An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex October 2003

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**commissioned by
K Smith Ltd
on behalf of
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Contents

1 Summary

Two archaeological trial-trenches were excavated in the car park to the rear of the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex. The earliest archaeological features recorded were a gravel surface (possibly a yard) and demolition debris from a Roman building. Later in the Roman period, this building was demolished and a thick layer of clay material was deposited over the earlier remains to raise the ground-level before a new building was constructed. A large building was erected, the evidence for which was four foundations on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment and robbed out in the Roman or medieval period. The alignments appear to match up with other Roman buildings recorded along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was for an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appear to be of high status, producing evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The Roman road which provided access to the walled part of the town from the north was not encountered during the evaluation, and nor were any Roman cremation burials.

The later Roman building was demolished, perhaps in the 3rd or early 4th century AD. There was a lack of evidence of medieval activity on the site except for the possible medieval robbing of the Roman foundations for use of the materials in buildings elsewhere. Pits or ditches dug for rubbish or cess in the post-medieval period indicate that this area formed a back yard to a building at this time. A yard surface was subsequently laid on top of these features.

In modern times, more pits were dug, the ground-level was raised and various brick buildings were erected and demolished.

It is expected that the Roman buildings continue underneath the hotel extension and the main hotel building. It is also possible that remains of the Roman road may be encountered.

2 Introduction

2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out by trial-trenching by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex. The application site is located on the northern side of Colchester, on the eastern side of North Station Road at NGR TL 99358 25899 (Fig 1).

2.2 Planning permission has been applied for (application no F/COL/03/1041) to demolish the flat-roofed extension to the rear of the hotel and construct a new, larger three-storey rear extension for residential use. A detached house to be constructed at the eastern end of the site has already been granted planning permission.

2.3 The 20m x 50m development site is on level ground, in a tarmac car park to the rear of the Globe Hotel, which is a Grade II listed Victorian building (Fig 2).

2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification submitted by CAT which followed a brief written by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO).

2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999, updated 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996, updated 2002), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (1999).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

3.1 The re-development is proposed to take place within an area of archaeological potential. It is located outside the area of the Roman legionary fortress and the walled, later Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis.* To the south of the site, substantial structural remains of the Roman suburb which existed on the northern approach to the town have been recorded. Some 100m south-west of the development site, a large Roman house was identified immediately north of Victoria Chase during

construction work for the HSBC bank at 26 North Station Road (Crummy 1992, 346; Essex Heritage Conservation Record or EHCR 12514.)

3.2   150m south-west of the development site, a mosaic pavement was exposed in 1880. This was on the south side of Victoria Chase (*TEAS* **2**, 189-190; EHCR 12517). A tessellated pavement was discovered in front of the Victoria Inn in 1929 (Crummy 1992, 346; EHCR 12623). These houses are part of the known Roman suburb which was partly excavated in 1979 some 400m to the south of the site at Middleborough, before the construction of the former Royal London building (Brooks & Crummy 1984, 155-83).

3.3   During an archaeological evaluation carried out by CAT next to the Victoria Inn in summer 2001, part of a previously unknown mosaic adjacent to an unusual Roman sunken structure, possibly a tank, was recorded. The sunken structure, which consisted of an *opus signinum* lining showing evidence of having been surrounded by a stone wall, contained a large amount of broken pieces of painted wall-plaster as well as a later 4th-century coin. These and other features form the remains of a 2nd- or 3rd-century house which occupied part of the Roman suburb and fronted the Roman road leading north out of the town (CAT Report 163).

3.4   CAT carried out a watching brief on the above site in 2002 which revealed more of a high-status Roman residence which had been rebuilt at least once. The evidence consisted of robbed-out and demolished walls, and parts of two mosaics as well as tessellated and herringbone floors. A scarcity of stratified pottery made dating difficult; however, the site is thought to have been in use from the early 2nd to the late 3rd century AD (CAT Report 193).

3.5   The course of the Roman road leading north out of the North Gate lies several metres to the east of North Station Road, making it likely that Roman buildings on the development site had a frontage onto this road.

3.6   A single Roman cremation burial has been recorded 100m to the east on Mercers Way (UAD no 1220), and there was the possibility of more being encountered during the evaluation.

4   Aim
The aim of the evaluation was to record the extent, nature and complexity of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area.

5   Methods
5.1   The fieldwork was carried out between the 20th and 22nd October 2003. Two 1.5m-wide trial-trenches were excavated, both on an east to west alignment. The trenches had to be carefully placed to avoid buried services and to allow for access into the car park while the evaluation was being carried out. Trench 1 (T1) measured 5.4m and Trench 2 (T2) measured 5.7m in length. A mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the soil in spits until archaeological features or natural ground were exposed.

5.2   Individual records of layers and features were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. All exposed subsoil features, archaeological deposits or negative features were manually cleaned, drawn in section and plan, and examined in sufficient detail to allow their nature, date and importance to be assessed.

5.3   Section drawings of features and layers were made at a scale of 1:10. Plans of features were made at a scale of 1:20.

5.4   A register was compiled of finds. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.

5.5   Standard 'record' shots of contexts were taken with a digital camera. Colour transparencies were used for overall site shots and all important contexts.

5.6   Spoil heaps were metal-detected for finds.

6   Results

6.1   **Trench 1** (Figs 3-4)

Trench 1 was placed towards the eastern edge of the site, near where the detached house is to be erected. It was not placed right at the eastern boundary due to the build-up of the level of the car park above the level of Albert Street, which would have necessitated the digging of a deeper trench.

200mm of tarmac and brick rubble base were machined away (Layer or L1) to expose a hard cinder and stone layer representing the previous car-park surface (L2). This overlaid L3, a mid-brown silty sand mixed with modern brick and mortar rubble, interpreted as being a make-up layer for the previous car-park surface. In some places L2 was absent. A shallow east to west brick foundation which cut into L2 and L3 was seen in plan only and removed (Feature or F10). Under L3, starting between 550mm and 650mm below the current ground-level, a post-medieval accumulation layer of grey clayey silt was encountered (L5). This layer contained mortar and charcoal flecks, Roman pot, oyster shells, coal and brick fragments. Cutting into L5 was a shallow brick foundation on a north to south alignment (F7) of probable post-medieval date. This foundation was removed but was seen in both north- and south-facing sections. The building to which this foundation belonged appears to have been knocked down fairly recently as L3 brick rubble had been dumped over it. L5 sealed L6, a grey clayey silt, similar to L5 but with more mortar flecks. This layer contained one piece of peg-tile and sealed Roman layers.

In the western part of the trench, from 750mm below current ground-level, a dark yellow brown clay layer was recorded (L7). It was clean except for occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar. A very small amount of peg-tile in this layer may have been intrusive from L6 or F9. This deposit was stripped off down to 1.4m below current ground-level, and it became obvious that although Roman it was too thick to be a clay floor and too wide to be a clay wall. A scoop was taken out with the machine to determine the depth of L7, and it was found to extend to 1.8m below current ground-level where natural grey clay was recorded (L8).

In the eastern half of the trench, cutting into L7 and sealed by L5 and L6, a large robbed Roman foundation was observed (F1) on a NNW to SSE alignment. The eastern limit of the feature was not established because it was beyond the limit of the trench, which could not be extended due to a drain grate to the east. However, the feature was at least 2.2m wide. The trench dug to rob the foundation had straight sides and was filled with mid to light brown slightly clayey sandy silt with abundant septaria, other stone, Roman tile, yellowish mortar and *opus signinum*. A deep scoop was taken out with the machine to determine the depth and, although the base was not reached, it was established that the feature was at least 1.2m deep. The Roman foundation which had been robbed was extremely wide and deep, but it could not be established whether it was robbed in the late Roman or medieval period.

A small straight-sided feature (F2), possibly a post-hole, had been cut through F1 and L6, but it appeared to be sealed by L5. It was filled by dark brown moist sandy silt and there was no dating evidence from it. F2 looked like a borehole but was not cut from high up.

At the western end of the trench, a modern straight-sided pit (F9) cut L5 and L7. Its fill consisted of yellowy brown sandy silt with abundant stones and tile flecks plus one piece of slate.

At the western end of Trench 1, part of another robbed Roman wall foundation (F8) was seen in the north- and west-facing sections only and not in plan. F8 cut into L7 and was sealed by L5. Its fill was the same as that of F1 and it would seem to be on the same alignment. The depth of this feature was not established. Another modern pit had been cut though L5 and filled in with modern brick rubble and mortar. This may have been the result of the filling in of some sort of pot-hole with left-over material from one of the brick buildings.

6.2   **Trench 2** (Figs 3 and 5)

Trench 2 was positioned as near to the Globe Hotel building as possible. Tarmac with a brick rubble base and the underlying old cinder car-park surface were removed (L1 and L2). This material overlaid a dark brown sandy silt layer (L11) containing smashed brick, coal and common small to medium stones. A particular

concentration of bricks within this layer was given a context number (F15). L11 is interpreted as being a make-up layer for L2, similar to L3 in Trench 1. A modern brick foundation cut this layer, crossing the trench in a north to south direction (F6). It was sealed by L2 and may be contemporary with the east-west foundation recorded in Trench 1 (F10) as the bricks were of the same dimensions. A soakaway filled with brick rubble also cut into this layer (F5). The removal of L11 exposed a pale yellow brown, very stony sand layer (L9). This was 150-300mm thick and contained peg-tile and 15th- to 16th-century pottery. It is interpreted as being a post-medieval yard surface. At the western edge of the trench, the layer became mixed with orange brown clayey sand with fewer stones (L10, now thought to be part of L9).

In the southern part of the trench, L9 sealed L13, a probable medieval dark grey brown loam layer. In the north section of the trench, L9 sealed an accumulation of dark yellow brown loamy clay with some charcoal and *opus signinum* fragments, probably medieval in date (L15). In the extreme south-western section of the trench, L9 sealed L16, a medieval accumulation layer or dump of mixed olive brown/grey brown/yellow brown clay loam. L16 contained occasional charcoal fragments and Roman tile fragments. After these layers had been stripped off, L7 was exposed at 750mm below current ground-level. This was a continuation of the dark yellow brown, clean clay layer that had been recorded in Trench 1.

Cutting through L7, L13 and L15 and sealed by L9 was another robbed-out Roman foundation (F3). This was filled by mid brown sandy silt with abundant *opus signinum* and yellowish mortar plus septaria, Roman pottery, Roman roof-tile and flue tile. The trench had been dug to rob a wall or foundation to a Roman building. This wall may have been an internal wall as it was much narrower than F1 in Trench 1. It was on the same alignment as F1 and is likely to have been part of the same building. Where it was dug out to its base, the robber trench was found to have straight sides and to be 1.1m deep. Another robbed Roman foundation was recorded in the north-western corner of the trench (F14). This appeared to be aligned at right angles to F3 and had the same fill. This feature was not excavated as it was just outside the limit of the trench. It is likely that these foundations were robbed in the early medieval period as they cut medieval layers L13, L15, and L16.

L7 had been deposited on top of a compact pale yellow brown sand layer with abundant small to medium stones (L12). This is interpreted as being an earlier Roman yard surface or floor make-up. In the western end of Trench 2, at its base, L7 sealed a Roman demolition layer (L14). This consisted of olive brown sandy clay containing common wall-plaster, *opus signinum*, Roman tile, oyster shells, mortar and a piece of box flue tile. L14 is contemporary with the stony surface L12 as they are both sealed by L7.

Robber trenches F14 and F3 and demolition debris L14 had been cut by later rubbish-pits/ditches F12 and F13 in the post-medieval period. F12 was filled by a dark grey brown loam and contained common Roman tile and mortar plus peg-tile, animal bone, slag and 15th- to 17th-century pottery. The Roman finds in the feature derived from the demolition material that the pit had cut through. F13 had the same fill as F12 and contained some Roman pot and tile and a small amount of painted wall-plaster as well as some animal bone. F12 or F13 were originally thought to be a single feature, and therefore some finds could be from either one. Both these pits were sealed by yard surface L9/L10. A third pit or ditch (F4) cut L7 and L12. F4 was smaller than F12 and F13 and straight-sided. Its uppermost fill consisted of a dark yellow brown clay. Lower down, the fill was of olive brown clay with charcoal flecks, which may indicate a cess-pit. Although the top of F4 was well down at 1.1m below ground-level, the peg-tile in its fill dates it to the medieval period or later. The feature was not excavated to its base. Interestingly, one small piece of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill of F4, suggesting that the pit was dug through pre-Roman deposits which were not reached by the evaluation trenches.

7   Discussion

The earliest archaeological features exposed were a gravel surface (L12, possibly a yard) and demolition debris from a Roman building (L14) which showed evidence of having had a heating system, tiled roof and painted walls. There was no evidence of this earlier Roman building beneath L7 in Trench 1. Later in the Roman period, this building was demolished, and clay material (L7) was deposited over the earlier remains to raise the ground-level in preparation for the construction of a large new building. The evidence for this was four robbed-out foundations constructed on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment (F1, F3, F8, F14), which appears to correspond with those of other Roman buildings recorded along North Station Road. Re-used tile in the robber trenches was likely to have been taken from the earlier building. The high status of this building is confirmed by evidence of a heating system, a tiled roof and possibly painted walls. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches (F1) suggests that it was to carry an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. F3 must be the remains of a foundation for an interior wall as it is narrower, although it is still substantial at 600mm wide and over 1m deep. Dating of the Roman features cannot be precise due to the small amount of Roman pottery present. However, what was found is largely 2nd to 3rd century AD in date with nothing definitely of the 1st or 4th centuries. F1 and F8 may have been robbed in the Roman or medieval period, but it appears that F3 and F14 were robbed in the medieval period. The Roman road was not encountered during the evaluation. The gravel surface L12 could not have been a road because it was sealed by the Roman clay layer L7. There was no evidence of Roman cremation burials.

The later Roman building was demolished, perhaps in the 3rd or early 4th century. There was a lack of medieval features except for the robber trenches which may have been dug in the 11th and 12th centuries. If they do date to this period then the layers that are cut by them must be early medieval or earlier, which is problematic for L13 and L15 in Trench 2 as they contain peg-tile. The presence of peg-tile would normally date a deposit to the post-medieval period. The only explanation is that the peg-tile and one piece of post-medieval brick in L13 and L15 were actually from the layer above and were assigned to the wrong layer. Pits or ditches for rubbish or cess were dug in the post-medieval period (F2?, F4, F12 and F13), which indicates that this area formed a back yard to a building at this time. These pits have disturbed Roman remains but have not totally destroyed them. A yard surface was subsequently laid on top of these features (L9/L10). It may be that the medieval ground surface and possibly demolition debris from the later Roman building was truncated somewhat before this yard was created.

Another pit (F9) was dug, a pot-hole (F11) was filled in and a brick building was erected and demolished (F7) in the late post-medieval or modern period, before the whole site was raised by 400mm using topsoil-type material and brick rubble (L3 and L11). This raising of the level took place in the last 150 years. The two brick buildings represented by F6 & F10 are parts of buildings which appear on the 1876 OS map (scale 1:500). These were associated with soakaway F15. After these buildings had been demolished, a cinder and stone surface was laid over their remains (L2). The last phase of activity was the recent re-surfacing of the car park with brick rubble and tarmac (L1).

Some of the deeper post-medieval and modern pits have destroyed parts of the Roman features and layers, but the building up of the ground-level has protected these remains from further disturbance. It is expected that the Roman building remains continue underneath the hotel extension and the main hotel building. It is also possible that remains of the Roman road which provided access to the walled part of the town from the north may be encountered.

8   Acknowledgements

9   References

Brooks, H, & Crummy, P	1984	'Excavations at Middleborough 1979', 155-209, in Crummy 1984
CAT Report 163		An archaeological evaluation at North Station Road (adjacent to the Victoria Inn), Colchester (unpublished CAT archive report), by K Orr, 2001
CAT Report 193		An archaeological watching brief at North Station Road (adjacent to the Victoria Inn), Colchester (unpublished CAT archive report), by K Orr, 2002
Crummy, P	1984	*Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester*, Colchester Archaeological Report **3**
Crummy, P	1992	*Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and miscellaneous sites in Colchester, 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report **6**
TEAS **2**	1884	'Discovery of a Roman pavement at Colchester', in *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, **2**, 189-90, by J Joslin

10   Glossary

box flue tile	hollow box tile to transport hot air up a wall of a Roman building – part of a heating system
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHCR	Essex Heritage Conservation Record, Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain contexts'
Iron Age	period from *c* 700 BC-AD 43
medieval	period from AD 1066 to *c* AD 1500
modern	period from the mid 19th century to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
opus signinum	pinkish Roman mortar containing crushed tile, often used as a base for floors
post-medieval	period from *c* AD 1500 to the mid 19th century
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *c* AD 410
septaria	Roman building stone
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, Colchester Museums

11   Archive deposition

The finds and paper archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2003.245.

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Appendix 1: Roman and Iron Age pottery
by Stephen Benfield

Introduction
Material from each bag was listed, weighed and identified. The results are summarised in the table below.

Discussion
17 sherds of Roman pottery and 1 sherd of possible Iron Age pottery were examined (271g in all). The small quantity makes it hard to say anything definite about the pottery, but of the datable Roman sherds most are of a 2nd- to 3rd-century date, with nothing definitely earlier or later.

CAM form numbers refer to Hawkes and Hull (1947) and Hull (1963). Fabrics refer to Symonds and Wade (1999).

Table: list of Roman and prehistoric pottery by context and weight.

Find bag no	Context	Description	Date	Weight in g
1	L5, T1	Roman grey ware (Fabric GX)	Roman	10
4	L7, T1	Base of a storage jar (Fabric HZ), abraded	1st/2nd-3rd century	42
6	F13, T2	Grey ware sherd (Fabric GX)	Roman	5
8	F13, T2	1 rim sherd of a CAM 37/38 bowl (Fabric KX)	2nd-3rd century	47
8	F13, T2	1 rim of a CAM 268 jar (Fabric GX)	2nd-early 4th century	16
9	F12, T2	Small quantity of grey ware sherds inc 1 rim of a CAM 268 jar	2nd-early 4th century	60
9	F12, T2	1 fragment of buff/pink ware beaker (Fabric DJ)	Roman	8
10	L14, T2	1 fragment of black-burnished type 2 ware dish (Fabric GB)	early 2nd-mid/late 3rd century	17
12	F3, T2	1 piece of Central Gaulish samian mortaria (Drag 54)	later 2nd century	48
12	F3, T2	1 fragment of a grey ware storage jar (Fabric HZ)	1st/2nd-3rd century	14
13	F4, T2	small fragment of prehistoric pottery	Iron Age?	4
Total				**271**

References

Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R   1947   *Camulodunum*, RRCSAL, **14**

Hull, MR   1963   *The Roman potters' kilns of Colchester*, RRCSAL, **21**

Symonds, R P, & Wade, S   1999   *Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86*, Colchester Archaeological Report **10**, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom

Appendix 2: medieval and later pottery, brick and tile
by Howard Brooks

Introduction
This is the report on the medieval and later finds excavated by CAT from the evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, in October 2003. The archive will be deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2003.245.

The material
A total of 12 sherds (267g), 13 peg-tile fragments (521g), and two pieces of brick (1,114g) was examined. The material was classified according to Cotter (2000). Material from each bag was listed, weighed and identified. These lists are summarised in the table below.

Discussion
This small group was largely a late medieval and post-medieval collection, dominated by Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), with single sherds of medieval grey ware (Fabric 20) and post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40).

   The Fabric 21a included joining fragments of one unglazed cooking pot with a lid-seated rim, similar to Cotter 2000 figure 20, no 115. An associated 'scalloped' base is probably from the same pot, which probably dates from the 15th or 16th century.

   The brick from T2, F6 is an unfrogged brick 50mm thick but with no complete length or breadth. This is likely to be 17th century in date, but it could be as late as 1850.

   The peg-tile is either medieval or post-medieval, the latter being more likely.

Table: weight of fabric types per bag and context.

Bag	Trench	Context	Fabric 20	Fabric 21a	Fabric 40	brick	peg-tile	group date
02	T1	L6					79g	post-medieval
04	T1	L7					19g	post-medieval
05	T2	F12/F13			7g		210g	16th-17th century
09	T2	F12	12g	233g			64g	15th-16th century, plus residual Roman
11	T2	L9		15g			0	15th-16th century
13	T2	F4					27g	post-medieval
14	T2	L13				79g	37g	post-medieval
15	T2	F6				1035g	0	17th century-1850
17	T2	L9					85g	post-medieval
Total			**12g**	**248g**	**7g**	**1114g**	**521g**	**1902g**

Reference

Cotter, John   2000   *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1985*, Colchester Archaeological Report **7**

Appendix 3: Site data
Site context list

Location	Context	Description	Context date
T1 and T2	L1	Tarmac and brick rubble – car-park surface and base	modern
T1 and T2	L2	Compacted cinder and stone layer – previous car-park surface	modern
T1	L3	Brick rubble layer under L1 and L2 with mortar, stone and one block of concrete, mixed with a mid brown silty sand – a make-up layer, similar to L11	modern
T1	L5	Accumulation of grey brown clayey silt with mortar and charcoal flecks; contained Roman pottery and one fragment of coal	post-medieval or modern
T1	L6	Accumulation of grey clayey silt, possibly the same as L5 but with more frequent mortar flecks; contained fragments of tile including 1 fragment of peg-tile - sealed F1 and L7	post-medieval
T1 and T2	L7	Thick deposit of clean dark yellow brown clay, up to 900mm thick in T1; contained charcoal flecks and patches of mortar, more orangey at the base of layer – a deposit sealing earlier Roman features	later Roman, contemporary with F1, F3, F8 and F14
T1	L8	Natural grey silty clay	natural
T2	L9	Pale yellow brown very stony sand, possible yard surface; contained 15th- to 16th-century pot, peg-tile and Roman tile and oyster shells - a probable yard surface sealing robber trenches and post-medieval pits	post-medieval
T2	L10	Mixed pale yellow brown orange sandy clay with occasional small stones - probably part of L9	post-medieval
T2	L11	Dark grey brown loam with smashed modern brick, coal and common small medium stones – a make-up layer similar to L3	modern
T2	L12	Pale yellow brown very stony sand - possible yard surface	earlier Roman, contemporary with L14
T2	L13	Dark grey brown loam with intrusive peg-tile and post-medieval red brick - an accumulation layer? sealed by L9/L10	medieval
T2	L14	Olive brown sandy clay, slightly loamy; contained common wall-plaster, *opus signinum*, Roman roof-tile, box flue tile and mortar fragments - demolition layer sealed by L7	earlier Roman, contemporary with L12
T2	L15	Grey brown clay with some charcoal fragments, *opus signinum* fragments and intrusive peg-tile – accumulation or dumped layer sealed by L9/L10	medieval
T2	L16	Mixed olive brown, grey brown and yellow brown clay loam, occasional charcoal and Roman tile fragments – accumulation or dumped layer sealed by L9/L10	medieval
T1	F1	Wide, deep robbed Roman wall foundation running NNW to SSE filled by mid to light brown slightly clayey sandy silt with abundant septaria, other stone, yellowish mortar, *opus signinum*, and Roman brick (some reused)	Roman or medieval robbing of later Roman wall
T1	F2	Small straight-sided pit filled by dark brown, moist sandy silt	post-medieval
T2	F3	Robbed Roman wall foundation running NNW to SSE filled by grey brown sandy silt with abundant *opus signinum*, yellowish mortar, Roman roof-tile (some re-used) and box flue tile	medieval robbing of later Roman wall

T1	F4	Straight-sided ditch or pit containing peg-tile: upper fill - dark yellow brown clay lower fill - olive brown clay with charcoal flecks – possible cess-pit; contained one residual fragment of late prehistoric pottery	medieval
T2	F5	Brick-filled soakaway	modern
T2	F6	Brick wall foundation extending N-S	modern
T1	F7	Brick wall foundation extending N-S	post-medieval or modern
T1	F8	Robbed Roman wall foundation extending NNW to SSE filled by a mid to light brown slightly clayey sandy silt with yellowish mortar plus Roman tile fragments, septaria and other stone	Roman or medieval robbing of later Roman wall
T1	F9	Straight-sided pit filled by yellowy brown sandy silt with abundant stone and tile flecks and one piece of slate	modern
T1	F10	E-W brick wall foundation cutting L2 and L3	modern, contemporary with F6?
T1	F11	Dump of brick rubble and mortar, possibly to fill in a pot-hole	modern
T2	F12	Pit or ditch cutting L7 and F14 filled by dark grey brown loam with common Roman tile fragments, mortar, slag, animal bone, copper-alloy object, peg-tile and post-medieval pottery – rubbish-pit	post-medieval
T2	F13	Pit or ditch cutting L7, L14 and F3, filled by dark grey brown loam with Roman pottery, animal bone and a small amount of painted wall-plaster and daub – rubbish-pit	post-medieval
T2	F14	Robbed Roman wall foundation running SSW-NNE filled by grey brown sandy silt with abundant *opus signinum*, yellowish mortar, Roman tile	medieval robbing of later Roman wall
T2	F15	Concentration of smashed red brick within L11	modern

Finds list

find bag no	context	description	date	Weight in g
1	L5, Trench 1	pot	Roman	10
1	L5, Trench 1	septaria	Roman?	34
1	L5, Trench 1	oyster shells	undated	4
1	L5, Trench 1	coal	modern	3
2	L6, Trench 1	peg-tile	post-medieval?	80
2	L6, Trench 1	brick	Roman	148
3	F1, Trench 1	fragment of tile	Roman	35
3	F1, Trench 1	*opus signinum* mortar	Roman	1269
3	F1, Trench 1	Roman brick, one piece with mortar over broken edges (reused)	Roman	1027
4	L7, Trench 1	pot	Roman	55
4	L7, Trench 1	daub	Roman	42
4	L7, Trench 1	peg-tile	medieval or post- medieval – intrusive?	19
5	F12/F13, Trench 2	peg-tile	post-medieval	213
5	F12/F13, Trench 2	Cu-alloy machine-turned cylindrical object – intrusive?	modern	28

| 5	F12/F13, Trench 2	pot	post-medieval	7
6	F13, Trench 2	brick or tile fragment	Roman?	36
6	F13, Trench 2	daub	Roman?	30
6	F13, Trench 2	pot	Roman	5
6	F13, Trench 2	animal bone – leg bone and sacrum fragments (cow or sheep?)	undated	213
6	F13, Trench 2	painted wall-plaster	Roman	29
7	F3, Trench 2	animal bone	undated	7
7	F3, Trench 2	piece of box flue tile, 3 pieces of roof tile (inc one with *opus signinum* over broken edges – reused)	Roman	1304
8	F13, Trench 2	pottery	Roman	63
9	F12, Trench 2	slag	undated	112
9	F12, Trench 2	Fe nail	undated	51
9	F12, Trench 2	peg-tile	post-medieval	44
9	F12, Trench 2	pot	Roman	68
9	F12, Trench 2	pot fragments	late medieval/ early post-medieval	335
10	L14, Trench 2	pot	Roman	17
10	L14, Trench 2	painted wall-plaster	Roman	84
11	L9, Trench 2	pot	late medieval/early post-medieval	15
12	F12, Trench 2	animal bone - skull	undated	19
12	F3, Trench 2	pot	Roman	62
12	F3, Trench 2	*opus signinum*	Roman	249
12	F3, Trench 2	roof-tile, plus one piece of box flue tile with *opus signinum* attached	Roman	263
13	F4, Trench 2	pottery	Iron Age?	4
13	F4, Trench 2	peg-tile	medieval?	28
14	L13, Trench 2	brick and peg-tile	post-medieval – intrusive?	118
15	F6, Trench 2	brick	post-medieval	1049
16	L14, Trench 2	box flue tile with mortar attached	Roman	434
17	L9, Trench 2	peg-tile	post-medieval	86
17	L9, Trench 2	Roman tile (reused)	Roman	212
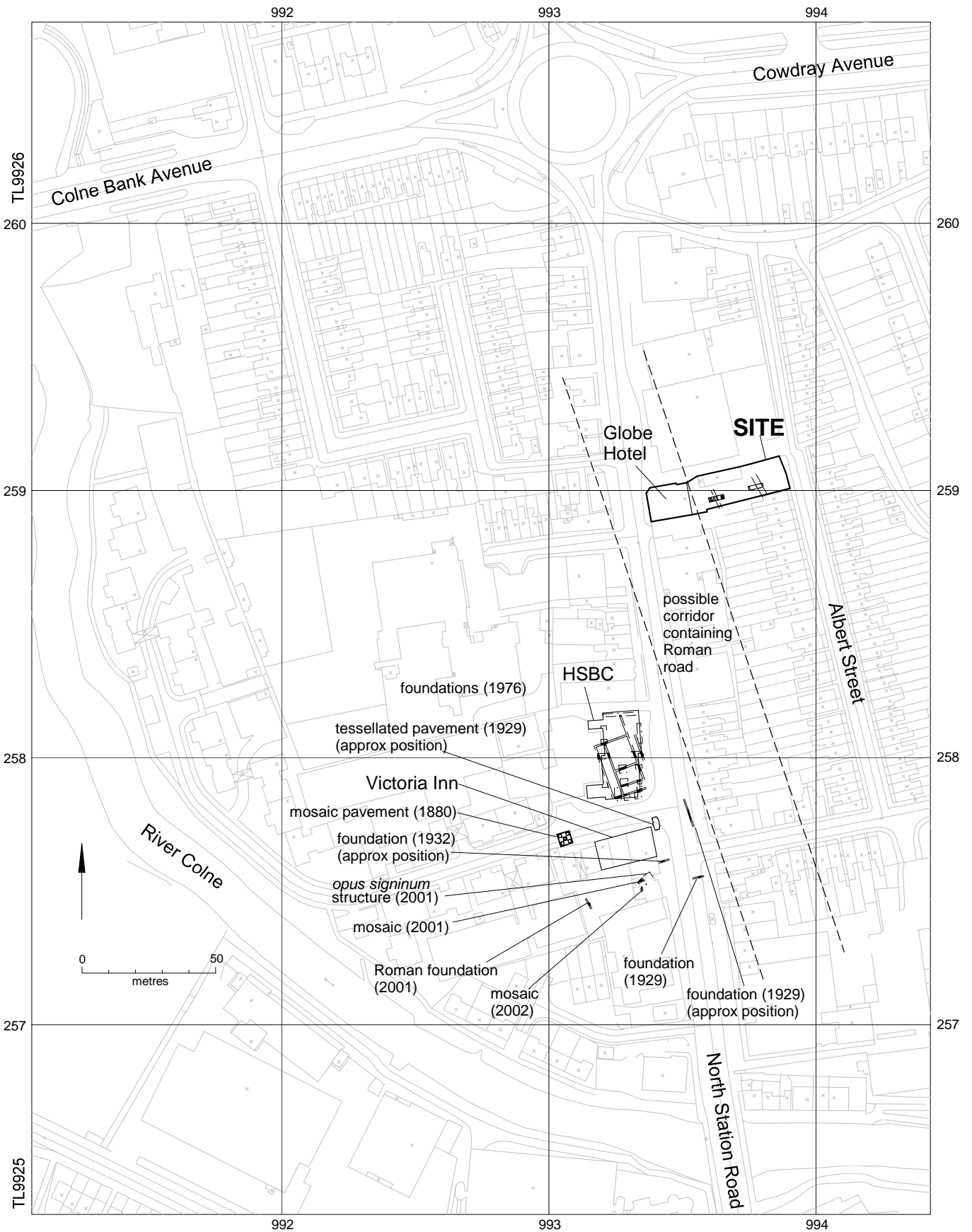
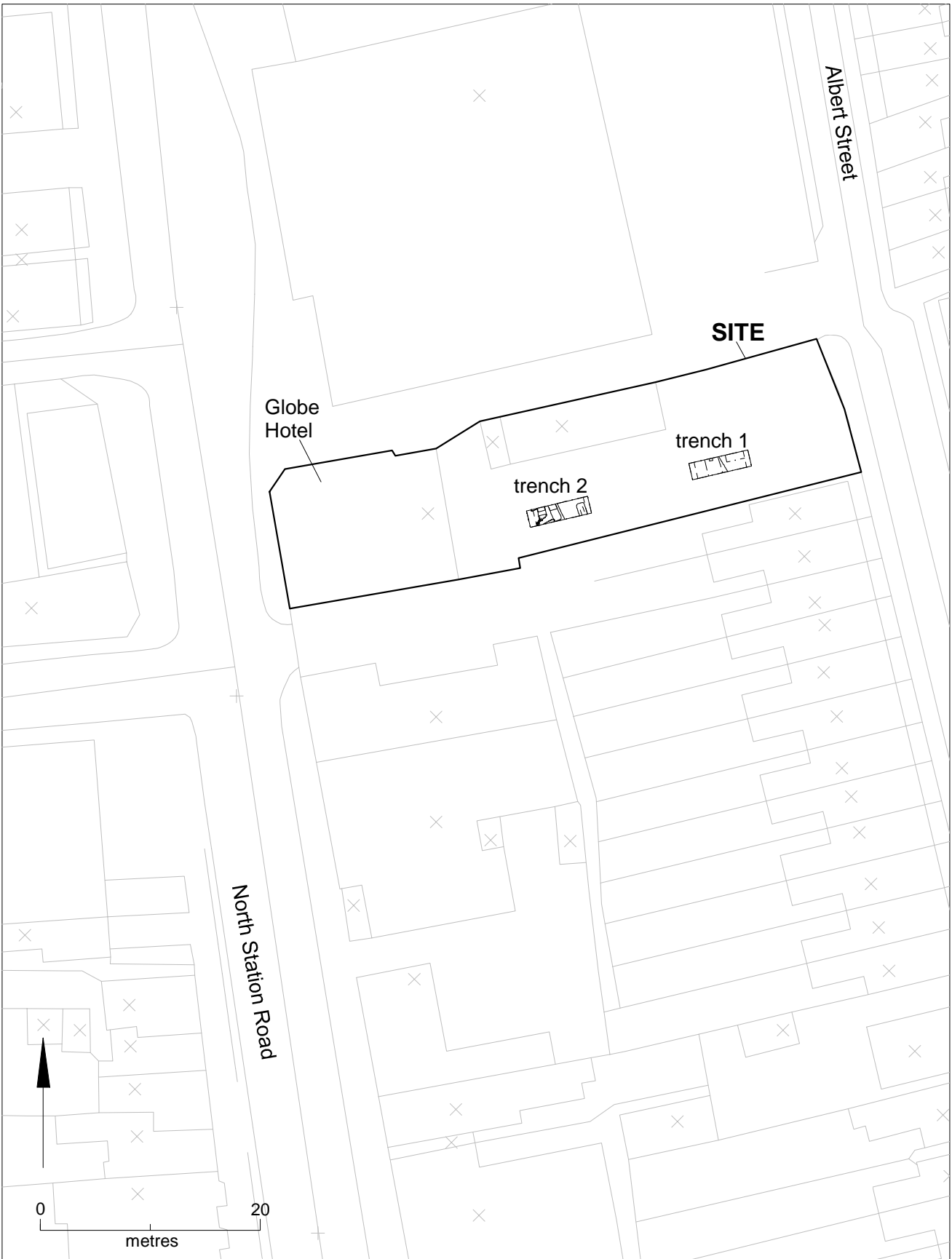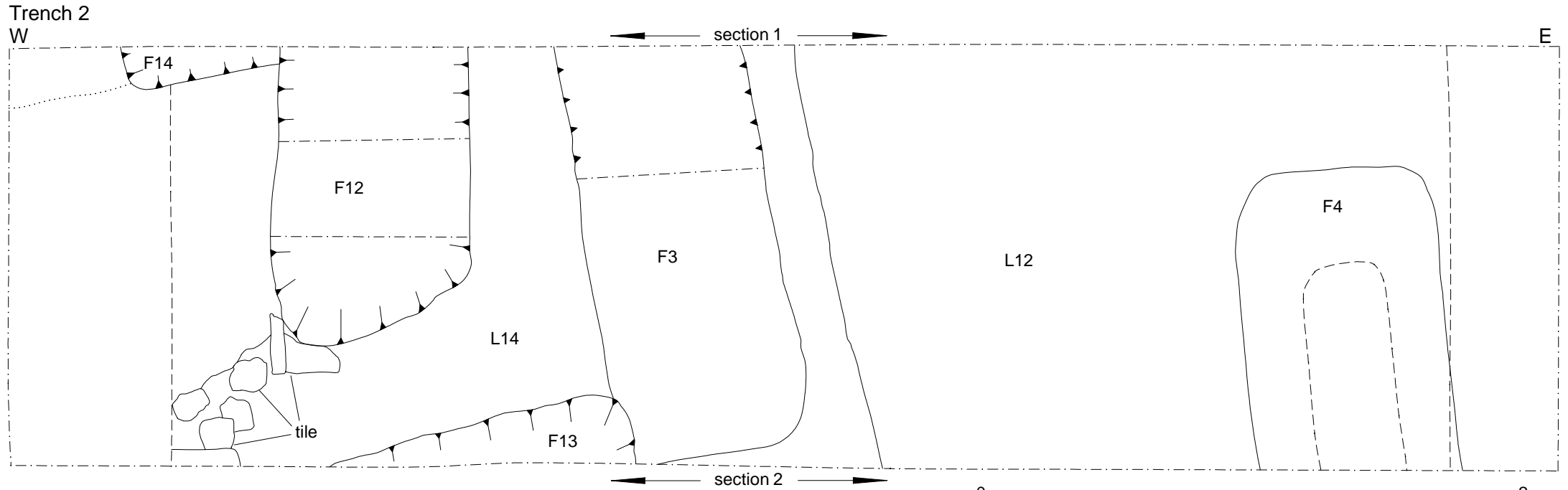Fig 1 Site location plan showing Roman buildings and possible position of Roman road.

Albert Street

SITE

Globe
Hotel

trench 1

trench 2

North Station Road

0   20

metres

Fig 2   Trench location plan.

Trench 1

W

E

section 4

L8

L7 L7 L7 F1

section 3

Trench 2

W

E

section 1

F14

F12

F3

F4

L12

L14

tile

F13

section 2

0 2

metres
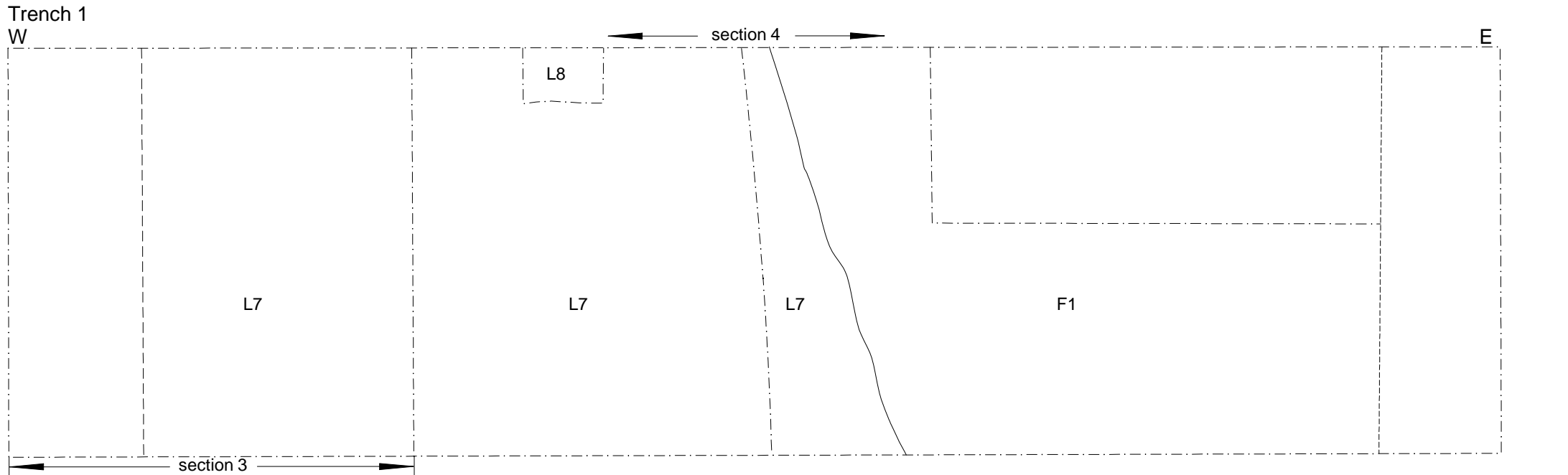
Fig 3 Plan of features in trenches 1 and 2.

W

E

L1

L5

pipe

F9

F7

L5

L6

L6

L6

F2

L7

L8

E

W

L1

L2

L3

F11

L5

F8

L7

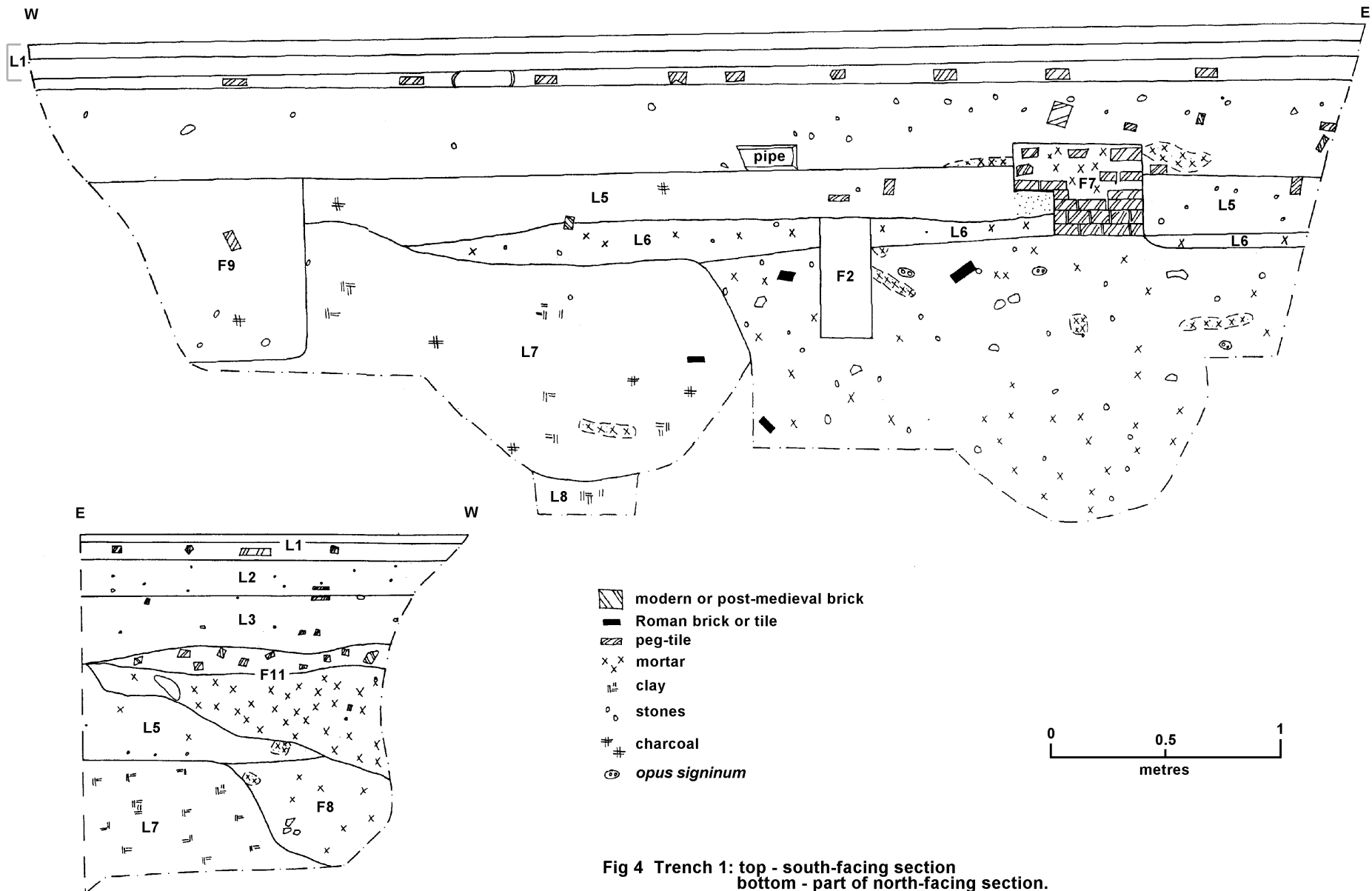|	modern or post-medieval brick
	Roman brick or tile
	peg-tile
×ₓ×	mortar
	clay
°₀	stones
	charcoal
	opus signinum

0   0.5   1

metres
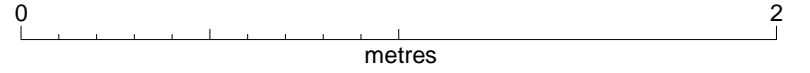
Fig 4 Trench 1: top - south-facing section
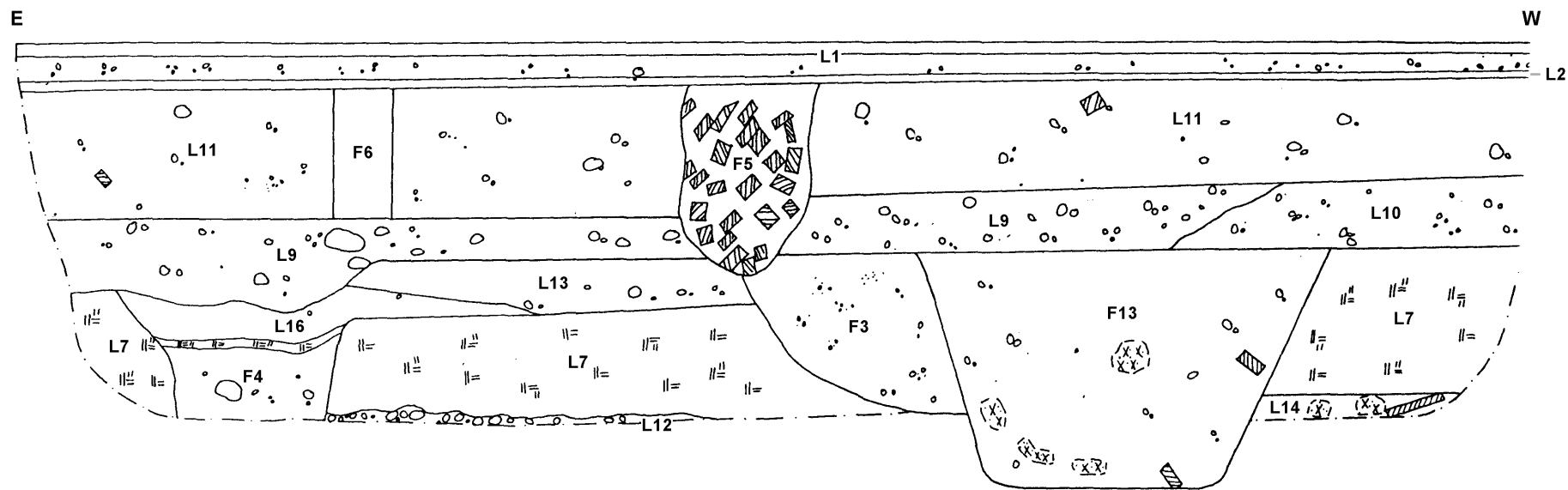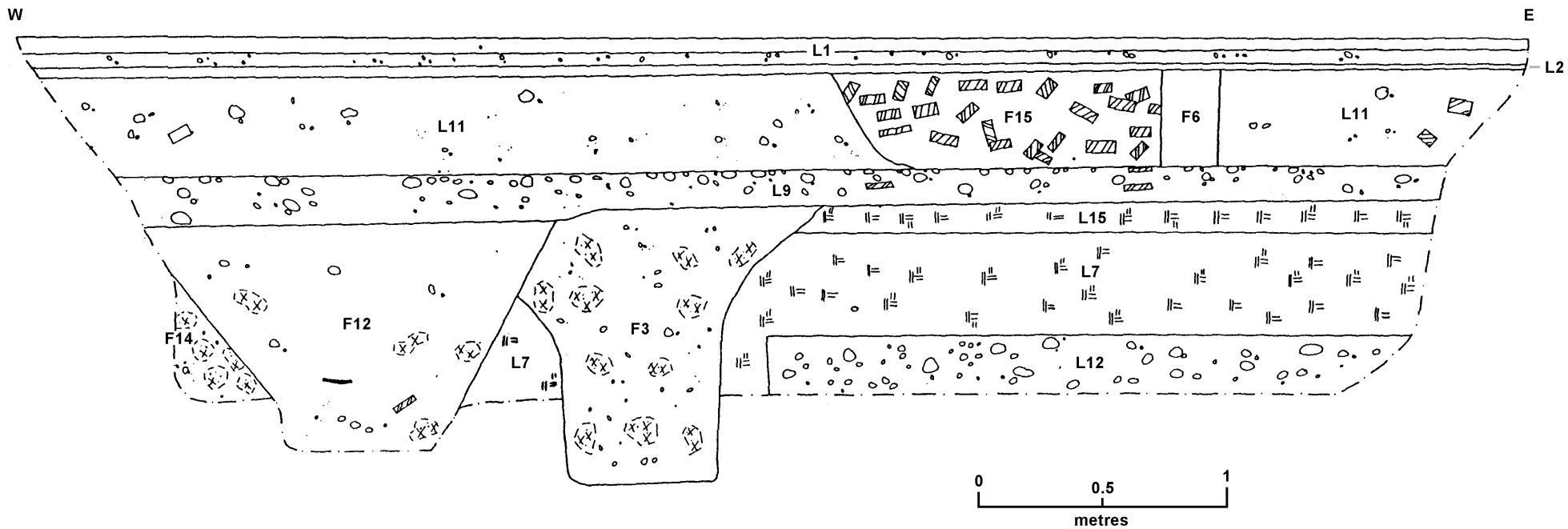**bottom - part of north-facing section.**

Fig 5 Trench 2: top - south-facing section
bottom - north-facing section.

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site name/address: The Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex		
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester	
NGR: TL 99358 25899	***Site code:*** Museum accession code 2003.245	
Type of work: Evaluation (two trial-trenches in the car park)	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust	
Date of work: 20th-22nd October 2003	***Size of area investigated:*** 20m x 50m	
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Hotel owner	
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHCR nos:*** 12514, 12517, 12623	
Final report: CAT Report 248		
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern		

Summary of fieldwork results:
Two archaeological trial-trenches were excavated in the car park to the rear of the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex. The earliest archaeological features recorded were a gravel surface (possibly a yard) and demolition debris from a Roman building. Later in the Roman period, this building was demolished and a thick layer of clay material was deposited over the earlier remains to raise the ground-level before a new building was constructed. A large building was erected, the evidence for which was four foundations on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment and robbed out in the Roman or medieval period. The alignments appear to match up with other Roman buildings recorded along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was for an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appear to be of high status, producing evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The Roman road which provided access to the walled part of the town from the north was not encountered during the evaluation, and nor were any Roman cremation burials.

  The later Roman building was demolished, perhaps in the 3rd or early 4th century AD. There was a lack of evidence of medieval activity on the site except for the possible medieval robbing of the Roman foundations for use of the materials in buildings elsewhere. Pits or ditches dug for rubbish or cess in the post-medieval period indicate that this area formed a back yard to a building at this time. A yard surface was subsequently laid on top of these features.

  In modern times, more pits were dug, the ground-level was raised and various brick buildings were erected and demolished.

  It is expected that the Roman buildings continue underneath the hotel extension and the main hotel building. It is also possible that remains of the Roman road may be encountered.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Author of summary: K Orr	***Date of summary:*** December 2003