

**An archaeological evaluation,
watching brief and
limited excavation at
15 West Lodge Road,
Colchester, Essex
September 2004-September 2005**

**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Vaughan and Blyth (Construction) Ltd**

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1 Summary

Two evaluation trenches were excavated at 15 West Lodge Road in September 2004, prior to the demolition of the property. Post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' sealed archaeological deposits which were encountered at a depth of 950mm to 1.1 m below the modern ground-level. Two intact Roman urned cremation burials were discovered, one in each trench. Uncremated, probably human bone was recorded in two pits which may represent inhumation burials. Contrary to expectation, there was no evidence for the backfilled excavation trenches of the Victorian antiquarian John Taylor.

A watching brief and limited excavation were subsequently carried out during groundworks for the new properties, from December 2004 to September 2005. Four or five further cremation burials were recorded plus a burnt feature (perhaps a bustum) and a spread of Roman tile, septaria and pottery. These features were encountered between 670mm and 1.2m below ground-level.

The investigation confirmed that the site is located well within the Roman cemetery area and was in use from the 1st or early 2nd century to the late 3rd or 4th century.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation, watching brief and limited excavation carried out at 15 West Lodge Road, Colchester, Essex. Vaughan and Blyth (Construction) Ltd were granted planning permission (planning ref.: F/COL/04/1653) to demolish the existing property at 15 West Lodge Road and to construct a pair of semi-detached houses and detached garages. The site is located 1km to the west of Colchester town centre, on the eastern side of West Lodge Road and centred on National Grid Reference TL 98549 24833.
- 2.2 The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between September 2004 and September 2005.
- 2.3 Previously the development site consisted of one detached property with a rear garden and garage. The site has a depth of 43m and a frontage of 23m and covers an area of 0.09 of a hectare. The site is on level ground at approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practices of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999b), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The development site lies within what Hull (1958, 253-4) termed the 'West Cemetery'. This slightly misleading term refers to an area to the west of the walled town and to the south of the Roman road leading to London largely taken up by burial plots. This area was in use over a long time span and included both inhumations and cremation burials. Most of the burials to the west of the town were excavated in the 19th century and formed part of large collections which were badly catalogued or split up (Hull 1958, 250-54; CAR 9, 258-60). More recent

investigations have taken place at 21 West Lodge Road (CAT Report 293) and at Handford House, 1 Queens Road (CAT magazine 17, 2-7; CAT Report 323 in prep). An abundance of burials have been recorded from Beverley Road including some spectacular and well-preserved funerary monuments (CAR 9, 259-60). Most of these were excavated by George Joslin in the vicinity of his house at 10 Beverley Road (Urban Archaeological Database or UAD no 907). In 1866, Joslin discovered the so-called 'child's grave' in the garden of 10 Beverley Road which is directly opposite the development site. This contained an unusual collection of pipeclay figurines (UAD no 990; Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER no 11850). Joslin's other finds include the tombstone of the Roman Centurion Facilis found in 1868 (UAD no 992; EHER no 11857).

- 3.2 The site may also be on the line of an early Roman ditch which flanked a Roman road (Hull 1958, 273-4).
- 3.3 The site not only lay within the former West Lodge Estate, large parts of which were dug by the Victorian antiquarian John Taylor in the 1840s and 1850s (CAR 9, 258-9), but was also adjacent to and in the garden of West Lodge itself (1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1876).

4 Aim

The evaluation was designed to locate, identify and assess the quality and extent of surviving archaeological remains prior to a decision being taken on the preservation or otherwise of deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation. The aim of the watching brief and limited excavation was to identify and record any archaeological remains that were exposed during the construction of the new dwelling and to assess the quality and extent of any remains that were encountered. Particular attention was paid to the possibility that Roman burials might survive on the site.

5 Methods

- 5.1 The evaluation in September 2004 consisted of two trenches, dug prior to the demolition of the property. The trenches were dug using a mechanical mini-excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The watching brief was carried out on the ground-beam trenches, service-trenches and soakaways as they were dug by the contractors. Limited excavation was carried out on two of the soakaways which were dug by hand once modern topsoil and post-Roman 'dark earth' had been stripped off mechanically.
- 5.2 Potential archaeological deposits which were exposed were cleaned by hand. Individual records of layers were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.3 Section drawings were made at a scale of 1:10. Plans were made at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.
- 5.4 Finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned find numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.5 Colour photographs of the trench were taken with a digital camera and a 35mm transparency camera.

6 Results (Fig 12)

6.1 Evaluation trenches

The evaluation consisted of two trenches, each 4 m long by 1.5 m wide; one in the front garden (Trench or T1) and one in the rear garden (Trench or T2). They were dug on 29th September 2004 by a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Approximately 1 m of overburden was progressively excavated by machine until significant archaeological deposits were reached. The overburden consisted mainly of post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' (Layer or L3). Limited excavation of the archaeological deposits was then continued by hand.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-3)

In T1, Roman deposits were reached at a depth of 0.95 m below the modern ground-level. A narrow trial section was excavated along the eastern side of the trench. A well-preserved Roman dump layer (L6) containing many finds overlay 200mm of make-up or redeposited cover loam (L5). The latter sealed the intact rim of a pot (Feature or F4) which extended into the east section, 1.08 m below the modern ground-level (approx 34.1 m AOD). This feature remained unexcavated and was left *in situ* but was probably a Roman urned cremation burial. The urn appeared to be set towards the northern end of a pit containing pyre-debris. A small amount of unburnt human bone, mainly from L6, was recovered from the southern end of the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 4-5, 11)

In T2, Roman deposits were reached at a depth of 1.1 m below the modern ground-level. A disturbed layer of cover loam, 200mm thick (L4), containing a small amount of unburnt human bone (find 11) sealed natural sand and gravel (L7). Several probable Roman features cut L4. They included a well-preserved urned cremation burial (F2), 1.15 m below the modern ground-level (approx 34.1 m AOD). This consisted of an intact jar (F2.1) set in the centre of a circular pit. The jar was probably mid-late 1st century in date but the other sherds from the fill were at least early 2nd century in date. The urn contained cremated bone only and this came from an adult.

Table 1: burial F2 urned cremation.

pot	illustrated	description	dated
F2.1	illustrated Fig 11	lid-seated jar or bowl, whole pot, possibly of form Cam 259 (see <i>CAR 10</i> Fabric HD, type 32) though not shell-tempered but in early Roman coarse ware fabric, two small chips missing from the rim (the larger and more significant chip appears to be old damage, while the smaller chip appears insignificant and is probably recent damage), Fabric GX (find 15)	probably 1st century
other sherds from fill		1 sherd Fabric CZ from a beaker (dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century) (find 14), 1 sherd probably Fabric KX from a closed vessel and therefore probably from a form Cam 278 jar (dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century) (find 14)	(early 2nd century+)

A large pit (F1) was recorded at the north-western end of the trench. This was 300mm deep and its fill contained sparse charcoal flecks. This feature was not fully excavated because it extended into the western section of the trench. Fragments of an adult human rib and leg bone were recovered plus iron nails and Roman pottery, signifying that F1 could have been an inhumation burial. The date of the latest pottery was late 3rd or 4th century. Earlier (1st- to 3rd-century) Roman pottery occurred residually within the feature. F1 may have been a backfilled Victorian excavation trench, although this seems unlikely as the overlying deposits appeared undisturbed and there were no post-Roman finds.

A small pit (F3) was also exposed which extended into the west section. Unburnt human skull fragments (find 17) were recovered from the surface but it was not possible to age or sex the bone. One sherd of early 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century or later pottery was retrieved from the surface of the feature. The bone indicates another inhumation burial.

6.2 Watching brief and limited excavation Ground-beam trenches for houses

The ground-beam trenches for the houses were monitored but they did not expose any archaeological features as they did not extend below 600mm.

Soakaways (Figs 2, 5-6)

The first soakaway, which was at the rear of the site (Soakaway 1), was hand-dug after the topsoil (L8) and late Roman or post-Roman 'dark earth' (L9) were stripped away mechanically. An urned cremation burial (F5) was revealed at 1.2m below ground-level (33.89m AOD). It was cut into L10 cover loam (a light yellowish brown silty sand) and natural sand (L11). The burial consisted of a grey ware urn (F5.1) placed centrally in a circular pit. The top of the urn was clipped by the machine bucket. No cremated bone or pyre debris was observed in the fill of the feature. The urn contained very large pieces of partially cremated bone from an adult and no other finds.

Table 2: burial F5 urned cremation.

pot	illustrated	description	dated
F5.1	illustrated Fig 11	jar, mid-lower part of jar or bowl, base and lower part of pot intact, Fabric GX (find 21)	Roman
other sherds from fill		1 sherd Fabric DJ from a Cam 140 collared flagon (dated mid-late 1st century) (find 21), also 1 sherd Fabric GX recorded unstratified but possibly from the burial (find 21)	(mid-late 1st century+)

In the south-western corner of Soakaway 1 was a ditch or large pit (F6) cut into natural L11 and sealed by L10. It produced no finds. Its upper fill was a mid brown silty sand and its lower fill was a buff brown silty sand. F6 was 460mm deep and is likely to be a natural feature as it was sealed by cover loam (L10) which is natural or prehistoric.

Soakaway 2 did not contain any archaeological features; however, 3g of cremated human bone (find 27) was recovered from L10 in this soakaway, which in combination with Roman pottery and an iron nail may indicate the site of a disturbed cremation burial.

Soakaway 4 was located at the front of the plot, near the frontage with West Lodge Road. This was dug to 1.57m depth. No features were recorded but there was a concentration of horse or cattle bones and some Roman pottery (find 52).

The last element of the groundworks was Soakaway 3 which was dug to the south of Soakaway 4 to a depth of 2m. This was not monitored because it was dug through a previously dug-out area at the front of the properties.

Service-trenches (Figs 2, 5, 7)

The service-trenches were dug to up to 1.05m below ground-level. One of the service-trenches contained an urned cremation burial (F7) at 950mm below ground-level (34.2m AOD). An urn (F7.1) dated to the 1st to early 2nd century was placed within a circular pit. An upside-down flagon (F7.2) had been placed to the south of the urn but was accidentally removed by the machine and therefore was not planned *in situ*. A large amount of cremated bone had been placed on top of the urn and within the rest of the fill (find 34). The fill also contained charcoal and three iron nails (F7.3). The cremated bone above the urn appeared deliberately placed but there was no clear evidence of it being a separate individual to that represented by the bone within the urn. The rest of the bone in the fill may be pyre debris. The urn contained cremated bone but no other finds apart from one hobnail. No ageing or sexing criteria were available for any of the bone.

Table 3: burial F7 urned cremation (references to abbreviations are given in Appendix 1).

pot	illustrated	description	dated
F7.1	illustrated Fig 11	Cam 108 beaker, whole apart from sherd(s) missing from body on one side which may be modern damage, Fabric GX (find 31)	1st-early 2nd century
F7.2	illustrated Fig 11	Cam 154/155 flagon, intact part pot, upright ring neck flagon with 4 rings and 3-rib handle, lower	Claudio-Neronian

		part of pot, consisting of the base and lowest parts of the body, missing altogether (find 32 and single sherd find 37)	
other sherds from fill		2 sherds Fabric DJ, thick sherds from flagon(s), not part of cremation pot F7.2 (find 36), 2 sherds Fabric GX, joining rim sherds from a flask (finds 33 & 36)	
F7.3		3 iron nails from pit fill	Roman

A service-trench along the northern edge of the site was dug to 1.05m depth and contained animal bone, oyster shell and Roman tile at the base of the trench.

Ground-beam trenches for conservatories (Figs 2, 8)

Ground-beam trenches between 1.4m and 1.5m deep were dug for two conservatories to the rear of the new properties. 100-150mm of recent soil and contractors' rubble overlay remnants of garden topsoil. A deep layer of late Roman or post-Roman dark earth (L14/L9/L3) sealed natural sand and gravel (L7/L11/L15). In the northernmost conservatory trench, a disturbed urned cremation burial was recorded in the south section (F10). Only a few fragments of pot remained, most appeared to have been broken in antiquity but some by the mechanical excavator. Inclement weather conditions prevented proper recording of the burial.

Table 4: burial F10 urned cremation.

pot	illustrated	description	dated
sherds from fill		1 sherd Fabric GZ from a beaker (dated early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century) (find 40), 1 sherd Fabric GA from a dish or bowl with a chamfered base (dated early 2nd – 4th century) (find 40)	(early 2nd century+)

In the eastern conservatory trench, part of a burnt sub-rectangular cut feature was exposed at 1m below ground-level (F11). The feature measured 750mm in width, at least 1.25m in length and 170mm depth. Its fill was mainly mid brown sandy loam with occasional small patches of charcoal close to the sides. The sides and base were reddened scorched sand. It is not known whether the feature contained cremated bone because there was no opportunity to excavate it, but one possible interpretation is that it was a pyre or *bustum*. Roman pottery, possible medieval pottery, animal bone, Roman and post-Roman tile and iron nails were retrieved from the dark earth layer above the feature (L14), mainly at 400-800mm below ground-level (find 41).

Boundary wall trenches (Figs 2, 9)

The watching brief was resumed while the boundary wall along the southern edge of the site was being replaced. A new trench between 800mm and 1m deep was dug which reached natural clay at the base. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

A boundary wall foundation was dug at the road frontage (the western side of the site). An urned cremation burial (F12) was encountered 670mm below ground-level (34.11m AOD). The urn (F12.1) was a complete large grey ware jar of 1st- to 2nd-/3rd-century date, placed centrally in an oval pit. No cremated bone or pyre debris was observed within the pit. Upon excavation of the urn's contents it was found to contain the cremated remains of an adult. There were no other finds within the urn.

Table 5: burial F12 urned cremation.

pot	illustrated	description	dated
F12.1	illustrated Fig 11	Cam 270B large storage jar, whole pot, although two main parts of body now cracked away caused by pressure faults post-burial in the ground, Fabric GX (find 45)	1st -2nd century/3rd century

other sherds from fill		5 sherds Fabric AJ (amphora of form type Dressel 20) (dated 1st -early 3rd century) (find 49); 1 sherd Fabric DJ (find 45); 1 sherd Fabric KX from a Cam 37 bowl with quarter round rim (dated mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd century) (find 46); 1 sherd Fabric TZ (find 47)	(mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd century)
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Within the same trench, just to the north of F12, was a spread of Roman tile, septaria and large sherds of pottery (F13; Fig 10). There were no edges to the feature, the items being found within L10 cover at 450mm below ground-level. One of the tiles was upright and the others appeared to be arranged in a square, intermingled with lumps of septaria. The pottery consisted of large fragments of amphora and a base of a mortaria dating to the 1st to early 3rd century. A horn core (probably of a ram) was nearby. The feature, whatever it was originally, had evidently been disturbed. There was no sign of any cremated bone or an urn, and therefore cremation burial is not a likely interpretation.

7 Finds

The Roman pottery was identified by Stephen Benfield; fabrics are as given in *CAR 10*. The post-Roman pottery was identified by Howard Brooks; fabrics given follow *CAR 7*. The coin, the nails and the clay pipe was identified by Nina Crummy.

7.1 Table 6: finds list.

Finds no	Context	Description	Date	Weight (in g)
Evaluation				
1	U/S, T2	Iron nail	undated	11.0
1	U/S, T2	Peg-tile	medieval to modern	32.0
1	U/S, T2	Possible Fabric 20 pottery	13th century?	7.0
1	U/S, T2	Two clay tobacco-pipe stem fragments: a) Length 57 mm, stem bore diameter 2 mm; b) Length 39 mm, stem bore diameter 3 mm	17th or 18th century	10.0
1	U/S, T2	Roman brick and tile	Roman	3,000.0
1	U/S, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	167.0
2	U/S, T1	Animal bone	undated	388.0
2	U/S, T1	Animal bone	undated	113.0
2	U/S, T1	Animal bone	undated	103.0
2	U/S, T1	Roman brick	Roman	2,500.0
2	U/S, T1	Roman tile	Roman	363.0
2	U/S, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	804.0
3, SF 1	L3, T2	Copper-alloy coin	4th century	.
4	U/S, T2	Possible Fabric 20 pottery	13th century?	7.0
4	U/S, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	179.0
4	U/S, T2	Roman tile	Roman	73.0
4	U/S, T2	Peg-tile	medieval to modern	50.0
5	U/S, T1	Iron nails	undated	53.0
5	U/S, T1	Uncremated human bone – skull	undated	2.0
5	U/S, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	719.0
5	U/S, T1	<i>Opus signinum</i> mortar	Roman	62.0
5	U/S, T1	<i>Tessera</i> cube	Roman	58.0
5	U/S, T1	Animal bone	undated	256.0
5	U/S, T1	Roman brick	Roman	560.0
6	U/S, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	112.0
6	U/S, T1	Animal bone	undated	70.0
7	F1, T2	Human bone	Roman	223.0

7	F1, T2	Animal bone	undated	24.9
7	F1, T2	Roman tile	Roman	410.0
7	F1, T2	Iron nail	Roman	68.0
7	F1, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	161.0
8	L3, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	52.0
9	L6, T1	Roman tile	Roman	168.0
9	L6, T1	Human bone	undated	44.0
9	L6, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	86.0
9	L6, T1	<i>Tessera</i> cube	Roman	24.0
9	L6, T1	Iron nails	Roman	22.0
10	L3, T2	Animal bone	undated	15.0
10	L3, T2	Roman tile	Roman	130.0
10	L3, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	63.0
10	L3, T2	Iron nail	undated	3.0
11	L4, T2	Uncremated human bone	undated	4.0
11	L4, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	19.0
12	L5, T1	Roman pottery	Roman	2.0
12	L5, T1	Bone	undated	2.0
13	F2, T2	Soil sample, western half of fill – 2 bags		
14	F2, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	7.0
15	F2, T2	Urn	Roman	1,386.0
15	F2, T2	Animal bone inside urn	undated	15.6
15	F2, T2	cremated bone inside urn	Roman	694.5
16	F2, T2	Soil sample, eastern half of fill – 1 bag		
17	F3, T2	Human inhumed bone (skull fragments)	Roman	36.0
17	F3, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	4.0
18	L4, T2	Animal bone	undated	99.0
18	L4, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	4.0
18	L4, T2	Roman tile	Roman	7.0
19	F3, T2	Soil sample, east end of feature -1 bag		
20	F1, T2	Animal bone	undated	162.0
20	F1, T2	Iron nail	undated	25.0
20	F1, T2	Roman tile	Roman	296.0
20	F1, T2	Roman pottery	Roman	105.0
Watching brief and limited excavation				
21	F5, Soakaway 1	Urn, half complete, top missing (broken by machine)	Roman	706.0
21	F5, Soakaway 1	Cremated bone inside urn	Roman	816.8
21	F5, Soakaway 1	Rim of a flagon	Roman	15.0
22	F5, Soakaway 1	Cremated bone at the top of the urn	Roman	19.2
23	U/S, Soakaway 1	Grey ware sherds from spoil heap	Roman	30.0
24	L10, Soakaway 1	Animal bone	undated	275.0
24	L10, Soakaway 1	Roman pottery	Roman	152.0
25	F5, Soakaway 1	Soil sample, southern half of fill - 1 small bag		
26, SF 2	L10, Soakaway 2	Fragments of a small composite stud, consisting of a convex copper-alloy sheet cap attached by lead-tin solder to an iron shank	Roman	
27	L10, Soakaway 2	Cremated bone fragments	undated	2.0
28	L10, Soakaway 2	Roman pottery	Roman	66.0
28	L10, Soakaway 2	Brick and tile	Roman	16.0
28	L10, Soakaway 2	Animal bone	undated	17.0
29	L10, Soakaway 2	Iron nail	undated	5.0
30	L9, plot 2 foundation trench	Roman pottery	Roman	110.0
30	L9, plot 2 foundation trench	Inhumed bone	undated	53.0

31	F7, service-trench	Hobnail inside urn 31, spit 1	Roman	1.0
31	F7, service-trench	Urn, complete apart from hole in side	Roman	567.0
31	F7, service-trench	Cremated bone inside urn	Roman	173.3
31	F7, service-trench	Animal bone inside urn	undated	16.7
32	F7, service-trench	Flagon next to urn, base missing	Roman	530.0
33	F7, service-trench	Roman pottery	Roman	14.0
33	F7, service-trench	Iron nail	Roman	5.0
34	F7, service-trench	Cremated bone in pit fill	Roman	239.7
34	F7, service-trench	Animal bone	undated	7.8
35	southern fill of F7	Soil sample – 1 bag		
36	F7, service-trench	Roman pottery	Roman	70.0
37	F7, service-trench	Iron nails	Roman	14.0
37	F7, service-trench	Roman pottery	Roman	7.0
38	northern fill of F7, service-trench	Soil sample - 1 bag		
39	U/S, near F7, service-trench	Animal bone	undated	20.0
39	U/S, near F7, service-trench	Roman pottery	Roman	23.0
40	F10, conservatory north foundation trench	Roman pottery	Roman	128.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Fabric 20? pottery	13th century?	40.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Roman pottery	Roman	868.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Animal bone	undated	393.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Tile	modern	205.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Tile	Roman	360.0
41	L14, conservatory foundation trench	Iron nails	undated	
42	F11, conservatory east wall	Tile with mortar attached	Roman	342.0
43	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Animal bone	undated	188.0
43	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Roman pottery	Roman	210.0
43	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Oyster shell	undated	22.0
43	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Roman tile	Roman	413.0
43	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	<i>Tessera</i> cube	Roman	22.0
44	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Animal bone	undated	233.0
44	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Pottery	Roman	160.0
44	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Oyster shell	undated	11.0
44	L8, boundary wall foundation trench	Tile	modern	430.0
45	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Roman pottery inside urn	Roman	1.0
45	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Iron nail inside urn	Roman	
45	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Urn	Roman	3,156.0

45	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Animal bone inside urn	undated	29.4
45	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Cremated bone inside urn	Roman	1,768.0
46	F12, boundary wall foundation trench	Roman pot fragment	Roman	19.0
47	F13, boundary wall foundation trench	Base of <i>mortaria</i>	Roman	394.0
48	F13, boundary wall foundation trench	Horn core (ram?)	undated	211.0
49	F13, boundary wall foundation trench	Roman pottery	Roman	851.0
50	F13, boundary wall foundation trench	Tile	Roman	4,284.0
51	F12, boundary wall foundation trench, NW fill	Soil sample – 2 bags		
52	U/S Soakaway 4	Oyster shell	undated	18.0
52	U/S Soakaway 4	Tile	Roman	140.0
52	U/S Soakaway 4	Horse or cattle bones	undated	1,290.0
52	U/S Soakaway 4	Roman pottery	Roman	66.0
53	U/S front of site	Samian pottery	Roman	110.0

7.2 The Roman pottery

The pottery was identified and used to date the features. A complete list of the Roman pottery can be found in Appendix 1.

7.3 Report on the small finds and bulk iron work

by Nina Crummy

Apart from one 4th-century coin (SF 1) the only diagnostically Roman object in this group of objects is SF 2, a Roman composite stud from a box or similar item of furniture. An iron hobnail is probably also Roman, as well as many of the iron nails. Apart from the hobnail and a possible punch or chisel terminal, the ironwork consists entirely of iron nails. Though the form of iron nails varies little with time, the corrosion of those in this assemblage varies from minimal to dense, suggesting a range in date from Roman to modern. A complete list of small finds and bulk iron work can found in Appendix 2.

7.4 Report on the cremated and inhumed human bone

by Mark Winter

7.4.1 Introduction

The remains from 15 West Lodge Road were assessed at Colchester Archaeological Trust during November 2005. Excavations revealed four or five cremation burials and four features and layers containing inhumed material. A complete list of the human bone can be found in Appendix 3. All remains were weighed and then identified, where possible, to element before being assessed for age, sex, pathology and bone colour. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was additionally calculated for each feature.

7.4.2 Methodology Inventory

Once elements were identified, they were categorised as cranial (elements from the skull), appendicular (elements from limbs and pelvic girdle), or axial (elements from the trunk including the vertebrae, pelvis, ribs and sternum).

Bone weight

Bone weight can vary greatly in cremations. Mays (1998, 220) mentions the differences which have been observed in the weight of ash from thoroughly cremated corpses and these are outlined in Table 3.

Table 7: ash weight of the human skeleton (Mays 1998, 220).

Age group	Mean weight (g)
0-6 months	54
6 months-3 years	185
3-13 years	661
13-25 years	2,191
Adult	1,919 (males 2,288 [range 1,534-3,605], females 1,550 [range 952-2,278])

Bone colour

The colour of cremated bone can be used as an indication of the temperature at which it was cremated. It has been noted that recording such colour changes is open to a degree of subjectivity and that factors other than the maximum temperature attained and duration of heating may exert some influence (Mays 1998, 217). Colour changes observed in bone as a result of cremation are detailed in Table 4.

Table 8: colour changes observed in goat bone after heating (Mays 1998, 217 and Shipman *et al* 1984).

Mays 1998 results		Shipman <i>et al</i> 1984 results	
Temperature (°C)	Colour	Temperature (°C)	Colour
185	Red/orange	under 285	White or yellow
285	Dark brown/black	285-525	Red/brown, red/yellow, dark grey/brown or dark grey
360	Black	525-645	Black, blue or red/yellow
440	Grey/brown	645-940	White, light grey or light blue/grey
525	Grey/brown (lighter than observed at 440)	940	White, some grey or red/yellow
645-1200	White, some pale yellow		

Sex determination

The sex of a skeleton was ascertained through the observation of certain traits on the pelvis and skull. It should be remembered that individuals often exhibit a combination of features. This is especially true when examining younger and older individuals as young males often have quite feminine features while older females often develop more masculine skeletal features. It is not possible to determine sex for juveniles.

Age at death determination

Four main techniques were used to determine age at death of adult remains. The Todd scoring system and the Suchey/Brooks scoring system use morphological changes of the pubic symphyseal face to estimate age at death (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 21). These changes are considered among the most reliable criteria for determining age at death (*ibid*). The Todd method has been found to be the most reliable for age at death estimation but both methods have a tendency to under-age

(White & Folkens 2000, 354). The female pelvis is prone to trauma related to childbirth which may lead to averaging (White & Folkens 2000, 353), and inter and intra observer errors may occur (White & Folkens 2000, 354). These systems were developed using modern samples and age related change in the target samples may differ from modern reference samples (Hoppa 2000, 190)

Changes occurring in the Auricular surface also provide an indication of age at death and it is more likely to survive archaeologically than the pubic symphysis (White & Folkens 2000, 35). Changes also continue to occur here well beyond the age of fifty years (White & Folkens 2000, 355). This method is more complex and difficult to score than the pubic symphysis (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 24; White & Folkens 2003, 355), and large estimation errors mean it should not be used in isolation (White & Folkens 2000, 355). The reliability of this method decreases with age (under-ageing), particularly from the mid thirties, and some aspects are impaired when a deep pre auricular sulcus is present (Cox 2000, 71). This technique is also subject to inter observer errors (*ibid*).

The final method employed here to determine age at death is based upon cranial suture closure. This method can distinguish between young, middle-aged and old-aged individuals (Cox 2000, 68), but cannot assign specific ages (Cox 2000, 67). It should be noted that suture closure rates differ between males and females and open ectocranial sutures occur in males and females of all ages (Key *et al* 1994, 206).

When assessing juvenile remains, age at death was established through the observation of tooth eruption and bone fusion and development. Tooth development is more closely associated with chronological age than the development of other skeletal parts, and appears to be under tighter genetic control. However, in some individuals teeth erupt earlier in life and eruption can occur in different orders in different individuals (White & Folkens 2000, 342). Fusion of a postcranial epiphysis is orderly and occurs at a known age, but can vary by individual, sex and population (White & Folkens 2000, 349). In instances where the skull and pelvis were not present, or it was not possible to assess fusion times, remains were interpreted as being of either adult or juvenile size.

For the purpose of this report, the following terminology has been applied when discussing age.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Juvenile | under 20 years |
| 2. | Infant | birth to 1 year |
| 3. | Early childhood | 1 to 6 years |
| 4. | Late childhood | 6 to 12 years |
| 5. | Sub adult | 12 to 20 years |
| 6. | Adult | 20+ years |
| 7. | Young adult | 20-34 years |
| 8. | Mid adult | 35-49 years |
| 9. | Old adult | 50+ years |

Pathology

All burials were assessed for signs of pathology.

7.4.3 Results

Inventory

No bias was observed regarding the placement of particular elements within the burials. 5 (45.5%) of the contexts contained animal bone.

Minimum number of individuals (MNI)

Examination of skeletal elements in each burial did not provide evidence for more than 1 individual per context. As such each feature has an MNI of 1.

Weight

The unburned remains had a total weight of 228.36g. Cremated remains had a total weight of 3714.5g and ranged from 3.0g to 1,768g, with an average weight per cremation burial of 742.9g (if one includes cremated bone from L10). Only one

cremation burial was within the weight distribution discussed by Mays (1998, 220), but was within the range for both male and female adult cremation burials.

Colour

A number of different colours were observed among the cremations. Cremation temperature at the site seems to have varied between under 285 °C to 645 °C.

Sex

It was not possible to assign sex to any of the burials.

Age

Age estimation was possible for 4 (57.1 per cent) cremation burials and 1 (25 per cent) inhumation burial. All the remains appeared to represent adults.

Pathology

Pathological changes were observed on 1 cremated and 0 inhumed individuals. Schmorl's nodes were observed on the superior and inferior surfaces of 2 thoracic vertebrae. These defects occur as a result of the intervertebral disc protruding through the vertebral surface facing it, and extending into the trabecular bone of the vertebral body (Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin 1998, 97). Schmorl's nodes can be found in most individuals over the age of 45 years (*ibid*).

8 Discussion

Well-preserved Roman deposits were recorded at a depth of 950mm-1.1 m below the modern ground-level during the evaluation. Two intact early Roman urned cremation burials were discovered, one in each trench. Two possible inhumation burials were exposed but were not fully excavated. Pottery from one of these possible inhumation burials was later 3rd to 4th century in date which corresponds with the date of most Roman inhumation burials found in Colchester. Contrary to expectation, there was no evidence for the backfilled trenches of the Victorian antiquarian John Taylor.

The watching brief and limited excavation located four or five further cremation burials, a spread of Roman material and a burnt feature. It was not possible to excavate the burnt feature, and therefore its function is open to speculation. There is the likelihood – given its location within a cremation cemetery – that it is a *bustum*, but no cremated bone was recovered (a *bustum* is a type of pyre with the burial *in situ*). Substantial quantities of animal bone, oyster shell, Roman pottery and tile were recorded in certain areas. The ditch to the Roman road was not encountered (Hull 1958, 273-4).

The results confirm that the site is within the known Roman cemetery area and was in use as a cemetery from the 1st or early 2nd century to the late 3rd or 4th century (Fig 12). The findings are similar to those from the Handford House and 21 West Lodge Road sites (see section 3). After the 4th century, the site probably went out of use or was used for agricultural purposes allowing a deep layer of post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' to form. The few finds from the post-Roman period were a small amount of possibly 13th-century pottery, peg-tile and some post-medieval clay pipe.

9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2004.353.

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12 Glossary

amphora	large vessel for transporting wine, olive oil or fish sauce from the Continent
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
cover loam	a prehistoric wind-blown deposit
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
inhumation burial	an unburnt burial, ie normally a skeleton in a grave
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
mortaria	Roman mixing bowl
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman mortar made with crushed tile
post-medieval	the period from c AD 1500 to around c AD 1900
prehistoric	the period before written records, ie until AD 43 in Britain
Roman	the period between AD 43 and c AD 410
<i>tessera</i>	one of many tile cubes used for flooring and mosaic
U/S	unstratified

13 Site data

Table 9: list of contexts.

Context	Description	Associated artefacts	Date of context
L1 in T1 & T2	Turf and topsoil, approx 250mm thick; sandy clay loam with moderate small to medium gravels and sparse small tile fragments - Munsell colour 10YR 5/2		modern
L2 in T1 & T2	Made-up layers sealed by L1 and sealing L3 – possibly a Victorian dumped layer, 100mm thick	Mortar fragments in T1	Victorian?
L3 in T1 and T2	Post-Roman or late Roman topsoil or 'dark earth', approximately 800mm thick	Copper-alloy coin, Roman pottery, animal bone, tile	late Roman or post-Roman
L4 in T2	Sandy silt 'cover loam' with moderate small to medium gravels and sparse charcoal flecks; seals natural sand and gravel L7, up to 200mm thick	Roman pottery and animal bone	Glacial or prehistoric
L5 in T1	Sandy clay loam with sparse charcoal flecks – possibly a make-up layer of redeposited cover loam; sealed by L3 and L6 - at least 200mm thick	Very sparse oyster shell fragments and animal bone	Roman
L6 in T1	Sandy clay loam, moderate small to medium gravels, charcoal flecks; a possible dump layer overlying L5 in the south and west of the trench; sealed by L3 - 200mm thick	Oyster fragments, human bone, Roman pottery, iron nail, a <i>tessera</i> cube, Roman tile	Roman
L7 in T2	Natural reddish brown sand and gravel, sealed by L4; same as L11 and L15		Glacial

L8 in Soakaways 1 & 2 and wall foundation trench	Topsoil, sealing L9; same as L1 and L13	Animal bone, Roman pottery, Roman tile, oyster shell, peg-tile	post-medieval or modern
L9 in Soakaways 1 & 2	Late Roman or post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth'; seals F5 and L10 - same as L3 and L14	Tile and animal bone	late Roman or post-Roman
L10 in Soakaways 1 & 2	Light yellowish brown silty sand, the same as L4? - redeposited cover loam?	Copper-alloy stud, cremated bone, Roman pottery, iron nail	Roman
L11 in Soakaways 1 & 2	Reddish orange natural sand and gravel, same as L7 and L15		Glacial
L12 in conservatory trenches	Soil and rubble spread by contractors, 100-150mm thick		2005
L13 – conservatory trenches	Very dark brown sandy loam topsoil – sporadic remnants only; same as L1		modern
L14 – conservatory trenches	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with rare charcoal flecks; 'dark earth', very thick layer with most finds coming from 400-800mm below ground-level - same as L3 and L9	Roman pottery, possible medieval pottery, animal bone, Roman and post-Roman tile, nail	late Roman or post-Roman
L15 - conservatory trenches	Natural sand with silty patches; same as L7 and L11		Glacial
F1 in T2	Pit extending into western and northern sections and therefore not fully excavated; at least 300mm deep; charcoal flecks - a possible inhumation burial	Human leg and rib fragments, Roman pottery and tile	
F2 in T2	Urned cremation burial – greyish brown sandy clay loam with moderate small to medium gravels; eastern edge of pit under eastern section of trench	Urn	
F3 in T2	Pit extending into west section – a possible inhumation burial	Human skull fragments, one sherd of Roman pottery	Roman
F4	Urned cremation burial; occasional charcoal flecks in the fill	Urn	Roman
F5	Urned cremation burial	Urn	Roman
F6	Cut feature, possibly natural origin		natural?
F7	Urned cremation burial	Urn, flagon, nails, other Roman pottery	Roman
F8	no F8		
F9	no F9		
F10	Disturbed urned cremation burial	Roman pottery	Roman
F11	Burnt feature		Roman
F12	Urned cremation burial	Urn	Roman
F13	Pot, tile and stone scatter with no edges to feature; disturbed	Roman pottery, tile, septaria plus a horn core	Roman

Appendix 1: Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

In this report on the Roman pottery, vessel form numbers follow those of the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Roman pottery fabrics used in this report (Table 6) follow those devised for *CAR 10*. The first table is a list of fabrics and the second table provides descriptions of the Roman pottery according to finds and features. (LSJ = large storage jar; (h) = handle.)

Table 10: Roman pottery fabric codes and the corresponding fabric name used in this report.

Fabric code	Fabric name
AA	amphora, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium amphora)
AJ	amphora, Dressel 20
BA	plain samian forms
SG	South Gaulish plain samian
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian
EG	East Gaulish plain samian
BX	decorated samian
CG	Central Gaulish decorated samian
COL	Colchester decorated samian
CB	Colchester red colour-coated roughcast ware
CH	oxidised Hadham wares
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware
EC	early Colchester colour-coated ware
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware
MQ	white slipped fine wares and parchment wares
TD	Verulamium region mortaria
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares

Table 11: Pottery from all contexts.

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
	1			U/S	BA	EG			1	6	0.00			2nd-early 3rd	
	1			U/S	GA		Cam 39	dish	1	7	0.02			mid 2nd-4th	
	1			U/S	GB		Cam 37B		1	9	0.05			late 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	1			U/S	DJ				2	11	0.00			1st-2nd	
	1			U/S	GX		Cam 268	jar	5	120	0.20			mid 2nd+	
	2			U/S	BX	CG	DR.37	bowl	1	52	0.00			2nd	
	2			U/S	HZ		Cam 273	jar LSJ	6	373	0.10	sherds from 2 pots		1st-2nd /3rd	
	2			U/S	CZ			beaker	1	11	0.00			early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
	2			U/S	MQ			beaker	2	104	0.00	beaker base, both sherds join		2nd- 3rd/4th	
	2			U/S	GB		Cam 37B	bowl	3	23	0.05			late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	2			U/S	KX		Cam 305B	bowl	2	23	0.05			mid 3rd- 4th	
	2			U/S	AA			amphora	2	37	0.00	possibly Gauloise 4		late 1st- 2nd/ early 3rd	
	2			U/S	GX		Cam 268	jar	2	166	0.05			mid 2nd+	
	4			U/S	HZ			jar LSJ	2	40	0.00			1st-2nd /3rd	
	4			U/S	DZ		Cam 395	beaker	2	7	0.02	beaker and one other sherd		?mid 3rd-4th	
	4			U/S	DJ				1	3	0.00			1st-2nd	
	4			U/S	GA		?Cam 305A	bowl	3	27	0.00			mid 3rd- 4th	
	4			U/S	GB			dish/bowl	1	12	0.00			early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	4			U/S	KX		Cam 305B	bowl	1	13	0.10			mid 3rd- 4th	
	5			U/S	AA				3	55	0.10			1st-2nd / early 3rd	
	5			U/S	CH				2	26	0.00			4th	
	5			U/S	BA	CG	Dr.31	bowl	1	24	0.00			later 2nd	
	5			U/S	HD			jar	1	9	0.10			4th	
	5			U/S	CZ				6	17	0.05			early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	5			U/S	EA				1	1	0.00			mid 3rd- 4th	
	5			U/S	DJ				5	16	0.00			1st-2nd	
	5			U/S	GB		Cam 37B	bowl	3	23	0.10			late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	5			U/S	GA				2	12	0.00			early 2nd-4th	
	5			U/S	HZ				2	44	0.00			1st- 2nd/3rd	
	5			U/S	GX		Cam 268	jar	50	400	0.20			Roman	
	5			U/S	KX		Cam 305B	bowl	2	23	0.20			mid 3rd- 4th	
	6			U/S	CZ				2	3	0.00	includes part of barbotine figure		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	6			U/S	CB				1	4	0.00			early 2nd-mid 3rd	
	6			U/S	GB		Cam 37B		2	15	0.05			late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	6			U/S	GX				20	90	0.05			Roman	
T1	8		3		BA	CG	Dr.27	cup	4	51	0.00	base with illegible stamp, probably from a Dr.27 cup	dark earth?	early- mid 2nd	

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
T1	9		6		TD			mortaria	1	24	0.00	abraded	dump	1st-mid 2nd	
T1	9		6		CH				1	4	0.00		dump	late 3rd- 4th, probably 4th	
T1	9		6		CZ				2	1	0.00	different pots	dump	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
T1	9		6		HZ			jar - LSJ	1	9	0.00		dump	1st- 2nd/3rd	
T1	9		6		DJ				1	4	0.00		dump	1st-2nd	
T1	9		6		GX				15	46	0.00	includes 2 sherds from a thin- walled beaker	dump	Roman, 2nd+	
T2	10		3		GA			dish/ bowl	1	11	0.00	base sherd	dark earth?	early 2nd-4th	
T2	10		3		CH				1	8	0.00		dark earth?	late 3rd- 4th, probably 4th	
T2	10		3		CZ				1	1	0.00		dark earth?	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
T2	10		3		GX		Cam 268	jar	5	43	0.15	sherds from 2 pots	dark earth?	early 2nd-4th	
T1	12		5		GX				2	2	0.00	2 small sherds	cover loam	Roman	
T2	18		4		GX				1	4	0.02		cover loam	Roman	
T2	18		4		HZ			jar - LSJ	1	17	0.00		cover loam	1st- 2nd/3rd	
T2	18		4		DJ				1	3	0.00		cover loam	1st-2nd	
Soak- away 1	23	U/S			GX				3	29	0.00	3 sherds from different vessels	spoil heap	Roman	
	24		10		DJ		Cam 140	flagon (2)	10	33	0.40	rim and neck sherds, rim sherds indicate 2 pots both Cam 140	redeposited cover loam	pre- Flavian	
	24		10		GB				1	12	0.00		redeposited cover loam	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	24		10		KX				1	45	0.00	chamfer-ed base sherd	redeposited cover loam	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	24		10		HZ				1	9	0.00		redeposited cover loam	1st- 2nd/3rd	
	24		10		BA	CG			1	1	0.00		redeposited cover loam	2nd	
	28		10		EC				1	4	0.00		redeposited cover loam	pre- Flavian	
	28		10		DJ				2	9	0.00		redeposited cover loam	1st-2nd	
	28		10		GX				4	8	0.00		redeposited cover loam	Roman	
	28		10		GB		Cam 40B	dish	4	46	0.10	sherds from Cam 40B	redeposited cover loam	early 2nd to	

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
												and sherd from one other pot		mid-late 3rd	
	30		9		GX			beaker	1	76	0.00	beaker base	dark earth	2nd-3rd	
	30		9		GB		Cam 37B	bowl	1	33	0.10		dark earth	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	39			U/S	GX		jar, lid		2	23	0.10			Roman	
	41		14		BA	EG	Dr. 45 Dr. 36	mortaria, dish	3	42	0.05		dark earth	late 2nd- mid 3rd	
	41		14		BX	GG	Dr. 37	bowl	1	18	0.05		dark earth	2nd	
	41		14		CH				1	21	0.00		dark earth	late 3rd- 4th, probably 4th	
	41		14		GA		Cam 279C	jar	1	19	0.05		dark earth	mid 3rd- 4th	
	41		14		HZ			jar - LSJ	2	88	0.00		dark earth	1st- 2nd/3rd	
	41		14		GB		Cam 37B	bowl	1	12	0.05		dark earth	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	41		14		KX		Cam 37B	bowl	1	22	0.05		dark earth	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	41		14		AJ		Dres- sel 20	amphora	1	239	0.05		dark earth	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	41		14		DJ				1	23	0.00		dark earth	1st-2nd	
	41		14		GX		?Cam 268	jar	6	124	0.15		dark earth	mid 2nd+	
	41		14		TZ		Cam 498, Cam 501	mortaria	2	228	0.25	mortaria and possible mortaria of form ?Cam 501 or large vase	dark earth	2nd-3rd	
	41		14		MQ				1	32	0.00	very abraded, possibly Fabric MQ	dark earth	Roman	
	43		8		CH				1	27	0.00		topsoil	late 3rd- 4th, probably 4th	
	43		8		CZ			beaker	1	21	0.00	beaker base	topsoil	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	43		8		BA	CG			1	8	0.00		topsoil	2nd	
	43		8		GB		Cam 278 Cam 37B	jar, dish	3	44	0.10		topsoil	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	43		8		BX	Col	Dr.37	bowl	1	11	0.00	ovolo potter A (Hull 1963, fig 40 no 96) with rosette (Hull 1963, fig 40 no 72)	topsoil	mid-late 2nd	
	43		8		GX				5	98	0.05	sherds from 2 pots	topsoil	Roman	
	44		8		BA	EG			1	9	0.00		topsoil	2nd- early 3rd	

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
	44		8		CZ				1	5	0.00		topsoil	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	44		8		GB		Cam 40B	dish	2	76	0.15	joining sherds making profile	topsoil	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	44		8		GX				4	36	0.05		topsoil	Roman	
	44		8		WA				1	34	0.00	base sherd	topsoil	Roman	
	52		9		GB		Cam 37B	bowl	1	10	0.05	probably same pot as find 30	dark earth	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
	52		9		DJ				1	12	0.00		dark earth	1st-2nd	
	52		9		GX				2	44	0.00		dark earth	Roman	
	53			U/S	BA	?Co I	Dr.31		1	110	0.05	possibly a Colchester product		mid-late 2nd	
T2	7	1			CH				2	14	0.00		pit fill	late 3rd- 4th, probably 4th	
T2	7	1			CZ		Cam 407	beaker	3	15	0.00		pit fill	Early- mid 3rd to mid- late 3rd	
T2	7	1			HZ			jar - LSJ	1	38	0.00		pit fill	1st-2nd/ 3rd	
T2	7	1			GA		Cam 279	jar	1	15	0.00		pit fill	early 2nd-4th	
T2	7	1			GB		Cam 37B	bowl	2	11	0.03		pit fill	late 2nd to mid- late 3rd	
T2	7	1			BA	SG			1	3	0.00		pit fill	1st	
T2	7	1			DJ			flagon (h)	1	3	0.00		pit fill	1st-2nd	
T2	7	1			MQ				1	4	0.00		pit fill	Roman	
T2	7	1			GX		Cam 268	jar	7	54	0.15		pit fill	mid 2nd+	
T2	20	1			CZ			beaker	1	6	0.20	rim ?part of find 7, Cam 407	pit fill	?early- mid 3rd to mid- late 3rd	
T2	20	1			GX				1	5	0.00		pit fill	Roman	
T2	20	1			AJ				1	92	0.00		pit fill	1st-early 3rd	
T2	14	2			KX		?Cam 278	jar	1	6	0.00	possibly Fabric KX rather than GX	cremation sherd	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
T2	14	2			CZ			beaker	1	2	0.00		cremation sherd	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	15	2			GX			jar/bowl - lid- seated	0	1386	0.00	possibly form Cam 259 (CAR 10 Fabric HD type 32) though not shell- tempered but in early Roman fabric, small chip to rim (old damage)	cremation pot	1st	#

area	find bag	feature	layer	fill location	fabric CAR 10	additional fabric detail	form	pot type	sherd quantity	wt (g)	eve	comments	feature/ note	date century	illustrations
T2	17	3			CZ			beaker	1	5	0.00		pit	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	21	5			DJ		Cam 140	flagon	1	14	0.20	collared flagon rim	cremation sherd	pre- Flavian	
	21	5			GX				3	30	0.05	U/S ?possibly F5	?cremation sherds	Roman	
	21	5			GX			jar	18	826	0.00	mid-lower part of jar or bowl, base and lower pot intact	cremation pot	Roman	#
	31	7			GX		Cam 108	beaker	0	554	1.00	whole apart from sherd(s) missing from body on one side, may be modern damage	cremation pot	1st-early 2nd	#
	32	7			DJ			flagon	15	3	0.00	fragments from flagon, part of pot find 32	cremation pot	1st-2nd	
	32	7			DJ		Cam 154/ 155	flagon	0	528	1.00	whole part pot upright ring neck flagon with 4 rings, 3- rib handle, lower part of pot missing	cremation pot	Claudio- Nero	#
	33	7			GX			flask	1	14	0.10	rim, joins with find 36	cremation	Roman	
	36	7			GX			flask	1	33	0.25	rim, joins with find 33	cremation	Roman	
	36	7			DJ			flagon	2	38	0.00	thick sherds from flagon(s?), not part of cremation pot	cremation sherds	1st-2nd	
	37	7			DJ			flagon	1	7	0.00	part of pot find 32		1st-2nd	
	40	10			GA			dish	2	114	0.00	chamfered base	cremation ?sherds	early 2nd-4th	
	40	10			CZ			beaker	3	14	0.20		cremation ?sherds	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd	
	45	12			DJ			flagon	1	2	0.00	body sherd, probably from a flagon	cremation sherd	1st-2nd	
	45	12			GX		Cam 270B	jar - LSJ	0	3,156	1.00	whole, though two main body herds now detached	cremation pot	1st- 2nd/3rd	#
	46	12			KX		Cam 37	bowl	1	19	0.05	partly half round rim	cremation sherd	mid-late 2nd to mid 3rd	
	47	13			TZ			mortaria	1	394	0.00	base only	material scatter	1st- 2nd/3rd	
	49	13			AJ		Dres- sel 20	amphora	5	851	0.00		material scatter	1st-early 3rd	

Appendix 2: The small finds and bulk iron work

by Nina Crummy

SF 1. (3) L3. Trench 2. Copper-alloy coin: Constantius II, H K 130 (Hill & Kent 1972), rev. Gloria Exercitus, 1 standard. AD 337-41. Diameter 14 mm.

SF 2. (26) L10. Soakway 2. Fragments of a small composite stud, consisting of a convex copper-alloy sheet cap attached by lead-tin solder to an iron shank. Diameter approximately 11 mm, height (shank missing) 6 mm.

(7) F1. Trench 2. Rectangular-section rod fragment, tapering to a blunt point; possibly a punch or chisel. Length 70 mm.

(31) F7. Hobnail. Length 16 mm.

(7) F1. Trench 2. a) Iron nail with flat round head, clenched. Length 53 mm. b) Nail shank fragment. Length 47 mm.

(20) F1. Iron nail with small slightly convex head. Length 53 mm.

(15) F2. Trench 2. Two small fragments iron, possibly slag drips. Lengths 11 mm, 16 mm.

(31) F7. Nail with flat round head. Length 17 mm, incomplete.

(33) F7. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 29 mm.

(37) F7. a) Iron nail with flat round head. Length 42 mm, incomplete. b) Nail shank fragment, in two pieces. Length 40 mm.

(10) L3. Trench 2. Nail shank fragment. Length 20 mm.

(9) L6. Trench 1. a) Three iron nails with flat round head. Lengths 61 mm, 54 mm, 38 mm (incomplete). b) Nail shank fragment, clenched. Length 39 mm.

(44) L8. Spur off wall trench at front. Iron nail with ?flat round head. Length 62 mm.

(29) L10. Soakaway 2. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 22 mm (incomplete).

(41) L14. Iron nail with slightly convex head. Length 77 mm.

(1). Trench 2. Unstratified. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 44 mm.

(5). Trench 1. Unstratified. a) Iron nails with flat round head. Lengths 68 mm, 55 mm (bent), 44 mm (incomplete), 31 mm (clenched), 44 mm (clenched). b) Two nail shank fragments. Lengths 65 mm (?headless nail), 32 mm.

(45) F12, inside urn – spit 10. Iron nail 25mm long.

Appendix 3: Inventory of human bone

by Mark Winter

F1, T2 (find 7)

Quantification: Total weight 186.76g; appendicular 164.5g; axial 1.9g; fragments 20.36g
Determination of age: Adult size
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Femur, rib
Colours: Yellow
Pathology: None observed
Notes: Unburnt

L10, Soakaway 2 (find 27)

Quantification: Total weight 3.0g; fragments 3.0 g
Determination of age: No ageing criteria
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: None
Colours: Yellow-white
Cremation temperature: Under 285 °C
Pathology: None observed

U/S, mainly L6, T1 (find 5)

Quantification: Total weight 2.2g; cranial 2.2g
Determination of age: No ageing criteria
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Skull
Colours: Pale yellow
Pathology: None observed
Notes: Unburnt

L4, T2 (find 11)

Quantification: Total weight 3.8g; fragments 3.8g
Determination of age: No ageing criteria
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: None
Colours: Yellow-white
Pathology: None observed
Notes: Unburnt

F3, T2 (find 17)

Quantification: Total weight 35.6g; cranial 34.9; fragments 0.7g
Determination of age: Sagittal and lambdoid sutures are unfused at Lambda. Unfortunately not enough survives to make a composite score for the sutures and as such this individual has not been aged.
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Occipital pars squama, parietal, skull
Colours: Yellow-white
Cremation temperature: Unburnt
Pathology: None observed

F7, service-trench (find 34)

Quantification: Total weight 239.7 g; cranial 8.3g; appendicular 45.4g; fragments 186.0g
Determination of age: No ageing criteria
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Temporal pars petrosa, skull, long bones
Colours: Yellow-white/grey-black
Cremation temperature: Under 285 °C to 440 °C
Pathology: None observed
Notes: May represent the same individual as find no 31

F7, service-trench (find 31)

Quantification: Total weight 173.3 g; cranial 2.4g; appendicular 64.1g; fragments 106.2g; axial 0.6g
Determination of age: Remains are fused and of adult size

Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Vertebral centrum, femur, humerus, long bones, metapodial, skull
Colours: White/grey
Cremation temperature: 285 °C to 645 °C
Pathology: None observed
Notes: May represent the same individual as find 34

F2, T2 (find 15)

Quantification: Total weight 694.5g; axial 11.8g; fragments 511g; appendicular 142.4g; cranial 29.3
Determination of age: Adult size
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Atlas, axis, vertebral centrum, glenoid, humerus, long bones, temporal pars petrosa, rib, skull, tooth
Colours: Grey-black/yellow-white
Cremation temperature: Under 285 °C to 645 °C
Pathology: None observed

F5, Soakaway 1 (find 22)

Quantification: Total weight 19.2g; fragments 19.2g
Determination of age: No ageing criteria
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: None
Colours: Pale yellow
Cremation temperature: Under 285 °C
Pathology: None observed
Notes: Bone in/on urn
Notes: May represent the same individual as find no 21

F5, Soakaway 1 (find 21)

Quantification: Total weight 816.8g; axial 90.7g; appendicular 314.5g; fragments 411.6g
Determination of age: Remains appear to be fused and of adult size
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Vertebral centrum, femur, humerus, ischium, long bone, navicular, rib, tibia
Colours: Pale yellow/grey-black
Cremation temperature: Under 285 °C to 645 °C
Pathology: None observed
Notes: May represent the same individual as find no 22

F12, boundary wall trench (find 45)

Quantification: Total weight 1768g; axial 230.0g; appendicular 137.5g; cranial 91.8g; fragments 1308.7g
Determination of age: Remains appear to be fused and of adult size
Determination of sex: No sexing criteria
Identified elements: Atlas, axis, vertebral centrum, femur, glenoid of scapula, humerus, ilium, ischium, long bone, mastoid, maxilla, metapodial, molar, navicular, occipital pars squama, parietal, radius, rib, sacrum, skull, spheno-occipital synchondrosis, talus, temporal pars petrosa, tibia, tooth, vertebra
Colours: Yellow-white/grey/blue-black
Cremation temperature: under 285 °C to 645 °C
Pathology: Schmorl's nodes observed on inferior and superior surface of 1 vertebra.

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Distribution list:

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Date: 20.03.06

Adams c:/report06/15westlodgeroad/report318.doc

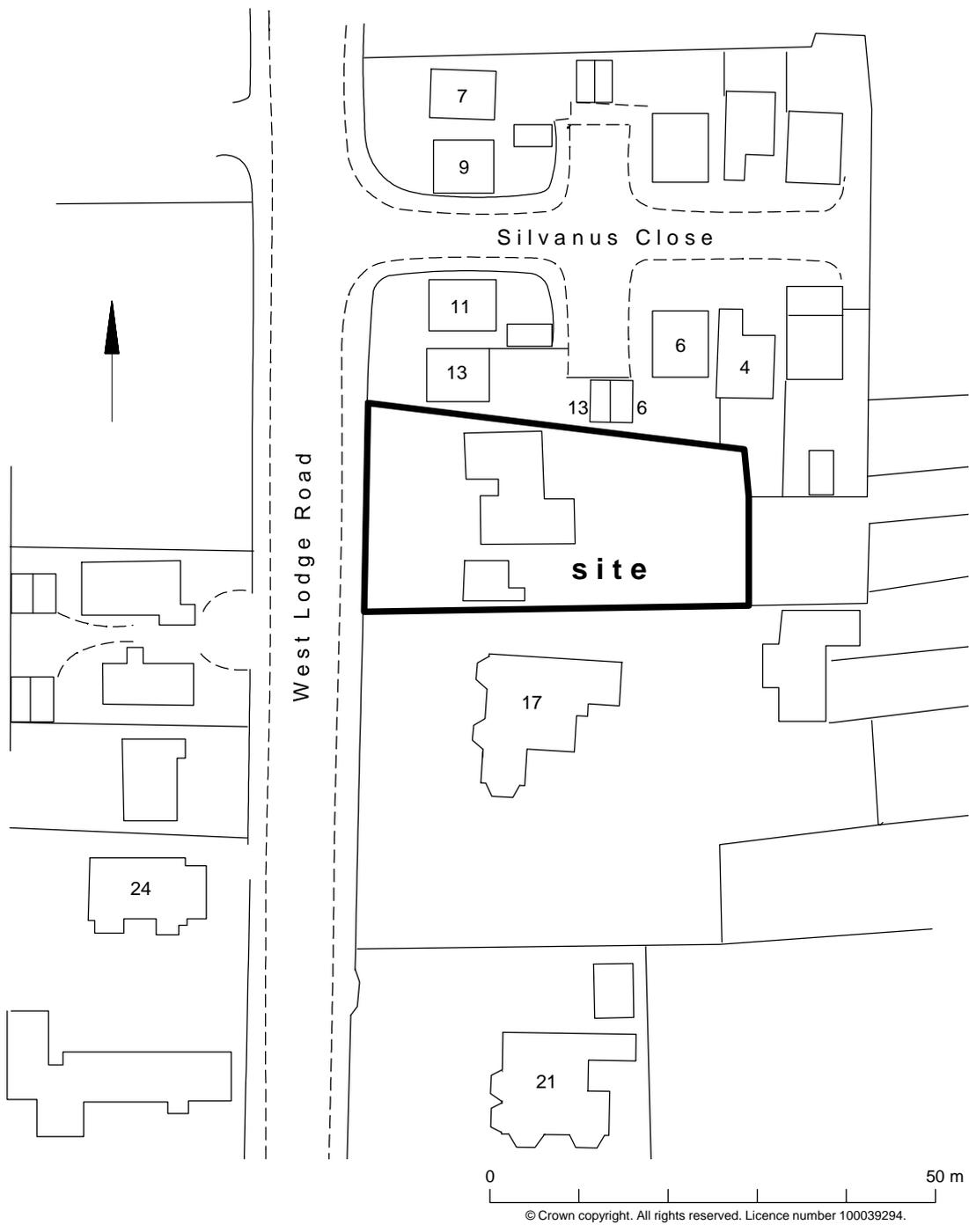


Fig 1 Site location, showing previous dwelling.

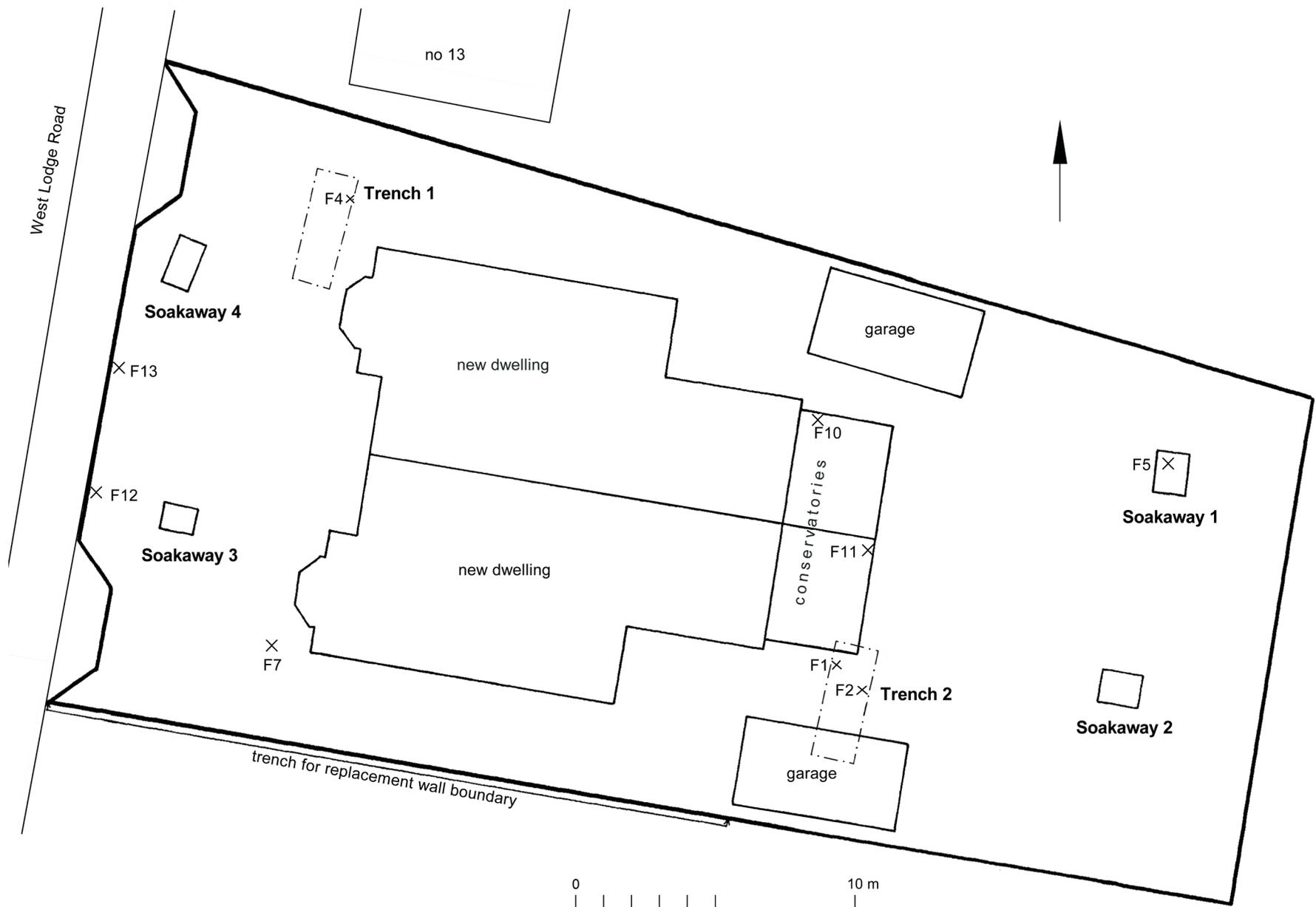


Fig 2 Plan of site, showing locations of main features.

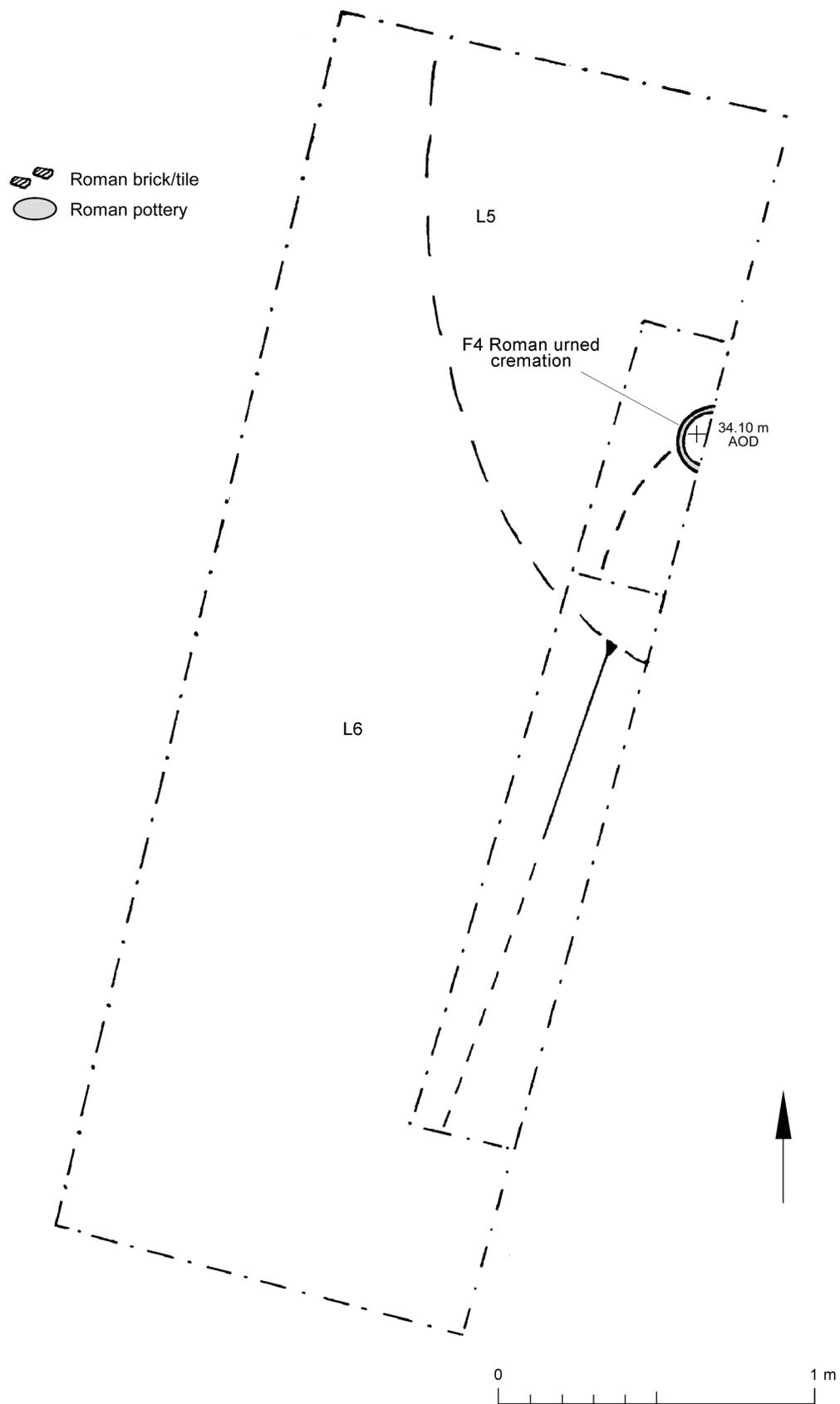


Fig 3 Trench 1: plan.

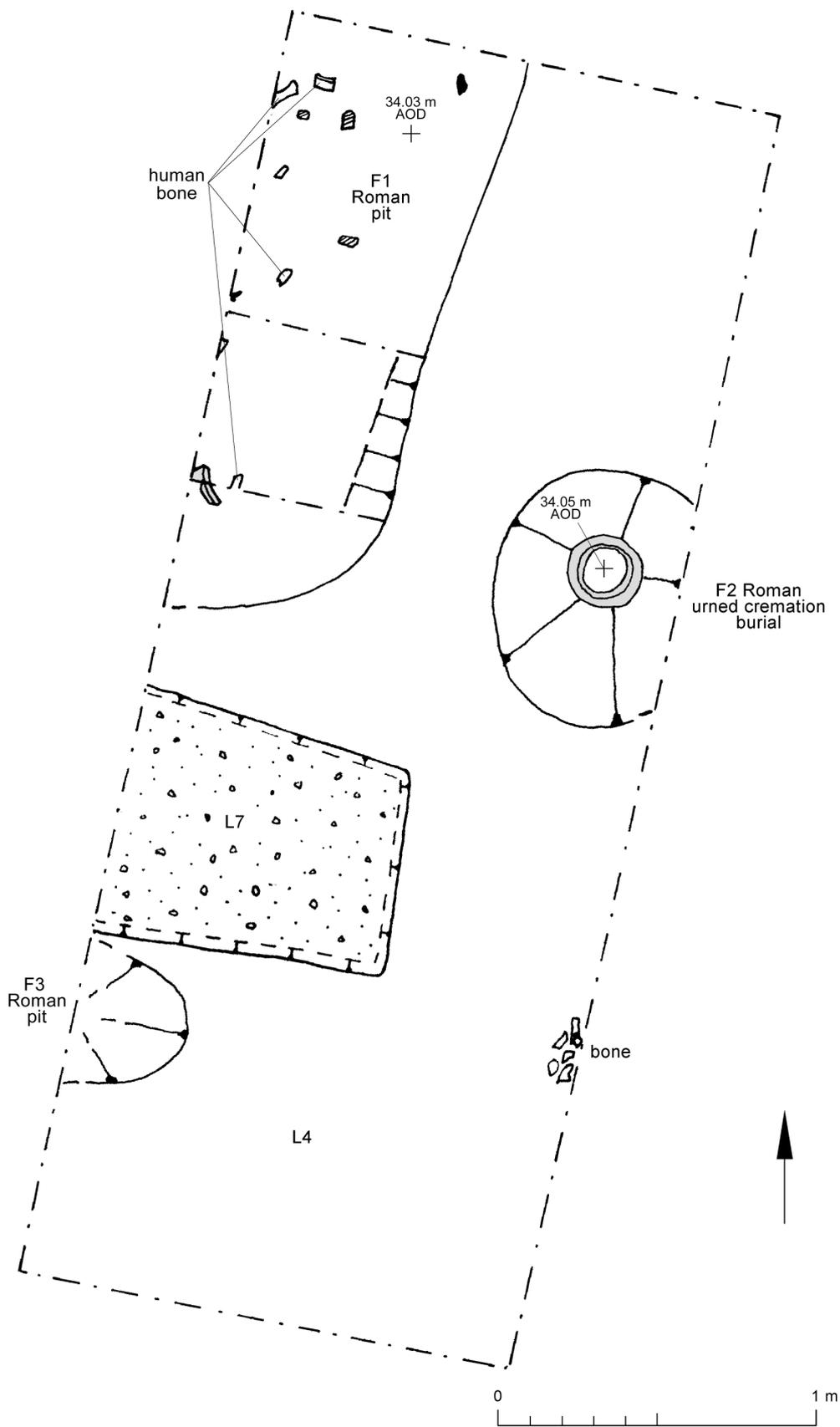


Fig 4 Trench 2: plan.

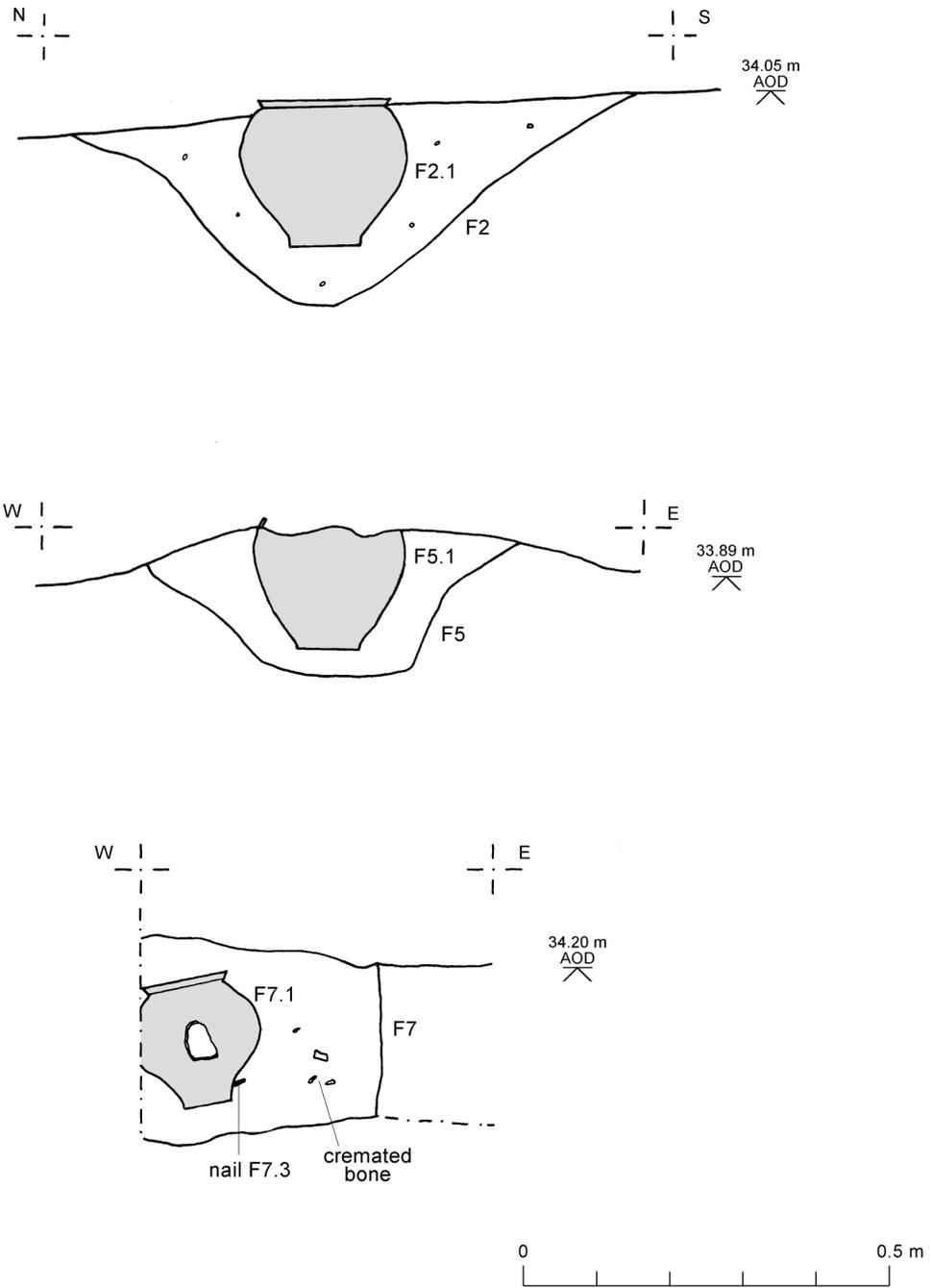


Fig 5 F2, F5, F7: section drawings.

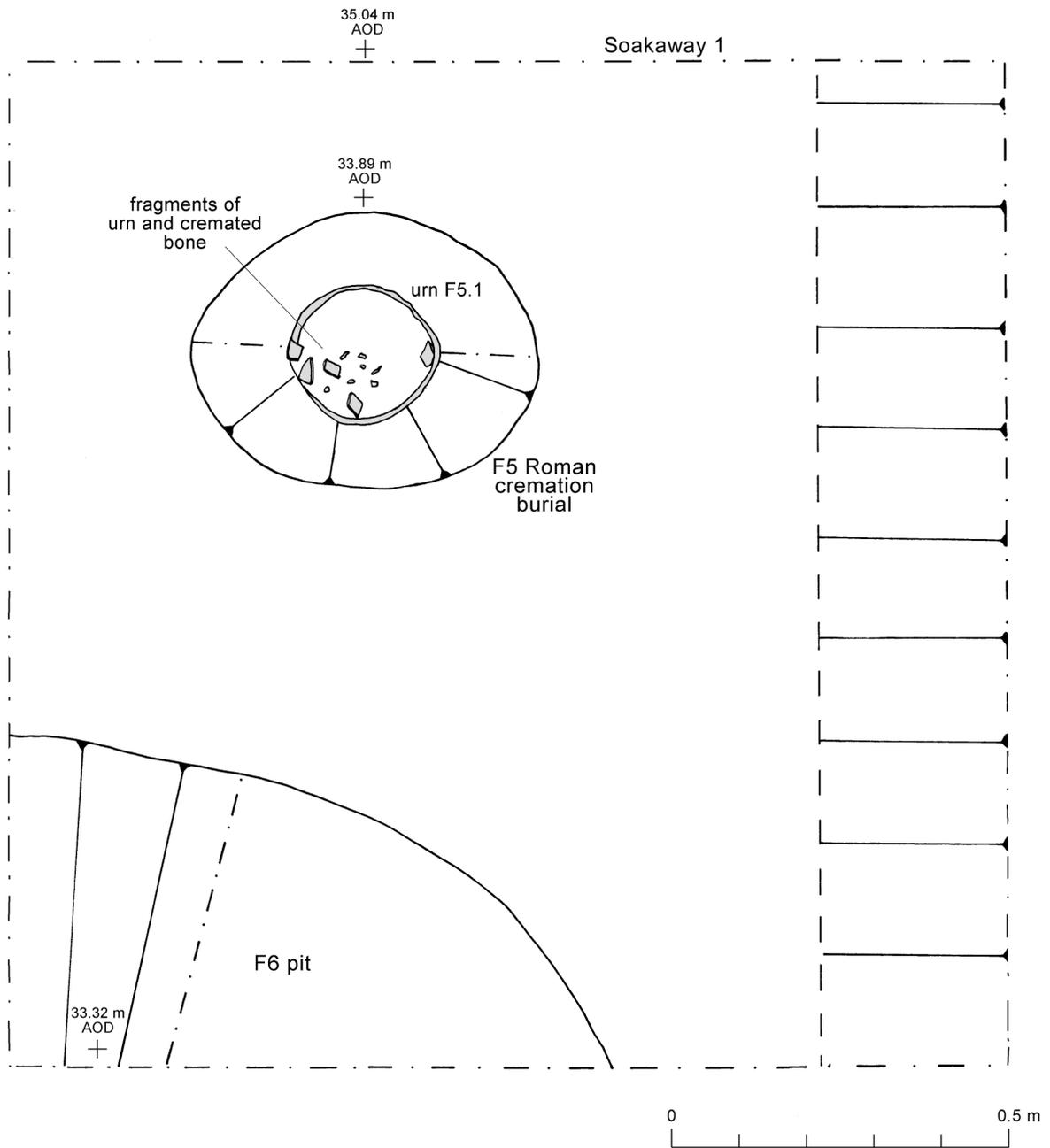
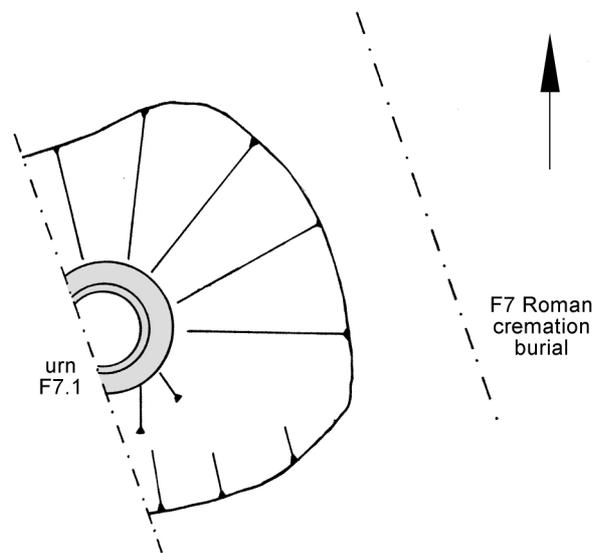
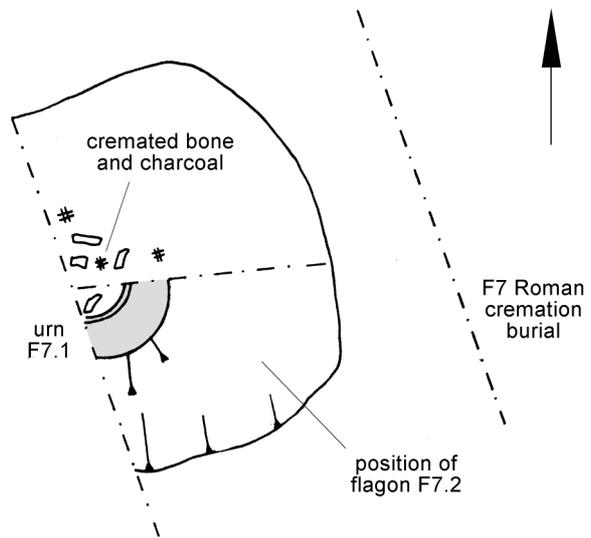


Fig 6 F5 and F6: plan.

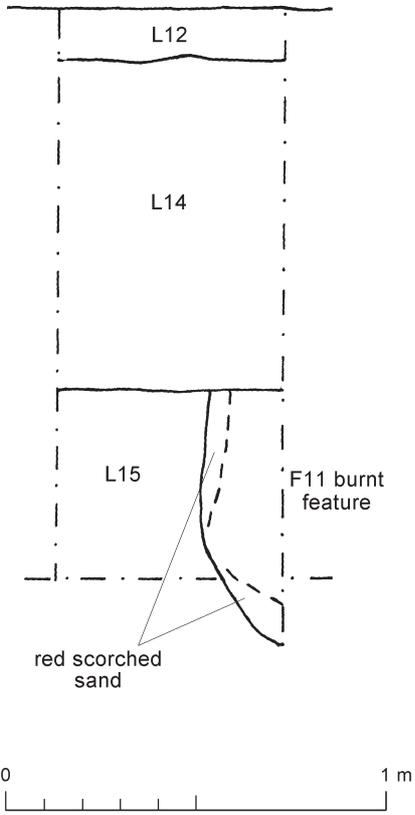


0 0.5 m

A horizontal scale bar with a vertical tick at the left end labeled '0' and a vertical tick at the right end labeled '0.5 m'. The bar is divided into five equal segments by four vertical tick marks.

Fig 7 F7: plans.

section



plan

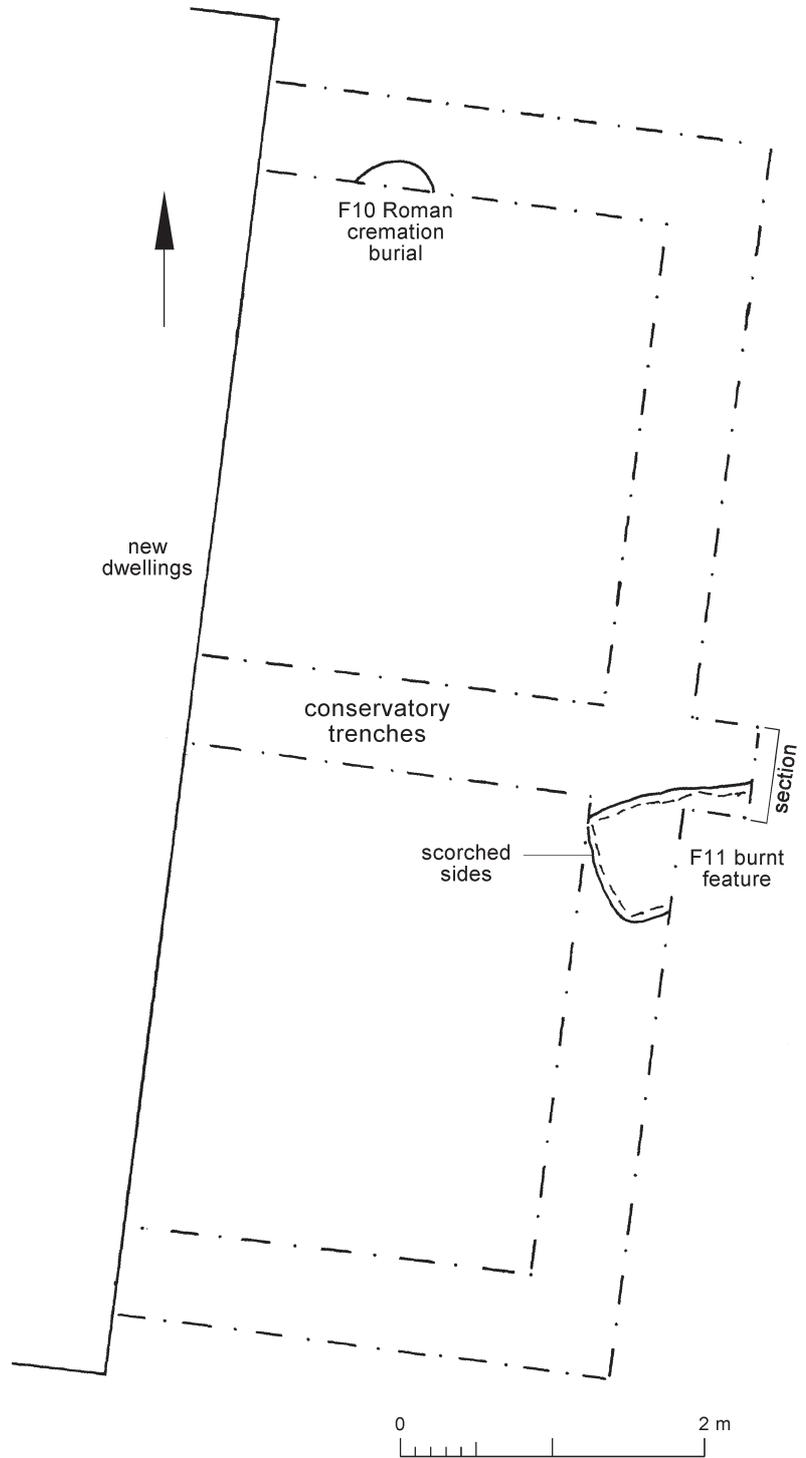


Fig 8 F10 and F11: plans, F11: section drawing.

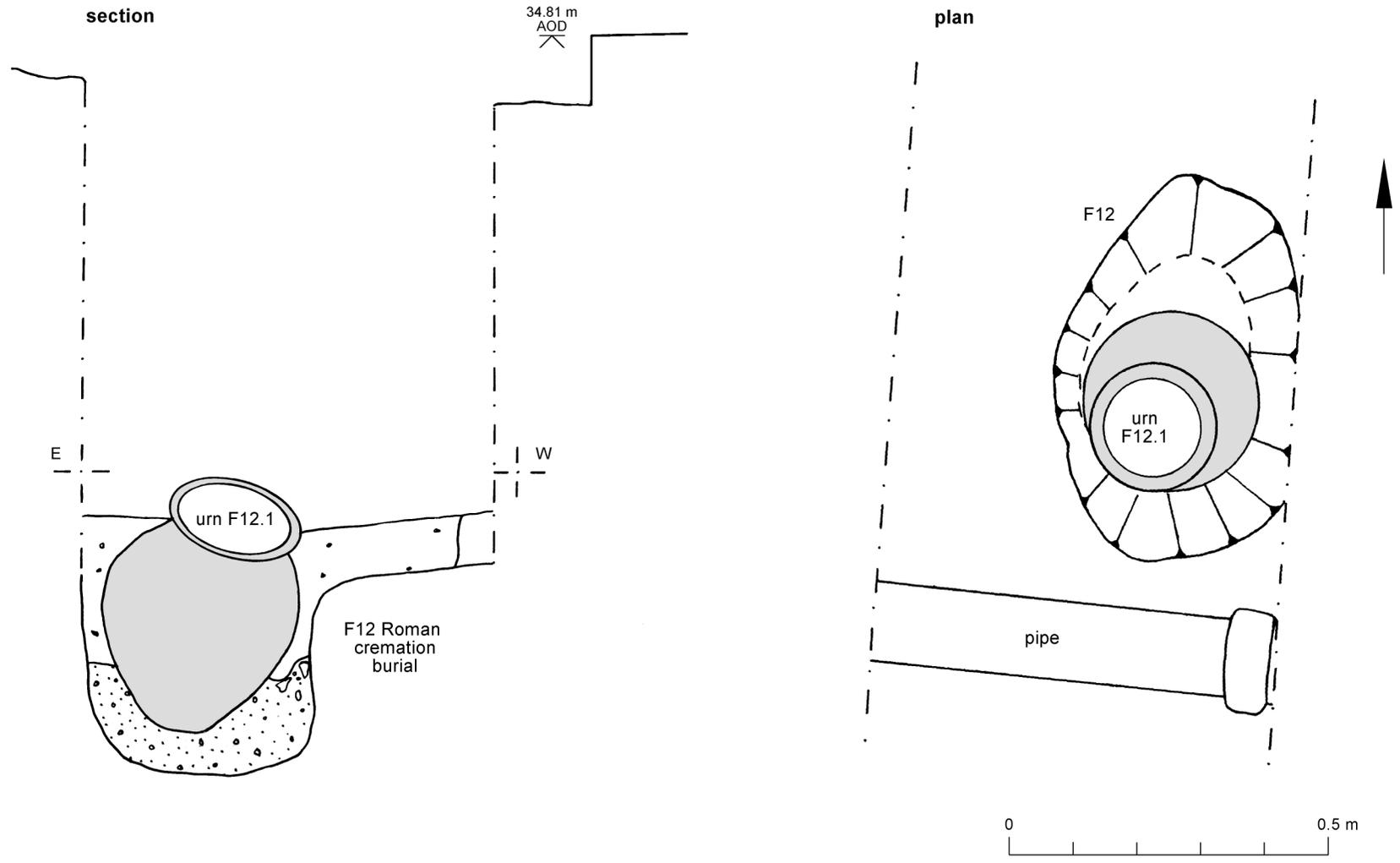


Fig 9 F12: section drawing and plan.

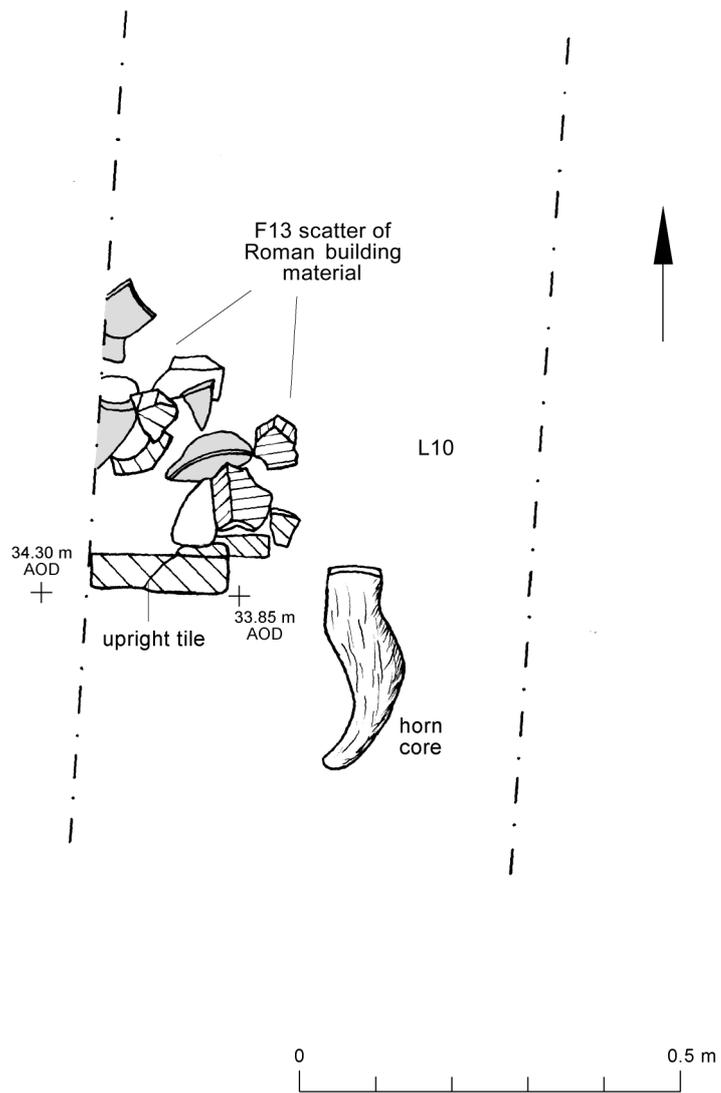


Fig 10 F13: plan.

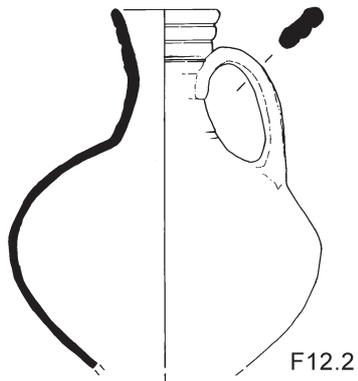
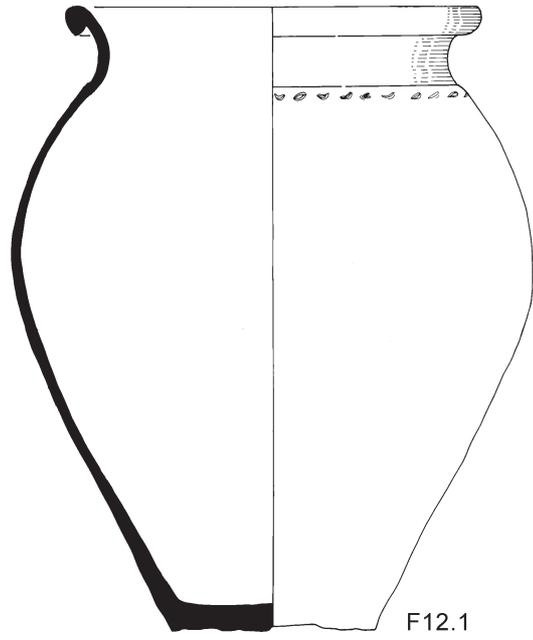
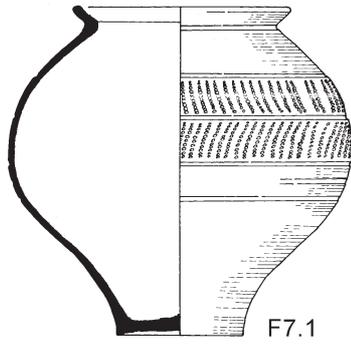
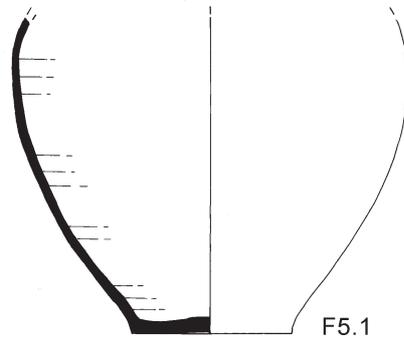
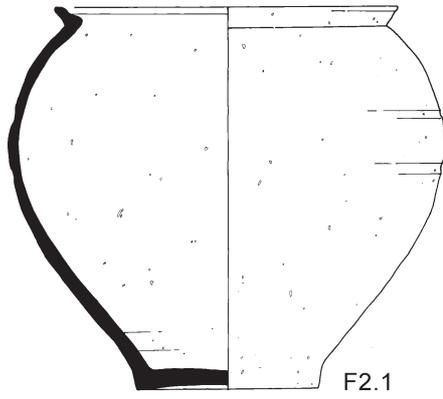


Fig 11 Vessels from cremation burials.

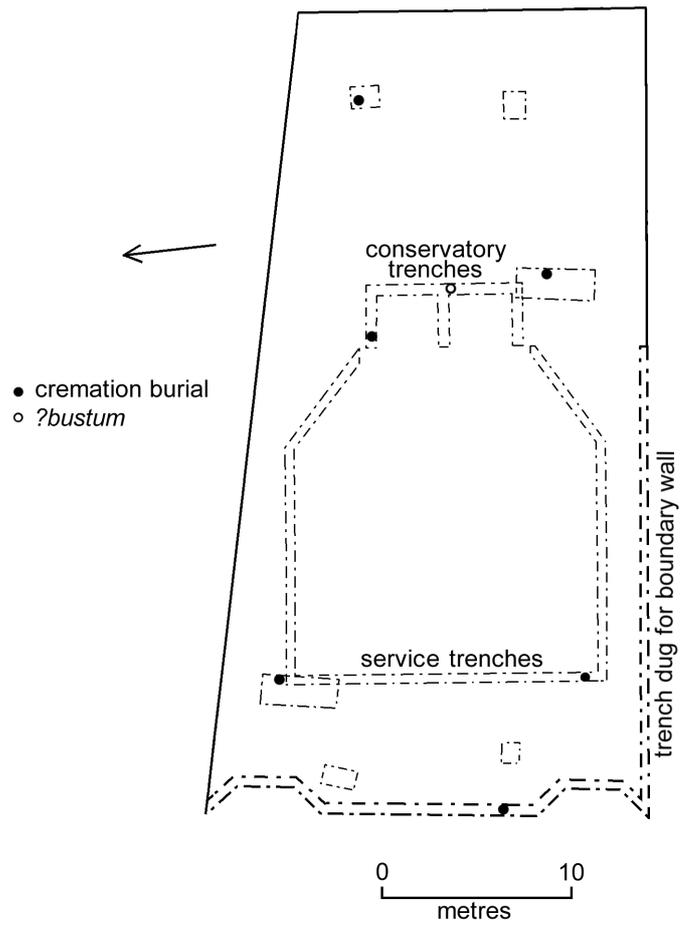


Fig 12 Plan of site, showing distribution of cremation burials.
 The only trenches shown are those which were at least
 600mm deep.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: 15 West Lodge Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 98549 24833 (centre)	Site code: Museum accession code 2004.353
Type of work: Evaluation, watching brief and limited excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: evaluation September 2004; watching brief and limited excavation December 2004 to September 2005	Size of area investigated: 0.09 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 11850, 11857
Final report: CAT Report 318 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Two evaluation trenches were excavated at 15 West Lodge Road prior to the demolition of the property. Post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' sealed archaeological deposits which were encountered at a depth of 950mm to 1.1 m below the modern ground-level. Two intact Roman urned cremation burials were discovered, one in each trench. Uncremated, probably human bone was recorded in two pits which may represent inhumation burials. Contrary to expectation, there was no evidence for the backfilled excavation trenches of the Victorian antiquarian John Taylor.</i></p> <p><i>A watching brief and limited excavation was subsequently carried out during groundworks for the new properties. Four or five further cremation burials were recorded plus a burnt feature (possibly a bustum) and a spread of Roman tile, septaria and pottery. These features were encountered between 670mm and 1.2m below ground-level.</i></p> <p><i>The investigation confirmed that the site is located well within the Roman cemetery area and was in use from the 1st or early 2nd century to the late 3rd or 4th century.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: March 2006