# Archaeological excavation at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ

# **October-November 2018**



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# on behalf of Duncan Clark, Beardwell Construction Ltd

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# 1 Summary

An archaeological excavation (348m²) was carried out at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex following the removal of three temporary classrooms and in advance of the construction of a new two-storey stand-alone teaching building. The development site is located in an area of significant Late Iron Age and early Roman sites, within the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of Camulodunum, at the southwestern edge of the industrial complex of Sheepen, and to the northwest of the Lexden cemetery. Three 1st-century graves, as well as a series of pits dated to the same period, were uncovered. Two large post-medieval quarry pits extended across the northern half of the site, one of which had disturbed at least one further cremation burial which was probably of Roman date.

#### 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 22nd October – 6th November 2018. The work was commissioned by Duncan Clark of Beardwell Construction Ltd in advance of the construction of a new two-storey stand-alone teaching building and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis and the Historic England (HE) Inspector of Ancient Monuments Deborah Priddy 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS and HE (CAT 2018).

In addition to the brief and 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 excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

#### 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

In 2017, CAT was commissioned to complete a desk-based assessment in advance of the current development (CAT Report 1200). It revealed that the school lies in an area of high archaeological importance, inside the Late Iron Age and early Roman *oppidum* (defended stronghold) of *Camulodunum*, and on the southwestern edge of the scheduled monument of Sheepen (one of the major centres of *Camulodunum*) (CHER MCC7487; NHLE no. 1002173). The Sheepen Dyke (MCC498), a defensive earthwork around the western side of Sheepen, also passes under the school buildings to the east of the development site. Previous archaeological investigations on the site of the school have revealed Bronze Age pits and a Roman trackway running parallel with and west of the Dyke (CAT Report 623 and MCC5673) (see figure 2). Beyond the school site, there are Roman pottery kilns 160m to the NW of the school building, and many

Roman burials, the nearest being 160m to the W. A number of coin moulds have also been found in the vicinity.

In May 2018, CAT was commissioned to complete an archaeological evaluation on the development site (CAT Report 1278). Within the single trial-trench were 11 features of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and modern date, with five undated features. Significant features included a ditch and pit probably associated with Late Iron Age/early Roman activity at Sheepen, a large Roman quarry pit and two possible Roman inhumation burials. The evaluation showed that archaeological deposits extended over most of the evaluation trench, and therefore the development site, except where they had been destroyed by later activity (ie. a pond at the west end of the east/west trench) (see figure 3).

During the evaluation it was also noted that the three present relocatable classroom bases, originally constructed on concrete pads at ground level (monitored by CAT, CAT Report 578), had either suffered considerable sinkage or disturbance, which may have impacted the archaeological deposits.

### 4 Results (Figs 2-5)

The development site covered an area of approximately 1.26ha. Within this a roughly-rectangular excavation area measuring 348m² was mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Two layers were recorded. Modern topsoil L1, which measured between 0.24-0.65m deep, straight onto natural sands and gravels (L2).

#### Late Iron Age / Early Roman

#### Inhumation burial F5 (Fig 4)

A total of 267 fragments of human bone (parts of a humerus, a radius and an ulna) weighing a 80g and belonging to an adolescent or adult were recovered from a grave cut aligned northeast-southwest. The top of the grave cut was 32.66m AOD, and it was 2.9m long and 0.6m deep. There were six hobnails of Roman date roughly located in the centre of the grave, suggesting the individual was buried with shoes placed alongside them. A Late Iron Age/Early Roman assemblage of pottery was recovered from the grave, dating it to the 1st century AD.

- F5.1 (19), two sherds of Terra Nigra-type ware (Fabric UR C) in Cam 5 or 14 form, Late Iron Age / Early Roman.
- F5.2 (19), four sherds of Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW), Late Iron Age / Early Roman.
- F5.3 (19), a flat rim, similar to Cam 243-244/246, in coarse grey ware (Fabric GX), Early Roman.
- F5.4 (19), five sherds of coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ), mid 1st to 2nd century.
- F5.5 (19), one sherd of hand made with sand pottery (Fabric HMS), Late Iron Age.
- F5.6 (19), four sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (Fabric GTW) in Cam 266 form, Late Iron Age / Early Roman.
- F5.7 (19), four sherds of Roman brick/tile.
- F5.8 (19), one sherd of brick, Roman, medieval or post-medieval.
- F5.9 (19), two sherds of Roman flue tile, decorated.
- F5.10 (19) one sherd of coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ), possible handle or ceramic pipe, mid 1st to 2nd century.
- F5.11 (24), six iron hobnails, the most complete is 11mm long with a head 9mm in diameter, Roman.

#### Inhumation burial F6 (Fig 4)

A grave, aligned northwest-southeast, was excavated. The top of the grave cut was 31.88m AOD and it was 1.38m long and 0.2m deep. The shallowness of the cut indicates that it has probably been truncated by subsequent activity. No bone survived and no burial goods were present. Four iron nails of Roman date were recovered, suggesting that the individual may have been buried in a coffin. No record of the position of the nails within the grave was made, however. A base from a northern

Gaulish butt beaker in a white pipeclay fabric was recovered from the grave, the interior body wall of which features traces of burning as well as a thin line of carbonised material, along with several other sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, dating this feature to the 1st century AD.

F6.1 (16), one sherd Roman tegula.

F6.2 (16), one sherd of mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports (Fabric TZ), possible mortarium base, mid 1st to early 3rd century.

F6.3 (16), two sherds of Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW), Late Iron Age / Early Roman.

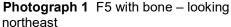
F6.4 (16), two sherds 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (Fabric GTW), Late Iron Age / Early Roman.

F6.5 (16), two sherds of coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ), mid 1st to 2nd century.

F6.6 (16), one sherd North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Pipeclay) White Ware 1 (Fabric NOG WH1), butt-beaker import, Late Iron Age / Early Roman.

F6.7 (16), Four iron nails and an iron disc: 1) Complete but broken into two joining pieces, square-sectioned shank, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985); 2) Complete, square-sectioned shank clenched at 45°, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985); 3) Incomplete, tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985); 4) Incomplete iron nail with tip missing, 45mm long, flat round head c 13mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985), corroded onto a flat iron disc, c 22mm diameter, Roman.







**Photograph 2** F10 fully-excavated – looking northwest

#### Inhumation burial F6 (Fig 4)

A grave, aligned northwest-southeast, was excavated. The top of the grave cut was 32.05m AOD and it was 2.31m long and 0.34m deep. No bone survived and no burial goods were present. A large part of a ceramic Amphora stopper was recovered, along with several other sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, dating it to the 1st century AD.

F10.1 (18), part of an Amphora stopper with central hole (Fabric AA Z/DJ), 1st century.

F10.2 (18), three sherds of coarse grey ware (Fabric GX) in Cam 218B/C form, mid 1st to early 2nd century.

F10.3 (18), one sherd of Roman imbrex.

F10.4 (18), three sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware (Fabric GTW), Late Iron Age.

F10.5 (18) one sherd of Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW), Late Iron Age/Early Roman.

F10.6 (18) one sherd of Roman brick/tile.

F10.7 (18) one sherd coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ), mineral encrustation on outer face, mid 1st to 2nd century.

F10.8 (18), three sherds brick, Roman, medieval or post-medieval.

Four 1st-century pits, F19, F20, F21 and F22, were also uncovered. They were 0.58m-1.52m wide and 0.14-0.26m deep.

#### Post-medieval

Post-medieval quarry pits F2 and F23 both extended beyond the limit of excavation but it was determined that the former feature was in excess of 0.24m deep, and the latter more than 0.93m deep. It is possible that these two features are in fact one large quarry pit.



Photograph 3 Quarry pit F23 - looking north northwest

#### Modern

Early 20th-century pond F3 was located in the southwest corner of the site. It was cut by modern soakaway F24.

#### Undated

Three undatable pits, F13b,<sup>1</sup> F17 and F18, were 0.58-1.19m wide and 0.25-0.32m deep.

#### 5 Finds

#### 5.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

A total of 119 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just under 5kg was uncovered (Table 1). The vast majority of the pottery is of Late Iron Age and early Roman date except for rare medieval/post-medieval sherds. The mean sherd weight (henceforth MSW) at 41g is relatively high and there are some relatively large pieces of pottery including some fresh-looking sherds. There is also a modest collection of CBM (Table 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This feature was mistaken for F13 from the evaluation phase of this investigation.

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups (Table 2) outlined in *CAR* **10** (1999) supplemented with fabric groups from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, henceforth NRFRC (Tomber and Dore 1998). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes and Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR* **10**, 468-487) (Table 2). The post-Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups from *CAR* **7** (2000) and Cunningham (1985) (Table 2). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVREP (estimated vessel representation) and rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g	No. Rim	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Late Iron Age/Roman	50	42.0	1,059	22.0	21	7	0.88	7
Medieval/post- medieval	3	2.5	46	1.0	14	2	0.10	2
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	66	55.5	3,716	77.0	56	-	-	-
All	119		4,821		41	9	0.98	9

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide									
Prehistoric	Prehistoric:										
HMS	Hand made with sand	Late Iron Age									
Roman:											
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware	Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD									
AA	All amphorae (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill)	Mid 1st-2nd to early 3rd century									
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid 1st to 2nd century)									
GX	Other coarse, principally locally- produced grey wares	Roman									
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	Mid 1st-2nd to 3rd century									
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	Late Iron Age to Early Roman									
NOG WH1*	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Pipeclay) White Ware 1	Late Iron Age to Early Roman									
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	Mid 1st to early 3rd/3rd century									
UR	Terra Nigra-type ware	Late Iron Age to Early Roman									
Post-Roma	n:	•									
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware	16th/17th to 18th century									

Table 2 Late Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. \*NRFRC

#### Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Most of the pottery fabrics and vessel forms can be dated to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period and there is no material that can be reliably dated beyond the end of the 1st century AD. For example, it is notable that there are no local colour-coated wares (Fabric CZ) or samian (Fabric BA). There is a collection of Late Iron Age 'grog' tempered pottery (Fabric GTW), including a rim from a Cam 266 which dates from the pre-conquest to the late 1st century AD (*CAR* 10, 479). At Sheepen the Cam 266 is found during period 1 (AD 5-43), albeit in modest numbers, and becomes increasingly common during periods III, IVb and V (AD 44-61) (Niblett 1985, 49 table 2, 51 fig. 13, 61 fig. 22 no. 20). The enclosure 4 ditch at Stanway, which is dated to AD 43-50, contained at least 13 examples of the Cam 266 (Benfield 2007, 280-281).

The small collection of terra nigra includes examples of the Cam 5 or 14, and Cam 58-59, which are broadly datable to the pre-Claudian to Neronian period (*CAR* **10**, 469-470; Niblett 1985, 68 fig. 29 no. 175, 79 fig. 37 no. 64; Rigby 1985, 75-76 table 4, 1986,

230 table 10). Examples of both the Cam 14 and Cam 58 were recovered from the Warrior's burial at Stanway which is dated to approximately AD 40-55/60 (Crummy *et al* 2007, 173-175 fig. 81).

There was a flat reeded rim (Cam 243-244/246?) in a local coarse grey ware (Fabric GX). The Cam 243-244/246 is dated from the Claudian-Neronian to Hadrianic periods (*CAR* **10**, 478) while a similar looking example was recovered from the Neronian pit F503 at Sheepen (Niblett 1985, 68 fig. 29 no. 174).

Grave F6 produced a base from a northern Gaulish butt beaker (Cam 113) in a white pipeclay fabric (fabric NOG WH1) (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 238-239; Rigby 1986, 232, Stead and Rigby 1989, 137-141). The interior body wall of this base shows traces of burning as well as a thin line of carbonised material. At Sheepen many imported white ware butt beakers were recovered from the initial silting up of the Sheepen Dyke and, as such, are dated to the pre-conquest period and AD 5-43 (Niblett 1985, 48-49).

Finally, there was a large part of a ceramic wheel-made amphora stopper. These were frequently used to close Dressel 7-11 amphorae from Cadiz, southern coastal Spain, which carried various types of fish sauces (*garum*, *muria*) and salted-fish. Ceramic stoppers were also sometimes used to seal Baetican amphorae (inland southern Spain, Guadalquivir river) of the Haltern 70 (*defrutum*, black-olives) and Dressel 20 (olive oil) varieties. However, the fabric of the Kingswode Hoe example (fabric AA Z, as fabric DJ-coarse oxidised) is not typical of the stoppers from Cadiz or from the inland kilns along the Guadalquivir river. It is worth noting that rare amphora stoppers have been recovered from Sheepen (Sealey 1985, 111 fig. 60 nos. 136-137).

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	%	Weight	%	MSW/g	Rim	Handle	Base
HMS	Hand made with sand	1	2.0	<b>(g)</b> 36	3.4	36	0	0	0
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog- tempered wares	11	22.0	350	33.1	32	1	0	0
AA Z	Amphorae (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill)	1	2.0	14	1.3	14	1	0	0
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	13	26.0	225	21.2	17	1	0	0
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	5	10.0	34	3.2	7	2	0	0
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily -tempered grey wares	1	2.0	102	9.6	102	0	0	0
NOG WH 3	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Pipeclay) white ware	1	2.0	62	5.9	62	0	0	1
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	10	20.0	120	11.3	12	0	0	3
TZ	Mortaria Colchester	1	2.0	48	4.5	48	0	0	0
UR	Terra nigra-type wares	6	14.0	68	7.2	11	2	0	1
Total		50		1,059		21	7	0	5

**Table 3** Details on the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Fabric Group	Fabric description	Rim EVREP	Rim EVE	Forms
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares	1	0.13	Cam 266
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	1	0.20	Cam 266
AA Z	Amphorae (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill)	1	0.19	Stopper
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	2	0.17	Cam 218B/C Cam 243-244/246?
UR	Terra nigra-type wares	2	0.19	Cam 5 or 14 Cam 58-59
	Total	7	0.88	

Table 4 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery quantification

## **Assemblages from features**

Small assemblages of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered from nine features (Table 5) while the slightly larger assemblage from grave F5 is worth a more detailed examination.

Cxt	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVREP	Rim EVE
F2	Quarry pit	2	142	71	0	0	0	0	0.00
F5	Grave	17	279	16	3	0	2	3	0.33
F6	Grave	7	272	39	0	0	2	0	0.00
F10	Grave	9	228	25	2	0	0	2	0.31
F19	Pit	2	64	32	1	0	1	1	0.20
F20	Pit	3	12	4	0	0	0	0	0.00
F21	Pit	4	18	5	1	0	0	1	0.04
F22	Pit	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0.00
F23	Quarry pit	5	40	8	0	0	0	0	0.00
	Total	50	1,059	21	7	0	5	7	0.88

Table 5 Quantities of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery from specific contexts

#### Grave F5

This feature produced the largest assemblage of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery from the excavation with 17 sherds, with a weight of 279g and three vessels (rim EVREP) (Table 6). Late Iron Age and early Roman fabrics (HMS, GTW, RCW) dominate this assemblage with examples of the Cam 5 or 14 (Fabric UR), Cam 234-244/246 and Cam 266 (Fabric GTW). A date during the pre-conquest to Claudian period for this assemblage is likely.

Fabric	Fabric	No.	%	Weight	%	MSW/g	Dim	Handle	Base	Rim	Rim
Group	description	NO.	70	(g)	70	wi5vv/g	KIIII	папше	Dase	EVREP	EVE
HMS	Hand made with sand	1	5.9	36	12.9	36	0	0	0	0	0.00
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog- tempered wares	4	23.5	104	37.3	26	1	0	0	1	0.13
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	5	29.4	57	20.4	11	0	0	0	0	0.00
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	4	23.5	24	8.6	6	0	0	1	0	0.00
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	1	5.9	8	2.9	8	1	0	0	1	0.05
UR	Terra nigra-type wares	2	11.8	50	17.9	25	1	0	1	1	0.15
	Total	17		279		16	3	0	2	3	0.33

Table 6 Details on the Roman pottery from grave F5

#### **Post-Roman pottery**

Three sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (Fabric 40) with a weight of 46g were recovered from quarry pits F2 and F23 (Table 1). Two vessels are represented: a small to medium handled bowl or chamberpot from quarry pit F2, which is datable to 1650-1800 AD; and a dish (not decorated) from quarry pit F23 which dates to between 1600-1750 AD (*CAR* **7**, 194, 196, 200, 203 fig. 133, fig. 137 no. 56).

## **Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

There was a modest assemblage of 66 sherds of CBM with a weight of 3.7kg (Table 7). This is mostly of Roman date and includes pieces of brick and tile (imbrex and tegula). There were also three sherds of box flue tile with a scored decoration which came from quarry pit F2 and pit F5. However, most of the CBM is in a fragmentary state and has simply been classified as Roman brick and tile and it is possible that some of this material could be of post-Roman date. Three sherds of post-Roman peg tile were also recovered from quarry pit F2.

<b>CBM</b> code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Roman				
RB	Roman Brick	15	1,724	115
RFT	Roman Box Flue tile	3	170	57
RI	Roman Imbrex	11	774	70
RT	Roman <i>Tegula</i>	3	246	82
RBT	Roman brick/tile (general)	29	678	23
	Total	61	3,592	59
Post-Roma	an			
PT	Peg tile	3	118	40
	Total	3	118	40
Unidentifie	ed			
	Unidentified pieces	2	6	3
	Grand Total	66	3,716	56

Table 7 CBM by period and type

The majority of the CBM by sherd count and by weight came from two features: quarry pits F2 and F23 (Table 8).

Feature	Feature Type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
F2	Quarry pit	18	1,286	71
F5	Grave	7	206	29
F6	Gave	1	112	112
F10	Grave	5	274	55
F19	Pit	2	144	72
F20	Pit	4	22	6
F21	Pit	3	76	25
F22	Pit	2	94	47
F23	Quarry pit	24	1,502	63
	Total	66	3,716	56

Table 8 Quantities of CBM by feature

#### Other finds

Two pieces of mortar (?) with a weight of 40g were recovered from grave F6.

#### Conclusion

The assemblage of pottery from the Kingswode Hoe School is relatively coherent and can be dated to the pre-conquest to the Claudian-Neronian period (Table 9), similar to the dating of the nearby Sheepen site (Hawkes and Hull 1947; Niblett 1985).

Feature	Feature Type	Late Iron Age- Roman	М-РМ	СВМ	Overall date approx.
F2	Quarry pit	1st century	1650-1800	Roman to post-medieval	Post-medieval with residual 1st century material
F5	Grave	Pre-conquest/ Claudian	-	Roman	Pre-conquest/Claudian
F6	Grave	Pre-conquest/ Claudian	-	Roman	Pre-conquest/Claudian
F10	Grave	Pre-conquest/ Neronian	-	Roman	Pre-conquest/Neronian
F19	Pit	1st century	-	Roman	1st century
F20	Pit	1st century	-	Roman	1st century
F21	Pit	Pre-conquest/ Claudian	-	Roman	Pre-conquest/Claudian
F22	Pit	Claudio-Neronian	-	Roman	Claudio-Neronian
F23	Quarry pit	Claudio-Neronian	1600-1800	Roman	Post-medieval with residual Claudio-Neronian artefacts

Table 9 Feature dating summary

#### 5.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman

A tertiary flint flake with broken proximal end, possibly detached with a soft hammer, was recovered from the fill of inhumation burial F5 (19). Two natural pieces of flint from F10 (18) and F23 (27) have been discarded.

Two fragments of very degraded tufa (46g) came from inhumation F6, a fragment of charcoal (0.6g) from Roman period pit F21, and two pieces of clay pipe stem (7.3g) from post-medieval quarry pit F23.

#### 5.3 Small finds and iron nails

by Laura Pooley

A copper-alloy coin, fragments of lava quern, and iron nails and hobnails were found during the excavation at Kingswode Hoe School. See Appendix 2 for a full catalogue.

A worn and largely illegible Roman sestertius coin (SF1) and four pieces of lava quern stone (SF3) came from quarry pit F23. Six iron hobnails (SF4) from inhumation burial F5 suggest that the individual was buried with hobnail shoes/boots.

**SF1** F23 sx2 (20) Roman copper-alloy sestertius, very worn and mostly illegible. Obverse: laureate bust right, inscription illegible. Reverse: worn smooth and completely illegible. 35mm diameter, 21.5g. Sestertii generally date from 27 BC – AD 269.

**SF3** F23 sx2 (30) Four fragments (251.9g) of very degraded lava quern stone. Largest fragment roughly triangular, 75mm by 75mm and 43mm thick. Probably Roman.

**SF4** F5 (24) Six iron hobnails (19g), the most complete is 11mm long with a head 9mm in diameter. Roman.

Eleven iron nails were also recovered from five contexts: early Roman inhumation burial F6, early Roman pits F20, F21 and F22, and post-medieval quarry pit F23. All of the nails appear to be Roman in date and of Manning (1985) Type 1b being under 150mm long with square-sectioned shanks and flat rounded or sub-rectangular heads. One of the nails from F23 (SF2) had been bent and curled in on itself. The four nails

from inhumation burial F6 may be coffin nails and one had a circular iron disc corroded onto it.

#### 5.4 Human remains

by Julie Curl

#### **Methodology**

Three bags of bone were submitted for recording and analysis which consisted of unburnt inhumation material and burnt bone. The contents were sorted manually and attempts made to piece together pieces of bone to determine elements present. Greatest lengths were measured for the largest fragments in the assemblage.

#### Quantification, provenance and preservation

Feature	Finds no.	Weight	Count	Summary
F5	22	33g	163	Radius and ulna fragments
F5	23	47g	100	Humerus
F23	28	15g	38	Cremated human bone

Table 10 Quantification of the assemblage by context, weight and count

#### Analysis results and discussion

#### Inhumation remains

A total of 80g of bone, consisting of 263 fragments was recovered from the inhumation burial F5, finds numbers 22 and 23. The remains are a substantial part of an arm, consisting of fragments of humerus (finds no. 23) and pieces of radius and ulna (finds no. 22). The remains are of a Roman date.

The remains are in very poor condition and heavily fragmented. From finds no. 22, the largest fragment was 19mm, from finds no. 23 the maximum size of this more substantial bone was 48mm. While sufficient remains are present for element identification, no bone showed any diagnostic zones that would allow estimation of age or sex, but the size of the bones suggest an adolescent or adult.

#### Cremation

Remains of a human cremation, consisting of thirty-eight fragments, was recovered from a post-medieval quarry pit (F23). This is likely to be remains of a truncated Roman cremation burial, and possibly more than one.

#### Size of Cremation

The size of a cremation depends on the individual (age, sex, body mass, bone density), maintenance of the pyre, the extent of bone recovery from the pyre site and during excavation, as well as on the rate of bone preservation (McKinley, 1993).

The weight for the cremation at 16g in this assemblage is well below the low weight in the weight range in comparison to average archaeological cremations (range: 57 - 3000 g) (McKinley, 2000) and considerably less than the lowest weight in comparison to a modern cremation (1000 - 3600 g) (McKinley, 2000). However, the cremation was truncated, which is likely to have reduced the amount of available bone.

#### Fragmentation

The fragmentation of bone resulting from the cremation process may be increased by funerary practices such as raking and tending of the pyre, collection of bone at the pyre site, deliberate crushing prior to burial, as well as a result of post-depositional processes, excavation and processing (McKinley, 1989).

The maximum size in this cremation was 32mm, the next greatest length is 20mm, with most fragments (in terms of count and weight) in the 2-5mm size range. Some cremations produce fragments of around 70-100mm or more, so the remains in this cremation are heavily fragmented. Little bone was recorded as 1mm or less, where often there is considerable numbers of small fragments. The overall small range of sizes and lack of larger fragments and smaller fragments might suggest heavy raking of the cremation while burning. The lack of very large fragments and fewer very small pieces is less common and might suggest poor soil preservation, poor collection prior to placing in the urn or over raking of remains. The overall degree of bone fragmentation is more than that generally seen in archaeological cremations where an average of 50% of bone fragments are over 10mm in size (McKinley, 1994).

#### Colour

The colour of cremated bone depends on a range of factors including the maximum temperature reached, the length of the cremation process, the type and amount of fuel, the quantity of oxygen, the amount of body fat as well as on the degree of uniformity of exposure to the heat across the body. A correlation has been found between the temperature attained and colour changes. Cremated bone can exhibit a large range of heat-induced colour variation from normal coloured (unburnt), to black (charred: c 300°C), through hues of blue and grey (incompletely incinerated: up to c 600°) to fully oxidised white (> c 600°C) (McKinley, 2004).

All of the bone was fully oxidised. A couple of fragments of blue-grey bone were recorded. The variation in colour might suggest that the cremation was not raked and tended sufficiently to ensure fully burning of all of the remains.

#### Surface changes

Surface changes such as warping, cracking and fissuring are characteristics of cremated bone and are produced during the process of dehydration undergone by bone exposed to heat. The pattern of heat-induced bone changes in colour and texture can be exploited to infer the technological aspects of the ritual, the condition of the body at the time when the cremation process took place and the nature of post-depositional disturbance (Shipman et al.1984).

Approximately 50% of the bone in this assemblage showed warping, twisting, cracking and fissures, with fragments that were burnt at higher temperature and fully oxidised.

#### The remains

All of the identifiable bone seen in this assemblage is human, with no clearly identifiable animal remains. No elements were seen that would allow estimation of age, sex or stature. No pathologies were observed on any of the bone. The lack of larger fragments and the small sizes of the assemblage would affect this.

#### Conclusions

The inhumation bone represents the burial of an adolescent or adult, with only an arm present, which is in a poor and fragmented state. The burnt remains from Kingswode is a very small cremated assemblage, which is most likely due to truncation by a later pit. The small size of this cremation has undoubtedly been affected by the truncation and disturbance of its burial pit.

The small size and poor condition of the assemblage limits what information can be obtained. The site with its burials and cremation are close to the Roman cemetery area at Lexden and is located within the southern edge of Sheepen, so may be associated with this area.

#### 6 Discussion

Significant archaeological deposits were uncovered during the course of excavations. Three 1st-century graves, F5, F6 and F10, were located in the southern half of the site. All of these features were partially-excavated during the evaluation phase of investigations. Given the limited, concentrated and isolated nature of this burial group. it may be that these individuals were associated, and possibly members of the same family, and that this area was acquired as a plot for the specific purpose of interment. The nature of the burial practices evident at this site is also worth remarking upon. The accepted theory is that throughout the 1st and 2nd centuries, cremation was the primary burial rite in Roman Britain, and it was only during the 3rd and 4th centuries that this practice was superseded by that of inhumation (Watson 2003, 38). Excavations of a Roman cemetery at the former Handford House, located some 555m south southeast of the present site, undertaken in 2003 and 2004-5 largely accorded with this view (CAT Report 323). By contrast, at this site, all three inhumations were dated to the 1st century. It is interesting to note too that cremation burial was also practiced at this site at the same time, suggesting that the transition between the two methods, in Colchester at least, occurred over a prolonged period during which both were employed.

These graves were located in the midst of a series of pits which were similarly dated to the 1st century. The scatter of 1st-century pits uncovered possibly relate to activity at the Late Iron Age / early Roman industrial complex of Sheepen, with which they are broadly contemporary. Two post-medieval quarry pits extended across the entirety of the northern half of the site. The discovery of cremated human bone in one of these features, F23, suggests that it disturbed at least one cremation burial. These quarry pits, which were previously dated to the Roman period and were speculated to have been associated with activity Sheepen would instead now appear to relate to some form of construction or manufacturing activity in the vicinity during the post-medieval period.

# 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Duncan Clark of Beardwell Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by N Rayner with Alec Wade, S Carter, A Tuffey and E Hicks. Figures were prepared by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECC by Richard Havis and for Historic England by Deborah Priddy.

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		deposition of archaeological archives
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, -		

## 9

Abbreviations and glossaryBronze Ageperiod from c 2500 – 700 BCCATColchester Archaeological TrustCBCPSColchester Borough Council Planning Services

CBM ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER Colchester Historic Environment Record
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'

Iron Age period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43 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

post-medieval from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800

prehistoric pre-Roman

Roman the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s

wsi written scheme of investigation

#### 10 Contents of archive

**Finds**: One small box of human remains only, all other finds were returned to the school as requested for educational use.

#### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1342)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

## 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 2018.21.

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#### **Distribution list**

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Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 01.02.2019

# Appendix 1 Context list<sup>2</sup>

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, dry/moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Natural sands and gravels	Post-glacial
F2	25, 26	Quarry pit	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with rare to very occasional CBM flecks and 2% stones	Post-medieval with residual AD 1st-century material
F5	19, 22, 23, 24	Grave	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty- sand with rare charcoal flecks and 2% stones	AD 1st century (pre- conquest/Claudian)
F6	16	Grave	Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/orange/grey/brown silty-sand with common stones	AD 1st century (pre- conquest/Claudian)
F10	18	Grave	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty- sand with charcoal flecks and 10% stones	AD 1st century (pre- conquest/Claudian)
F13b	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F17	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty-sand with rare charcoal flecks and common stones	Undatable
F18	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty-sand with rare charcoal flecks and common stones	Undatable
F19	13	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-sand	AD 1st century
F20	14	Pit	Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty-sand with occasional gravel and stones	AD 1st century
F21	15	Pit	Loose/soft/friable, dark brown silty-sand	AD 1st century (pre- conquest/Claudian)
F22	17	Pit	Loose/soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-sand with rare charcoal flecks and occasional stones	AD 1st century (Claudio-Neronian)
F23	20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30	Quarry pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty- sand with charcoal and CBM flecks and common stones	Post-medieval with residual Claudio- Neronian artefacts
F24	-	Soakaway	Friable, dark brown silty-sand with CBM flecks and <7% stones	Undatable

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  F2, F5, F6 and F10 were partially-excavated and recorded during the evaluation phase of investigations. F13b was mistaken for F13 from the evaluation phase.

# **Appendix 2 Ceramic and pottery list**

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F2	Quarry pit	12	Pottery	HZ	1	102	0	0	0			1st-2nd cent AD
F2	Quarry pit	12	Pottery	F40	1	16	1	0	0	Small-medium handled bowl	Possibly chamberpot	1650-1800
F2	Quarry pit	12	СВМ		1	62	-	-	-	PT		Medieval/PM
F2	Quarry pit	12	СВМ		1	114	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Quarry pit	12	СВМ		1	44	-	-	-	РТ		Medieval/PM
F2	Quarry pit	25	Pottery	GTW	1	40	0	0	0			LIA
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		1	18	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		1	18	-	-	-	RFT	decorated	Roman
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		3	44	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		3	184	-	-	-	RB	? or Med/PM brick?	Roman
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		1	118	-	-	-	RB		Roman
F2	Quarry pit	25	СВМ		1	640	-	-	-	RB	? or Med/PM brick?	Roman
F2	Quarry pit	26	СВМ		4	32	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Quarry pit	26	СВМ		1	12	-	-	-	РТ		Medieval/PM
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	UR C	2	50	1	0	1	Cam 5 or 14	slightly worn	LIA-ER
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	RCW	4	24	0	0	1			LIA-ER
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	GX	1	8	1	0	0	Flat rim, similar to Cam 243-244/246		ER
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	DJ	1	2	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	HMS	1	36	0	0	0			LIA
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	DJ	1	26	0	0	0	?		mid 1st-2nd cent

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	DJ	1	1	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	GTW	4	104	1	0	0	Cam 266	Rare grog, some burnt organic material	LIA-ER
F5	Grave	19	СВМ		4	20	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F5	Grave	19	СВМ		1	34	-	-	-	RB	? or Med/PM brick?	Roman
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	DJ	1	6	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F5	Grave	19	СВМ		2	152	-	-	-	RFT	decorated	Roman
F5	Grave	19	Pottery	DJ	1	2	0	0	0	?	Handle or ceramic pipe?	mid 1st-2nd cent
F6	Grave	16	СВМ		1	112	-	-	-	RT		Roman
F6	Grave	16	Pottery	TZ	1	48	0	0	0	mortarium base?		Mid 1st-early 3rd cent
F6	Grave	16	Pottery	RCW	2	34	0	0	1			LIA-ER
F6	Grave	16	Pottery	GTW	1	12	0	0	0			LIA
F6	Grave	16	Pottery	DJ	2	116	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F6	Grave	16	Pottery	NOG WH1	1	62	0	0	1	Butt-beaker import	burning, line of carbonized material	LIA-ER
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	AA Z/DJ	1	14	1	0	0	Amphora stopper	central hole	1st cent
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	GX	3	24	1	0	0	Cam 218B/C		Mid 1st-early 2nd cent
F10	Grave	18	СВМ		1	34	-	-	-	RI	Similar sherds in F21 (15)	Roman
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	GTW	1	114	0	0	0			LIA
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	GTW	2	70	0	0	0	?		LIA

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	RCW	1	2	0	0	0			LIA-ER
F10	Grave	18	СВМ		1	60	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F10	Grave	18	Pottery	DJ	1	4	0	0	0		Mineral encrustation on outer face	mid 1st-2nd cent
F10	Grave	18	СВМ		3	180	-	-	-	RB	? or Med/PM brick?	Roman
F19	Pit	13	Pottery	DJ	1	12	1	0	0	Cam 266		1st cent
F19	Pit	13	Pottery	RCW	1	52	0	0	1			LIA-ER
F19	Pit	13	СВМ		1	16	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F19	Pit	13	СВМ		1	128	-	-	-	RB	?	Roman
F20	Pit	14	СВМ		4	22	-	-	-	RBT	worn	Roman
F20	Pit	14	Pottery	DJ	1	4	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F20	Pit	14	Pottery	GX	1	2	0	0	0			Roman
F20	Pit	14	Pottery	DJ	1	6	0	0	0		burnt	mid 1st-2nd cent
F21	Pit	15	Pottery	UR B	4	18	1	0	0	Cam 58-59		LIA-ER
F21	Pit	15	СВМ		1	2	-	-	-	?	?	Roman
F21	Pit	15	СВМ		2	74	-	-	-	RI	?	Roman
F22	Pit	17	СВМ		2	94	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F22	Pit	17	Pottery	RCW	1	4	0	0	0			LIA-ER
F23	Quarry pit	21	СВМ		1	18	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	21	СВМ		2	122	-	-	-	RBT	? or Med/PM brick?	Roman
F23	Quarry pit	21	СВМ		1	4	-	-	-	?		Roman

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F23	Quarry pit	21	Pottery	GTW	1	6	0	0	0			LIA-ER
F23	Quarry pit	21	Pottery	GTW	1	4	0	0	0			LIA-ER
F23	Quarry pit	21	Pottery	RCW	1	4	0	0	0			LIA-ER
F23	Quarry pit	27	Pottery	DJ	1	22	0	0	0			mid 1st-2nd cent
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		2	56	-	-	-	RI		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		2	64	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		1	26				RBT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		1	42	-	-	-	RT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		5	256	-	-	-	RI		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		2	28	-	-	-	RBT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		1	354	-	-	-	RI		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		1	92	-	-	-	RT		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	СВМ		5	440	-	-	-	RB		Roman
F23	Quarry pit	27	Pottery	F40	1	24	1	0	0	Dish, not decorated		1600-1750
F23	Quarry pit	27	Pottery	F40	1	6	0	0	0			1600-1800
F23	Quarry pit	27	Pottery	DJ	1	4	0	0	0		worn	mid 1st-2nd cent

# Appendix 3 Catalogue of small finds and iron nails

SF	Context	Find no.	Object type	Description	Qt.	Wt. g	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Diameter mm	Date	
1	F23 sx2	20	Coin	Roman copper-alloy sestertius, very worn and mostly illegible.  Obverse: laureate bust right, inscription illegible. Reverse: worn smooth and completely illegible. Sestertii generally date from 27 BC – AD 269.	t, inscription illegible. Reverse: worn smooth and iii generally date from 27 BC – AD 269.							
2	F23 sx2	29	Nail	Incomplete with head missing, square-sectioned shank bent so that it curls in on itself. The nail has either been deliberately curled/bent in this manner or there is a theory that pulling a nail out of a piece of wood could result in this shape (Nina Crummy, pers comm).	1	17.4	45	30	5	-	Roman	
3	F23 sx2	30	Quern	Four fragments of very degraded lava quern stone. Largest fragment roughly triangular 75mm by 75mm and 43mm thick.	4	251.9	-	-	-	-	Probably Roman	
4	F5	24	Hobnails	Six iron hobnails, the most complete is 11mm long with a head 9mm in diameter.	6	19	-	-	-	-	Roman	
	F6	16	Nails	Four iron nails and an iron disc:  1) Complete but broken into two joining pieces, square-sectioned shank, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	8.5	60	-	-	-	Roman	
				2) Complete, square-sectioned shank clenched at 45°, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	3.7	44	-	-	-		
				3) Incomplete, tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head c 12mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	7.2	42	-	-	-		
				4) Incomplete iron nail with tip missing, 45mm long, flat round head <i>c</i> 13mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985), corroded onto a flat iron disc, <i>c</i> 22mm diameter.	1	24.2	45	-	-	-		
	F20	14	Nails	Two iron nails: 1) Incomplete, tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat sub-oval head c 20mm by 25mm, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	17.7	47				Roman	
				2) Incomplete, tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head <i>c</i> 9mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	4.6	31					
	F21	15	Nail	Incomplete iron nail, square-sectioned shank with tip, ?flat round head (top missing) c 11mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	2.3	20				Roman	
	F22	17	Nail	Complete iron nail with lower third of the shank folded back on itself, flat round head <i>c</i> 15mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	8.8	41				Roman	
	F23	27	Nails	Two iron nails: 1) Complete, square-sectioned shank, flat round head <i>c</i> 14mm diameter,	1	9.7	54				Roman	

S	Context	Find no.	Object type	Description	Qt.	Wt. g	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Diameter mm	Date
				Manning Type 1B (1985). 2) Incomplete, square-sectioned shank, flat round head <i>c</i> 15mm diameter, Manning Type 1B (1985).	1	6.3	34				

# Appendix 4 Catalogue of the human bone assemblage

Feature	Finds	Weight	Count	Elements	Age	Sex	Pathologies	Trauma	Max. size	Comments
	nos.									
F5	22	33g	163	radius, ulna?	u	u	None	Not seen	19mm	Mostly small fragments less than 5mm, Eroded and poor condition.
F5	23	47g	100	humerus	u	u	None	Not seen	48mm	Some large eroded fragments, many small fragments under 5mm and bone powder/<2mm.
F23	28	15g	38	Tibia and fibia fragments, many small unidentifiable fragments	u	u	None	Not seen	32mm	Cremated human bone. Some warping and cracking. Fully oxidised and white in colour

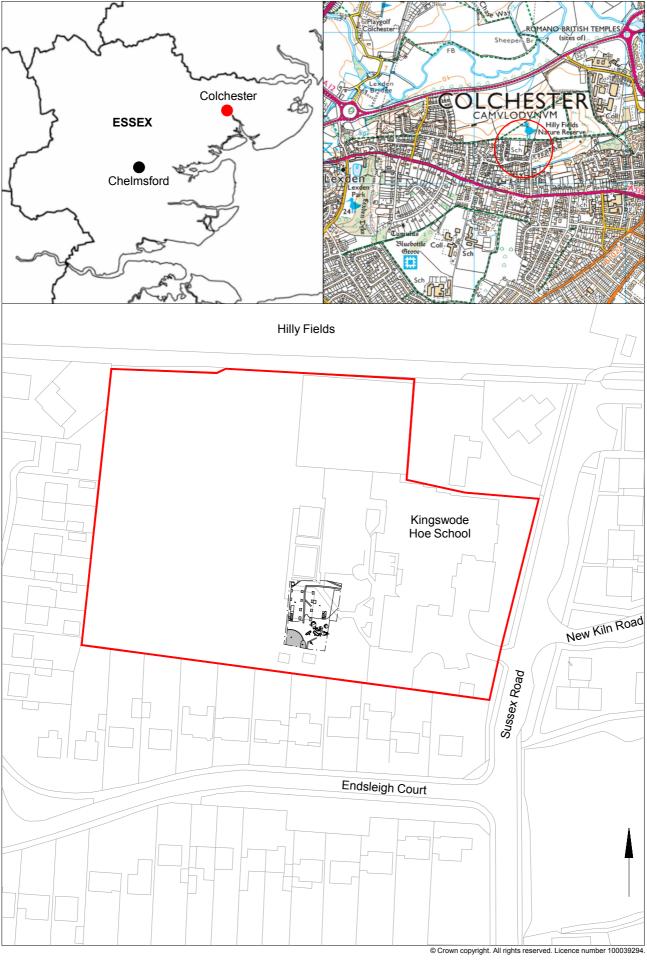


Fig 1 Site location 0 50 m



Fig 2 Archaeological work at Kingswode Hoe School 1993-2018, including the location of the Sheepen Dyke and Roman trackway

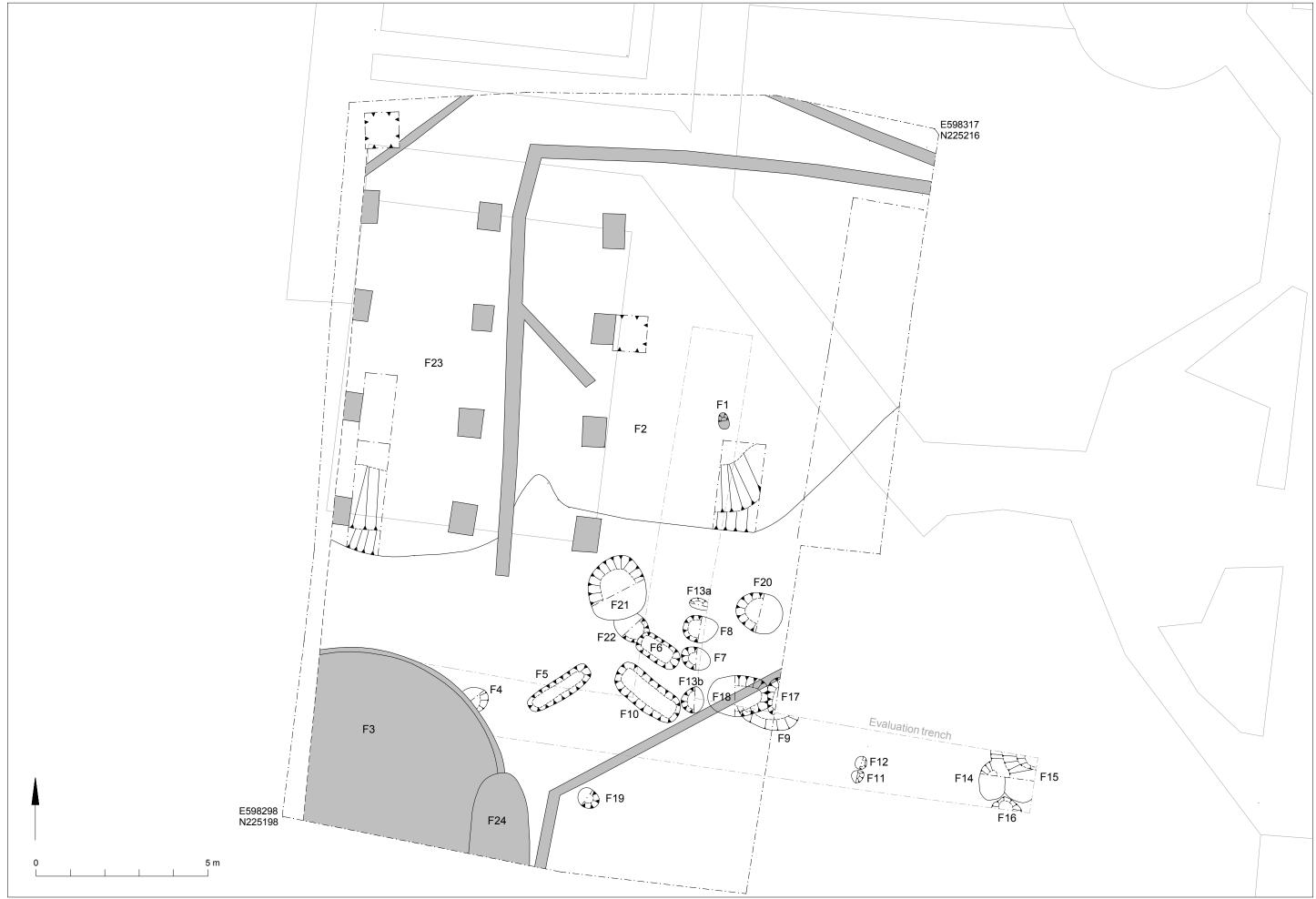


Fig 3 Excavation results, shown with the results of the evaluation.

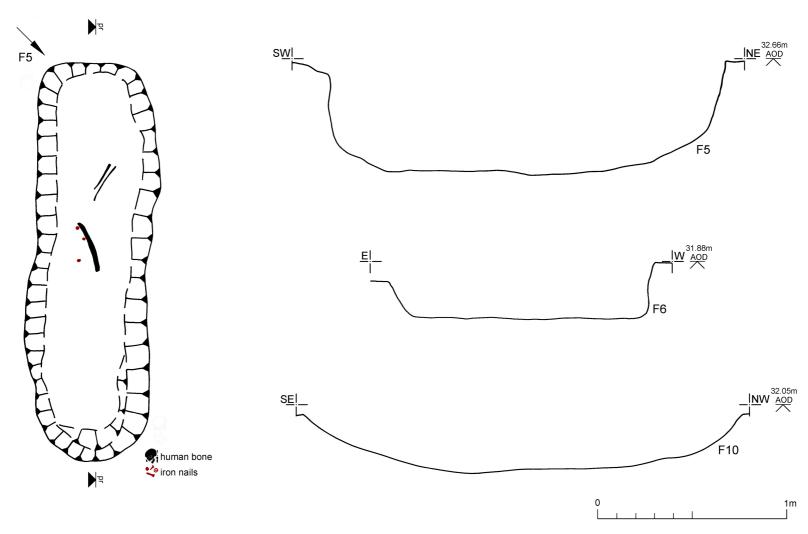


Fig 4 Burial plan and profiles.

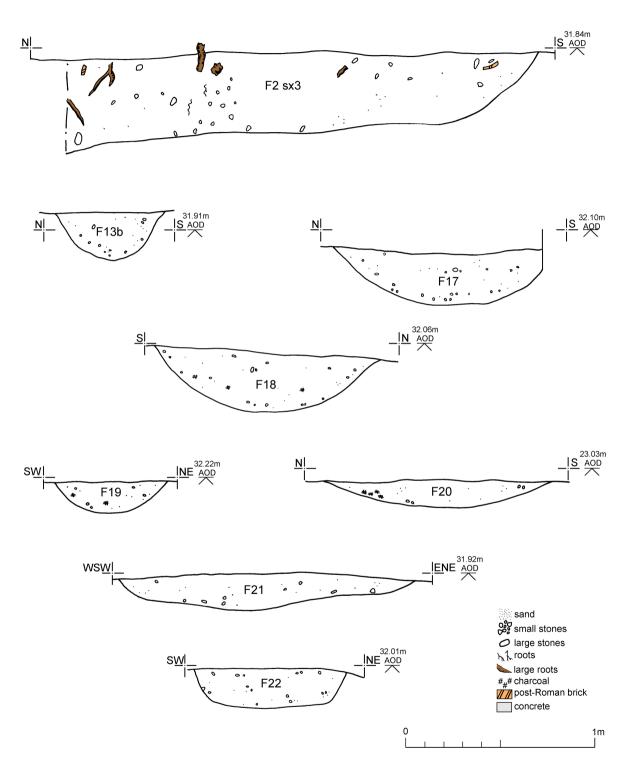


Fig 5 Sections.

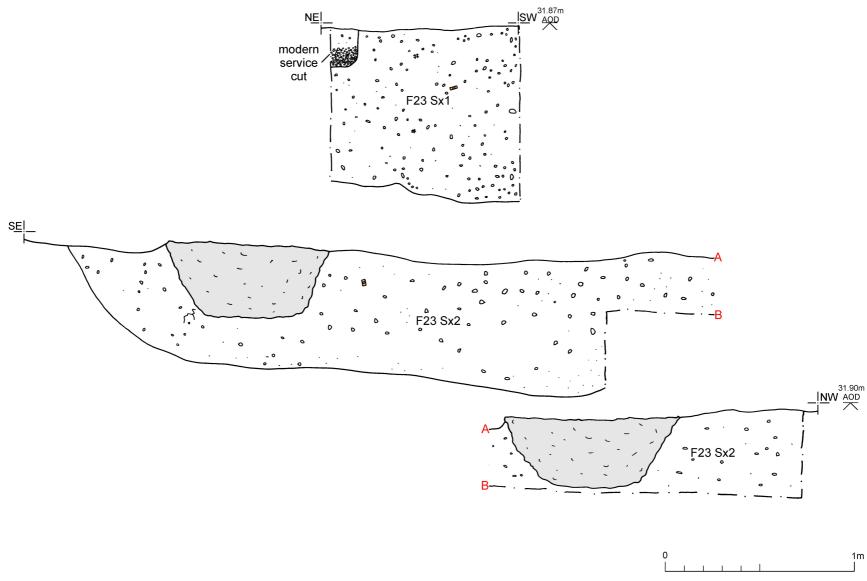


Fig 6 Sections.