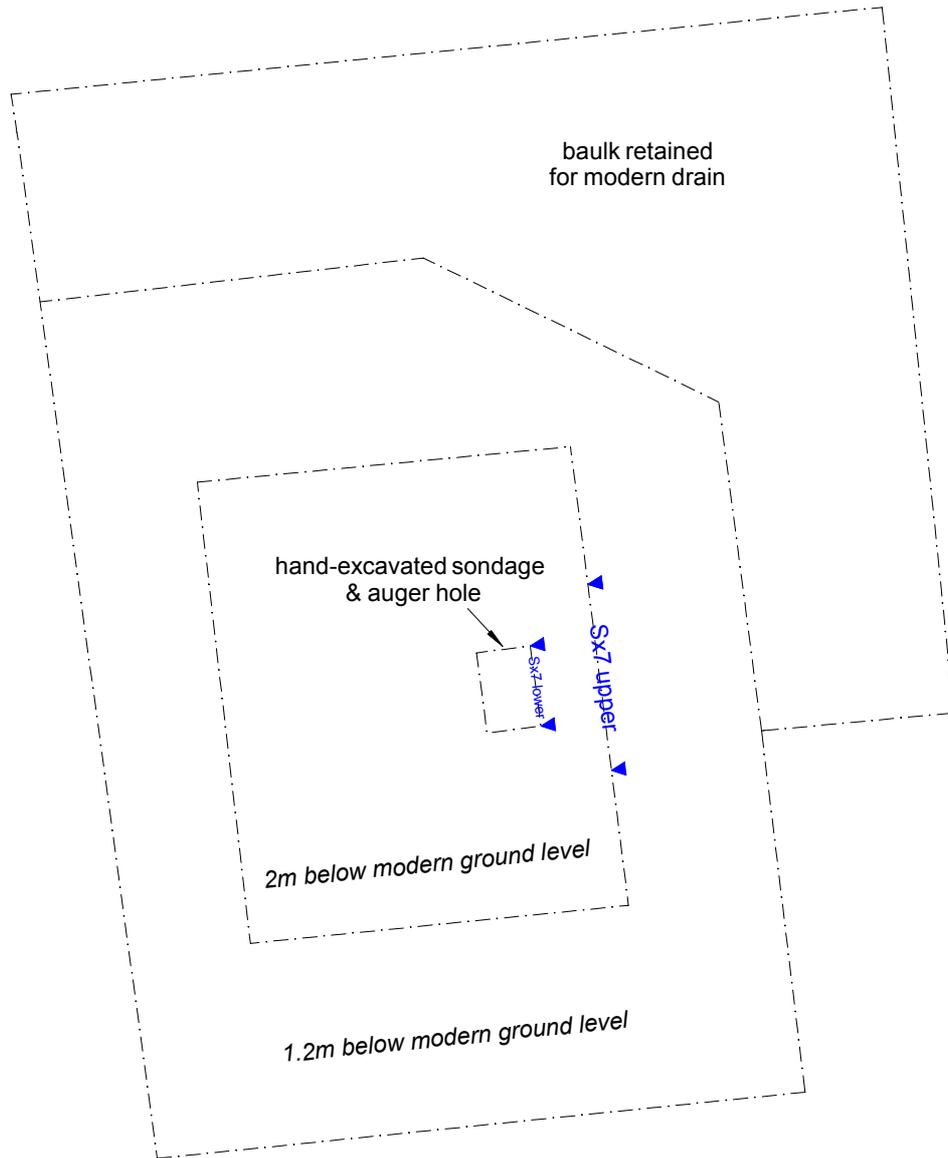


Fig 7 Trench 5: plan.

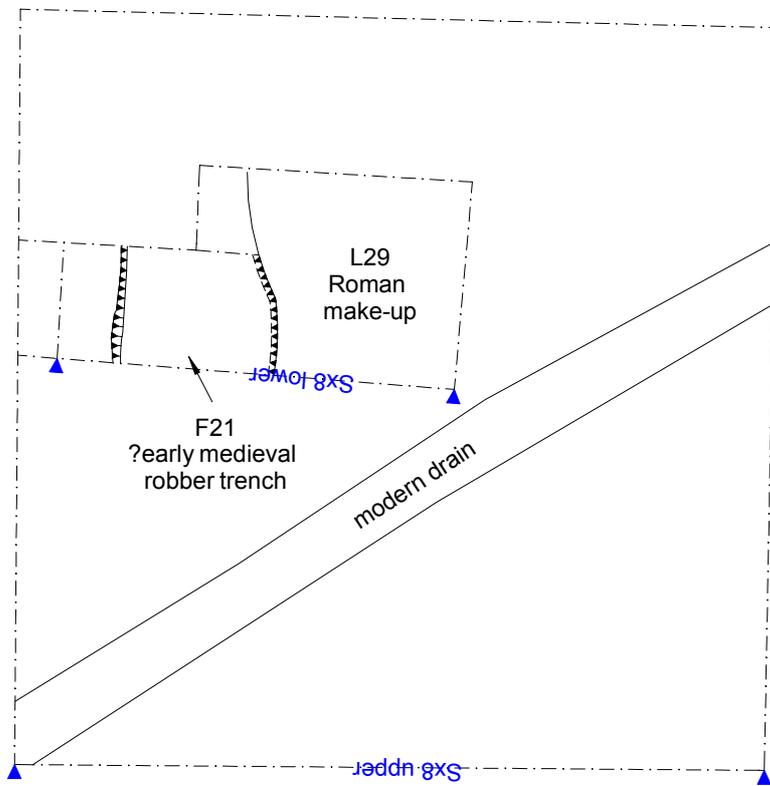


Fig 8 Trench 6: plan.

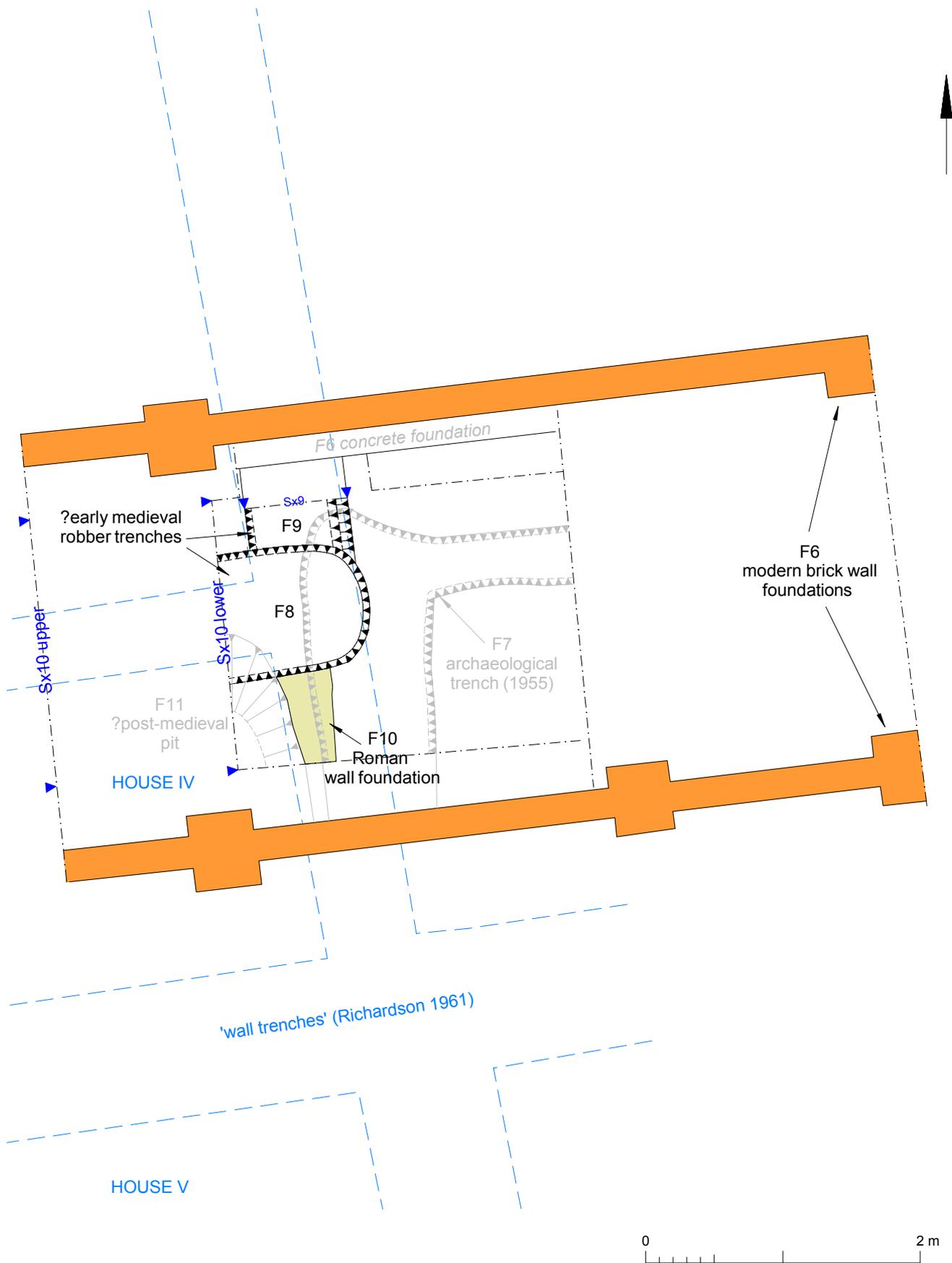


Fig 9 Trench 7: plan with probable location of Houses IV and V from the 1958 excavations (Richardson 1961).

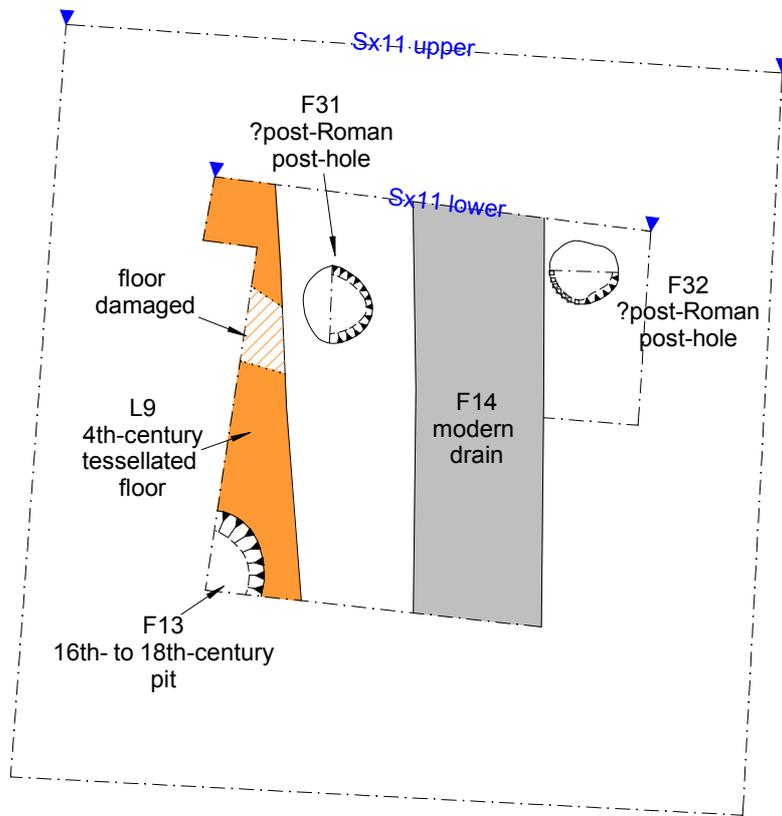


Fig 10 Trench 8: plan.

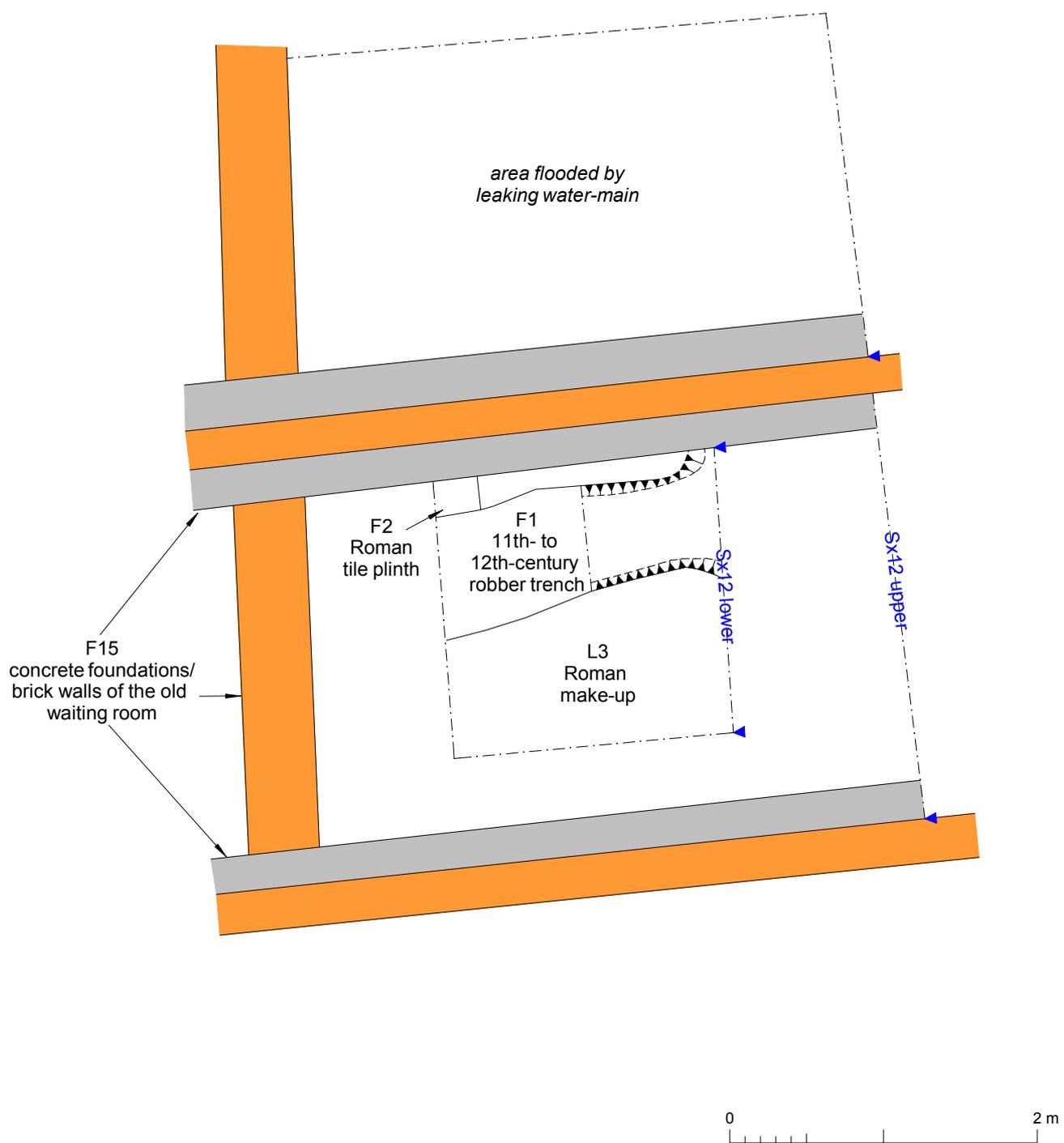


Fig 11 Trench 9: plan.

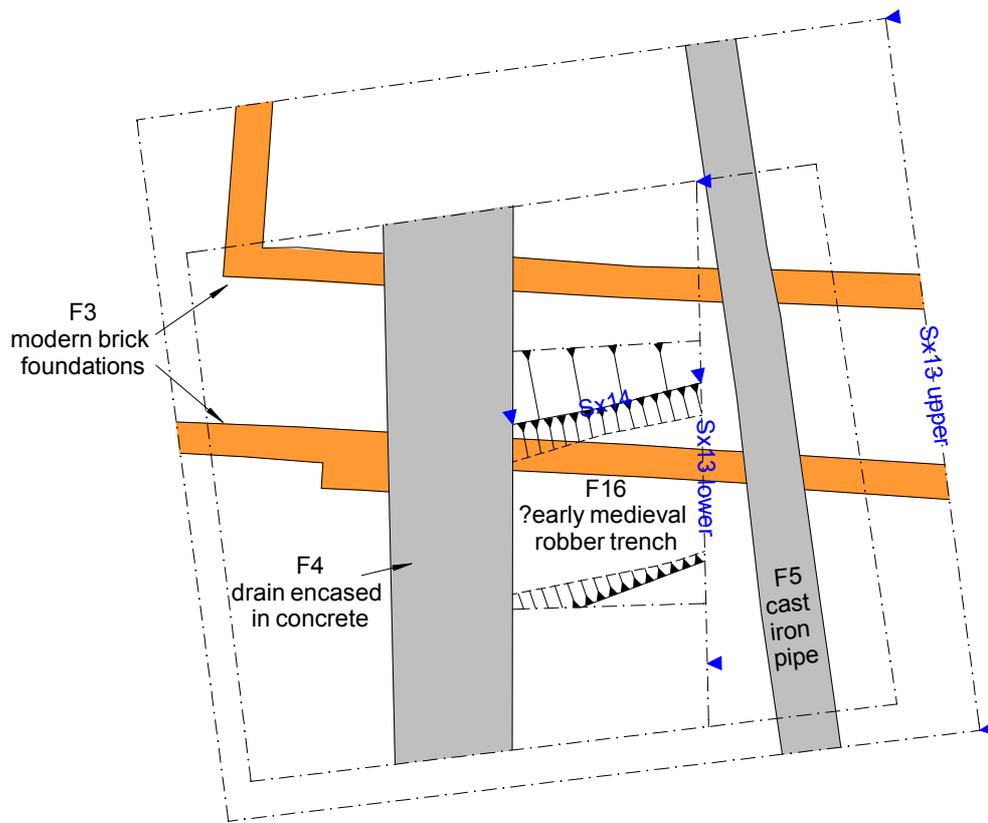


Fig 12 Trench 10: plan.

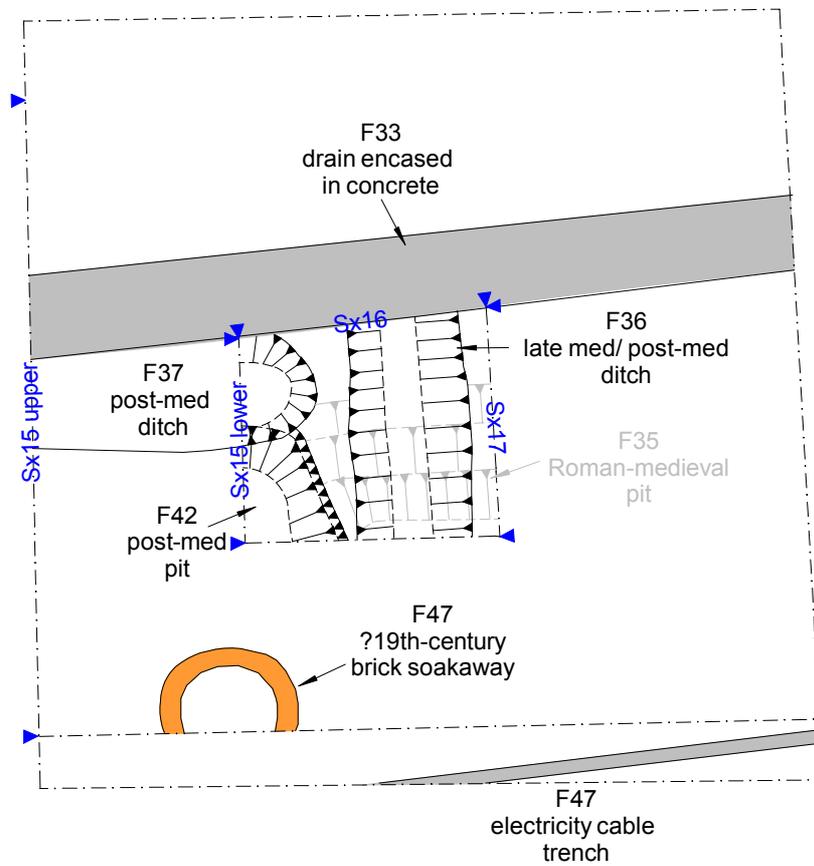


Fig 13 Trench 11: plan.

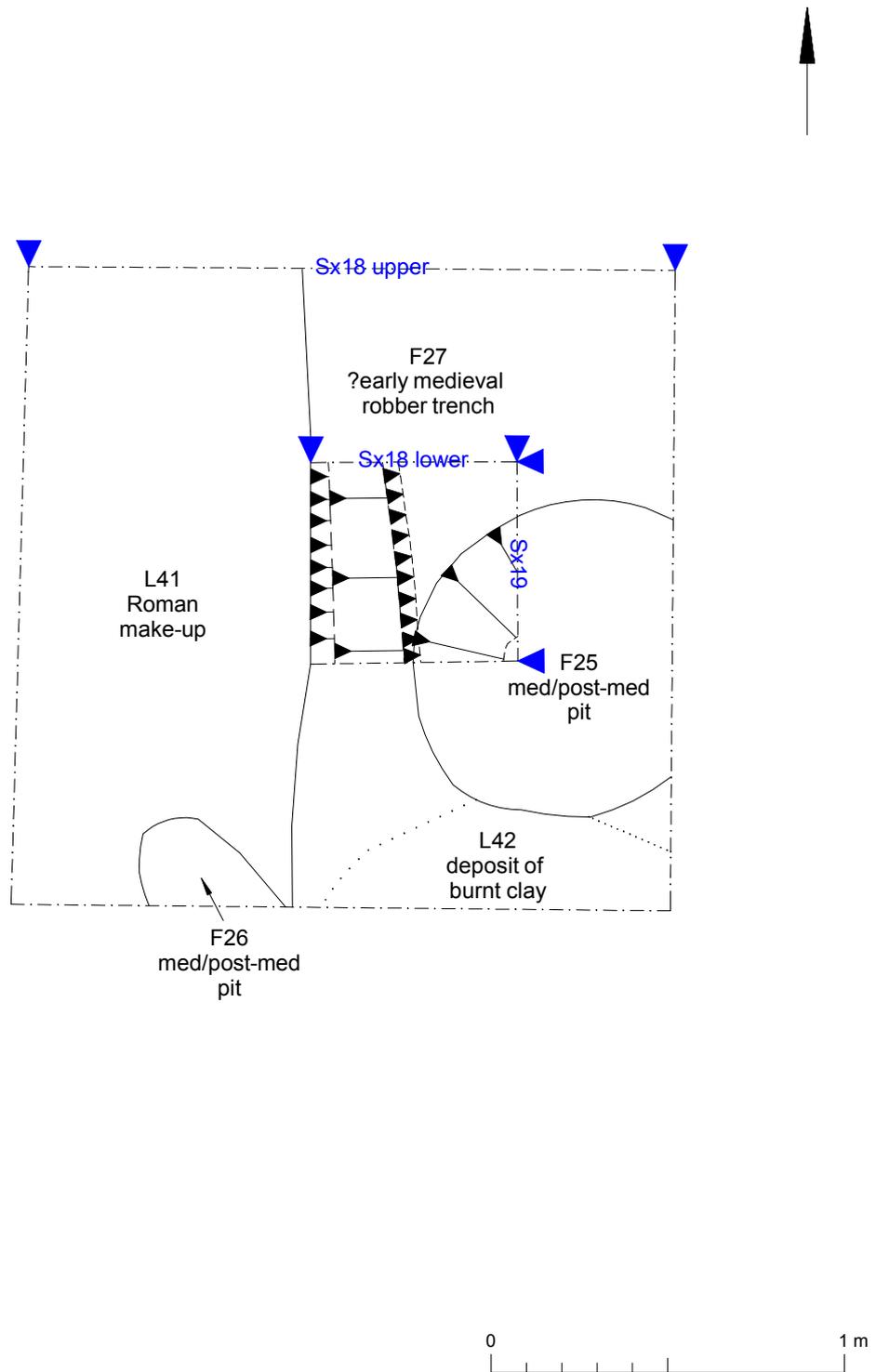


Fig 14 Trench 12: plan.

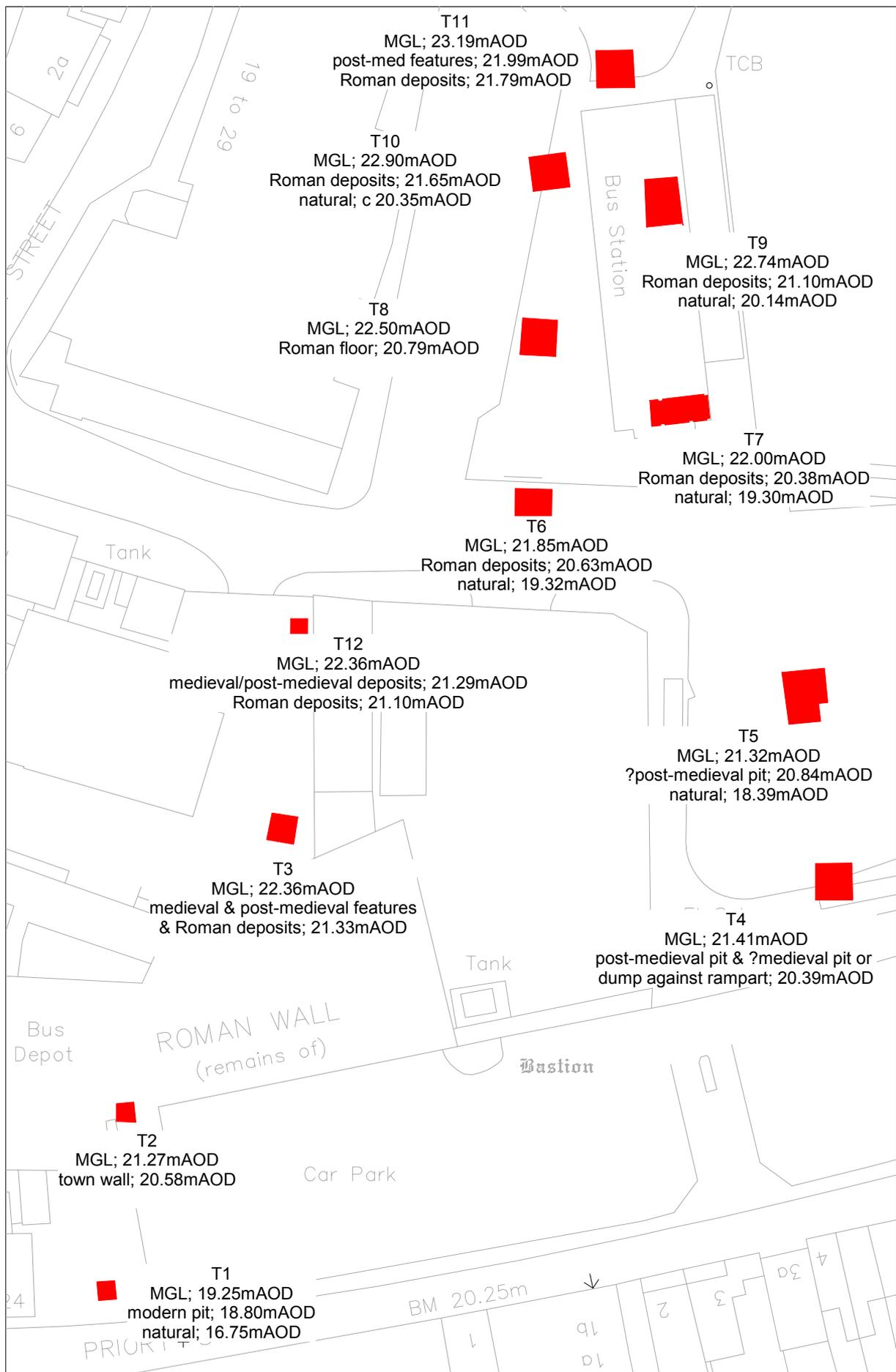
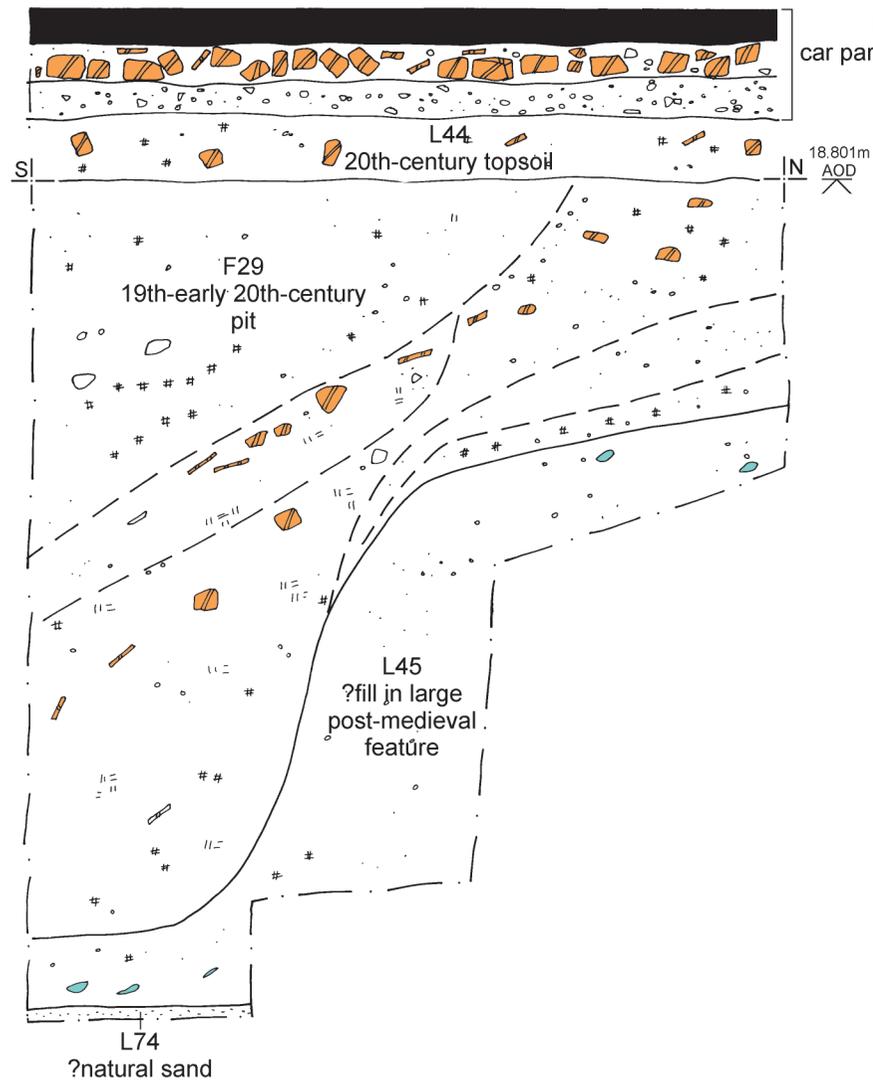
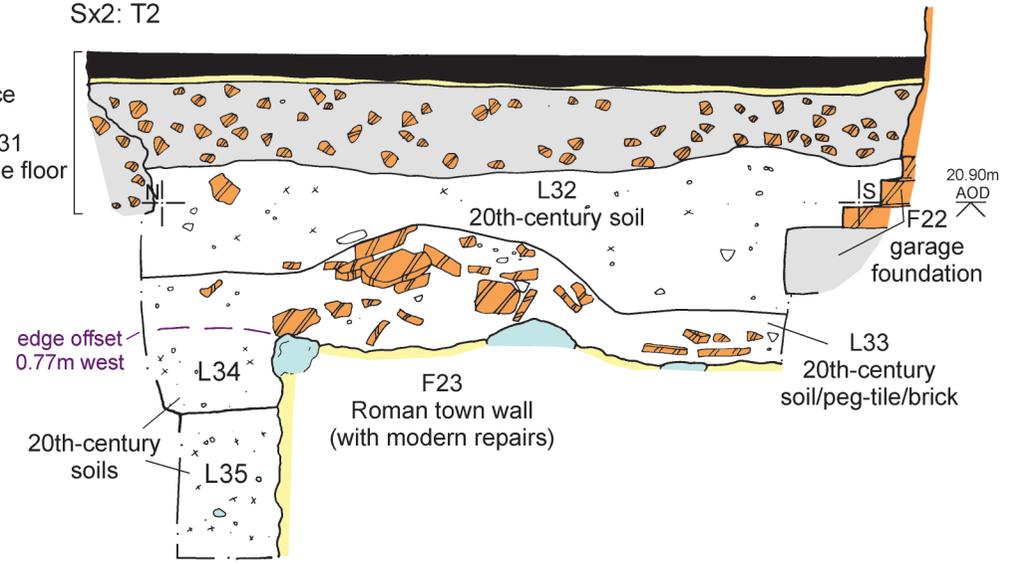


Fig 15 The heights at which archaeological features/deposits and the natural sand were encountered and the height of the modern ground level (MGL).

Sx1: T1



Sx2: T2



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| sand | animal bone |
| clay | oyster shell |
| small stones | pottery sherds |
| large stones | Roman brick and tile |
| septaria | post-Roman brick and tile |
| mortar flecks | slate |
| mortar fragments | concrete |
| opus signinum | tarmac |
| Roman wall plaster | roots |



Fig 16 T1-T2: sections.

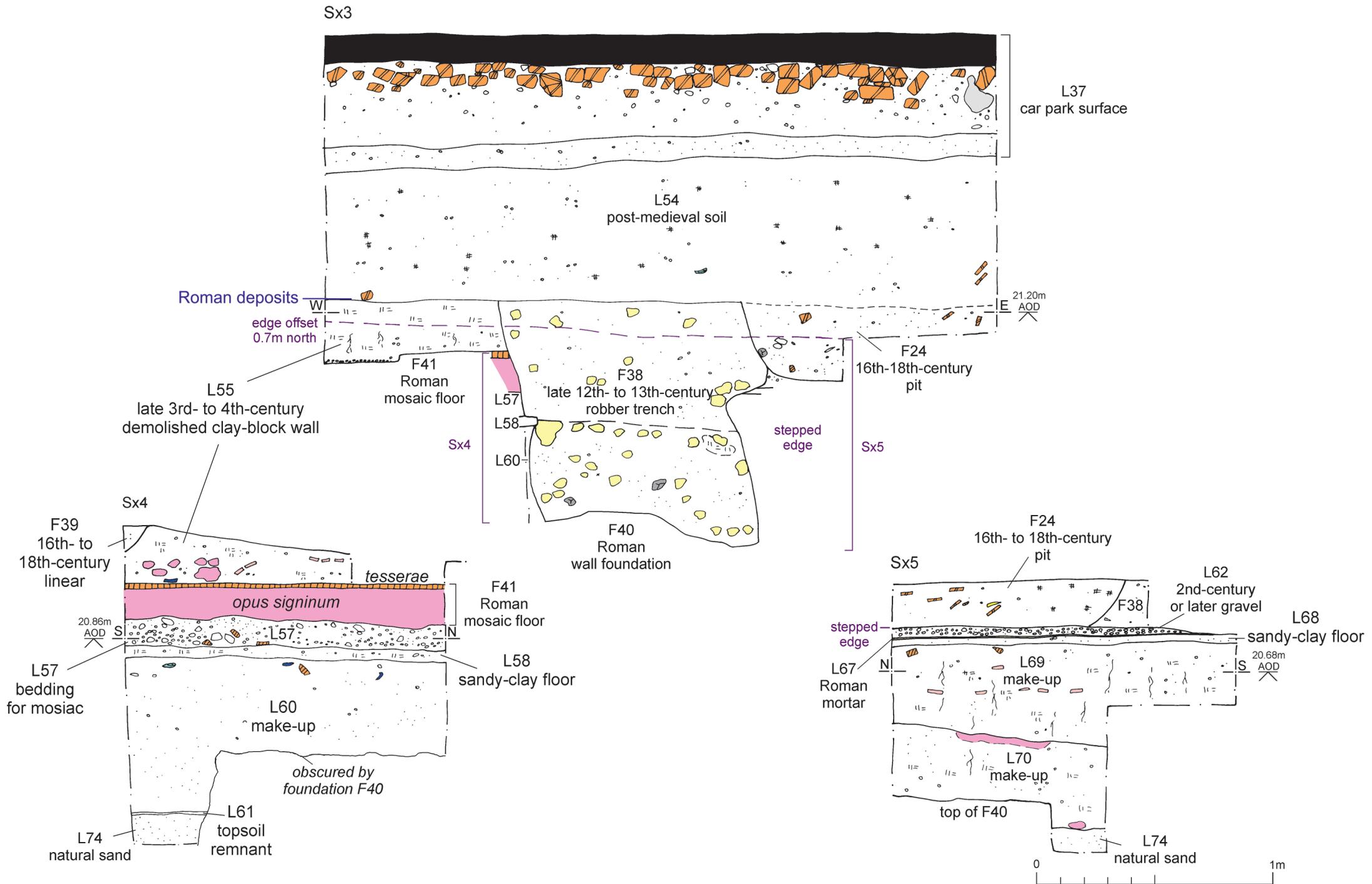


Fig 17 T3: sections.

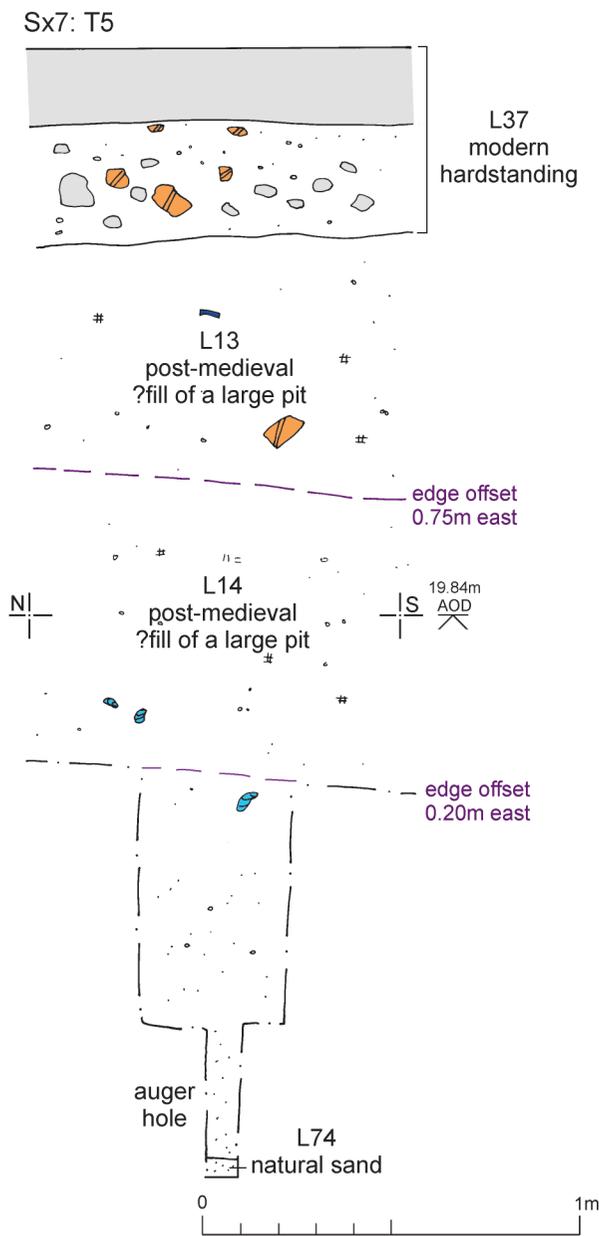
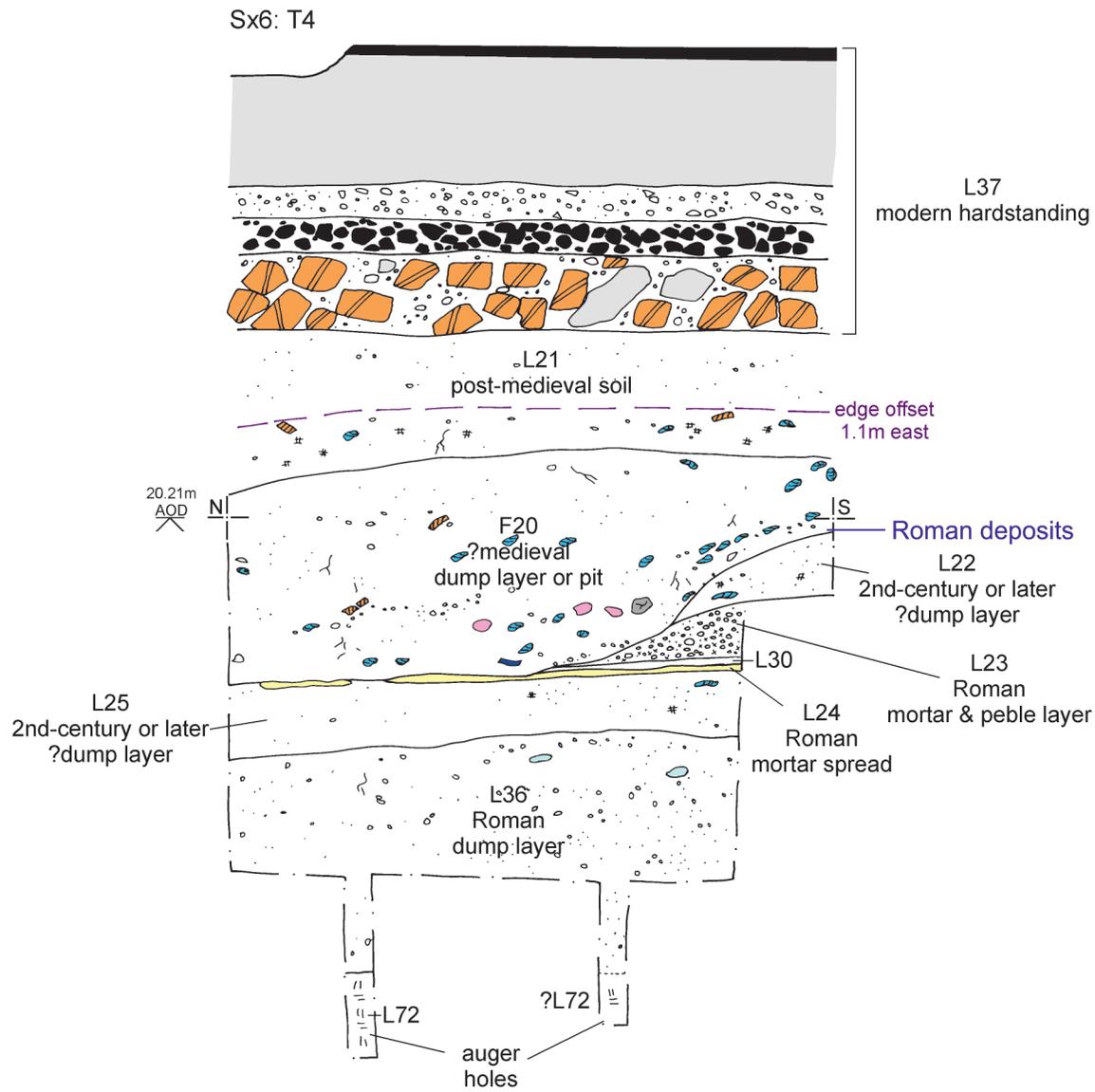


Fig 18 T4-5: sections.

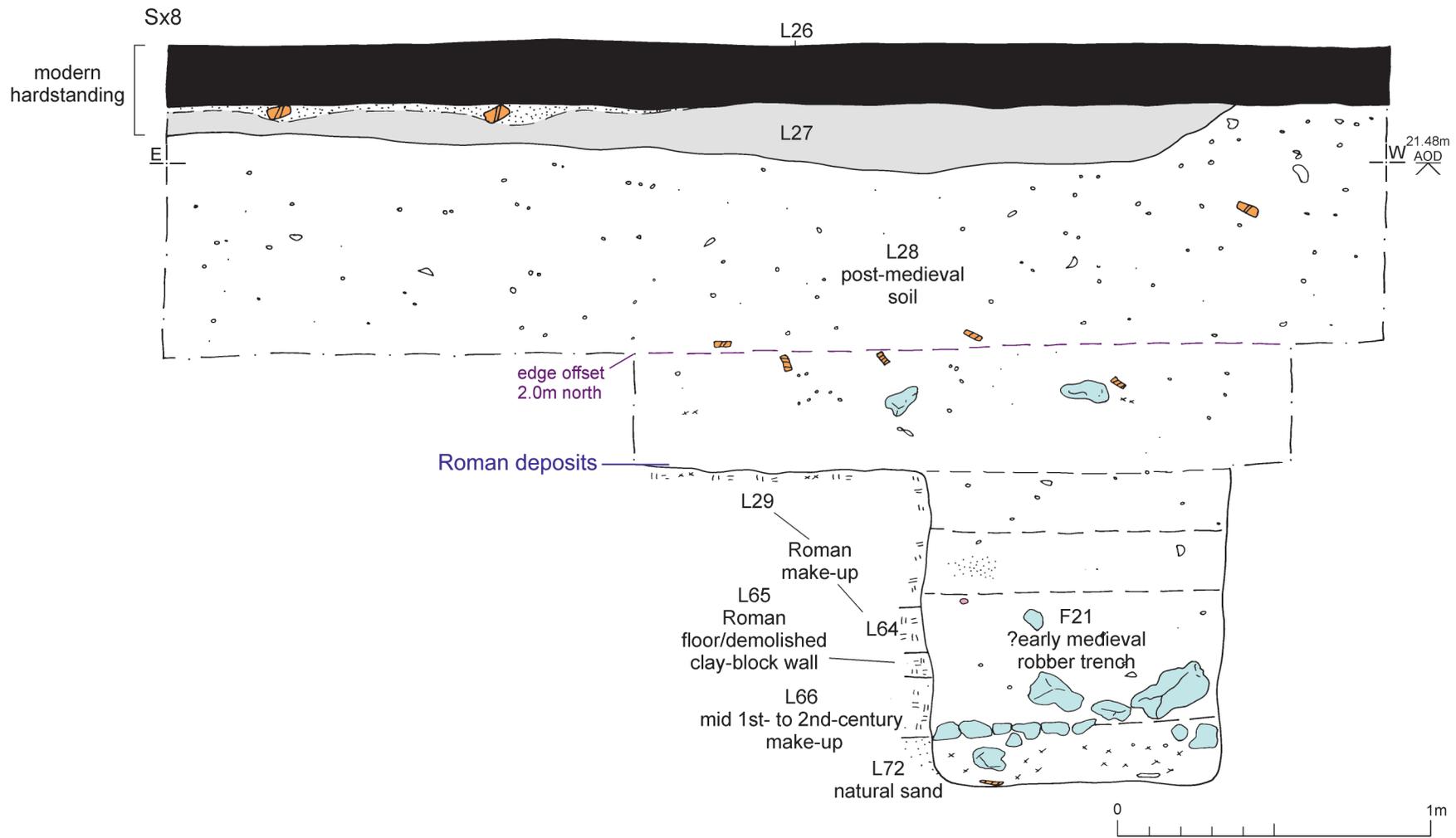
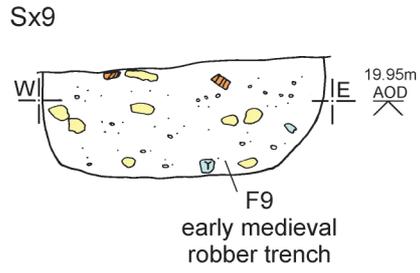


Fig 19 T6: section



Sx10

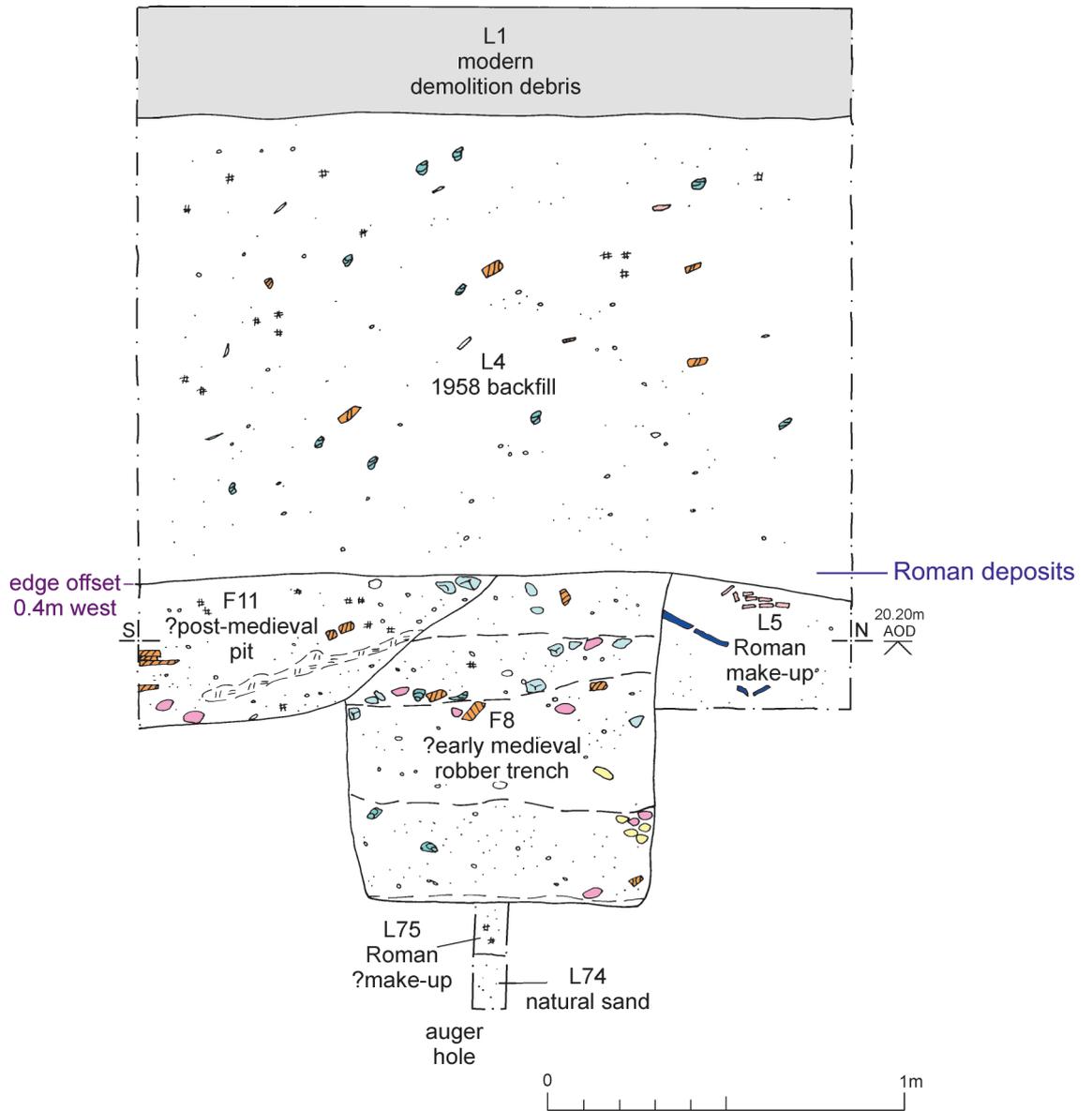


Fig 20 T7: sections.

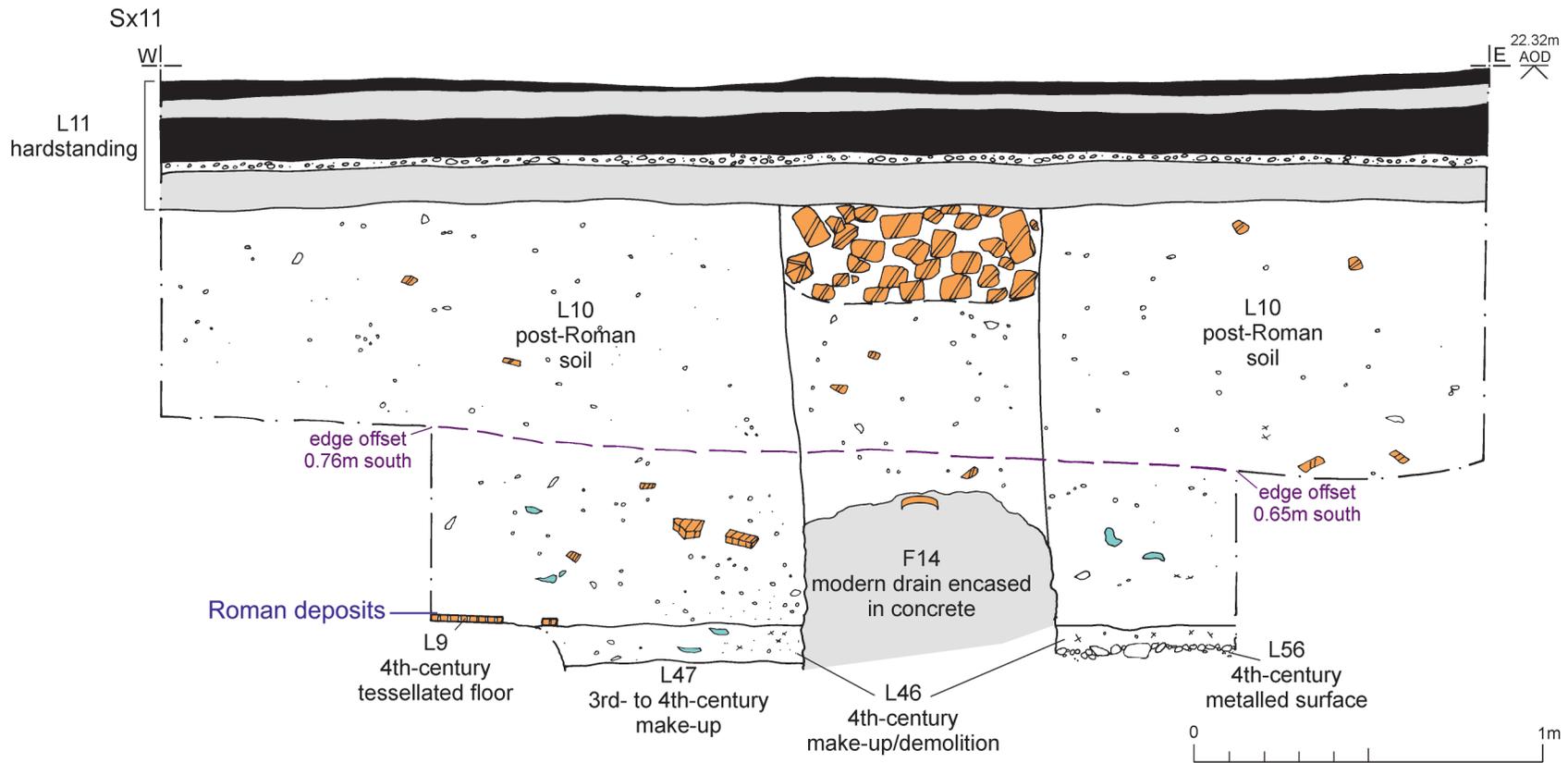


Fig 21 T8: sections.

Sx12

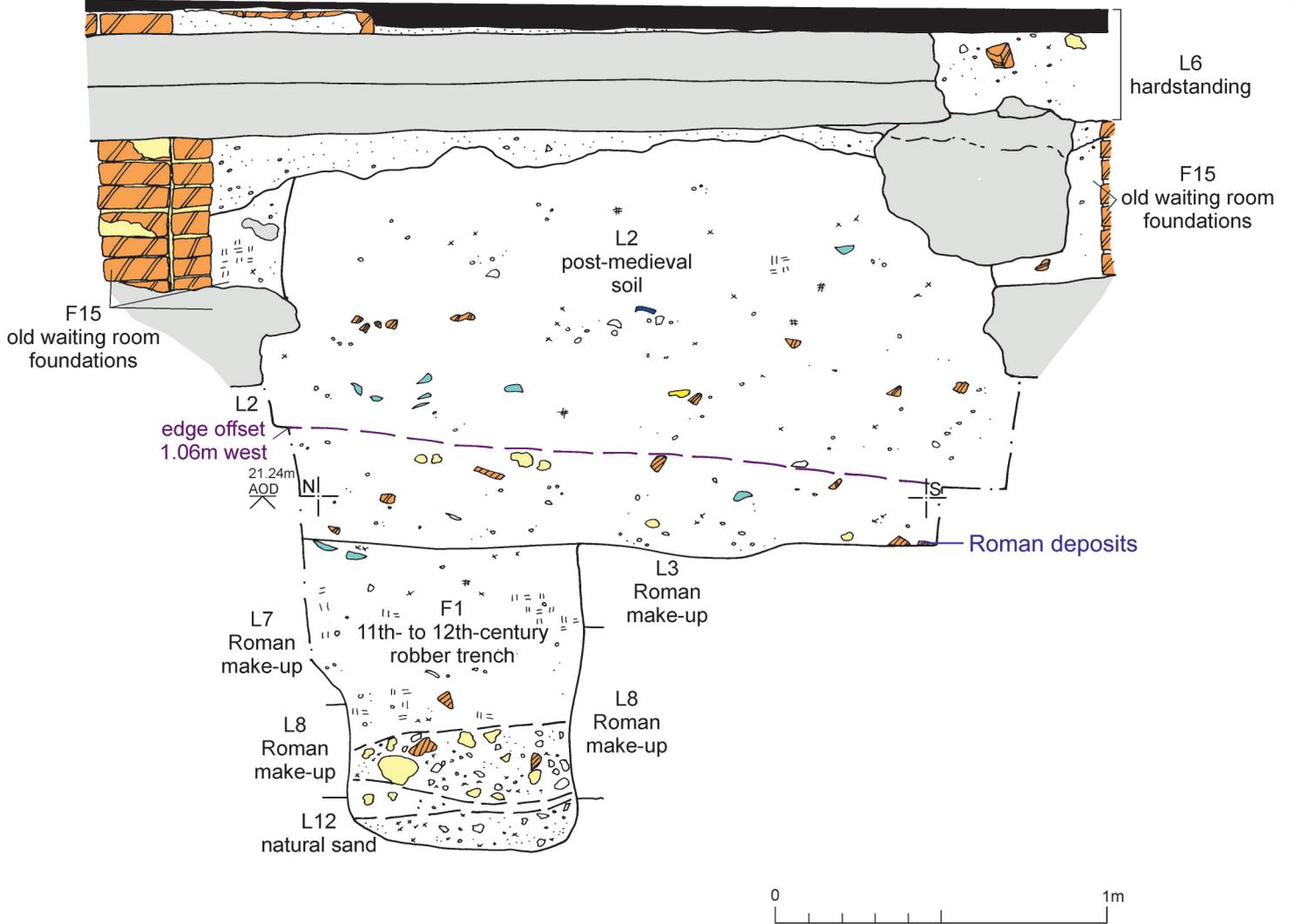


Fig 22 T9: section.

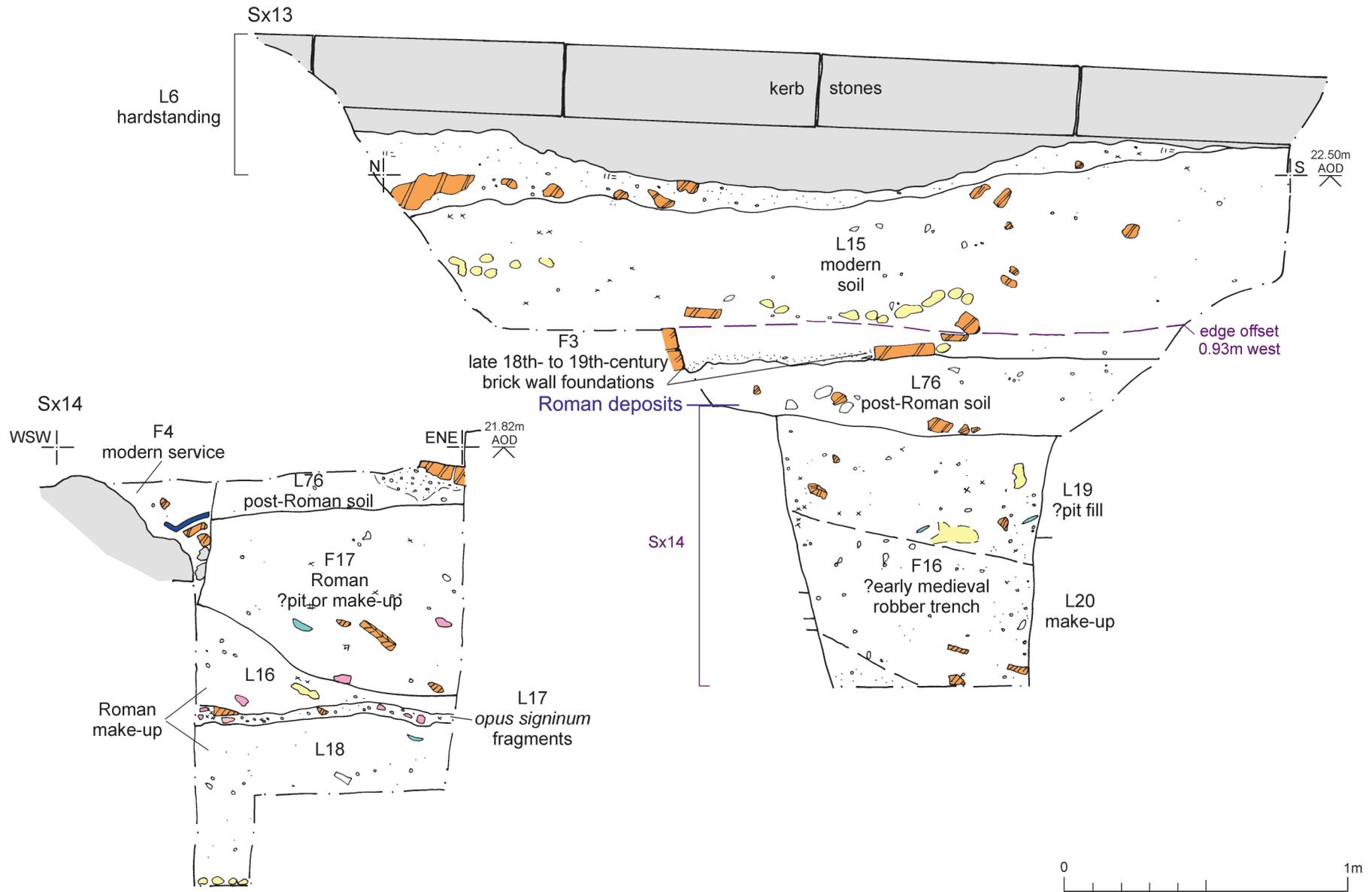


Fig 23 T10: sections.

Sx15

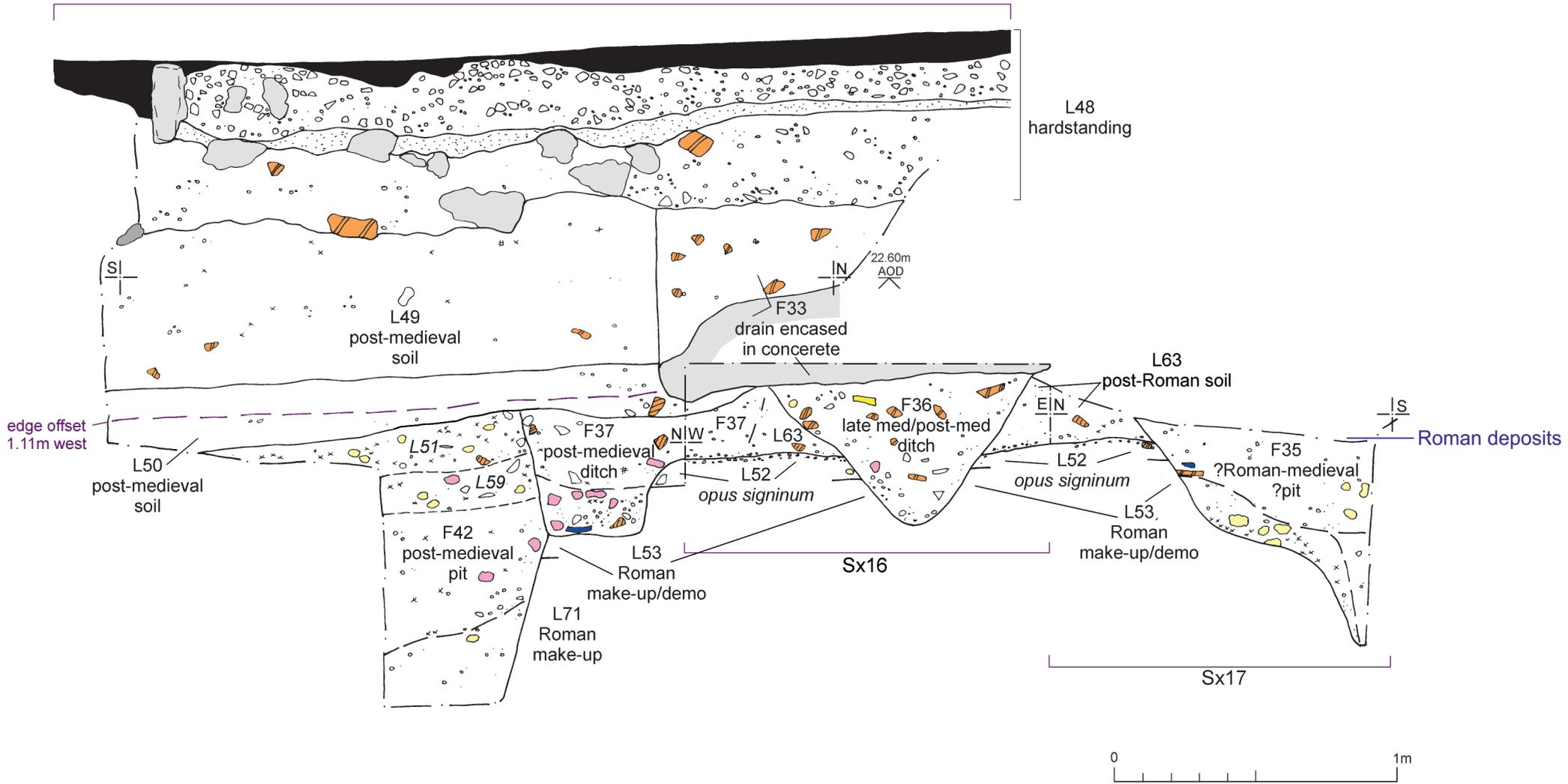


Fig 24 T11: sections.

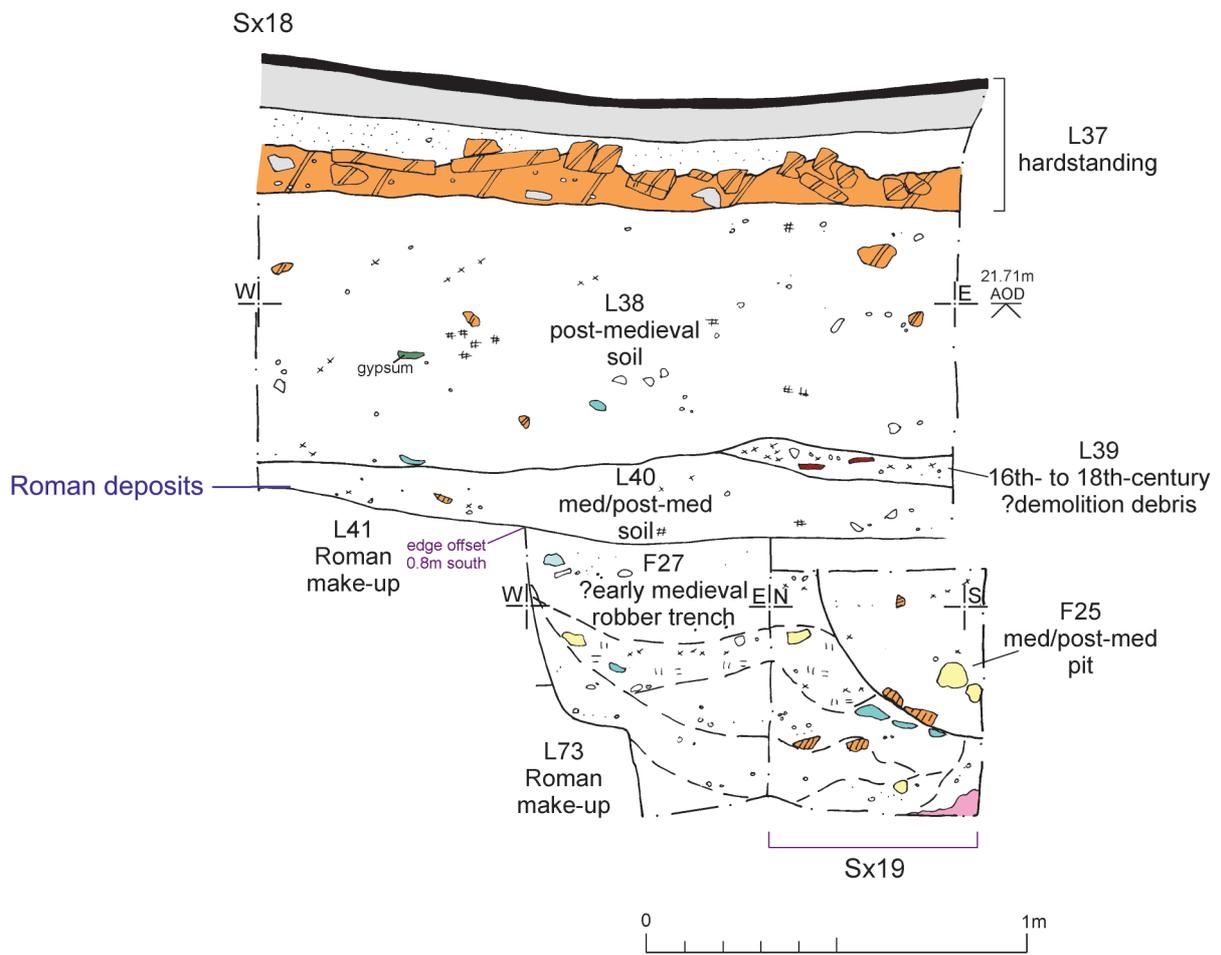


Fig 25 T12: sections.



Fig 26 Small finds.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St Botolph's (former bus station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99985 25070 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/04C CHER ref: ECC4210 OASIS ref: colchest3-321002
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 16th April - 3rd May 2018	Size of area investigated: 0.834ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.42	Funding source: Alumno Developments
Further seasons anticipated? yes	Related CHER numbers:
Final report: CAT Report 1286	
Periods represented: post-medieval, medieval, Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation (twelve trenches) was carried out on land formerly occupied by the bus station and in the back yard of 37 Queen Street, Colchester. A single trench was also excavated in the car park for the former bus maintenance garage off Priory Street.</i></p> <p><i>The remains of Roman buildings were preserved beneath a thick layer of dark soil in eight of the trenches (T3 & T5-T12) at depths of between 1.03m and 1.71m below modern ground level. Early medieval robber trenches excavated to extract building materials from the foundations of Roman buildings were identified in six trenches, with Roman floor layers surviving to the sides. Four of the robber trenches were wider than would be expected for the foundations of private houses and may have been dug to rob larger foundations belonging to a public building or part of a more substantial house. Roman floor surfaces included a tessellated floor and a metalled area in T7 and the remains of a mosaic floor in T3.</i></p> <p><i>T5 was excavated to explore a rectilinear response on a ground-penetrating radar survey which looked to be a Roman building. However, no such remains survived in the trench and any such remains which may have survived in this area appear to have been destroyed, possibly during the excavation of a large pit in the post-medieval period.</i></p> <p><i>The trench excavated on land off Priory Street (T1) was located on the projected line of the town ditch but only modern and post-medieval deposits were identified. A</i></p>	

<i>trench excavated in the bus maintenance garage (T2) confirmed that the base of the town wall survives beneath the concrete floor and a trench excavated close to the town wall (T4) encountered deposits that could have been associated with the Roman rampart built up against the inside of the wall.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1106, CAT Report 1230	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Roman buildings, Roman floors, tessellated floor, mosaic floor	Significance: **
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	Date of summary: June 2018

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OASIS ID: colchest3-321002

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at St Botolph's, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ April-May 2018
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (twelve trenches) was carried out on land formerly occupied by the bus station and in the back yard of 37 Queen Street, Colchester. A single trench was also excavated in the car park for the former bus maintenance garage off of Priory Street. The remains of Roman buildings were preserved beneath a thick layer of dark soil in eight of the trenches (T3 and T5-T12). Early medieval robber trenches excavated to extract building materials from the foundations of Roman buildings were identified in each trench, with Roman floor layers surviving to the sides. Roman floor surfaces included a tessellated floor and a metalled surface in T7 and the remains of a mosaic floor in T3. The trench excavated on land off of Priory Street (T1) was located on the projected line of the town ditch but only modern and post-medieval deposits were identified. A trench excavated in the former bus maintenance garage (T2) confirmed that the town wall survives beneath the concrete floor, and a trench excavated 6m from the inside of the town wall encountered deposits that could have been associated with the Roman rampart built up against the inside of the wall. T5 was excavated to explore a rectilinear response on a ground penetrating radar survey which looked to be a Roman building. However, no such remains survived in the trench and any such remains which may have survived in this area appeared to have been destroyed, possibly by a large post-Roman pit.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2018 End: 03-05-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	18/04c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4210 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.42 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	METTALLED SURFACE Roman
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Roman
Monument type	RAMPART Roman
Monument type	TESSELLATED FLOOR Roman
Monument type	MOSAIC FLOOR Roman
Monument type	WALL Roman
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type	ROBBER TRENCH Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Roman
Significant Finds	ROOF SLATE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Botolph's: former bus station, Queen Street
Postcode	CO1 2PQ
Study area	0.83 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99985 25070 51.887731080141 0.906406059309 51 53 15 N 000 54 23 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 18.39m Max: 21.79m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	LANPRO
Project director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project supervisor	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Alumno Developments

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM 2018.42
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked bone", "Worked stone/lithics", "Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2018.42
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2018.42
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at St Botolph's (site of former bus station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ April-May 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wightman, A
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