

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching on
Area KR
at Colchester Garrison PFI site,
Colchester, Essex**

June - July 2002

**on behalf of
RMPA Services
for the MoD**

CAT project code: 02/1b
Colchester Museums accession code: 2002.8
NGR: TL 9870 2340 (centre)



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

tel./fax: (01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk

CAT Report 205

August 2002

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	2
3	Aims and objectives	2
4	Archaeological background	3
5	Trial-trenching	4
6	The finds	17
7	Discussion	18
8	Conclusions	21
9	Acknowledgements	22
10	References	22
11	Glossary and abbreviations	23
12	Archive deposition	23
13	Appendices	
13.1	Appendix 1 - Table 40: Tabulation of report numbers and evaluation stages.	23
13.2	Appendix 2 - Table 41: Finds list.	24

Figures after p 26

EHCR summary sheet

List of tables

Table 1:	Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.
Table 2:	Trench KR1 – archaeology.
Table 3:	Trench KR2 – archaeology.
Table 4:	Trench KR3 – archaeology.
Table 5:	Trench KR4 – archaeology.
Table 6:	Trench KR5 – archaeology.
Table 7:	Trench KR6 – archaeology.
Table 8:	Trench KR7 – archaeology.
Table 9:	Trench KR8 – archaeology.
Table 10:	Trench KR9 – archaeology.
Table 11:	Trench KR10 – archaeology.
Table 12:	Trench KR11 – archaeology.
Table 13:	Trench KR12 – archaeology.
Table 14:	Trench KR13 – archaeology.
Table 15:	Trench KR14 – archaeology.
Table 16:	Trench KR16 – archaeology.
Table 17:	Trench KR17 – archaeology.
Table 18:	Trench KR18 – archaeology.
Table 19:	Trench KR19 – archaeology.
Table 20:	Trench KR20 – archaeology.
Table 21:	Trench KR21 – archaeology.
Table 22:	Trench KR22 – archaeology.
Table 23:	Trench KR23 – archaeology.
Table 24:	Trench KR24 – archaeology.
Table 25:	Trench KR25 – archaeology.
Table 26:	Trench KR26 – archaeology.
Table 27:	Trench KR27 – archaeology.
Table 28:	Trench KR28 – archaeology.
Table 29:	Trench KR29 – archaeology.

Table 30: Trench KR30 – archaeology.
Table 31: Trench KR31 – archaeology.
Table 32: Trench KR32 – archaeology.
Table 33: Trench KR33 – archaeology.
Table 34: Trench KR34 – archaeology.
Table 35: Trench KR35 – archaeology.
Table 36: Trench KR36 – archaeology.
Table 37: Trench KR37 – archaeology.
Table 38: Trench KR38 – archaeology.
Table 39: Summary of all features.
Table 40: Tabulation of report numbers and evaluation stages (Appendix 1).
Table 41: Finds list (Appendix 2).

List of figures

Fig 1 Area locations.
Fig 2 Area KR: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.
Fig 3 Area KR: plans for trenches KR1-KR9.
Fig 4 Area KR: plans for trenches KR10-KR19.
Fig 5 Area KR: plans for trenches KR20-KR28.
Fig 6 Area KR: plans for trenches KR29-KR38.
Fig 7 Area KR: section sheet 1 (trenches KR7, KR13, KR17, KR19).
Fig 8 Area KR: section sheet 2 (trenches KR23, KR24, KR33).
Fig 9 Area KR: section sheet 3 (trenches KR35, KR38).

1 Summary

This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Area KR) at the Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex, which is part of a programme of archaeological evaluation at the Garrison. Earlier stages of trial-trenching have previously been reported on in CAT Report 197 (Area C) and CAT Report 203 (Areas E/F).

Thirty-eight trenches were excavated in Area KR (Figs 1-2). In total, 251 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. The majority of these contexts were topsoils, dumped layers and subsoils (130 in number, which equals 52% of all contexts). The next largest group of contexts were post-medieval or modern contexts (22%) followed by features of natural origin (19%) Six per cent of features were undated.

With regard to 'pre-modern' archaeological features, there were only two Late Iron Age or Roman features. Together, these constituted 1% of all archaeological contexts. No prehistoric flints or pottery were recovered.

The main findings are:

- The nature of the excavated archaeological material reflects the fact that Area KR is a built-up barracks. Archaeological contexts such as footings trenches, areas of rubble or concrete, kerbs, roads or paths, rubbish-pits, service-trenches and dumped soils make up a major part of the excavated sequence.*
- The expectation that an active barracks would undergo much repair, rebuilding and adjustment throughout its life is confirmed by the discovery of substantial remains of recently demolished structures in Trenches KR6, KR10 and KR23 (and to a lesser extent in other trenches). However the damage is localised and extensive areas of potential archaeological value may still exist undisturbed between the foundations and other modern features. The barracks were built before the era of deep ploughing and, as a result, the archaeological remains on their sites have escaped the extensive plough damage suffered by the equivalent remains in the arable fields nearby. No evidence was noted of terracing which might have disturbed archaeological deposits over a wide area, and several of the trenches showed the existence in several places of thick layers of dumped soil and other material which will have served to protect the archaeological remains .*
- Significant archaeological features consisted of two ditches dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman periods. Even allowing for destruction by modern building work, this is a surprisingly low level of activity.*
- No prehistoric sherds or flints were recovered. This suggests a low level of prehistoric activity in this area.*

The character of the archaeological remains identified in Area KR can be summarised as principally modern in date, with smaller numbers of undated features and very few significant archaeological remains (Late Iron Age and Roman linear ditches). Features generally contain few artefacts.

Previous evidence from cropmarks, geophysical surveys and the evaluation of Areas C, E and F showed that the oppidum contained field-ditches and trackways and was unoccupied and rural in character, with a farm estate operating from the site previously identified to the west of Areas E/F. Evaluation trenching in Kirkee McMunn Barracks has recovered two LIA/Roman field-ditches. At face value, this would suggest that the field system was not as well defined in Area KR as in Areas E/F. However, the relatively high level of modern disturbance encountered means that the surviving archaeological remains may under-represent the original extent of the LIA/Roman field system.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** The proposed development of the Colchester Garrison PFI site involves the building of a new 101 hectare garrison in the centre of the existing Garrison lands (south of Abbey Field, north of Roman Barracks, and east of Kirkee McMunn Barracks), the demolition and refurbishment of existing barracks, and the redevelopment of the areas released by demolition, primarily for residential use.
- 2.2** A programme of archaeological evaluation has been agreed between the MoD, RMPA Services, English Heritage, Colchester Borough Council, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), and RPS, the project archaeological consultants.
- 2.3** The archaeological evaluation comprising fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching was commissioned by RMPA Services and carried out by CAT under RPS project management. The design of the evaluation work is detailed in *Colchester Garrison PFI archaeological project strategy proposal* (RPS 2002).
- 2.4** The initial stage of the evaluation was a fieldwalking survey reported on in CAT Report 184.
- 2.5** Running concurrently with the fieldwalking survey was a geophysical survey carried out by Bactec International Ltd. The results were combined with the fieldwalking results in CAT Report 184.
- 2.6** This is the report on stage 1a, archaeological evaluation trial-trenching in Area KR. Previous evaluation stages (stage 1a, Area C; stage 1a, Areas E/F) have already been reported on (CAT Report 197 and CAT Report 203 respectively). All previous archaeological reports are listed in Table 40 below.
- 2.7** All work was carried out according to a method statement (CAT 2002) drawn up jointly with RPS and agreed with the Archaeology Officer of Colchester Borough Council (CBCAO). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, revised 1999).
- 2.8** The project was monitored by the CBCAO and RPS.
- 2.9** Current land use of Area KR is built up with barracks and other Army buildings. In general, archaeological trenches have been located in grassed areas between and behind buildings.
- 2.10** The National Grid Reference location for the centre of Area KR is TL 9870 2340.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation are to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, interpretation, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.
- 3.2** This assessment will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.
- 3.3** Specifically the evaluation project aims to establish the character of Iron Age/Roman occupation within the *oppidum*.

4 Archaeological background

4.1 Introduction

The archaeological and historical setting of the proposed development area has already been comprehensively explored in a desk-based assessment or DBA (CAT Report 97), and will only be summarised here. In relation to the evaluation of the Garrison site, it is convenient to summarise the archaeological and historical remains in two categories: archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age *oppidum*, and the cropmark sites.

4.2 Archaeological remains of the Iron Age *oppidum* (Fig 1)

- 4.2.1** Much of the land south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre falls within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. The Garrison area occupies the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, and one of the defensive dykes (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison (on the east edge of Roman Barracks and between Areas S1 and S2 of the PFI site). Although some parts of the Berechurch Dyke are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument, the length that passes through the Garrison is not scheduled. Design proposals for the new Garrison include a green corridor along the line of the Berechurch Dyke, which will prevent any impact on the monument from the proposed development.
- 4.2.2** As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two main centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. It is possible that other such centres existed within the *oppidum* and await discovery.
- 4.2.3** Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there was a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum* which also await discovery. One such site was excavated in 1994, and a summary is given in 4.2.4 (below).
- 4.2.4** A watching brief in 1994 during the construction of the REME workshop in the south-east corner of Kirkee & McMunn barracks revealed several Late Iron Age / early Roman ditches and pits as well as fairly extensive remains of 2nd- and 3rd-century occupation. The latter included a small keyhole oven associated with traces of timber structures, and several ditches, most of which were on a similar alignment to those observed from cropmarks and trial-trenching farther east (CAT Report 203). A large feature was shown to have a sub-floor housing the remains of a hypocaust, probably from a bath-house apparently demolished in the mid-3rd to 4th century (Shimmin 1998, 260-9).
- 4.2.5** The cropmarks in the survey area (described below) may represent the fields of other farming sites like Kirkee & McMunn, and the droveways connecting such sites to each other.

4.3 The cropmark sites

- 4.3.1** Over the southern part of the Garrison area (south of a line drawn between Kirkee McMunn Barracks and the modern Colchester Cemetery), a large area of cropmarks is recorded. Geophysical survey has partially confirmed and also added to the pattern of linear cropmark features (CAT Report 184). An informed interpretation based on previous limited excavation would indicate that they are late prehistoric and/or Romano-British in date, and represent the trackways, paddocks and field boundaries of a rural settlement of that period. In some areas, the overlapping of the cropmarks suggests that more than one period or phase of activity is represented. At least one circular mark could represent an earlier prehistoric site. Other smaller discoveries are listed in the DBA (CAT Report 97).
- 4.3.2** There was a series of convincing cropmarks crossing Areas E and F and intruding slightly into Area KR (Fig 2). The potential for the discovery of archaeological features and finds relating to occupation sites associated with the cropmarks, and also for the recovery of finds which might date the cropmark ditches, was considered in the evaluation methodology and was one of the criteria used to select trench locations.

5 Trial-trenching

5.1 Introduction (Figs 1-6)

Thirty-eight trenches were machine-cut under archaeological supervision in Area KR (Trenches KR1-KR38). Table 1 below gives grid co-ordinates for the ends of each trench, trench length, and heights above Ordnance Datum (OD) for modern ground-level and the level of natural subsoil. Next, a summary and list of contexts is given for each trench (section 5.2 below). This is followed by a general discussion of the archaeology of Area KR in section 7.

Table 1: Trench co-ordinates and heights above OD for modern ground-level and natural subsoil.

Trench no	Terminal co-ordinates	Trench length in m	OD level on ground-level	OD level on natural
KR1	NNW: 598653.05; 223675.88	48	33.59-34.51	33.10-33.99
	SSE: 598664.64; 223627.25			
KR2	N: 598643.14; 223648.78	92.6	32.31-32.79	31.06-31.60
	S: 598647.49; 223557.45			
KR3	W: 598623.15; 223531.67	18.2	33.35-33.59	32.56-32.83
	E: 598641.15; 223534.65			
KR4	W: 598652.72; 223536.92	19.8	33.09-33.17	32.47-32.57
	E: 598672.60; 223539.24			
KR5	SW: 598680.17; 223519.26	9.5	33.96-34.11	33.06-33.29
	NE: 598686.76; 223526.39			
KR6	NW: 598706.53; 223534.55	20	34.01-34.79	33.71-33.80
	SE: 598717.55; 223517.86			
KR7	WSW: 598648.59; 223496.16	39.1	34.34-34.68	33.52-33.96
	ENE: 598687.32; 223501.99			
KR8	SW: 598765.17; 223522.51	17.9	34.77-34.84	33.76-33.88
	NE: 598781.04; 223531.13			
KR9	SSW: 598769.00; 223479.76	24.7	34.73-34.78	34.18-34.20
	NNE: 598777.34; 223503.26			
KR10	SSW: 598693.14; 223454.77	20	34.64-34.93	33.86
	NNE: 598704.25; 223472.10			
KR11	SSW: 598664.08; 223459.93	38.5	34.53-35.15	33.87-34.34
	NNE: 598680.29; 223496.03			
KR12	SSW: 598639.85; 223418.66	20	35.47-35.35	34.64-34.83
	NNE: 598649.14; 223437.04			
KR13	W: 598725.67; 223441.10	19.6	34.67-34.78	33.95-33.97
	E: 598745.82; 223441.88			
KR14	W: 598750.27; 223448.17	20.2	34.63-34.76	33.88
	E: 598770.98; 223446.83			
KR15	abandoned	(25)	-	-
KR16	N: 598826.74; 223476.96	9.5	35.32-35.37	34.57-34.64
	S: 598826.97; 223467.23			
KR17	NNW: 598831.21; 223456.99	38	35.32-35.39	34.52-34.57
	SSE: 598841.32; 223419.21			
KR18	WSW: 598784.52; 223329.57	19.1	35.31-35.40	34.49-34.55
	ENE: 598803.55; 223334.78			
KR19	WSW: 598782.41; 223320.84	=59.3 (double width)	35.28-35.39	34.55-34.81
	ENE: 59881.33; 223326.46			
KR20	NNW: 598873.45; 223341.32	39.5	35.09-35.20	34.40-34.51
	ENE: 598902.15; 223338.72			
KR21	NW: 598879.02; 213318.04	43.7	35.29-35.35	34.48-34.54
	SE: 598909.03; 223284.60			
KR22	NW: 598814.80; 223282.12	39.7	35.24-35.33	34.71-34.80
	SE: 598940.86; 223252.15			
KR23	SW: 598604.88; 223381.39	29	35.21-35.34	34.66-35.00
	NE: 598631.66; 223394.15			
KR24	NW: 598546.31; 223391.83	29.3	35.42-34.52	34.35-34.77
	SE: 598572.77; 223377.70			

KR25	NNW: 598602.99; 223349.48	7.8	35.60-35.64	-
	NNE: 598609.83; 223345.40			
KR26	SSW: 598493.68; 223296.46	30.7	36.00-36.06	35.07-35.13
	NNE: 598508.94; 223309.42			
KR27	SSW: 598653.30; 223225.88	10.1	34.98-35.52	34.63-34.79
	NNE: 598655.51; 223235.96			
KR28	SSW: 598381.38; 223146.61	19.3	35.92-35.96	35.19-35.32
	NNE: 598381.49; 223146.60			
KR29	SSW: 598391.20; 223121.14	16.9	36.03-36.10	35.24-35.38
	NNE: 598399.07; 223136.97			
KR30	NW: 598395.22; 223119.30	16.4	36.00-36.04	35.11-35.14
	SE: 598410.29; 223111.93			
KR31	SW: 598601.01; 223153.69	14.4	35.48-35.53	34.47-34.47
	NE: 598614.18; 223160.79			
KR32	WNW: 598609.83; 223138.92	19.7	35.33-35.39	34.43-34.55
	ESE: 598628.83; 223132.17			
KR33	NW: 598589.56; 223122.21	29.6	35.21-35.38	34.44-34.48
	SE: 598613.26; 223103.66			
KR34	NW: 598553.88; 223082.72	8.3	35.42-35.50	-
	SE: 598560.17; 223076.75			
KR35	NNW: 598762.17; 223010.67	29.7	34.70-34.84	33.95-34.21
	SSE: 598766.94; 222980.76			
KR36	WNW: 598750.09; 222976.85	19.85	34.65-34.69	33.66-34.01
	ESE: 598769.62; 222971.12			
KR37	SSW: 598562.39; 223419.85	20.1	35.35-35.69	33.79-34.21
	NNE: 598571.36; 223438.28			
KR38	NNW: 598287.68; 223163.89	78.8	35.21-35.87	35.15-35.17
	SSE: 598333.20; 223097.69			

5.2 Description of the archaeological sequence (Figs 2-9)

Typically the stratigraphic sequence across Area KR included a c. 0.3m thick topsoil, in many instances overlying made ground deposits of variable depth (0.20-0.25m). These recent deposits sealed a mid brown sand silt clay up to m thick. This lower deposit is likely to be derived from the original cover loam deposits which has subsequently been modified by weathering, ploughing and bioturbation. The sub-soil overlay river terrace gravels and was removed to reveal the prehistoric and Roman archaeological features. This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

5.2.1 Trench KR1 summary (Figs 2-3)

Archaeological remains comprised one possible natural feature (KRF101) and three modern trenches or pits (KRF102-KRF104).

Table 2: Trench KR1 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF101	Natural feature?	no finds	?
KRF102	Trench	(glass, metal, modern pot)	modern
KRF103	Pit	(glass, wood fragments)	modern
KRF104	Pit	(modern metal, glass, brick)	modern
KRL101	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL102	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL103	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.2 Trench KR2 summary (Figs 2-3)

This trench contained a wide range of modern and post-medieval features: a tarmac surface (KRF201); a service-trench (KRF207); modern footings or foundation trenches (KRF203, KRF205); three modern pits (KRF208, KRF210, KRF213); a post-medieval ditch (KRF209); and several natural features (KRF202, KRF204,

KRF206, KRF211, KRF212). The modern features reflect the proximity of this trench to built-up areas in the Garrison (to the east) and to housing areas to the west.

A group of residual Roman pottery and tile was recovered from KRF209.

There was severe tree-root disturbance in the central and southern parts of this trench.

Table 3: Trench KR2 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF201	Tarmac surface	no finds	modern
KRF202	Natural feature	intrusive undated tile scrap	-
KRF203	Concrete footing	no finds	modern
KRF204	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF205	Foundation trench	no finds	modern
KRF206	Linear – natural?	no finds	-
KRF207	Drain-pipe	no finds	modern
KRF208	Rubbish-pit	no finds	modern
KRF209	Ditch	peg-tile, coke, post-medieval brick, Fabric 40 ¹ , residual Roman tile and grey wares	post-medieval
KRF210	Pit	peg-tile, post-medieval brick	modern
KRF211	Natural feature?	no finds	-
KRF212	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF213	Rubbish-pit	no finds	modern
KRL201	Turf	glass ashtray marked 'Adnams Southwold Ales'	modern
KRL202	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL203	Tarmac	no finds	modern
KRL204	Tarmac foundation	no finds	modern
KRL205	Subsoil	Fabric 45m ² , Fabric 40	-

5.2.3 Trench KR3 summary (Figs 2-3)

The archaeological remains here included one ditch, and a previously-known modern road surface (KRF302) which was intercepted by the west end of the trench (Fig 2). The ditch contained Roman tile and iron nails, but is dated to the modern era by undecayed wood fragments.

Table 4: Trench KR3 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	dated finds	Phase
KRF301	Linear feature	residual Roman tile, Fe nails	modern
KRF302	Road surface	no finds	modern
KRL301	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL302	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL303	Subsoil		-

5.2.4 Trench KR4 summary (Figs 2-3)

Archaeological remains here comprised a natural feature (KRF401) and a modern concrete stanchion (KRF402).

Table 5: Trench KR4 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF401	Natural feature	no finds	-

¹ Fabric 40: post-medieval red earthenware (16th-19th centuries)

² Fabric 45m: English stoneware (19th-20th centuries)

KRF402	Concrete stanchion	no finds	modern
KRL401	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL402	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL403	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.5 Trench KR5: summary (Figs 2-3)

This trench contained three features which are probably of natural origin (KRF501-KRF503).

Table 6: Trench KR5 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF501	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF502	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF503	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL501	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL502	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL503	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.6 Trench KR6: summary (Figs 2-3)

The modern features in this trench (service cable, tarmac surface, concrete gutter, concrete blocks and paving) were so widespread that full excavation was not practicable. This is clearly the site of a recently demolished building.

These foundations are in the same position as a row of unnamed rectangular structures running north to south to the east of the Officer's Mess, as shown on an unpublished plan of 1949 now hanging in Flagstaff House ³. Although there were other structures nearby, these particular structures were not there in 1921 ⁴. There is no sign of them on the recent Ordnance Survey ⁵. Their date of construction and demolition, therefore, would seem to be bracketed by the above dates.

Table 7: Trench KR6 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRL601	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL602	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL603	Concrete rubble	no finds	modern
KRL604	make up	no finds	modern
KRL605	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.7 Trench KR7: summary (Figs 2, 3, 7)

The archaeological discoveries in this trench were two ditches with very heavy plant and root activity (KRF703-KRF704), a pit (possibly natural: KRF701), and a natural feature (KRF702).

Table 8: Trench KR7 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF701	Pit – natural feature?	no finds	unphased
KRF702	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF703	Root-affected linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRF704	Root-affected linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRL701	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL702	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL703	Subsoil	no finds	-

³ Colchester Garrison Sheet No. 1: scale 1/2500 (unpublished)

⁴ Ordnance Survey 1921, 1:10560.

⁵ TL 92 SE 1:10,000 1991 publication, based on 1968 to 1984 surveys.

5.2.8 Trench KR8: summary (Figs 2-3)

This trench contained several modern service-trenches (group number KRF801), and a natural feature (KRF802).

Table 9: Trench KR8 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF801	Service-trench	no finds	modern
KRF802	Natural feature?	no finds	-
KRL801	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL802	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL803	Rubble/asphalt	no finds	modern
KRL804	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.9 Trench KR9: summary (Figs 2-3)

This trench contained one undated ditch (KRF901) and a natural feature (KRF902).

Table 10: Trench KR9 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF901	Linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRF902	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL901	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL902	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL903	subsoil	no finds	modern

5.2.10 Trench KR10: summary (Figs 2, 4)

Like Trench KR6, this trench crossed the site of a recently demolished building, evidenced by rubble hardcore, concrete steps, brick courses and ceramic pipes (group number KRF1001).

These foundations are in the same position as a row of unnamed rectangular structures running north to south to the east of the Officer's Mess, as shown on an unpublished plan of 1949 now hanging in Flagstaff House ⁶. Although there were other structures nearby, these particular structures were not there in 1921 ⁷. There is no sign of them on the recent Ordnance Survey ⁸. Their date of construction and demolition, therefore, would seem to be bracketed by the above dates.

Table 11: Trench KR10 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1001	Modern footings	no finds	modern
KRL1001	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1002	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1003	Concrete rubble make-up	no finds	modern
KRL1004	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.11 Trench KR11: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This trench contained two natural features (KRF1101, KRF1103) and one pit, possibly natural (KRF1102).

Table 12: Trench KR11 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
---------------------	------	-------------	-------

⁶ Colchester Garrison Sheet No. 1: scale 1/2500 (unpublished)

⁷ Ordnance Survey 1921, 1:10560.

⁸ TL 92 SE 1:10,000 1991 publication, based on 1968 to 1984 surveys.

KRF1101	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF1102	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF1103	Pit- natural?	no finds	unphased
KRL1101	Turf/topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1102	dump	no finds	modern
KRL1103	deposit	no finds	modern

5.2.12 Trench KR12: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This trench revealed one feature, probably a recent Army trench (KRF1201).

Table 13: Trench KR12 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1201	Trench	no finds	modern
KRL1201	Turf/topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1202	Subsoil	no finds	-
KRL1203	Subsoil	no finds	-
KRL1204	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.13 Trench KR13: summary (Figs 2, 4, 7)

This trench contained one modern ditch (KRF1305), two undated possible ditch terminals (KRF1302-KRF1303), and two natural features (KRF1301, KRF1304).

Table 14: Trench KR13 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1301	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF1302	Ditch terminal?	no finds	unphased
KRF1303	Ditch terminal?	no finds	unphased
KRF1304	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF1305	Ditch	(brick, coal)	modern
KRL1301	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1302	Topsoil	no finds	-
KRL1303	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.14 Trench KR14: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This trench revealed a pair of parallel iron pipes spanning an area which contained corrugated iron and timber (KRF1401). This was an Army trench, possibly giving access to an adjacent underground feature like an air-raid shelter.

Table 15: Trench KR14 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1401	Army trench – access?	no finds	modern
KRL1401	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1402	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1403	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.15 Trench KR15: summary (Fig 2)

This trench was abandoned due to the presence of live services.

5.2.16 Trench KR16: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This trench contained a large trench (KRF1601) cutting two small linear features (KRF1602-KRF1603). The peg-tile, coal and coke in KRF1602 date it to the modern period (and by definition also KRF1601 which cuts it). Linear feature KRF1603 is more difficult to date. Its proximity to the other modern features in Trench KR16 make it very likely that it is also a modern feature, but the presence of Roman finds (tile and slag) means that an earlier date cannot be fully dismissed.

Table 16: Trench KR16 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1601	Large trench (Army?)	no finds	modern
KRF1602	Linear feature	peg-tile, coal, coke	modern
KRF1603	Linear feature	Roman tile, slag	Roman?
KRL1601	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1602	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1603	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.17 Trench KR17: summary (Figs 2, 4, 7)

This trench contained two undated linear features (KRF1701-KRF1702). It is possible these are separate sections across a single ring gully, although the absence of finds does not suggest a domestic function.

Table 17: Trench KR17 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1701	Linear feature - ring gully?	no finds	unphased
KRF1702	Linear feature - ring gully?	no finds	unphased
KRL1701	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1702	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1703	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.18 Trench KR18: summary (Figs 2, 4)

This trench contained three modern trenches (KF1802-KRF1803, KRF1805), one area of modern root disturbance (KRF1801) and one natural feature (ie KRF1804).

Table 18: Trench KR18 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1801	Root disturbance	no finds	modern
KRF1802	Cable trench	no finds	modern
KRF1803	Trench	no finds	modern
KRF1804	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF1805	Service- or foundation trench	no finds	modern
KRL1801	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL1802	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1803	Subsoil	Roman brick	-

5.2.19 Trench KR19: summary (Figs 2, 4, 7)

This trench contained one undated linear feature (KRF1901). There was a considerable amount of modern dumped soil in this trench (KRL1902-KRL1903, KRL1905).

Table 19: Trench KR19 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF1901	Linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRL1901	Turf/topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1902	Dump	coal, asphalt	modern
KRL1903	Dump	coal, tile	modern
KRL1904	Subsoil	no finds	modern
KRL1905	Rubble	no finds	modern
KRL1906	Cover loam	no finds	-

5.2.20 Trench KR20: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained two modern (Army) ditches (KRF2001-KRF2002), a modern small pit (KRF2004), and a probably natural feature (KRF2003).

Table 20: Trench KR20 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2001	Ditch	Fabrics 48d ⁹ and 51a, peg-tile	modern
KRF2002	Ditch	coal, modern glass	modern
KRF2003	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF2004	Pit	no finds	modern
KRL2001	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2002	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.21 Trench KR21: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained a natural feature (KRF2103), one modern (Army) trench (KRF2102), and one post-medieval ditch which contained residual Roman tile (KRF2101).

Table 21: Trench KR21 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2101	Ditch	clay pipe, Roman tile	post-medieval
KRF2102	Trench	peg-tile, post-medieval brick, modern glass	modern
KRF2103	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL2101	Topsoil	Fabric 48d, clay pipe	modern
KRL2102	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.22 Trench KR22: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained a Roman ditch (KRF2201), one amorphous feature (natural feature?: KRF2203) and a natural feature (KRF2202). The Roman ditch aligns precisely with one of the ditches discovered during the 1994 excavations on the Kirkee McMunn Barracks Roman building (Fig 2).

Table 22: Trench KR22 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2201	Ditch	Roman pottery and tile	Roman
KRF2202	Natural features	no finds	-
KRF2203	Natural feature?	no finds	-
KRL2201	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2202	Reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman
KRL2203	Natural	no finds	-

5.2.23 Trench KR23: summary (Figs 2, 5, 8)

This trench contained a series of modern foundations and associated rubble spreads (KRF2305), one modern pit (KRF2304), one undated linear feature (KRF2303) and two natural features (KRF2301-KRF2302). The foundations indicate the position of a recently demolished building.

These foundations do not correspond with any structure shown on the 1921 Ordnance Survey¹⁰, on an unpublished garrison plan of 1949¹¹, or on recent Ordnance Survey coverage¹². Their function, or date of construction and demolition is therefore unknown.

⁹ Fabric 48d: modern ironstones (19th-20th centuries)

¹⁰ Ordnance Survey 1921, 1:10560.

¹¹ Colchester Garrison Sheet No. 1: scale 1/2500 (unpublished)

¹² TL 92 SE 1:10,000 1991 publication, based on 1968 to 1984 surveys.

Table 23: Trench KR23 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2301	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF2302	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF2303	Linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRF2304	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF2305	Concrete footing	-	modern
KRL2301	Turf	-	modern
KRL2302	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2302	Subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

5.2.24 Trench KR24: summary (Figs 2, 5, 8)

This trench cut across the site of a recently demolished building or hard-standing, evidenced by a water valve, brick coursing, concrete kerbs and several service-trenches (group number KRF2404). These foundations do not correspond with any structure shown on the 1921 Ordnance Survey ¹³, on an unpublished garrison plan of 1949 ¹⁴, or on recent Ordnance Survey coverage ¹⁵. Their function, or date of construction and demolition is therefore unknown.

There was also a modern pit (KRF2401), a possible ditch terminal (KRF2402), and a natural feature (KRF2403).

Table 24: Trench KR24 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2401	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF2402	Ditch terminal?	no finds	unphased
KRF2403	Natural feature	no finds	unphased
KRF2404	Modern foundations	no finds	modern
KRL2401	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL2402	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2403	Brick rubble	no finds	modern
KRL2403	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.25 Trench KR25: summary (Figs 2, 5)

There were no archaeological features in this trench except for an unnumbered modern cable which prevented any further excavation.

Table 25: Trench KR25 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRL2501	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL2502	Topsoil	no finds	modern

5.2.26 Trench KR26: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained two natural features (KRF2601-02).

Table 26: Trench KR26 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2601	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF2602	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL2601	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL2602	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2603	Subsoil	no finds	-

¹³ Ordnance Survey 1921, 1:10560.

¹⁴ Colchester Garrison Sheet No. 1: scale 1/2500 (unpublished)

¹⁵ TL 92 SE 1:10,000 1991 publication, based on 1968 to 1984 surveys.

5.2.27 Trench KR27: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained six modern features: three ditches (KRF2703-KRF2705), a pit or trench (KRF2701), and two cable trenches (KRF2702, KRF2706).

Table 27: Trench KR27 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2701	Pit/trench	peg-tile	modern
KRF2702	Cable-pipe trench	no finds	modern
KRF2703	Linear feature	(brick and coal)	modern
KRF2704	Linear feature	(brick and coal)	modern
KRF2705	Linear feature	(brick and coal)	modern
KRF2706	Cable-pipe trench	no finds	modern
KRL2701	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL2702	Topsoil	no finds	post-Roman
KRL2703	Asphalt surface	modern	modern
KRL2704	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.28 Trench KR28: summary (Figs 2, 5)

This trench contained one modern feature (KRF2801).

Table 28: Trench KR28 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2801	Linear feature	brick	modern
KRL2801	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2802	Dump layer	coal, glass	modern
KRL2803	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-
KRL2804	Natural subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.29 Trench KR29: summary (Figs 2, 6)

This trench contained one natural feature (KRF2901).

Table 29: Trench KR29 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF2901	Natural feature	no finds	?
KRL2901	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL2902	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2903	Subsoil	no finds	

5.2.30 Trench KR30: summary (Figs 2, 6)

This trench contained modern dumped layers (KRL3002-KRL3003) over natural subsoil. The modern layers sealed two modern features (KRF3001-KRF3002).

Table 30: Trench KR30 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3001	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF3002	Trench	no finds	modern
KRL3001	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3002	Clinkery dump	no finds	modern
KRL3003	Dump	coal, tile, concrete?	modern
KRL3004	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.31 Trench KR31: summary (Figs 2, 6)

There were no archaeological features in this trench. The modern turf and topsoil (KRL3101-KRL3102) are recently laid over modern made ground (KRL3103).

Table 31: Trench KR31 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRL3101	Topsoil/turf	no finds	modern
KRL3102	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3103	Made ground	no finds	modern
KRL3104	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.32 Trench KR32: summary (Figs 2, 6)

There were no archaeological features in this trench. The modern turf and topsoil (KRL3201) are recently laid over modern made ground (KRL3202-KRL3203).

Table 32: Trench KR32 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRL3201	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3202	Made ground	no finds	modern
KRL3203	Made ground	no finds	modern
KRL3204	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.33 Trench KR33: summary (Figs 2, 6, 8)

This trench contained two modern service-trenches (KRF3302-KRF3303), one modern pit (KRF3304) and an undated ditch (KRF3301). The ditch shares a common alignment to Late Iron Age/Roman ditches revealed during investigations in Area E/F. As in Trenches KR31 and KR32, there was much modern dumped material in this trench.

Table 33: Trench KR33 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3301	Linear	no finds	unphased
KRF3302	Service-trench	no finds	modern
KRF3303	Service-trench	no finds	modern
KRF3304	Pit?	no finds	modern
KRF3305	Brick debris	no finds	modern
KRL3301	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3302	Made ground	coal	modern
KRL3303	Dumped stone	no finds	modern
KRL3304	Ashy deposit	clinker	modern
KRL3305	Subsoil	(modern)	-

5.2.34 Trench KR34: summary (Figs 2, 6)

The whole of this trench was taken up by a large feature, possibly a large modern pit (KRL3405) capped by a metallised surface (KRL3404). The pit was excavated down to 1.2m below modern ground-level, with no sign of natural ground at trench bottom.

Table 34: Trench KR34 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRL3401	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3402	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3403	Modern dump	no finds	modern
KRL3404	Metallised surface	no finds	modern
KRL3405	Pit fill – natural feature?	no finds	modern

5.2.35 Trench KR35: summary (Figs 2, 6, 8)

This trench revealed an undated ditch (KRF3501) and a natural feature (KRF3502). However, the ditch is so close in alignment and position to one of the cropmark ditches south of Kirkee McMunn Barracks (Fig 2) as to make it certain that it is the same ditch. Although that particular ditch has not been tested by excavation, it is clearly part of an extensive field system alignment, parts of which have been

provisionally dated Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman. Accordingly, KRF3501 is tentatively interpreted as being LIA or Roman.

Table 35: Trench KR35 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3501	Ditch	no finds	LIA or Roman
KRF3502	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL3501	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3502	Reworked subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.36 Trench KR36: summary (Figs 2, 6)

This trench contained one undated pit (possibly natural: KRF3601), and a group of probably natural features (KRF3602-KRF3603). Given the position of cropmark ditches to the east (Fig 2), this trench must lie within the field system south of Kirkee McMunn Barracks. The lack of pit groups and settlement debris reinforces the rural character of this part of Area KR, despite the proximity of the settlement focus 200m to the north-east.

Table 36: Trench KR36 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3601	Pit – natural?	no finds	unphased
KRF3602	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3603	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRL3601	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3602	Reworked subsoil	no finds	post-Roman

5.2.37 Trench KR37: summary (Figs 2, 6)

This trench contained one linear feature (KRF3701). This feature contained a large group of residual Roman pottery, brick and tile (61 pieces, 1052 grammes) which must be derived from a Roman context in the near vicinity. However, finds of post-medieval pottery, tile and slate confirm its post-medieval date.

Table 37: Trench KR37 – archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3701	Linear	Fabrics 20 (medieval coarse ware), 42 (Border ware), clay pipe, peg tile, slate, residual Roman brick, tile and pottery	post-medieval
KRL3701	Turf	no finds	modern
KRL3702	Topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL3703	Brick/asphalt rubble	no finds	modern
KRL3704	Subsoil	no finds	-

5.2.38 Trench KR38: summary (Figs 2, 6, 8)

This trench contained eight modern or post-medieval pits (KRF3802, KRF3808-KRF3809, KRF3811, KRF3815-KRF3817, KRF3821), two service-trenches (KRF3810, KRF3820), a post-medieval ditch terminal (KRF3803), and an unphased linear feature (KRF3814). All the other features here were natural features.

Table 38: Trench KR38 - archaeology.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
KRF3801	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3802	Pit	pot, ash, clinker	modern
KRF3803	Ditch terminal	no finds	prob post-medieval
KRF3804	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3805	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3806	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3807	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3808	Rubbish-pit	no finds	modern
KRF3809	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF3810	Service-trench	no finds	modern
KRF3811	Large trench	no finds	modern
KRF3812	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3813	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3814	Linear feature	no finds	unphased
KRF3815	Pit	post-medieval brick	post-medieval
KRF3816	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF3817	Pit	no finds	modern
KRF3818	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3819	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3820	Pipe-trench	no finds	modern
KRF3821	Pit	glass, cinders	modern
KRF3822	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3823	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3824	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3825	Natural feature	no finds	-
KRF3826	Natural feature	no finds	
KRF3827	Natural feature	no finds	
KRL2801	Turf and topsoil	no finds	modern
KRL2802	Dump	no finds	modern
KRL2803	Dump	no finds	modern
KRL2804	Subsoil	no finds	-

6 The finds

6.1 General

The finds are listed in Table 41 (Appendix 2) which gives quantities, weights, descriptions and dates for stratified finds. Where comments on groups of finds are justified, these are given below in sections 6.2 and following.

6.2 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

*by Stephen Benfield*¹⁶

This small group of material is predominantly from residual contexts. Identified forms include Camulodunum form 40 (earlier 2nd to mid/late 3rd century), black-burnished ware (AD 120 and later), Nene Valley colour-coats (mid 3rd-4th century), and Colchester colour-coats (2nd or 3rd century). As a group, this material indicates activity principally in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and possibly into the 4th century.

6.3 Environmental material from Area KR

CAT are advised by Peter Murphy (English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science) and his associate Val Fryer. Any potentially rich environmental layers or features are appropriately sampled as a matter of course, with processing and reporting undertaken by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then Peter Murphy and/or Val Fryer attend on site to assist in sampling.

There were no contexts in Area KR displaying any evidence of environmental material and therefore, in accordance with Peter Murphy's advice, no samples were taken.

¹⁶ of Colchester Archaeological Trust

6.4 Small finds

by Nina Crummy¹⁷

SF 36. (31001) unstratified. Copper-alloy Auxiliary Territorial Service badge. Machine-stamped, with the letter placed within a laurel-wreath. The crown which should top the T between the ends of the wreath is missing. Diameter 36 mm. Post-1938.

SF 30. KR (2006). Unstratified. Composite copper-alloy Royal Engineers uniform button with rear attachment loop. The design has the Garter arms around GR V, with ROYAL ENGINEERS beneath. The maker's legend the reverse is partly obscured, but THE ARMY & NAVY/- is legible. Diameter 25 mm.

KR (2007) F209. 1) Iron nail fragment, length 37 mm. 2) Iron nail shank fragment, length 37 mm.

KR (2010) F10. 1) Fragment of thick iron plate. Maximum dimensions 120 by 40 by 12 mm. 2) Iron wire nail. Length 53 mm. Modern.

KR (3001) F301. 1) Iron nail fragment, length 31 mm. 2) Iron nail fragment, length 35 mm.

KR (16002) F1603. Two small fragments iron tap slag. Weight 10 g.

KR (16001) F1602. Three small fragments coal/cinder. Weight 7 g.

6.5 Other finds

None of the other finds categories were sufficiently large or archaeologically important to justify detailed work. Full details of all finds are given in Table 41 (Appendix 2).

7 Discussion

7.1 The archaeological sequence

7.1.1 In total, 251 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. Most of the archaeological contexts were topsoils, dumped soils and subsoils (130 = 52% of all contexts: see Table 39). The next largest group of were post-medieval or modern contexts (22%), followed by contexts of natural origin (19%). Six percent of all contexts were undated.

7.1.2 With regard to 'pre-modern' archaeological features, there were only two Late Iron Age or Roman features. Together, these constituted 1% of all archaeological contexts.

7.1.3 No prehistoric flints or pottery were recovered.

7.1.4 No Anglo-Saxon or medieval material was recovered.

7.1.5 Six per cent of features were undated. This reflects the paucity of archaeological finds and the lack of stratigraphical relationships between features.

7.1.6 There was a surprisingly small amount of LIA/Roman material. Previous evidence from cropmarks, geophysical surveys and the evaluation of Areas C, E and F showed that the *oppidum* contained field-ditches and trackways. The three LIA/Roman field-ditches in Area KR suggest that the field system was not as well defined here as in Areas E/F. However, the high level of modern disturbance encountered in Area KR means that the surviving archaeological remains may under-represent the original extent of the LIA/Roman field system.

Table 39: Summary of all features.

(1) number of each context type

(2) that number as a percentage of all contexts

(3) that number as a percentage of cuts only (ie discounting layers).

¹⁷

2 Hall Road, Copford, Essex

	topsoils, subsoils, other layers	prehistoric and Roman features	Anglo- Saxon and medieval features	post- medieval and modern features	undated features	natural features
(1) number	130	2	0	56	15	48
(2) as % of all contexts	52	1	0	22	6	19
(3) as % of all cuts		2	0	46	12	40

7.2 Distribution of archaeological remains

7.2.1 The distribution of surviving archaeological remains is largely governed by the layout of the barracks. Most of the surviving archaeological material was found over the north and east sides of Area KR (where there is a higher proportion of open grassy areas). Very little survived in the heavily built-up areas (principally the centre of Area KR).

7.2.2 Accepting that the distribution of remains is affected by modern building work (above), most of the Roman pottery and tile occurring residually in later contexts came from the northern part of Area KR.

7.2.3 The same is true of undated ditches. With a few notable exceptions (Trench KR33 KRF3301, KRF3501 in Trench 35, and Trench 37 KRF 3701) most of the linear features do not convincingly share the alignment of the LIA/Roman fields south of Kirkee McMunn Barracks, and must therefore be part of one or more field systems of a different date.

7.3 The condition and survival of archaeological deposits

7.3.1 The archaeological deposits in Area KR are very heavily disturbed.

7.3.2 This disturbance takes several forms. First, building and rebuilding within Kirkee McMunn Barracks has demonstrably caused massive damage to archaeological remains. This is reflected in the relatively small quantity of finds and features observed, compared with Areas E, F or C. The remains of recently demolished structures were found in Trenches KR6, KR10 and KR23.

7.3.3 Second, there has been severe damage caused by services, ie the trenches, pipes and cables bringing services to the various garrison buildings were found crossing fourteen of the 38 trenches, and Trench KR15 had to be abandoned because of an abundance of services.

7.3.4 A large proportion of the excavated features were post-medieval and modern, and clearly related to the Garrison. Apart from service-trenches, many were pits and trenches which had been used as rubbish-tips.

7.4 Chronological discussion

7.4.1 Prehistory to the Late Iron Age

7.4.1.1 The complete absence of struck flints and prehistoric pottery from the Area KR trenches points to an extremely low level or perhaps complete absence of early prehistoric activity .

7.4.2 The later Iron Age and the *oppidum*

7.4.2.1 By the late Iron Age and early Roman period, Area KR lay within the defended *oppidum* of Camulodunum. As presently understood, the *oppidum* had two centres of activity: Gosbecks (the rural farmstead, and possibly the home of Cunobelin); and Sheepen (the industrial and trading centre). Apart from these two large centres, it is likely that there were smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum* which await discovery.

7.4.2.2 As previously noted, the cropmarks and geophysical anomalies in the Garrison area may represent the fields and trackways of one such farm or farms. Indeed, the cropmarks in the south and west parts of Areas E/F define trackways and field

systems of precisely that type, and form part of the landscape within the *oppidum* which contained large unoccupied areas of fields connected by trackways. The apparent variations in alignment between the trackways and rectilinear field boundaries in Areas E and F and the more curvilinear trackway revealed as cropmarks in Areas DR, R and P may also imply that these elements were not originally set out to a single plan, but perhaps represent more than one phase in the development of the late Iron Age/early Roman agricultural landscape.

- 7.4.2.3** Before the current project, the cropmarks had not been tested by excavation, but the presumption was that they were contemporary with the *oppidum* and therefore late Iron Age or Roman in date. These field-ditches have been deliberately intercepted by trenching, and Late Iron Age and Roman finds recovered from Areas E and F give the impression that the pattern of linear cropmarks and geophysical anomalies across the Garrison appear to be of both late Iron Age and Roman date.
- 7.4.2.4** Unfortunately, the fragmented pattern of survival, the paucity of datable finds and the lack of stratification in the field-ditches preclude more precision in the dating; one cannot say that one particular ditch alignment is Late Iron Age and another one is Roman. The limited finds from the ditch fills are either grog-tempered sherds of LIA/early Roman date (ie *circa* 50 BC to mid 1st century AD) or else they are Roman grey ware sherds and brick fragments which may be slightly later in date (ie 1st or 2nd century AD).
- 7.4.2.5** The results from the excavations and the phasing of the Roman building previously identified at Area KR (Kirkee McMunn Barracks) should be instructive here. The excavated ditches produced either Sheepen-type pottery (ie LIA/early Roman grog-tempered) or later Roman material (2nd and 3rd centuries: Shimmin 1998, 262). This supports the apparent multi-phased ditched field-system further revealed in the 2002 trial-trenching results. This dating corresponds to the general dating of the *oppidum*. Although the earliest dykes are late Iron Age in date, others appear to be Roman, including Grymes Dyke on the west and more significantly Berechurch Dyke on the east (Hawkes & Crummy 1995, 175-8).
- 7.4.2.4** The finds from Area KR are so few and far between that they cannot realistically add to the above debate, and no further comment is appropriate here.

7.5 Anglo-Saxon

There were no Anglo-Saxon finds or deposits in Area KR. Although Anglo-Saxon pottery is very friable, and Anglo-Saxon buildings do not leave evidence as durable and obvious as that from Roman buildings, there is nevertheless insufficient evidence to argue for any Anglo-Saxon activity.

7.6 Medieval

The complete absence of medieval material from Area KR is in keeping with evidence from elsewhere in the Garrison, suggesting that the area was primarily pasture or waste in medieval times.

7.7 Post-medieval and later

The post-medieval and modern features and finds formed a major component of the archaeological record. However, with the exception of specialist interest (for instance, in Army practice-trenches or the layout of barracks), the material is not significant.

8 Conclusions

8.1 The main findings are:

- The excavated archaeological material reflects the built-up nature of Area KR. Archaeological contexts such as footings trenches, areas of rubble or concrete, kerbs, roads or paths, rubbish-pits, service-trenches and dumped soils make up a major part of the excavated sequence.
- The expectation that an active barracks would undergo much repair, rebuilding and adjustment throughout its life is confirmed by the discovery of substantial remains of recently demolished structures in Trenches KR6, KR10 and KR23 (and to a lesser extent in other trenches). It is self-evident that building and rebuilding on this scale will have had a detrimental impact on any archaeological remains. However the damage is localised and much of archaeological value still exists undisturbed between the foundations and other modern features. The building of the barracks has had a positive effect on preservation, because they were laid out before the era of deep ploughing, and, as a result, the archaeological remains on their sites will have escaped the extensive plough damage suffered by the equivalent remains in the arable fields nearby. No evidence was noted in Area KR of terracing which might have disturbed archaeological deposits over a wide area, and several of the trenches showed the existence in several places of thick layers of dumped soil and other material which will simply have served to protect the archaeological remains further.
- Significant archaeological features consisted of three ditches dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman periods. Even allowing for destruction by modern building work, this is a surprisingly low level of activity.
- No prehistoric sherds or flints were recovered. This implies a very low level if not a complete absence of prehistoric activity in this area.

8.2 The character of the archaeological remains identified in Area KR can be summarised as principally modern in date, with smaller numbers of undated features and very few significant archaeological remains (Late Iron Age and Roman linear ditches). Features generally contain few artefacts.

Previous evidence from cropmarks, geophysical surveys and the evaluation of Areas C, E and F showed that the *oppidum* contained field-ditches and trackways, was unoccupied and rural in character, and was part of a farm estate operating from the site previously identified to the west of Areas E/F. Evaluation trenching in Area KR (Kirkee McMunn Barracks) has recovered two LIA/Roman field-ditches. At face value, this would suggest that the field system was not as well defined in Area KR as in Areas E/F. However, the high level of modern disturbance encountered means that the surviving archaeological remains may under-represent the original extent of the LIA/Roman field system.

9 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by RMPA Services on behalf of the MoD. Special thanks to Stephen Barnes and Ruari Maybank (RMPA Services) and Colonel Mike Foster (MoD). The project consultants were RPS; thanks to Ken Whittaker and Rob Masefield for support and advice, and to Chris Atkinson for plans supplied. The project was monitored by Martin Winter for Colchester Borough Council.

Thanks to W S Atkins for establishing the site grid, and to Bactec International Ltd for all their assistance on site and for the munitions briefings for CAT staff.

Thanks to the farmer John Lochore for access to the fields. Fieldwork was directed by Carl Crossan, assisted by Don Shimmin, and carried out by Colin Austin, Will Clarke, Ben Holloway, Brian Hurrell, Chris Lister, Hamish McDiarmid, Laura Pooley, Nigel Rayner, Mike Ripley, Simon Rulton, Emma Sanford, Steve Sheldon, David Sims, Pauline Skippins, Edwin Weller, Nicole Weller, Victoria York-Edwards, and others.

Thanks to the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit for kindly providing manpower on site.

10 References

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| CAT | 2002 | Colchester Garrison redevelopment: method statement and risk assessments for archaeological fieldwalking survey, geophysical survey, and evaluation trenching |
| CAT Report 97 | 2000 | An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site, by Kate Orr |
| CAT Report 184 | 2002 | An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: January-March 2002, by Howard Brooks |
| CAT Report 197 | 2002 | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Area C at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: July 2002, by Howard Brooks |
| CAT Report 203 | 2002 | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Areas E and F at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: July 2002, by Howard Brooks |
| Cotter, John P | 2000 | <i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 7 |
| Hawkes, C F C, & Crummy, P | 1995 | <i>Camulodunum 2</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 11 |
| Hull, MR | 1958 | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 20 |
| RPS | 2002 | Colchester Garrison PFI archaeological project strategy proposal |
| Shimmin, D | 1998 | 'A late Iron Age and Roman occupation site at Kirkee McMunn Barracks, Colchester', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , 29 , 260-69 |
| Symonds, Robin P, & Wade, Sue | 1999 | <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 10 |

11 Glossary and abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
BA	Bronze Age (<i>circa</i> 2000 BC-700 BC)
Boudican	(same date as) the native rebellion led by Boudica in AD 60/1
box tile	tile from a Roman hypocaust (underfloor heating) system
context	specific location on an excavation, especially where finds are concerned
cut	an unspecified hole in the ground
ditch	a linear cut, usually to define the edge of a field
EIA	early Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 700 BC-400 BC)
Fabric 40	post-medieval red earthenware pottery dated to the 16th-19th centuries
Fabric 48d	modern ironstone pottery dated to 19th or 20th century
Fabric 45m	English stonewares (19th/20th centuries)
Fabric 51a	late slipped kitchen ware (19th-20th centuries)
IA	Iron Age (7th century BC to Roman invasion of AD 43)
<i>imbrex</i>	Roman curved roof-tile
LBA	late Bronze Age (<i>circa</i> 1000 BC-700 BC)
LIA	late Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 200 BC-AD 43)
make-up	soil dumped to raise ground-level, usually before construction work
manure scatter	broken pot sherds spread out when manure is carted out onto the fields
MIA	Middle Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 400 BC-200 BC)
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
mod	modern (19th and 20th centuries)
NGR	National Grid Reference
pit	a hole dug principally for the disposal of rubbish
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Victorian
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
residual	something out of its original context (ie a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to <i>circa</i> AD 430
Anglo-Saxon	the period from <i>circa</i> AD 430 to AD 1066
septaria	local stone used as building material by Romans
<i>tegula</i>	Roman roof-tile
<i>tessera</i>	red baked clay cube from Roman floor

12 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held at the Colchester Archaeological Trust, 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2002.8.

13 Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 -

Table 40: Tabulation of report numbers and evaluation stages.

Evaluation type	Report number
Desk-based assessment	CAT Report 97
Fieldwalking survey	CAT Report 184
Geophysical survey (Bactec)	CAT Report 184
Area C	CAT Report 197
Areas E and F	CAT Report 203
Area KR	this report

13.2 Appendix 2 -

Table 41: Finds list.

(Roman pottery fabrics are after Symonds & Wade 1999 and the post-Roman pottery fabrics are after Cotter 2000.)

Qt = quantity W = weight D = discard

Bag	Context	Qt	Wt	D	Detail
02008	KRF0202	1	1		tiny brick or tile scrap
02007	KRF0209	2	3		Roman grey wares
02007	KRF0209	3	7		Fabric 40
02007	KRF0209	1	42		Roman tile
02007	KRF0209	3	29		peg-tile
02007	KRF0209	2	22		post-medieval or modern brick
02007	KRF0209	2	15		Fe nails
02007	KRF0209	15	59		indeterminate tile
02007	KRF0209	1	1		coke
02009	KRF0209	3	17		Fabric 40, inc 1 rim
02009	KRF0209	2	51		Roman tile
02009	KRF0209	2	10		peg-tile
02009	KRF0209	1	16		post-medieval or modern brick
02010	KRF0210	2	24		peg-tile
02010	KRF0210	1	169		post-medieval or modern brick
02010	KRF0210	3	192		Fe lumps
02010	KRF0210	1	5		Fe nail
03001	KRF0301	1	34		Roman tile
03001	KRF0301	2	13		Fe nails
16001	KRF1602	2	14		peg-tile
16001	KRF1602	1	2		post-medieval or modern glass
16001	KRF1602	3	7		coal/coke
16002	KRF1603	2	308		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)
16002	KRF1603	2	38		Roman tile
16002	KRF1603	2	9		slag
20002	KRF2001	1	11		Fabric 51a late slipped kitchen ware
20002	KRF2001	1	3		Fabric 48d
20002	KRF2001	3	77		peg-tile
20002	KRF2001	1	6	✓	coal
21003	KRF2101	1	8		peg-tile
21002	KRF2102	5	75	✓	peg-tile
21002	KRF2102	1	11		post-medieval or modern brick
21002	KRF2102	1	15	✓	Fe nail
21002	KRF2102	1	27		modern glass
27001	KRF2701	2	24		peg-tile
37001	KRF3701	2	32		Roman grey wares
37001	KRF3701	1	446		Roman brick
37002	KRF3701	2	4		Samian ware
37002	KRF3701	1	66		amphora
37002	KRF3701	4	35		Roman buff flagon sherds
37002	KRF3701	4	12		Roman brown/orange sherds
37002	KRF3701	34	187		Roman grey ware sherds
37002	KRF3701	1	2		Fabric 42
37002	KRF3701	3	28		Fabric 20
37002	KRF3701	1	63		Roman brick
37002	KRF3701	1	41		Roman tile (<i>imbrex</i>)
37002	KRF3701	11	597		Roman tile
37002	KRF3701	10	384	✓	peg-tile
37002	KRF3701	1	76		nail
37002	KRF3701	5	24		Fe bits
37002	KRF3701	3	15		clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments
37002	KRF3701	4	25		animal bone
37002	KRF3701	1	20		<i>tessera?</i> , no mortar

37002	KRF3701	2	27		Roman tile (<i>tegula</i>)
37002	KRF3701	4	89		septaria bits
37002	KRF3701	1	39		mortar lumps
37002	KRF3701	2	6		coke
37002	KRF3701	1	1		coal
37002	KRF3701	1	1		slate
37002	KRF3701	1	3		indeterminate white sherd
03801	KRF3815	1	64		post-medieval or modern brick
03801	KRF3815	1	7		Fe lump: nail head?
02004	KRL0201	1	175		glass ashtray marked 'Adnams Southwold Ales'
02002	KRL0205	1	693		Fabric 45m ink bottle, complete but chipped
02003	KRL0205	1	8		Fabric 40
18001	KRL1803	1	74		Roman brick
21001	KRL2101	1	28		Roman sherd: pink rim
21001	KRL2101	1	68		Roman tile
21001	KRL2101	2	8		clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment
22001	KRL2201	1	3		Samian sherd
22001	KRL2201	2	174		Roman box tile
22001	KRL2201	1	79		Roman tile
11001	U/S	1	38		Fabric 40? rim
11001	U/S	1	25	✓	modern drain
13001	U/S	1	507		Roman brick
13001	U/S	1	79		Roman tile
20001	U/S	1	20		Fabric 51b flower pot sherd
20001	U/S	1	13	✓	Fabric 48d sherd
20001	U/S	1	131		Roman brick?
29001	U/S	1	40		Fabric 40 base

Howard Brooks, August 2002

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2002

Distribution list:

MoD

RMPA Services

RPS

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Heritage Conservation Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

tel./fax: (01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk

Checked by: Philip Crummy

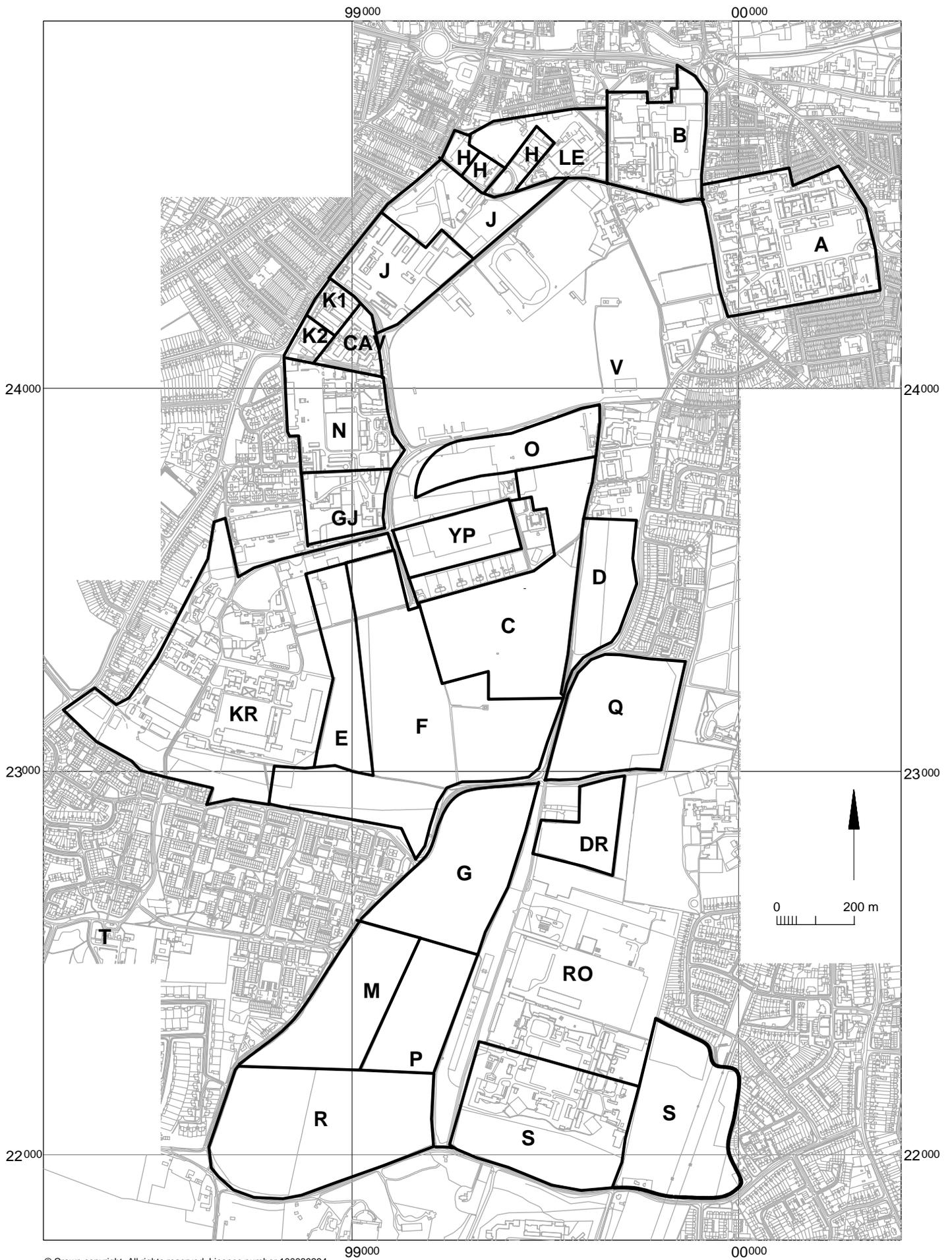
Date: 13.08.02

Adams c:/reports02/garrieval02/trial-trenching/Area KR/report205.doc

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

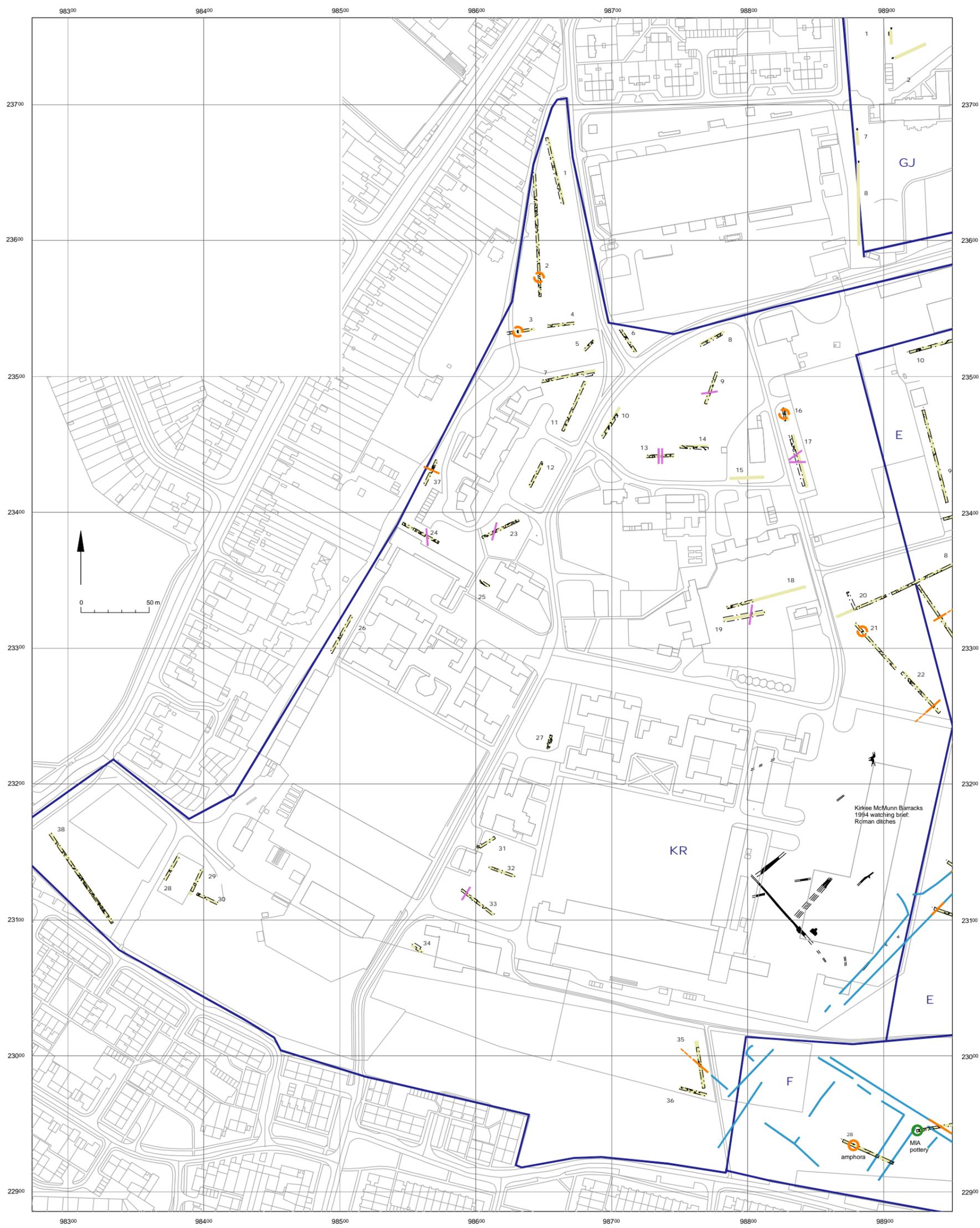
Summary sheet

Site address: Area KR at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9870 2340 (centre)	Site code: Museum accession code 2002.8
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: July 2002	Size of area investigated: 28 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes: trenching in adjacent areas, and possible excavation (tbc)	Related SMR nos: 12575
Final report: CAT Report 205, summary in <i>EAH</i> , final report tbc	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Thirty-eight trenches were excavated in Area KR. In total, 251 archaeological contexts were excavated or examined. The majority of these contexts were topsoils, dumped layers and subsoils (130 in number, which equals 52% of all contexts). The next largest group of contexts were of natural origin (19%), followed by modern or post-medieval contexts (13.5%). Six per cent of features were undated.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to 'pre-modern' archaeological features, there were only three Late Iron Age or Roman features. Together, these constituted 1.5% of all archaeological contexts. No prehistoric flints or pottery were recovered.</i></p> <p><i>Trenching work continues in adjacent areas.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: 12th August 2002



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Area locations.



- prehistoric pottery
- Roman pit
- LIA/Roman ditch
- LIA/Roman ditch (assumed)
- residual Roman material
- undated ditch
- cropmark/geophysical anomaly
- proposed trench location
- - - actual trench location

Fig 2 Area KR: distribution of trenches with interpretative comments.

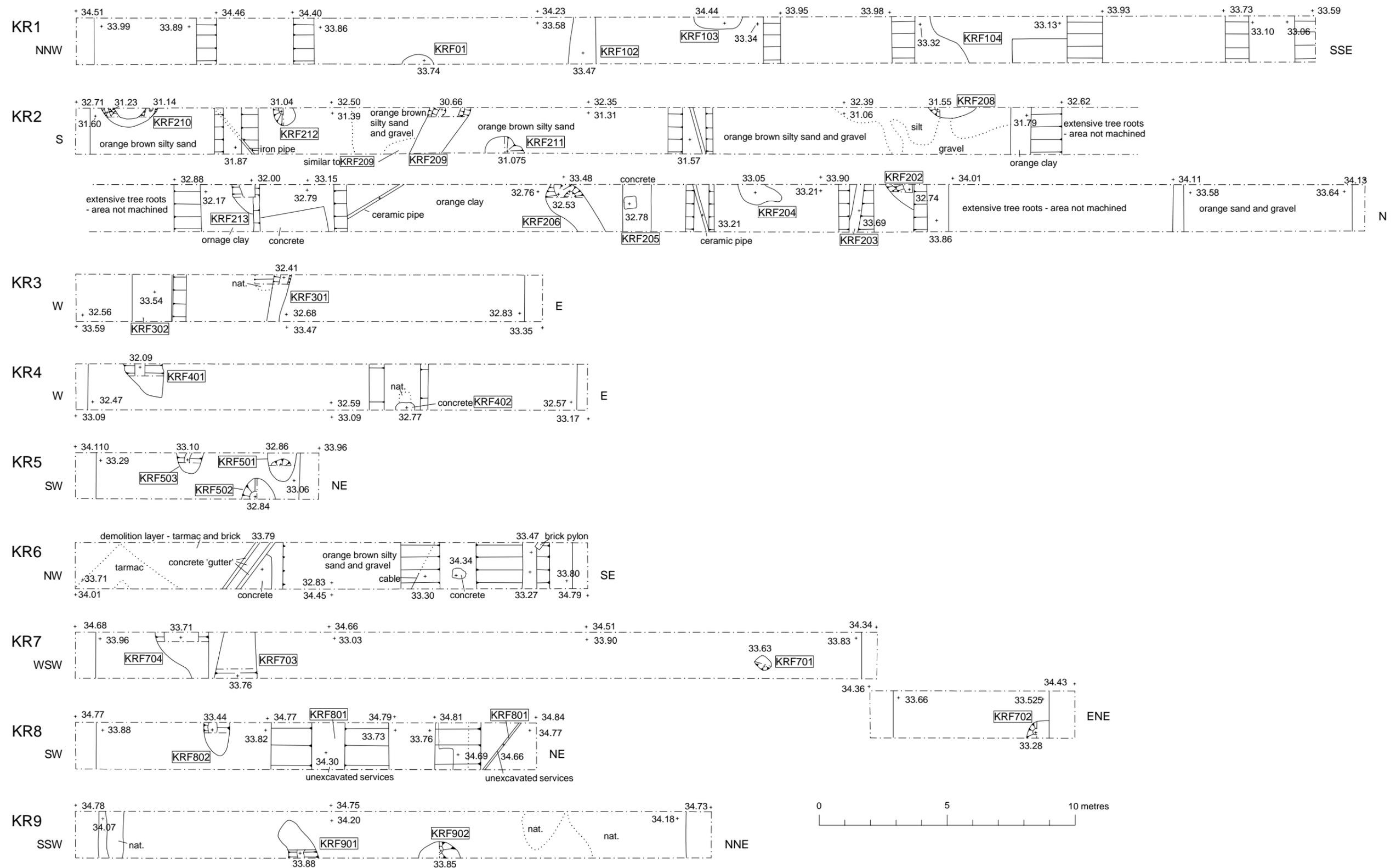


Fig 3 Area KR: trench plans KR1-KR9.

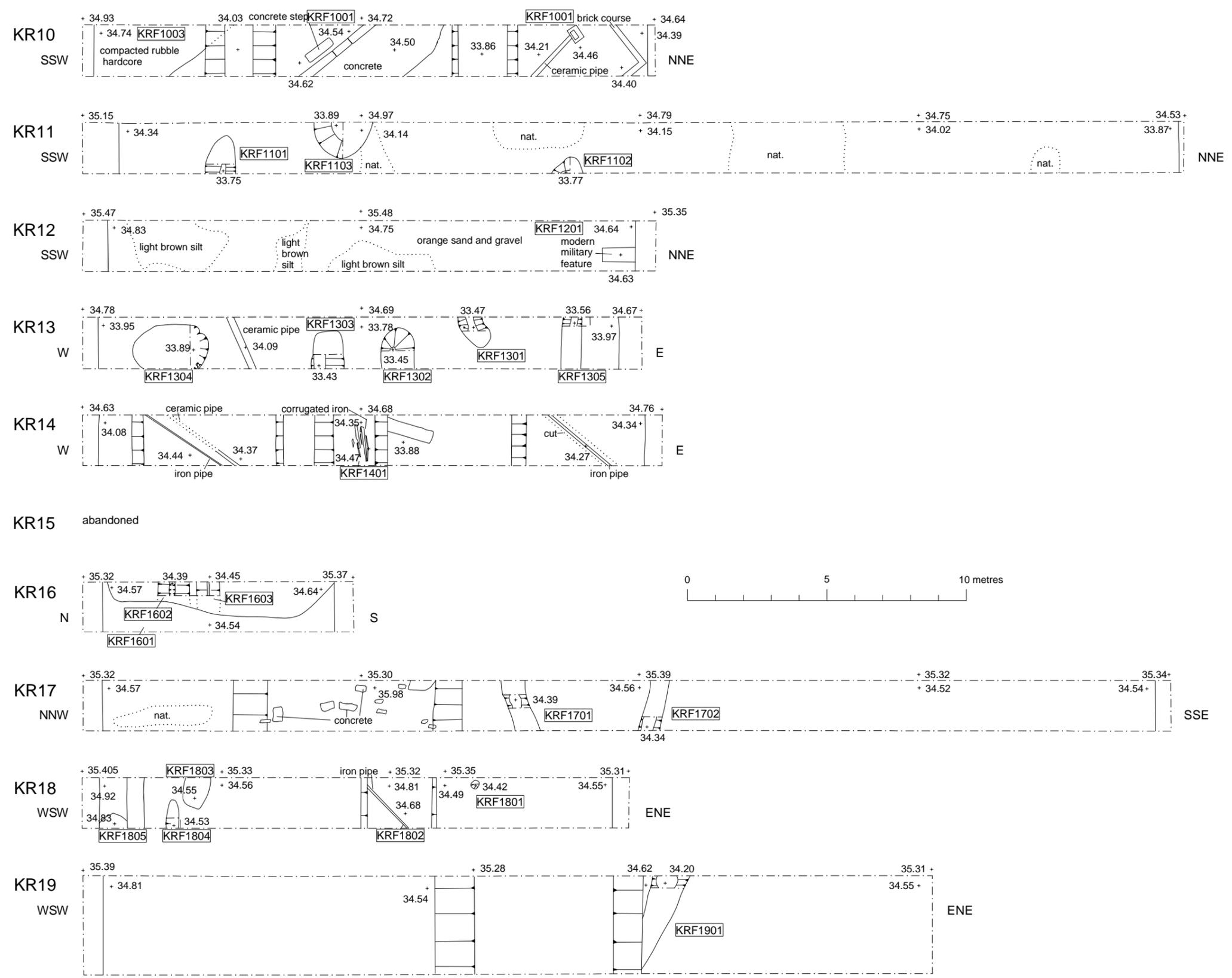


Fig 4 Area KR: trench plans KR10-KR19.

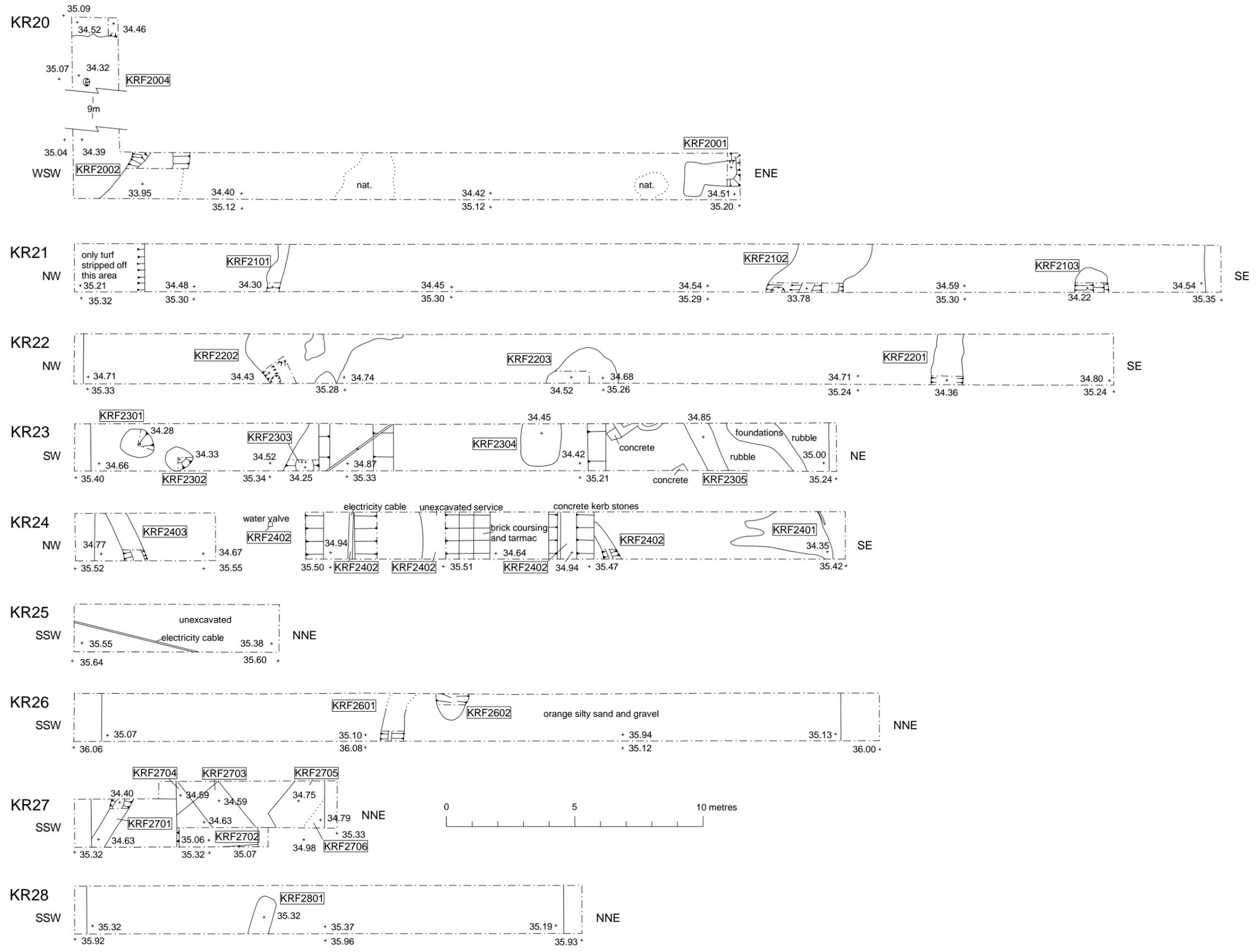


Fig 5 Area KR: trench plans KR20-KR28.

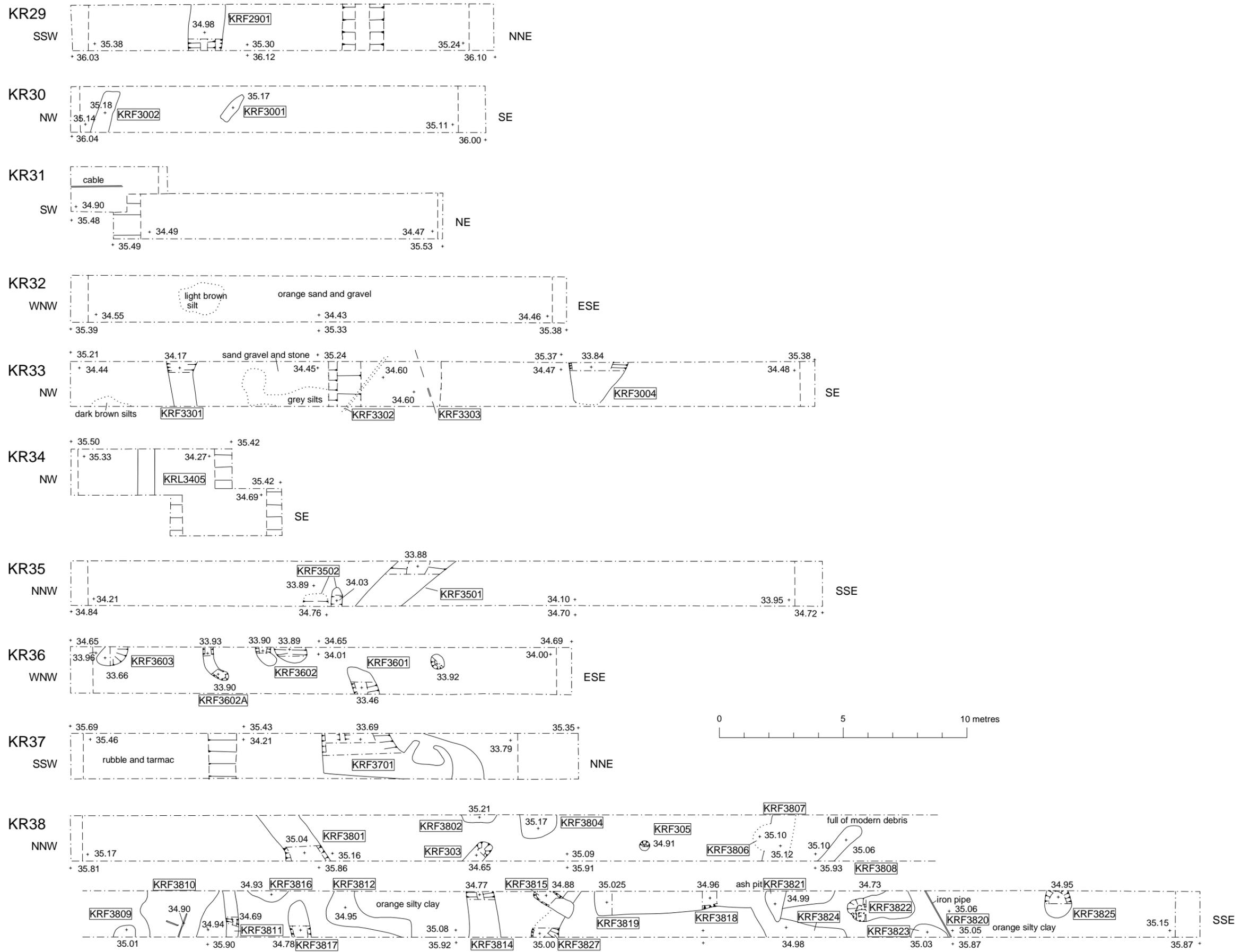


Fig 6 Area KR: trench plans KR29-KR38.

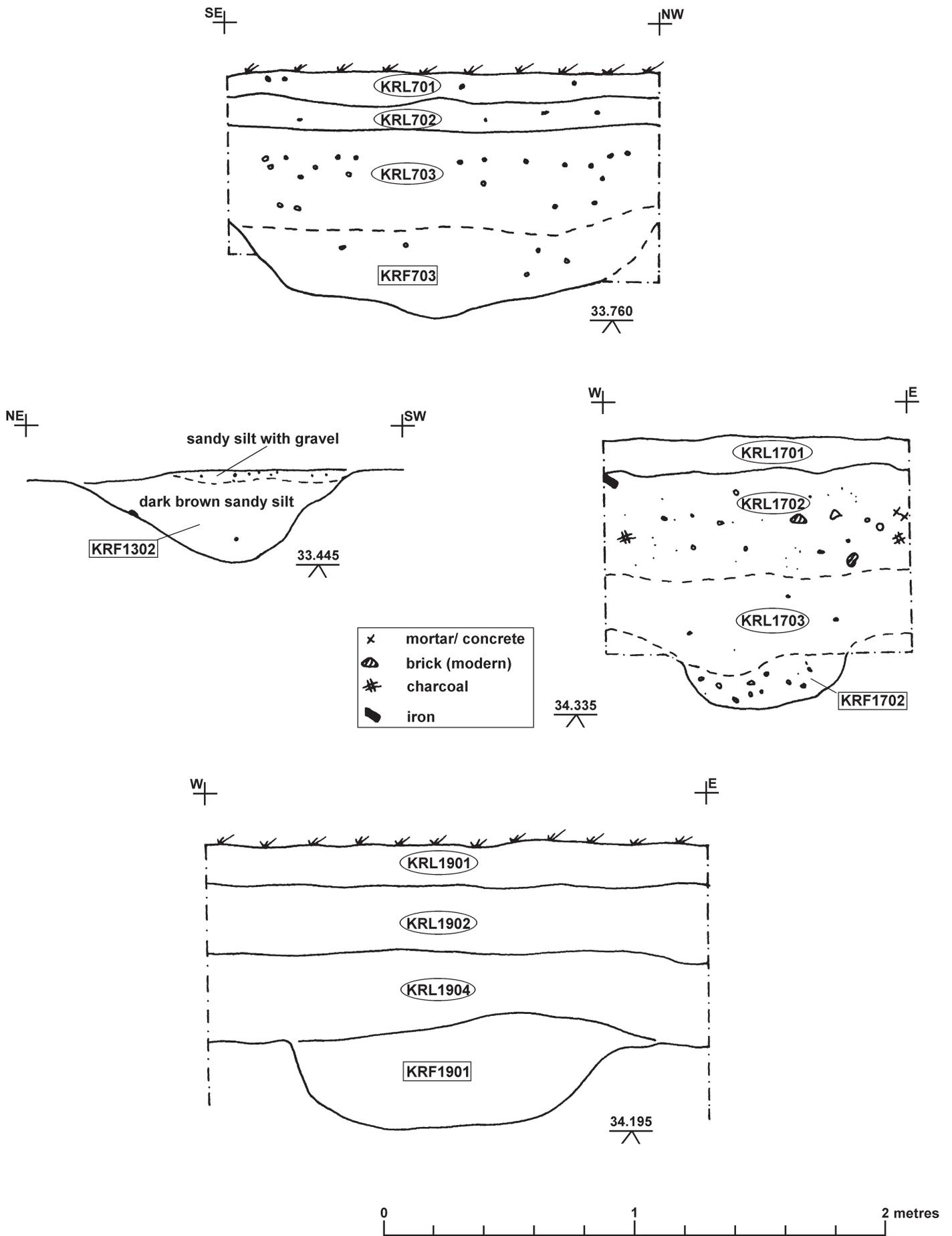


Fig 7 Area KR: section sheet 1 (trenches KR7, KR13, KR17, KR19).

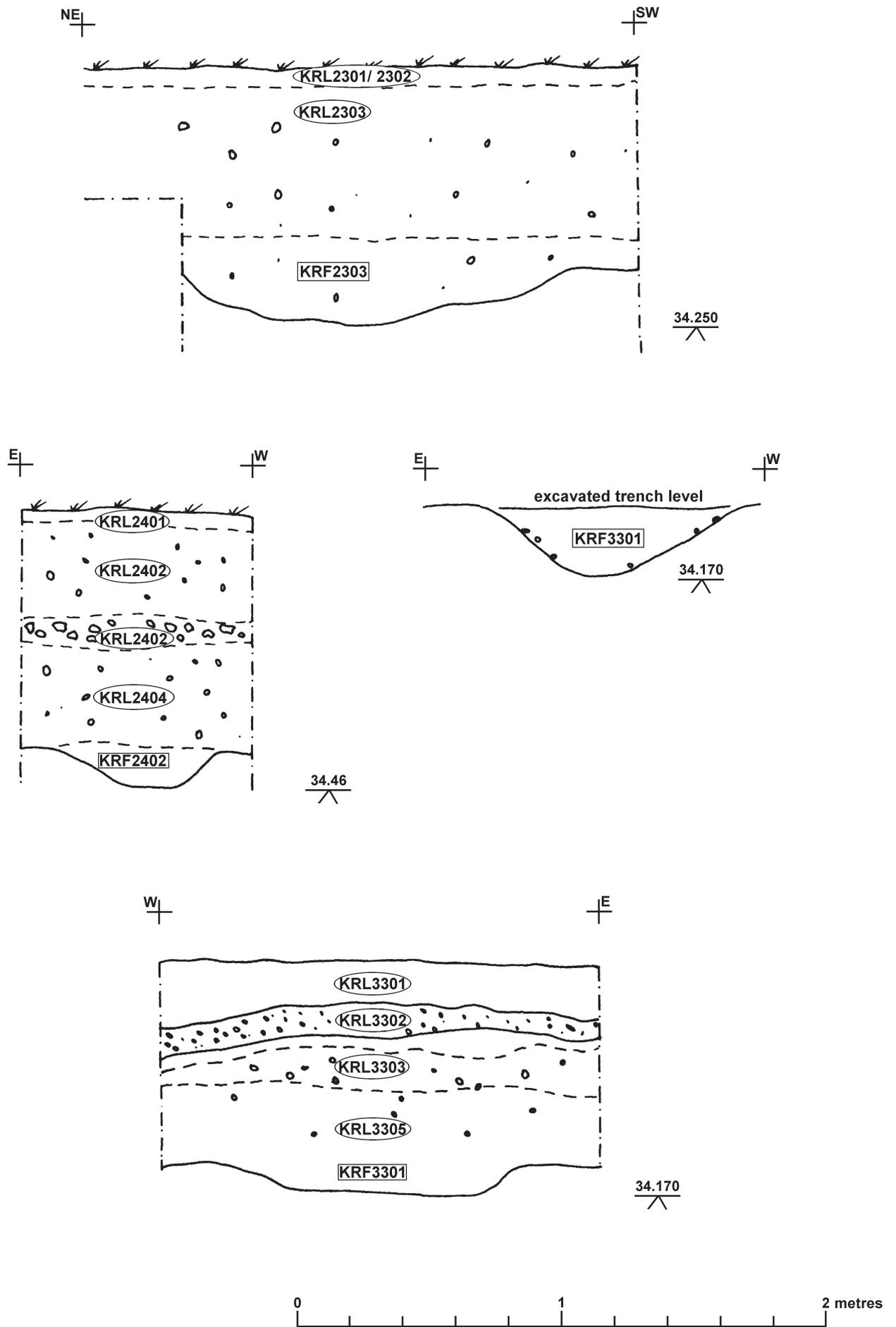


Fig 8 Area KR: section sheet 2 (trenches KR23, KR24, KR33).

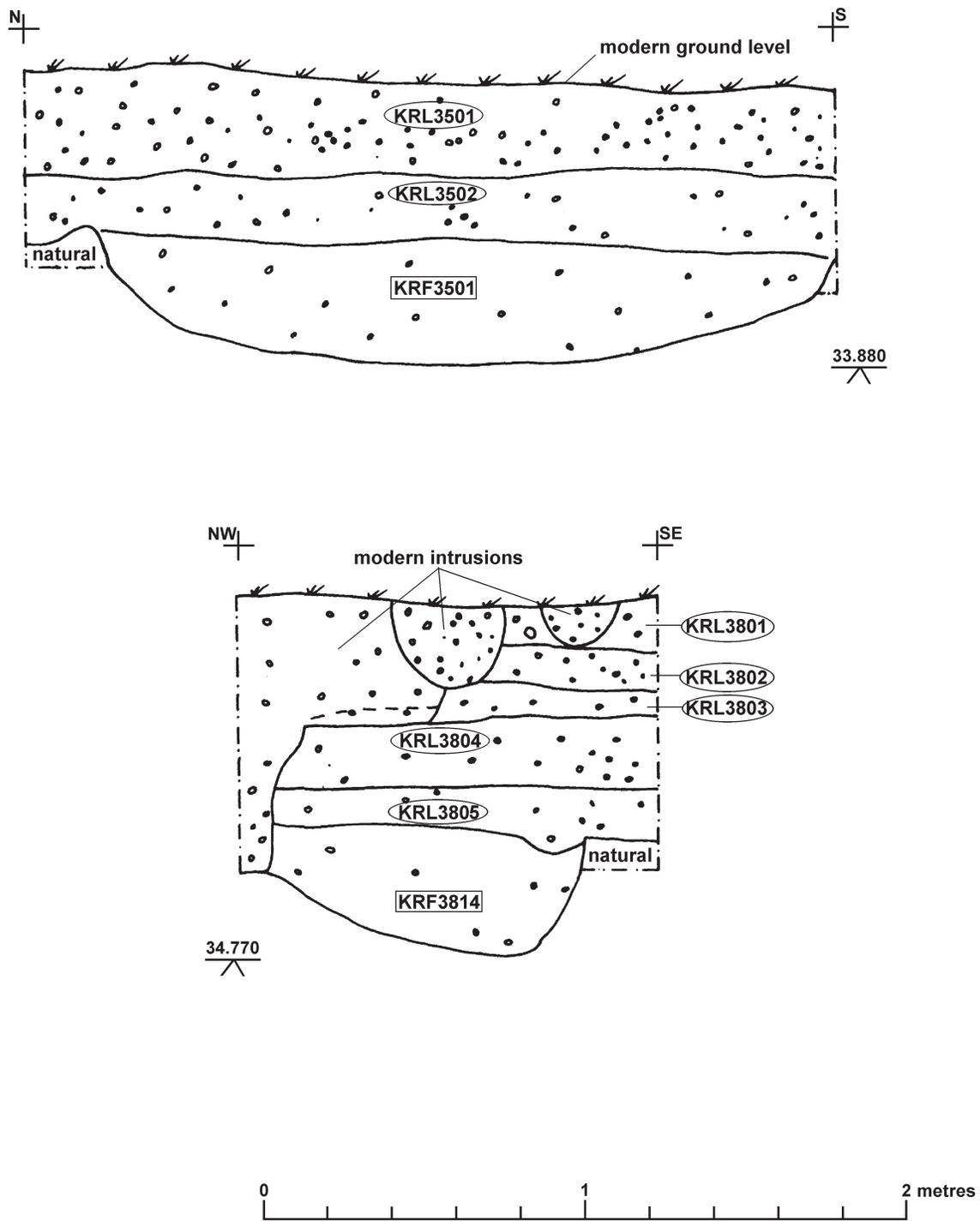


Fig 9 Area KR: section sheet 3 (trenches KR35, KR38).