

**An archaeological evaluation and
watching brief in the
grounds of East Hill House and
the Colchester bus station,
Colchester, Essex
October 2004**

2: main report

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**commissioned by
Colchester Borough Council**

project ref.: 04/10c
NGR: TM 001 251
Colchester Museums accession code: 2004.358



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CAT Report 305
January 2005

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1 Summary

The site lies to the south of Colchester High Street and east of Queen Street, within the south-east corner of the Roman and medieval walled town. Nine small exploratory trenches were dug in the grounds of East Hill House. The aim of this work was to establish the depth of archaeologically sensitive deposits within the development footprint for a proposed civic arts building. Roman levels were found to lie at depths of between 15cm and 60cm, beneath soils which suggest that the trenched area was for the most part open ground from the end of the Roman period. The exposed Roman material consisted mainly of deposits containing destruction debris and included two probable robber trenches and a gravelled area. As an adjunct to the excavations, engineers' geotechnical sample holes in the trenched area and in the adjacent bus station to the east were observed and the strata noted as a result.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** This report sets out the results of archaeological fieldwork that took place between 18th and 27th October 2004 on the proposed site for a major visual arts facility. It supersedes the initial CAT Report 295 of November 2004 with the inclusion of finds reports, plan and section illustrations.
- 2.2** The fieldwork fell into two categories:
1. Nine archaeological evaluation trenches were manually excavated in the grounds of East Hill House (trenches T1-T9).
 2. A watching brief was maintained on geotechnical engineers' window sample holes (bh1-bh9) in the grounds of East Hill House and the forecourt of the adjacent bus station.

3 Site location (Fig 2)

The site is located to the south of Colchester High Street and east of Queen Street, centred at NGR 001 251. The footprint of the proposed new building measures approximately 165m x 32m and it extends over parts of the bus station and the grounds of East Hill House (garden and playing field).

4 Archaeological background

The development area lies within the south-east corner of the Roman and medieval walled town. Descriptions of previous archaeological discoveries in the vicinity and a review of the current state of knowledge of this region of the town may be found in the recent St Botolph's Quarter archaeological assessment produced by Oxford Archaeological Associates for Colchester Borough Council (Johnson *et al* 2003).

5 Aim

The principal aim of the fieldwork was to establish the depth of archaeologically sensitive levels as an aid to the design of foundations for the proposed development.

6 Methods

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in briefs prepared by Colchester Borough Council Museums Service and Oxford Archaeological Associates in August 2004 and revised in October 2004.

7 Results

7.1 The evaluation trenches (location plan: Fig 2)

The recorded archaeological contexts from the nine evaluation trenches are briefly described in the following tables.

Trench T1 (Fig 3)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00088 25126

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.35m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 50cm below present ground-level (21.85m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 65cm (21.70m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L1	turf and topsoil	modern
L2	topsoil spread/ levelling (tennis court?)	post-medieval/modern
L3	accumulation	post-Roman to post-medieval
L4	dump (unexcavated)	Roman
L5	scatter of destruction debris (unexcavated)	Roman/post-Roman
L6	dump (augered)	Roman
F1	pit	Roman, possibly later

Auger results: an auger probe through L6 found fine pale yellow sand at an overall depth of approximately 65cm.

Trench T2 (Fig 4)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00102 25119

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.33m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 60cm below present ground-level (21.73m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 80cm (21.53m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L7	turf and topsoil	post-medieval to modern
L10	accumulation	post-Roman
L11	disturbed natural subsoil (augered)	-
L13	stony layer, part of F6 (unexcavated)	Roman
F6	stony area, possible feature (unexcavated)	Roman

Auger results: a probe through L11 extended to 1.3m overall depth. The disturbed levels of L11 extend to approximately 80cm, below which was a clean silty sand subsoil.

Trench T3 (Fig 5)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00118 25116

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.48m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: none earlier than post-medieval

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 1.0m (21.48m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L8	turf and topsoil	modern
L12	possible upper fill of pit F7	post-medieval
L20	lower fill of pit F7 (augered)	post-medieval
L21	natural sand	-
F7	large pit, cuts natural	post-medieval

Auger results: an auger probe through the unexcavated fill of the pit F7 indicated that the pit was cut to an overall depth of 1.9m. Beneath this was clean sand similar in nature to L21.

Trench T4 (Fig 6)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00117 25145

Size: 3m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.88m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 15cm below present ground-level (22.73m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 30cm (22.58m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L14	turf and topsoil	modern
L15	disturbed natural subsoil (augered)	-
L22	redeposited subsoil?	Roman
F3	robber trench, north-south wall foundation (unexcavated)	post-Roman removal of Roman foundation
F4	stony spread – metalling? (unexcavated)	Roman

Auger results: a small slot through L15 found a pale yellowish brown silty sand at an overall depth of 30cm. This material was probed for a further 35cm (65cm overall) without change.

Trench T5 (Fig 7)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00132 25122

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.62m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 40cm below present ground-level (22.22m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: not investigated

context	summary description	provisional date
L9	turf and topsoil	post-medieval to modern
F2	gravel surface (unexcavated)	Roman?

Trench T6 (Fig 8)

Location: East Hill House day nursery car park

NGR: TM 00120 25173

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 24.37m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 42cm below present ground-level (23.95m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 78cm (23.59m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L16	turf and topsoil	modern
L17	car-park surfacing overspill	modern
L18	accumulation	post-Roman
L19	destruction debris/dump (augered)	Roman/post-Roman
F5	soakaway	modern

Auger results: an auger probe through L19 indicated that L19 may extend down for a further 30cm, changing to a yellowish brown silty sand, possibly natural subsoil, at 78cm overall depth.

Trench T7 (Fig 9)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00095 25123

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.34m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 45cm below present ground-level (21.89m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 55cm (21.79m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L23	turf and topsoil accumulation	post-Roman to modern
L24	disturbed natural subsoil	-
L25	natural subsoil (augered)	-
F8	pit	modern
F9	pit	modern
F10	corner of mortar and stone spread, possible robber trench? (unexcavated)	post-Roman removal of Roman foundation?

Auger results: a small slot cut through L24 found clean silty sand subsoil (L25) at a depth of 55cm. L25 was probed by auger to an overall depth of 75cm without change.

Trench T8 (Fig 10)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00143 25153

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 23.23m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 20cm below present ground-level (23.03m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 45cm (22.78m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L26	turf and topsoil	modern
L27	scatter of destruction debris (unexcavated)	Roman/post-Roman
L28	dump? (augered)	Roman
F11	shallow pit	Roman/post-Roman
F12	pit (part-excavated)	medieval or later

Auger results: an auger probe through L28 found a pale yellowish brown silty sand, probably natural, at an overall depth of approximately 45cm.

Trench T9 (Fig 11)

Location: East Hill House playing field

NGR: TM 00117 25131

Size: 2m x 1m

Present ground-level: 22.71m AOD

Depth of uppermost Roman level: 55-60cm below present ground-level

(22.11-22.16m AOD)

Depth of uppermost material presumed to be natural subsoil: 1.6m (21.11m AOD)

context	summary description	provisional date
L29	turf and topsoil accumulation	post-Roman to modern
L30	dump? (augered)	Roman

Auger results: auger probes at the northern and southern ends of the trench indicate that L30 extends to an overall depth of approximately 1.6m, beneath which is clean, probably natural, sand.

7.2 The geotechnical window sample holes (location plan: Fig 2)

A total of nine 100mm-diameter window sample holes were driven into locations in East Hill House grounds and the adjacent bus station by geotechnical engineers for Crossfield Consulting Ltd. The strata observed in these sample holes are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: the strata observed in the window sample holes.

Location	Ground-level	Depth	Description
bh1 bus station	22.9m AOD	0-20cm	Concrete
		20-48/50cm	Modern make-up/hardcore
		48/50cm- 1.6m	Dark brown silt (Clay silt becoming sandy silt) Contains oyster shell (62cm) and post-medieval brick (90cm)
		1.6m	Natural yellow sand
bh2 bus station	23.0m AOD	0-5cm	Tarmac
		5-10cm	Concrete
		10-40cm	Ballast and hardcore
		40cm-3.3m	Very dark brown silt Contains modern pot and slate (1.75-1.9m) and post-medieval brick (3.25m)
		3.3m	Natural sand
bh3 bus station	21.6m AOD	0-23cm	Concrete
		23-50cm	Ballast
		50-73cm	Hardcore
		73-1.8m	Dark brown silt Contains post-medieval brick (1.7-1.8m)
		1.8-2.35m	Mid-dark brown silt with shell
		2.35m	Natural sand
bh4 East Hill House	22.0m AOD	0-15cm	Grass and topsoil
		15-20cm	Sand
		20-32cm	Dark brown sandy silt
		32-42cm	Grey sand
		42cm-1.83m	Dark brown silt Contains post-medieval brick (1.55-1.65m)
		1.83m	Natural sand
bh5 East Hill House	22.5m AOD	0-15cm	Grass and topsoil
		15cm-1.4m	Dark brown silt with brick flecks, shell and septaria
		1.4m	Natural sand
bh6 East Hill House	23.2m AOD	0-20cm	Grass and topsoil
		20-70cm	Mixed brown silt and yellow sand (occasional very small flecks of brick and tile)
		70cm	Natural sand
bh7 East Hill House	24.3m AOD	0-35cm	Topsoil (dark brown silty loam)
		35-50cm	Tree root
		50cm-1.05m	Mid brown silt (occasional flecks of tile, mortar, coal)
		1.05m	Natural sand
bh8 East Hill House	22.9m AOD	0-40cm	Dark brown silt/silty loam Contains post-medieval brick
		40-72cm	Mid brown silt Contains oystershell concentration (66-70cm)
		72cm-1.05m	Silty grey/brown sand with tree roots
		1.05m	Natural sand
bh9 bus station	22.8m AOD	0-18cm	Concrete
		18-39cm	Ballast
		39-59cm	Hardcore
		59cm-1.75m	Dark brown silt High content of mortar in bottom half together with post-medieval brick (1.5m)
		1.75m	Natural sand

8 Finds

In addition to the two pottery reports reproduced below, the site archive includes quantified lists of building materials, clay tobacco pipe, glass, bone and shell.

8.1 The Roman pottery

by S Benfield (CAT)

There was just under 900g of Roman pottery from the evaluation trenches at East Hill House (Table 2). Almost all of this was residual in later contexts, and the pottery consists entirely of small to moderate-sized sherds, which is a reflection of its general residuality. Given the small size of the assemblage and the range of fabrics and forms recorded in it, there are no pieces in the collection which call for particular comment. Imports are represented by amphora and fine wares (samian and Rhenish ware). The mid-Roman period (c AD 100-250) is dominated by local products (including black-burnished ware category 1 and colour-coat wares), and there are examples of later Roman (mid 3rd century AD+) regional fine wares (Nene Valley wares and Hadham oxidised ware). However, it can be noted that, while the potential date range of the pottery assemblage spans the Roman period, there is little, if any, pottery which needs be pre-Flavian (c AD 43-70).

Table 2: Roman pottery.

Roman pottery forms follow the Camulodunum (Cam) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958).

The Roman pottery fabrics codes are after *CAR 10*:

AA – amphora (not Dressel 20)

AJ – Dressel 20 amphora

BA – plain samian

CB – Colchester colour-coat roughcast ware

CH – oxidised Hadham ware

CL – Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coat wares

CZ – Colchester and other red colour-coat wares

EA – Nene Valley colour-coat ware

GA – (BB1) black-burnished ware category 1

GB – (BB2) black-burnished ware category 2

GX – other coarse ware, principally local grey wares

KX – black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware

ON – mica-gilt wares

WA – silvery micaceous grey wares

Trench	F	L	Spit	Find	Roman pottery	Quantity	weight (g)	Date (century)
T1	1			5	1 sherd BB2 (GB - early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century), 3 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	VSQ	45	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T1		1		1	1 sherd BB2 (GB, Cam 278 - early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century)	1	12	residual – early 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T1		3		4	1 sherd later Colchester colour-coat ware (CZ - early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century), 1 sherd grey ware (GX - Roman)	2	10	?residual – early 2nd to mid-late 3rd
T2		7	3	8	2 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	2	15	residual – Roman
T3	7			29	2 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	2	15	residual – Roman
T3		8	1	11	2 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	2	10	residual – Roman
T3		8		12	1 sherd poss Roman grey ware (GX - Roman)	1	10	residual – Roman
T3		12	3	14	4 sherds grey ware (GX -	VSQ	40	residual –

Trench	F	L	Spit	Find	Roman pottery	Quantity	weight (g)	Date (century)
					Roman), 1 sherd (DJ) granular white ware ?import			Roman
T3		12	4	16	1 sherd grey ware (GX - Roman)	1	8	residual – Roman
T3		12	4	16	1 sherd ?Hadham ware (CH - later 3rd to 4th, probably 4th century), 5 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	SQ	55	later 3rd-4th, probably 4th century
T3		12	5	19	1 sherd grey ware (GX - Roman), 2 other prob Roman	?3	35	Roman
T3		20		23	1 sherd grey ware (GX - Roman), 2 other poss Roman	1+	5	residual – Roman
T4		14		30	1 rim sherd grey ware rim or lid edge (GX - Roman)	1	10	Roman
T6		18		24	1 rim sherd Rhenish ware (Trier) beaker (CL(NF) - 3rd century), 1 mica gilt rim sherd (ON - ?2nd century), 2 sherds (DJ - ?1st-2nd century), 1 sherd (WA - Roman), 6 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	SQ	150	Roman – 3rd century
T6		19		25	3 sherds oil amphora Dressel 20 (AJ - 1st-early 3rd century), 2 sherds amphora (AA - 1st-early 2nd century), 1 mica gilt (ON) rim sherd from same pot as find no 24 (?2nd century), 2 sherds (DJ - ?1st-2nd century), 1 sherd (WA - Roman), 20 sherds Roman grey ware (GX - early 2nd+ century)	Q	280	Roman – early 2nd+
T6		19		28	4 sherd grey ware sherds (GX, Cam 108 - 1st-early 2nd century), 1 jar rim (prob 1st-early 2nd century), 2 other	VSQ	60	Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century
T7		23		32	2 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	2	20	residual – Roman
T8	12			36	1 sherd BB1 (GA - early 2nd-4th century), 1 sherd BB type chamfered dish/bowl (KX - early 2nd-3rd/4th century), 3 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	VSQ	70	residual – early 2nd+
T8		26		35	6 sherds grey ware (GX - Roman)	SQ	65	Roman
T9		29		37	4 sherds Roman grey ware (GX - Roman)	VSQ	20	residual – Roman
T9		29	3	40	1 sherd (DJ - Roman, ?1st-2nd century)	1	5	residual – ?1st-2nd
T9		29		42	1 samian sherd from a bowl, large flake (BA - 2nd-3rd century), 1 Nene Valley bowl rim (EA) - ?late 3rd-early 4th century), misc grey ware sherds (GX - Roman)	SQ	65	earlier 4th

Trench	F	L	Spit	Find	Roman pottery	Quantity	weight (g)	Date (century)
T11		3		4	1 sherd Nene Valley (EA - mid 3rd-4th century), 1 sherd Colchester roughcast colour-coat (CB - early 2nd to mid 3rd century), 6 sherds grey ware (GX, ?Cam 268 - mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century)	SQ	40	residual – mid 3rd to 4th

8.2 The post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks (CAT)

8.2.1 Introduction

A total of 1.2kg of post-Roman pottery was recovered from the evaluation trenches in the grounds of East Hill House.

8.2.2 Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and Cotter 2000): Fabric 20 (early medieval ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware); Fabric 42 (Surrey-Hampshire white ware - 'Border Ware'); Fabric 45d (Frechen stoneware); Fabric 45f (Westerwald stoneware); Fabric 45m (English stoneware); Fabric 46 (tin-glazed earthenware); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone); and Fabric 51b (flowerpot). Pottery weights are listed below in Table 3. Full details in archive.

Table 3: weight (in grams) of post-Roman fabric types per bag and context.

Find no	Trench	Context	Fabrics											context date (century)
			20	21a	40	42	45d	45f	45m	46	48d	51b		
1	T1	L1	0	3	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	early 18th
3	T1	L2	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17th
4	T1	L3	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17th-18th
6	T2	L7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15th-16th
8	T2	L7	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	17th
11	T3	L8	0	0	33	0	0	0	8	0	19	0	0	19th-20th
12	T3	L8	0	16	24	14	0	0	6	2	7	0	0	19th-20th
13	T5	L9	0	0	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17th
14	T3	L12	0	0	188	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	17th
16	T3	L12	12	84	38	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	17th
23	T3	L20	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15th-16th
25	T6	L19	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17th-18th
32	T7	L23	7	23	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	19th-20th
34	T7	F9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	19th-20th
36	T8	F12	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13th-14th
37	T9	L29	0	2	25	39	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	17th-18th
40	T9	L29	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15th-16th
42	T9	L29	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15th-16th
		Totals	79	206	440	107	53	74	59	56	74	70		1218

8.2.3 Discussion

This group is fairly typical of Colchester post-Roman pottery assemblages, in the sense that post-medieval red earthenwares (Fabric 40 – 35% of the group by weight), and Colchester-type wares (Fabric 21a – 16%), are abundant. However, there is not the usual proportion of modern wares such as modern ironstones (Fabric 48d – 5%), flowerpot (Fabric 51b – 6%), or late slipped kitchen wares (Fabric 51a – absent). There are smaller quantities of tin-glazed earthenwares (Fabric 46) and German stonewares (Fabric 45), which are quite typical of Colchester groups. How far one can take the evidence from test trenches is questionable, but the following broad themes do emerge:

Medieval

There is a little pre-15th-/16th-century material, but not enough to suggest much medieval activity here.

Late medieval/transitional ware

The quantity of Colchester-type wares here suggests activity on the site during the 15th-16th centuries, well before the date of the present East Hill House. Therefore one can infer an earlier (presumably timber-framed) structure on the East Hill frontage. This is perhaps not a great surprise; John Speed's 1610 map gives the impression that most of Colchester's main street frontages were built up by that stage.

Post-medieval

There is a good correlation between the date of East Hill House and the post-medieval pottery found in the evaluation. It is undoubtedly the case that the evaluation picked up material discarded from the house as domestic waste.

Modern

The relatively small amount of modern pottery in this group suggests that (domestic?) activity was not so intense in the 19th to 20th centuries as it was in the 17th to 18th centuries. This will be a reflection of a major change of use of East Hill House.

9 Dating evidence

The following table contains a summary of datable finds and inclusions recovered from the evaluation contexts. More detailed lists and comment on the pottery may be found above in sections 8.1 and 8.2.

Table 4: finds summary by context.

Trench	F/L	Finds no	Source	Provisional date	post-Roman pottery (century)	clay tobacco pipe	ceramic building materials	Roman pottery	other
T1	F01	5	pit fill	Roman, possibly later	-	-	<i>imbrex</i>	early 2nd-mid/late 3rd century	-
T1	L01	1	turf & topsoil	modern	early 18th	-	peg-tile, <i>tessera</i> , <i>tegula</i> , <i>imbrices</i>	early 2nd-mid/late 3rd century	-
T1	L02	3	topsoil/levelling	post-medieval/modern	17th	-	peg-tile	-	-
T1	L03	4	accumulation	post-Roman to post-medieval	17th-18th	-	peg-tile, Roman box tile	mid 3rd-4th century	-

Trench	F/L	Finds no	Source	Provisional date	post-Roman pottery (century)	clay tobacco pipe	ceramic building materials	Roman pottery	other
T2	L07	6	turf & topsoil: spit 1	modern	15th-16th	1 x 18th-century bowl	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i>	-	19th/20th-century vessel glass
T2	L07	7	turf & topsoil: spit 2	post-medieval to modern	-	12 stems	peg-tile	-	19th/20th-century vessel glass
T2	L10	8	accumulation: spit 3	post-Roman	17th	1 stem	peg-tile, brick	Roman	-
T2	L10	15	accumulation: spit 3	post-Roman	-	-	peg-tile, <i>tessera</i>	-	-
T3	L20	29	fill of large pit F7	post-medieval	-	-	glazed post-medieval – modern brick	Roman	slate
T3	L08	11	turf & topsoil: spit 1	modern	19th-20th	6 stems	peg-tile	Roman	19th/20th-century vessel glass, slate, coal
T3	L08	12	turf & topsoil: spit 2	modern	19th-20th	13 stems, 2 x 18th-century bowls	peg-tile, brick	Roman	coal
T3	L12	14	poss pit fill F7: spit 3	post-medieval	17th	11 stems, 2 x c late 17th-century bowl, 1 x c late 17th- to early 18th-century bowl	peg-tile, brick	Roman	coal
T3	L12	16	poss pit fill F7: spit 4	post-medieval	17th	6 stems	peg-tile, white mosaic <i>tessera</i> , <i>tesserae</i> , <i>tegulae</i> , keyed box tile	late 3rd-4th century	post-medieval/modern vessel glass, slate
T3	L12	19	poss pit fill F7: spit 5	post-medieval	-	-	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i> , un-identifiable brick	Roman	slate
T3	L20	23	lower fill pit F7	post-medieval	15th-16th	-	peg-tile, un-identifiable brick/tile	Roman	slate
T4	L14	30	turf & topsoil	modern	-	1 stem	-	Roman	
T4	L22	31	redeposited subsoil?	Roman	-	-	<i>tessera</i>	-	
T5	L09	13	turf & topsoil spit 1	post-medieval to modern	17th	3 stems	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i>	-	
T5	L09	18	turf & topsoil, from interface with F2	post-medieval to modern	-	-	<i>tessera</i>	-	
T6	L18	24	accumulation	post-Roman	-	-	<i>tesserae</i> , Roman brick	3rd century	
T6	L19	25	destruction debris/dump (root disturbance)	Roman-modern intrusions	17th-18th	-	white mosaic <i>tessera</i> , <i>tesserae</i> , Roman brick, box tile, <i>tegula</i>	early 2nd+ century	post-medieval/modern vessel glass

Trench	F/L	Finds no	Source	Provisional date	post-Roman pottery (century)	clay tobacco pipe	ceramic building materials	Roman pottery	other
T6	L19	27	destruction debris/dump	Roman/post-Roman	-	-	-	-	Roman painted wall-plaster
T6	L19	28	destruction debris/dump	Roman/post-Roman	-	-	-	1st-early 2nd century	
T7	F09	34	pit	modern	19th-20th	-	-	-	
T7	L23	32	turf & topsoil	post-Roman - modern	19th-20th	2 stems	post-medieval to modern decorative edging brick, Roman brick, <i>imbrex</i> , <i>tesserae</i>	Roman	slate, coal
T8	F12	36	pit	medieval or later	13th-14th	-	<i>tesserae</i> , Roman brick, <i>imbrices</i> inc white fabric, <i>tegula</i> , un-identifiable fragments	early 2nd century	
T8	L26	35	turf & topsoil	modern	-	-	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i> , Roman brick, un-identifiable fragments	Roman	modern vessel glass
T9	L29	37	turf & topsoil accumulation: spit 1	post-Roman to modern	17th-18th	2 stems	peg-tile, Roman brick	Roman	
T9	L29	39	turf & topsoil accumulation: spit 2	post-Roman to modern	-	-	-	-	coal
T9	L29	40	turf & topsoil accumulation: spit 3	post-Roman to modern	15th-16th	-	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i> , un-identifiable brick	1st-2nd? century	
T9	L29	42	dump?	post-Roman to modern	15th-16th	-	peg-tile, <i>tesserae</i> , un-identifiable brick	mid 3rd-4th century	

10 Discussion

The principal aim of the fieldwork was to establish the depth and nature of Roman strata with minimal disturbance to archaeologically sensitive deposits. The exposed Roman levels were therefore not investigated beyond the selective small sections and the auger probes indicated in the accompanying plans and sections. The exposed Roman material appeared generally to consist of deposits containing destruction debris. Structural features included a robber trench for a north-south-orientated wall (F3) in trench T4 and a possible robber trench (F10) in trench T7. In the south-eastern part of the site, trench T5 exposed a gravel surface of possible Roman date (F2). The deepest of the trenches was T3, which revealed convincing natural sand (L21) at a depth of 1.0m. Elsewhere, probes through the Roman levels encountered clean silty sands which are possibly natural subsoils or degraded pre-Roman topsoil, but these would require more extensive examination to establish an

interpretation with greater certainty. Although this initial phase of fieldwork was limited in scope, it is worth noting the dearth of pre-Flavian pottery in residual contexts (section 7.1).

11 Archive deposition

The site records and finds are currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF. These will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under cover of museum accession code 2004.358.

12 Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was conceived and organised by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd in conjunction with Colchester Borough Council. Particular thanks are due to Simon Colcutt (OAA) and Philip Wise (CBC) for their close involvement with the investigation.

The Trust is also grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their kind co-operation in the course of the fieldwork: English Heritage (Debbie Priddy); Essex County Council (John Goodwin); and Crossfield Consulting Ltd.

The excavations were supervised for CAT by Nigel Rayner and the geotechnical sampling was recorded by Laura Pooley.

13 Abbreviations and references

13.1 Abbreviations

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
OAA	Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd
CAR 10	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10, Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, 1999
CAT Report 295	An archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site for a visual arts facility, East Hill House and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex 1: interim results, unpublished CAT archive report, by Carl Crossan, 2004

13.2 References

Cotter, John	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1985</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 7
Cunningham, C M	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , by C M Cunningham and P J Drury, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 5 and Council for British Archaeology Research Report 54, 1-16
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, report on the first excavations at Colchester 1930-1939</i> , RRCSAL, 14
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
Johnson, A P, Petchey, M R, & Colcutt, S N	2003	<i>St Botolph's quarter regeneration schemes, Colchester, cultural heritage (archaeology) statement, part 1: background and existing situation</i> , Oxford Archaeological Associates for Colchester Borough Council

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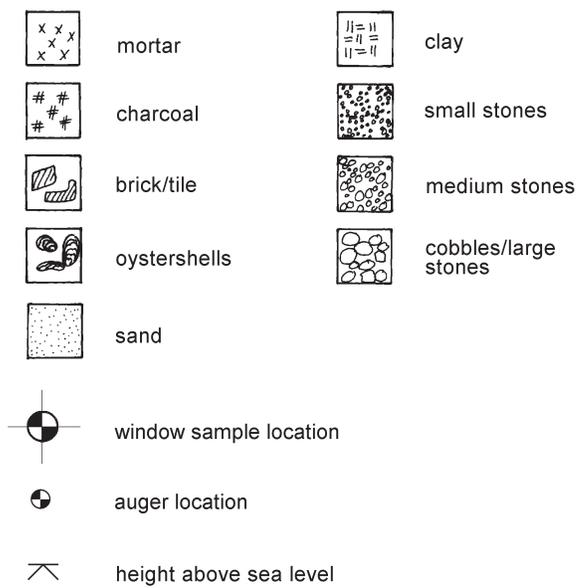


Fig 1 Figure key.

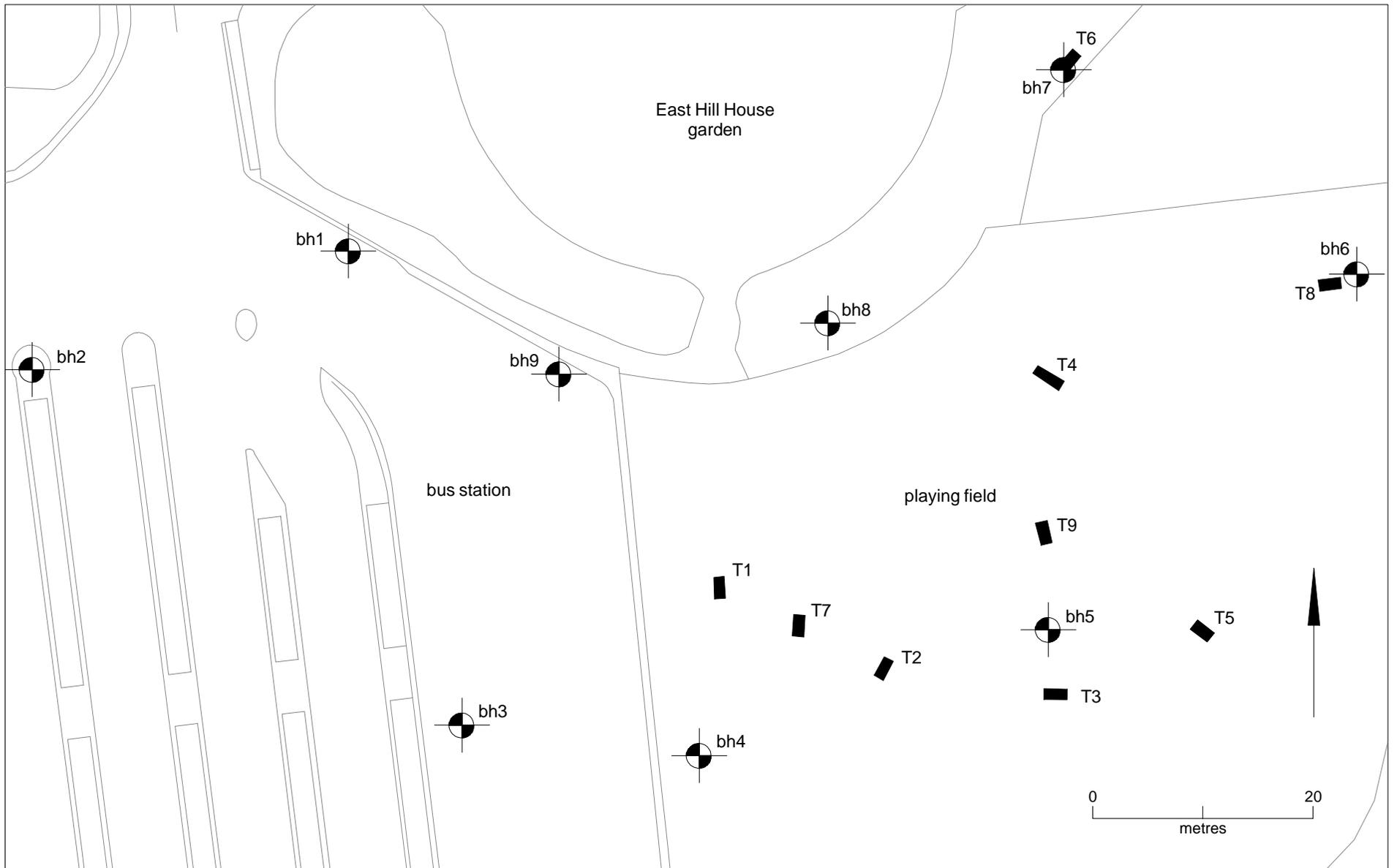


Fig 2 Trench and window sample location plan.

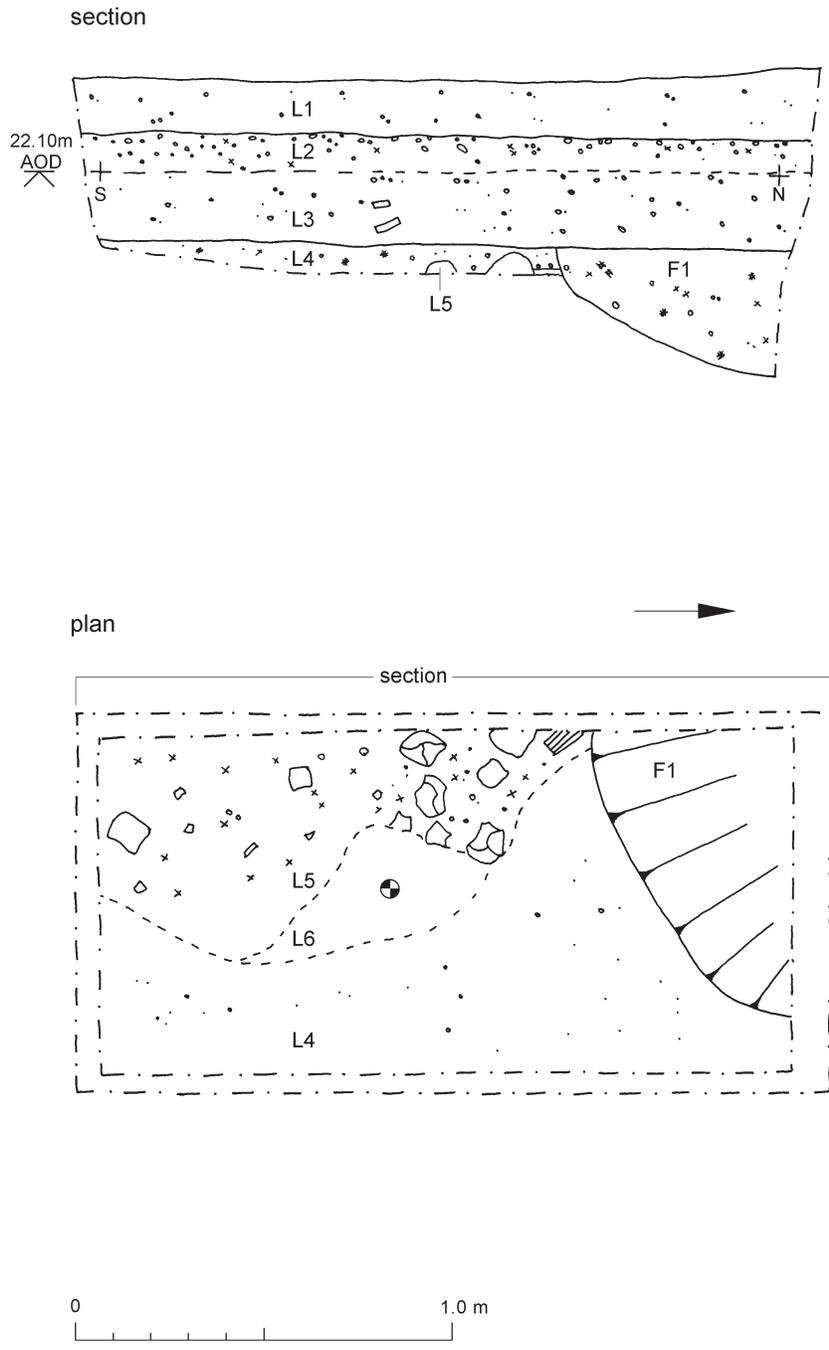


Fig 3 Trench T1: plan and section.

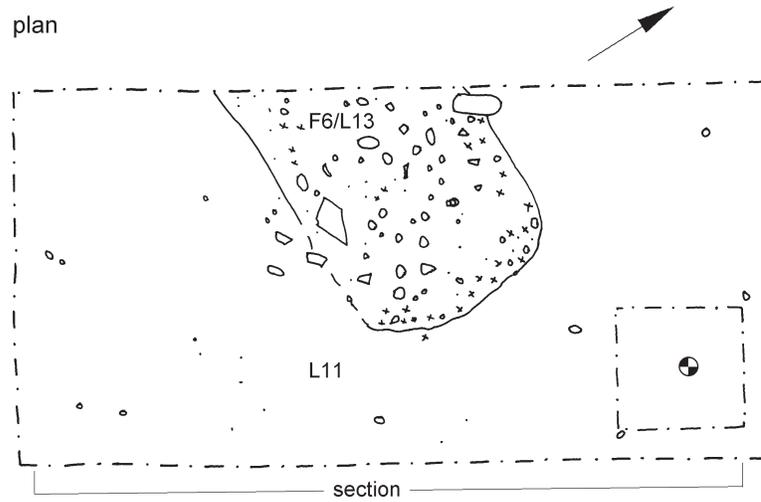
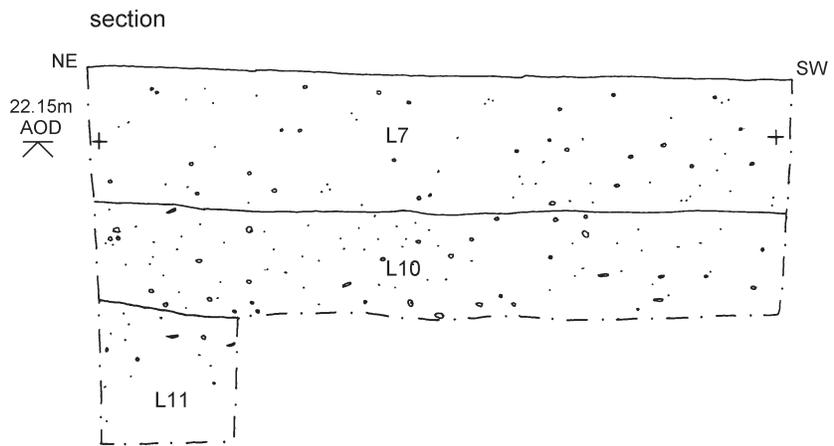


Fig 4 Trench T2: plan and section.

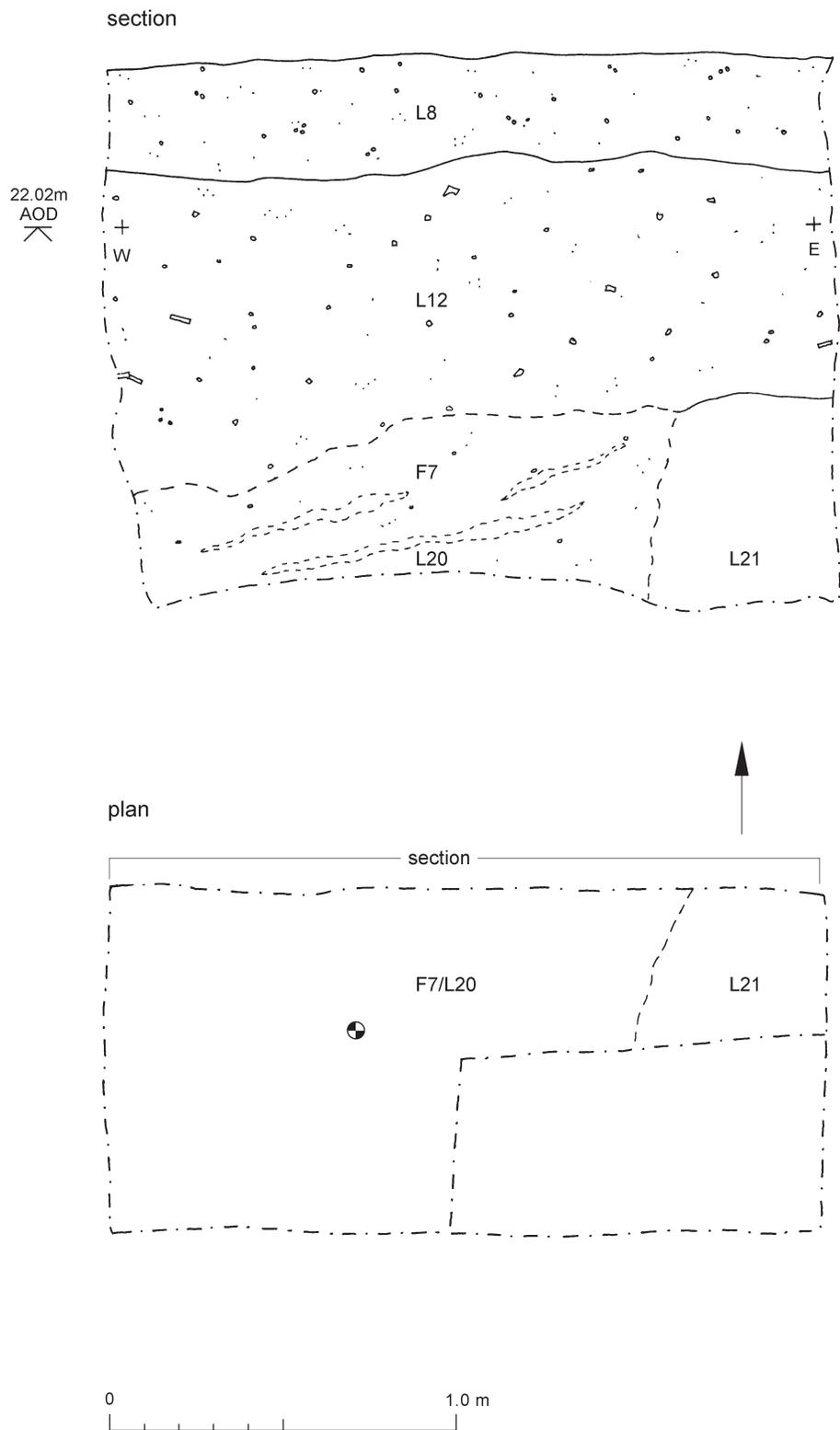


Fig 5 Trench T3: plan and section.

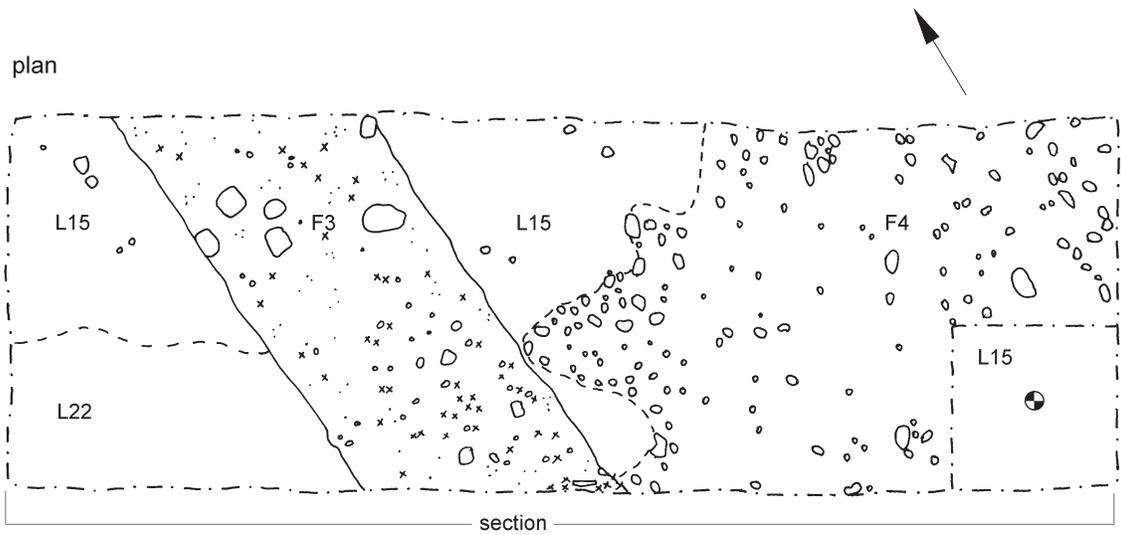
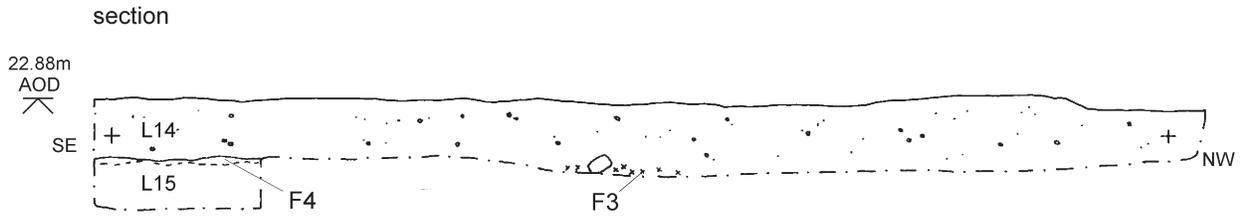


Fig 6 Trench T4: plan and section.

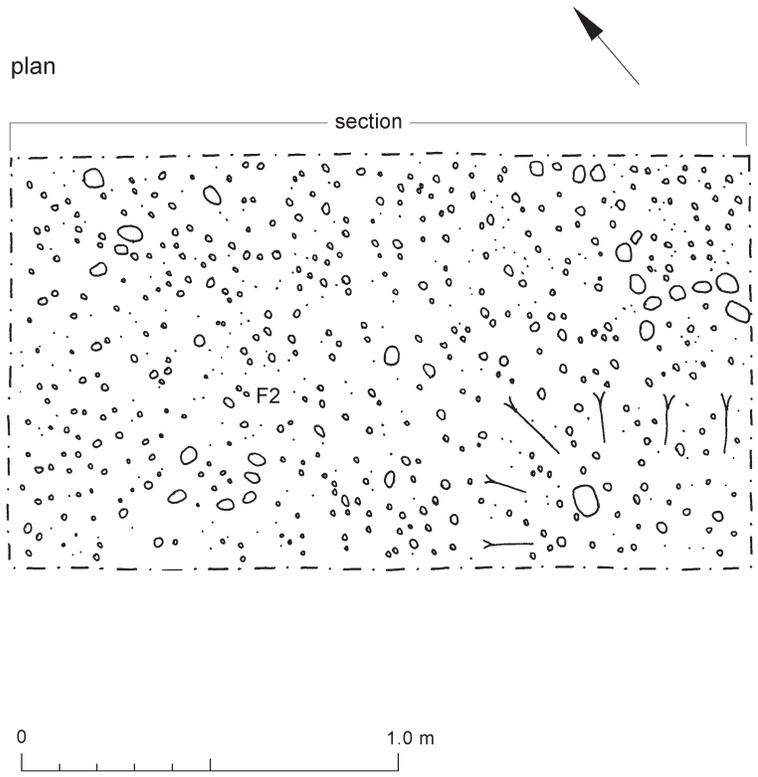
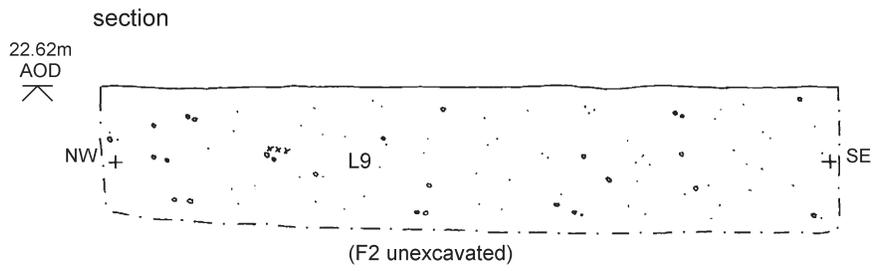


Fig 7 Trench T5: plan and section.

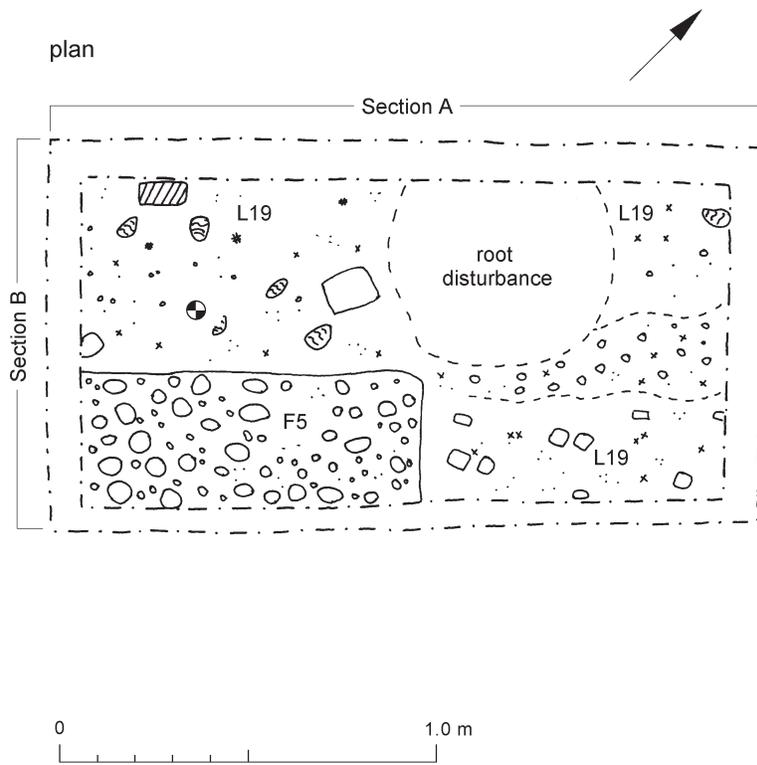
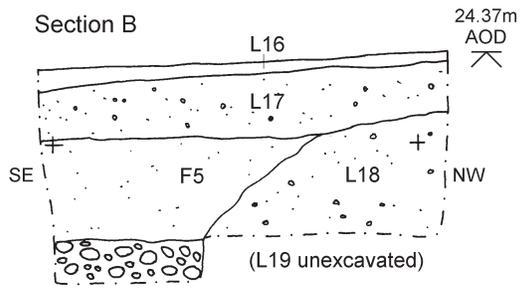
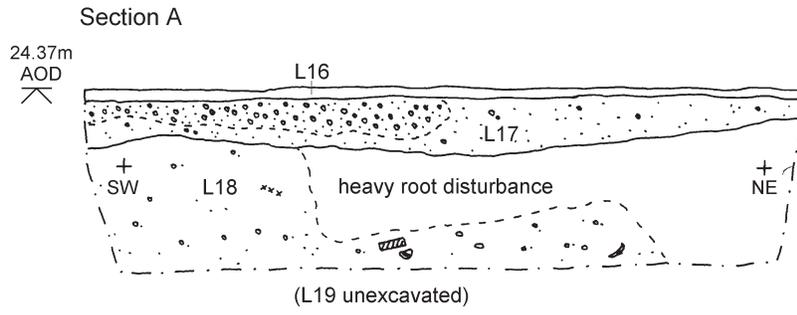


Fig 8 Trench T6: plan and sections.

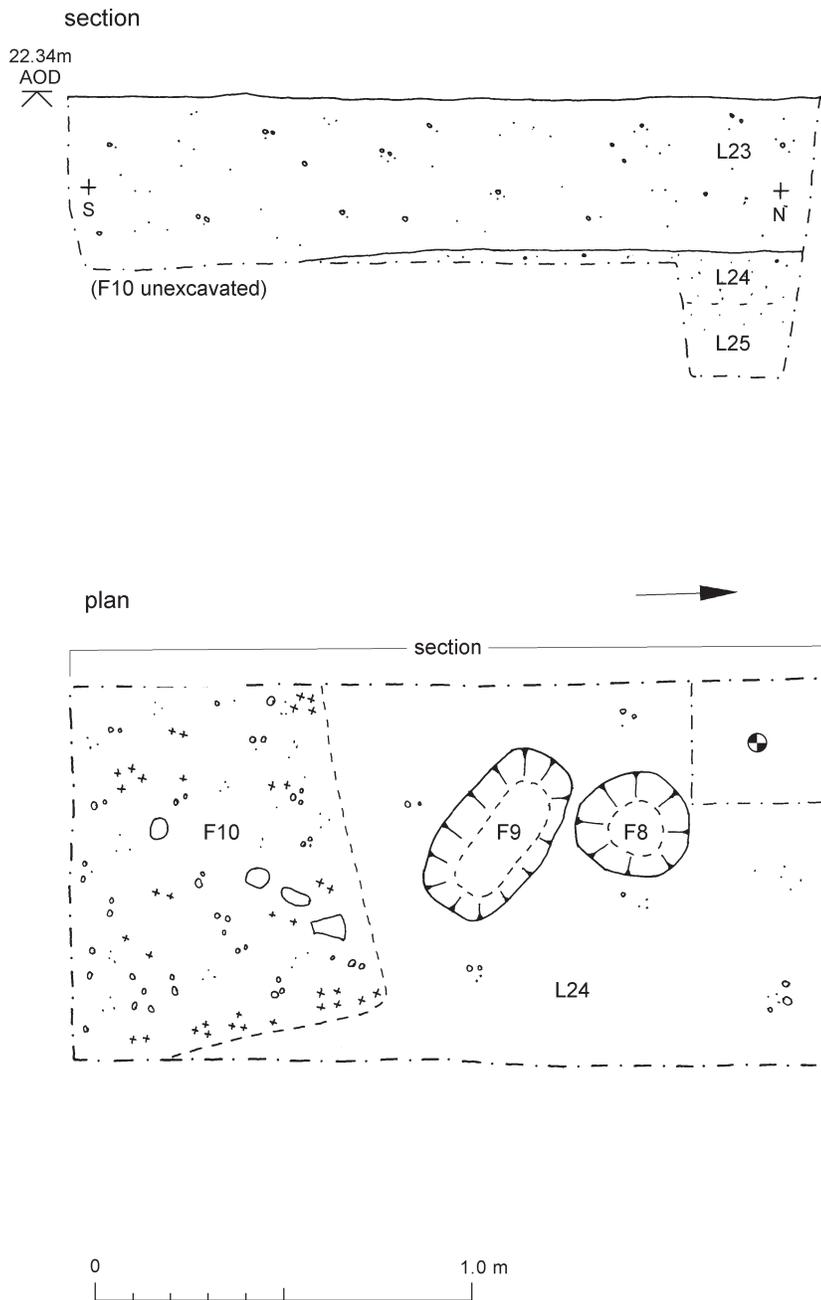


Fig 9 Trench T7: plan and section.

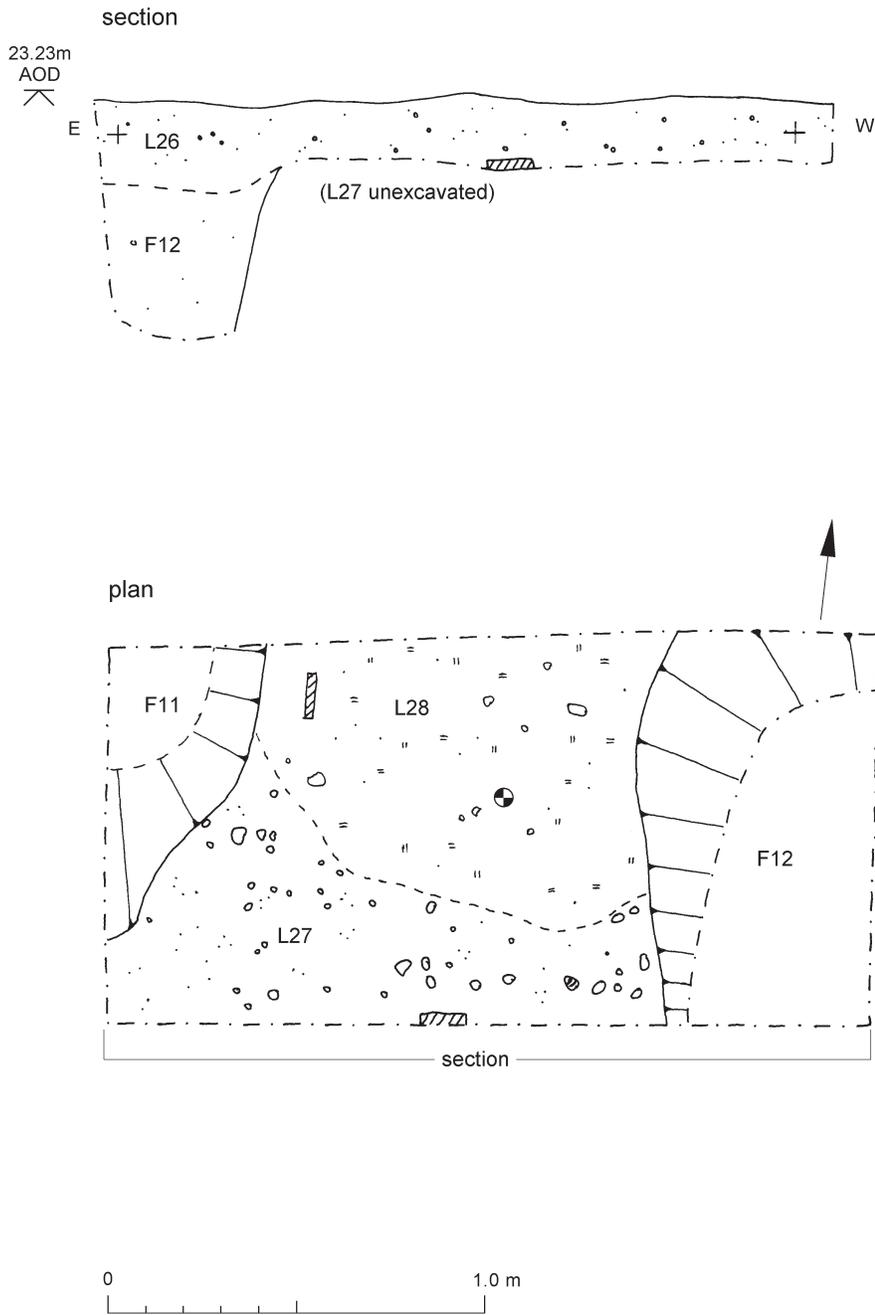
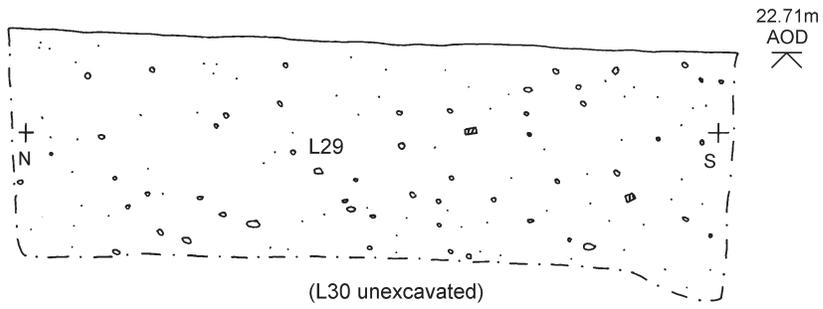


Fig 10 Trench T8: plan and section.

section



plan

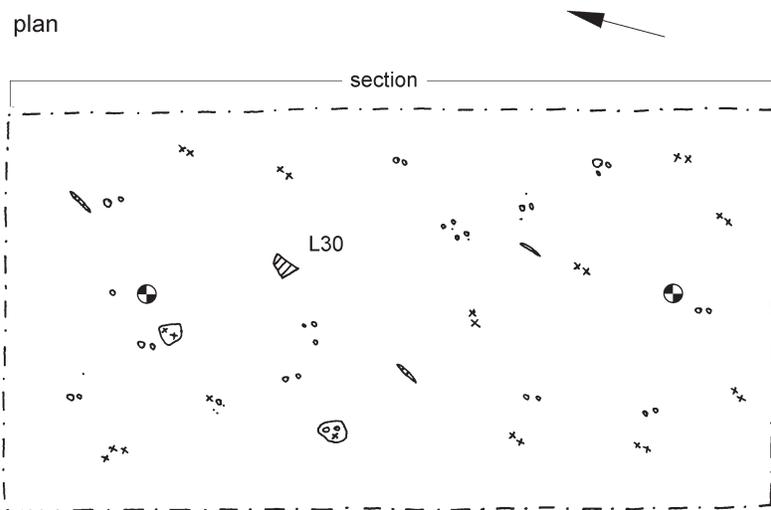


Fig 11 Trench T9: plan and section.

**ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD/
*Essex Archaeology and History***

Summary sheet

Site name/address: East Hill House grounds and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: St James'	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 001 251	Site code: 2004.358
Type of work: evaluation and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2004	Size of area investigated: approx 0.5ha overall
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further work anticipated?: Yes	Related EHCR nos: (Essex SAM no 173)
Final report: CAT Report 305	
Periods represented: Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The site lies to the south of Colchester High Street and east of Queen Street, within the south-east corner of the Roman and medieval walled town. Nine small exploratory trenches were dug in the grounds of East Hill House. The aim of this work was to establish the depth of archaeologically sensitive deposits within the development footprint for a proposed civic arts building. Roman levels were found to lie at depths of between 15cm and 60cm, beneath soils which suggest that the trenched area was for the most part open ground from the end of the Roman period. The exposed Roman material consisted mainly of deposits containing destruction debris and included two probable robber trenches and a gravelled area. As an adjunct to the excavations, engineers' boreholes in the trenched area and in the adjacent bus station to the east were observed and the strata noted as a result.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Author of summary: C Crossan	Date of summary: January 2005