Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex April 2005-March 2006

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on behalf of
the Sixth Form College

CAT project ref.: 05/4b (Areas A and B) and 05/6f (Area C)
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession codes:
2005.38 (Area A and Area B) and 2005.83 (Area C)
NGR: TL 9930 2540 (c)

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CAT Report 347
January 2009

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1 Summary

The grounds of the Sixth Form College occupy a sizeable proportion of the north-west corner of the walled Roman town, including parts of Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a, 9b, 17a and 17b (in fact, Insulas 1a and 9a are wholly within the college grounds).

Archaeological work described here (mainly watching briefs with selected excavation) was carried out in advance of the construction of the new mid site building (Area B here) and in advance of the construction of an access road on its east and north sides (Area A). Pipe trenches to run off water down-slope were also monitored as part of Area A. Services required the Roman town wall to be breached to allow a pipe to pass through it. In advance of this work, and to provide access for the contractors, a deep vertical shaft (Area C) was archaeologically excavated against the inner face of the town wall from modern ground-level to below the base of the wall.

Principal discoveries were as follows. In Insula 1a, there was a large building consisting of surviving in situ *masonry wall foundations, robbed-out wall lines, and of tessellated,* opus signinum *and mosaic floors (Colchester Building 211). Associated finds, principally marble and decorated wall-plaster, indicate that this was a high-status building.*

To the north of Building 211 and also in Insula 1a, a separate structure with a timber water channel (Building 212) may have been a room of a bath-house associated with Building 211, or possibly a shrine to a water deity.

In Insula 1b, to the east of Building 211 and Building 212 and across the previously unknown gravel street dividing Insula 1a from Insula 1b, was the south-western corner of another possibly high-status building, with decorated wall-plaster, surviving in situ *masonry wall foundations and* opus signinum *floors (Building 214). The assemblage of decorated wall-plaster from F37/L42, adjacent to Building 214, is important, being painted in imitation of marbles and* opus sectile*.*

The excavation of the shaft against the inner face of the Roman town wall went through the Roman rampart and revealed the construction road below. It also exposed 6.84 m of standing Roman masonry, 3.3 m of which was faced with alternating bands of septaria and Roman brick. Parapet walk level can be inferred at approximately 6.70 m above Roman street level.

Also on the inner face of the Roman town wall, there was a substantial piece of robbed masonry exposed in a pipe trench which is best interpreted as the remains of a previously unknown interval tower.

There appears to have been very little post-Roman activity on the land now occupied by the Sixth Form College. Recent excavation and evaluation work has shown that a substantial depth of topsoil accumulated over the site in this period. The usual interpretation of this soil accumulation, often found in Colchester, is that the land was left open and/or was used for small-scale agriculture or horticulture in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

2 Introduction (Figs 1a-3)

2.1 This is the archive report on a series of archaeological investigations carried out at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex.

2.2 The investigations were carried out on behalf of the Sixth Form College on the 'mid site' area (centred on TL 9930 2540) in advance of the construction of a new mid site building.

Previous works by CAT at the Sixth Form College were undertaken on the mid site, south site and north site, and this report refers to Areas A and B (on the mid site) and Area C (on the north site). (See section 3 for background of the three sites.)

2.3 The current investigations were undertaken in Areas A, B and C. (Each area has its own series of context numbers.)

Area A: Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks along two lengths of the access road (totaling 740m²). During this monitoring, a full excavation was carried out on a room which may have been part of a bath-house or a shrine (Building 212 in Insula 1a), and a partial excavation was carried out on the remains

of a large and possibly high-status building, probably a town house (Building 214 in Insula 1b). The monitoring and excavations were carried out between 8th April and the 13th June 2005, and were supervised by B Holloway with C Bell, C Lister, K Orr and D Ross.

Area B: Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the new mid site building, which included the mechanical excavation of pipe trenches, and a series of pile caps and lift-pits within the footprint of the building. The principal discovery in Area B was a large and possibly high-status Roman building, probably a town house (Building 211 in Insula 1a). The monitoring was carried out between August 2005 and March 2006, and was supervised by W Clarke with other members of CAT staff.

Area C: A shaft was excavated against the inner face of the Roman town wall to enable contractors to lay services through a tunnel underneath the town wall, to connect the new mid site building with existing services along Balkerne Hill. However, a change in engineering design meant that a hole for the pipe for the services was drilled through the town wall instead. The excavation of the shaft was carried out between the 12th July and the 9th September 2005, and included some work in February 2006. It was supervised by M Górniak with W Clarke, N Garland, J Doman and E Sanford.

The drilling of the hole through the Roman town wall (a scheduled ancient monument) was carried out with the consent of English Heritage (EH file ref AA 40100/2-1).

2.4 This final report was written by Laura Pooley, revised by Will Clarke and completed by Howard Brooks.

2.5 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with Mr Martin Winter, the Archaeology Officer of Colchester Borough Council (CBCAO) and was monitored by the CBCAO. This report follows standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice 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), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 2001a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA 2001b), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001c). 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 (Fig 1b)

3.1 The Sixth Form College (formerly the Gilberd School, and before that the Technical Institute) occupies a large part of the north-west corner of the walled Roman town. Throughout the walled town, the remains of metalled streets aligned north-south and west-east have been identified. These defined blocks of land (*insulae*) which have been numbered (Insulas 1-40), or, in a few cases, with subdivisions (eg into Insulas 1a and 1b).

3.2 The college site straddles Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a, 9b, 17a and 17b (*CAR* **6**, fig 2.9). The lines of the streets which defined these *insulae* have not all been identified. Discoveries of street metalling confirm that the line of the street dividing Insulas 9 and 17 extends west-east, south of the main college building (*CAR* **6**, 135-6). However, two aspects of the street arrangement within the college grounds were unclear prior to the current investigations. Firstly, the exact position of the east-west street which divided Insulas 1 and 9, and secondly, whether Insulas 1 and 9 were actually subdivided at all.

3.3 Nearly all of the *insulae* would have been occupied by Roman town houses. In fact, a large part of just such a house was recorded on the site of the main college building in 1865 and 1910. These buildings are likely to have been constructed in

the 2nd or 3rd century AD, as they included tessellated, possibly mosaic floors (EHER nos 12433-12437; Hull 1958).

3.4 Recent investigations at the Sixth Form College

3.4.1 Previous archaeological work in the areas of Insulas 1a and 1b revealed that similar Roman town houses may have existed here. In January 2001, an evaluation within the footprint of the new I.T. block conducted by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit uncovered between 1.4 m and 2 m of topsoil covering demolition deposits of a Roman building (ECC FAU Report 830). Also in 2001, CAT undertook a watching brief on the preliminary stripping on the access road, ie Areas A and B of this report (CAT Report 148), and located a tessellated floor in a Roman structure which is now called Building 211.

In 2003, CAT uncovered the robbed-out walls of a deeply-buried Roman structure south of the current Area C (CAT Report 302).

Also, in 2003-4, five evaluation trenches were dug by CAT in the college grounds in preparation for the 'mid site' development. The majority of the archaeological features recorded were of Roman date, and included tessellated and mortar floors as well as the robbed-out foundations of a large building which is thought to have been a town house (Building 211). These features were covered by between 600 mm and 1.1 m of post-Roman topsoil (CAT Report 260).

Additional evaluation work in 2005 in the tennis court, conducted again by CAT, confirmed the earlier evaluation findings and produced useful data on the possible extent of Building 211 which was identified in the earlier evaluation (CAT Report 309).

3.4.2 There were two later projects (after the current work of 2005-6), in 2007 and 2008.

In 2007, CAT identified the tessellated floor of a previously unknown Roman structure on the east edge of Insula 9a during a watching brief (CAT Report 430).

In 2008, CAT excavated three trenches on the site of a proposed extension to the 'south site' buildings (Fig 1b, 2008 T1-2008 T3), and exposed the remains of the Roman structure previously recorded on the site of the original (main) college building in 1865 and 1910 (CAT Report 483).

3.5 The southern half of the college site (as far north as the tennis courts) also lies within the area of the Roman legionary fortress, founded *c* AD 44 (*CAR* **3**, 3-5; EHER nos 3530 and 12341). The northern edge of the fortress should lie under the southern edge of the tennis courts, with the fortress rampart to its south (coinciding mainly with the grassy slope south of the tennis courts). Excavations carried out by CAT in 1984-85, before an extension was added to the main school building, revealed the men's quarters (*contubernia*) of a Roman legionary barrack-block situated towards the rear of the fortress (*CAR* **6**, 127-39).

3.6 The Roman town wall, which forms the northern and western boundary of the Sixth Form College grounds, is a scheduled ancient monument (Essex SAM no 7). In 1951, a trial section in the college grounds cut through the rampart at the back of the wall showed that the wall survived to 3.9 m in height, and that the foundation was 0.6 m deep and 3.35 m wide (Hull 1958, 25). A recent study of the town wall (Crummy 2003) concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67 m (including offsets at the base of the outer and inner faces), which is equivalent to nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall (*ibid*, 46) suggests that the foundation width, at 3.77 m, is slightly wider than is reported in the 1951 section. (For more detailed information on the town wall, see *CAR* **3**; *CAR* **6**; Crummy 2003; Dunnett 1971; Hull 1958.)

3.7 The use of the site for horticulture and agriculture in the post-Roman period seems to have carried on for several centuries, as there is no evidence of later settlement or industry within the development site. The only post-medieval activity within the development site is two Royalist cannon positions shown on the siege map of 1648. Medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity seems to have been confined to the properties lining North Hill, many of which are still standing and are listed buildings. Buildings are shown in the north-eastern corner of the development site on maps from 1748 which could represent Bowler's Brewery, or alternatively the brewery could have replaced these buildings.

4 Aim

The aim of the excavations and watching brief was to identify, record, excavate and 'preserve by record' all surviving archaeological features, layers and deposits exposed during the groundworks, with the emphasis placed on the foundation of the Roman town wall, any foundations and floors associated with Roman town houses and other buildings, and any metalled street surfaces.

5 Methods

5.1 All archaeological work was undertaken by professional archaeologists and all the latest Health and Safety guidelines were followed on site. CAT has a standard safety policy which was adhered to.

5.2 The topsoil or modern overburden on the excavation areas were removed mechanically by machine with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.

5.3 Once the topsoil/overburden was removed, excavation proceeded by hand.

5.4 The shaft (Area C) was particularly deep and all its sides were shored with a wooden frame; the reassurance frame and the shaft were gradually narrowed down, approximately every 1.5 m down. An electric hoist, operated by a Higgins Construction Ltd employee, was used for soil removal once the shaft reached the depth of 2 m.

5.5 A metal detector was used to scan spoil heaps.

5.6 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Registers were compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

5.7 All features and layers or other significant deposits were planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale used was site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.

5.8 The photographic record consisted of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits.

6 Insula 1b (Building 214) and Insula 9b: Areas A and B

6.1 Area A: Building 214 (Figs 3-4, 23)

6.1.1 Area A 1 was L-shaped, approximately 740m², and consisted of a north-south strip approximately 8 m wide adjoining an east-west strip of similar dimensions to the north. The north-south strip crossed the western side of Insula 1b, and the north-west corner of Insula 9b. At the northern end of the north-south strip, the east-west strip crossed the centre of the western edge of Insula 1b and then parts of Insula 1a.

Results from Area A are described according to *insula* in this report.

Note: L1, a dark earth deposit representing a post-Roman deposit, and L2, a late Roman demolition layer, describe upper stratigraphic units allocated for the entire area investigated in Area A including Insulas 1a, 9b and 1b.

6.1.2 In Area A, contractors removed the following horizons: tarmac road surface, the surface of the tennis courts and a modern footpath, a modern topsoil sealing a post-Roman dark earth layer (L1) ranging in thickness between 0.6 m and 1.2 m, and a Roman demolition deposit (L2) made up of light silty clay which contained large quantities of mortar, painted wall-plaster and CBM (ceramic building material). Several *in situ* Roman features were then identified below these deposits.

6.1.3 At the far southern end of Area A in Insula 9b, two parallel *in situ* masonry wall foundations (F38, F40) were identified, sealed by demolition deposits (L2; see Fig 4). These foundations were 0.8 m wide and measured 7 m and 2 m long respectively, and located 3.4 m apart. The structure identifiable from these foundations was located in the north-west corner of Insula 9b, which is thought to have been divided from Insula 1b to the north by an east-west aligned street. Investigations further to the north of foundations F38 and F40, however, did not identify any evidence for metalling which would locate this street. In the south-western corner of Insula 1b, one feature identified was a pit (F37) sealed by Roman

demolition (L2). Pit F37 appeared to be a demolition dump, from its fill, which included large quantities of painted wall-plaster. This material was notable for being decorated and for imitating marble of a quality and type which is unprecedented from excavations in the town. Pit F37 was only partially exposed by machining because of its position at the western limits of Area A. Adjacent to pit F37, the remains of a Roman building (Building 214) were identified. It became clear that the remains of Building 214 were significant and an excavation was carried out on these remains. After the excavation, the contractors stripped the area to approximately 2-3 m below ground-level to accommodate concrete retaining walls which had to be built to support the access road.

6.1.4 Excavation of the structural remains of Building 214 showed that these comprised a series of *in situ* wall foundations and floors. The masonry wall foundations (F3, F8, F9/F28, F24, F29, F30, F32, F34) were preserved in places to a maximum height of 25-30 cm above floor levels, eg F8. The foundations were recorded to a depth of at least 0.5 m, and were made of bonded courses of tile and stone (septaria) varying in length between 1.4 m and 10 m, and, in width, between 0.5 m and 0.8 m. The masonry wall foundations cut layers (L4, L6, L8) above natural (L9). One clay-built internal partition-wall foundation (F26), with a width of 0.3 m, was also identified connecting wall foundations F24 and F28. The *in situ* floors (F25, F27, F31, F33) all consisted of *opus signinum*, and were particularly well preserved in areas bordered by foundations F24, F26, F9/F28, although less so to the south in areas east and west of foundation F8.

6.1.5 Three pits (F4, F35, F36) were also identified cutting structural remains of Building 214, with a fourth pit (F39) only partially cutting the demolition layer (L2) above this structure. The pits are all post-medieval in date and contained large amounts of domestic debris including glass and oyster shells.

6.2 Area B: Building 214 and street metalling to its west (Figs 2-4, 23)

In section 6.1 above, the excavation of part of Building 214 is described (Area A). The watching brief in Area B also revealed part of the same building, ie its south-western corner.

6.2.1 The steep topography of the area monitored in Area B necessitated foundations which were built in a stepped arrangement down the slope. The upper platform made only a minor impact on archaeological deposits, but the larger, more northerly platform, being designed at a lower level, did have considerable impact on archaeological deposits. Thus, with regard to Building 214, the investigations principally consisted of monitoring groundworks in the north-east corner of Area B. All identified archaeological remains were recorded before being removed by the contractors.

6.2.2 Horizons removed by the contractots included the surface of the tennis courts, a layer of modern topsoil (L7), and a post-medieval dark earth deposit (L25), ranging in thickness between 0.6 m and 1.2 m, which had probably been used to landscape the site. Below L25 were Roman demolition deposits (L39, L41, L44, L48) characterised by a composition of light to mid-brown sandy silt containing large quantities of mortar, painted wall-plaster and CBM. Several *in situ* Roman features were then identified below these deposits; these in turn cut Roman occupation layers (L43, L44) above natural periglacial deposits.

6.2.3 The south-west corner of Building 214 consisted of a north-south aligned masonry wall foundation (F122) connecting southwards with another wall foundation (F123) heading eastwards. These foundations were sealed by a dark earth deposit (L25), and predominantly constructed of tile courses which were about 0.7 m in width. Groundworks further east of foundation F122 also produced evidence of a small amount of human bone, similarly observed during the watching brief from this same area.

6.2.4 Several metres to the west of foundation F122 of Building 214, a Roman demolition layer (L48) sealed a deposit (L49) containing large amounts of oyster shell, CBM and Roman pottery which derives from the fill of a possible flanking ditch parallel with the north-south foundation F122. This was confirmed by machining of a 35 m-wide strip west of F122 which revealed extensive areas of street metalling consisting of compacted sands and gravels (F59, L46). Areas consisting of metalling along this 35 m-wide strip were about 6.6-7 m wide and displayed a north-south alignment, providing evidence for a north-south street dividing Insula 1 into two halves, ie Insula

1b to the east and Insula 1a to the west. The evidence for this street demonstrates that the foundation F122 marked the western extent of Building 214 and of its façade overlooking this street, while L49 is the fill of the possible flanking ditch east of this street. The street surface was sealed by a Roman demolition deposit (L39) was slightly cambered, and was constructed of lenses made up of fine gravels and sands alternating with thicker and coarser lenses of larger flint clasts exhibiting lower percentages of sand as a matrix. Occasional patches of mortar, eg F118 and F119, were also observed. These suggest that, periodically, repairs were made to the surface of this street. One definite flanking ditch (F106), approximately 0.45 m in width, was also seen to lie parallel with the metalling on its western edge. Further to the west, about 2.5 to 3 m in distance, an *in situ* masonry wall foundation (F101), also aligned north-south, was observed to lie parallel with the flanking ditch and street metalling. The foundation F101 was shown, by its position, to mark the eastern limit of the building located in Insula 1a (Building 211). To the east of the street metalling, another linear feature (F60), about 0.4 m in width, again parallel with the street, is likely to be part of flanking ditch F106 and perhaps the southern extent of L49. Large quantities of *opus signinum* fragments (L47) were also observed during groundworks in this area and these derive (as does L49) from the possible flanking ditch along a suggested walkway beside Building 211. There could have been a walkway on both sides of the street.

6.2.5 In Insula 1b, east of the metalled street and adjacent to the remains of Building 214, the western edge of pit F37 previously observed during the watching brief on Area A was again identified (L42). F37/L42 was sealed by Roman demolition deposits (L39) and cut L41, a deposit also characteristic of a Roman demolition layer. L42 was located several metres east of flanking ditch F60 and was identifiable by a dense spread (4 m by 4.5 m) of painted plaster fragments, all of which displayed decorative faces imitating marble. The type of painted decoration from the pit/layer fill is unprecedented from Colchester, and, furthermore, is particularly rare from Roman Britain. The importance of this material demanded full excavation in the Area B project rather than sampling as carried as part of the Area A project, particularly since very little dating evidence could be recovered from the eastern part of F37/L42. Permission to excavate this feature was gained from the contractors and, in a collaborative venture with the Sixth Form College, the unexcavated part of F37/L42 was removed by machine under archaeological supervision. Then A-level students studying modules in History and Archaeology examined the fill of F37/L42, supervised by teaching staff and directed by CAT, and extracted finds from it.

6.2.6 Directly south of F37/L42 in Insula 1b, another spread of painted plaster (L43) was also identified. This produced no evidence for marble imitation, and may well define another pit in the same area.

6.3 Insula 1b: the finds associated with Building 214

6.3.1 Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

Roman pottery fabric concordance

The Roman pottery fabrics referred to in this report follow those used in *CAR* **10**. The fabrics are presented as two-letter fabric codes and the full fabric name for each these lettered codes is given in Table 1 below. Two additional fabrics and fabric codes have been used, for Romanising coarse ware (Fabric RCW) and for Romanising coarse vesicular ware (Fabric RCVW). These two additional fabrics are described below. Where possible, the equivalent National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFC) code is also given in Table 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998). The vessel forms, other than for samian and amphoras, were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels were catalogued, using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers, or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996.

Fabric descriptions for Roman pottery fabrics additional to *CAR* **10**:

Fabric RCW

Romanising coarse ware: Surfaces are dark grey-brown. The fabric is grey-brown with red-brown margins and contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog. The fabric sometimes has a tendency to laminate.

Fabric RCVW
Romanising coarse vesicular ware: Surfaces are pale brown to light grey and appear abraded. The fabric is pale grey-brown and contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog.

Table 1: concordance of Roman pottery fabrics used in this report.

Fabric code	Fabric name	NRFC code
AA	amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/ Verulamium amphoras	
E	amphoras in Campanian fabric	CAM AM 1
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 3
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
MV	Central Gaulish plain samian Les Matres-de-Veyre	LMV SA
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
BX	decorated samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian	LGF SA
EG	East Gaulish decorated samian	
CO	Colchester decorated samian	COL SA
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	COL CC2
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
CS	Pompeian-red wares	
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH
A	red = probably 'Legionary' ware	
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	LNV CC
EC	early Colchester colour-coated ware	COL CC1
EZ	other fine colour-coated wares, mostly white/buff	
LR	Cologne (lower Rhineland) ware	KOL CC
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised wares	VER WH
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and North Kent wares)	LON FR, UPC FR
GQ	East Anglian stamp-decorated and similar 'London-type' wares	
GR	grey fine ware imitating *terra nigra* forms	
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	
HG	Eifelkeramik/Mayen ware	MAY CO
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	
ON	mica-gilt wares	
RCW	Romanising coarse ware	
RCVW	Romanising coarse vesicular ware	
TD	mortaria, Verulamium region	VER WH
TE	Nene Valley mortaria	LNV WH
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	
UR	*terra nigra*-type wares	
LTC	*terra nigra*-type wares, local traded coarse ware	
UX	Romano-Saxon grey ware and types in similar fabric	
WA	silvery micaceous grey wares	
WB	grey slipped wares	
WC	miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	

6.3.1.1 Insula 1b including Building 214

The pottery recovered from Insula 1b, including excavation of Building 214, came from five contexts, two layers and three features. The pottery fabrics and form types were recorded and the pottery spot-dated for each context. This information is listed by context in the Roman pottery catalogue below (Area A). The excavation of one feature, a pit (F37) was completed on Area B as layer L42. The pottery from this feature is discussed with the pottery from Area B under the context F37/L42.

Overall, the date range of the individual pottery types spans the whole of the Roman period, although there is little among the closely-datable pottery that need date from the 4th or late 4th century. Pottery associated with three contexts (L4, L6, F24) could be entirely of 1st-century date. That from L8, F36 and F37 includes sherds of early 2nd- to 3rd-century date. The latest closely-datable pottery was recovered from L2 and can be dated to the mid-late 3rd-4th/4th century.

Much of the closely-datable early Roman pottery is associated with four contexts (L2, L4, L6, F24). That from L2 is residual among later-dated pottery. The pottery associated with three contexts (L4, L6, F24) could be entirely of 1st-century date as all of the pottery, or the most closely-datable sherds from these contexts, date within the period of the 1st or 1st-early 2nd century. The quantity of pottery recovered from L4 and F24 is very small, while the range of pottery fabrics from L6 is broader. The most closely-datable pottery from L6 consists of local early colour-coated ware (Fabric EC), datable to the pre-Flavian period and a beaker of form Cam 108 datable to the 1st-early 2nd century. However, L6 also included sherds Dressel 20 amphoras, local coarse oxidised ware and heavily-tempered sherds from large storage jars which, lacking more closely diagnostic sherds such as rims, have a wider date range of the 1st-2nd/3rd century. The pottery from L4 (finds no 33) consisted of sherds of local coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ) which have traces of orange burnt daub on the surfaces. The burnt daub is almost certainly Boudican, dating to AD 60/61, and indicates that these sherds can be dated as Boudican. The pottery from F24 consisted of two mortaria. One is of form Cam 193, which occurs at Sheepen during the period of occupation dated *c* 43-60 AD and is considered to be a Neronian form (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 254, 283). The other is of form Cam 195 which can be dated to the Flavian period by a potter's stamp. The closely-datable, residual pottery consists of: samian from South Gaul (Fabric BA(SG)), Pompeian-red ware (Fabric CS), a flagon of form Cam 154 and bowl of form Cam 243-244/246 from L2 and a 1st-century 'honey pot' storage jar, form Cam 174 or 175 from L8. The Fabric GR pottery recovered from L2 is also likely to date from the Flavian period or early 2nd century.

Pottery from two of the contexts (L8, F36) includes sherds that can be dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. There are sherds of Central and East Gaulish samian (Fabrics BA(CG), BA(MV) and BA(EG)), local colour-coated ware (Fabrics CZ and CB), BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB), and black-burnished ware types in pale grey ware (Fabric KX). Recorded 2nd- to 3rd-century pot forms from these contexts are: samian forms Dr 31, Curle 15, Curle 21; BB2 black-burnished ware forms Cam 37A, Cam 37B, Cam 40B, Cam 278; local coarse ware form Cam 268; and local colour-coat ware form Cam 392. A bowl of form Dr 72 and a mortarium of form Cam 497 were also recorded from L2. The presence of the form Cam 37B in L8 indicates a date after the late 2nd century.

The latest closely-datable pottery is from L2. There is oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH), which is first recorded in mid-late 3rd-century contexts at Colchester, but which is more typical of the 4th century (*CAR* **10**, 297). There is also a mortarium from this context of form Cam 504/505 (Fabric TZ), which, although not closely dated at Colchester (*CAR* **10**, 487), is likely to date from the 3rd century or later.

Two pots had potter's stamps. One is a Cam 195 mortarium, which had been stamped twice with a potter's name stamp, once on either side of the spout. This pot came from F24 (finds no 30). The two stamps are identical and are of Sextus Valerius Saturninus (*CAR* **10**, Fabric TZ, S94-S95). Stamps from this die are dated as Flavian (*CAR* **10**, 202). There is also a single stamp on the handle of a Dressel 20 amphora, which was unstratified (finds no 30). Only the end of this lettered stamp could be read. The reading is most probably .**I.C**. **SEG**. This lettering does not appear among the stamps recorded in *CAR* **10**.

6.3.1.2 Roman pottery recovered from street metalling and F37/L42, adjacent to Building 214

The Roman pottery recovered from the western edge of Insula 1b (F37/L42) and from street metalling came from seven contexts, six layers and one pit. It consists, in total, of 565 sherds weighing 15,712 g. Pottery fabrics and form types were recorded by context for each finds number. An estimated vessel equivalents (EVE) were also recorded. A spot-date was given for the pottery for each finds number. This information is listed by context in the Roman pottery catalogue for Area B. The excavation of one feature, a pit partly excavated in Area A (F37) was completed in Area B as layer L42. The pottery from F37/L42 is of specific interest as a large quantity of unique painted wall-plaster was recovered from this pit. The pottery from this pit is, therefore, brought together here under the context number F37/L42 and is discussed separately below, following an overview of the pottery recovered from Area B.

There is a very small quantity of 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery, all of which is residual. Most of the closely-datable pottery is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Pottery from three of the contexts (L43, L47, L48) can be dated to the period of the mid-late 2nd-3rd century, although one sherd from L47 may be of 4th-century date. The latest-dated pottery types are represented by Nene Valley colour-coat ware (Fabric EA) and oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH), which at Colchester date from the early-mid 3rd-4th century and mid-late 3rd-4th/4th century respectively, although most dates to the late 3rd-4th and 4th century respectively. Pottery sherds of late 3rd- to 4th-century or 4th-century date were recovered from contexts L41 and F37/L42.

Small quantities of closely-datable pottery of 1st- to early 2nd-century date came from L43 (finds no 79), L47 (finds nos 154 and 157), and L48 (finds no 163). All of this pottery is residual in later-dated contexts. A single sherd from a platter of form Cam 28, in local traded coarse ware (Fabric UR(LTC)), from L47 (finds no 157), is probably pre-Flavian. Also a mortarium of form Cam 192 (Fabric TZ), from L43 (finds no 79), is of a type that occurs at Sheepen during the Roman period of occupation dated *c* 43-60 AD (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 254, 283). Pottery that can be dated to the 1st-early 2nd century consists of South Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(SG)) from L46 (finds no 154), a bowl of form Cam 243-244/246 (Fabric GX), from L48 (finds no 163), and from F37/L42 (finds no 92), a sherd of Pompeian-red ware (Fabric CS), which is possibly pre-Flavian, and a Dressel 2-4 amphora (Fabric AA), which is probably of 1st- to early 2nd-century date (Tyers 1996, 90).

The majority of the closely-datable pottery from all of the contexts is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Almost all of the samian is from Central and East Gaulish production centres (Fabrics BA(CG) and BA(EG)). The more closely-dated forms recorded are Dr 18/31, dated early-mid 2nd century, Dr 31 and Dr 38 both dated mid 2nd-mid 3rd century, and Dr 45, dated late 2nd-mid 3rd century. Apart from one sherd of Lower Rhineland (Cologne) colour-coated ware (Fabric EZ(LR)), which could date as early as the Flavian period and was current until the mid 3rd century, the earliest-dated colour-coated ware present is a small quantity of late Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabrics CZ and CB), dating from the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. Forms recorded in late Colchester colour-coated ware are Cam 391A, Cam 391B and Cam 396 from F37/L42 and form Cam 391 from L47. Coarse wares datable to the early 2nd-3rd century include BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB) with forms Cam 37A, Cam 37B, Cam 40B and Cam 278 recorded in that fabric. Also, in BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 (Fabric GA), there form Cam 303, dated early 2nd-early 3rd century is recorded. Other coarse wares that can be dated to the 2nd-3rd century are forms Cam 268, Cam 405/406, a mortarium of form Cam 498 and another mortarium of unknown form but with a herringbone stamp which can be dated to the Antonine period (*CAR* **10**, 209) and a form Cam 392 beaker in coarse grey ware (Fabric GX) dated mid 2nd-mid 3rd century from F37/L42 (finds no 92).

L41, L47 and F37/L42 are distinguished from the other contexts by the presence of pottery sherds datable to the late Roman period of the mid 3rd-4th century, although it is possible that a single late-dated sherd from L47 could be intrusive or mis-dated. Overall the quantity of late dated Roman pottery is small. There is an

example from L41 (finds no 72), of the form Cam 305A, in BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 (Fabric GA) dated to the third quarter of the 3rd century to the end of the Roman period (*CAR* **10**, 481). Also from L41 (finds no 71), there is an example of form Cam 307, dated late 2nd/early 3rd(?)-4th century but not recorded at Colchester prior to the early-mid 3rd century, with most coming from 4th-century contexts (*CAR* **10**, 482). There are also a few sherds of Nene Valley colour-coat ware (Fabric EA) and oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH) from F37/L42 (finds no 92), which are of mid 3rd- to 4th-century, probably late 3rd- to 4th- or 4th-century, date. From the same feature are two sherds in Romano-Saxon grey ware (Fabric UX) and types in similar fabric which are not necessarily late Roman and could date from as early as the pre-Boudican period (*CAR* **10**, 444). This pottery from F37/L42 is discussed in more detail below. Also, among a substantial number of pottery sherds, 108 sherds (weighing 2,294 g) recovered from L47, the fill of a possible flanking ditch, there is a single sherd in shell-tempered ware (Fabric HD). This sherd (finds no 156) is possibly of late Roman date, *c* mid-late 4th century. However, the other closely-datable pottery from L47 is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date, the latest of the sherds dating to the late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. As a single late-dated sherd, it seems possible that the shell-tempered ware is intrusive in this context or is not late, but an earlier shell-tempered fabric type.

6.3.1.3 Insula 1b: pottery from F37/L42

The pottery from this feature is of specific interest as a large quantity of unique painted wall-plaster was recovered from it. The primary interest in the pottery is in helping to date the context. Excluding the pottery recovered from F37 from Area A, which was not quantified but only spot-dated, a further group of 340 sherds can be associated with this feature; weighing 4,724 g and recorded as from L42 in Area B, this is set out in Table 2 below.

Almost all of the pottery associated with F37/L42 can be dated to the period of the mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, ie after *c* AD 150. If not intrusive, a few sherds indicate a later date of deposition in the late 3rd-4th or 4th century. Other than the presence of two sherds attributed to Romano-Saxon grey ware (Fabric UX) and types in similar fabric, which, though possibly of late 4th-century date, cannot be closely dated, there does not appear to be anything particularly unusual in the composition of the assemblage associated with F37/L42, and the range of pottery recorded can be roughly matched by other contexts such as L41 or L47.

Of the closely-datable pottery, a small quantity can be dated to the 1st-early 2nd century. These are sherds from a Dressel 2-4 amphora (Fabric AA), a sherd of Pompeian-red ware (Fabric CS), and probably also a Cam 155 flagon, which could date to just slightly later, ie 1st-mid 2nd century. Most of the closely-datable pottery from this pit is of fabrics and pot forms which are current within the period of the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. These are Central and East Gaulish samian, Fabric BA(CG), BA(EG) and BX(EG), Late Colchester colour-coated and roughcast wares (Fabrics CZ and CB), and BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB). Among a small range of recorded pot forms, the most significant in terms of dating are a Central Gaulish dish of form Dr 31, dated to the mid-late 2nd century, and a Cam 392 beaker in coarse grey ware (Fabric GX), dated second half of the 2nd century to mid 3rd century. There are a few sherds of late Roman pottery, dating from the period of the early/mid 3rd-4th century. There is one, possibly two sherds, of Nene Valley colour-coat ware (Fabric EA), and one sherd of oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH). Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) is first recorded at Colchester from contexts dated to the early-mid 3rd century (after AD 225), although the largest quantities occur in contexts dated to after AD 275 (*CAR* **10**, 278). Oxidised Hadham ware first appears at Colchester in contexts dated to the mid-late 3rd century, but most is 4th century (*CAR* **10**, 297). There are also two sherds in Romano-Saxon grey ware (Fabric UX) and types in similar fabric. If from vessels of Romano-Saxon form, then these sherds would date to the late 4th century. However, sherds attributed to this Colchester fabric type, where the vessel form is not known, cannot necessarily be closely dated, and could date from as early as the pre-Boudican period (*CAR* **10**, 444).

Table 2: pottery from L42 by fabric.

Fabric	sherds	weight in g	pot forms recorded
AA	8	533	Dressel 2-4, ?Gauloise amphora
AJ	3	751	Dressel 20
BA(CG)	6	33	Dr 31, Dr 38
BA(EG)	6	56	
BX(EG)	1	5	Dr 37
CB	4	11	
CH	1	6	
CS	1	11	
CZ	19	82	Cam 391A, Cam 391B, Cam 396, lid (*CAR* **10**, Fabric CZ, Type 60, no 194)
DJ	26	206	Cam 155
EA	1	5	
GB	46	652	Cam 37, Cam 40B, Cam 278
GX	208	2,086	Cam 268, Cam 392
HZ	2	149	
MQ	1	2	
ON	3	61	
?TZ	1	12	
UX	2	35	
WA	1	28	Cam 40B

There are three sherds of intrinsic interest from areas of street metalling and F37/L42 and these are as follows:

F37/L42, finds no 92. A small sherd from a colour-coated beaker with barbotine decoration. The pot has a red fabric and a silver grey metallic surface colour-coat. On the surface is the central portion of an animal figure, probably to be identified as a dog, running left to right and a fragment of a scroll. Both are in pale yellow cream barbotine. The sherd appears to be part of a hunt cup. Beakers with white barbotine scroll work from the Nene Valley potteries are not uncommon finds at Colchester (*CAR* **10**, Fabric EA, pots 93-101), and the vessel is presumed to be a product of the Nene Valley (Fabric EA). However, while white barbotine scroll work is not uncommon, animal figures in white barbotine do not seem to have been previously recorded. The latest-dated pottery from F37/L42 is dated late 3rd-4th, probably 4th century.

Unstratified, finds no 149. A large sherd from a decorated Colchester samian bowl (Fabric BX(CO)), of form Dr 37. It was recovered from the area of the metalled Roman street L46 and can be dated to the mid-late 2nd century. The sherd comprises about one quarter of the bowl. The ovolo is that of the potter referred to as 'Potter A' and all of the figure types are types associated with Potter A (Hull 1963, figs 39-40). The figure types present on the sherd are from left to right: figure type 21 (Pan playing pipes), figure type 22 (Pan holding *lituus* and leading a deer by the horns), figure type 68 (Rosette) above figure type 85 (Leaf), figure type 68 and figure type 85 repeated, and at the right edge of the sherd the muzzle and forward paw of figure type 29 (Lion left).

L41, finds no 80. A small rim sherd from a very large mortarium. This is almost certainly part of the same pot as the rim sherd from a very large mortarium recorded among the unstratified pottery from the Area B watching brief (finds no 155; Fig 14).

6.3.2 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR* **7**): Fabric 45f (Westerwald stoneware); Fabric 48a (porcelain); and Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). Pottery weights are listed below in Table 3. Full details are listed in the archive.

Table 3: quantities and weights of pottery fabric types, finds number and context.

Finds number	Context	45f q	45f w	48d q	48d w	pottery date
35	L8			1	27	19th-20th century
43	F37	1	35			18th century
Totals		**2**	**59**	**1**	**27**	

Discussion
This is a small pottery group ranging in date from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

Other ceramic material
There is also a large, unstratified (406g) piece from a grey ceramic edging tile of a type still seen in use in as garden borders, which is probably 19th or early 20th century.

The most interesting find is a fragment of tin-glazed floor tile from pit F37 (168g, 135 mm x ? x 15 mm thick), which is clearly intrusive in this context. It has a buff fabric with slightly reddened surfaces. This is not a local fabric (ie it is not typical of the Mid-Essex tile fabrics described by Drury (Drury 1977)). Decoration is executed in blue over a pale brown or cream tin glaze. The pattern is one quarter of a rose in a garter-type edging, in such a way that four tiles would give the complete rose pattern. There is a very close parallel in the Museum of London, dated to 1618-1663 and assigned to the Pickleherring (Southwark) or Platform Wharf (Rotherhithe) production sites (http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics/pages/subcategory.asp?subcat_id=751&subcat_name=Tin%2Dglazed+tiles&page=13). Our example may be an import from London.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (sheet XXVII 12.4) shows the land now occupied by the Sixth Form College grounds as gardens in 1876, so if this tile derives from a local demolished building, it is not entirely clear which one.

6.3.3 Small finds from Insulas 1a and 1b, and associated with Building 214

(Figs 13 and 15-17)
by Nina Crummy

The objects range in date from the 1st century AD to modern. The assemblage consists principally of Roman material. The objects are catalogued below by material and then context, rather than by date or function.

Fragments of two glass vessels were found in the material (L8) associated with floor F31. The glass of both vessels is opaque white and in very poor condition, being 'sugary' in texture; perhaps, given its state, white was not its original colour, or perhaps it is made of some other material that has suffered from adverse soil conditions. Roman glass is usually stable, but medieval glass is often unstable, particularly when potash-based, and the possibility that these pieces are medieval and intrusive in this context should perhaps be considered. Fragments of opaque white glass vessels have been found in late 14th- to early 15th-century contexts in London (Egan 1998, 234), but they are in good condition and this difference argues against the Colchester pieces being from a common source and of similar date.

One coin was recovered from the metalled street dividing Insula 1 into Insulas 1a and 1b. This was too heavily corroded to be certain of its date but is probably 3rd century. The copper-alloy objects include a key handle of a type that dates to the later 2nd century, or perhaps into the 3rd (SF 38). The form occurs on the German *limes*, as do auxiliary military fittings similar to SF 28. The ironwork consists of a nail, but also includes a knife of Manning's Type 11 (SF 35; Manning 1985, 114), which cannot be closely dated. The only ceramic piece is a pottery counter from pit fill L42 (SF 43). The bone object recovered is a hairpin, Type 2 dating from the mid 1st century into the 2nd century, which conforms to the 2nd-century element among the copper-alloy items assemblage in Colchester, particularly in contexts of the 1st and 2nd centuries when the chief public buildings and substantial private houses were constructed.

Coins

SF 29. (160) L46. Roman metalled street surface. Copper-alloy, heavily encrusted with corrosion; possibly burnt. 3rd century? Diameter 21 mm.

Copper-alloy

SF 6. (39) F36. Pit; medieval/post-medieval. Fragment of a copper-alloy mirror; the corrosion products on the surfaces are typical of speculum, the high tin bronze used for the majority of mirrors in the late 1st and 2nd centuries. The original form of the mirror, round or square, cannot be determined as none of the edges is original. 41 x 24 mm.

SF 1. (35) L8. Cess material/occupation associated with floor F31; Roman. Composite boss consisting of a convex copper-alloy sheet disc filled with lead-tin solder. Similar bosses and studs were used to decorate furniture in the Roman period. Diameter 35 mm.

SF 13. (50) L8. Cess material/occupation associated with floor F31; Roman. Copper-alloy strip, more or less straight at one end, cut at an angle at the other. Length 72 mm, width 37 mm. Probably post-medieval.

SF 4. (36). Unstratified. Fragment of a double-trapezoidal copper-alloy buckle, with side projections and a central projection on which the tongue rests. Length 20 mm, width 23 mm. Late medieval to early post-medieval.

SF 12. (52). Unstratified. 19th- to 20th-century composite button, probably military, with 84 crowned and set within a wreath with central rose on the upper side. The reverse plate reads IRELAND & SON DUBLIN. Diameter 18.5 mm.

SF 11. (55). Unstratified. White-metal alloy discoid fitting. Diameter 38 mm. Modern.

Fig 15, no 1. SF 38. (111) L42. Roman/post-Roman demolition layer in Area B. Copper-alloy key handle in the shape of a 'fleur-de-lys' flanked by two rudimentary leaves and topped by a small knob. The base is short and tapers slightly. It is pierced by a round socket for the tang of the iron bit. Length 48 mm, width 35 mm. A similar handle was found in a late or post-Roman context on the Balkerne Lane site, Colchester (*CAR* **2**, fig 142, 4161). The type is found on the German *limes* where it has been dated to later than AD 150 (*ORL* **8**, Taf 12, 51).

SF 27. (148) L46. Roman metalled street surface. Copper-alloy sheet fragment. Maximum dimensions 20 by 19 mm.

Fig 15, no 2. SF 28. (159) L46. Roman metalled street surface. Fragment of a copper-alloy auxiliary military openwork fitting with scrolled trumpet or voluted decoration. Probably from a large leaf-shaped harness pendant as Oldenstein 1976, Taf 31, but possibly from a smaller fitting as Taf 69. 2nd or 3rd century.

Iron nails

(35) L8. Cess material/occupation associated with floor F31; Roman. Iron nail of Manning's Type 1b (Manning 1985, 134). Length 117 mm.

(157) L47 The nail is of Manning's Type 1b, with round flat or slightly convex head (Manning 1985, 134). This is listed in Table 4.

Table 4: table showing all recorded Manning's Type 1b nails.

Finds no	Feature/ layer no	Context description and date	Description	Length (mm)
157	L46	Roman metalled street surface	clenched nail	65 (bent)

Glass

SF 3. (40) L8. Cess material/occupation associated with floor F31; Roman. Fragments from the base of two white glass vessels with footrings. The external diameter of the smaller footring is 23 mm, of the larger approximately 46 mm. The glass of both vessels is opaque and 'sugary' in texture. Date uncertain.

Stone

Fig 15, no 5. SF 34. (72) L41. Short well-worn hone made from a fine-grained micaceous sandstone. One end is more or less square in section, the other is rounded, probably reduced by use. The square end is certainly original, the rounded one shows a different wear-pattern and may be a worn break, which would account for the short length to width ratio of this piece. Length 62 mm, section at square end 28 by 27 mm, section at rounded end 28 by 26 mm.

SF 42. (72) L41. Roman demolition layer. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer, with no original edges. One surface is polished, there is a thin straight line scored across the other. Maximum dimensions 97 by 90 mm.

SF 9. (37) L2. Demolition material; Roman/post-Roman. Fragment from a square or rectangular slab of mudstone, probably used for paving or wall veneer. Two original edges remain, lengths 106 and 72 mm. Maximum dimensions 125 by 93 mm, 16.5 mm thick. Date uncertain.

Ceramic

SF 43. (55) L42. Pottery counter made from a wall sherd of a large grey ware storage jar. The edge is smooth but chipped in one place. Diameter 44 mm, 18 mm thick.

Daub

(23) L6. Natural silt wash. Small fragment of daub. Weight 25 g.

Bone

SF 25. (78) F60. Roman flanking ditch. Complete bone hairpin of Colchester Type 2, with narrow tapering shaft and two grooves cut below a simple conical head. The type dates from the mid 1st century into the 2nd century (*CAR* **2**, 21). Length 92 mm.

SF 30. (168). L42. Pit. Complete bone hairpin of Colchester Type 3 with a globular head and a swelling on the shaft. The types dates from *c* AD 150 into the 4th century (*CAR* **2**, 21-2). Length 123 mm.

Mosaic cubes

Several loose grey and white *tesserae* were recorded from pit F37 providing evidence of black/white mosaic (Table 5).

Table 5: dimensions of the different mosaic cubes.

***Tessera* type**	**Length (mm)**	**Width (mm)**	**Thickness (mm)**
White chalk	150	150	100
Grey stone (septaria)	150	150	100

6.3.4 Painted wall-plaster (Figs 4, 18a-18b, Plates 1a-f, 6)

by Will Clarke

Eighteen pieces of painted plaster (at 826 cm^2) were recovered from the *in situ* remains of Building 214 (F3, F36, L8) and pit F5, as well as from the overlying Roman demolition layers L2 and L4. A large quantity of plaster featuring decoration consisting of imitation marble was also sampled from pit F37 adjacent to Building 214. Finds of plaster sampled from pit F37 in Area A are described alongside material from this same feature described as L42 excavated in Area B (F37/L42). What follows is a brief summary of the decorative painted plaster recovered from the structural remains of Building 214 (including Table 6; Fig 4).

Table 6: Area A, Building 214 – stratified painted plaster.

Feature/layer number	Quantity	Area in cm^2
F3 (near)	11	700
F5	3	73
F36	3	12
L8 (soil layer between wall foundations F8, F9, F29)	1	41
Totals	**18**	**826**

The most frequent form of painted plaster recovered from Building 214 was of plain pieces painted in a variety of single colours, ie red, green, blue and plain white, but with shades of red being the most common. These plain pieces probably featured as ground relating to a series of panel fields above the dado with framing elements demarcating panel fields, and are identifiable in white, red, grey, green and blue. No traces of figural or vegetal decoration placed within panel fields is evident. Black-painted panels or borders, which are characteristic of high-status 1st-century décor elsewhere in the town (ie in Building 51 at the Balkerne Lane site, in *CAR* **3**, 146-53) are also absent. Nevertheless, there is evidence for elaborate painted wall decoration in Building 214 from a small number of pieces recovered just inside the west-facing frontage of the building in the vicinity of wall foundation F3.

6.3.4.1 Building 214: evidence for elaborately painted decoration

Marble imitation

One large piece of plaster was decorated to imitate marble. This piece features a pink ground with white, grey and dark red splashes alongside a red painted border outlined in white and flecked with white spots. The red band serves to demarcate the marbling from another zone painted green. In terms of its context, the red border would have been positioned horizontally to separate a marble imitation decorating the dado from a central panel above, some of which was painted green. This is based on a marble imitation which was particularly favoured for base zones in Romano-British wall-decorations. The way in which marble has been loosely conveyed on the dado is not uncommon from domestic buildings in the town as early as the 1st century AD, particularly in schemes featuring a pink ground (see *CAR* **3**, 148, fig 138). The dado rail itself is painted to imitate porphyry, probably Egyptian red porphyry.

Garden painting

One of the larger fragments of plaster recovered from Building 214 provides evidence of a very different genre of painted decoration, ie one with a realistic natural theme. This piece features a white flower head (diameter 35 mm) with eight petals, not unlike a clematis, set amongst green foliage or shrubbery. The large scale of the flower and the dense and spatially convincing foliage, placed on a black ground, is stylistically reminiscent of 'garden painting', a type much in vogue in the late AD 60s to 70s during the Fourth Style of Pompeian painting.

Paintings of this type were developed to decorate areas around the peristyle and were designed to face outwards towards the courtyard gardens of Roman houses (Ling 1991, 149-53; Zanker 1998). Garden paintings are thought to have gained popularity in Pompeii because they created the illusion of a much larger garden than actually existed in the normal urban courtyard (Zanker 1998; Dunbabin 1995). Building 214 was also situated in an urban area. Garden paintings were in vogue for only a short time in Italy, but were widely disseminated in North-western provinces during the late 1st to early 2nd century AD. In North-western provinces, the decoration typically took the form of a narrow frieze placed above a dado featuring either plain coloured ground or a mottled design of marble imitation (Ling 2003, 90).

Meander design

Two substantial fragments of painted plaster (509 cm^2 in total), both of which show the same distinctive design, were recovered unstratified from Area A. Their context is likely to be the Roman demolition deposit L2 overlying western parts of Building 214. One of the notable aspects of this plaster is its thickness, at 14.8 cm, and for this to consist of two phases of decoration. The lower or first layer of plaster has a thickness of 8.5 cm of indeterminate decoration which is covered by a second layer 6.3 cm thick. This second phase has decoration which seems to be of a similar type to the first phase, consisting of two white, 0.5 cm-wide parallel lines, being 1.2-1.7 cm apart, and painted on mid-green ground. The white lines change direction at right-angles, which is suggestive of a simple geometric scheme not unlike a 'meander' type. The context of use most typical of meander designs is mosaic floors rather than painting. The meander design, influenced by floor décor, is known to have spread to painted ceilings in the Third Style of Pompeian painting in the AD 20s-40s (Ling 1991, 66-7). However, the thickness of these pieces suggests that they do not derive from a ceiling. Both fragments show evidence of their painted surfaces being marked with a scatter of impressions. These marks range between 3.5 and 6 cm in length and penetrate the plaster to a depth of about 0.3-4 cm. They show that the surface of this painted plaster was pecked by a pick hammer or similar instrument, which is characteristic of keying, indicating that a new application of plaster was intended to be applied (Ling 1991, 198-9). Examples of keying are known from a number of Roman houses elsewhere in the town (ie *CAR* **6**, Building 120, p 313 and Building 123, p 314).

The marks of keying on painted plaster are rounded at one end and then taper to a point, so that it is possible to compare the angles made by the instruments' delivery (not illustrated). The angle of impact made by the pick hammer on this plaster varied by as much as 180 degrees in the keying marks. This indicates that, despite its thickness, the plaster derives from a ceiling/vault rather than from a wall. This evidence demonstrates that at least one of the rooms of Building 214 displayed a meander design on its ceiling which had two phases of painted décor and was intended to be refurbished for a third time, but that this was not accomplished before the building went out of use or was demolished.

6.3.4.2 Areas A and B: F37/L42, adjacent to Building 214: painted wall-plaster

Introduction

2,645 fragments of decorated Roman painted wall-plaster with a total area coverage of 32,220 cm^2 were recovered from F37/L42 in Insula 1b (see Tables 7-8), adjacent to Building 214. The fragments range in size between 2 and 11.2 cm and derive from decoration of the main panel areas of a wall or walls.

What follows is a discussion describing the technique of display and its historical background followed by descriptions of the main decorative elements with a basic reconstruction of its design format, and clues to its date and context.

Discussion

The sheer quantity of fragments dumped within this single context is remarkable. The painted plaster is not just plentiful but also decorated. Furthermore, it is of a stylistic type imitating marble which is unprecedented from Roman Colchester, and also rare from Romano-British contexts. A number of characteristics displayed by the painted assemblage from F37/L42 sets this plaster apart from the marble imitation generally recovered from Romano-British houses as, for example, from Building 214, adjacent to the pit.[1] Firstly, the scheme attempted to faithfully reproduce a series of exotic coloured stone and marble types which are identifiable as varieties which were in circulation during the imperial period. Types which formed parts of this design consist of Greek green porphyry, Egyptian red porphyry, the Numidian breccia *giallo antico*, and a variegated marble displaying much poorer preservation but probably meant to imitate the Phrygian marble *pavonazzetto*.

[1] Based on spots and splashes of colour bearing little resemblance to actual marble or to any specific type in circulation. Imitation of marble decorated in this way was recovered from both Buildings 214 and 211 as well as from the defensive rampart behind the town wall containing material from other houses demolished in the town.

These were not ordinary types, but the signature marbles of imperial construction and also the most expensive and prestigious marbles of the Roman world. This specific combination of materials is significant and is referred to by Italian scholars as 'the four marbles of Nero', since they first appear altogether as a group in *opus sectile* floors of Nero's Palatine palace, the *Domus Aurea,* and went on to be frequently used together in important imperial public buildings of later periods. The painted imitation of marble from F37/L42, in terms of is context and design, is not only different to painted décor typically found in Romano-British buildings, but also to 1st-century painted décor normally found in houses in Roman Italy. The imitation of marble in the Fourth Style of Pompeian painting, for example, although seeking to replicate real marble, was confined to the dado area and based on very simple geometric designs. The scheme from F37/L42 differs because this was employed to cover the main panels of a wall. The design also differs by being based on the replication of a far more sophisticated *opus sectile* arrangement that featured not only geometric elements but also floral patterning and other motifs such as a *cantharus*. These elements were depicted as if they were created from tiny pieces of cut stone inlay but were actually painted.

Examples of this technique in the archaeological record of Roman Italy is rare, and invariably recovered out of *situ*. What is known about its artistic development is that this technique had its roots in the mid 1st century AD and innovative trends related to marble working of a Claudian/Neronian date (Dunbabin 1991, 261-8). These early examples, known as *opus sectile* mural incrustation, consisted of pieces of cut marble intarsia in the shape of figures, animals, objects and vegetal designs, some of which carried incised detail, set into a background slab of either marble, limestone or slate which was hollowed out to receive them. Such schemes are described by the Emperor Nero's minister and political advisor Seneca (*Epistolae morales ad Lucilium*, 86.6) as being 'the luxury of his day'. One of the earliest-known examples is to be found in the remains of Nero's palace, the *Domus Aurea*, which was destroyed by fire in AD 64.

Intarsia work in the form of incrustation, although featuring at a later date, is very rare. The predominant mural technique that subsequently developed and became in vogue simply juxtaposed cut stone and marble intarsia in an identical method to that used in floors.[2] The painted scheme on the plaster from F37/L42 is not incrustation but imitates juxtaposed intarsia of stone and marble. *Opus sectile* mural decoration of this type in Italy during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD is found only in buildings of some importance, as, for example, the very large suburban villas encircling Rome, which were the residences of Rome's ruling élite and their families. In the 4th century AD, the scale of this technique markedly increased in size for schemes to cover entire walls and rooms. Material recovered from F37/L42 is also of a large-scale format, given that it represents mural coverage spanning some 3.2m^2 although it is only a sample from the original scheme.

Evidence in Italy for 4th-century *opus sectile* mural décor is recovered far more frequently than for earlier periods. This is thought to be not merely an accident of survival, but because *opus sectile* at this time reached unprecedented heights of popularity around the Roman empire (Kelly 1986). Two notable examples from antiquity which are monumental in scale and combine figured, floral, architectural and geometric detail can be found in Rome and in its port town of Ostia. The structure situated outside the Porta Marina in Ostia, approximately dated to the AD 340s, is thought to have belonged to a collegiate/wealthy corporation and had walls furnished with marble inlay to a height of 7.82 m (Becatti 1968). Even more monumental in scale was a scheme in the Basilica Junius Bassus in Rome dated to *c* AD 331, which covered walls 15 m in height. The repertoire of materials used in both these buildings is not dissimilar to the imitation material from F37/L42, being primarily based on Greek and Egyptian porphyry, *giallo antico* and *pavonazzetto* with the addition of glass for special colours or effects.

Evidence from Romano-British contexts for the painted imitation of mural *opus*

[2] Identfying pieces of marble applied in *opus sectile* either to floors or walls is problematic because they can look identical.

sectile of this type is exceedingly rare.[3] Schemes using real marble are also scarce, but not unprecedented. Examples of intarsia of the early incrustation type is known, for example, from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971),[4] but this is very different to the imitation scheme on the plaster from F37/L42. One Romano-British marble assemblage potentially bearing a much closer resemblance to this is, coincidentally, also from Colchester and was recovered from the site of the precinct of the Temple of Claudius, at the Kent Blaxill site in 1952 (Hull 1958, 171-5). The assemblage included imported coloured marbles including fine inlay described 'as from carved panelling some in the form of leaves, tendrils, or geometric pieces' (*ibid*, 173). Some 380 fragments of coloured marble alone were recovered including Egyptian porphyry, Greek porphyry, *giallo antico* and *pavonazzetto*, most of which came from the fill of a small drain at the edge of the temple precinct (Morris 1955; Peacock & Williams 1999, 335-7). It is suggested that the majority of this marble assemblage derives from a phase of major alterations to the Temple of Claudius in the 4th century AD (period IVa in Drury 1984), and that a rectangular building was constructed across the temple podium (*ibid*). This building has been interpreted as a large reception or audience hall, perhaps of a basilica (Fishwick 1997, 49-50). However, this interpretation has been disproved by the evidence from an investigation in the castle wellhouse (pers comm P Crummy). Philip Crummy concludes that there is no evidence for the Temple of Claudius being redesigned in this way (Crummy 1997, 120).

Table 7: Area A, pit F37 – painted plaster.

Feature number	Quantity	Area in cm^2
F37	257	5,363

Table 8: Area B, L42 – painted plaster.

Quantity	Area in cm^2	Description of plaster
45	1,300	Red – curved cornice pieces
32	246	Blue
46	674	Blue with other coloured stripes and patterns
101	1,293	Red porphyry
143	3,711	Red porphyry with other coloured stripes and patterns
168	3,608	Green porphyry
223	4,442	Green porphyry with other coloured stripes and patterns
2	52	Green
7	138	Green with other coloured stripes and patterns
104	2,210	Yellow with other coloured stripes and patterns
7	2,111	White with purple/pink veining
20	636	White with purple/pink veining + other coloured stripes and patterns
109	2,164	White with other coloured stripes and patterns
4	67	Yellow
162	2,364	Yellow with other coloured stripes and patterns
47	266	Orange
70	1,034	Orange with other coloured stripes and patterns
1	3	Black with other coloured stripes and patterns
2	9	Grey
8	60	Pink
85	1,035	Pink with other coloured stripes and patterns
2	38	Brown with other coloured stripes and patterns
Total 1,388	**27,361**	

[3] Only one other example with a similar format is known to me. This is a fragment of plaster recovered in London, featuring a large roundel painted to imitate Greek green porphyry and framed by a bead-and-reel pattern with a surround of *giallo antico*. Stylistically this is similar, but rendered in a coarser manner than the example from the Sixth Form College. The fragment was discovered in the 19th century and is currently on display in the British Museum; very little is known about its original finds context.

[4] The intarsia are thought to have derived from furniture, but, since this is not typical of furniture of a Roman date, this undoubtedly derives from incrustation and placement on a wall.

3	-	Blue
180	-	Red
80	-	Red with other coloured stripes and patterns
16	-	Green
78	-	Green with other coloured stripes and patterns
409	-	White
348	-	Yellow
78	-	Yellow with other coloured stripes and patterns
65	-	Beige
Total 1,257		

Identifiable coloured marble types imitated on plaster (Plate 1a-f)
Green porphyry (Plate 1a, 1c and 1d)
Description
Dark green ground scattered throughout with pale to mid green coloured markings, roughly rectangular in shape, varying in size and frequently overlapping.

Plate 1: painted plaster (all from F37/L42 adjacent to Building 214).

a Greek green porphyry background to *cantharus* rendered in *giallo antico*
b Egyption red porphyry with a lower band of *giallo antico*
c Greek green porphyry with a scroll and band below of *giallo antico*
d Greek green porphyry from part of a framed panel
e and f parts of running friezes.

Discussion
These painted elements are an especially close match to a distinctive type of porphyry sourced from the southern hills of the Peloponnese in Greece. The texture of porphyry from this region is characterised by a dark green glassy groundmass displaying numerous paler green crystals which exhibit a 'blocky' appearance, and these frequently overlap to create large crystal rosettes. Painted examples of green porphyry from F37/L42, when compared to examples of real Greek porphyry, show that porphyry crystals were replicated at two-three times actual size.

Greek porphyry was known in antiquity as *Lapis Lacaemonius*, meaning 'Spartan stone', as its source was near the city state of Sparta. Pausanias, visiting the Peloponnese outcrops of this green porphyry in the 2nd century AD, describes these stones 'as very hard, but once worked they are so beautiful they may be used for decorating the sanctuaries of gods' (Pausanias). Greek porphyry was particularly admired by the Romans, which is evident by this variety becoming in vogue for decorating schemes of *opus sectile* from the mid 1st century AD onwards and remaining so well into late antiquity and beyond. Finds of porphyry are not uncommon from Colchester as, for example, the fine inlay of Greek porphyry cut in the shape of leaves found near the site of St Nicholas' church (Hull 1958, 203). Leaves of porphyry are a not uncommon motif found in *opus sectile*. The painted imitation of leaves cut from green porphyry, as well as red porphyry, is one of various elements identifiable to this stone type from the decorative scheme on the plaster from F37/L42. Other elements include large roundels, rectangular framing borders, and geometric forms including triangles and squares.

Red porphyry (Plate 1b)
Description
Deep red ground scattered with numerous white markings consisting of fine dots of paint which vary in size from 1 to 3 mm and do not overlap.

Discussion
This painted element is an especially close match to porphyry of a type sourced from quarries at Mons Porphyrites in Egypt's eastern desert. The texture of porphyry from Mons Porphyrites is characterised by a deep red glassy groundmass scattered throughout with tiny white crystals. Painted examples of red porphyry from F37/L42, when compared to examples of real Egyptian red porphyry, show that white crystals of this porphyry have been replicated at twice actual size.

The first evidence for Roman quarrying at Mons Porphyrities comes from the reign of Tiberius (AD 14-37), but it was during the mid 1st century AD in Rome that Egyptian porphyry began to become important in Roman architecture, notably by being used alongside Greek porphyry in the *opus sectile* floors of Nero's palace on the Palatine Hill. Egyptian red porphyry was the most expensive stone in the Roman world, and so, arguably, was also the most prestigious. This type of porphyry was also the most frequently-used coloured stone for imperial portraiture; hence Egyptian porphyry is often referred to as 'imperial porphyry'. Finds of Egyptian porphyry are rare in Roman Britain, but not uncommon from sites in Colchester, as, for example, Culver Street (*CAR* **6**, 173), Balkerne Lane (*CAR* **3**, 29), and the vicinity of St Nicholas' church (Hull 1958, 203). A single veneer of porphyry was also recovered from Building 211 (see section 9.3 below).

Various elements in imitation of Egyptian red porphyry on plaster from F37/L42 include leaves, framing borders, and geometric forms including triangles and squares.

Yellow and brown breccia/white and brown breccia
Description

These painted elements feature here in two different forms but with an identical brown matrix, ie one displays yellow inclusions and the other creamy white inclusions. Inclusions consist of clasts bonded by this brown matrix which exhibit great variation in their sizing and are typically sub-rounded in shape.

Discussion
The painted elements featuring a breccia with a brown matrix with either yellow or white inclusions is loosely conveyed but unmistakably imitates varieties identifiable to the same rock type. This is a Numidian breccia known as *giallo antico* from quarries at Simitthus in North Africa (modern-day Chemtou in Tunisia). Several varieties of *giallo antico*, including those featuring either white or yellow inclusions, outcrop at Simitthus, and were exploited by the Romans, the most prestigious being the variety with yellow inclusions. Painted examples of *giallo antico* from F37/L42, when compared to real marble, show that clasts of this breccia have been replicated at two-three times actual size.

The Numidian breccia *giallo antico*, according to Roman literary sources, was introduced to Rome during the Late Republic, around the 70s BC, and appeared first in private settings, ie the houses on the Palatine owned by Rome's wealthy élite. The subsequent large-scale use of *giallo antico* by Augustus in the construction of his new forum *c* AD 1 was instrumental in this North African breccia becoming extremely popular in imperial décor and an important element of imperial buildings around the Empire. This breccia commanded a very high price, with only Greek and Egyptian porphyry and *pavonazzetto* being more expensive.

Various elements in imitation of *giallo antico* from F37/L42 include framing borders, and fine detail used to create motifs that include a *cantharus*, tendrils and foliate schemes.

Variegated marble
Description
White ground with variegated veining of bluish coloration, but much faded with only fine traces of veining preserved, and generally exhibiting a loss of original colour. The type of marble that this is intended to imitate is not clear; it could be a grey variety, as, for example, bardiglio varieties from the quarries of Luna (modern-day Carrara). However, given that the principal repertoire consisted of red and green porphyry with *giallo antico*, then one other Roman ornamental stone, known as *pavonazzetto*, ought to figure in this scheme. This is because *pavonazzetto* from Dociumum in Turkey was traditionally employed in *opus sectile* designs combined with the other three varieties in buildings of imperial date, particularly in buildings of imperial construction and in the houses of the wealthy élite. A notable example of this combination of materials can be found in the forum in Rome, in the *opus sectile* flooring of the Curia dating from Diocletian's reign.

Fragments of mouldings
Description
Forty-five pieces of painted plaster are identifiable as moulding. They typically feature rectangular shaping, 6.8 cm in thickness with lengths ranging between 3.2 and 11.2 cm, and display outer facing edges which are partially rounded in profile. The shaping of these pieces is characteristic of crown moulding deriving from the junction of an interior wall and ceiling. In total, the fragments recovered represent a 1.8 m sample of this ceiling cornice, all of which are identical in thickness, shaping and composition to the *opus signinum* mortar which is painted a deep red colour.

Discussion
Given that the principal design format on plaster recovered from F37/L42 is based on the imitation of marble, then mouldings are likely to be the same. Evidence for this is provided by the moulding being painted a deep red colour which closely matches the coloration of a red limestone known as *rosso antico* from quarries at Cape Taenaros in Greece (see Borghini 1989). The *rosso antico* quarries captured a niche market for their mouldings in Italy during the imperial period (Clarke in prep).

This is evident by this import being the most extensively employed moulding of coloured marble found in domestic architecture (*ibid*).

Embroidery friezes (Plate 1e-f, Fig 18a)
Description
Two types of embroidery friezes (Design 1 and Design 2) are identifiable in the assemblage.
Design 1 (Fig 18a, above): 187 pieces with an area coverage of 3,900 cm^2 represents the largest quantity of material from a running frieze. This features a geometric design based on the repetition of interconnecting rhombus-shaped elements. The rhombi are each 5 cm in width and 19.2 cm in length, pink and on blue ground. The frieze is 6 cm in width and bordered on both sides by yellow/white frames imitating the breccia *giallo antico* and with widths of 1.4 cm and 3.9 cm.
Design 2 (Fig 18a, below): 107 pieces with an area coverage of 2,500 cm^2, and, at 6.5 cm in width, the frieze is similar in scale to Design 1 and is similarly bordered on both sides by frames of *giallo antico*. The frieze design is also a variation of the same format, displaying interconnecting blue petals on a pink ground, thereby reversing the colour scheme of Design 1.

Discussion
The format and colour scheme exhibited by Designs 1 and 2 are extremely similar and both are bordered by bands of *giallo antico*. This demonstrates that they both formed part of the same decorative ensemble as plaster imitating marble. One corner piece of a frieze showed this to terminate rather than to continue vertically, suggesting that the two embroidery friezes were not ornament used to outline and frame a panel but were used to demarcate panel groups horizontally.

A reconstruction (interim analysis) (Fig 18a)
The homogeneity shown by the plaster from F37/L42 suggests that this assemblage probably derives from the destruction and subsequent dumping of plaster from a painted scheme which originally formed part of one decorative scheme on a wall or walls of a single interior space, rather than from a number of different locations or rooms. Analysis of the decorated plaster shows that this represents only a sample of the original painted scheme. The fragmentary character and small size of the individual pieces means that a detailed reconstruction is not possible. A basic reconstruction is, however, possible in conjunction with comparative evidence from elsewhere, notably from Ostia in Italy, and with a number of identifiable design elements on painted plaster.

The scheme represents the imitation of marble inlay providing coverage to a wall, at least above the dado area. The design was created around a series of rectangular- and square-shaped panels using a repertoire of materials imitating *rosso antico* for ceiling mouldings and panel inlay featuring Egyptian red porphyry, Greek green porphyry, the Numidian breccia *giallo antico* (in various forms), and a variegated marble which is perhaps the Phrygian marble *pavonazzetto*. Marble veining and breccia clasts, as well as the crystals of porphyry, were replicated at two-three times actual size. This method ensured the identification of individual varieties of stone and marble even when viewed at a distance and perhaps shows the importance attached to the material rather than to its design.

Panels were of different sizes, varied in ornamental complexity and were juxtaposed in groups separated vertically by two horizontal embroidery friezes. The two friezes were framed by *giallo antico* borders and featured two different designs, although both could be said to be of a similar format, with one displaying a sequence of rhombus-shaped pink lozenges on blue ground and the other a sequence of blue petals on pink ground (Fig 18a, above and below).

Each series or group of panels would have contained both plain and decorated schemes. *Giallo antico* figures largely as the ground for the largest plain panels with red or green porphyry strips used for framing. Red and green porphyry provided the ground for more ornate decorated panels, which were rectangular or square in shape. Rectangular panels probably featured geometric designs while square panels featured large roundels.

Highly decorative components (Plate 1a-f)
Porphyry, particularly the Greek variety, commonly provided the ground for the most decorated panel schemes. The most common of these feature tendrils and foliate arrangements. Another element here is the depiction of a *cantharus.* The *cantharus* is outlined in white with the body and base of the vessel painted yellow (*giallo antico*) and the neck painted blue (Plate 1a).

Canthari are a frequent subject of geometric mosaics from Romano-British contexts. The vast majority in Colchester are of a 2nd-century AD date, as, for example, from Head Street, displaying a *cantharus* in the central panel of the mosaic (Hull 1958, 209, fig 33) and a mosaic from a suburban villa at Middleborough, featuring *canthari* of different forms in each of its corner panels (*CAR* **3**, fig 157).

The *cantharus* design on this painted plaster, in comparison, has a different form to vessel types portrayed in Colchester's mosaics, being much slimmer in shape with a longer base, body and neck. The *cantharus* here also does not display the internal shading and three-dimensional representation found in mosaics. The *cantharus* created from the imitation of marble inlay is a much flatter, two-dimensional representation. The pictorial representation of this motif is very typical of marble intarsia work dating to the 4th century AD, when the technique was 'by definition almost entirely two-dimensional' (Dunbabin 1999, 264-5). This is thought to be because the patron's aim was to create a surface of great richness, in which motifs, whether figurative or vegetal, were only minor details, to be seen from a considerable height. The original context of the painted scheme from which the painted plaster derives may similarly have been placed on interior walls of some height, especially given that the replication of featured marble and stone of its scheme show textural details at two-three times actual size, allowing recognition at a distance.

Evidence for other types of decorative detail include *giallo antico* ground inset with delicate leaves of red and green porphyry and geometric designs featuring triangle arrangements again based on combinations of red and green porphyry.

A reconstruction of one of the panels (Fig 18b)
One panel forming part of the overall scheme can be reconstructed in some detail. This was square with dimensions of 47 cm x 47 cm, demonstrating that this scheme of *opus sectile* was large in scale. The square was created from the imitation of *giallo antico* ground inset with a large roundel 33 cm in diameter featuring a green porphyry ground (Fig 18b). Framing this roundel was a 5 cm-wide ornate band repeating a sequence of petal segments. The application of an outer border to the petal arrangement effectively formed a series of triangles as part of this same arrangement. The petals and triangles are coloured white/yellow, red and blue, a colour sequence that was probably repeated around the roundel.

Opus sectile mural décor from a palatial building at Apamea in Syria dated to the 4th century AD provides evidence of this same colour sequence also being used for petal-shaped inlay (Guidobaldi 2003, 63, fig 68). Aspects of the panel's design are also similar to the painted imitation of *opus sectile* known from a *thermopolium* at Ostia also dated to the 4th century AD. This Ostian scheme depicts a rhombus, a figure used in the Design 1 frieze here, and a square created by imitating *giallo antico* ground to frame a large roundel of Egyptian red porphyry. The roundel is encircled by an ornamental band featuring a repeating sequence of petal arrangements. The application of ornate borders to roundels of *opus sectile* displays, on floors or walls, is particularly diagnostic of 4th-century tastes.

Concluding remarks
Results from analysis of painted plaster from F37/L42 show this to be the imitation of mural *opus sectile.* This scheme is of a large-scale format and exhibits a number of stylistic elements characteristic of the 4th century AD.

Imitation marble décor of this type and date from Colchester is significant because large quantities of real imported marble are recorded from the site of the precinct of the Temple of Claudius, which would have decorated a building with *opus sectile* in the same period of the 4th century AD (the Kent Blaxill site in Hull 1958, 171-5). This building would have been decorated with the most expensive marbles of the Roman

world based on 4th-century marble prices[5], in large quantity, indicating an unusual, even special building. (The plaster recovered from the Sixth Form College site was a painted imitation of *opus sectile* marble decoration.) Large-scale use of the signature marbles of imperial construction suggest that this was a public building. Based on the stylistic shaping of fine marble inlay from the Kent Blaxill site and its type and quantity, the material may well have originally provided coverings to its interior walls. Given the vogue in the 4th century AD for decoration using *opus sectile* which was monumental in scale and executed in the manner of a painting, this exceptional building may well have provided a model for the scheme in another building in the town, ie on the Sixth Form College site, where the interior design could have been based on that of the Kent Blaxill site building, but executed in paint instead of marbles. This is plausible because public architecture was emulated in the interior designs of Roman houses of the wealthy élite (Wallace-Hadrill 1994; Zanker 1998). One important point to consider is that painted marble imitation of this type is unprecedented from Colchester, and this must indicate that the painted décor may derive from a public building. The painted scheme copied a marble scheme executed on a monumental scale, and may also have decorated walls of some height. The evidence for this lies in its large-scale format, and in the replication of marble textures at two-three times actual size, ie allowing recognition at a distance. (This would imply the existence of large rooms in Building 214, but insufficient of the remains of the building was investigated to confirm this.)

The demolition material from F37/L42 probably derives from Building 214 (adjacent to the pit, in Insula 1b). The considerable number of painted plaster fragments recovered from the structural remains of Buildings 211 and 212 did not produce one fragment which is unequivocally identifiable to this stylistic type.[6]

An attribute commonly shared by buildings with painted walls imitating marble, of a mid 3rd- and 4th-century date, is that they invariably include real imported coloured marble in their floors (Clarke in press). No evidence for this was apparent from Building 214, but Egyptian porphyry was recovered from both Building 211 and from another Roman structure on the site of the main college building (in 1910), some distance to the south-west of pit F37. This other structure was of some architectural importance, given that it was also decorated with Purbeck marble columns (Hull 1958, 96).

6.3.4.3 Painted plaster recovered from areas of street metalling and possible flanking ditch (Fig 5)

Roman flanking ditch east of Building 211

L47

Plain ground colours: white, pale pink, purple, deep red.

Imitation marble (splash type): grey ground with pink-red splashes.

Featuring opus signinum *mortar*: deep red ground with plaster exhibiting curvature.

L41, L43 east of L41

Plain ground colours: white, deep red, yellow, Pompeian red.

Bands/stripes: yellow (6 cm), black (4 cm). Series of grey-blue thin stripes (0.3 cm) on white ground.

Roman street metalling

L46

Plain ground colours: white.

Roman demolition material adjacent to Building 211

F118, F119, L48

Plain ground colours: deep red, mid red, dark grey. white, purple (common), yellow, blue.

[5] Recorded in Diocletian's price edict of AD 301.

[6] A single fragment of plaster recovered just inside the west-facing frontage of Building 214 (see section 6.3.4.1) features a red band painted red and spotted white in imitation of Egyptian red porphyry; the same fragment, however, also features the imitation of marble created in the traditional Romano-British manner of spots and splashes.

Bands/stripes: thin white stripe (0.4 cm), buff (0.5 cm), black (0.4 cm), grey (3.5 cm), brown (3 cm),
Imitation marble (splash type): dark pink ground (coarse finish) with black and deep red splashes
Featuring opus signinum *mortar*: white ground, purple ground.

Discussion
Painted plaster from demolition sealing street metalling adjacent to Building 211 displays decoration identical in format to plaster from a 'garden painting' recovered from Building 212 in Area A. This may derive from the same scheme.

6.3.5 Human bone

During the fieldwork, a small amount of human bone was identified. The material consisted of skull fragments which included the top of the skull and eye orbits, and a fragment of mandible and maxilla. The pronounced cranial/(orbital) ridges around the orbits suggest that the remains are male, and evidence from the teeth and the fusing of the cranial sutures indicates an adult. The fragments were unstratified within the backfill of a modern gas-pipe trench. No evidence of any additional human remains or grave cut was observed.

6.3.6 Other finds

The bulk finds from Areas A and B are listed in Appendix 3 (p 94) and Appendix 4 (p 96). The pottery catalogue is included as Appendix 1, p 81 and the tile catalogue as Appendix 2, p 92.

7 Insula 1a, Building 212 – the ?bath-house: Area A

7.1.1 Introduction (Figs 2-4, 7-9, 23)
As well as Building 214 described above, Area A also included Building 212, a possible bath-house.

7.1.2 Area A was stripped of topsoil and subsoil by the contractors with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. All identified archaeological features were then recorded by CAT staff before being removed by the contractors.

7.1.3 Strata removed by the contractors included: tarmac road surface, the surface of the tennis courts, a modern footpath, and a modern topsoil/dark earth layer (L1) measuring between 0.6 m and 1.2 m thick. The dark earth deposit L1 sealed Roman demolition layers (L2, L4) made up of light silty clay which contained large quantities of mortar, painted wall-plaster and stone fragments. Several *in situ* Roman features were identified below demolition deposit L4 and occasionally directly below the dark earth deposit (L1).

7.1.4 In an area to the west of Building 214, and positioned directly west of the north-south street dividing Insula 1b from Insula 1a, an *in situ* masonry wall foundation (F11) was identified. This foundation was composed of septaria courses, was sealed by the dark earth deposit (L1), was aligned north-south, and was about 0.75-8 m in width. The location of foundation F11 should indicate a structure in Insula 1a facing onto the street, but evidence for metalling was not recorded in areas east of foundation F11 or west of the structural remains of Building 214 in Area A.

Six metres further west of F11 was another *in situ* masonry wall foundation (F10). This was aligned east-west, was similar in width to F11, and consisted of faced septaria blocks sealed by Roman demolition (L2). Another *in situ* masonry wall foundation (F22) was identified 9 m further to the west, and consisted of tile and septaria courses, was aligned north-east, and was 0.5 m in width. The demolition deposit L2 sealing foundation F22 was composed substantially of *opus signinum* mortar from demolition of a pavement. Other finds from L2 included elements of box flue tile suggesting the proximity of a bath-house.

7.1.5 In an area just to the west of F22, a series of *in situ* Roman features was identified which represent the structural remains of a room, probably part of a bath-house (see Fig 4).

The remains associated with the ?bath-house were clearly significant and an excavation was carried out on these remains. The exceptional survival and nature of the ?bath-house led the Sixth Form College and the developers to change their ground-plans so that this structure could be preserved *in situ* (see Fig 7 and Plates 2-5). A basic summary of findings from investigations of this room follows in section 7.1.5.1.

7.1.5.1 The room was sealed by two layers of Roman demolition material (L2, L4), over which a thick layer of dark earth (L1) had accumulated. In addition to the demolition material, a large post-medieval pit (F5) had been cut through the structure, damaging the south-east corner and the middle part of the northern wall.

The area of the room was defined by two adjoining partially robbed masonry walls (F6, F12), situated south and east, with the locations of the north and west walls defined by benches F16 and F17. The walls and benches provide surrounds to a rectangular-shaped space with internal dimensions of 6.6 m by 4.25 m. Walls F6 and F12 were made of coursed stone and tile, which is unusual, as most walls in the Roman town consisted of a rubble foundation and clay-block construction. They were 0.7 m thick, and survived up to a maximum height of 1.3 m.

Extending around all four sides of the room was a series of 0.50 m-wide low benches (F6, F16, F17). The benches were rendered in plaster which had been painted purple, thereby contrasting, but not markedly so, with painted décor of the lower wall surrounds, which were painted pink-red. One entranceway to the room was identified in the room's north wall. This was indicated by the right-angled end of bench F16 (the other side having been removed by the post-medieval pit F5). Directly opposite this entranceway, set against the south wall F12, is evidence for a niche (F23). This feature is rendered in plaster painted the same pink-red colour as the south wall and placed in between the seating, thereby separating the seating arrangement along the south wall.

The floor of the room is particularly well preserved *in situ*, consisting of a red tessellated pavement (F13) measuring 4.78 m by 2.85 m. Tessellation of this pavement is fairly coarsely executed, given that many of the *tesserae* used in the coverage have coarse-cut edges, from being re-used Roman tile and from being set in lines which are rarely precisely linear in their arrangement.

In one area of this tessellated pavement, directly in front of the niche, a large rectangular cut (basin F14), measuring 1.44 m by 1.26 m with vertical sides, has exposed sections of the floor's tessellation including an underlying *opus signinum* bedding mortar (F13). Basin F14 provides evidence that a feature was originally inset into the tessellated pavement but consequently robbed. The base of this feature had been inserted into the floor only at a shallow depth, probably about 20 cm. Robbing of this feature resulted in the edges of basin F14 to the north and east being fairly clean-cut and linear, but those to the south and west being particularly ragged. Robbing activity had also exposed a timber water channel (F15, diameter of approximately 24 cm) preserved *in situ* along the entire length of basin F14 on a north-south alignment. The timber channel would have been a conduit for water tapped from a spring in this area, which is still active today. The timber water channel F15 was set predominantly into a clay deposit (L5) which underlies the *opus signinum,* but with 6 cm of its upper profile extending into the *opus signinum.* The south-facing edge of basin F14 shows that the timber channel was originally partially covered by this mortar. The preservation of the timber *in situ* shows that this feature was unaffected by the robbing activity above it, with the depth of basin F14 allowing clearance of the timber by approximately 3-4 cm. The ragged southern end of basin F14, heavily disturbed by robbing, has also exposed evidence for a timber box well or spring head (F19) *in situ*, measuring 0.70 m by 0.32 m, existing below the *in situ* tessellated pavement. This feature fed the timber channel via a tile channel (F20) measuring 0.29 m by 0.21 m (see Fig 7). One other feature (F21), south of the room's south wall, was also on the same alignment as the timber channel and box well/spring head, and tile channel. Due to the depth of this feature, it was not possible to fully excavate it, but it is likely that F21 was the cut which held the timber channel.

Plate 2: Building 212, the ?bath-house, view east – painted plaster *in situ*.

Plate 3: Building 212, the ?bath-house, view north-west – pumping out the basin F14.

Plate 4: Building 212, the ?bath-house, view north-east – square cut representing robbed basin F14.

Plate 5: Building 212, the ?bath-house, view south – the timber water channel, tile channel, and box well or spring head.

Identifying the feature that originally existed in the centre of the floor prior to its robbing, now represented by basin F14, can only be speculative. What is fairly certain is that this had a square base, with sides less than 1.5 m in length and set at a shallow depth of only 20 cm. One possible explanation is that this was a small basin. The basin may have been decorated with a coloured mosaic, since a fragment from a black and white mosaic of geometric design was recorded from the demolition deposit L4. A small number of black and white *tesserae* and two of blue and green glass were also found in the timber channel F15.

Given the evidence for mosaic components, it is also not inconceivable that the robbed feature was not a basin but a decorative mosaic panel or *emblema* inset into the floor. This panel would have provided a focal point to the floor by contrasting with plain red tessellation elsewhere in the room, a technique not uncommon in floor décor in Pompeii. The absence of substantial amounts of its bedding mortar may also suggest an attempt not just to salvage *tesserae*/marble, but to remove the entire panel, so preserving its decorative components intact. It is thought, for example, that *emblema* panels were not created on-site but prefabricated and transported to the site.

In this scenario, the timber water channel F15 below the panel was probably serving a water feature not in this room but in an adjacent room. This other context, judging by the timber channel's alignment, ie heading towards the room's entranceway, would have been located in an area to the north. Evidence for structural remains north of the room are known from results of a 2001 evaluation by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU Report 830) which identified an *in situ opus signinum* floor here. This floor was observed throughout the length and width of an east-west aligned evaluation trench measuring 6.3 m in length and 1.8 m in width. The location of the *opus signinum* floor is 5 m to the north of this room, which suggests that it formed part of an adjacent room accessed through the entranceway situated west of bench F16, which would have been constructed against a partition wall.

The remarkable preservation of the room's architectural components to a height of 1.3 m also provides evidence of an axial vista, a common feature in well-appointed Roman houses, as, for example, in Pompeii (Wallace-Hadrill 1994), although rarely identifiable in the heavily-robbed structural remains of Romano-British buildings. Axial vistas in a Roman house consisted of architectural features and elements of floor and wall decoration as well as objects such as furniture and sculpture symmetrically arranged along visual sight-lines to enhance the grandeur of a house. The focus of a vista is typically one of the most important components of a building's décor. The vista which this room forms part of, is a sight-line extending from interior spaces of an adjacent room north of this room. The vista when viewed southward from this location would have extended through the room's entranceway across the decorative panel/basin set into the floor to end on the niche in the south wall. The niche was very likely the part of a shrine where a small figurine or statuette of a deity would have been displayed. The entrance of the room along this axial vista acts to frame this feature, a view further embellished by floor decoration arranged purposefully in front of the niche; since this is where the vista ended, the device served to highlight its significance.

7.2 Insula 1a: Building 212, the ?bath-house – finds

7.2.1 Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

The Roman pottery recovered during the excavation of the ?bath-house (Building 212, in Area A) comes from eight contexts, ie two layers and six features. The pottery fabrics and form types were recorded and the pottery spot-dated for each context. This information is listed by context in the Roman pottery catalogue below (Area A).

Overall the date range of the individual pottery types spans the whole of the Roman period, although there is nothing that is specifically identifiable as pre-Flavian or that need be late 4th century. Only three contexts (L4, F5, F21) contained significant ranges of fabric and identifiable form types. The latest closely-datable pottery from F12 is of late 1st- to 2nd-/early 3rd-century date. The contexts L4 and

F5 both contain pottery that can be dated to the late Roman period of the early-mid 3rd-4th century and mid-late 3rd-4th century respectively. Among the pottery from the remaining contexts (L5, F14, F18, F21, F22), overall there is nothing in the list of fabrics recorded that need date later than the early 2nd century, although, more broadly, many of the sherds date to the 1st-2nd/3rd century or can only be dated as Roman.

Only three contexts, ie L4, F5 and F21, contained significant ranges of fabric and identifiable pottery form types. Of these, the pottery from F21 is the earliest. Closely-datable pottery from the fill consists of South Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(SG)), of 1st-century date, a Cam 154 or 155 flagon of 1st- or early-mid 2nd-century date and a jar, probably of form Cam 266, which is dated 1st-early 2nd century. With these was a poppy-head beaker of form Cam 123, which is usually dated to the period of the late 1st-2nd/3rd century, although some examples are dated as early as Neronian (*CAR* **10**, 473). There is nothing that need date later than the early-mid 2nd century and all of this pottery could be accommodated in a date range of late 1st to early-mid 2nd century. The remaining two contexts (L4, F5) both contained pottery that can be dated to the late Roman period of the early-mid 3rd-4th century. The latest closely-dated pottery from F5 is also Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) dated at Colchester to the early-mid 3rd-4th century (after AD 225), the largest quantities occurring after AD 275 (*CAR* **10**, 278). The latest closely-dated pottery from L4 is a form Cam 305 flanged bowl, which is dated third quarter of the 3rd-4th century. There is also Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) and a Nene Valley mortarium (Fabric TE) from L4.

7.2.2 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

This is the report on 2.15kg of post-Roman pottery from Area A.

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR* **7**): unrecognised, possibly Anglo-Saxon; Fabric 20 (medieval coarse ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 45b (Siegburg stoneware); Fabric 45c (Raeren stoneware); Fabric 45f (Westerwald stoneware); Fabric 48a (porcelain); and Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). Pottery weights are listed below in Tables 9a-9b. Full details are listed in the archive. Identifiable forms include the frilled foot of an early German Siegburg stoneware jug, and two rims of large storage jars in Colchester-type ware (see *CAR* **7**, fig 88.93-94).

Discussion

This is a relatively small pottery group. The group is dominated by Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), which forms 67% by weight of the whole post-Roman pottery group, the next heaviest being Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware) at 12%. There are none of the wares such as ironstones (Fabric 48d) or tin-glazed earthenwares (Fabric 46) normally encountered on a post-medieval site in Colchester. The implication is that there was a period of inactivity here, starting in the 17th century and continuing until perhaps 1910, the approximate start date for the construction of the Technical Institute[7]. By contrast, the large group of Colchester-type ware (and contemporary German stoneware) is evidence of considerable activity here in the 15th and 16th centuries. The pottery forms include storage jars or cisterns, which would be at home in a domestic and presumably a commercial context. The material no doubt derives from the properties on the west side of North Hill, rather than from the area which is now occupied by the college grounds. Two sherds of an unrecognised ware include at least one sherd which may be Anglo-Saxon; if so, this would indicate some small-scale Anglo-Saxon activity here.

[7] Hull (1958, 93-4) implies that the site was being excavated in 1910. This was in advance of the construction of what was then called the Colchester Technical Institute. The Institute transferred to the new buildings here in 1912 (*VCH* **9**, 364).

Table 9a: quantities and weights of medieval pottery fabric types by finds number and context.

		Fabrics						
Finds number	**Context**	**?Anglo-Saxon q**	**?Anglo-Saxon w**	**20 q**	**20 w**	**21a q**	**21a w**	**pottery date**
2	U/S	1	34					-
5	L2	0	0			3	80	15th-16th century
7	F5	1	32			1	159	17th-18th century
8	L4			1	33	14	933	1450-1475
13	F5					1	39	15th-16th century
17	F5					2	170	1450-1550
24	F18					1	65	15th-16th century
Totals		**2**	**66**	**1**	**33**	**22**	**1,446**	

Table 9b: quantities and weights of post-medieval pottery fabric types by finds number and context.

		Fabrics								
Finds number	**Context**	**40 q**	**40 w**	**45b q**	**45b w**	**45c q**	**45c w**	**48a q**	**48a w**	**pottery date**
2	U/S			1	184			1	67	-
5	L2									15th-16th century
7	F5	6	266							17th-18th century
8	L4									1450-1475
13	F5									15th-16th century
17	F5					1	5			1450-1550
24	F18									15th-16th century
Totals		**6**	**266**	**1**	**184**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**67**	

7.2.3 Small finds

by Nina Crummy

The objects from the ?bath-house range in date from the 1st century AD to post-Roman. A wooden fitting, possibly a valve or part of a valve mechanism, was found in the tile channel F20 feeding the timber channel F15. From the timber channel itself came a late Roman bone plano-convex counter and a group of stone and glass mosaic cubes, presumably originally from a floor, niche or ceiling of the building. The fill of the cut in which the timber channel was laid produced some fragments of daub, probably from blocks rather than daub-and-wattle walls, and some pieces of vitrified clay containing flint grit and small pebbles not usually found in daub. The vitrification on these latter fragments is secondary as it passes over adjacent fractured surfaces.

A fragment of a paving slab or wall veneer from the demolition material L2 may perhaps come from the building, but a Claudian-Neronian plate brooch is unlikely to be directly associated with it; judging by its condition, the brooch was probably burnt and originally deposited in a Boudican destruction level.

Wood

Fig 13, no 1. SF 2. (27) F20. From tile channel feeding timber channel F15; Roman. Wooden fitting consisting of a waisted main section with a round knob on one end and the other rebated on one side. There is a slight ridge just above

the waist on the rebated side. The front is rounded and may have been lathe-turned, but the back is flat and featureless apart from a dowel hole in the centre. Length 50 mm. The context of this object suggests that it formed part of the mechanism controlling the water flow. It was clearly attached by a dowel to a larger piece of wood, and the circumference of the dowel hole runs from the same height as the top of the rebated section up to the height of the ridge. It perhaps acted as a valve, pivoting on the dowel, with the rebated face meeting another flat surface when closed to form a seal.

Copper alloy

SF 5. (6) L2. Demolition material; Roman/post-Roman. Tinned copper-alloy plate brooch belonging to Feugère's Type 24a (Feugère 1985, 335-8, 344). Diameter 42 mm. The pin was hinged between two small lugs, but only traces of this mechanism and of the end of the pin now remain. The brooch is circular, with much of the edge now missing. It has a distinctive circular motif in the centre, consisting of a small depression within which is a beaded moulding around a central plain moulding. The latter feature sometimes retains a trace of red enamel or a small stud, but no decoration is visible on this example. There are usually six small lugs on the circumference of this type, but here only two remain. When found this brooch was heavily encrusted with corrosion products, some of which, when detached, retained a negative impression of the surface decoration. The type dates to the Claudian and Neronian periods and belongs to a large group of brooches of various forms which all have the central circular motif; their distribution suggests that they were made in a workshop in central or north-east Gaul (Simpson 1979, 331; Feugère 1985, 337). Several examples have been found in early contexts in Colchester (eg Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl 98, 179; *CAR* **2**, fig 14, 84).

SF 7. (29) F22. Demolition; Roman. Long thin rectangular copper-alloy strap-mount with five riveted projections on the reverse for attachment to a leather strap. Length 89 mm, width 10 mm.

Iron object

SF 2. (19) L4. Demolition material sealing floor F13; Roman/post-Roman. Slightly curved iron bar, thickened at one end, tapering and hooked at the other. Probably part of a structural tie. Length 158 mm, maximum width 14 mm.

Iron nails

(8) L4. Demolition material sealing floor F13; Roman/post-Roman. Iron nail of Manning's Type 1b, with round slightly convex head (Manning 1985, 134). Length 107 mm.

(20) L4. Demolition material sealing floor F13; Roman/post-Roman. Iron nail shank fragment. Length 46 mm.

(22) F5. Pit; post-medieval/modern. a) Two iron nails of Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985, 134). Lengths 61 and 53 (clenched) mm. b) Three iron nail shank fragments. Lengths 37 (clenched), 36 (clenched), and 34 mm. All may be post-Roman.

(21) F12. Partially robbed wall; Roman. Iron nail of Manning's Type 1b (Manning 1985, 134). Length 55 mm.

Bone

Fig 13, no 2. SF 8. (45) F15. Timber channel; Roman. Plano-convex bone counter, evenly polished on both faces. Diameter 35 mm, height 6 mm. The form appears to date to the late Roman period (*CAR* **2**, 91, Type 3; MacGregor 1978, 33).

Mosaic cubes

SF 10. (46) F15. Timber channel; Roman. Twenty-one *tesserae*, twelve of chalk, seven of septaria, one of opaque blue glass and one of opaque blue/green glass. The upper surfaces of the stone *tesserae* are on average about 13 mm square; that of the blue glass *tessera* 9 by 10 mm and of the

blue/green glass *tessera* 6.5 by 8 mm (Table 10). If all the cubes derive from a single floor mosaic, then the presence of the glass pieces suggests that, at the least, it had a central highly-coloured panel, but the possibility that the cubes might also derive from a wall or ceiling mosaic with coloured designs set within plain borders, exuberant examples of which are the fountain niches surviving at Pompeii (Zanker 1998, pls 12-13).

Daub

(25) F21. Linear cut for timber channel F15; Roman. Fragments of daub, some partly scorched on one surface. Total weight 800 g. The absence of stake or wattle holes suggests that these fragments derive from daub blocks, and traces of white mortar on one fragment may be an indication of secondary use.

(25) F21. Linear cut for timber channel F15; Roman. Fragments of fired clay with flint grit inclusions and some vegetable tempering. Some of the surfaces have been vitrified by exposure to high temperatures, and this heat must be secondary, as on some pieces the vitrification lies on adjacent fractured faces. Total weight 800 g.

Tesserae

The red *tesserae* associated with the ?bath-house (Building 212) are likely to derive from the room's tessellated floor (F13). Most of the white and grey stone *tesserae* and the two glass ones were found in basin F14 and the timber channel F15, and a fragment of mosaic with a geometric pattern of grey and white *tesserae* was recorded from the demolition material (L4) overlying the building (Table 10). The presence of these cubes, and especially the mosaic fragment itself, suggests that there was a mosaic within the room that has since been completely removed. As most of the floor of the room was tessellated, the only place where such a mosaic could have existed was over the *opus signinum* base layer of the basin (F14). Thus it is likely that in the centre of the room there was a coloured decorative mosaic panel within a black and white geometric surround.

Table 10: dimensions of the different *tessera*e.

***Tessera* type**	**Length (mm)**	**Width (mm)**	**Thickness (mm)**
Red tile	200	200	100
White chalk	150	150	100
Grey stone (septaria)	150	150	100
Blue/green glass	80	60	50
Blue glass	90	80	70

7.2.4 Area A: painted wall-plaster

by Will Clarke

Introduction

A large quantity of decorated painted wall-plaster, 170 pieces in total and measuring 4,716 cm², was recovered from Area A during the monitoring of groundworks and by excavation in Insula 1a (see Table 11). All this plaster derives from the decoration of a room which probably formed part of a ?bath-house (Building 212).

Table 11: Area A – painted wall-plaster recovered from the ?bath-house.

Quantity	**Area in cm²**	**Description of plaster**
53	951	Red
15	442	Red with other coloured stripes and patterns
8	139	Red and white (sometimes with other coloured stripes)
11	150	White
12	466	White with other coloured stripes and patterns
11	120	Green
7	796	Green with other coloured stripes and patterns

8	388	Pink
4	87	Grey
2	42	Grey with other coloured stripes and patterns
2	17	Black with other coloured stripes and patterns
11	197	Yellow
18	789	Yellow with other coloured stripes and patterns
6	111	Pink with other coloured stripes and patterns
1	6	Purple
1	15	Blue with other coloured stripes and patterns
170	**4,716**	**Totals**

Discussion

Painted plaster preserved in situ

The painted décor preserved *in situ* in the room of the ?bath-house consists of purple painted benches with lower mural surrounds including the niche of a shrine painted a plain pink-red colour. The niche being painted in the same colour as the surrounding wall is somewhat surprising, given that small shrines such as *lararium* in Roman buildings were typically highly decorative, particularly the back wall of their niches.

Painted plaster from the ?bath-house

All the pieces of painted plaster recovered from the ?bath-house showed evidence of *opus signinum* mortar forming base layers to elements. The use of *opus signinum* points to this structure forming part of a bath-house since this is a characteristic base layer used to render walls of bath-houses in Roman houses elsewhere in the town (eg Building 120, room 8, in *CAR* **6**, 90-91). That said, the use of *opus signinum* mortar for painted plaster would also be expected in a structure functioning as a *nymphaeum*. Painted plaster recovered from demolition material in the vicinity of F12, the south-facing wall of the room, also provided evidence of two different phases of painted décor. The first and earliest phase is represented by two layers; the lower base layer is of *opus signinum* about 2.9 cm thick sealed by a 1.1 cm-thick layer of creamy brown mortar with painted decoration featuring a white ground. The second and later phase of decoration adhering to white ground is represented by creamy brown mortar 1.6 cm in thickness (thicker than used in the first phase). In this later phase, decoration consisted of panels displaying fields painted in ground which is either plain red, mid grey, dark grey, green or blue. Stripes or bands framing panels were painted either white, buff or red.

One fragment recovered from F12 provides substantial evidence of the type of decoration present in the first and original phase of decoration of the ?bath-house by mortar from the second phase no longer adhering to its face. The decorative scheme consists of a white ground which features two thin wispy stems of foliage, one painted dark grey and the other red with splashes of yellow and brown, probably representing planting/shrubbery such as bushes and leaves, with one element of the scene consisting of tendrils of ivy wound around a thin upright. This floral scheme is depicted on a fine scale with the plant stems only about 1-2 mm in thickness. The painted surface of this fragment is also marked by impressions from keying preparation for a new phase of decoration (as described previously from Building 214; see section 6.3.4.1 above). A second piece of plaster recovered at this time from the Roman demolition layer (L4) is from the earliest phase of decoration, since this also consists of a floral scheme painted on a white ground. A small piece of plaster painted plain blue from redecoration of the ?bath-house adheres to the white ground, confirming the existence of two very different styles of painted décor.

Samples of the purple painted plaster from the benches were also recovered. Examination of these pieces revealed (like the pieces from the walls) a base layer of *opus signinum* mortar which is covered by a thin 2 mm-thick layer of white paint underlying the final finish of purple. Base layers or undercoats of a white lime wash characterised all loose painted plaster from Building 211. The fading pink-red painted wall surrounds above the benches also revealed a white undercoat for their base layer. The painted décor of the benches showed that the seating of the room

retained its colour scheme, unless the seating also formed part of the room's later refurbishment.

Conclusions

All the evidence on painted plaster relating to the first and earliest phase of painted decoration from the room of the ?bath-house consists of plaster painted with a white ground depicting fine floral elements as its stylistic theme. The use of white-painted ground in total coverage of a wall which is enlivened by intricate ornament became vogue at the onset of the new Fourth Style of Pompeian painting during the reign of Nero (AD 54-68). This suggests that the decoration here is of a similar date. A second and final phase of painted decoration, very different in format, introduced a variety of different coloured grounds and, although plain, these provide evidence of the room's polychromy, which is a feature of late phases of Fourth Style décor.

The floral theme present in the first phase is not typical of painted decoration in a bath-house when this is pictorial, given that it typically reflected room function with direct or indirect references to water, bathing and athletics (Ling 2005, 67). Floral decoration of a room that also features a niche inserted in one of its walls marking the site of an underground spring is entirely consistent, however, with the architecture of a *nymphaeum*. A Roman *nymphaeum* at Assisi in Italy displays a number of features not dissimilar to this room, from its position on the side of a steep hill, and with its construction including a substantial stone-built rear wall facing the slope which is closed off at the sides by two further connecting stone walls (W Clarke pers comm). Furthermore, the rear wall of the Assisi *nymphaeum* likewise contained an opening which tapped a spring behind the wall. The retrieval of various votive objects from this structure shows that this was a source of clean water or public fountain as well as a place of worship. With these similarities in mind, one possible explanation for the radical change of décor, given to the room just a few decades after the first décor, is that it could relate to a programme of works converting a *nymphaeum* to become part of a suite of rooms in a bath-house, in this process extending the water supply beyond the room as part of a bath-house functioning via under-floor timber conduits. This new programme of works included installing seating around the room and painting these purple, and repainting the walls principally in plain colours, with red dominant just above the seating areas. The niche was repainted in red to match the surrounding walls because it went out of use as a shrine, given the room's change of function. Further evidence which appears to support a *nymphaeum* being attached to the ?bath-house comes from the Roman tile recovered from this room. E W Black has identified material predominantly relating to the architecture of a bath-house constructed early in the 2nd century AD, but also found probable pre-Flavian tile which possibly derives from a structure in the vicinity, preceding the ?bath-house (see section 11 below).

7.2.5 Environmental analysis

by Val Fryer

Soil samples were taken from timber water channel F15 and tile channel F20 for environmental analysis.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, and the flots were collected in a 500-micron mesh sieve. As waterlogged plant remains were present in both assemblages, the flots were stored in water prior to sorting. The wet retents were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 12, in which material is waterlogged unless otherwise stated. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1 mm-mesh sieve and sorted when dry. *Tesserae*, fragments of painted plaster and pieces of brick/tile were removed for further specialist study. A small worked wooden object was noted within the flot from sample 2, and this was packed and stored in water prior to identification.

Table 12: Area A – plant macrofossil remains.

x = 1-10 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens
xx = 10-100 specimens c = charred

Sample no	**1**	**2**
Context no	**49**	**27**
Feature no	**F15**	**F20**
Cereals		
Triticum sp. (grains)	xc	
(spikelet base)	xc	
T. spelta L. (glume base)	xcf	
Herbs		
Anthemis cotula L.		x
Apiaceae indet.		x
Atriplex sp.	x	
Chenopodium album L.	x	x
Chenopodiaceae indet.	x	x
Cirsium sp.	x	x
Conium maculatum L.	xx	xx
Fabaceae indet.	xcf	
Fragaria sp.		xcf
Mentha sp.		x
Onorpordum acanthium L.	x	
Papaver argemone L.		x
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia	x	x
Small Poaceae indet.	x xc	x
Polygonum aviculare L.	x	x
Potentilla anserina L.		xcf
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	x	x
Rumex sp.	x	x
R. acetosella L.		x
Sonchus asper (L.)Hill	x	x
S. oleraceus L.	x	x
Stellaria media (L.)Vill	x	x
Taraxacum sp.	x	
Urtica dioica L.	xx	xxx
U. urens L.		x
Wetland plants		
Apium graveolens L.		x
Carex sp.	xcf	x
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
Cornus sanguinea L.	x	
Corylus avellana L.		x
Rubus sect. Glandulosus Wimmer & Grab	x	
Sambucus nigra L.	x	x
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x
Indet. bark	x	
Indet. buds		x
Indet. moss		x
Indet. nutshell fragment		x
Indet. seeds	x	xc
Waterlogged root/stem	xx	xx
Wood fragments <5 mm	x	x
Wood fragments >5 mm		x
Other materials		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Bone	x	
Brick/tile	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x	
Waterlogged arthropods	x	xx
Sample volume (litres)	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**

Results of the assessment

Plant macrofossils

Although the density of material recovered from the samples was very low, both assemblages contained a variety of plant remains including cereal grains and chaff, seeds of common segetal, ruderal and wetland plants, and tree/shrub macrofossils. Preservation was moderately good although some seeds were fragmented.

Cereal remains (all of wheat (*Triticum* sp.)) were extremely rare, and only occurred in sample 1. A single well-preserved burnt grain was recorded along with a charred spikelet base and waterlogged spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases.

Weed seeds were moderately common in both assemblages. Ruderal taxa were most frequently recorded and included hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), both common colonisers of base rich waste ground. Thistle (*Cirsium* sp.) and sow thistle (*Sonchus* sp.) seeds were also reasonably common. Somewhat unusually, given the possible Roman date of the assemblage, two fragmentary scotch thistle (*Onorpordum acanthium*) seeds were recovered from sample 1. Until recently, this was not thought to be a native species, but a small number of early records are now known from the eastern region of England. Seeds of common arable weeds were also recorded, and included: stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), a common plant of the local clay soils; fat hen (*Chenopodium album*); persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*); knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*); dock (*Rumex* sp.); and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). Wetland plant macrofossils, namely sedge (*Carex* sp.) fruits and a single wild celery (*Apium graveolens*) seed, were present but rare. Tree/shrub macrofossils were also noted and included dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) fruits, hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments, bramble (*Rubus* sect *Glandulosus*) 'pips', and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds. Charcoal fragments were moderately common in both assemblages along with pieces of waterlogged root/stem and occasional wood fragments. Other plant macrofossils were rare, but did include indeterminate buds, moss fronds and nutshell fragments.

Conclusions

In summary, although both timber channel F15 and tile channel F20 are of Roman date, the material contained within them is almost certainly related to either the last use of the drain or accidental drainage during a post-use phase. If this is the case, this material may possibly post-date the features by some considerable time. Certainly, the composition of the assemblages suggests that the principal catchment for the recovered plant material was probably an area of waste ground with an abundant growth of colonising weeds and shrubs, and this may indicate a phase of dereliction post-dating the buildings. Although the list of species present within the assemblages is reasonably comprehensive, the density of material present is small, and neither sample contains sufficient material for further quantification. Therefore, no additional work was considered necessary.

7.2.6 Wood fragment from the timber channel F15

A small sample of the timber channel was removed for analysis. The sample was kept in its waterlogged state and was taken to Colchester and Ipswich Museums' conservation laboratory to undergo thin-section analysis to determine the species of wood used to make the channel. The sample was frozen and a thin section taken which was examined microscopically. The result of the analysis confirmed that the species of wood used was oak.

7.2.7 Other finds

A large quantity of bulk finds was also identified – including Roman CBM, animal bone, building stone, shell, burnt flint, and post-Roman and Roman glass (Table 13; and see Appendix 1, p 81, Appendix 2, p 92, and Appendix 3, p 94).

Table 13: Area A – bulk finds.

Finds type	Quantity	Weight (g)
CBM (*tegula*, *tegula* with flange, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile)	157	50,044
Animal bone	42	3,066
Building stone	3	3,443
Shell (oyster, whelk, snail)	10	209
Burnt flint	6	290
Post-Roman glass	9	2,949
Roman glass	3	18

8 Insula 1a, Building 211: Area B (Figs 2-3, 5-6, 23)

8.1 Introduction

As well as the ?bath-house (Building 212), parts of a large adjacent building were also recorded in Insula 1a (Building 211). This was principally recorded during the monitoring of pipe trenching, pile caps and lift-pits within the footprint of the new mid site building. All identified archaeological remains were recorded before being removed by the contractors.

8.2 Stratification

In Area B, strata removed by the contractors included: the surface of the tennis courts, grassy areas and paving. Below this was a layer of modern topsoil (L7, L8), a post-medieval to post-Roman dark earth deposit (L8, L9, L19, L24, L25) which had probably been used to landscape the site, a medieval deposit (L40), and layers which were Roman in date, consisting of demolition deposits (L6, L10, L11, L12, L13, L15, L26a, L26b, L27, L29, L31, L32, L39, L40, L48) as well as some occupation layers (L28, L36, L41, L44). The majority of Roman *in situ* remains were sealed by Roman demolition layers, but some, as similarly observed in Area A, were sealed by dark earth deposits. The dark deposits (L8, L9, L19, L24, L25) ranged in thickness between 0.6 and 1.89 m. Roman contexts were observed at a depth ranging from 0.6 to 1.89 m and of a thickness of 0.9 m+. Natural was observed at a depth of 1.93-3.2 m, and this consisted of periglacial deposits comprising sands and gravels overlying clay.

8.3 Building 211 (Fig 5)

The monitoring of the pile caps and lift-pits (Fig 5) revealed an extensive series of *in situ* wall foundations and floors which appear to represent at least one large Roman building (Building 211), aligned north-south to east-west in Insula 1a. As well as Roman features, there were post-medieval features consisting of three pits (F38, F48, F63), three wall foundations (F61, F65, F77) and a trench (F100).

8.3.1 Roman wall foundations

In total, 39 elements of masonry wall foundations were observed *in situ*: F1, F4, F11, F14, F24, F29, F31, F34, ?F37, F44, F56-F57, F62, F69-F70, F73, F79, F81-F82, F88, F90-F95, F98, F101, F104, F107-F111, F114, F117, F120, and F126-F127. A series of robber trenches indicating wall foundations was also identified: F2, F15-F16, F22-F23, F41-F42, F51, F66-F67, F80, F85-F86, F99, ?F124, and F128. The foundations varied in width from 0.6 m to 0.9 m wide and were recorded up to a maximum length of 11 m. It is very likely that, while courses of septaria and tile typically constituted the masonry wall foundations of Building 211, the walls would have largely consisted of clay-block construction, of which only a small quantity of *in situ* evidence was recovered, eg F43. Walls using masonry in their construction were rare, as would be expected, but two adjoining examples were observed *in situ* (F52a and F52b).

8.3.2 Roman pavements

A variety of pavements were identified *in situ* in Building 211. The flooring techniques ranged from the utilitarian, consisting of plain mortar floors or with coarse tiled surfaces, to higher-status floors of tessellation and mosaic. The recovery of a

marble slab deriving from *opus sectile* demonstrates the existence of marble floors, although no floors of this type were found *in situ*.

The opus signinum
Examples of floors of plain mortar with polished *opus signinum* surfaces were rare, with just one example identified *in situ* (F97 with make-up layer L14 sealed beneath).

Irregular tessellation
The most common floor type observed *in situ* here (F68, F71, F87, F89, F125, F46, F47, F49, F75, F76) consists of a pavement technique described here as 'irregular tessellation' since it consists of re-used Roman tile in various shapes and sizes. Evidence for floor surfaces of this type in Building 211 were notably located between a series of east-west and north-south aligned wall foundations (F69, F81, F82, F88, F90, F91). Their walls were on average 3 m apart, suggesting a series of *ambulatories* or service corridors.

Tessellation
Several regular tessellated pavements were also identified *in situ* (F17, F18, F21, F27, F40, F72, F74, F78, F58). These were generally of high-quality tessellation (also of a higher quality than that observed in Area A, furnishing the room of the ?bath-house). It is likely that areas of tessellation in Building 211 denote sedentary spaces; for example, the patches of tessellation (F17, F49, F18, F40) represent a complete floor in a room measuring 8.6 m by 8 m. The tessellated pavement of this room provides evidence of the use of *opus signinum* mortar (F50) to repair or patch areas of the floor as well as a series of post-holes (F53, F54, F55, plus six unnumbered), penetrating the floor's surface; these are probably post-Roman in date.

The remains of the walls of this room provide significant insights into the construction methods of Building 211. The masonry wall foundation (F41) on a north-south alignment, defining the western limit of the room, contained traces of clay blocks (F43) *in situ* overlying one area of the foundation, which indicates clay-block construction of this room's west wall. The east-west return of this wall (F42), defining the southern limit of the room, is represented only by a robber trench. Several metres east of the room, however, robbing activity is no longer apparent, evidenced by a 5 m length of masonry wall (F52a, F52b) preserved *in situ* to a height of 0.79 m-0.84 m. This shows that the east-west wall of the room consisted of masonry construction at a far greater height than its adjoining north-south wall. The length of *in situ* wall consists of two adjoining walls with F52a on the same alignment as F42, with F52b adjoining this wall further eastwards and set back about 0.5 m. The exact relationship, however, between these two walls could not be determined. The material composition of these *in situ* walls does differ. F52a consisted of four courses of septaria blocks topped by three courses of tile, while F52b consisted of single courses of septaria and tile used for foundations which then changes to double rows of septaria and tile.

The structural evidence provided by F42, F43, F52a and F52b may well show that the east-west walls of Building 212, constructed against the slope (facing the hillside), were reinforced by being constructed out of masonry and probably revetment walls. Those on north-south alignments heading down the slope typified traditional wall construction by featuring clay-block construction, at least in part. This would have effectively created a series of platforms heading down the slope.

Mosaic
Evidence for the remains of a mosaic (F92) was also identified *in situ* as part of the structural remains observed in Building 211. This floor was uncovered at a depth of 1.6 m during machining of lift-pit 10 and was sealed by a dark earth deposit (L25). The mosaic consisted of a nucleus of *opus signinum* mortar largely robbed of its black/white tessellation, although robbing activity did not extend to one area of the outer border where a 25 cm-wide strip featuring alternating rows of black and white *tesserae* set in white mortar survived *in situ*. Two adjoining masonry wall

foundations, F90 to the west and F91 to the north, defined the limits of the mosaic in this area and were preserved at the same height. The interior face of both these foundations marked the edge of lift-pit 10; consequently, the interior faces of these foundations were exposed and damaged during groundworks, but largely survived *in situ*. Foundations F90 and F91 consisted of tile and septaria courses, with substantially more tile apparent in F91 than in F90. Excavation of lift-pit 10 cut a section through the robbed mosaic, showing that this was the only phase of floor decoration. Roman demolition layers were notable by their absence with the dark earth deposit L25 directly sealing all Roman remains in this area. The lift-pit section revealed the thickness of the mosaic floor to be 0.33 m. The setting bed for the tessellation comprised fine white mortar 2-3 cm thick sealing a nucleus of *opus signinum* mortar about 10-12 cm thick. Coarse floor make-up relating to the *statumen* comprised a 20 cm-thick layer of sandy clay with about 20% of this matrix consisting of rubble in the form of septaria fragments. Below this floor, make-up was a compact sandy clay deposit (L50), observed to the base of the lift-pit and showing this to be 0.56 m+ in thickness. The clay deposit (L50) sealed by the construction of the mosaic is, in terms of its composition, similar to the clay deposit (L5) identified in Area A in the room of the ?bath-house. This is also identical in context by appearing below the *statumen* of its tessellated pavement (F13) and the deposit into which the timber channel was set. No finds were retrieved from L50 or L5, and while this characteristic, coupled with its thickness (exceeding 0.56 m+) may suggest that this is natural, the deliberate deposition of this layer to create bedding for a series of platform foundations as part of the construction of Building 211 cannot be ruled out. The foundations F90 and F91 were observed cutting through L50 and extending deeper than the excavated base of the lift-pit (lift-pit 10). The overall height of these foundations, observed from the base of the lift-pit to the top of the mosaic, was 0.89 m.

The mosaic pavement F92 covered an area of at least 3 m by 6 m and decorated a room flanked by two service corridors, one to the north and one to the west, both of which had floors of irregular tessellation. Eastern parts of the mosaic pavement F92 were removed by a linear north-south post-medieval trench (F100), while further to the east a large area of *in situ opus signinum* mortar (F103, F116) had been robbed of its tessellation and may indicate that the mosaic pavement (F92) originally covered a wider area. Moreover, extensive evidence for pavements consisting of an *in situ opus signinum* nucleus robbed of tessellated/mosaic components (represented by F13, F33, F83, F84, F102, F103, F105, F112, F116 and F125) was observed from Building 211. Also of note were two areas of paving (F19, F20) where robbing activity included not only decorative elements of the setting bed, but also mortar of the nucleus exposing coarse underlying elements of floor make-up consisting of the *statumen*. The areas of paving represented by F19 and F20 consist of two roughly rectangular strips which were bordered by tessellated pavements preserved *in situ*, perhaps pointing to these areas of removed flooring being of a higher status such as for example, mosaic. Floors of a higher status than mosaic that feature exotic marble, for example, also cannot be ruled out. Conclusive evidence for the existence of lavish marble decoration in Building 211 including displays of imported marbles as well as local Purbeck was provided by the recovery of a marble slab of Egyptian red porphyry. The slab of red porphyry was recovered from Roman demolition (L26) sealing *in situ* tessellated paving F21 in an area which bordered the removed flooring (F20). The thin marble slab is cut to a geometric shape, which is characteristic of a Roman floor technique known as *opus sectile.* This technique employed thin polished slabs of marble placed edge to edge to create a smooth decorative floor surface. Marble floors from Romano-British contexts and around Rome's empire are, typically, rarely found *in situ*. This is because their precious material could be salvaged and re-used for decorative purposes elsewhere or burnt in lime kilns.

Evidence for robbing from the ?bath-house and the principal structural remains of Building 211 show that this activity was widespread. The recovery of a dump of black/white *tesserae* from F15 in Building 212, and the large number of tessellated floors preserved *in situ*, suggest that this robbing activity was targeted at mosaic components as well as marble décor.

8.4 Pipe trenches (Figs 5-6)

The pipe trenches consisted of a series of connecting storm drains/manholes ranging from 0.6 to 1.5 m wide, and 0.6 to 4 m deep, which extended across Insula 1a from east to west, directly south and west of the foundations for the new mid site building for a combined distance of 221 m. For ease of recording they have been sub-divided into lengths T1-T10 (see Fig 6), and have been described in this report from east to west. In all, 25 features were identified.

8.4.1 Pipe trenches south of the new mid site building

8.4.1.1 T10 (Figs 5-6)

T10 was of particular interest as it traversed an area which was a few metres directly south of where the remains of the ?bath-house excavated in Area A survive *in situ*.

The eastern limit of T10 was east of the ?bath-house, linking up with a manhole. This manhole was positioned in an area where the street dividing Insula 1a from Insula 1b would have been located. All features recorded from T10 are therefore in Insula 1a. Excavation of T10 reached a depth 2.5 m east of the ?bath-house and progressively deepened eastwards until a depth of 3.10 m was reached west of the ?bath-house. Considerable flooding from the spring south and east of the ?bath-house necessitated use of steel shoring cages in the pipe trench. Archaeological investigation, although limited, nevertheless recorded a number of Roman and post-medieval features.

Post-medieval disturbance was considerable to the east of the ?bath-house, with one large pit (F36/F38), 2.0-2.5 m in depth, showing nearly vertical edges characteristic of a basement/trench which cut Roman demolition (L26) in this area. Pit F36/F38 displayed a loosely compacted fill very similar in character to the dark earth deposit L25 and contained copious amounts of oyster shell, as well as slate, post-medieval ceramics and glass. East of this pit, a shallow wall foundation (F37) sealed by Roman demolition (L25) was also identified. The north-south alignment of F37 means that it may well have linked up with the north-south wall foundation (F11) identified in Area B to the north of F37. Both of these foundations were located directly west of the street (L46) which divided Insula 1a from Insula 1b. Furthermore, they were also on a similar alignment and of similar positioning to wall foundations F101 and F110 to the south which mark the eastern boundary of Building 211.

Further westwards, in T10, just to the east of the ?bath-house, another north-south aligned wall foundation (F34) was identified to be 0.5-0.7 m wide, and largely constructed from septaria fragments sealed by a Roman demolition deposit (L29). Stratigraphy observed west of foundation F34, and immediately south of the *in situ* remains of the ?bath-house, showed the dark earth deposit L25 to seal an 8 cm-thick layer or dump of *opus signinum* mortar (F33), representing robbed-out remains of a floor. This mortar sealed deposit L30, comprising about 60% of septaria rubble characteristic of floor make-up/*statumen* of a pavement. Charcoal and orange brown lenses of burnt silty clay sealing septaria rubble may suggest the presence here of a hypocaust. A large intrusive post-medieval pit (F35), with near-vertical sides and 0.9 m in width, cut through these deposits to a depth of 0.5 m. Further to the west of T10, in its extension (directly south of the *in situ* remains of the ?bath-house), was a north-south aligned linear trench (F32) cut into natural deposits of clay. This was observed at a depth of about 2 m, but only briefly due to rising ground water from the spring. Trench F32 was recorded on exactly the same alignment as the timber water channel (F15) in the ?bath-house, and is very likely the southern extension of the conduit which tapped the spring south of the ?bath-house. In the western half of T10 and west of the *in situ* remains of the ?bath-house, another two north-south aligned masonry wall foundations were identified. The foundation (F29) just to the west of the ?bath-house was 0.65 m in width, and consisted of mortared septaria fragments. F29 appeared to be on the same alignment as another *in situ* wall foundation (F14) located south of T10. Foundation F14 was preserved *in situ* to a height of 0.8 m and 10.7 m in length, and was notable for including fragments of greensand amongst those of septaria in its uppermost course above rows of tile supported by a foundation of septaria rubble. A substantial modern concrete foundation base removed the northern extent of F14 and the southern extent of F29. The wall foundation F31, observed further to the west of F29 and the ?bath-house, was

similar in width at 0.65 m but identified at a considerably greater depth of 3.1 m. F31 was sealed by Roman demolition deposit L27 with robbed-out remains of *opus signinum* mortar in its upper fill which was sealed by the dark earth deposit L25. A large block of worked Purbeck marble deriving from a doorway or archway (see Fig 16, no 8. SF 19. (36)), was recovered from Roman demolition in this part of T10.

8.4.1.2 T5 (Fig 6)

The excavated depth of T5 from east to west ranged from 3.10 m to 3.5 m. This depth necessitated use of steel shoring cages to protect ground workers, subsequently archaeological monitoring of T5 was restricted. Nevertheless, two Roman features were identified within this pipe trench at a depth of about 3.20 m. The first was an *in situ* layer of *opus signinum*, probably the robbed-out remains of a tessellated or mosaic floor (F97). To the south was an east-west aligned Roman wall foundation (F98) of septaria construction. A Roman demolition deposit (L26) sealing these features was notable for producing large quantities of Roman CBM (including box flue tile), and painted plaster as well as, a fragment of mosaic, and two copper alloy coins (SF 39 (132) & 26 (133)). To the south of foundation F98, a modern lead pipe (F96) was observed *in situ* at a depth of about 2 m.

8.4.1.3 Pipe trenches west of the new mid site building T4 and T7 (Fig 6)

Pipe trenches traversing areas west of the new mid site building from T10 consist of two branches of trenching (T9, T8, T7 and T5, T4, T3) lying parallel to each other. T4 to the south was 0.7 m in width, and ranged in depth from east to west from 4 m to 2.8 m. Ten features were identified within this pipe trench. From east to west they include an *in situ* tessellated pavement (F27), observed at a depth of 0.6 m. Pavement F27 was bordered to the west by a 0.65 m-wide north-south aligned *in situ* Roman wall foundation (F24). Further west was an *in situ* modern lead pipe (F26) which is almost certainly the same feature as F96, recorded to the east in T5. Another *in situ* north-south aligned Roman wall foundation (F11) was identified further west at a depth of 1.89 m. Foundation F11 was 0.65-0.70 m wide and notable for a roughly worked 0.3 m-thick limestone block measuring 0.65 by 0.58 m with *opus signinum* mortar adhering to its base forming part of this wall's foundations. A substantial deposit of Roman demolition (L15) containing Roman CBM and painted plaster was observed in an area between wall foundations F11 and F24 (Fig 6). At the north-west end of T4 was a single north-south Roman wall foundation (F4) recorded at a depth of 1.2 m and sealed by dark earth deposit L5. The remains of F4, preserved *in situ*, consisted of a single tile course below two courses of septaria rubble. A deposit of septaria rubble (F3) sealed by Roman demolition deposits (L10, L11, L12) was observed directly west of this foundation, which is probably associated with the collapse or demolition of F4. This same part of the pipe trench also contained post-medieval pits (F5, F6) and a modern pipe trench (F7). The final western extent of T4 close to the town wall cut a section through the town wall defensive rampart (F25) to a depth of 2.2 m. The rampart (F25) was sealed by a 0.9 m-thick dark earth deposit (L19) and its make-up comprised four layers (L20, L21, L22, L23). A distinctive feature of the rampart's composition in T4 is a mortar spread (L21) at the interface of layers L20 and L22. This layer essentially consists of a lens 8 cm in thickness with 75% of its composition including fragments of creamy-white mortar with thin pockets of gravel. Spreads of mortar in the rampart's make-up north of the Balkerne Gate was also identified by K Richardson in 1951 from an area approximately 5-10 m south of T4 (Hull 1958, 25-32). Richardson identified three spreads of mortar in the rampart, and this provided convincing evidence in 1951 that the wall and rampart were contemporary, at least in part. Subsequent investigations of the rampart, notably by B R K Dunnett in the 1960s (Dunnett 1971) and by CAT during the 1980s at Lion Walk (*CAR* **3**, 14-16), have demonstrated, however, that this is not the case; the rampart was in fact, a later addition to the wall, which had been free-standing. These controversial 'anomalous' mortar spreads in the Balkerne Hill stretch of the rampart are now interpreted as not being part of the rampart proper, but part of the town wall's foundation cutting into the steeply-inclining slope of Balkerne Hill (*ibid*, 15). This first explanation was based on the fact that mortar

layers appeared in the lower parts of the rampart in the 1951 section. The mortar spread L21 in T4, however, appeared to be positioned in the upper fill of the rampart represented in part by L20, which is only 0.3 m in thickness and sealed L21.

The other pipe trench (T7), positioned west of the main college building and north of T4, was 0.7 m in width and ranged in depth from east to west from 3.5 m to 2.0 m. At the western end of T7, an *in situ* north-south wall foundation (F1) was identified. F1 was 0.65 m in width and composed of mortared tile courses above courses of septaria. A thick deposit of dark earth (L25) sealed the remains of F1 and from this deposit, just east of foundation F1, the lower stone from a quernstone or small post-medieval millstone (SF 14 (1)) was recovered.

Further remains of a Roman structure were identified in T7. This was a robber trench (F2) for a wall foundation aligned east-west just to the north-west of F1. The alignment of the two wall foundations (F1, F2) suggest that they represent the corner of a room or building situated east of the road/rampart.

8.4.1.4 Pipe trenches north-west of the mid site building: T1-T3, T6, T8-T9 (Fig 6)

T1 and T6

The archaeological strata observed in these two pipe trenches were deep post-medieval and modern topsoils overlying the top of the Roman rampart F25.

T2 (Fig 6)

Pipe trench T2 exposed more of the Roman rampart (F25) which butts up against the inner face of the town wall. It also exposed a substantial piece of robbed masonry (F8/F9). Given the distance of the internal edge of this masonry from the inner face of the Roman town wall, this is best interpreted as the remains of a previously unknown interval tower. The edge of this masonry was 3.2 m away from the town wall. The exposed masonry measured 0.7 m wide, 4.3 m long and 0.55 m deep, suggesting that the tower would have been slightly trapezoidal in plan. Its uppermost part had been robbed, but its lower parts, being sealed by a dark earth deposit (L9), were well preserved *in situ*, and constructed from neatly-cut facing blocks of septaria set into a creamy-white mortar.

T3

In T3, fragments of *opus signinum* mortar (F10) were observed during machining and may derive from a modern drainage feature aligned east-west and heading towards the town wall.

T8 and T9

There were no significant features in these two pipe trenches.

9 Insula 1a, Building 211: Area B – finds

9.1 Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

The most important contribution of the Roman pottery is in helping to providing a dating framework for the large Roman building (Building 211). This relies on the stratified pottery from the site. In total, 55 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 1,144 g were recovered from contexts associated with Building 211. The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present were recorded by finds number for each context. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric type, together with the weight and the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). All of the stratified pottery is listed in the pottery catalogue. The residual Roman pottery is discussed but not listed. An unstratified sherd of intrinsic interest, a rim from a very large mortarium, is described and illustrated (Fig 14).

The stratified Roman pottery

Pottery was recovered from seven contexts associated with Building 211, ie L15, L26, L33, L37, L39, L45, and F39. The quantity of pottery from most of these contexts is very small. Pottery from L33, L37, L45 and F39 consists of just a few

sherds from each context. These consist almost exclusively of local coarse oxidised and reduced wares, ie Fabric DJ and Fabric GX. While several of these sherds need not date later than 1st-2nd or early 3rd century, in the absence of diagnostic pieces, this pottery is not closely datable. Fabric BA(SG) from L15 (finds no 20), is of 1st-century date.The pottery from both L15 and L26 includes sherds that can be dated to the early-mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. Three sherds were recovered from L15 (finds nos 20 and 21). The closest-dated of this pottery is a sherd of East Gaulish samian which can be dated to the early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century. There is also a rusticated sherd in coarse grey ware (Fabric GX). The rustication is similar to that on 'Icenian' rusticated jars, recovered from assemblages dating primarily to the 3rd century at Brancaster, Norfolk with a date range quoted there as 3rd-early 4th century (EAA **23**, 72, 96-7, figs 56-57). This type of decoration is not common at Colchester. Only three or four examples are published in *CAR* **10**, ie two in grey ware (Fabric GX, nos 536-537), neither of which can be dated other than as Roman, and one in silvery micaceous grey ware (Fabric WA, no 137) which comes from a context dated to the 4th century (*CAR* **10**, 421). There is another possibly similarly decorated jar in pale grey ware (Fabric WC, no 40), which is from a context dated up to *c* AD 150 (*CAR* **10**, 431). L21 produced 15 sherds (finds nos 85 and 148). These included fabrics dated to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, ie BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB) and late Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CZ). However, it is possible that the Fabric CZ sherd could be a product of the Nene Valley potteries (Fabric EA). If so, then this would date, at Colchester, from the early-mid 3rd to 4th century, although the majority occur in contexts dated after c AD 275 (*CAR* **10**, 279). Identifiable forms recorded are Cam 40B and Cam 278 in BB2: black-burnished ware category 2, and a Cam 268 jar in local grey ware (Fabric GX) dated early-mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century.

L39 (finds no 85), produced 25 sherds associated with the demolition of the building. The latest-dated pottery from L39 is a single sherd of Mayen ware (Fabric HG). The sherd is from a jar of form Gose 545 (*CAR* **10**, 464). Mayen ware is the latest-dated Roman pottery fabric type at Colchester (*CAR* **10**, 463). It has not been recorded prior to the late 4th century and most examples come from post-Roman contexts. The remainder of the closely-dated pottery from L39 consists of fabrics and forms dating predominantly to the period of the early-mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. These are East Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(EG)), BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 (Fabric GB), and the bead-rim dish form Cam 37B. However, a jar of form Cam 268 and sherds from black-burnished ware forms in pale grey ware (Fabric KX) could date as late as the early 4th or 4th century respectively.

Unstratified and residual Roman pottery from post-Roman contexts

There is also a considerable quantity of unstratified Roman pottery which was recovered from Area B. Residual Roman sherds from post-Roman contexts have been included with this pottery. In total, this amounts to about 360 sherds, weighing about 18 kg. Overall the composition and date of the unstratified Roman pottery approximates to that recovered from the Roman contexts.

The earliest closely-datable pottery consists of a few diagnostic sherds from 1st-century mortarium types in Fabric TZ, ie Cam 192 and Cam 192/193. There are also a number of form types recorded in Fabric GX, ie Cam 120?, Cam 218, Cam 266 and Cam 243-244/246, which are of 1st- to early 2nd-century date, and a *salazon* amphora, of form Dressel 7-11, dated to the 1st-early 2nd century (Tyers 1996, 99). It can be noted that early Roman, 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery, is more clearly recognised among the unstratified pottery. However, fabric types of pot forms that are undoubtedly pre-Flavian, or predominantly pre-Flavian, are absent, and the proportion of 1st-century pottery does not appear to be more than a small to moderate part of the assemblage. The quantity of South Gaulish plain samian (Fabric BA(SG)), datable to the 1st century, is small in relation to that from early 2nd- to mid 3rd-century production centres in Central and East Gaul (Fabrics BA(CG) and BA(EG)).

Much of the closely-datable pottery is of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Black-burnished wares of category 2 (BB2 of Fabric GB) dated to the early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century is well represented, and the majority of the samian is from Central and

East Gaul. A number of 2nd- or 3rd-century mortarium forms are recorded in Fabric TZ, ie Cam 496, Cam 497 and Cam 498. Also, the majority of the recognisable amphora sherds recorded are from Gauloise amphora types, current in Britain from the Flavian period to the early 3rd century (Tyers 1996, 95). However, this is not necessarily significant, as the small number of sherds involved in relation to the size of an amphora could mean that the sherds are all from one vessel. The quantity of late Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CB and Fabric CZ), is surprisingly low, especially when compared with the quantity recorded among the stratified pottery. This may be because sherds in these fabrics are often relatively small and dark, and not so easily recovered.

The late Roman pottery, *c* mid 3rd-4th century, consists of a dozen or so sherds in late Roman fabric types. These are Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA), dated mid-late 3rd-4th century; oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH) dated mid-late 3rd-4th century, principally 4th century; and shell-tempered ware (Fabric HD), of late type, dated to the late 4th century. There are also examples of the flanged bowl form Cam 305 dated late 3rd-4th century, in both Fabric GA (Cam 305A) and Fabric KX (Cam 305B).

There is one sherd of intrinsic interest:
Illustrated, Fig 14, finds no 155. A rim sherd, including the flange, from a very large mortarium of unclassified form, in cream-coloured fabric. The sherd was recovered from the vicinity of F10 in the north-west part of the site. The curve of the rim section indicates that the mortarium, including the flange, was greater than 700 mm in diameter and possibly approached 1,000 mm. A second small rim sherd from a very large mortarium was recovered from L41, finds no 80, along with pottery dated mid-late 3rd-4th century. Although not a joining sherd, it is almost certainly part of this same mortarium. Kay Hartley, commenting on very large mortaria from New Fresh Wharf in London, notes that such large vessels are often found singly and may have had a special culinary or commercial use (Richardson 1986, 111).

9.2 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

Introduction

This is the report on 414g of post-Roman pottery and 574g of other ceramic material from Area B.

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR* **7**): Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware); Fabric 45c (Raeren stoneware); and Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). Pottery weights are listed in Table 14.

Table 14: weight of fabric types by finds number and context.

		Fabrics					
Finds number	**Context**	**21a**	**40**	**45c**	**48d**	**Comment**	**Group date range**
4	F6				143	two sherds: one from plate, one from jar	19th-20th century
17	U/S		12			one sherd from a food storage jar with impressed name [NKEYS] (SANKEYS?)	19th-20th century
18	L4	28				one sherd from large vessel with small glaze splash	13th-14th century
31	L24			5		one body sherd of Raeren stoneware	late 15th-16th century
44	F36			178		one frilled base of Raeren stoneware jug	late 15th-16th century
Totals (g)		**28**	**12**	**183**	**143**		

Discussion

This is a small group of pottery. There are only two salient points to make. Firstly, there is no early medieval material here, which is in keeping with this site's location in what used to be the back plots of the medieval properties along the west side of North Hill. Secondly, although this is a small group, there are a few pieces of German stoneware. Although it is perfectly possible for all of these to be domestic debris, they might also derive from the public houses on North Hill.

9.3 Small finds, copper-alloy objects, iron nails and daub

by Nina Crummy

The assemblage consists principally of Roman material, but three items are post-medieval or later and some unstratified pieces are object types that cannot be closely dated, such as nails. The objects are catalogued below by material and then context, rather than by date or function.

The coins range in date from the 2nd century to the 4th, with the majority dating to the 3rd century, a period of general high coin loss and not necessarily indicative of increased activity on the site. The low number of mid to late 4th-century coins is, however, unusual, as that was also a time of high coin loss. Terracing or topsoil-stripping in the area probably accounts for this.

The copper-alloy objects include a stud which is enamelled (SF 33), as may be another (SF 36), and both probably date to the 2nd century.

Most of the ironwork consists of nails. The only lead item is a length of pipe that dates to the post-medieval or early modern period (SF 18). The only ceramic piece is a pottery counter from a Roman wall foundation (SF 43). Some fragments of structural clay recovered from the surface of a tessellated pavement may be from a daub block of a type in use in the mid 1st-century fortress and early colony.

The bone objects recovered are all hairpins, with both Types 2 and 3 represented (*CAR* **2**, 19-25). Both types were current in the 2nd century, which conforms to the 2nd-century element among the copper-alloy items, but Type 3 continued in use into the 4th century and the two examples present here, one from the robbing of a Roman wall foundation and the other unstratified (SF 22 and SF 37 respectively), may well be of late Roman date.

The stone object form the most striking part of this assemblage. Apart from a Roman hone and the lowerstone from a post-medieval quern- or small millstone, it consists of a variety of Roman building and decorative stones. There are thin veneers of Imperial porphyry and Purbeck marble, and thicker veneers, a cornice or skirting moulding and a large building block, all of Purbeck marble. Imperial porphyry comes from Mons Porphyrites in the mountains of eastern Egypt and was a valuable decorative stone; it is quite rare in Roman Britain. The quarry is distinctive not only for the high quality and beauty of the stone but also for being the only Roman quarry for which the date of discovery is recorded: the 29th July AD 18 (Tomber 2005, 56). Purbeck marble is not a true marble but a dense gastropodic limestone from Dorset that was exploited by the Romans from the mid 1st century AD. When cut and polished the whorls produced by the small shells of which it is composed give it an appearance similar to that of brecciated marbles. A similar stone from beds in Kent was also used in the Roman period, but it is customary, where the stone has not been identified by scientific analysis, to refer to any dense gastropodic limestone as Purbeck marble. The stone is probably the commonest in any Roman assemblage in Colchester, particularly in contexts of the 1st and 2nd centuries when the chief public buildings and substantial private houses were constructed.

Coins

SF 15. (10) L12. Roman demolition layer. Copper-alloy. House of Constantine? 4th century. Diameter 14 mm.

SF 20. (46) L31. Roman/post-Roman demolition layer. Copper-alloy. Barbarous radiate, obverse Tetricus I, reverse *Pax*/*Salus*. AD 270-90. Diameter 14.5 mm.

SF 23. (54) L33. Roman/post-Roman demolition layer. Copper-alloy. Barbarous radiate. AD 270-90. Diameter 17 mm.

SF 39. (132). Unstratified; pipe trenches T1-T3. Copper-alloy. ?Antoninus Pius, *dupondius*, reverse standing female. AD 138-61? Diameter 30 mm.

SF 26. (133). Unstratified; pipe trenches T1-T3. Copper-alloy. Gallienus?, *antoninianus*, reverse uncertain. AD 260-8. Diameter 19 mm.

SF 31. (168). Unstratified. Copper-alloy. Illegible *dupondius*, (late 1st-) 2nd century. Diameter 30 mm.

Copper-alloy

SF 36. (118) L45. Roman floor make-up below F64. Copper-alloy stud with flat round head, notched edge and short riveted shank. The centre of the head is corroded but may be enamelled, *cf* a stud of much the same size with notched edge and enamelled centre from the Butt Road site, Colchester (*CAR* **2**, fig 121, 3220). Diameter 14 mm, height 5 mm. Probably 2nd century.

Fig 15, no 3. SF 33. (168). Unstratified. Copper-alloy stud with flat round head and riveted shank. The head is recessed to take a field of yellow or white enamel, with six small enamel eyes set in a circle around a central seventh. The outer ring of each eye is probably dark blue, the inner dots are white. Diameter 16 mm, height 6 mm. Probably 2nd century.

SF 32. (168). Unstratified. Copper-alloy shaft fragment, probably from a pin, needle or toilet instrument. Length 65 mm. Roman.

SF 21. (46) L31. Roman/post-Roman demolition layer. Two copper-alloy sheet fragments, each with one surviving original edge. Maximum dimensions 29 by 22 mm, 27 by 27 mm.

SF 16. (18). Unstratified; pipe trench T2. Copper-alloy hinged fitting, consisting of a strip rolled over at one end to take a hinge-pin and bent at a right-angle at the other. Probably a clasp from a box or book. Post-Roman.

Iron

All the nails are of Manning's Type 1b, with round flat or slightly convex head (Manning 1985, 134). They are listed in Table 15.

Table 15: table showing all recorded Manning's Type 1b nails.

Finds number	Feature/ layer no	Context description and date	Description	Length (mm)
69	F40/F42	unstratified	nail with curving shaft	38 (bent)
49	F41	robbed-out Roman wall foundation	2 nails (1 clenched)	48.5, 48 (bent)
50	F42	robbed-out Roman wall foundation	nail	58
55	F52	Roman wall foundation	nail	74
74	F60	Roman flanking ditch	nail	53 (incomplete)
13	L13	Roman rubble/ demolition layer	nail shank fragment	33
85	L26	Roman demolition layer	nail	82
17	pipe trench T2	unstratified	2 nails (1 clenched), 1 shank fragment (clenched)	53 and 43 (bent); 54 (shank fragment)
40	pipe trench T3	unstratified	nail with curving shaft	45
60	from between tessel-lated floors	unstratified	4 nails (1 clenched), 1 nail shank fragment	78, 71 53 (all incomplete); 39 (bent); 76 (shank fragment)

	F40 and F49			
63	-	unstratified	nail or bolt, incomplete	54
164	-	unstratified	nail	64

Fig 15, no 4. SF 35. (49) F41. Robbed-out Roman wall foundation. Iron knife with straight back and curved edge. Part of the tang or handle survives. The form is Manning's Type 11, which can either have a tang, or a rod handle terminating in a suspension loop (Manning 1985, 114). Length 112 mm, maximum width 28 mm.

SF 24. (59). Unstratified; north of F52 and east of F51. Iron ring. Diameter 31 mm.

Lead

SF 18. (28). Unstratified. Lead pipe fragment, with neatly soldered and trimmed join, apart from a flattened blob that perhaps marks either a patch or the junction of two solder wires. Length (bent) 795 mm, diameter 59-60 mm.

Bone

SF 22. (47) F41. Robbing of a Roman wall foundation. Complete bone hairpin of Colchester Type 3 with a globular head and a swelling on the shaft. The types dates from *c* AD 150 into the 4th century (*CAR* **2**, 21-2). Length 103 mm.

SF 37. (112) L42. Roman/post-Roman demolition layer. Fragment of a Colchester Type 2 hairpin as SF 25 above (*CAR* **2**, 21-2). Length 58 mm.

Stone

Fig 16, no 6. SF 17. (26). Unstratified. Fragment of thin dark purple Imperial porphyry veneer, with two contiguous original edges set at right angles. Both surfaces are spalled and quite rough. Maximum dimensions 74 by 42 mm, 8 mm thick.

Fig 16, no 7. SF 40, only fragment 1 is illustrated. (55) F52. Roman wall foundation in Area B. Two fragments of Purbeck marble, presumably reused as building stone.
1) Fragment of a ?floor tile. It is more or less triangular, but all three corners are missing. It has one straight edge and a curved edge, suggesting that it was originally used at the corner of a floor or wall in *opus sectile* with a circular design at the centre. The third edge does not lie at a right-angle to the straight one, but an acute angle to it. Maximum dimensions 202 by 186 mm, 36 mm thick.
2) Veneer. A short part of an original edge survives, both surfaces are worked smooth, one is more worn than the other. Maximum dimensions 171 by 142 mm, 41 mm thick; edge length 74 mm.

SF 14. (1). Unstratified. The fixed lowerstone from a quernstone or small post-medieval millstone; it is probably made from Blue stone (Cullen stone) from Germany, as it is denser and has a much smoother texture than that of Millstone Grit from the Peak District (de Little 1972, 44). Diameter 460 mm. The grinding surface is dressed with a series of tangential furrows similar to that of Roman harp-dressing. The surface appears unworn. The area around the eye on the grinding side is slightly recessed to take a fitting that held the stone in place. Diameter of recessed area 120 mm, eye diameter 75 mm. The external face is roughly trimmed. The edge is roughly trimmed but has not been dressed. The thickness at the edge varies from 139 to 115 mm, and the stone may have been abandoned because this variability made it unusable. This implies that the stone was imported as a blank and then cut to shape here in Colchester.

Fig 16, no 8. SF 19. (36). Unstratified. Large block of weathered Purbeck marble building stone, with one damaged corner. Maximum dimensions 465 by 310 by 183 mm. Both surfaces are neatly trimmed but weathered and spalled in places. Near one end on one face a channel has been cut across the width of the block, perhaps to help key it in to the wall. The edge at this end is

broken; the other was an external face and was been worked to a very smooth finish, although a large part has now broken off. There is a strip of rough stone along the base of this polished face, typical of pieces of stone that have been trimmed with a saw, only for the last few millimetres to split away. One long edge is neatly trimmed but weathered, the other is roughly trimmed but unweathered. This variable weathering and trimming suggests that the block was set at the outside corner of an external door- or archway, with the long weathered edge exposed to the elements, the polished short edge forming the face of the opening, and the unweathered long and short edges set inside the wall. The damaged corner would therefore have been the only one fully exposed, accounting for its condition.

SF 41 (40). Unstratified; pipe trench T3. Fragment of a dense gastropodic limestone, possibly Purbeck marble, polished on both surfaces. One surviving edge is chamfered and original. There are traces of mortar on all the edges and both faces. Maximum dimensions 89 by 75, thickness varies from 32 to 47 mm.

Fig 17, no 9. SF 44. (127). Unstratified; pipe trenches T1-T3. Fragment of moulded Purbeck marble, perhaps from the base of a wall or a ceiling cornice. The moulded area is polished. The underside, back edge and unmoulded part of the top are pecked to form a regular surface but are unpolished. Length 158 mm, depth 121 mm, height 53 mm.

Structural clay

(25) F21. Roman tessellated pavement in Area B. Five fragments (one in two pieces) of fired clay, total weight 693 g. Where the outer surface survives it has been scorched, but some fragments are more burnt than others. One fragment with a flat surface and straight edge is probably part of a daub block of the type used in the construction of buildings in the fortress and early *colonia* (*CAR* **6**, 39-41).

9.4 Area B (Insulas 1a and 1b): painted wall-plaster (Fig 6)

by Will Clarke

A significant quantity of painted wall-plaster was recorded in Area B. In total, 567 pieces of decorated painted wall-plaster were recorded measuring 10,539 cm².

Insula 1a

West of Building 211
Pipe trench T2
Plain ground colours: yellow, white.
Bands/stripes: deep orange (4 cm)

Pipe trench T8: L15
Plain ground colours: white, pale/pink, yellow, orange, purple.
Bands/stripes: dark grey (1.9 cm), dark red (0.7 cm),
Imitation marble (splash type): mid grey ground with black splashes, pale pink with dark pink splashes.
Niche: 2 pieces featuring purple ground, probably from a niche.

Discussion

A considerable quantity of painted plaster was recovered from a Roman demolition deposit (L15) in an area west of wall foundation F24 and east of foundation F11. Decoration included a field painted with a mid grey ground displaying splashes of black spots characteristic of simple marble imitation. A dark grey band (1.9 cm wide) served as a border to this grey/black field, a combination incidentally also seen in the room of the ?bath-house. Grey marbling also bordered other fields painted pale or dark pink, as well as those of a plain white ground displaying thin dark red stripes (0.7 cm wide). Examples of graffiti on painted plaster from L15 was apparent only from panel fields featuring marble imitation in grey/black and pink/dark pink schemes which suggests examples of graffiti belonging to decoration from a single room context.

Two other fragments recovered from L15 are of note for displaying an adjoining face angled at 45 degrees. Both pieces are likely derive from a niche. They are

plain and feature purple coloration that includes their recessed element. The colour purple features on a number of other fragments, and these commonly display adjacent fields painted either in white ground or those displaying pale purple/violet and yellow/orange décor. Plaster featuring purple, violet, yellow and orange elements also form part of an elaborately-decorated scheme which is also fairly sophisticated in execution. This is evident from one large fragment (80 cm²) featuring these colours to depict architectural moulding and mythological elements. The main decorative scheme preserved on this fragment consists of a moulded cornice 7.5 cm in thickness depicted in relief in imitation of stucco or marble. The cornice is painted with an off-white ground with a series of parallel purple and violet painted bands 0.8 cm in thickness, representing ornamental folds. To create a three-dimensional effect and the illusion of a cornice, the uppermost edge of this scheme is darkened with grey shadow, while the lower edge is lightened with yellow and orange. Very little decoration is preserved from fields situated below the cornice except for purple coloration. Slightly more evidence of painted decoration, however, survives adjacent to the top edge of the cornice. This consists of a thin band of purple marking the upper edge of the cornice, with ground above painted progressively lighter in colour from brown, to orange, to a pale yellow. Against this background, light and dark shades of purple depict the slender body (about 3.3 cm in thickness) of one or possibly two serpent-like creatures (Plate 6). The serpent/s is on the top edge of the cornice, with the body winding in and out of its painted shadow. One other small fragment recovered from L15 preserves some purple detail illustrating the head of this creature. The head is painted on pale yellow ground and is, therefore, likely to derive from a position slightly higher than the decoration previously described (also Plate 6).

A basic reconstruction of the wall-painting on fragments recovered from L15 suggest that fields painted with grey marbling and fields painted with pale and dark pink ground decorated the dado. Fields above this were demarcated by a dark grey band, and consisted of white, orange and purple ground, and the purple was also applied to the edges of a niche in the room. The purple shades evident in the architectonic ornament, in the depiction of the serpent-like creature as well in the wall niche, demonstrate that this colour figured particularly prominently, and may indicate that these elements are associated.

Plate 6: L15 – painted plaster showing serpent/s.

By far the most common context of serpents in wall-paintings in Pompeii and in Herculaneum is in conjunction with household shrines, such as *lararia* (Boyce 1942, 13-22). Examples of serpents occur either in the décor of a shrine itself or in its vicinity (*ibid*). Roman demolition L15 includes material probably from a household shrine which featured purple prominently in its colour scheme is significant, given that there was *in situ* evidence for a household shrine some 30 m to the north-east of L15, and where purple was also the colour scheme applied to its seating (Building 212). However, mortar from painted plaster used in the ?bath-house room (in the first phase of decoration) was *opus signinum*, and no evidence for this type of mortar was recovered from demolition L15. The homogeneous character of mortar, furthermore, displayed by all painted decoration from this deposit (including the 8 cm thickness of mortar on one fragment), suggest that this assemblage belongs only to one phase of decoration with no signs of a refurbishment present. The painted plaster from Roman demolition L15 cannot derive from the room of the ?bath-house but, given the inclusion of purple wall decoration in that room, it is feasible that the painted plaster from L15 derives from an adjacent room.

Main area of Building 211
Pipe trenches T10 and T9
Plain ground colours: white black, brown, green, Pompeian red and deep red
Bands/stripes: red (2 cm and 2.2 cm thick), thin black stripes (0.4 cm thick), grey stripe (0.5 cm).
Featuring opus signinum *mortar*: decorated with a floral theme on white ground/ plain white adhering to a box-flue tile.

Discussion
A large quantity of painted plaster was recovered from T10 and T9, much of which consisted of pieces displaying white grounds, some of which feature evidence of adjacent fields in purple or red ground as well as red stripes (2 cm thick) and, more rarely, thin black stripes (0.4 cm thick). Fragments featuring plain coloured grounds are present in a variety of colours: black, brown, green, Pompeian red and deep red.

Several other fragments preserved decoration of note. One piece for example features a red ground bordered by a thin pale grey stripe with an adjacent blue stripe and is notable for outer areas of red ground displaying a curved aspect along its profile. One other fragment displays a field of a pale and dark green coloration bordered by a red band which demarcates a field of dark pink ground. One characteristic of much of the painted plaster from this demolition layer (L26) is its coarse quality. However, a number of small fragments indicate high-quality painted decoration, evident from their smooth polished surfaces and the brightness of their colours. Pieces from this group all displayed a white ground featuring a floral theme painted in fine detail taking the form of stems painted either black or brown and leaves in red and splashes of yellow-orange suggesting planting. One piece from this group displays the white ground bordered by a thin black stripe (0.4 cm in thickness) and a wider pink-red banding (2.2 cm thick) demarcating a field of buff ground. Very little mortar of any thickness is preserved from decoration of this type, but the thickest, at 0.7 cm, displays evidence of *opus signinum* mortar, one of only two pieces of painted plaster from the demolition layer in T1 to exhibit this type of mortar. Wall-plaster featuring this identical floral scheme with use of *opus signinum* mortar can be found in the room of the ?bath-house as part of its earliest phase of painted decoration (as a ?shrine) prior to its refurbishment. The demolition deposit L26, situated some 15-24 m south-west of this room, contained material that probably derives from the ?bath-house destruction.

Evidence of painted decoration from this demolition deposit deriving from the context of the ?bath-house is confirmed from another fragment of painted plaster recovered from this demolition layer featuring a white ground on *opus signinum* mortar (2.5 cm in thickness) adhering to a ceramic box-flue tile (1.4 cm in thickness). The surface of the white ground is scored by a series of linear marks that may represent keying preparation.

Painted plaster associated with Building 211 (Fig 5, Table 16)
a F80 and F78
Plain ground colours: deep red, pink, grey, yellow (coarse quality-combing patterns on mortar visible below pigment).

b F42, F43, F44, F45, F49, F52
Plain ground colours: white, Pompeian red, deep red (most common), yellow, deep green, pink, mid grey (coarse quality), violet, purple.
Bands/stripes: yellow (6 cm), black (5 cm), deep red (5.2 cm). One piece displays a series of three grey-blue thin stripes (3 cm) on white ground, dark grey (2 cm). One piece displays a series of stripes deep red (1.1 cm), deep yellow and yellow (both 0.8 cm); these stripes are spaced apart and painted against a violet ground, demarcated below by pale green field.
Imitation marble (splash type): deep red with pink splashes, white ground with orange splashes.
Featuring opus signinum *mortar*: white ground.

Discussion
The assemblage derives from Roman demolition deposits sealing structural remains including an *in situ* tessellated pavement of one large room in Building 211. Painted plaster very likely derives from the interior decoration of this room. The room's painted décor included displays of red/pink as well as white/orange imitation marble on its dado. Above the dado, main panel fields are of simple design, but enriched by using a wide spectrum of colours including white, Pompeian red, deep red, yellow. green, pink, mid grey, violet and purple. These colour grounds are enlivened by a

series of bands and stripes using this same colour spectrum with red elements noticeably dominating the room's colour-scheme.

c F111, F112, F114, F115
Plain ground colours: white, pink, pinky-grey, grey (mid to dark), yellow, Pompeian red, green, orange, black.
Bands/stripes: yellow (4 cm), white (3 cm), black (5 cm and 7 cm). One piece features a 5 cm-wide band of deep red followed by a 2.6 cm-wide band of white with a thin creamy white strip (0.5 cm) separating a deep yellow band (1.4 cm) which provides a border to a black field containing a fine floral type motif painted golden yellow (mortar of this piece notably contains two small fragments of purple painted plaster as part of its matrix).
Imitation marble (splash type): deep pink with white splashes, pale pink with red splashes.
Niche/window:
Piece 1: horizontal face – yellow with edge banding in red demarcating angled face featuring yellow/white ground.
Piece 2: horizontal face of deep red ground with 2 thin yellow stripes, angled face features white. Both are likely to derive from windows.
Piece 3: horizontal face of deep red ground, angled (rounded) has white ground.
Featuring opus signinum *mortar*: all examples of plain blue (coarse frit) ground.

d F103, F113
Plain ground colours: white, pink, deep red, purple, buff.
Bands/stripes: thin stripe white (0.4 cm).
Imitation marble (splash type):pinky-black with green splash.

e F85
Plain ground colours: mid grey.
Bands/stripes: yellow (1.6 cm).

f L34, L35
Plain ground colours: deep red.
Bands/stripes: white.

Table 16: Building 211 – the painted wall-plaster.

Quantity	Area in cm²	Description of plaster
82	919	Red
86	2,006	Red with other coloured stripes and patterns
136	2,114	White
57	1,308	White with other coloured stripes and patterns
14	221	Yellow
13	355	Yellow with other coloured stripes and patterns
33	481	Pink
28	608	Pink with other coloured stripes and patterns
19	283	Orange
7	92	Orange with other coloured stripes and patterns
17	209	Green
8	154	Green with other coloured stripes and patterns
9	149	Beige
3	81	Brown
1	12	Brown with other coloured stripes and patterns
1	8	Black
1	25	Black with other coloured stripes and patterns
4	118	Purple
7	257	Purple with other coloured stripes and patterns
13	209	Blue
11	168	Grey
15	318	Grey with other coloured stripes and patterns

1	95	Corner piece. One side is plain white; the other side has a white background with a red stripe, followed by a orange stripe (mostly flaked away) and a pinky grey area/stripe? at the end
1	299	Corner piece. One side is plain white; the other side has a red stripe, a white stripe, a yellow/orange stripe and is then blue with a yellow wavy pattern on it
567	**10,539**	**Totals**

9.5 Other finds

A large quantity of bulk finds were also identified, including Roman CBM, *tesserae*, building stone, animal bone, shell and burnt flint (Table 17; and see Appendix 1, p 81, Appendix 2, p 92 and Appendix 4, p 96).

Table 17: Area B – bulk finds.

Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
CBM (*tegula*, *tegula* with flange, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile)	524	134,052
Tesserae (red, white, black)	568	6,174
Animal bone	477	10,675
Building stone	3	739
Shell (oyster, whelk, cockle, mussel, carpet, snail)	191	4,726
Burnt flint	1	165
Post-Roman glass	10	74
Roman glass	8	114
Slag	3	739
Charcoal	6	12

10 Insula 1a – the shaft excavated against the inner face of the town wall: Area C (Figs 10-12, 19)

by Marius Górniak

10.1 Introduction

The shaft (Area C) was excavated against the inner face of the Roman town wall to enable contractors to pass services through a tunnel underneath the town wall. However, the tunnel was not dug and the pipe for services was passed through a hole drilled in the town wall itself.

10.2 Stratification

The modern topsoil (L1-L2) with a modern wall footing (F1-F2) was removed mechanically. The footings were concrete and brick from a temporary structure which stood here in the mid 20th century.

The shaft was excavated against the inner face of Roman town wall. It was 6.75 m deep and 3.2 m² in area, but gradually stepped in lower sections (for health and safety reasons), thereby incrementally reducing the area of the shaft from 3.2 m² to 2 m², and then finally 1 m².

The shaft exposed the whole inner face of the town wall, its foundation, and part of the timber piles underneath; it also cut through the top layers of the Roman rampart, the Roman construction road buried under the rampart, clay layers sealing the ground water, and part of the foundation trench (Figs 10-12). Altogether fifteen features and forty layers were identified.

10.2.1 Late medieval-modern contexts (Figs 11-12)

The uppermost part of the shaft, to the depth of 1.1 m below ground-level, was excavated by machine, through modern, 19th-century/modern, late medieval/early post-medieval contexts (Table 18).

Table 18: the late medieval-modern contexts – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
L1	Topsoil 1 – topsoil layer with modern and post-medieval building material rubble. Approx 0.25-0.3 m deep	Sealed L2, F4 and F6a	modern
L2	Pinkish colour mortar spread	Under L1; sealed L3. L2 seemed to be associated with 19th-century/modern wall footing F1-F2 (it was on the same level as underside of F1)	modern
L3	Topsoil 2 – another part of topsoil	Under L2, sealed L4; F3 and F4 were cut into L3	post-medieval?
F1	A substantial brick and concrete wall footing, along southern edge of the shaft	Sealed L2 and L3	modern
F2	A wall footing made of concrete, along the northern edge of the shaft	Cut into L2 (mortar spread) and L3 (topsoil 2)	modern
F3	A modern pipe trench	Below northern edge of the wall footing F1; cut into L3, L4 and L5	modern
F4	A robber trench, dug alongside the upper part of the inner face of the Roman town wall. The depth of F4 matched the robbed-out facing of the town wall. There were no finds from F4, although the only post-Roman and pre 19th-century pottery collected from the shaft are intrusive 15th- to 16th-century sherds from L4 and from L22	Partly cut into L3 and L4; sealed by L1	15th-16th century?
F5	A dog-burial pit, located in the eastern part of the shaft	Cut into L3, L4, and the top of L5; sealed by L1	late 19th century/ modern

10.2.2 Demolition dump F15 on rampart (Figs 11-12)

Under the probably late medieval topsoil 2 (L3) there were contexts (L4-L7, forming F15) consisting of a large amount of Roman CBM, ie pieces of plaster, pot sherds, stone and mortar, and post-medieval pottery, representing a dump of material on top of the rampart.

F15 was approximately 1 m thick. The layers were either a dump of material from demolished houses or material intentionally placed on the rampart to enlarge it. The rampart F7 covered only the lowest 2.3 m of the town wall (measured from the base of the offset). This may have been either deliberate, or a result of water erosion. The interlacing of layers occurred mainly in the upper part of F7 and, in particular, in F15. Thus the large amount of heavy inclusions in F15 would not be accidental.

Among the large quantity of finds there are pieces of septaria stone, greensand, flagstone and pebbles (393 pieces, 241,297g), CBM (brick, tile, *tesserae* – 1,034 pieces, 232,478g), mortar (19 pieces, 16,774g), *opus signinum* (15 pieces, 6,609g), animal bone (55 pieces, 1,206g), oyster shells (not quantified, 6,877g), painted plaster (not quantified, 14,198g), pot sherds (331g), iron slag (306g), pieces of Roman glass, and charcoal. Excluding two Tudor brick fragments, which are intrusive from L3 above or F4, the feature is dated by pottery of the late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century or maybe even later 3rd-4th century (Figs 11-12, Table 19).

Table 19: demolition dump F15 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
F15	Demolition dump or deliberate deposit on the town wall's rampart, consisted of large amount of CBM, pieces of plaster, pot sherds, stone and mortar	Under L3; four layers (L4-L7) within F15	post-Roman pottery of 15th-16th century with residual Roman pottery (date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century or maybe even later 3rd-4th century)
Layers within F15			
L4	L4 contained large amount of CBM, painted plaster, iron slag, and stone. Two intrusive Tudor brick fragments and a peg-tile fragment	A part of F15; L4 was sealed by L3; it sealed L5 and was cut by F4	post-Roman pottery of 15th-16th century with residual Roman pottery (date: mid 2nd-mid 3rd century)
L5	Thin sandy layer	A part of F15; sealed by L4	pottery date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century/ probably later ?3rd-4th century
L6	Stratigraphically, it looked as if L6 may have been a part of the rampart. It was brown, slightly stony clayey sand with smaller amount of finds than L4-L5	A part of F15 – sealed by L5 and L7; it sealed L8 (the edge between L6 and L8 was not very clear)	-
L7	A very dark brown layer in the eastern part of the shaft, with large amount of organic material **Note:** L6 and L7 may have been part of the rampart, dumped on F7	A part of F15; sealed L6, sealed by L5	pottery date: early-mid 2nd century

10.2.3 Rampart F7 (Figs 11-12)

F7 was the Roman defensive rampart adjacent to the inner face of the town wall. It consisted, within the shaft, of 20 layers (L8-L24 and L32). It is possible that L8, along with L6 and L7 (see above, Table 19) may have been part of a second phase of rampart dumped on F7, ie on L13. Each layer probably corresponded to individual cart-loads ('tips'). The layers were laid in a slightly diagonal way, in an interlacing manner, as if the layer-tips were loaded down from opposite directions. They are composed of either silty sand or clayey sand; the two types were mostly interlacing/interwoven. These may indicate a well-planned engineering construction, which would be more resistant against water erosion, rather than fast-tipped layers one on top of another. The layers differed, sometimes considerably, in soil structure and quantity of inclusions. The date of pottery in F7 supports a mid 2nd-century date for the construction of the rampart. In this, it agrees with the date of the rampart excavated in the Lion Walk excavation (*CAR* **3**, 14).

F7 sealed F13, which is probably part of the Roman construction road (F12), and F13 sealed layers underneath the rampart, corresponding with the town wall's construction. Pottery from F7 confirms the rampart's date as Antonine, ie mid 2nd century. Among the inclusions there were pieces of stone (septaria, flagstone, pebble, flint – 21 pieces, 11,595g) and CBM (ie brick, tile, *tesserae* – 253 pieces, 32,099g) and other demolition material (mortar – 20 pieces, 828g, *opus signinum* – 24 pieces, 505g, painted plaster (not quantified, 18,812g), organic material (bone – 53 pieces, 1,355g, oyster shells – not quantified, 2,586g) pot sherds (5,732g), two pieces of Roman glass, one small and badly eroded iron object, and one badly eroded copper object.

The excavated rampart was 2.6 m high (Figs 11-12; Tables 20 and 22).

Table 20: rampart F7 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
F7	Rampart adjacent to the inner face of the wall; 2.6 m high	20 layers distinguished (L8-L24 and L32). Sealed F13, sealed by F15	mid 2nd century
Layers within F7			
L8	Composed of clayey coarse sand with relatively small amount of inclusions. Its bottom edge is not very well recorded because the shaft was at that point shored up with a wooden frame before a CAT archaeologist documented the stratigraphic sequence	Sealed by L6; it sealed L9, L10 and probably also L11, L12, L13, L15, L16 – it was adjacent to F6c	pottery date: early-mid 2nd century
L9	Located in the north-western corner of the shaft. There was small amount of late medieval inclusions in its fill	Sealed by L8; it sealed L14 and L16	pottery date: 1st century AD
L10	Located in the northern part of the shaft. A thin layer with small amount of inclusions	Sealed by L8 (the edge was not very clear)	pottery date: early 2nd century
L11	Located in the central and western parts of the shaft	Sealed by L8 (edge not very clear) and L12; it sealed L10 and L15	pottery date: 1st century AD (possibly even pre-Flavian period)
L12	Located in the south-western part of the shaft. Made of brownish-grey sandy clay, changing in the eastern part to more sandy formation; relatively large number of inclusions – CBM, painted plaster, oyster shells, angular pieces of septaria, mortar, pot sherds		pottery date: probably 1st-2nd century
L13	Located in the north-western part of the shaft; had larger number of finds than L9-L12	Probably sealed by L8 and it seals L12; adjacent to F6c	pottery date: early-mid 2nd century
L14	Located in the central/north-western part of the shaft; small amount of inclusions	Probably sealed by L8 and it sealed L9, L10, and L15	pottery date: late 1st-early 2nd century
L15	Small amount of inclusions	Sealed by L19 and L1; it sealed L16	pottery date: early 2nd century
L16		Sealed by L15 and L12; it sealed L19	pottery date: early 2nd-2nd/3rd century
L17	Located in the eastern part of the shaft	Sealed by L16 and L19; it sealed ?L18 and L22; the transition between L16 and L17 was not very clear – the edge was established when the amount of painted plaster in the layer decreased (almost ceased). The relationship between L17, L18 and L19 was also not too clear. L19 seemed to seal L17 in the eastern part of the shaft and L18 seemed to be under L19. Finds no 62 are partly from L17 and the top of L19	pottery date: 1st-2nd century/3rd century

L18	Mortar spread, located in the central-eastern part of the shaft; contained large amount of loose mortar (75% of its fill) with small pieces of tile and medium-sized angular pieces of septaria. The layer got shallower as progressed towards the western and southern parts of the shaft	Sealed by L17; it sealed L17, L20, and L23	pottery date: ?1st-2nd century
L19		Sealed by L16; it sealed L22 and probably also L17 and L18	pottery date: 1st-2nd century ?1st-early 2nd century
L20	Located in the central north-eastern part of the shaft; contained large amount of medium- to large-sized pieces of septaria (70-80% of its fill), pieces of brick and medium-sized pockets of mortar (20%)	Sealed by L19; sealed L18	pottery date: ?1st century AD
L21	Located in the north-western part of the shaft. It contained large quantity of medium-sized pieces of angular septaria stone	Seemed to be continuation of L20 in the western part of the shaft, though L21 is approx 0.2 m, lower than L20	pottery date: probably ?1st century AD
L22	A very sandy layer located in the south-western part of the shaft, contained small-sized inclusions	Sealed by L17, L19, L23; it sealed L30, L28, 29	pottery date: mid 2nd century-early Antonine (*c* AD 138-192)
L23	Located in the south-western part of the shaft; contained pieces of septaria and mortar; sloping down towards the east	Sealed by L18 and sealed L22; looked like continuation of L20 (similar to L21)	no pottery
L24	A part of L22		
L32	Northern edge of the shaft – adjacent to the town wall; a dark olive brown layer of sandy clay. In fact, L32 seems to be a result of water with lime leaking down the town wall's inner face and interacting with the rampart's layers	-	pottery date: 1st-2nd century/3rd century

10.2.4 Roman road F12 under rampart (Figs 11-12, Table 21)

F12 consisted of two horizontal layers (L29 and L30) lying on an east-west axis across the southern part of the shaft and was interpreted as the Roman construction road extending alongside the town wall. It is located under rampart F7 and above the town wall's basal offset. F12 was above F13 (clay layers underneath the rampart) and it partly sealed L28 (*opus signinum* spread 1); F12 consisted of a surface of gravel and sand with organic material on top. An analogous context was recorded in other sections across the rampart (see section 12.6.3 below). No datable material was recorded from F12 and thus it must be dated to between the late 1st century (the date of the town wall's construction) and the mid 2nd century (the date of the rampart's construction).

Table 21: Roman road F12 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
F12	Roman road	Sealed by F7; sealed F13 and partly sealed L28	between late 1st century and mid-2nd century

Layers within F7			
L30	Located in the southern part of the shaft; a layer of organic material on surface L29	Sealed by L22; sealed L28 and L29	no datable finds
L29	Metalled surface made of coarse sand mixed with clayey sand and gravel; very small amount of inclusions	Sealed by L30 (in the western part) and L22 (in the eastern part); sealed L25 and part of L28 (*opus signinum* spread 1) and probably also part of L31	no datable finds

10.2.5 Clay layers F13 underneath rampart (Figs 11-12)

Underneath rampart F7 and Roman road F12, a set of horizontal layers was recorded. These, unlike the diagonally-laid layers of the rampart, were very clayey, ie L25, L26, L31, L33, L34, L35, L37, L39 and L40 (see Table 22). Two *opus signinum* spreads were also recorded (L27 and L28), and one thick layer of *opus signinum* with septaria chips (L36). All the layers make up F13, ie clay layers underneath the rampart. F13 was approximately 0.8 m thick. It sealed L38 (ie town-wall foundation trench F14 fill). The layers within F13 were very clayey and hard. The excavated layers contained septaria stone blocks (18 pieces, 6,999g), tile fragments (60 pieces, 11,295g), animal bone (34 pieces, 719g), oyster shells (not quantified, 483g), painted plaster (1 piece, 10g), and pot sherds (1,037g). The dating of pottery from F13 supports a 1st-century date for this phase of activity associated with the construction of the Roman town wall, and corresponds with a sequence of early deposits (under a road surface) recorded during the Lion Walk excavation (*CAR* **3**, 14 and fig 6a). The feature must have been constructed simultaneously to the town wall (see section 12.6.4 below). Three main strata/bands were identified within F13. The second band consisted of L31, L25, L34, very clayey layers between the L28 *opus signinum* spread 1 and L27 *opus signinum* spread 2. The third band was made up of L33, L40, L35, L26, L37 – clay layers under L27 *opus signinum* spread 2, above L36, and above L38, the sand and gravel fill of the foundation trench.

L28 (*opus signinum* spread 1) may not be a part of F13, but a result of mortar falling off the inner face of the wall, while it was free-standing, which would make L28 at least partly contemporary with the Roman road F12.

Table 22: clay layers F13 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
F13	0.8 m thick, set of horizontal, very clayey layers associated with the construction of the Roman town wall	Consisted of: L25, L26, L31, L33, L34, L35, L37, L39, and L40, L27, L28, and L36. Sealed by F7 and F12; sealed L38	pottery date: 1st century AD
Layers within F13			
L25	Located in the eastern part of the shaft; very dark grey sandy clay with small amount of inclusions (horizontally laid oyster shells, small pieces of tile, small pieces of charcoal, and small-sized rounded quartz stone); very similar to L31	Sealed by L29; sealed L34, L40, and L26; relation between L25 and L31 was not very clear	pottery date: 1st-2nd/3rd century
L26	Clay with very small amount of inclusions (pot sherds)	Sealed by L40, and L25; sealed L39, and L38	pottery date: 1st-2nd century
L27	*Opus signinum* spread 2; located in the northern part of the shaft, on the level of the first course of septaria on the wall's basal offset; it is composed of loose, small pieces of *opus signinum* with	Sealed by L31; sealed L33 and L36	pottery date: 1st-2nd century/?1st century

	sandy clay; inclusions: medium-sized pieces of sub-angular and angular septaria and tile fragments, mortar, animal bone, a small piece of painted plaster, oyster shell, pottery		
L28	*Opus signinum* spread 1; located in the northern part of the shaft; approx 0.25 m above the basal offset; 0.1 m thick; clay with small pieces of *opus signinum* (very similar to L27 below); it may be a result of *opus signinum* mortar falling off the wall facing (erosion) – thus it may not have been a part of F13; it may be more or less contemporaneous with the Roman road F12	Sealed by L22, L30 (Roman road), and L28; it sealed L31	pottery date: 1st-2nd/?late 1st-earlier 2nd century
L31	A dark brown very clayey layer; separates two *opus signinum* spreads (L27 and L28); located in the northern part of the shaft; similar to L25, except that in L31 there were yellowish-brown clayey sand patches – the edge between these two layers was not very clear; contained small amount of inclusions	Sealed by L27; sealed L28	pottery date: 1st-2nd century
L33	Located between *opus signinum* spread 2 (L27) and L26	Sealed by L27; sealed L33, L35, and probably also L40 and L26 (relationship was not very clear) – L33, L40, and L26 may be just lenses within a single layer	
L34	Located in the central-west-southern part of the shaft; sandy clay; very similar to L25; the two layers may have been lenses within the same layer	Sealed by L25; sealed L26, L37, and probably also L31 (relation between L31 and L34 was not very clear). L25, L34, and L31 may be parts of the same horizontal layer of clay under Roman road F12 and under the *opus signinum* spread 1, L28	pottery date: 1st-2nd century/3rd century
L35	Located in the central part of the shaft; composed of dark greyish brown silty clay with some small-sized pieces of charcoal, small- to medium-sized and variously shaped quartz and flint stone, and a few medium/large pieces of tile; on the edge between L36 (layer of *opus signinum* and septaria) and L35 there is large piece of angular septaria stone	Sealed by L33 and L36; it sealed L26 and L38 (sand and gravel). L35, L 40, L26, and L33 may be only lenses within the same layer above the town wall foundation trench fill	no datable finds
L36	Located at the northern edge of the shaft; composed of large amount of small pieces of loose *opus signinum* and medium- to large-sized stones	Adjacent to F6f (the town wall's basal offset)	pottery date: 1st-2nd century/3rd century
L37	A clay lens within L26; located in the central/western part of the shaft; dark brownish grey clay	A part of L26	pottery date: 1st century AD

	with small- to medium-sized rounded flint stone		
L39	Located in the southern part of the shaft; composed of slightly sandy clay with small-sized rounded quartz stone	Sealed by L26 and sealed L38	pottery date: 1st century AD
L40	Located in the central/eastern part of the shaft; a thin layer with charcoal between L25 and L26	Sealed by L25; sealed L26	pottery date: 1st century AD (?pre-Flavian)

10.2.6 Town wall foundation trench F14, horizontal layers of timber F9-F10, and timber piles F11 under the town wall foundation F8 (Figs 11-12)

Under the clay layers F13 a part of the town wall foundation trench was exposed. The trench was filled up with sand and gravel (L38). Two layers of horizontally-laid timber planks and branches (F9, F10) were recorded within L38, south of the foundation. The sand and gravel has allowed the streams of ground water to flow undisturbed under the wall's foundation. Geological drill-holes, south-west of the shaft, did not show any sand and gravel on this level.

The foundation trench is larger and more complex than in other parts of the town wall, because of the high level of ground water here (F14 was also filled up with ground water). The edges and bottom of the foundation trench were not exposed by the shaft. The shaft went approximately 1.8 m down into the sand and gravel. Thus trench F14 could have been at least 2 m deep and up to 6 m wide (Figs 11-12; Table 23).

Within L38, a set of vertical timber piles (F11) was recorded under the town wall's foundation. Only the upper parts of three piles were exposed in a small slot excavated at the bottom of the shaft. Two pile fragments were cut off and taken for dendrochronological analysis, though no precise dating was obtained since the tree-rings were disturbed by the weight of the wall foundation (see section 12.6.5 below). The uppermost parts of the piles had rotted away and thus there was a gap in between the wall's foundation and the piles. The three recorded piles were part of regular rows of piles; there were probably four-six rows under the foundation, 0.4-0.55 m apart, each maybe up to approximately 2 m long, rammed into the underlying layers.

Table 23: town wall foundation trench F14 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description	Stratification	Date
F14	Town wall foundation trench – only part of its fill excavated (no edges recorded)	Sealed by F13; the trench fill designated as L38	later part of 1st century AD
F9	First horizontal layer of timber planks and branches	Within L38	-
F10	Second horizontal layer of timber planks and branches; approx 0.15-0.2 m below F9	Within L38	-
F11	Vertical timber piles within F38 and under the town wall's foundation	Within F38; under F8	-
Layers within F14			
L38	Coarse sand and gravel; fill of the town wall foundation trench F14; a fragment of Roman tile recorded	Sealed by F13; within F14	later part of 1st century AD

10.3 Town wall F6 and wall foundation F8 (Figs 11-12)

The excavation of the shaft exposed the inner face (F6) and foundation (F8) of the town wall (Table 24). The wall has been divided in recording into six 'sub-features', ie F6a-F6f; its foundation was labelled with a separate feature number (F8).

The whole of the exposed wall, on the inner face, is 6.84 m tall. This consists of a 1.20 m-deep foundation; a basal offset of 0.82 m, consisting of three loosely-coursed bands of septaria; 3.30 m of faced wall, consisting of three courses of septaria

capped by four courses of brick, at the base of the dressed wall, then three units of four courses of septaria capped by four courses of septaria; and then two courses of septaria. Above that point was 1.54 m of robbed wall core. Assuming that parapet walk level was at the top of the regular unit of four brick courses, this would have been at 4.96 m above the top of the basal offset. A crenellated parapet of 1.8 m height would have given a total wall height 6.86 m above the top of the basal offset. The Roman construction road F12 was 0.16 m above the top of the basal offset. Therefore the top of the Roman town wall parapet would have been approximately 6.70 m above Roman road level.

The wall here, as in other parts of the town, is of standard ashlar construction. Its exposed facing is very well preserved.

The town wall's facing is made of brick and dressed septaria stones laid in neat horizontal courses. The coursing is in the form of four courses of brick alternating with four courses of septaria. The ashlar was set in *opus signinum* in the lower part of the facing and yellowish mortar in the upper part. The joints between blocks and bricks were picked out with the tip of a trowel to make incised lines. In the lower part of the wall, large fragments of the facing are completely covered up with *opus signinum* and whitish lime substance. The lower down, the more obscured the face is by *opus signinum* and the lime substance. This indicates that the white coating is probably a result of a natural process rather than whitewashing. In the lowest part of the inner face of the wall, there is the usual basal offset, about 30-40 mm wide, formed of one brick course over three courses of septaria; in other parts of the wall, the offset is built of one course of tile over one course of septaria only. Also atypically, the one band of septaria above the offset consists of only three courses. The core of the wall (F6a) was made by pouring mortar over lumps of septaria laid in a layer at a time.

The wall foundation F8 is made of medium, medium- to large-sized angular pieces of septaria (approximately 20%), medium, medium- to large-sized pieces of various types of quartz and flint (80%). The stones are set in a hard mortar (*opus cementicum*). The exposed foundation is 1.1 m thick. It is set in the layer of sand and gravel (L38). Under F8 there are rows of vertical timber piles supporting the structure.

Table 24: town wall foundation F8 – stratification and finds.

Context	Description		Stratification
F6	The town wall; 6.84 m tall, ashlar construction; the core (F6a) was made by pouring mortar over lumps of septaria laid in a layer at a time; facing made of brick and dressed septaria stones laid in horizontal courses – four courses of brick alternating with four courses of septaria (F6b-F6d). The ashlar is set in *opus signinum* in the lower part of the facing and yellowish mortar in the upper part. The joints between blocks and bricks were picked out with the tip of a trowel as incised lines. In the lowest part there a basal offset (approx 30-40 mm wide), formed of one brick course over three courses of septaria.		Sealed by F13 and F7; built on F8
	F6a	Uppermost part of the standing wall; visible above the current ground-level; no Roman facing; the wall's core covered with septaria blocks and cement – modern repairs and restoration works; the same surface is on the outer face of the standing wall remains.	Sealed F6b
	F6b	The wall's core; exposed in medieval/early post-medieval period; 1.05 m high; made of large- to medium-sized angular pieces of septaria with mortar.	Sealed by robber trench F4

	F6c	Upper part of the inner face of the wall; complete set of four courses of rectangular septaria blocks, one four fold set of bricks, and remain of another set of septaria courses (the rest is robbed out). In the first complete course of septaria blocks there is 0.11 m-wide putlog hole filled with two pieces of tile. Set in yellowish-white mortar; horizontal and vertical lines in the pointing mortar are neatly picked up out with the a trowel tip – every septaria block is exposed (only their edges are obscured by mortar). It differs considerably to the lower parts of the wall, where the lines are not so neat and parts of the face are obscured by *opus signinum* and the lime substance. The four courses of septaria in F6c are 5 cm wider than two lower sets of septaria blocks in F6d.	Sealed by L5, L6, L8, and probably also by L12 (ie upper layers of the rampart).
	F6d	Lower part of the inner face of the wall; consisted of three sets of four-fold courses of brick and two four-fold courses of rectangular septaria blocks – the lowest set of bricks and the lower set of septaria blocks are completely obscured by *opus signinum* and white lime substance. Incised lines were also applied in this part of the face. Under the last four-fold set of brick courses there are lumps of mortar adhering to the wall.	Sealed F6b; sealed by L10, L12, L16, L19, L22 – lower part of the rampart
	F6e	The lowest part of the inner face of the wall; made of three courses of septaria; just above the basal offset. The blocks are set in *opus signinum* in which lines at joints were incised with the a trowel tip; there is almost no white lime coating substance on the surface; the septaria blocks are longer than in other parts of the face. On the line of the first course of septaria blocks there are lumps of mortar adhering to the wall (see above).	Sealed by L22 (lowest layer of the rampart), and partly by clay layer L31
	F6f	The basal offset on the inner face of the wall; approx 0.15 m wide and 0.45 m high; made of one course of tile (completely obscured by *opus signinum*) and three courses of almost square-shaped septaria blocks set in *opus signinum* – no lines were applied. In other parts of the wall the offset is made of one course of tile and one course of septaria blocks only.	Sealed by L36; above wall foundation F8
F8	The wall foundation; 1.1 m thick; made of medium, medium- to large-sized angular pieces of septaria (approx 20%), medium, medium- to large-sized pieces of various types of quartz and flint (80%) and mortar.		Under F6f; in layer of sand and gravel L38; rows of vertical timber piles under F8

10.4 Area C – finds

10.4.1 Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Just over 13 kg (13,313 g) of pottery, both Roman and post-Roman, was recovered during the excavation. Almost all of this pottery, 988 sherds weighing 13,169 g, is Roman. There are just two post-Roman pottery sherds. The pottery was recorded by finds number for each of the contexts. The number of sherds, the weight in grams and the EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) were recorded for each fabric type. The small quantity of post-Roman pottery recovered was identified by Howard Brooks and the post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to *CAR* **7**, pages 12-13. The main interest in the pottery is in providing dating evidence relating to the town wall and rampart.

The closely-dated pottery divides the archaeological sequence of Roman layers into three dated groups which correspond with the main divisions in the archaeological sequence. These are pottery from layers on top of the rampart (L4-L7), the rampart itself (L8-L24, L32), and layers sealed by the rampart (L25-L31, L33-L37, L39-L40).

The pottery

The pottery from layers on top of the rampart (L4-L7), ie from post-Roman dump F15 and possible second phase of rampart (L6-L8)

These layers on top of the rampart, L4-L7, produced 430 sherds weighing 5,383 g. Much of the closely-datable pottery can be dated to the late 2nd-3rd century, while two sherds can be dated to the early-mid 3rd-4th century or 4th century. However, a medieval sherd (Fabric 21, dated 15th-16th century, finds no 3) was recovered from L4 and shows that the Roman pottery is residual here.

Of the most closely-dated pottery, there are examples of the bowl form Cam 37B in BB2: black-burnished ware category 2, Fabric GB, from L5 (finds nos 17, 21, 32) and from L6 (finds no 16). The sherds from this bowl form can be dated to the late 2nd to mid-late 3rd-century. There is also a sherd from a colour-coated vessel probably from the Nene Valley potteries (Fabric EA), and a sherd probably from the Hadham potteries (Fabric CH), both from L5 (finds no 21). Nene Valley colour-coated wares appeared at Colchester from the early-mid 3rd century, although the majority occurs in contexts dated after *c* AD 275 (*CAR* **10**, 279). Oxidised Hadham wares, while recorded from the mid-late 3rd century, are predominantly 4th century in date (*CAR* **10**, 297). It can be noted that only one sherd from L6 (finds no 16), probably need date to after the late 2nd century, that is a bowl of form Cam 37B. However, L6 also produced sherds from a Dr 38 samian flanged bowl. The form Dr 38 dates from the early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century, although it is typical of the later 2nd century (Webster 1996). The pot from L6 is probably of Central Gaulish origin (Fabric BA(CG)) and is therefore probably of later 2nd-century date. L6 is also the earliest stratigraphic context from this excavation of the rampart in which late Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CZ) is recorded (finds no 24). Late Colchester colour-coated ware appeared *c* AD 125-150 (*CAR* **10**, 267), although the roughcast forms of late Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CB) appeared slightly earlier, ie *c* AD 110-125 (*CAR* **10**, 264). On balance, the overall date for the pottery from both L6 and L7 should probably be later 2nd century.

The pottery from the rampart (L8-L24 and L32), ie F7

The rampart layers L8-L24 and L32 produced 485 pottery sherds weighing 6,653g. The more closely-datable sherds can be dated to the 2nd century. The most significant sherds for dating these layers are from vessels in BB1 and BB2: black-burnished ware category 1 and category 2 respectively (Fabrics GA and GB) and plain samian (Fabric BA). An intrusive medieval sherd (Fabric 21A; *CAR* **7**, 107-8), was recovered from L4 (finds no 3).

Black-burnished wares are absent from deposits in Colchester prior to the early 2nd century, *c* AD 110-120 (*CAR* **10**, 494-5). BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 was current until the mid-late 3rd century and BB1: black-burnished ware category 1, until the 4th century, sometime during which century supply began to dwindle (*CAR* **10**, 352). The vessel forms recovered here, where closely datable, are of early 2nd- to early 3rd-century types. These are bowls of form Cam 37A in Fabric GB, with one example of the jar form Cam 279A/B in Fabric GA. The earliest context in which black-burnished wares are recorded is L16A.

While much of the samian is South Gaulish and datable to the 1st century, a proportion is Central Gaulish, datable to the 2nd century and a few sherds are possibly East Gaulish, datable to the early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century. The earliest stratigraphic context in which samian dating to after the early 2nd century is present is L22. While some forms of samian vessels recorded were still current into the 3rd century, no forms are recorded which need date to after the mid 2nd century. The earlier 2nd-century plate/bowl form Dr 18/31 is recorded, but, significantly, the later 2nd- to mid 3rd-century bowl form Dr 31 is absent. (It can be noted that Dr 31 is also not recorded from L4-L7.) The latest-dated samian vessel is from L22. This is a cup of form Dr 33. The vessel is stamped, although the stamp itself is not clear and it has not been possible to attribute it to a particular dated potter. However, the wall of the vessel is splayed out to an unusual degree. Oswald and Pryce note that this splaying occurred on some form Dr 33 vessels during the Antonine period, AD 138-192, so that they resemble the form Dr 46, but returned to the more usual form towards the later period of samian production (Oswald & Pryce 1920, 190).

The remaining Roman pottery from these layers supports an early- to mid 2nd-century date. Where jar forms could be identified, they are almost entirely of the form Cam 266, dated to the 1st-early 2nd century. The later, common jar form Cam 268, which appeared from the early-mid 2nd century (*CAR* **10**, 479), is either absent or hardly represented at all, with only one possible example recorded from L16A (finds no 62). All of the flagons are of the form Cam 155, dated 1st to early-mid 2nd century, and there are no examples of the Hadrianic to early 3rd-century cup mouth form Cam 156. Also there are no sherds of late Colchester colour-coated or roughcast ware (Fabrics CZ and CB respectively), of which the roughcast ware began to appear in Colchester *c* AD 110-125, but which were most successful from the mid 2nd century (*CAR* **10**, 264 and 267). The only colour-coat vessel recorded is from L16A (finds no 62). This is a Rhineland roughcast beaker (Fabric EZ(LR)), the earliest occurrence of which is during the Flavian period and is current throughout the 2nd and into the 3rd century.

The pottery from layers sealed by the rampart (L25-L31, L33-L37, L39-L40), ie F13
The pottery from these layers consists of 63 sherds weighing 1,016g. While only relatively small in quantity, this pottery appears to be distinct from the pottery in the rampart layers above as none of the more closely-datable sherds need date later than the 1st century. The samian sherds, possibly all from a single cup of form Dr 27, are all South Gaulish (Fabric BA(SG)) and can be dated as 1st century. Among the other wares, only three numbered pot forms can be identified. These are a copy of a Gallo-Belgic platter of form Cam 16/30 in local traded coarse ware (Fabric UR(LTC)), a mica-gilt platter of form Cam 17 (Fabric ON), and a Cam 195 mortarium with gritting extending over the flange (Fabric TZ). There are also sherds from a large double-handled flagon in coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ). All of these three vessels came from below L27, and the Gallo-Belgic platter copy and the samian cup came from the lowest layers (L39 and L40). Of these pots, the Gallo-Belgic platter copy is probably pre-Flavian, and that dating could possibly apply to the other three pots. However, the mortarium form Cam 195 with grit carried over the rim, while present at Sheepen, is probably not earlier than Neronian (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 256). The mica-gilt platter of form Cam 17 came from L25 and L28, with joining sherds between these contexts. This platter form is usually associated with late 1st-century or early 2nd-century contexts, although rare examples are recorded from late Neronian-early Flavian contexts in London (Davies *et al* 1994, 139) and one example is recorded from a pre-Boudican context in Colchester (*CAR* **10**, Fabric ON, Type 42.75). It can also be noted that there were two sherds of coarse ware recorded in early Roman (Romanising) fabrics (Fabric RCW & Fabric RCVW).

Discussion
In terms of the types of vessels and their date ranges, the pottery recovered could be seen to suggest a division of the excavated contexts into three groups, as described below.

F15, L6-L8 – layers associated with a possible second phase of rampart, which seal the rampart, with closely-dated pottery of late 2nd- to mid-late 3rd-century date, two late Roman 3rd- to 4th-century sherds, and a medieval sherd from the two upper layers (L4-L5) which are associated with a post-Roman dump on the rampart (F15).

F7 – layers associated with the main rampart construction, with closely-dated pottery of 2nd-century date and which need not date later than the early-mid 2nd century (L8-L24, L32).

F13 – layers associated with the construction of the Roman town wall, with closely-datable pottery of 1st- and 1st- to early 2nd-century date (L25-L31, L33-L37, L39-L40), sealed by the rampart.

Much of the overall pottery dating relies primarily on the occurrence and dating of three pottery fabric types, together with the pot form types recorded in those fabrics. These fabrics are the samian and its Gaulish workshop sources; Fabric BB2 (black-burnished ware category 2), Fabric GB; and late Colchester colour-coated and roughcast wares (Fabrics CZ and CB).

There is no indication of a slow accumulation of the rampart layers as the latest closely-dated sherds – a Dr 33 of probable Antonine date, *c* AD 138-192 – came from one of the earliest layers in the sequence (L22). The pottery from the layers on top of the rampart (L4-L7) covers a broader chronological span of the mid/late 2nd to mid-late 3rd or 4th century and could represent accumulation or later dumping. It is conceivable that the two lowest layers in this group, L6 and L7, could be associated with the rampart; however, there are significant differences among the pottery from L6 and L7 and the pottery from the layers below, and L6 and L7 should probably be dated to after the mid 2nd century. The pottery from layers sealed by the rampart (L25-L40) can be dated to the 1st century, and much of this pottery could be pre-Flavian in date. Possibly the latest-dated vessel from these layers is a mica-gilt platter of form Cam 17. This came from just below the base of the rampart (L25 and L28) and could be of Neronian date, although it is more usually dated to the late 1st or early 2nd century.

10.4.2 Post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

There were three post-Roman sherds (Table 25). One sherd, dated to the 15th-16th century, is from L4 in dump F15 on top of the Roman rampart (finds no 3). Of the two remaining sherds, one is from a modern flowerpot, and, although it can only be attributed to a group of contexts (L4-L24, finds no 73), it is certainly intrusive. The third post-Roman sherd (dated 15th-16th century) is recorded from L23 (finds no 71) and is clearly intrusive.

Table 25: medieval and post-medieval pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR* 7).

Fabric code	Fabric name
Fabric 21	Medieval sandy orange wares (general)
Fabric 21A	Colchester-type wares

10.4.3 Small finds

by Nina Crummy

The assemblage consists principally of Roman material and some unstratified pieces are object types that cannot be closely dated, such as nails. The objects are catalogued below by material and then context, rather than by date or function.

Copper alloy

SF 1. (57) L10. Layer within Roman rampart F7. 2nd century. Copper-alloy sheet fragment. Maximum dimensions 39 by 24 mm.

SF 3. (42) L8. Layer within Roman rampart F7. 2nd century. Copper-alloy sheet fragment. Maximum dimensions 12 by 11 mm.

Iron

All the nails are of Manning's Type 1b, with round flat or slightly convex head (Manning 1985, 134). They are listed in Table 26.

Table 26: table showing all recorded Manning's Type 1b nails.

Finds number	Layer/ Feature no	Context description and date	Description	Length (mm)
12	L5	Layer over rampart; late 2nd-3rd(/4th) century	2 nails	74, 70
15	L5	Layer over rampart; late 2nd-3rd(/4th) century	nail	68
21	L5	Layer over rampart; late 2nd-3rd(/4th) century	nail	63
28	L6	Layer within dump on top of rampart; late 2nd to 3rd(/4th) century	nail, clenched	24 (bent)

29	L6	Layer within dump on top of rampart; late 2nd to 3rd(/4th) century	nail	50
30	L6	Layer within dump on top of rampart; late 2nd to 3rd(/4th) century	nail	37
37	L6	Layer within dump on top of rampart; late 2nd to 3rd(/4th) century	2 nails (1 clenched), 2 shank fragments	45 (incomplete), 35 (bent), 40, 25 (shank fragments)
22	L7	Layer within dump on top of rampart; late 2nd to 3rd(/4th) century	nail, clenched	55
48	L8	Layer within rampart; 2nd century	nail	37
58	L10	Layer within rampart; 2nd century	nail	40 (incomplete)

SF 2. (34) L6. Layer within dump on top of Roman rampart. Late 2nd to 3rd (/4th) century. Iron spike, probably part of a structural fitting such as a ring-headed pin. Length 169 mm.

(58) L10. Layer within Roman rampart. 2nd century. ?Strip fragment. Length 30 mm.

Stone

SF 4. (2) L4. Fragment of Purbeck marble veneer with mouldings on the upper surface. One edge is straight and chamfered, but has broken below the chamfer. The other three edges are broken. Both surfaces are smooth. Maximum dimensions 79 by 80 mm.

10.4.4 Painted wall-plaster

by Will Clarke

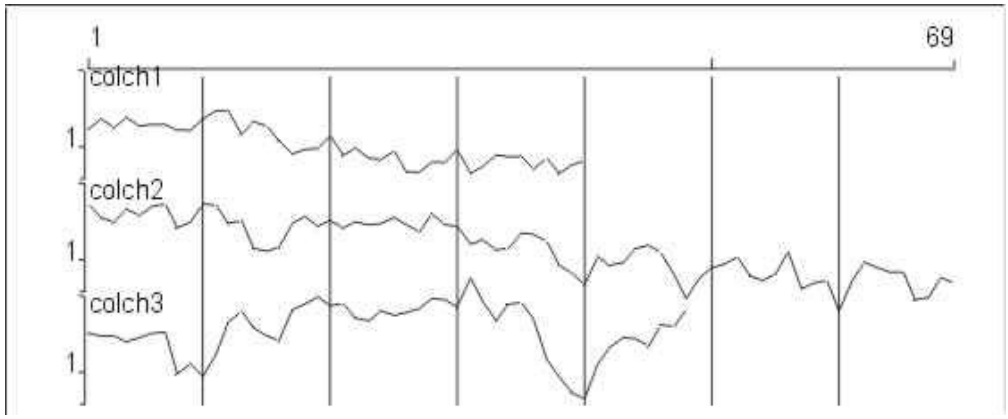
In total, more than 3,600g of painted plaster decorated in a variety of colours and patterns was recorded during the excavation. Approximately 40% was unearthed from the demolition dump (F15) on the rampart and 60% recorded from the layers within the rampart (F7). For the types of painted plaster recovered, see Appendix 5 (p 100).

10.4.5 Timber piles F11

Samples of wood for dendrochronology from under the town wall

by Martin Bridge

Approximately a dozen fragments of wood were recovered from under the town wall foundation F8, in L38, in the hope that its construction might be closely dated. The wet wood was very soft and, in order to be able to see and measure the rings, it was necessary to freeze the largest pieces and then cut them to reveal the ring sequences in cross-section (Plate 7). Once the rings were clearly visible, it was apparent that most of the sequences contained too few rings, and some sequences were affected by roots in the middle, and distortion from the weight of the massive wall which had sat on them. Three were measured (Graph 1), but unfortunately the patterns did not match each other, nor did they match dated material from any period. Not surprisingly, given the wet conditions, no sapwood remained, so, even if the ring sequences had been dated, one would have had to add an estimate for the number of rings of sapwood lost, which would have given a range of about 30 years for the likely felling date, but would at least have confirmed which half-century the trees were felled in.



Graph 1: analysis of timber samples from under the Roman town wall.

Plate 7: L38 – wood sample from under the Roman town wall.

10.4.6 Bulk finds

A large quantity of bulk finds was also identified, including Roman CBM, building stone, mortar and *opus signinum*, animal bone and shell (Table 27; and see Appendix 1, p 81, Appendix 2, p 92, and Appendix 5, p 100).

Table 27: Area C – bulk finds.

Finds type	Quantity	Weight (g)
CBM (*tegula*, *tegula* with flange, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile, *tesserae*)	1,634	303,047
Mortar and *opus signinum*	110	25,306
Animal bone	220	4,703
Building stone	458	271,101
Shell (oyster, whelk, cockle, mussel, carpet, snail)	-	13,893

11 Insulas 1a and 1b: analysis of the Roman tiles (Figs 20-22; Plate 8)

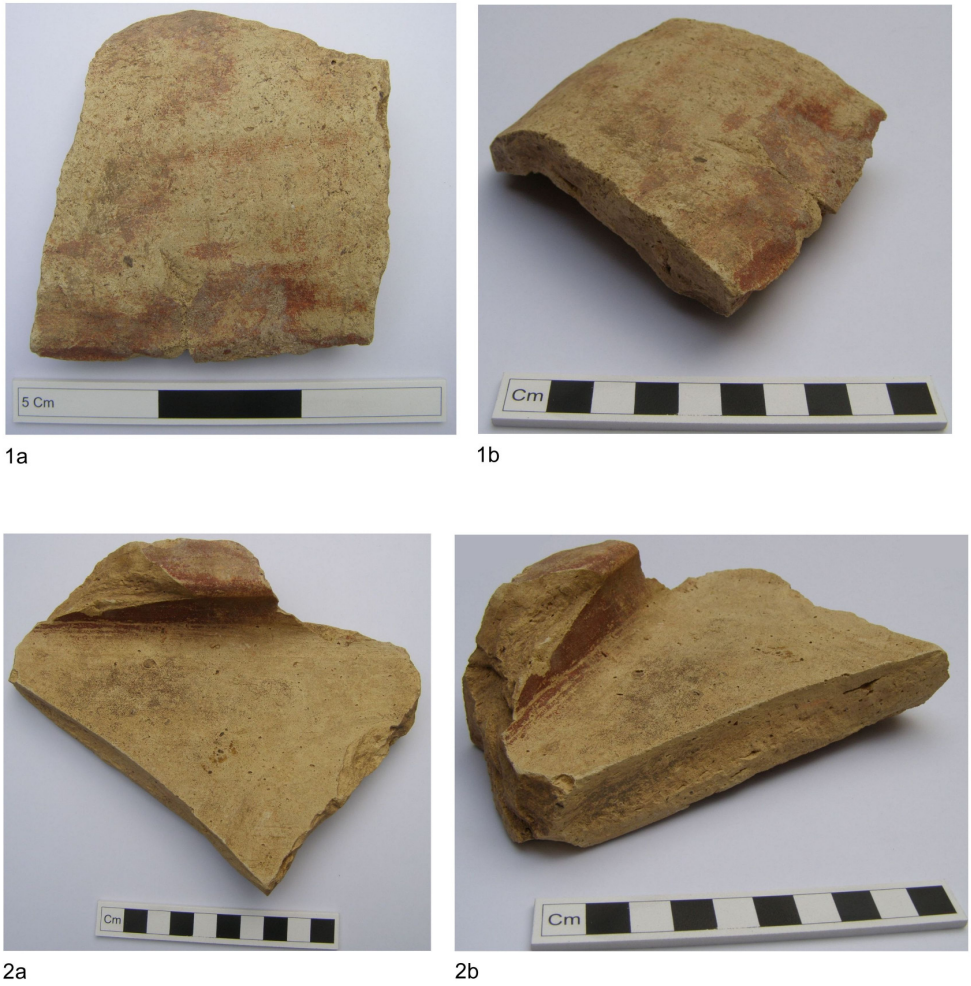
by E W Black

The assemblage retained from the excavation and watching brief largely comprised fragments of box tiles and voussoirs and of *tegulae* with part of a flange attached. In what follows, references to *tegula*(*e*)/box tile(s)/voussoir(s) and other types always refer to fragments rather than to complete tiles.

From Insula 1a, including the ?bath-house, there are fourteen *tegulae* which have a base less than 20 mm in thickness and 28 with a base greater than 20 mm thick. From Insula 1b the figures are two and nine respectively. From L4-L7 of the rampart, the figures are seven and ten, and from L8 and underlying layers they are two and six. The *tegulae* are therefore predominantly of the first half of the 2nd century or earlier, since at the Co-operative Society's stores site on the west side of Long Wyre Street it was found that lighter *tegulae* with a thickness less than 20 mm only became common in the later 2nd century (Black 2004). The figures for the two levels of rampart examined in the shaft seem to confirm this with the proportion of lighter *tegulae* increasing in the later layers. Lighter *tegulae* were being used in Insula 1a and possibly in Insula 1b, but there was evidently no wholesale re-roofing after the middle of the 2nd century.

The assemblage contained eleven *imbrices* and nine *tegulae* in Museum of London (MoLAS) tile fabric 2454 from the area of Eccles in North Kent (identification by Dr Ian Betts). The production of tiles in this fabric took place *c* AD 50-75. Six *imbrices* (all from L16a) and three *tegulae* came from the early phase of the rampart in the shaft and only one *imbrex* from the later phase. Two *imbrices* and four *tegulae* came from Insula 1b and five of these came from Roman demolition layers (L2, L4, L43). The profile of one of the *tegulae* from L2 (Fig 21.10) is closely matched by tiles in MoLAS fabric 2454 published from London (Betts 1986, 248, fig 16.18). Two *imbrices* and two *tegulae* came from Insula 1a. Two of these (one *imbrex* and one *tegula*) have areas of their surfaces coloured red. On the *tegula* (Plate 8, below; Fig 20.2), this colour survives well on both sanded and unsanded parts of the flange and base, while on the *imbrex* (Plate 8, above) it survives only in streaks and patches on the upper (unsanded) surface but well on the sanded bottom of the surviving edge. It therefore seems unlikely that the red surface was produced by a reaction in the sand during firing, and it is suggested here that the tiles were given a colour-wash, perhaps prior to re-use in a roof of red tiles. The other *tegula* came from F14, the robbed central basin in the suggested *apodyterium* of a bath-house. A possible hypothesis is that a building, fitted out in the third quarter of the 1st century AD in Insula 1b, retained roof-tiles in fabric 2454 until its final demolition. Some tiles were re-used, after a colour-wash to make them look red, in Insula 1a. A 1st-century structure may have preceded the ?bath-house in Insula 1a. Some support for this last suggestion comes from the presence of two fragments of thin-walled box tiles (Fig 22.1 and 22.4), a type dated to the 1st century and probably to the pre-Flavian period (Black 1992, 262 (Type B1); Pringle 2006). Both came from residual contexts (F5, L4) in the vicinity of the ?bath-house in Insula 1a.

The majority of box tiles and voussoirs from the ?bath-house and its vicinity have a thickness appropriate to 2nd-century or later tiles. Some of these can be dated fairly closely by analogy with tile types found elsewhere. Scored box tiles/voussoirs and combed box tiles/voussoirs were present in a ratio of approximately 1:3.5 in Insula 1a and associated with Building 212, the ?bath-house. Only two fragments of combed box tile were recovered from Insula 1b. In the earlier rampart and underlying layers, two fragments of combed box tile and voussoir were present. In the later rampart there were 30 fragments of combed tile (excluding another five from unstratified contexts) and only three fragments of scored tile. This very different ratio in the material from the later rampart may indicate either that some of it was brought from elsewhere beyond Insula 1a or that it largely comprises tiles taken from a heated room or rooms in the ?bath-house where only combed tiles were employed.



1a 1b

2a 2b

Plate 8: two fragments of painted Roman tile (1a-1b from L12; 2a-2b, U/S).

No tile was found combining scored keying and combed keying on different surfaces, but this was suggested for scored tiles (Type B8) and particular types of combed box tile (Types B5 and B6) in the assemblage from Culver Street, of which one specimen had an extension or 'hood' at one end of the tile (Black 1992, 263-5). Both scored box tiles (Fig 22.7) and Type B6 box tiles (Fig 22.5 and 22.6) were represented from L4 associated with the ?bath-house in Insula 1a. A scored box tile with a hood also came from Insula 1a (Fig 21.8). It is suggested that the assemblage from the Sixth Form College therefore includes several scored and combed fragments that came from a type of box tile that combined these forms of keying. Two fragments, one scored and the other combed, from the later rampart in the shaft (Fig 22.2 and 22.3) are so similar in fabric and finish that they almost certainly came from the same tile. Box tiles scored on one face and combed on the other were installed at Canterbury in the public baths of the early 2nd century along with others with relief-patterned keying (die 42; Black 1995, 1270-73). From other sites, relief-patterned tiles keyed with dies 16, 63 and 105 (published originally as die 25) are known with hoods and die 16 is dated *c* AD 120/25-130 at Chelmsford (Black 1992, 263 with references; Betts *et al* 1997, 144). These comparisons suggest that a major phase of fitting out the Insula 1a ?bath-house with box tiles occurred in the first quarter of the 2nd century.

The scored box tile with the 'hood' was found along with a voussoir with an unkeyed face with an oval/circular cutaway and a top/base with combed keying (Fig 21.7). This suggests the possibility that the extension or 'hood' on the box tile was designed to lock into the lowest voussoir in an arch, allowing the heated air

from a wall flue to be drawn along a voussoir rib in a vaulted roof to a chimney situated at the crown of the vault. For this to work, the height and depth of the voussoirs would have to correspond respectively to the depth and width of the box tiles. The virtually complete scored face of a box tile from a wall foundation (F11) in Insula 1a was 174-175 mm wide and at least 405 mm high. A combed tile (Fig 21.9) has a complete dimension of 166-167 mm but the surviving end is not at 90 degrees to the edges of the tile and this may be the height of a voussoir face rather than the width of a box tile. Although the complete depth of another scored tile from F12 (associated with the robbing of the ?bath-house in Area A) did not survive, the interior of the unkeyed side had a 10 mm-wide groove between the cutaway and the surviving end of the tile. If this was equidistant between the two faces, and since it was 60 mm from the surviving face, then the depth of the tile could be estimated at approximately 130 mm. However, this cannot be regarded as firmly established.

The complete width of a scored voussoir from Insula 1a is approximately 259 mm and its surviving depth is 177 mm and a second scored voussoir from the same context has part of an oval or circular cutaway in its unkeyed face and a surviving depth of approximately 175 mm (Fig 20.4 and 20.3). A combed voussoir also from unstratified Roman demolition in Insula 1a has a complete width of approximately 262 mm and an estimated height of approximately 160 mm (Fig 22.5). (A non-joining fragment that is probably from the same tile and comes from the same context is shown in Fig 20.1.) The width of these two tiles is so similar that it suggests that, as with some box tiles, one keyed surface was scored and the other combed. The information available shows that the width of the box tiles could match the depth of the voussoirs (provided this was not much greater than the attested 177 mm); the depth of the box tiles (approx 130 mm) and the height of the voussoirs (approx 160 mm) do not match so well, but it must be remembered that these measurements are both estimates. The suggested use together of the 'hooded' box tiles and voussoirs cannot be conclusively demonstrated but remains a possibility. Voussoirs of this type found elsewhere have been assigned a date of *c* AD 125-160 (Black 1995, 1279-81) but an earlier date for their use here is not precluded. A combed voussoir that probably had different dimensions came from L4 associated with the ?bath-house in Insula 1a (Fig 20.1).

12 Discussion (Fig 23)

12.1 Introduction

The vast majority of the recorded archaeological remains from Area A, B and C were Roman in date, with no evidence of either Anglo-Saxon or early medieval. Except for the discovery of the lower stone of a post-medieval quern or millstone, evidence of later medieval and post-medieval activity was sparse, suggesting that the focus of activity in this later period lay eastwards around properties with frontages facing onto North Hill. The boundaries associated with these properties appear to have had a minimal impact on the development site. Roman features and layers had, therefore, survived extremely well below modern topsoil and post-medieval subsoil layers. Roman activity on the site, in contrast to all other periods, was substantial across the entire site. Two buildings were identified, separated by a north-south metalled street, as well as features and layers associated with the construction of the Roman town wall.

The large groups of painted plaster, and other finds, have been discussed above.

12.2 Building 214

Building 214 was recorded on the western edge of Insula 1b. In total, eight wall foundations were identified, with four interior spaces displaying the remains of *opus signinum* floors in patches. The size of the building foundations and the projected footprint plan suggest that this structure measured at least 19 m x 19 m and was possibly built around what appears to have been a central courtyard to the north-east. Immediately to the west of this building, a metalled street was also identified. This means that the excavations revealed the whole south-west corner of Building 214 and that Insula 1 actually consisted of two smaller *insulae* (ie Insulas 1a and

1b). At least three rooms in Building 214 were identified, along with two long narrow service corridors. *Opus signinum* floors were recorded in both of the corridors and in one of the rooms. This flooring may either represent finished floor surfaces or the base layer for a tessellated pavement or mosaic floor. Indeed, finds recorded in the demolition layers of the building included both red *tesserae* and the smaller black and white cubes, suggesting that the building did have both a tessellated pavement and a geometric mosaic floor somewhere inside. A large quantity of decorated painted wall-plaster was also identified within the demolition layers and in F37/L42. All the evidence recorded from this building suggests that it was a lavishly-decorated town house similar to others identified in other *insulae* of the Roman town.

12.3 Building 211

Building 211 appears to comprise all the structural features identified to the west of the Roman metalled street in Area B. This includes all the wall foundations, robber trenches and floors recorded across Area B. This means that the remains measured a minimum of 30 m by 21 m and consisted of at least eight rooms and three long service corridors. Four of the rooms were of roughly similar size, at about 7.8-9 m by 7.2-8.6 m, with two larger rooms at 12.4 m by 7.8 m and 11.6 m by 8.6 m. Patches of tessellated floor, and *opus signinum* floor or robbed-out tessellated floor, were identified in four of the rooms and all three of the corridors, and at least two possible mosaic floors were also recorded within the building. These floors, plus the large quantity of painted wall-plaster identified within the demolition debris of the building, all suggest that the building was lavishly decorated.

Moreover, if the walls recorded in the Area B pipe trenches were part of the same building, then it may have occupied the majority of the southern half of the entire *insula* (Insula 1a), at about 40 m by 60 m. Structural remains of this building were recorded butting up against known street surfaces to the south and east (the street surface exposed during the watching brief, of the west-east street known to divide Insulas 1a and 9a immediately to the south of Building 211). If investigations in the future in the remainder of the *insula* reveal that no buildings existed here, then it would be tempting to suggest that this was an area set aside for stables, a waggon-park or other outside activities. If the building did occupy a large part of this *insula*, then it would have been large, even for a town house. Furthermore, the large quantities of painted wall-plaster recorded, including exotic marble imitation, and the presence of two possible mosaic floors, show that this building would have been of high status. It may have been a town house, perhaps associated with the ?bath-house.

12.4 Building 212 (room of a ?bath-house)

The precise function of the room is unclear, but there are a number of possibilities indicated by the presence of the free-flowing water. It is possible that it was originally a *nymphaeum*, containing a shrine dedicated to the nymph of the spring, and later converted to a room in a bath-house. The typical Roman bath-house had several rooms of differing temperatures through which the bather progressed, starting with a cold room (*frigidarium*), often with a plunge pool, then a warm room (*tepidarium*), and finally a hot room (*caldarium*). The absence of a hypocaust (underfloor heating) system in the sunken room shows that it could not have been either the warm room or the hot room, and the central basin is clearly not large enough to have been the plunge pool in the cold room. It is possible, therefore, that this was a changing room (*apodyterium*), and that other rooms within the ?bath-house were reached through the doorway in the north wall. However, there is no evidence for a changing-room shelf or lockers in the room.

Another reason for suggesting that this room was part of a bath-house is the thick masonry walls. Thick stone walls would have been needed to support the barrel-vaulted roof which was traditionally used for bath-houses. The room probably had a barrel-vaulted roof because of the presence of a large amount of shaped hollow tiles (*voussoirs*), which were used in the construction of arches, necessary for building a vaulted roof.

From the excavated evidence, it seems likely that the timber channel would have fed a basin which had at least one wooden tap to control the flow of water. This

basin would have been surrounded by a decorative mosaic floor. A gaming token washed into the timber channel suggests that other social activities took place here, and it is known that bathing was a social activity as well as a matter of hygiene to the Romans.

The size of the sunken room (it could comfortably have accommodated 15-20 people) suggests that it was too small to have been part of a public bath-house but would also have been large for a private house. However, it seems to be associated with the large, possibly high-status town house Building 211.

General dating evidence

Dating and stratigraphic evidence from Building 211 suggests that it was constructed in the 1st or early 2nd century. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the archaeological work on this site, ie mostly carried out under watching brief conditions, no phasing information could be obtained, but the building does appear to have been in use for some considerable time, and the room of the ?bath-house shows evidence of at least one phase of redecoration. Evidence from the demolition layers also reveals that the building went out of use in the 4th century and then became derelict before it was demolished.

12.5 The Roman street

During the archaeological investigations, a north-south metalled street surface was identified which measured at least 6 m in width and was defined by two flanking ditches, one on either side, one of which was definite and one possible. This street divided Insulas 1a and 1b, and its discovery confirms that Insula 1 was subdivided and provides the exact location of the boundary between the two halves of the *insula*.

12.6 The Roman town wall with its construction road and rampart

The excavation of the shaft against the inner face of the Roman town wall produced some significant information relating to the construction of the town wall, its foundation, the rampart against the wall, and the earlier construction road which appears to have extended around the inside of the town wall.

12.6.1 Construction of the town wall

The shaft excavated against the inner face of the town wall revealed the entire face of the superstructure of the wall, ie everything above foundation level. As with most of the town wall, the top of the wall had been largely robbed of its facing stone and part of its core. Elsewhere in the town, this robbing has been dated to the 14th or 15th centuries (*CAR* **3**, 16). The core was made up of various roughly-cut pieces of septaria stone bonded with thick mortar, and with courses of brick between the stone rubble. The remaining 3.7 m had all of its facing stone intact and was made of neatly-laid alternating courses of stone and brick, set in rows of four and four, into a yellowish-white mortar. Straight horizontal and short vertical lines had been incised into the fresh mortar to create the illusion that the stone blocks and bricks were of equal dimension.

12.6.2 Construction of the foundation and base of the town wall

As mentioned above, the excavation of Area A revealed part of a Roman sunken room, 100 m to the south of the town wall, which was flooded with ground water flowing down the hill. This posed a significant question before the excavation of the shaft began – was part of the town wall, located much lower on the slope of North Hill, also flooded with ground water at its lowest levels? If so, had wooden piles been inserted into the ground so that the wall's foundation could be safely built? The use of wooden piles is a technique known to have been used by Roman engineers when defensive town walls were built on unstable ground; for example, on the bank of the River Thames in London.

The excavation of the shaft revealed that, although the superstructure of the wall had been constructed in a similar method to those recorded along other lengths of the surviving wall, the substructure was very different, and this appears to have been a direct consequence of the high ground water level at the bottom of North Hill. First, a massive ditch (F14, at least 6-7 m wide) was dug into the ground. Then a set

of rectangular timber piles were sunk into the natural ground and covered with a layer of sand and gravel. Into this layer, a mortar with hard quartz, flint, stone cobbles and boulders was poured, forming the town wall's foundation. Above this foundation, the base of the wall consisted of cubed pieces of septaria stone bonded with *opus signinum* mortar, which has special water-resistant properties. Several clay layers were then laid down adjacent to this part of the wall, effectively sealing the sand, gravel and the ground water beneath.

The techniques used by the Romans here are not all that different from modern building methods: ie stripping unstable ground down to stable natural soil; using vertical piles to stabilise the ground; using a layer of ballast consisting of gravel; constructing a foundation from a hard material; and constructing the superstructure from lighter materials. A system of drainage trenches would probably also have had to be used initially, to prevent the foundation trench from filling with water before the foundation could be laid.

Unfortunately, no further evidence was recovered during this excavation to allow the date for the construction of the wall to be more firmly established. However, we know from previous work that the wall was built soon after the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1, well before AD 100 (Crummy 2003, 50-51).

12.6.3 Roman road

Above the layers of clay used to seal ground water level, there was a road made up of gravel and sand. This road was laid out about 2 m away from the wall and appears to have extended along the inside of the town wall. The existence of this road proves that, when the town wall was initially constructed, it was a free-standing structure with no internal rampart. The road may have been a construction road for the town wall.

12.6.4 Rampart

Some years after the laying of the construction road, it went out of use when a succession of layers was built up to create a large rampart to strengthen the wall. The material for the rampart originated from within the town and included a large quantity of demolition debris and earth. Dating evidence from this demolition debris shows that the rampart dates to about the mid 2nd century.

The excavation of the shaft also revealed a series of later layers sealing the rampart. These were also Roman in date – late 3rd to early 4th century – and consisted of dumped material from nearby demolished buildings.

12.6.5 Discussion of the wall and rampart (Figs 10-12, 19)

by Philip Crummy

As explained, timber piles had indeed been used to stabilise the wall and, because of the ground water, these turned out to be well preserved. However, the deposits at the base of the wall proved complicated and it is not possible to interpret with certainty how they all originated and how they related to the wall and its construction process. Usually the foundation of the town wall was made by pouring alternate layers of mortar and stone into a wide trench which was dug for the purpose. No shoring was involved since the material simply filled the trench and took on its shape. The foundation trench was generally about 0.5 to 1.0 m wider than the width of the wall as measured at its base where it incorporated offsets on the inner and outer faces. Clearly the normal method of construction would have been tricky to achieve here because the foundation trench would have quickly filled with ground water as it was being dug.

The early sequence of deposits is hard to interpret with confidence. If we were to ignore the horizontal timbers F9 and F10 near the base of the foundation, then the sequence becomes straightforward, ie the trench for the foundation was dug through natural deposits of sand and gravel (ie L38), vertical piles were driven into the base of it, and the material to form the foundation was then poured in on top in the usual way. However, there are clearly problems with this interpretation. Although the sand and gravel layer L38 contained no finds and appeared to be natural, it clearly could not have been so because of the presence in it of two sets of horizontal timbers. Moreover, the profile of the foundation of the wall is abnormal and seems to indicate that there were problems when it was being built. Certainly the roughness of its

outline in section is perfectly consistent with a trench-cast origin, since the surface of the foundation shows no indications of any wooden shoring which might have been used to retain the sides of the trench as it was being filled with mortar and stone. But the shape of the profile is hard to reconcile with a trench-cast structure, since it looks as if the trench had been dug so that the upper part of the side was undercut, and it seems highly unlikely that the side in this form could have supported itself, especially given the presence of so much ground water. Elsewhere in the town, the edge of the foundation typically extends well beyond the footprint of the wall itself. In this case, there is no 'extension'. Instead it simply appears to be missing (Fig 19). Perhaps the most plausible explanation for the shape of the profile is that the upper part of the side of the trench moved inwards, either when the upper part of the trench had been filled with mortar and stone or very soon afterwards but before the mortar had time to set. This inward movement could not have been a sudden collapse but must have been a slow event, with the sand and gravel being so saturated with ground water that the upper part of the trench side moved rather like a lava flow, gradually pushing its way into the unset mortar and stone which filled the upper part of the trench.

Of course, this explanation does not explain the two sets of timbers at a lower level. Given that they lie so close to the wall, it seems likely that they were associated with it in some way. Yet, stratigraphically, it is plain that the timbers pre-dated the digging of the foundation trench for the wall. Two explanations can be put forward, but it must be confessed that neither is particularly convincing. First, the timbers were indeed associated with the building of the wall but they relate to the construction of a nearby section which must have been built before this one. A recent study of the Balkerne Gate and the adjacent stretches of town wall there concludes that the wall was not built as a single unit but was raised in sections (Crummy 2003, 48-50). Elsewhere, we have seen evidence that the road surface at the foot of the inner face of the wall served as a construction road during the building phase of the wall, ie at the Culver Street site (*CAR* **6**, 63) and the Lion Walk site (*CAR* **3**, 70). Perhaps, then, the horizontal timbers here (F9, F10) are the remains of the earliest phases of the construction road where timber boarding was used to make a wooden trackway across ground which was heavily saturated with ground water. The first trackway (ie F10) gradually sank under the weight of traffic and was replaced by another one (ie F9), which in turn sank and was subsequently buried under a thick deposit of sodden redeposited natural sand and gravel. When it was time to build this particular section of wall, the ground was consolidated and a gravel construction road (F12) was laid down to facilitate its construction to full height. This explanation has to allow for the deposition of over a metre of sand and gravel which, at first sight, seems hard to believe. But perhaps we should not underestimate the scale of the engineering problems faced by the builders trying to erect the wall where there was so much ground water near or even on the suface at the time. The stratigraphic sequence behind the wall shows that the topsoil was stripped off before the erection of the wall, making it easy to visualise large quantities of sand and gravel being washed down the slope, especially during heavy rain. Interestingly, the north-west corner of the town wall circuit is more rounded than the other three corners, and, more importantly, the west side of the wall circuit heads further eastwards than it should (see fig 5.1 in Crummy 2003). The explanation for these anomalies may lie in the difficult ground conditions faced by the builders at the bottom of Balkerne Hill, where they tried to minimise the problems by keeping the wall as far up the slope as they could to avoid what was presumably the most difficult area to build on.

The second explanation assumes that the two sets of horizontal timbers are much earlier than the wall and that they were parts of a wooden structure set in the ground which, by chance, was cut by the excavation of the shaft. Quite what that structure might have been is hard to imagine. The timbers seem to have been too wide for them to have been parts of a drain, and they make little sense in terms of an earlier defensive circuit pre-dating the town wall. However, what they cannot have been is parts of some kind of revetment or support in a construction trench for the foundation of the wall or any other sort of open excavation which would have been filled in by the builders of the wall. This is because the builders would not knowingly

have built their wall over a trench or other form of open excavation which they had just backfilled. Foundations seen elsewhere in the town are nearly always just deep enough to reach undisturbed natural. It is clear from the town wall foundation here that builders and engineers in the Roman period knew about the dangers of subsidence and how to avoid it. They clearly knew that the depth of a foundation was not really the most crucial factor in terms of stability: it was the need to bed their foundations on undisturbed natural. It seems inconceivable that they would have knowingly done otherwise with such a massive and heavy structure as the town wall.

It is disappointing that, despite the discovery of piles under the wall, no dendrochronological date could be obtained for its construction. However, much of the northern stretch of wall is likely to have been built on water-logged ground (certainly as far as the east end of Northgate Street), so there should be other opportunities in the future to recover piles for dating. Although the excavation of the shaft produced no closely-dated evidence for the construction of the town wall, the evidence is at least consistent with the immediately post-Boudican date already suggested (ie AD 65-80: Crummy 2003, 50-51). In particular, a small quantity of sherds, from deposits sealed by the rampart, are 1st century if not pre-Flavian in date (see section 10.4.1). Moreover, the stratigraphic sequence behind the wall matches those seen at the Culver Street and Lion Walk sites, ie a construction road and early deposits on top of natural which was stripped of earlier deposits, later followed by the rampart.

The dating evidence for the rampart points to a date for its consruction in the second quarter of the 2nd century. This is consistent with evidence from elsewhere which generally indicates an Antonine date (Crummy 2003, 50). The rampart as excavated at the Sixth Form College can be split into two phases. The second phase is relatively slight and represents a later heightening of the rampart which is again matched elsewhere on the wall circuit at Lion Walk (*CAR* **3**, 73) and Culver Street (*CAR* **6**, 63). At Culver Street, the second phase appears to resemble a series of quite separate discrete dumps over a period of time rather than one single deposit or a series of small ones laid down as part of the same episode. This may have been the same here too.

12.6.6 An interval tower

A previously unknown interval tower was identified in this particular length of town wall during the excavation of the Area B pipe trench T2, which revealed a surviving *in situ* wall foundation.

13 Archive deposition

The archive and finds are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code 2005.38 (Areas A and B) and 2005.83 (Area C).

14 Acknowledgements

The archaeological work was funded by the Sixth Form College. The fieldwork was directed by P Crummy and H Brooks, and was managed by W Clarke, M Górniak and B Holloway.

Areas A and B

CAT is grateful to the Roff Marsh Partnership (particularly Bob Ward) for commissioning the work on behalf of the Sixth Form College, and we would also like to thank the Sixth Form College and Rose Builders and Contractors for their support throughout the project.

We would also like to thank the archaeology students from the Sixth Form College for processing a number of the archaeological finds recovered from Area B.

Area C
CAT is grateful to Higgins Construction Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of the Sixth Form College, and we would also like to thank the Sixth Form College, Rose Builders and Contractors and J P Chick & Co for their support throughout the project.

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16 Glossary

CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick, tile and *tesserae*
ECC	Essex County Council
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
hypocaust	underfloor heating system
imbrex	Roman roof tile in half tube shape (plural *imbrices*), fits over *tegulae*
insula	literally 'island': Roman town block as defined by gravel streets
medieval	period from 1066 to approximately 1530
modern	19th and 20th centuries
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
opus signinum	pink waterproof Roman mortar
post-medieval	period from approximately 1530 to 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *c* AD 430
tegula	flat ceramic Roman roof tile (plural *tegulae*)
tessellated pavement	a plain red mosaic floor, consisting of *tesserae* in a mortar base
tessera	ceramic cube used in a Roman floor surface
unstratified (U/S)	find whose context is unknown

Appendix 1: catalogue of Roman pottery from Areas A, B and C

Area A: Roman pottery

L2
Fabrics recorded: AA, AJ, BA(SG), BA(MV), BA(CG), CB, CH, CS, DJ, GB, GX, KX, TZ
Pottery forms recorded: Dr 31, Dr 72, Cam 17, Cam 37B, Cam 154, Cam 243-244/246, Cam 268, Cam 497, Cam 504/505
Pottery spot-date: late 3rd-4th century, probably 4th century

L4
Fabrics recorded: DJ
Pottery spot-date: 1st-2nd/3rd century

L6
Fabrics recorded: AJ, DJ, EC, GX, HZ
Pottery forms recorded: Cam 108
Pottery spot-date: 1st-early 2nd century

L8
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(EG), CZ, DJ, EZ, GB, GR, GX, HZ, TZ
Pottery forms recorded: Dr 31, Curle 15, Curle 21, Cam 37A, Cam 37B, Cam 40B, Cam 174-175, Cam 268, Cam 278, Cam 392
Pottery spot-date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

F24
Fabrics recorded: TZ
Pottery forms recorded: Cam ?193, Cam 195 (with potter's stamp - Sextus Valerius Saturninus)
Pottery spot-date: Flavian

F36
Fabrics recorded: AJ, GB, WA
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

Area B: Roman pottery

L41
finds number 71
sherds: 34, weight 1,399 g, EVE 0.05
Fabrics recorded: AA, AJ, BA(CG), BA(EG), ?DJ, GA, GB, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Gauloise 4, Dr 31, Dr 33, Cam 37A, Cam 39, Cam 307, Cam 498, Cam 501,
Pottery spot-date: late 2nd-3rd/4th century

finds number 72
sherds: 20, weight 2,335 g, EVE 0.70
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(CG), DJ, GA, GB, GX, HZ, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 38, Cam 37, Cam 305A, Cam 497 variant, Cam 501
Pottery spot-date: mid 3rd-4th century

finds number 80
sherds: 10, weight 861 g, EVE 0.25
Fabrics recorded: AJ, DJ, GA, GB, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam 37A, Cam 303, very large mortarium (Fabric TZ)
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd-early 3rd century

L43
finds number 77
sherds: 10, weight 169 g, EVE 0.10
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(CG), GB, GX, TZ (with herringbone stamp)
Forms recorded: Dr 33, Cam 37A, Cam 40B, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: mid-late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

finds number 79
sherds: 6, weight 1,956 g, EVE 0.45
Fabrics recorded: AA, GX, HZ, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam 192
Pottery spot-date: 1st-early 2nd century

finds number 82
sherds: 7, weight 335 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: BA(CG), DJ, GB, GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Dr ?38, Cam 37, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

L46
finds number 152
sherds: 1, weight 97 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman

L47
finds number 154
sherds: 31, weight 730 g, EVE 0.50
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BX(SG), BA(EG), CB, CZ, DJ, GA, GB, GX, WA
Forms recorded: Cam 37, Cam 37B, Cam 278, Cam 391
Pottery spot-date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

finds number 156
sherds: 32, weight 795 g, EVE 0.75
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(CG), BA(EG), CB, CZ, DJ, EZ(LR), GB, GX, HD
Forms recorded: Dr 18/31, Dr 31, Cam 155, Cam 37B, Cam 278, Cam 391, Cam 396, Cam 405/406
Pottery spot-date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd/4th century, possibly late 4th century

finds number 157
sherds: 45, weight 769 g, EVE 1.30
Fabrics recorded: BA(CG), CB, CZ, DJ, GB, GX, KX, MQ, TZ, UR(LTC)
Forms recorded: Cam 28, Cam 37B, Cam 40B, Cam 268, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

finds number 149
sherds: 1, weight 74 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: BX(CO)
Forms recorded: Dr 37 (Potter A ovolo, Hull 1963, fig 39 & 40, figure types numbers 21, 22 & ?29 also 85 & 68)
Pottery spot-date: mid-late 2nd century

L48
finds number 161
sherds: 18, weight 957 g, EVE 1.20
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(CG), BA(EG), DJ, GB, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 18/31, Dr 31, Cam 37A, Cam 268, Cam 389, Cam 497
Pottery spot-date: mid-late 2nd century to ?3rd century

finds number 163
sherds: 9, weight 257 g, EVE 0.25
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(CG), DJ, GB, GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Dr 33, Cam 242-244/246, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

L49
finds number 162
sherds: 1, weight 254 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: HZ
Pottery spot-date: 1st-2nd/3rd century

F37/L42
Context: pit F37 (excavated in Area A)
Fabrics recorded: CZ, DJ, GX, HZ, KX, WA
Pottery forms recorded: Cam 273, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: mid 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

L42 (excavated in Area B)
finds number 73
sherds: 5, weight 297 g, EVE 0.25

Fabrics recorded: CZ, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Cam ?268, Cam 396
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd/early 4th century

finds number 92
sherds: 323, weight 3,467 g, EVE 4.55
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(CG), BA(EG), BX(EG), CB, CH, CS, CZ -?EA (sherd with white barbotine animal figure), DJ, EA, GB, HZ, MQ, ON, ?TZ, UX, WA
Forms recorded: Dressel 2-4, Dr 31, Dr 37, Dr 38, Cam 37, Cam 40B, Cam 155, Cam 268, Cam 278, Cam 391A, Cam 391B, Cam 392, and *CAR* **10**, Fabric CZ, Type 60, no 194
Pottery spot-date: predominantly late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, 1 possibly 2 sherds dated mid-late 3rd or 4th century

finds number 96
sherds: 8, weight 154 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: AA, AJ, DJ, GX
Pottery spot-date: 1st-2nd/3rd century

finds number 99
sherds: 3, weight 802 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: AA, AJ
Forms recorded: ?Gauloise amphora
Pottery spot-date: 1st-early 3rd century

finds number 105
sherds: 1, weight 4 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: CZ
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

Area A: Building 212 – ?bath-house: Roman pottery

L4
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ, EA, EC, GA, GB, GX, KX, TE, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam 37A, Cam 37B, Cam 154/155, Cam 278, Cam 279C, Cam 305, Cam 500
Pottery spot-date: mid-late 3rd-4th century

L5
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-2nd century

F5
Fabrics recorded: AA, DJ, DZ, EA, GA, GB, GX, KX, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam ?189, Cam 278, Cam 279C, Cam 498
Pottery spot-date: mid 3rd-4th century

F12
Fabrics recorded: BA, DJ, GX
Forms recorded: Dr 27
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-earlier 2nd century

F14
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman

F18
Fabrics recorded: DJ, DZ, GX, HZ
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century

F21
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(SG), DJ, GP, GX, MQ
Forms recorded: Cam 123, Cam 154/155, Cam ?266
Pottery spot-date: mid?-late 1st to 2nd/early 3rd century

F22
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

Area B: Building 211 – town house: stratified Roman pottery

L15 – occupation deposit
finds number 20
sherds: 1, weight 12 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: BA(EG)
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid 3rd century

finds number 21
sherds: 2, weight 23 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), GX
Forms recorded: rusticated jar (*CAR* **10**, Fabric GX, nos 536-537)
Pottery spot-date: ?3rd century

L26 – occupation deposit
finds number 85
sherds: 10, weight 363 g, EVE 0.10
Fabrics recorded: GA, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 40B, Cam 268, Cam 278
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd/early 4th century

finds number 148 – occupation deposit
sherds: 5, weight 39 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: CZ/EA, ?FJ, GX
Pottery spot-date: 2nd-4th century, possibly mid 3rd-4th century

L33 – make-up for floor
finds number 94
sherds: 7, weight 84 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

L37 – make-up for floor
finds number 64
sherds: 2, weight 7 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-2nd century

L39 – Roman demolition
finds number 85
sherds: 25, weight 586 g, EVE 0.45
Fabrics recorded: BA(EG), DJ, GB, GX, KX, HG
Forms recorded: Dr 27, Cam ?37B, Cam ?268, and *CAR* **10**, Fabric HG, Gose form 545
Pottery spot-date: late 4th-early 5th century

L45 – make-up for floor
finds number 117
sherds: 2, weight 26 g, EVE 0
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery spot-date: Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

F39 – mortar above tessellated pavement
finds number 45
sherds: 1, weight 4 g, EVE 0.05
Fabrics recorded: DZ
Pottery spot-date: Roman

F44 – wall of building (F64)
finds number 57
sherds: 4, weight 26 g, EVE 0.05
Fabrics recorded: GB, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 37
Pottery spot-date: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

Area C: Roman pottery from rampart

Post-Roman dump (F15)

L4 – dump on rampart

finds number 3
medieval:
sherds: 1, weight 8 g
Fabrics recorded: medieval sherd, Fabric 21 (*CAR* **7**)
Pottery spot-date: 15th-16th century
Roman:
sherds: 6, weight 121 g
Fabrics recorded: GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam 498, and *CAR* **10**, Fabric TZ, Type 159 (Cam 497 variant)
Pottery spot-date: mid 2nd-mid 3rd century

finds number 31
sherds: 3, weight 24 g
Fabrics recorded: Fabric AA sherd (buff fabric with gold mica, probably Gaulish amphora), GX
Pottery spot-date: 1st-early 3rd century

L4-L24 (pottery stratified between layers L4 and L24)
finds number 73
post-medieval/modern
sherds: 1, weight 6 g
Fabrics recorded: ?modern flowerpot fabric
Pottery spot-date: modern
Roman:
sherds 47, weight 1,007 g
Fabrics recorded: AA(E) - Campanian Black sand Fabric CAM AM 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998), BA(SG), BA(CG), BX(SG), DJ, FJ, GA, GB, GX, GX(RCW), HZ, ON, TZ
Forms recorded: Dressel 2-4, Curle 11, Dr 18, Dr 27, Dr 37, Dr 33, Cam 37A, Cam 243-244/246, Cam ?266, Cam 279, Cam 496
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd century

L4-L7 (pottery stratified between layers L4 and L7)
finds number 39
sherds 43, weight 649 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BA(CG), DJ, GA, GB, GX, HZ, MQ, TZ, WB
Forms recorded: Dr 33, Cam 37A, Cam 108?, Cam 268?, Cam 278?, Cam 279A/B, Cam 498, sherd from a large mortarium (Fabric TZ) possibly an import from the Rhineland of Cam 498 form group
Pottery dated: ?mid 2nd-early 3rd century

L5 – dump on rampart
finds number 12
sherds 3, weight 93 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 37A?, Cam 207/296
Pottery dated: early 2nd-early 3rd century

finds number 15
sherds 1, weight 6 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery dated: Roman

finds number 17
sherds 8, weight 79 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GA, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 37B
Pottery dated: late 2nd-mid-late 3rd century

finds number 21
sherds 38, weight 360 g
Fabrics recorded: CB, CH, DJ, ?EA, GA, GB, GP, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 37B, Cam 40A, Cam 122/123, Cam ?279C, and *CAR* **10**, Fabric CH, Type 71
Pottery dated: later 3rd-4th/4th century - most sherds late 2nd-3rd century

finds number 32
sherds 20, weight 213 g
Fabrics recorded: GB, ?GP, GX

Forms recorded: Cam 37B
Pottery dated: late 2nd-mid-late 3rd century

L7 – dump on rampart
finds number 22
sherds 15, weight 267 g
Fabrics recorded: AJ, DJ, GA, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 39, Cam 243-244/246
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd/3rd century

finds number 35
sherds 8, weight 115 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(SG), DJ, GB, GX, ?KX
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Cam 243-244/246
Pottery dated: early 2nd/3rd century

Possible second phase of rampart (F7)
L6
finds number 16
sherds 3, weight 93 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GB, GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Cam 37/?Cam 37B
Pottery dated: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, ?3rd century.

finds number 24
sherds 13, weight 124 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), CZ, DJ, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Dr 18
Pottery dated: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century.

finds number 25
sherds 5, weight 85 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(CG), GX
Forms recorded: Dr 31
Pottery dated: later 2nd century

finds number 28
sherds 34, weight 235 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GA, GB, GP, GX, MQ
Forms recorded: Cam 46/311, Cam 243-244/246 (2 pots), Cam 278, Cam 279A/B
Pottery dated: early 2nd to mid 3rd century

finds number 29
sherds 48, weight 466 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(?CG), DJ, GB, GX, MQ
Forms recorded: ?Gauloise 4, Dr 33, Dr 38, Cam 37A, Cam 37B
Pottery dated: 2nd/3rd century, probably late 2nd-mid 3rd century

finds number 30
sherds 38, weight 440 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(SG), BA(CG), DJ, GB, GX, MQ
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 18/31, Dr 27, Dr 33, Dr 35/36, Cam 37A, Cam 39, Cam 266, Cam 270B
Pottery dated: 2nd century, probably early-mid 2nd century

finds number 33
sherds 10, weight 96 g
Fabrics recorded: GX, KX
Pottery dated: early 2nd to mid-late 3rd/4th century

finds number 37
sherds 44, weight 519 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BX(SG), BA(CG), DJ, GB, GX, HZ, WA
Forms recorded: ?Gaulish amphora, Dr 29, Dr 38, Cam 37A, Cam 278
Pottery dated: mid-late 2nd/early 3rd century.

finds number 38
sherds 23, weight 253 g

Fabrics recorded: BA(?EG), DJ, GB, GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Dr 38, Cam 37A, Cam 270B
Pottery dated: early/mid 2nd-early/mid 3rd century.

L8
finds number 36
sherds 14, weight 401 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 27, Cam 37A
Pottery dated: early-mid/late 2nd century

finds number 40
sherds 55, weight 783 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ, GP, GX, HZ, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 18 (2 pots), Dr 27, Dr 27g, Dr 29 (with graffiti - capital letter **R** on underside of base), Cam 108 (2 pots), Cam ?192B, Cam 243-244/246, Cam ?258, Cam 270B
Pottery dated: 1st-early 2nd century

finds number 43
sherds 8, weight 56 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ, GX
Forms recorded: Dr ?18, Cam 154/155 or 155
Pottery dated: 1st to mid 2nd century, probably 1st century

finds number 45, unstratified from layer L8
sherds 6, weight 63 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

finds number 48
sherds 23, weight 359 g
Fabrics recorded: BX(SG), BA(CG), DJ, DJ(?A), ON, GX
Forms recorded: Dr 27, Dr 29, Cam ?218
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd century

Possible second phase of rampart/rampart

L8 and L9-L14
finds number 47
sherds 14, weight 135 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, DJ(?A), GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Cam 150, Cam 243-244/246 (2 pots)
Pottery dated: 1st-early 2nd century

L8-L24 - pottery stratified between layers L8 and L24
finds number 44
sherds 17, weight 472 g
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ, GA, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 30
Pottery dated: early 2nd-2nd/3rd century

Rampart

L9
finds number 53
sherds 2, weight 7 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), GX
Forms recorded: Cam ?270
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st century AD

L10
finds number 58
sherds 47, weight 480 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ, GB, GX, HD (early shell-tempered ware), HZ, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 27, Cam ?37A, Cam 195 (gritting over rim)
Pottery dated: early 2nd/2nd-3rd century

finds number 59
sherds 8, weight 290 g

Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BA(CG), DJ, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 27 (wall on cup rather flattened and probably a late example), Cam 266, Cam 243-244/246 (2 pots), Cam 496
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd century

L11
finds number 55
sherds 10, weight 107 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ(?A), EC, GX, HZ
Forms recorded: Dr 29
Pottery dated: 1st century AD, ?pre-Flavian

L12
finds number 51
sherds 5, weight 55 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ
Forms recorded: Cam 154/155 or 155
Pottery dated: 1st/1st to early-mid 2nd century

finds number 52
sherds 2, weight 12 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery dated: Roman

L13
finds number 46
sherds 10, weight 61 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX, WA (possibly part of vessel in L14, finds no 54)
Forms recorded: Cam ?108
Pottery dated: 1st-early 2nd century?

finds number 50
sherds 26, weight 281 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BX(SG), BX(CG), DJ, DJ(?A), GA, GX
Forms recorded: Cam 189, Dr 33, Dr 37, Cam 266, Cam 303
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd century

L14
finds number 54
sherds 15, weight 96 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ, GX, WA
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 37, Cam ?108 (Fabric WA, Cam 108, with barbotine dots; *CAR* **10**, Fabric WA, Type 40-45), Cam ?266
Pottery dated: late 1st-early 2nd century

L15
finds number 61
sherds 16, weight 198 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, AJ, BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ, GB, GX
Forms recorded: Dr 18, Dr 37, Cam 37A, Cam 266
Pottery dated: early/early-mid 2nd century

L16A
finds number 62
sherds 98, weight 819 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(SG), BX(SG), DJ, GA, GX, EZ, BX
Forms recorded: Dr 27, Dr 36, Dr 37, Cam 108, Cam 155, Cam ?218, Cam 243-244/246, Cam ?266, Cam ?268
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd century, 2nd/3rd century

L17
finds number 63
sherds 2, weight 18 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery dated: Roman

finds number 67
sherds 1, weight 5 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ

Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century/3rd century
finds number 67
sherds 13, weight 115 g
Fabrics recorded: AA, BA(SG), GX
Forms recorded: Dr 27, Cam 243-244/246
Pottery dated: 1st-early 2nd century

L18
finds number 64
sherds 2, weight 31 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery dated: Roman

L18 – rampart layers L18-L20
finds number 66
sherds 7, weight 18 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century

L18
finds number 69
sherds 4, weight 21 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st-2nd/3rd century

L19
finds number 65
sherds 98, weight 819 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX, HZ, TZ
Forms recorded: Cam ?266
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century, ?1st-early 2nd century

L20-L21
finds number 68
sherds 3, weight 9 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), GX
Forms recorded: Dr 18
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st century AD

L22
finds number 70
sherds 13, weight 269 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ (one sherd burnt), GQ, GX, TZ
Pottery dated: ?late 1st-early 2nd century

finds number 71
sherds 2, weight 296 g
Fabrics recorded: AJ, BA(SG)
Pottery dated: ?1st century AD

finds number 74
sherds 15, weight 329 g
Fabrics recorded: AJ (burnt), BA(SG), BA(CG or ?EG), BX(SG), DJ, GX, UR(LTC)
Forms recorded: Dr 18 (burnt), Dr 33 (joins with rim sherd from finds no 78), Dr 29 or Dr 37, Cam 271
Pottery dated: early 2nd century

finds number 78
sherds 11, weight 243 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BA(CG), BA(?EG), DJ (?A), GA, GX, UR(LTC)
Forms recorded: Dr 33, Cam ?175, or 177, Cam 243-244/246, Cam 266, Cam 279A/B
Pottery dated: mid 2nd century

rampart L22, clay layer under road L25, road L29
finds number 76
sherds 8, weight 128 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX

Forms recorded: Cam 266
Pottery dated: Roman, ?1st-early 2nd century

L22-L24
finds number 72
sherds 17, weight 226 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), BA(CG), DJ, GX, TZ
Forms recorded: Dr 27, Dr 33, Cam ?268
Pottery dated: early-mid 2nd/2nd century

L23
finds number 71
sherds 1, weight 130 g
Fabrics recorded: Fabric 21A (*CAR* **7**), intrusive medieval sherd from a bung hole surround on a cistern
Pottery dated: 15th-16th century, intrusive

Clay layers F13 under road F12
L25
finds number 84
sherds 3, weight 42 g
Fabrics recorded: GX, HZ
Pottery dated: Roman, 1st-2nd/3rd century

finds number 87
sherds 12, weight 98 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX, ON
Forms recorded: Cam 17 (sherd joins with L28 finds no 79)
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century, ?late 1st-early 2nd century
The form Cam 17 sherd, in mica-dusted ware (Fabric ON) is not known in London prior to the late Neronian/Flavian period (Davies *et al* 1994, 139) although there is a single example recorded from Colchester dated up to AD 60/1 (*CAR* **10**, Fabric ON, Type 42.75)

L26 – clay layers F13 over foundation trench F14
finds number 77
sherds 4, weight 158 g
Fabrics recorded: AJ, DJ
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd/3rd century

L27
finds number 90
sherds 1, weight 88 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ
Forms recorded: large flagon
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century

L28
finds number 79
sherds 5, weight 92 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX, ON
Forms recorded: Cam 17 (joins with L25, finds no 87)
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century, ?late 1st-early 2nd century

finds number 82
sherds 1, weight 70 g
Fabrics recorded: TZ
Forms recorded: Cam 195? (much of flange missing, bead level with flange)
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century, ?late 1st-earlier 2nd century

L31
finds number 85
sherds 3, weight 43 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Forms recorded: Fabric DJ sherds from double-handled flagon
Pottery dated: 1st century, ?pre-Flavian

finds number 89
sherds 6, weight 69 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ (some sherds possibly from same flagon as L31, finds no 85), GX
Pottery dated: Roman, 1st-2nd century

L32
finds number 86
sherds 6, weight 69 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery dated: Roman 1st-2nd century/3rd century

L33-L34
finds number 88
sherds 1, weight 102 g
Fabrics recorded: GX
Forms recorded: ?large storage jar
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd/3rd century

L34
finds number 93
sherds 3, weight 38 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, HZ
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century/3rd century

finds number 102
sherds 2, weight 5 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century/3rd century

L36
finds number 95
sherds 1, weight 14 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ
Pottery dated: 1st-2nd century/3rd century

L37
finds number 97
sherds 5, weight 21 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ, GX(RCVW)
Forms recorded: Dr 27
Pottery dated: 1st century AD

L39
finds number 100
sherds 10, weight 86 g
Fabrics recorded: BA(SG), DJ
Forms recorded: Dr 27 (with name stamp - illegible)
Pottery dated: 1st century AD

L40
finds number 101
sherds 6, weight 90 g
Fabrics recorded: DJ, GX(RCW), UR(LTC)
Forms recorded: Cam 16/30
Pottery dated: 1st century AD, ?pre-Flavian

Appendix 2: catalogue of Roman tiles

Note: all dimensions are in mm.

Note: each area (Area A, B, C) has its own series of context numbers. The catalogue of Roman tiles is arranged by *insula* and Building or street.

Insula 1a

(8) F8: two *tegulae*, ?from the same tile (both thickness 24); six combed box tiles; one scored box tile
(9) F9: one combed box tile; one *tegula* (thickness 14)
(16) F8: one combed box tile (burnt after breakage)

Insula 1a

Building 211: town house (Area B)

(11) L12: three *tegulae* (thickness 15, thickness 19-22, thickness 21; Fig 20.2, Plate 8, below; MoLAS fabric 2454) with patches of red-brown ?colour-wash
(14) L13: one *tegula* (thickness 16-19)
(15) F4: one brick (thickness 36-42)
(17) U/S: one *imbrex* (Plate 8, above); MoLAS fabric 2454) with patches of red-brown ?colour-wash; one combed box tile
(19) F11: one scored box tile (interior surface burned); one *tegula* (thickness 22-24)
(29) F22: one combed box tile, thickness 15-16; two combed ?box tiles (thickness 17-22, thickness 20-23); two *tegulae* (thickness 22, thickness 22-23)
(33) U/S: two combed tiles (no join but possibly from the same tile)
(35) U/S: one combed box tile (Fig 21.9)
(37) U/S: one combed box tile; two *tegulae* (thickness 14-20, thickness 20-28)
(39) F29: one *tegula* (thickness uncertain)
(40) U/S: one *tegula* (thickness 20)
(41) U/S: one *tegula* (thickness 22-29)
(42) U/S: two combed box tiles; one *tegula* (thickness 22-26)
(43) F37: two *tegulae* (thickness 20-21, thickness 21-28)
(48) U/S: two *tegulae* (thickness uncertain, thickness 23-24)
(50) F42: one combed box tile; one *tegula* (thickness 19-21)
(52) U/S: one *tegula* (thickness 18-20)
(53) F44: one combed box tile
(60) U/S: four *tegulae* (thickness 14-17, thickness 16-19, thickness 20-22, thickness 21-25
(61) U/S: one *tegula* (thickness uncertain)
(62) U/S: one *imbrex* (MoLAS fabric 2454); two *tegulae* (thickness 17-19, thickness 19-21)
(63) U/S: one combed box tile; three *tegulae* (thickness 19, thickness 19-20, thickness 20)
(64) L41: one *tegula* (thickness 21-22)
(68) U/S: one *tegula* (thickness 20-23)
(74) F60: one *tegula* (thickness uncertain)
(83) U/S: one combed box tile
(127) U/S: two scored box tiles; two scored voussoirs (Fig 20.3 and 20.4)
(128) U/S: two joining fragments of face of combed voussoir (Fig 20.5); one combed fragment (Fig 21.6), probably from the same voussoir
(129) U/S: one combed voussoir (Fig 21.7); one scored box tile with hood (Fig 21.8)
(130) U/S: unkeyed surface of ?vousssoir with part of oval cutaway
(140) F115: one combed box tile
(155) U/S: one scored box tile
(163) L48: one combed box tile

Building 212: ?bath-house (Area A)

(5) L2: one *tegula* (thickness 19-22)
(7) F5: six combed box tiles; one combed box tile with burning on interior surface; three *tegulae* (thickness 17, thickness 23, thickness 23-26); three peg-tiles
(8) L4: one *imbrex*; 21 combed box tiles (Fig 22.5 and 22.6), one with smoke-staining on interior surface; one thin-walled box tile with scored keying (Fig 22.4); five scored box tiles, one with heavy burning on interior surface; one unkeyed surface with part of an oval/circular cutaway (= voussoir?); one combed voussoir; three *tegulae* (thickness 18, thickness 21-23, thickness 25-27)
(12) F14: one *tegula* (MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 21-24)
(13) F5: three combed box tiles; two *tegulae* (thickness 17-19, thickness 21-22)
(18) L4: two combed box tiles
(20) L4: three combed box tiles; five scored box tiles (Fig 22.7); one unkeyed side of box tile
(21) F12: four combed box tiles; two scored box tiles (one with *opus signinum*); one scored voussoir; one *tegula* (thickness 17-19)

(22) F5: three combed box tiles; one scored thin-walled box tile (Fig 22.1); one *tegula* (thickness 21-22)
(28) L4: one combed voussoir (Fig 20.1)
(47) U/S: one combed box tile

Street dividing Insulas 1a and 1b

(149) U/S: one combed box tile

Insula 1b

(30) F24: one *imbrex* (MoLAS fabric 2454)
(33) L4: one tegula (MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 22-25)
(41) L2: one *tegula* (MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 21)
(51) L2: two *tegulae* (thickness 16-20, thickness 19-21)
(54) L2: two *tegulae* (both MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 27 (Fig 21.10) and thickness 24-25)
(82) L43: *imbrex* (MoLAS fabric 2454)
(96) L42: one combed box tile
(99) L42: two *tegulae* (thickness 20, thickness 20-21)
(154) L47: two combed box tiles
(157) L47: one *tegula* (thickness 20-23)
(164) U/S: two *tegulae* (thickness 17-18, thickness 20-24)

The shaft (Area C)

(1) U/S: one brick (thickness approx 40); one combed box tile (with *opus signinum*)
(7) L4: eight combed box tiles (one with *opus signinum*); two box tiles (one scored, one combed and both with cutaways: Fig 22.2 and 22.3), possibly from the same tile; one *tegula* (thickness 17)
(8) L5: one combed box tile; three *tegulae* (thickness 19-21, thickness 20-22, thickness 20-24)
(10) L5: one *imbrex* (MoLAS fabric 2454)
(17) L5: one combed box tile
(19) L5: fourteen combed box tiles (one with *opus signinum*); two scored box tiles; one combed ?voussoir with possible oval/circular cutaway in unkeyed face
(20) L5: two combed box tiles (one with *opus signinum*); eight *tegulae* (thickness 16, thickness 18, thickness 16-21, thickness 17-29, thickness 19-20, thickness 21-23, thickness 23, thickness 24)
(22) L7: one *tegula* (thickness 25)
(26) L5: one combed box tile
(27) L5: one *tegula* (thickness 23)
(28) L6: one box tile (keying obscured by *opus signinum*)
(29) L6: one combed box tile; two *tegulae* (thickness 14-17, thickness 22 (burned))
(30) L6: one *tegula* (thickness 19)
(31) L4: one *tegula* (thickness uncertain)
(36) L8: one *tegula* (thickness 28)
(39) U/S: one combed box tile; four *tegulae* (thickness 18-20, thickness 20, thickness 20, thickness 20-21)
(41) L8: one *tegula* (thickness 14-20)
(44) U/S: two combed box tiles (one with *opus signinum*)
(62) L16a: six fragments of *imbrex* (MoLAS fabric 2454); one *tegula* (thickness 20-21)
(67) L17: one *tegula* (thickness 18-25)
(70) L23: one *tegula* (MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 25-26)
(73) U/S: one combed box tile; one ?voussoir with part of oval/circular cutaway in unkeyed face; one *tegula* (thickness 23)
(74) L22: one combed ?voussoir with part of oval cutaway in unkeyed face; one *tegula* (MoLAS fabric 2454; thickness 30-31)
(75) L22, L25, L29: two *tegulae* (thickness 17, thickness 31; MoLAS fabric 2454)
(78) L22: one combed box tile

Appendix 3: bulk finds list (Area A)

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
F3	1	CBM – Roman brick	2	248
F3	1	Oyster shell	1	15
F4	12	CBM – Roman *tegula*	1	308
F5	7	Roman pottery	2	52
F5	7	Post-Roman pottery	9	481
F5	7	CBM – Roman tile, *imbrex*	5	2,534
F5	7	Roman flue tile	9	2,300
F5	7	Animal bone	10	1,304
F5	13	Roman pottery	4	194
F5	13	Post-Roman pottery	1	39
F5	13	Shell	1	1
F5	13	CBM – Roman tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	5	5,309
F5	13	Roman flue tile	3	315
F5	13	Animal bone	10	204
F5	17	Post-Roman pottery	3	175
F5	22	Roman pottery	21	495
F5	22	Oyster shell	1	23
F5	22	Iron nails	5	106
F5	22	CBM – Roman brick, *imbrex*	3	692
F5	22	Roman flue tile	4	520
F5	22	*Tessera* (red) *Tesserae* (grey/black)	1 3	19 29
F5	22	Animal bone	4	66
F12	10	Roman pottery	8	72
F12	21	Iron nail	1	14
F12	21	CBM – Roman brick, tile, *imbrex*	3	1,302
F12	21	Roman flue tile	8	1,800
F14	12	Roman pottery	3	89
F14	12	*Tesserae* (red) *Tesserae* (grey/black) *Tesserae* (white)	5 12 22	107 102 66
F14	12	Animal bone	2	411
F14	12	Building stone fragment	1	1,043
F15	14	Animal bone	1	95
F15	46	*Tesserae* (black/grey) *Tesserae* (white) *Tesserae* (glass – blue and blue/green)	7 12 2	21 33 2
F18	24	Roman pottery	25	259
F18	24	Post-Roman pottery	1	65
F18	24	CBM – Roman tile, *imbrex*	2	290
F21	25	Roman pottery	44	1,093
F21	25	*Tessera* (red)	1	26
F21	25	Stone fragments (1 sandstone + 2 septaria)	2	2,400
F21	25	Vitrified daub	10	391
F21	25	Daub	9	669
F21	25	Burnt flint	6	290
F21	25	CBM – Roman brick, *imbrex*	4	1,017
F21	25	Roman flue tile	1	30
F21	25	Oyster shell	2	96
F22	29	Roman pottery	3	18
F22	29	Oyster shell	1	26
F22	29	*Tesserae* (grey/black) *Tessera* (white)	3 1	8 6
F22	29	CBM – Roman brick, tile, *imbrex*	11	3,049
F22	29	Animal bone	3	3
F22	29	Box flue tile	9	1,400
F24	30	Roman pottery	5	2,640
F24	30	CBM – Roman *imbrex*	1	450
F36	38	Roman pottery	10	803
F36	38	Animal bone	1	9

F35	35	Fragment of clay oven furniture	1	308
F37	43	Roman pottery	19	469
F37	43	Post-Roman pottery	1	35
F37	43	CBM – Roman tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	4	672
F37	43	Roman flue tile	1	177
F37	43	*Tesserae* (red) *Tesserae* (grey/black) *Tesserae* (white)	35 5 6	811 19 18
L1	44	Post-Roman glass bottles	6	2,330
L2	5	Roman pottery	17	724
L2	5	Post-Roman pottery	3	80
L2	41	Roman pottery	31	1,694
L2	41	CBM – Roman *imbrex*	1	217
L2	41	Roman flue tile	1	190
L2	42	Roman pottery	6	133
L2	51	CBM – Roman tile, brick	3	1,896
L2	54	CBM – Roman *tegula*	2	1,400
L4	8	Roman pottery	11	830
L4	8	Post-Roman pottery	15	966
L4	8	CBM – Roman brick, tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	12	7,377
L4	8	Roman flue tile	33	6,600
L4	8	*Tesserae* (red)	11	236
L4	8	Animal bone	8	777
L4	8	Iron nail	1	39
L4	9	Roman flue tile	1	47
L4	15	Mosaic fragment (14 grey/black cubes, 14 white cubes, 1 brown stone used as a cube)	1	384
L4	15	*Tesserae* (grey/black) *Tesserae* (white)	16 11	56 30
L4	18	Roman pottery	5	32
L4	18	CBM – Roman tile	1	339
L4	18	Roman flue tile	5	495
L4	18	*Tessera* (black) *Tesserae* (white)	1 5	3 15
L4	18	Animal bone	1	154
L4	20	Iron nail	1	19
L4	20	Oyster shell Whelk shell Snail shell	1 1 2	35 9 4
L4	20	Roman pottery	17	271
L4	20	CBM – Roman brick, tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	9	4,995
L4	20	Box flue tile	5	807
L4	20	Animal bone	1	15
L4	20	Post-Roman glass fragment	1	4.8
L4	28	Roman pottery	4	63
L4	28	Roman flue tile	1	422
L4	28	*Tessera* (grey/black) *Tesserae* (white)	1 3	4 11
L4	33	Roman pottery	6	234
L4	33	Roman glass fragments	3	18
L4	33	CBM – Roman tile	1	439
L4	33	*Tesserae* (red)	5	119
L5	26	Roman pottery	1	139
L5	26	*Tesserae* (red) *Tesserae* (grey/black) *Tessera* (white)	16 2 1	338 22 46
L6	23	Roman pottery	23	508
L6	23	CBM – Roman brick	2	255
L6	23	Daub	1	46
L6	23	Animal bone	1	28
L8	35	Roman pottery	69	3,221
L8	35	Post-Roman pottery	1	27
L8	35	*Tessera* (red)	1	13
L8	35	Iron nail	1	73

L8	35	CBM – Roman *imbrex*	1	486
L8	35	Roman flue tile	1	355
U/S	2	Roman pottery	5	625
U/S	2	Post-Roman pottery	3	285
U/S	16	Human bone (skull fragments)	-	-
U/S	31	Roman pottery	2	428
U/S	31	CBM – Roman tile	1	1,100
U/S	47	Roman flue tile	1	211
U/S	48	Post-Roman glass bottle	1	459
U/S	53	Post-Roman glass bottle	1	155

Appendix 4: bulk finds list (Area B)

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
F1	2	CBM – tile, brick	4	3,011
	2	Animal bone	1	8
	2	*Tessera* (red)	1	22
F3	1	CBM – tile	2	246
F4	15	CBM – brick	1	4,000
F5	5	CBM – tile, *imbrex*	4	280
	5	Modern bottle glass	1	37
	5	Slag	1	454
	5	Oyster shell	1	126
	7	CBM – *tegula*, brick, flue tile	35	5,171
	7	CBM – peg-tile	1	45
	7	Animal bone	1	8
	13	CBM – tile, *imbrex*, flue tile	7	2,786
	22	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*, flue tile	7	1,607
F6	4	CBM – *imbrex*	1	165
F8	8	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*	15	4,856
	16	CBM – *imbrex*, flue tile	2	160
	16	Piece of sandstone	1	145
F9	9	Animal bone	1	4
F11	19	CBM – *tegula*, flue tile	2	4,724
F12	21	CBM – *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	11	3,281
F14	12	CBM – tile	1	311
F17	23	*Tesserae* (red)	17	399
F18	24	CBM – tile, *imbrex*	2	291
F21	25	CBM – tile, brick, *imbrex*	4	579
	27	Animal bone	3	0.5
	27	*Tesserae* (red)	5	138
F22	29	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*	21	4,349
	29	Piece of septaria	1	283
F24	30	CBM – *imbrex*	1	454
F27	34	CBM – tile	1	266
	34	*Tesserae* (red)	15	266
	34	Oyster shell	1	13
F29	39	CBM – tile, *tegula*	2	1,059
F37	43	CBM – tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	3	440
F40	67	*Tesserae* (red)	86	1,565
F41	49	CBM – *imbrex*	1	900
	49	Animal bone	3	86
	49	Modern glass	1	13
	49	Oyster shell	1	27
F42	50	CBM – tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*, flue tile	4	1,895
	50	Animal bone	1	64
	50	Oyster shell	1	1
F44	53	CBM – flue tile	1	227
	57	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*	3	177
	57	Animal bone	1	31
F45	51	CBM – brick, *imbrex*	2	402

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
	51	Animal bone	1	62
	51	*Tessera* (red)	1	29
F47	154	*Tessera* (red)	1	26
F52	55	Animal bone	1	121
	55	*Tessera* (red)	1	19
F56	58	CBM – *imbrex*	2	111
F57	43	CBM – tile	1	9
F60	74	CBM – *tegula*	1	109
	74	Oyster shell	1	39
F62	110	CBM – *imbrex*	1	135
F80	119	Animal bone	1	5
F92	123	*Tesserae* (black)	10	56
	123	*Tessera* (white)	1	3
F113	142	Animal bone	1	146
F114	143, 144	Animal bone	5	496
F115	140	CBM – flue tile	1	142
	140	*Tesserae* (black; mostly single, largest piece is 5 together)	127	374
	140	*Tesserae* (white; mostly single, largest piece is 3 together)	203	558
	140	*Tesserae* (pink)	2	5
F118	149	Animal bone	1	17
	149	?Roman glass	1	3
	149	*Tessera* (red)	1	9
L2	5	CBM – *tegula*	1	2,700
	11	CBM – tile	3	1,753
	41	CBM – tile	2	375
	51	CBM – *tegula*	3	1,893
	54	CBM – *tegula*	3	1,546
L4	8	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	33	7,684
	9	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	10	2,825
	18	CBM – flue tile	5	951
	20	CBM – brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	14	5,244
	28	CBM – flue tile	1	423
	33	CBM – tile	1	434
L6	23	CBM – tile	2	254
L7	22	CBM – tile	1	18
L8	35	CBM – *imbrex*	1	490
L13	13	Animal bone	1	6
	14	CBM – *tegula*	1	816
L15	21	Animal bone	11	3
L26	85	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick	3	624
	85	Animal bone	2	214
	85	Oyster shell	1	32
	85	Piece of flint	1	165
	85	*Tessera* (red)	1	29
	110	?Roman glass	1	3
L33	94	Animal bone	2	15
L34	65	*Tessera* (black)	1	4
L37	66	*Tessera* (black)	1	9
L39	81	CBM – brick	1	934
	81	Animal bone	3	618
	81	Oyster shell	1	50
L41	71, 72, 80	Animal bone	6	473
	71	Roman glass	2	61
	71	Oyster shell	5	165
	72	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*	2	901
	72	Roman glass	1	33
	72	*Tessera* (red)	1	15
L42	92, 96	Animal bone	37	217
	92	CBM – tile, *imbrex*	4	792
	92	Roman and ?post-Roman glass	3	12
	92	Oyster shell	82	1,747
	92	Mussel shell	3	9

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
	92	Cockle shell	2	2
	92	Whelk shell	1	2
	92	?Carpet shell	1	0.5
	92	Charcoal	7	4
	95	Oyster shell	67	2,023
	95	Mussel shell	3	14
	96	CBM – tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*, flue tile	62	2,202
	96	Oyster shell	1	20
	96	*Tessera* (red)	1	13
	99	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*	115	3,876
	113	*Tessera* (black)	1	6
	113	*Tesserae* (white)	4	13
	113	*Tessera* (blue glass)	1	1
L43	82	CBM – *imbrex*	2	566
L44	84	Oyster shell	1	16
L47	154, 156, 157	Animal bone	15	282
	154	CBM – flue tile	2	244
	154	Whelk shell	1	15
	154	Roman glass	1	11
	156	CBM – tile, flue tile	2	774
	157	CBM – *tegula*	1	777
	157	Roman glass	1	0.6
	157	*Tesserae* (red)	3	35
	157	Oyster shell	1	49
	157	Whelk shell	2	28
	157	?Carpet shell	1	17
	157	Charcoal	6	12
L48	163	CBM – flue tile	1	112
	163	Animal bone	4	230
U/S	8	CBM – *tegula*, brick, flue tile	4	3,920
U/S (T8)	17	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*, flue tile	5	1,278
	17	Animal bone	4	129
	17	Oyster shell	1	26
	17	*Tesserae* (red)	3	82
	17	*Tessera* (black)	1	4
U/S (near F24)	29	CBM – *tegula*	1	100
	29	Animal bone	1	3
U/S	31	CBM – tile	1	1,202
U/S	33	CBM – flue tile	2	536
U/S	35	CBM – flue tile	1	983
U/S (T10 extension)	37	CBM – *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	5	1,735
	37	Animal bone	1	390
	37	*Tessera* (red)	1	19
	37	Oyster shell	1	26
U/S (T10 extension)	38	CBM – tile	1	1,274
	38	Animal bone	1	60
U/S	40	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*	3	2,258
U/S (T3)	41	CBM – *tegula*, brick	3	8,352
U/S (T3)	42	CBM – *tegula*, flue tile	3	3,984
U/S	47	CBM – flue tile	1	213
U/S	48	CBM – tile, *tegula*, *imbrex*	6	1,242
	48	Animal bone	2	485
U/S	52	CBM – *tegula*	1	2,514
U/S (between F44 and F56)	56	Animal bone	3	33
	56	Roman glass	1	2
U/S	60	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*	27	5,114

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
(between F40 and F49)				
	60	Animal bone	14	205
	60	*Tesserae* (red)	9	181
	60	Oyster shell	1	35
U/S (near F52)	61	CBM – *tegula*	1	312
	61	Animal bone	1	71
U/S (near F40)	62	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*	3	1,693
	62	*Tesserae* (red)	10	236
U/S (near F43-F44)	63	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick, *imbrex*, flue tile	12	6,526
	63	Animal bone	2	68
	63	Slag	1	738
U/S	68	CBM – *tegula*, *imbrex*	2	711
	68	Animal bone	2	10
	68	Oyster shell	2	103
	68	Whelk shell	1	2
U/S (east of F59)	75	CBM – *imbrex*	1	91
	75	*Tessera* (red)	1	25
U/S	83	CBM – flue tile	1	207
U/S (near F78)	120	CBM – *imbrex*	1	168
	120	*Tesserae* (red)	7	1,520
U/S (T1)	126	Animal bone	4	95
	126	*Tesserae* (red)	2	34
U/S (T1-T3)	127	CBM – flue tile	4	2,761
U/S (T1-T3)	128	CBM – flue tile	3	1,077
	128	*Tessera* (black)	1	6
		Tesserae (white)	2 (joined)	10
U/S (T1-T3)	129	CBM – flue tile	3	2,890
U/S (T1-T3)	130	CBM – flue tile	1	257
	130	*Tesserae* (black)	6	35
		Tesserae (white)	3	10
		Tessera (red)	1	2
U/S (near F95-F99)	131	Animal bone	5	898
U/S (T1-T3)	134	Mosaic fragment (18 black cubes and 14 white cubes set into mortar and *opus signinum*)	32	367
U/S (T1-T3)	135	Animal bone	1	201
	135	*Tessera* (red)	1	27
U/S (near L34-L35)	137	*Tessera* (red)	1	21
U/S	149	CBM – flue tile	1	99
U/S (east of F118-F119)	150	Animal bone	1	86
U/S (east of F101)	155	CBM – *imbrex*, flue tile	2	277
	155	Animal bone	3	95
U/S	164	CBM – tile, *tegula*, brick	5	882
	164	Animal bone	2	30
	164	Piece of septaria	1	311
	164	Oyster shell	4	116
U/S	165	Animal bone	28	1,989

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
U/S	167	Animal bone	18	420
U/S	168	Roman and post-Roman/modern glass	5	12
	168	*Tessera* (white)	1	1
	168	*Tessera* (green/blue glass)	1	0.3
U/S	-	Animal bone	282	2,000
	-	Oyster shell	1	14
	-	Whelk shell	1	1
	-	Cockle shell	1	3

Appendix 5: bulk finds list and painted plaster (Area C)

Context	Finds number	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)
L1	4	19th-century brick	2	413
L4	3	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red)	-	80
L4	5	Iron slag	2	-
L4	6	*Tesserae* (red) Roman flue tile	25 1	569
L4	8	Roman flue tile	4	1,390
L4	31	*Tesserae* (red) Flue tile	5 3	438
L4	31	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	287
L4	31	Mortar	10	100
L4	31	Oyster shell	1	3
L4	105	Post-medieval brick and tile	3	1213
L4	105	Roman brick Roman *tegula* Roman *imbrex*	125 93 15	65,005
L4	105	Septaria Greensand stone Flagstone Pebble	66 7 21 1	57,037
L4	105	*Opus signinum* Mortar	3 1	3,429 211
L4	106	Roman brick Roman *tegula* Roman *imbrex*	9 13 8	10,385
L4	106	Septaria	3	2,391
L5	9	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red on *opus signinum*, white, white with black line, white with yellow-green and red lines, white with dark and light green lines, violet, pink, forest green-white, yellowish)	-	1,902
L5	9	*Opus signinum*	1	50
L5	10	Painted wall-plaster (white, white with thin black lines, mustard yellow, yellow with curved red line, mustard yellow with white stripes, brownish red, pink, Pompeian red, light brown, red, brown)	-	4,325
L5	10	Oyster shell	-	73
L5	10	*Tesserae* (red)	63	2,628
L5	11	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red)	-	58
L5	12	*Tesserae* (red)	20	287
L5	12	Animal bone	3	194
L5	13	Roman *tegula*	22	6,013
L5	13	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	30
L5	13	*Opus signinum* Mortar	1 2	233 2,000
L5	14	Painted wall-plaster (white-brownish red)	-	1,000

L5	14	Mortar	1	5,000
L5	15	*Tessera* (red)	1	27
L5	15	Painted wall-plaster (white, white with black strip, white-brownish red with black strip on *opus signinum*, brownish red, brownish red-white, (brownish red on plaster on *opus signinum*), dark brown/dark grey (marble imitation) and red with white strip, pyridium orange (yellow), red, Pompeian red, brown on *opus signinum*, dark slate grey, forest green, colourful (yellow, white sea green, pale green)	-	4,549
L5	15	*Opus signinum* Mortar	3 1	904 55
L5	17	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	6 20	584
L5	17	Painted wall-plaster (forest green, yellow-white, white-brownish red)	-	546
L5	17	Septaria	1	30
L5	17	Animal bone	1	3
L5	18	Mortar	2	9,200
L5	19	Roman flue tile	21	2,651
L5	19	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	30
L5	20	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	18 1	5,734
L5	20	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red with pink dots)	-	11
L5	21	Roman *tegula*	16	1,230
L5	21	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red with dots, white-yellow, brownish red-white, pinkish with red drops like pattern (marble imitation))	-	235
L5	21	*Opus signinum*	1	135
L5	21	Animal bone	4	72
L5	21	Roman glass	1	-
L5	21	Oyster shell	-	4,029
L5	23	Painted wall-plaster (yellow, white, brownish red-white, white with brownish red dots and violet with blue dots, red, brownish red)	-	664
L5	23	*Opus signinum*	1	43
L5	25	*Opus signinum*	1	74
L5	25	Roman glass	1	-
L5	25	Animal bone	1	4
L5	25	Oyster shell	-	56
L5	25	Roman *tegula*	2	178
L5	26	Roman *tegula*	1	78
L5	27	Roman *tegula*	1	135
L5	32	Roman *tegula* Daub	6 1	277
L5	32	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red, white)	-	169
L5	32	Animal bone	4	48
L5	32	Oyster shell	-	134
L5	107	Roman brick Roman *tegula* Roman *imbrex*	115 144 74	103,099
L5	107	Greensand stone Flagstone Septaria Pebbles	2 7 194 9	141,520
L5	107	*Opus signinum* Mortar	1 3	1,033
L6	16	Roman *tegula*	4	449
L6	16	Animal bone	1	19
L6	16	Oyster shell	-	93
L6	24	Roman *tegula* Daub	2 2	119

L6	24	Painted wall-plaster	-	30
L6	24	Limestone with *opus signinum*	1	25
L6	24	Animal bone	6	88
L6	24	Oyster shell	-	32
L6	25	Roman *tegula*	2	178
L6	25	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red)	-	52
L6	25	*Opus signinum*	1	74
L6	25	Animal bone	1	4
L6	25	Oyster shell	-	56
L6	28	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	10 2	2,261
L6	28	Painted wall-plaster (green porphyry, white)	-	56
L6	28	Roman glass	1	-
L6	28	Animal bone	5	123
L6	28	Oyster shell	-	36
L6	29	Roman brick/*tegula*	7	1,855
L6	29	Animal bone	15	312
L6	29	Oyster shell	-	740
L6	30	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	16 8	178
L6	30	Painted wall-plaster (white, brownish red)	-	69
L6	30	Animal bone	6	205
L6	30	Oyster shell	-	777
L6	33	Animal bone	2	30
L6	33	Oyster shell	-	25
L6	33	Burnt wood	2	-
L6	37	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	15 2	5,457
L6	37	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, light blue with yellowish dots)	-	48
L6	37	Septaria	2	615
L6	37	Animal bone	3	68
L6	37	Oyster shell	-	560
L6	38	Roman *tegula*	2	190
L6	38	Septaria	1	153
L6	38	Animal bone	1	23
L6	38	Oyster shell	-	98
L6	108	Roman brick	29	8,390
L6	108	Roman *tegula* Roman *imbrex*	49 32	10,755
L6	108	Septaria Flagstone Greensand stone	72 4 1	39,500
L6	108	*Opus signinum* Mortar	2 2	634 208
L7	22	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	14 3	1,760
L7	22	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	57
L7	22	Septaria	1	26
L7	22	Oyster shell	-	140
L7	35	Roman *tegula*	2	178
L7	35	Animal bone	2	13
L7	35	Oyster shell	-	50
L8	36	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	4 2	551
L8	36	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red with yellow line)	-	54
L8	36	Septaria	1	90
L8	36	Animal bone	2	41
L8	40	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red) Daub	1 1 1	37
L8	40	Painted wall-plaster	-	30
L8	40	Septaria	1	12

L8	40	Animal bone	13	122
L8	40	Oyster shell	-	572
L8	41	Roman brick/*tegula*	2	1,005
L8	44	Painted wall-plaster (white-black, forest green, Pompeian red, brownish red)	-	228
L8	44	*Opus signinum*	1	22
L8	44	Animal bone	4	174
L8	45	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	4 2	1,651
L8	45	Painted wall-plaster (white, Pompeian red)	-	146
L8	45	Animal bone	1	16
L8	47	Roman *tegula*	1	30
L8	47	Painted wall-plaster (white, forest-green with white line (the whole paint on Pompeian red))	-	431
L8	47	Mortar	1	20
L8	47	Animal bone	6	123
L8	47	Oyster shell	-	75
L8	48	Roman *tegula*	5	737
L8	48	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, brownish red)	-	152
L8	48	Mortar	1	20
L8	48	Animal bone	5	69
L8	48	Oyster shell	-	162
L8	53	Animal bone	1	9
L8	53	Oyster shell	-	65
L8	109	Roman *tegula* Roman brick	18 2	3,425
L8	109	Pebble Flagstone Septaria	1 1 10	6,341
L9	53	Roman *tegula* Roman *imbrex*	1 1	85
L9	53	Septaria	1	16
L10	56	Roman *tegula*	1	30
L10	56	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	30
L10	56	Oyster shell	-	30
L10	58	Roman *tegula*	36	2,559
L10	58	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, red, pink, white, dark grey, pink with black dots, bands of Pompeian red, white, pink, green)	-	1,216
L10	58	Septaria	3	556
L10	58	Animal bone	9	123
L10	58	Oyster shell	-	203
L10	59	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	1 1	280
L10	59	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, white, yellowish)	-	198
L10	59	Animal bone	1	15
L10	59	Oyster shell	-	10
L10	60	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red)	-	18
L10	60	Mortar	1	10
L10	60	Animal bone	1	30
L10	60	Shell	-	20
L10	60	Charcoal	-	-
L11	55	Roman *tegula*	5	363
L11	55	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, red)	-	173
L11	55	Septaria	1	102
L11	55	Mortar	1	100
L11	55	Animal bone	3	49
L11	55	Oyster shell	-	1,153
L12	51	Roman *tegula*	3	362
L12	51	Painted wall-plaster (white, brownish red, 'yellowish', forest green, white, Pompeian red, yellowish with brownish red)	-	1,066

L12	51	Animal bone	1	8
L12	51	Oyster shell	-	107
L12	52	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	4 1	128
L12	52	Painted wall-plaster (white, red)	-	142
L12	52	Oyster shell	-	103
L13	50	Animal bone	4	70
L13	46	Roman *tegula*	4	338
L13	46	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red)	1	30
L13	46	Septaria	1	295
L13	46	Mortar	1	15
L13	50	Roman *tegula*	16	6,988
L13	50	Painted wall-plaster (colourful (pink with white, Pompeian red, and think green line), Pompeian red)	-	34
L13	50	Mortar	1	12
L13	50	Oyster shell	-	477
L14	54	Roman *tegula*	4	114
L14	54	Painted wall-plaster (red)	1	5
L14	54	Septaria	1	36
L14	54	Oyster shell	-	49
L15	61	Roman *tegula*	7	300
L15	61	Painted wall-plaster (white, dark green, green/white, white with brownish red lines, brownish red, Pompeian red)	-	425
L15	61	*Opus signinum* Mortar	1 1	147 12
L15	61	Animal bone	6	149
L15	61	Oyster shell	-	46.2
L15	61	Burnt wood	1	-
L16	62	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	59 1	6,354
L16	62	Painted wall-plaster (white with thin black band, white with brownish red band, brownish red with thin white band, brownish red, white, brownish red, brownish red white, brownish red on *opus signinum*, brownish red with black and white line)	-	13,069
L16	62	Flint Septaria	3 5	832
L16	62	Mortar	1	100
L16	62	Animal bone	10	346
L16	62	Oyster shell	-	285
L17	63	Roman *tegula*	1	165
L17	63	Painted wall-plaster (white, pink with black dots and brownish red drops pattern)	-	81
L17	63	Animal bone	1	10
L17	63	Oyster shell	-	10
L17	67	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	8 1	20
L17	67	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	893
L17	67	Septaria	2	245
L17	67	Animal bone	5	48
L17	67	Oyster shell	-	96
L18	64	Roman *tegula*	1	20
L18	64	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	215
L18	64	Animal bone	2	24
L18	64	Oyster shell	-	39
L18	69	Roman *tegula*	6	634
L18	69	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	384
L18	69	Septaria	2	1,181
L18	69	Animal bone	5	113
L19	65	Roman *tegula*	31	1,903
L19	65	Painted wall-plaster (brownish red)	-	76
L19	65	Flint pebbles	4	487

L19	65	Animal bone	1	18
L19	65	Oyster shell	-	177
L20-L21	68	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	11 1	2,194
L20-L21	68	Painted wall-plaster (white, brownish red white)	-	691
L20-L21	68	Septaria	1	7,000
L20-L21	68	Mortar	1	100
L20-L21	68	Animal bone	3	262
L22	70	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	25 1	2,158
L22	70	Painted wall-plaster (white, white with brownish red lines)	-	358
L22	70	Septaria	3	1,519
L22	70	Mortar	1	100
L22	70	Animal bone	2	64
L22	70	Oyster shell	-	1,159
L22	70	Burnt wood	1	-
L22	71	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	5 1	697
L22	71	Painted wall-plaster (Pompeian red, white, brownish red white)	-	189
L22	71	Roman glass	1	-
L22	71	Oyster shell	-	10
L22	72	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	24 1	4,296
L22	72	Painted wall-plaster (white with black line, white with brownish red dots, white with thick vertical and horizontal brownish red lines and black circle, white, brownish red, Pompeian red)	-	1,169
L22	72	Mortar	1	100
L22	72	Animal bone	2	38
L22	72	Oyster shell	-	86
L22	74	Roman *tegula* *Tesserae* (red)	11 2	1,330
L22	74	Painted wall-plaster (white with black line, white, pink with thick brownish red dots, white brownish red, mustard yellow)	-	1,183
L22	74	Mortar	1	100
L22	74	Animal bone	2	21
L22	74	Oyster shell	-	111
L22	78	Roman *tegula* *Tessera* (red)	30 1	4,433
L22	78	Mortar	1	100
L22	78	Flint	1	-
L22	78	Animal bone	4	129
L22	78	Oyster shell	-	41
L22	80	Roman *tegula*	1	155
L25	84	Roman *tegula*	1	30
L25	84	Animal bone	1	22
L25	87	Roman *tegula*	6	308
L25	87	Septaria	4	562
L25	87	Animal bone	12	238
L25	87	Oyster shell	-	344
L26	77	Animal bone	1	45
L27	90	Roman *tegula*	3	58
L27	90	*Opus signinum* Mortar	8 10	50 89
L27	90	Animal bone	4	52
L27	91	Roman *tegula*	12	105
L27	91	Painted wall-plaster (yellow)	-	10
L27	91	*Opus signinum*	15	308
L27	91	Animal bone	1	30
L27	91	Oyster shell	-	12

L28	79	Roman *tegula*	20	600
L28	79	Septaria	1	1,692
L28	79	Mortar	1	100
L28	79	Animal bone (burnt)	6	63
L28	79	Oyster shell	-	37
L28	82	Roman *tegula*	5	141
L28	82	Animal bone	8	189
L28	82	Oyster shell	-	23
L29	81	Roman *tegula*	5	544
L29	81	Septaria	1	1,872
L29	81	Animal bone	1	64
L29	83	Roman *tegula*	25	2,238
L29	83	Animal bone	1	30
L29	83	Oyster shell	-	16
L31	85	Roman brick	1	80
L31	85	Oyster shell	-	13
L31	89	Roman *tegula*	3	20
L31	89	Limestone	1	468
L31	89	*Opus signinum* Mortar	3 1	20 34
L31	89	Animal bone	7	111
L31	89	Oyster shell	-	66
L32	86	Roman *tegula*	1	30
L33	94	Roman *tegula*	1	40
L33	94	Animal bone	1	30
L33-L34	88	Roman *tegula*	7	98
L33-L34	88	Oyster shell	-	26
L34	93	Roman *tegula*	1	12
L34	93	Animal bone	4	78
L34	93	Oyster shell	-	12
L34	102	Roman *tegula*	1	20
L34	102	Animal bone	1	30
L34	102	Wood	1	-
L35	92	Roman brick	10	5,662
L35	92	Quartz-stone Septaria	1 4	622
L35	92	Animal bone	1	53
L35	99	Roman *tegula*	3	1,278
L35	99	Septaria	4	1,480
L35	99	Animal bone	1	30
L36	95	Roman *tegula*	6	803
L36	95	*Opus signinum*	10	50
L36	96	Roman brick	1	712
L36	96	Septaria	3	1,800
L36	98	Roman brick	4	2,069
L36	98	Septaria	2	2,535
L36	98	Oyster shell	-	15
L37	97	Oyster shell	-	8.3
L39	100	Roman *tegula*	1	698
L39	100	Oyster shell	-	10.1
L40	101	Roman *tegula*	2	18
L40	101	Animal bone	1	18
L4-L7	39	Roman *tegula* Roman flue tile *Tesserae* (red)	8 9 6	3,213
L4-L7	39	Mortar	1	10
L4-L7	39	Animal bone	3	90
L4-L7	39	Oyster shell	1	74
L4-L24	73	Roman *tegula*	81	6,988
L4-L24	73	Painted wall-plaster (white, red, Pompeian red, pink, brownish red and white, brown with black and white pattern (marble imitation?), grey, pink with yellow pattern, brownish red)	-	1,921

L4-L24	73	Septaria	4	86
L4-L24	73	*Opus signinum* Mortar	1 1	184
L4-L24	73	Animal bone	6	140
L4-L24	73	Oyster shell	-	39
L18/L19/ L20	66	Roman *tegula*	1	45
L18/L19/ L20	69	Animal bone	2	11
L22/L25/ L29	75	Roman *tegula*	20	1,186
L22/L25/ L29	75	Painted wall-plaster (white, white with thin black line)	-	259
L22/L25/ L29	75	*Opus signinum* Mortar	2 1	15 11
L22/L25/ L29	75	Animal bone	1	30
L22/L25/ L29	76	Roman *tegula*	6	231
L22/L25/ L29	76	Painted wall-plaster (white)	-	49
L22/L25/ L29	76	*Opus signinum* Mortar	2 1	15 54
L22/L25/ L29	76	Animal bone	8	132
U/S	1	Painted wall-plaster	-	50

Distribution list:
the Sixth Form College
the Roff Marsh Partnership
Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Colchester Archaeological Trust
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email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: *Howard Brooks*
Date: *19.01.09*

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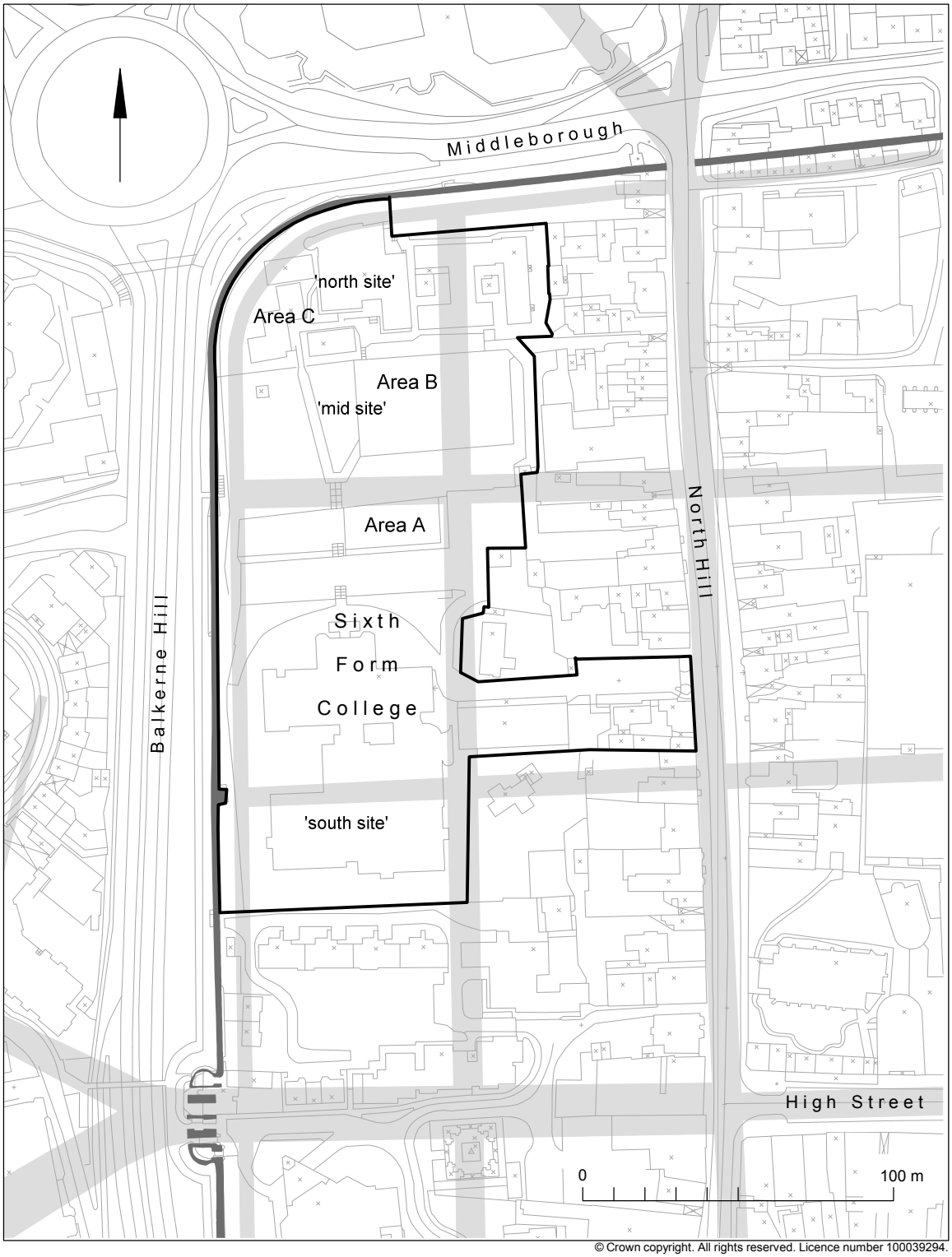


Fig 1a Site location plan.

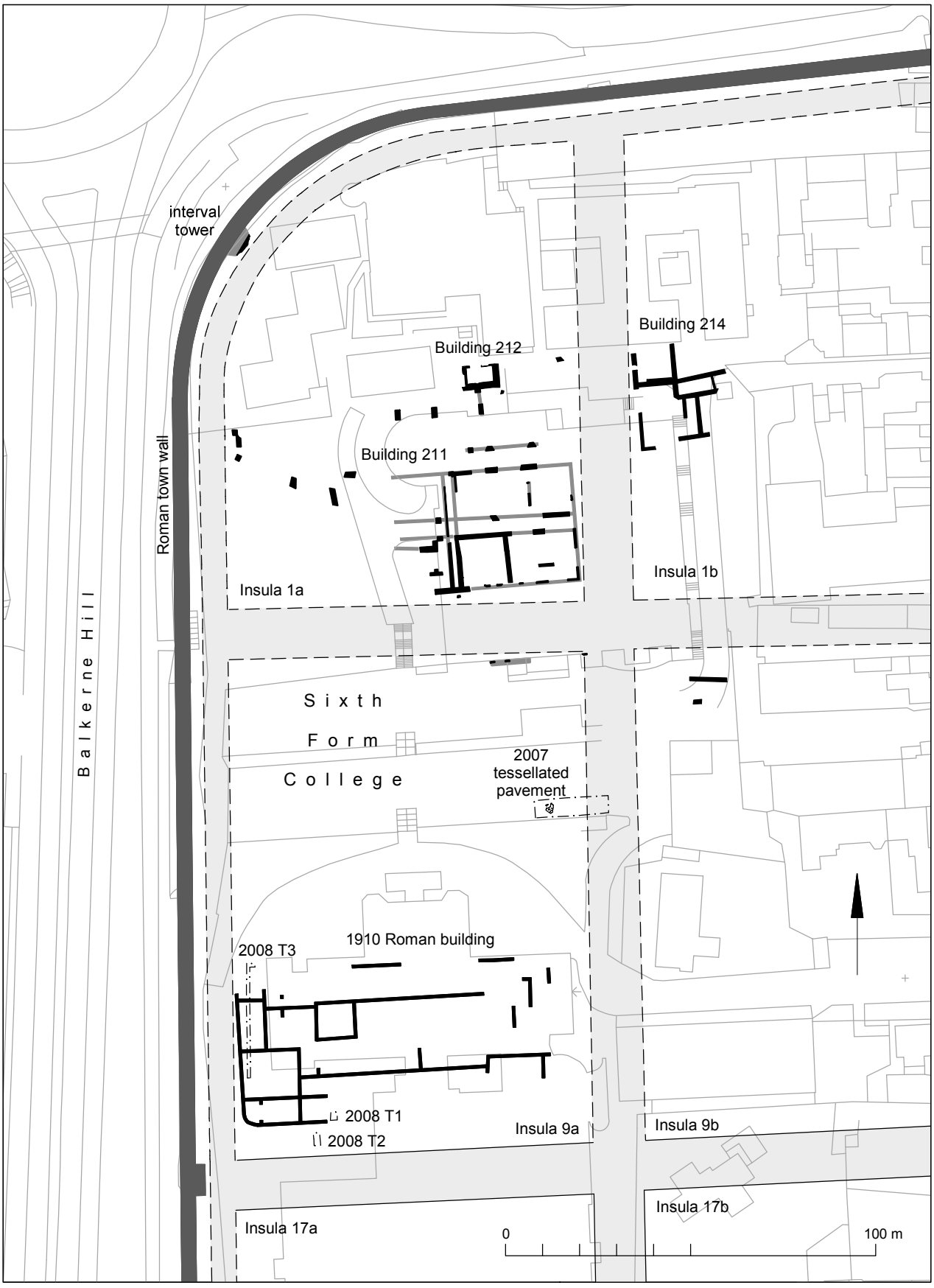


Fig 1b The Sixth Form College site, showing Roman buildings, the 2007 tessellated pavement and the 2008 trenches (2008 T1-T3).

Fig 2 Summary plan, showing excavated buildings.

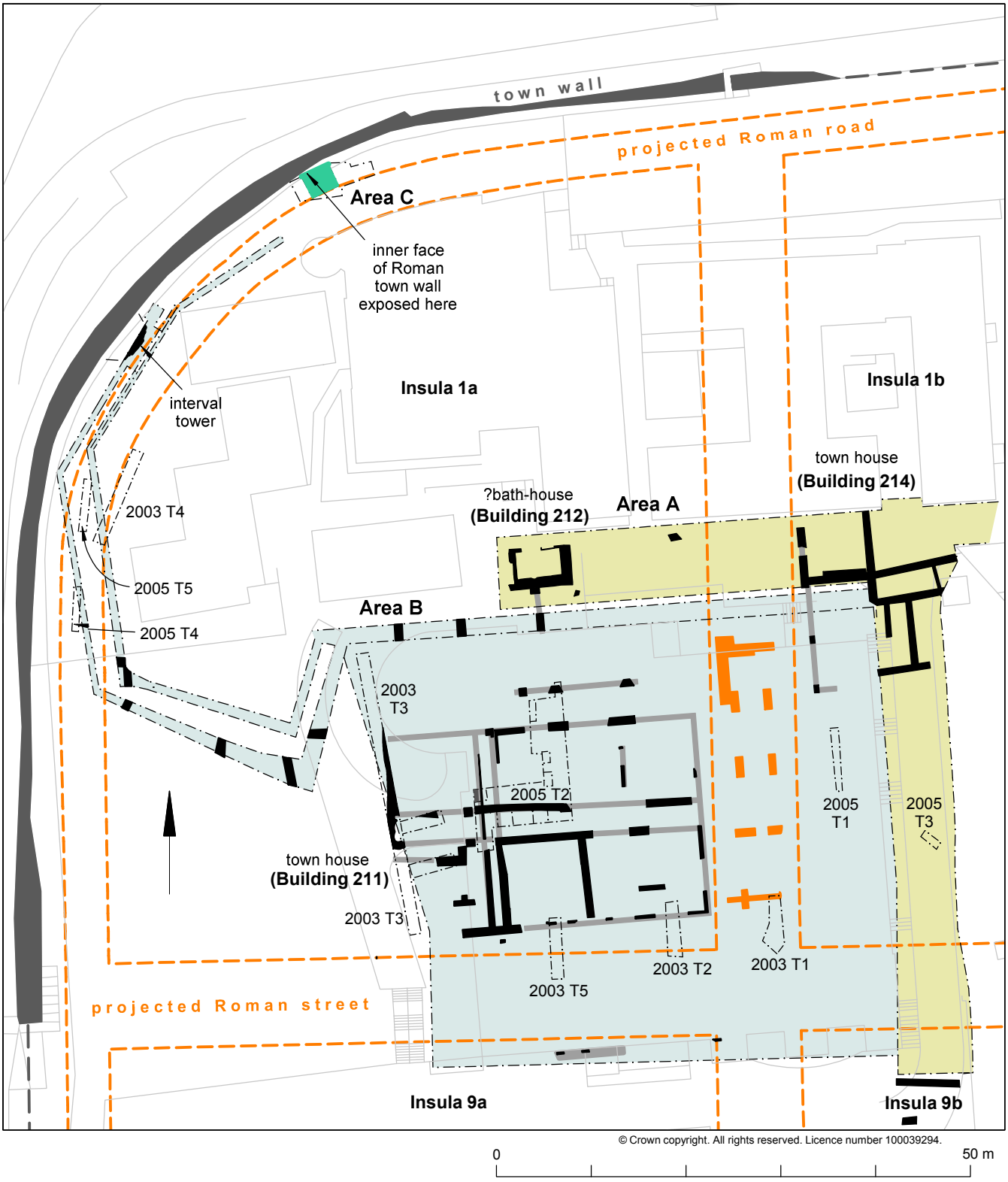


Fig 3 Location of Areas A, B and C, and previous archaeological trenches (2003 T1-T5, 2005 T1-T5).

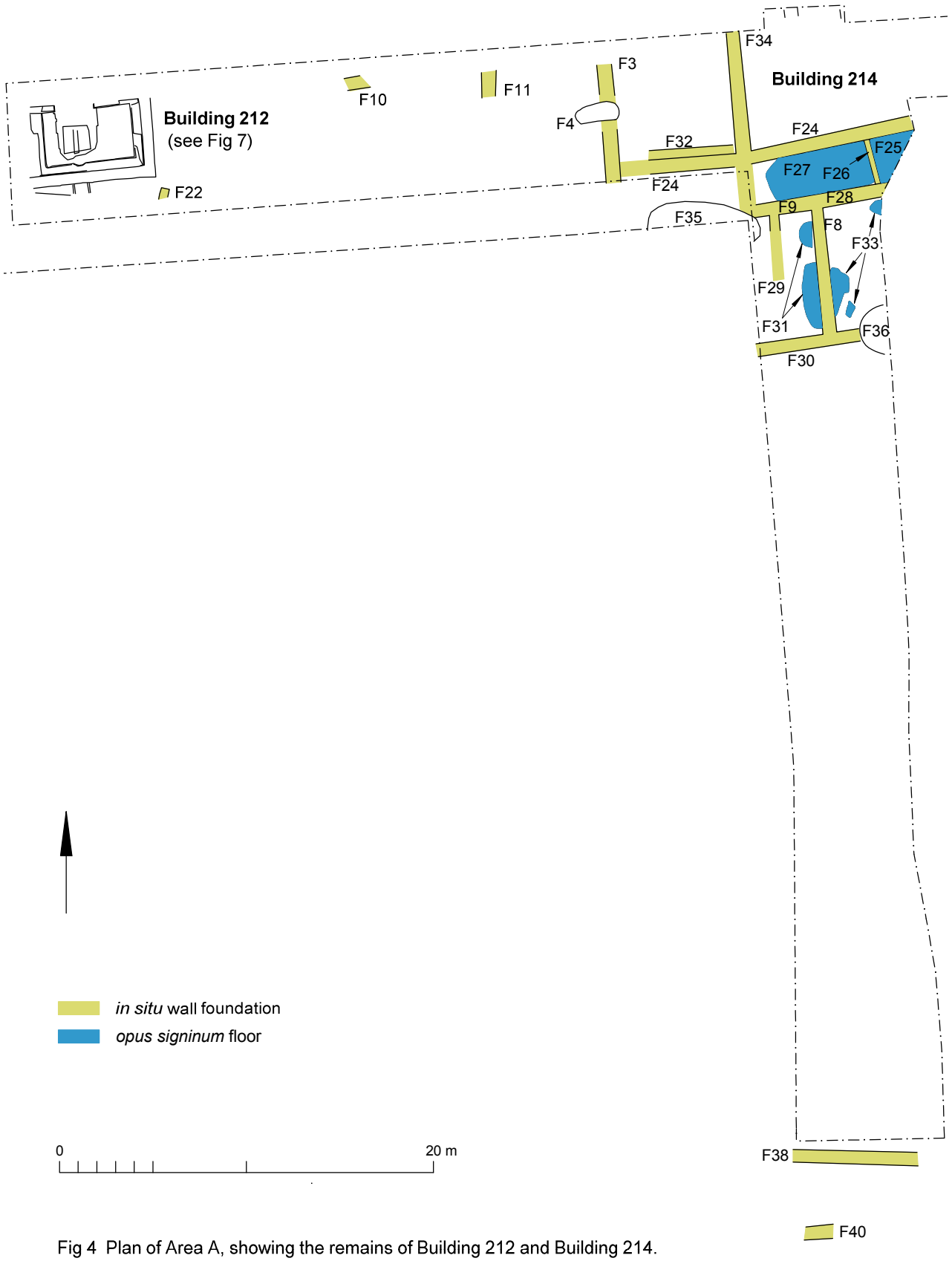


Fig 4 Plan of Area A, showing the remains of Building 212 and Building 214.

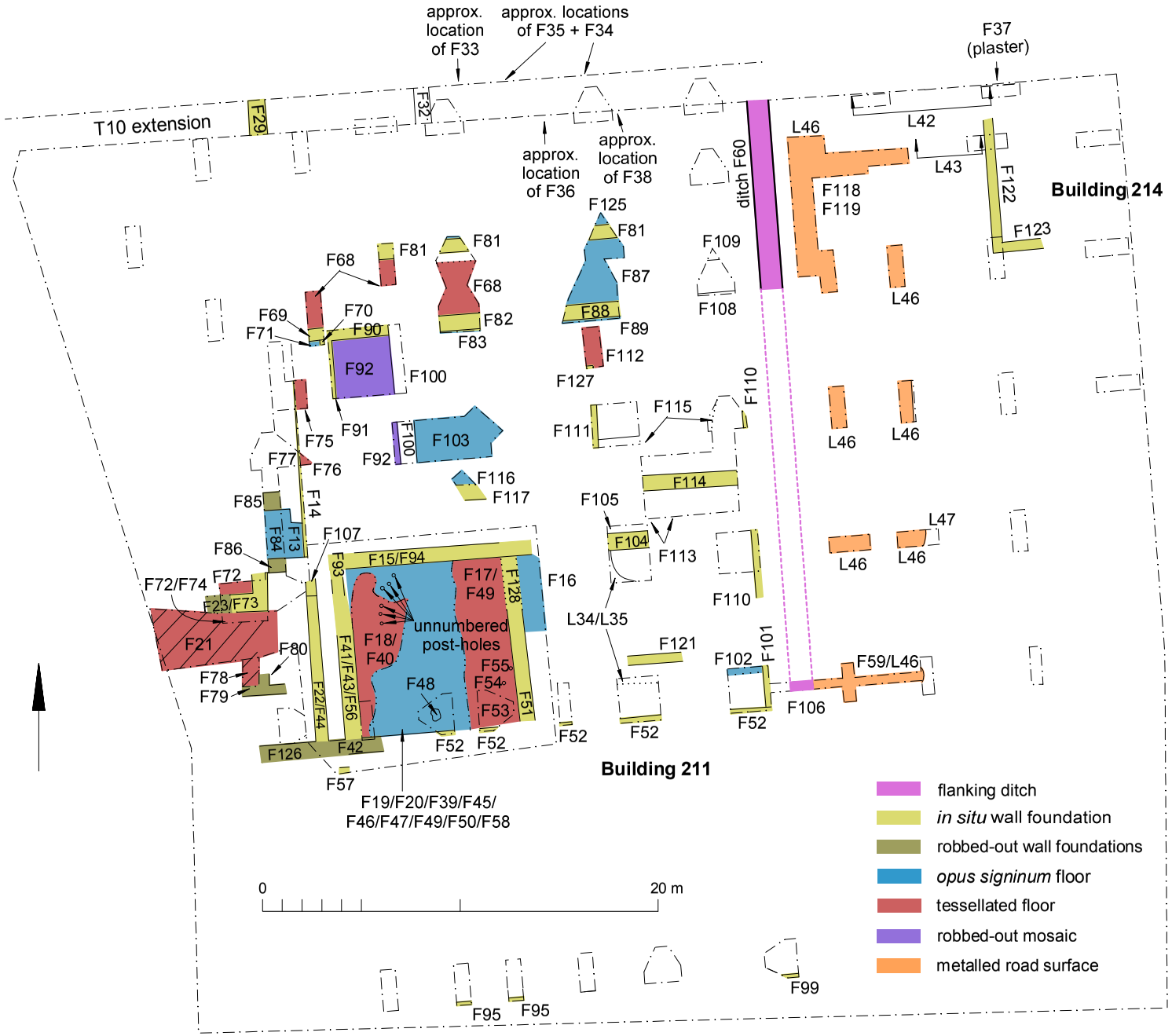


Fig 5 Plan of Area B, showing the remains of Building 211 and Building 214.

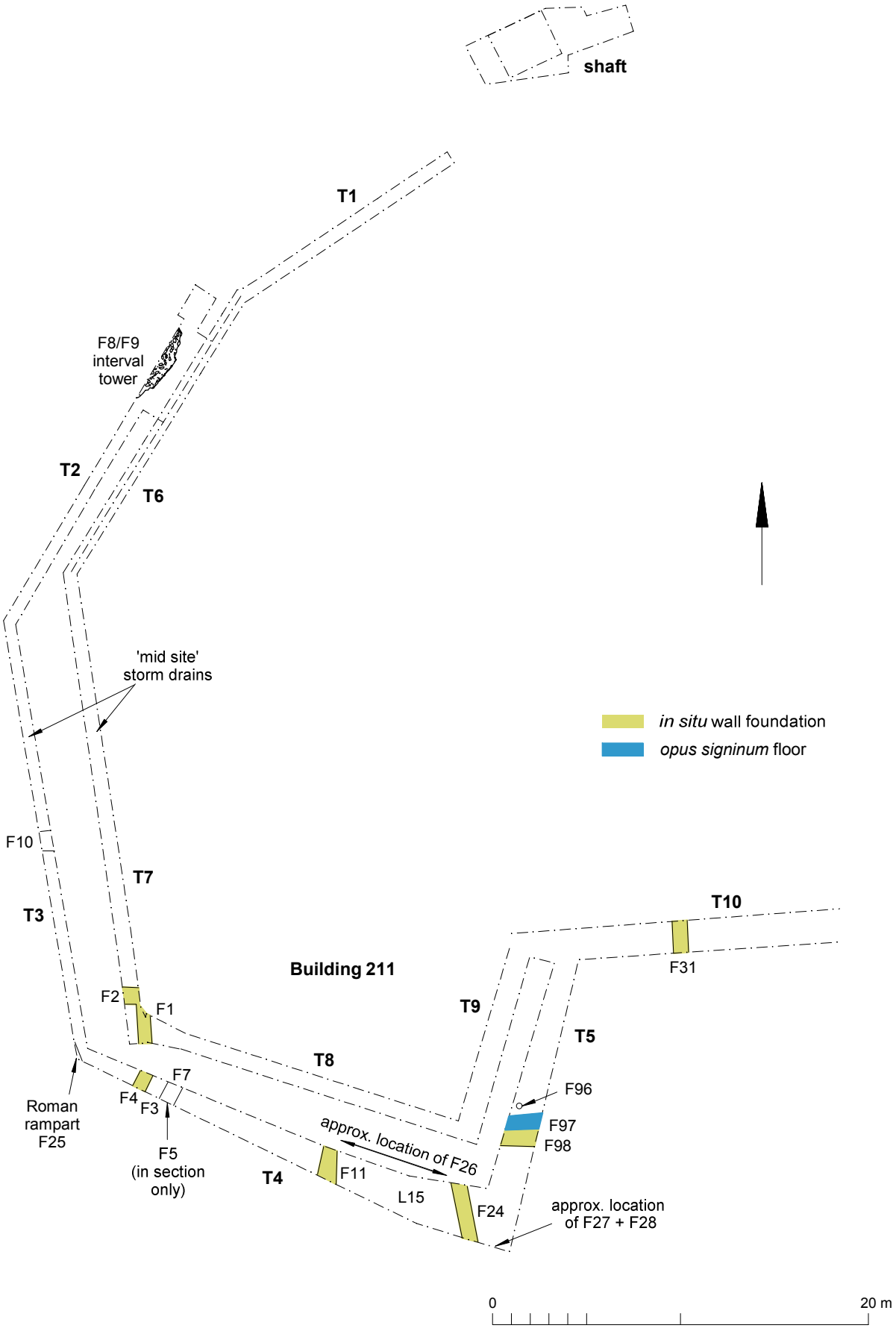


Fig 6 Plan of Area B pipe trenches (T1-T10), showing wall foundations which are probably parts of Building 211. (NB: location of F96-F98 is an estimate.)

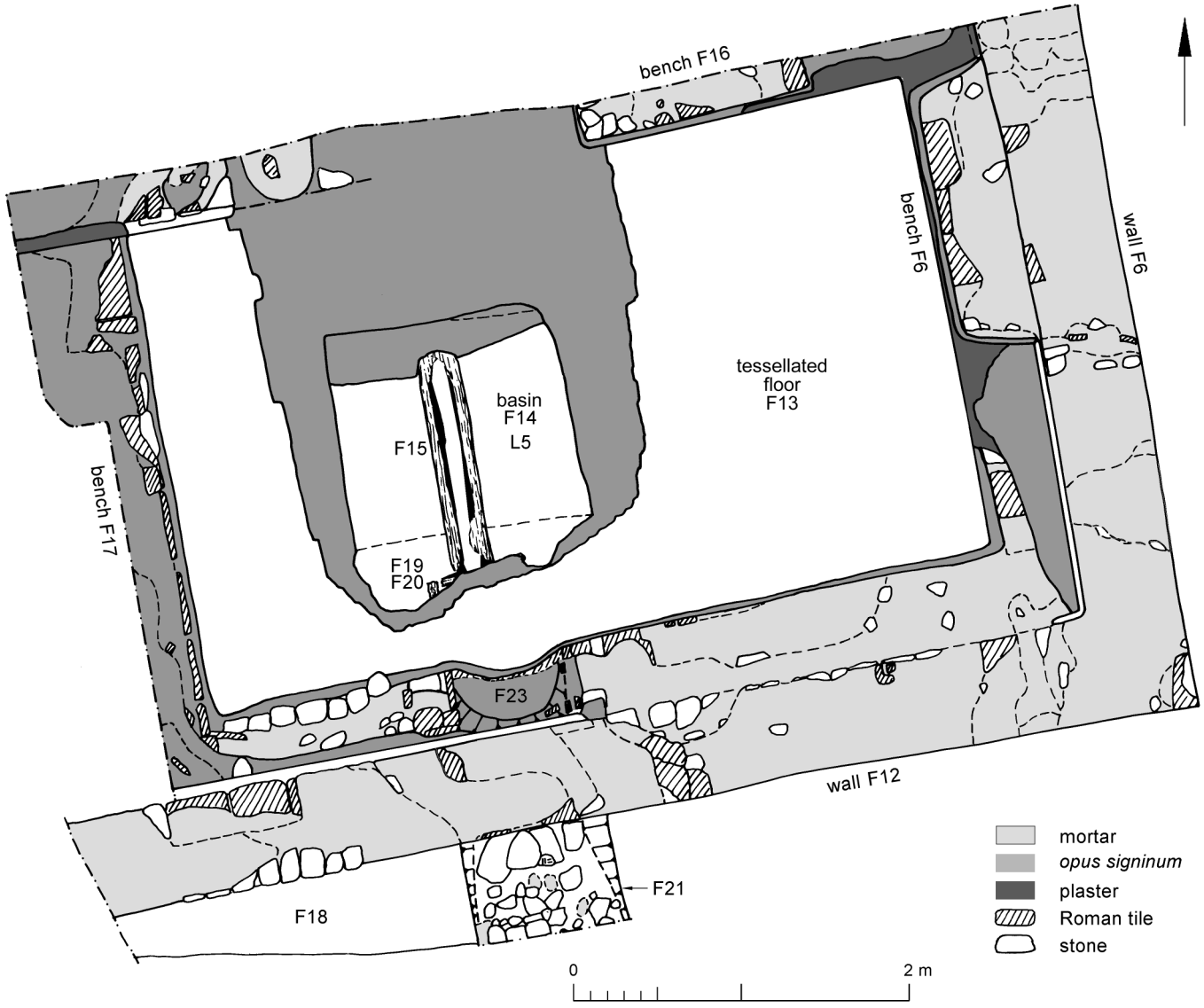


Fig 7 Building 212: plan.

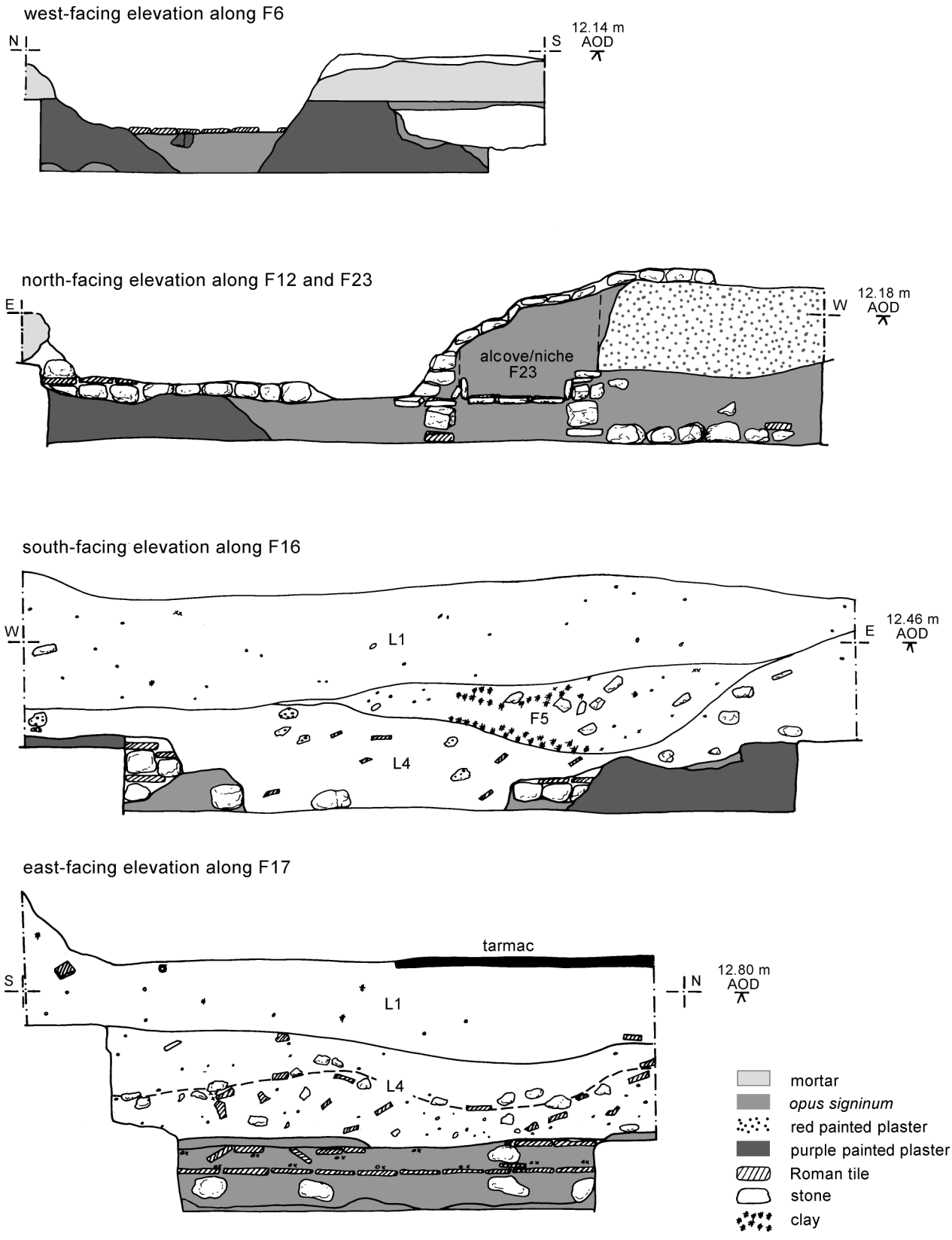


Fig 8 Building 212: wall elevations.

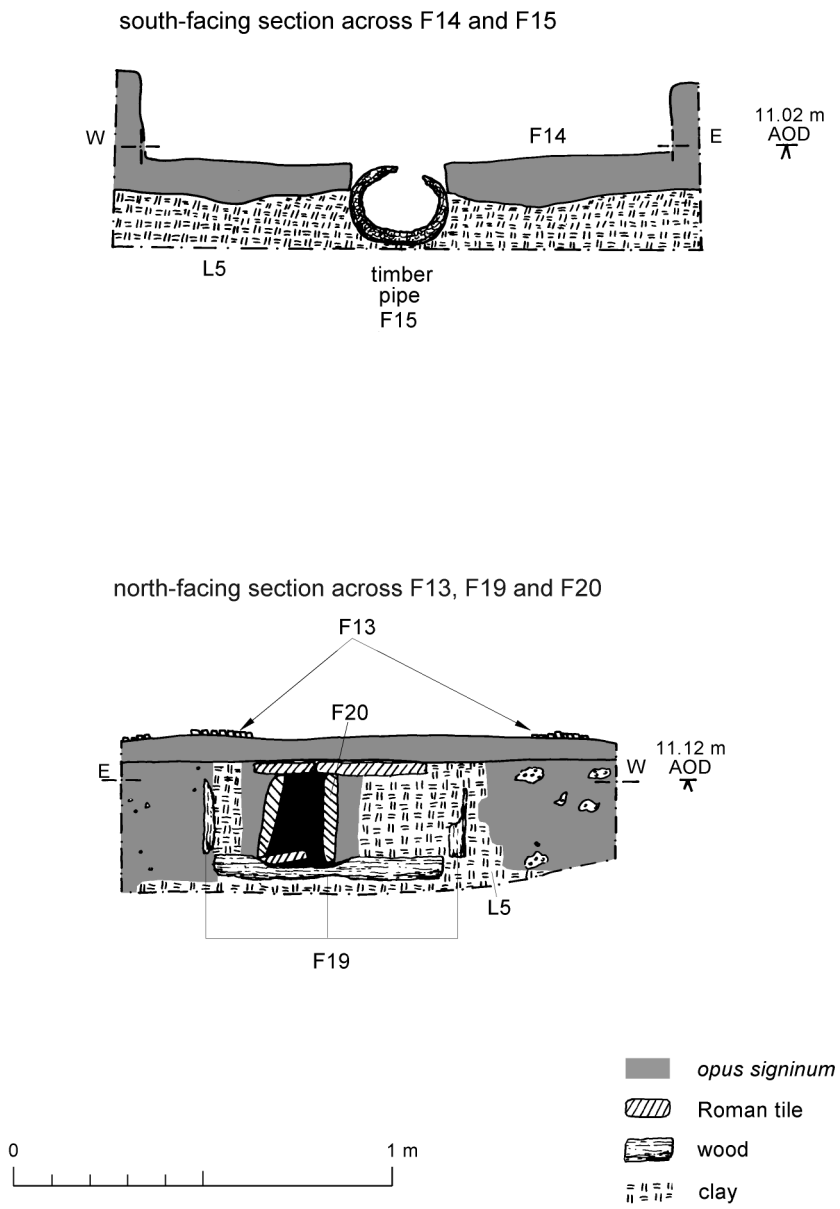


Fig 9 Building 212: sections.

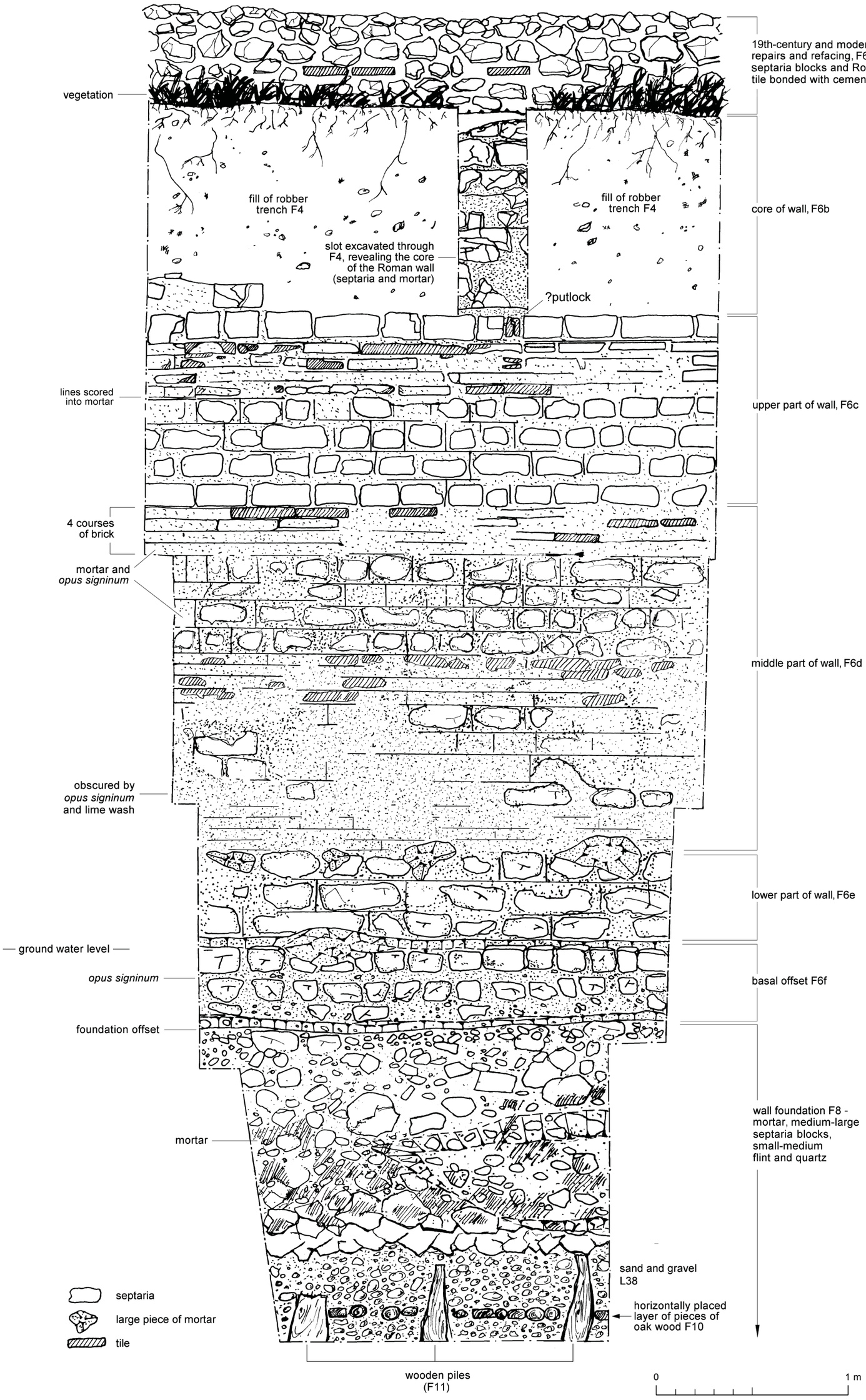


Fig 10 Shaft: elevation along the inner face of the town wall.

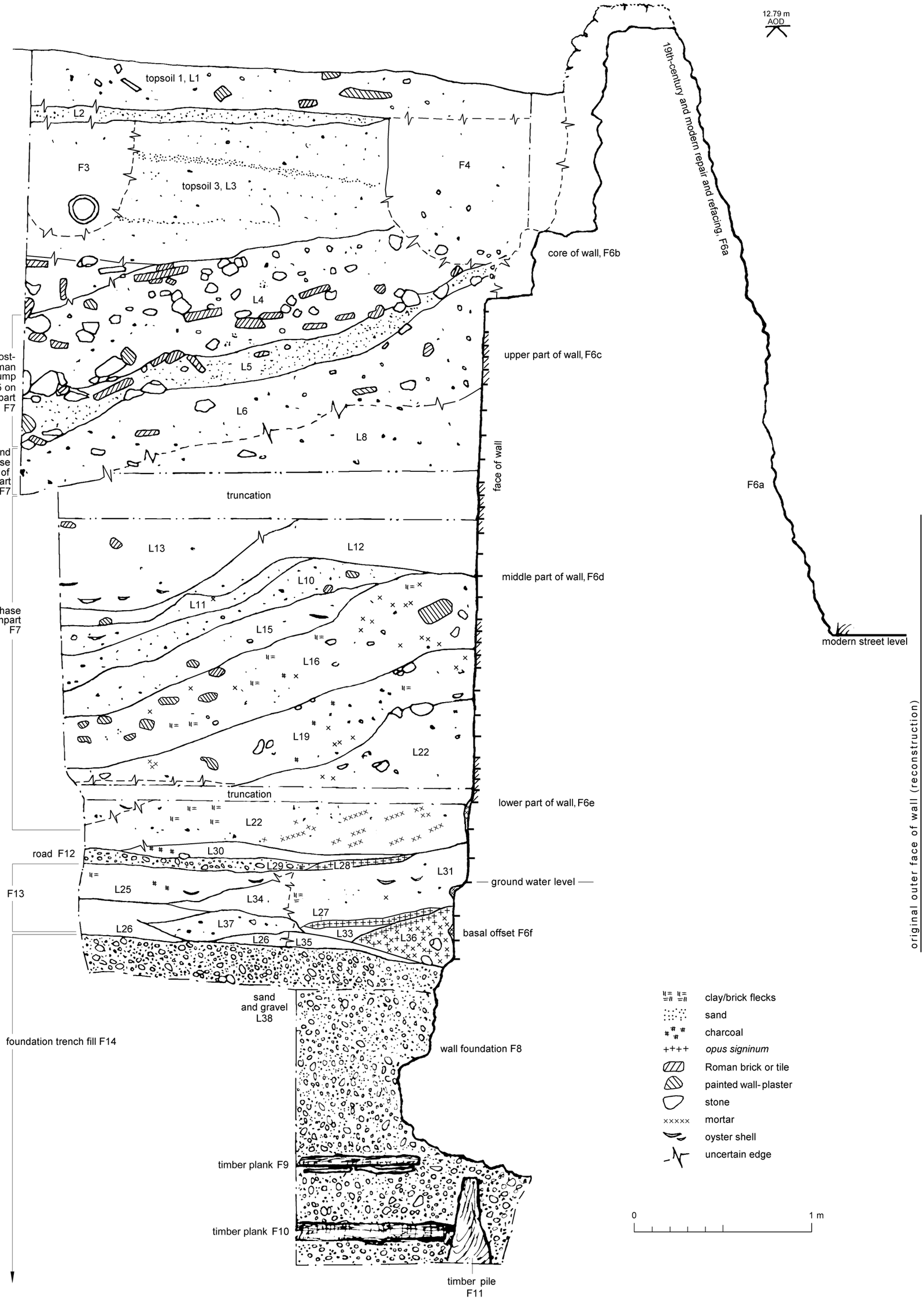


Fig 11 Shaft: east-facing section.

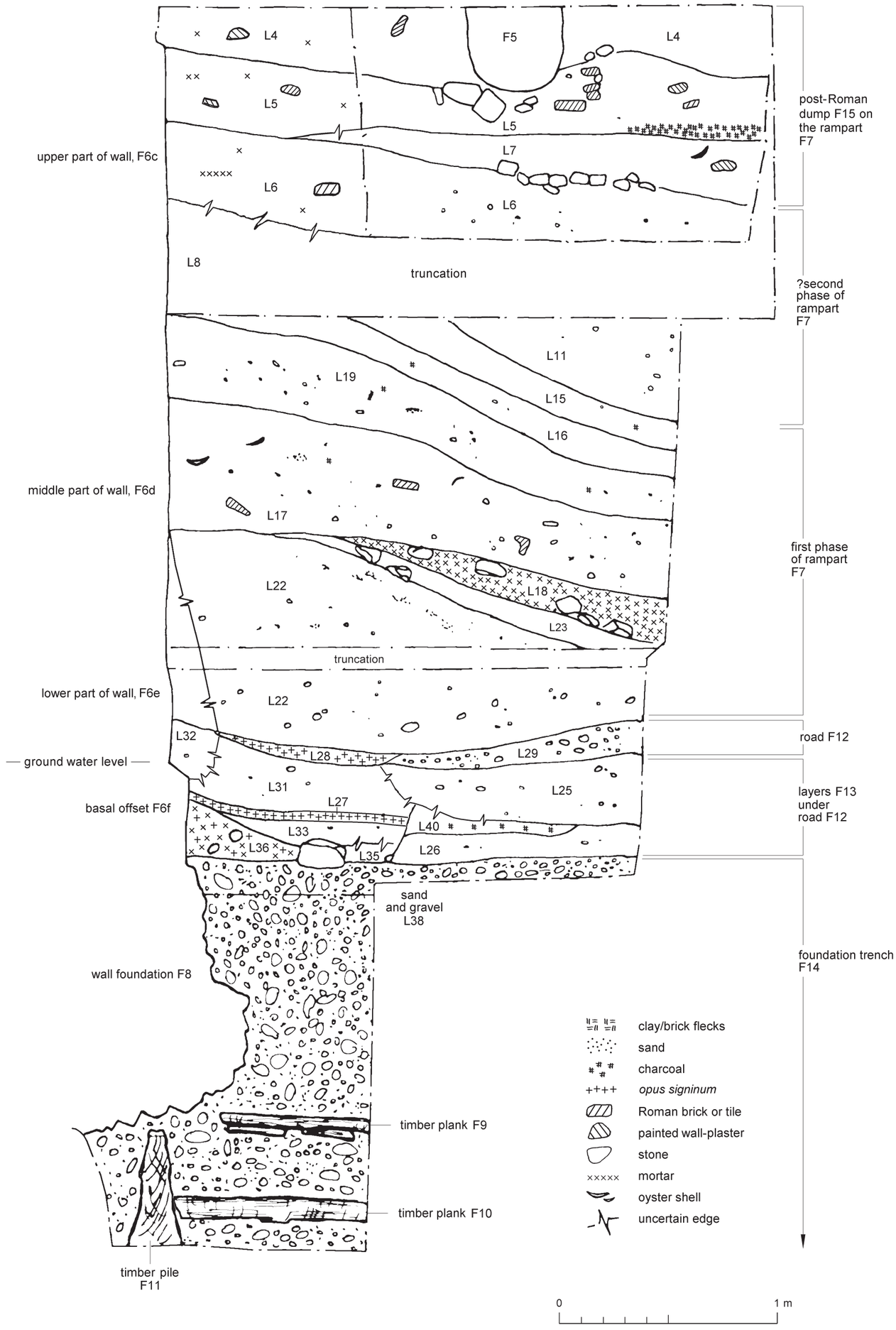


Fig 12 Shaft: west-facing section.

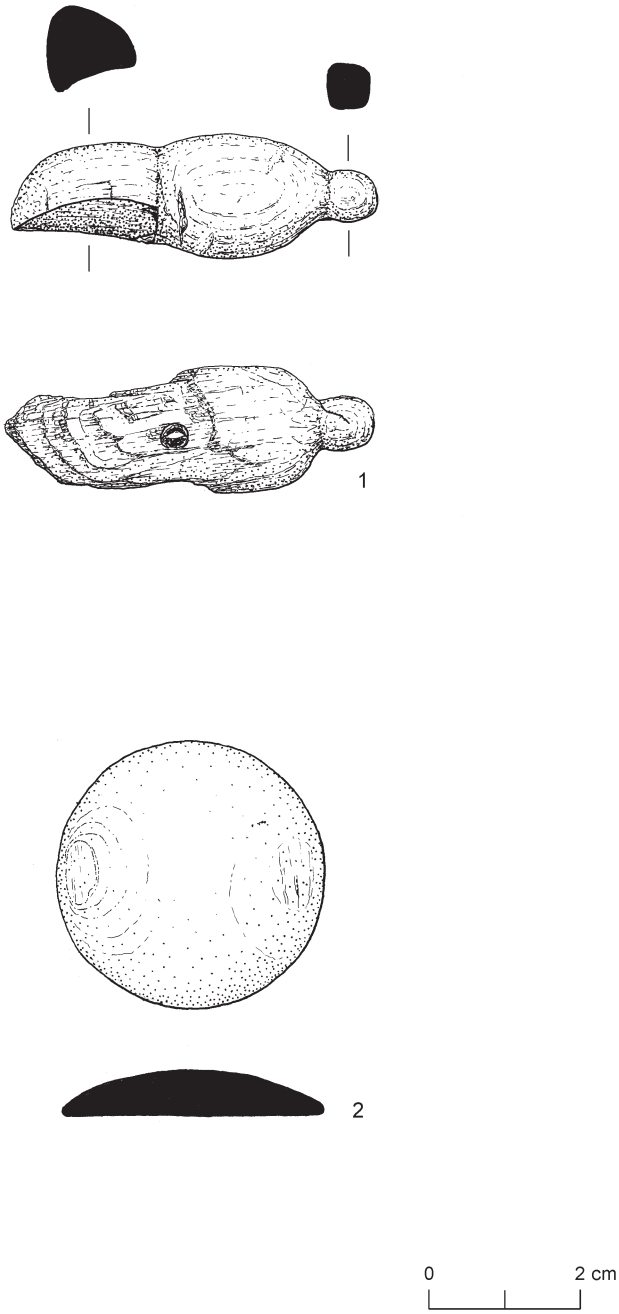
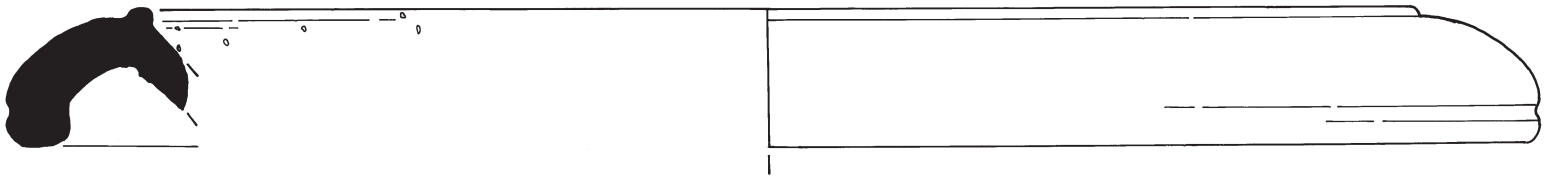


Fig 13 Area A: small finds.



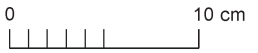


Fig 14 Area B: Roman mortarium.

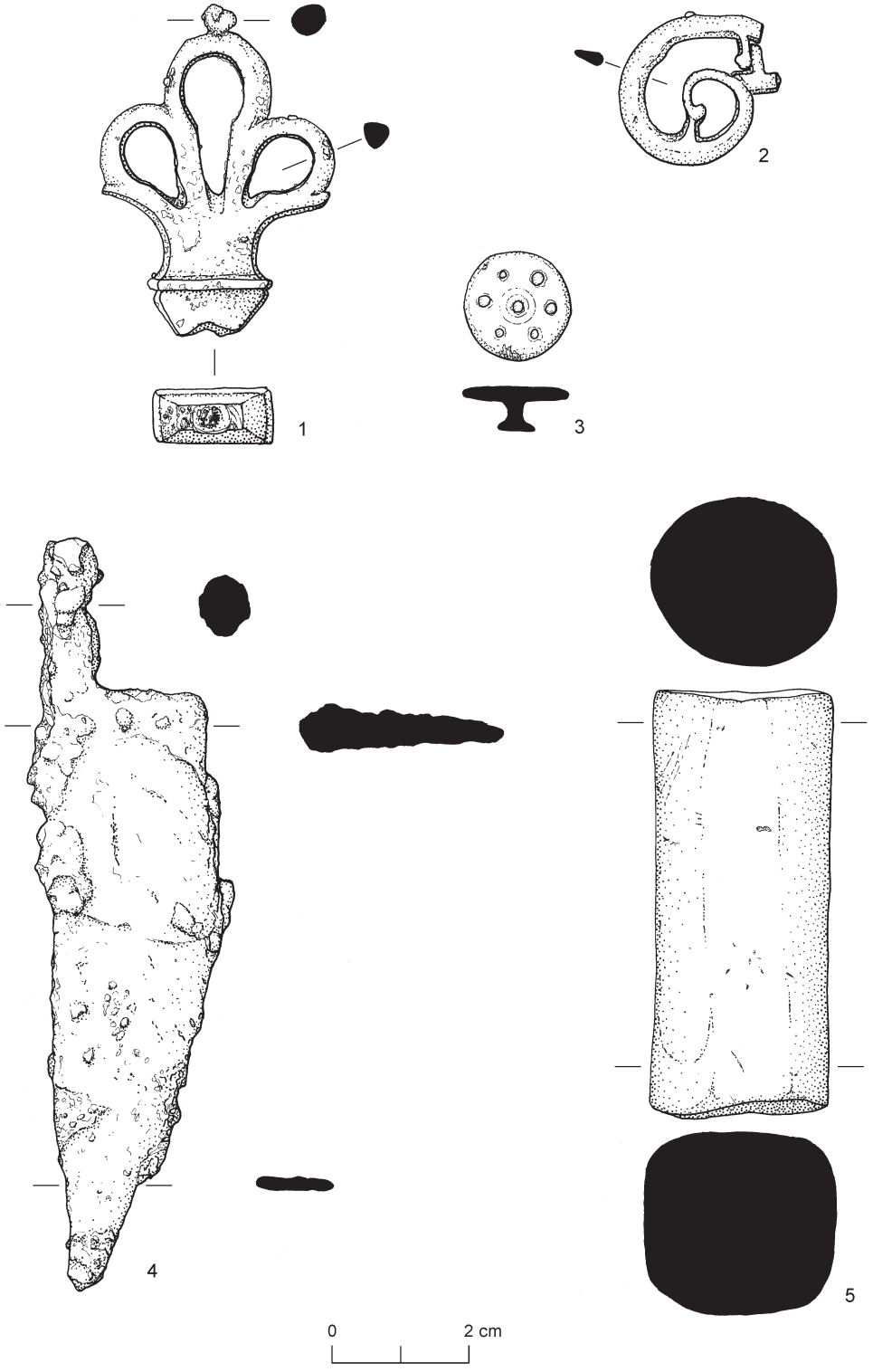


Fig 15 Area B: metal and stone small finds.

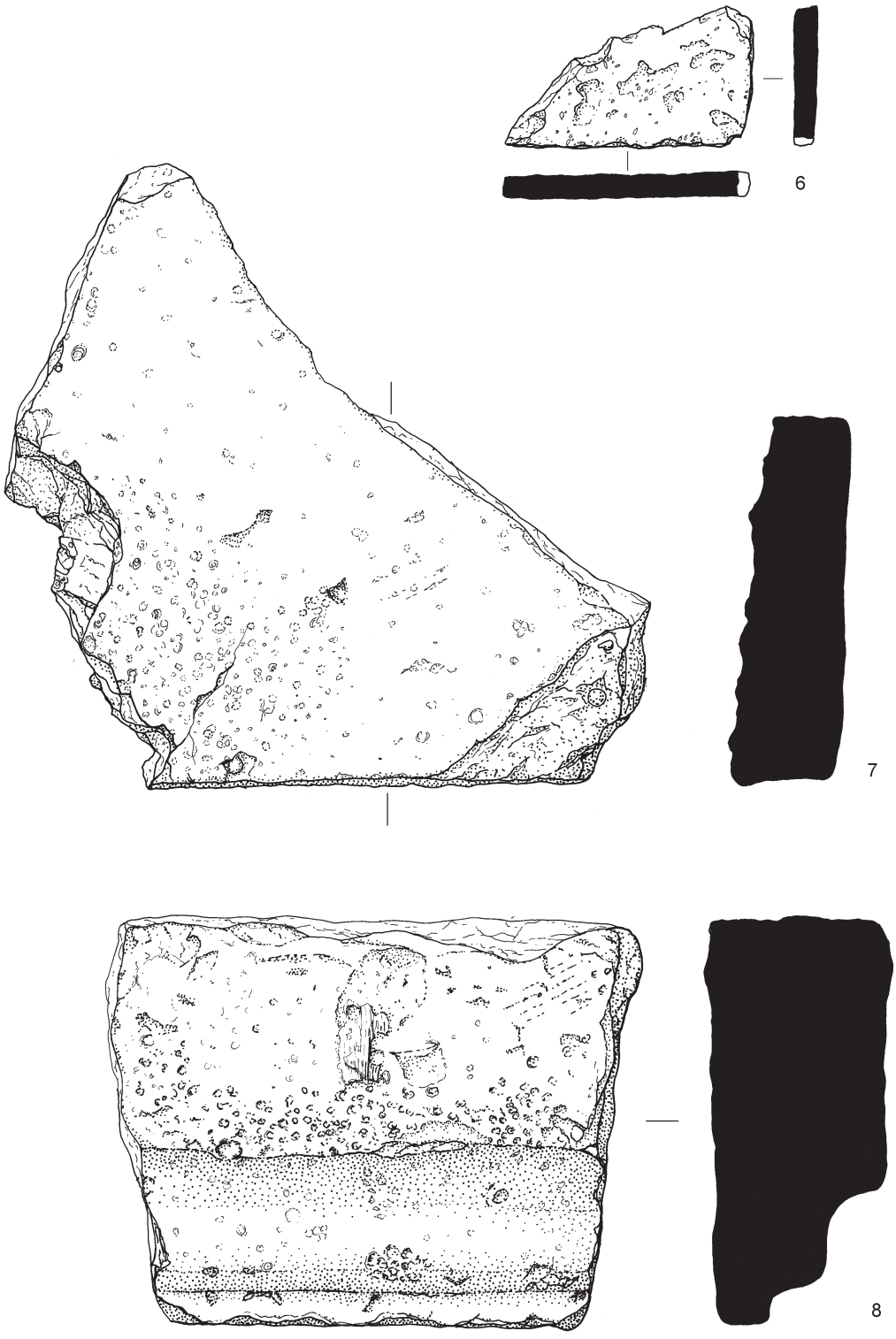


Fig 16 Area B: stone small finds.

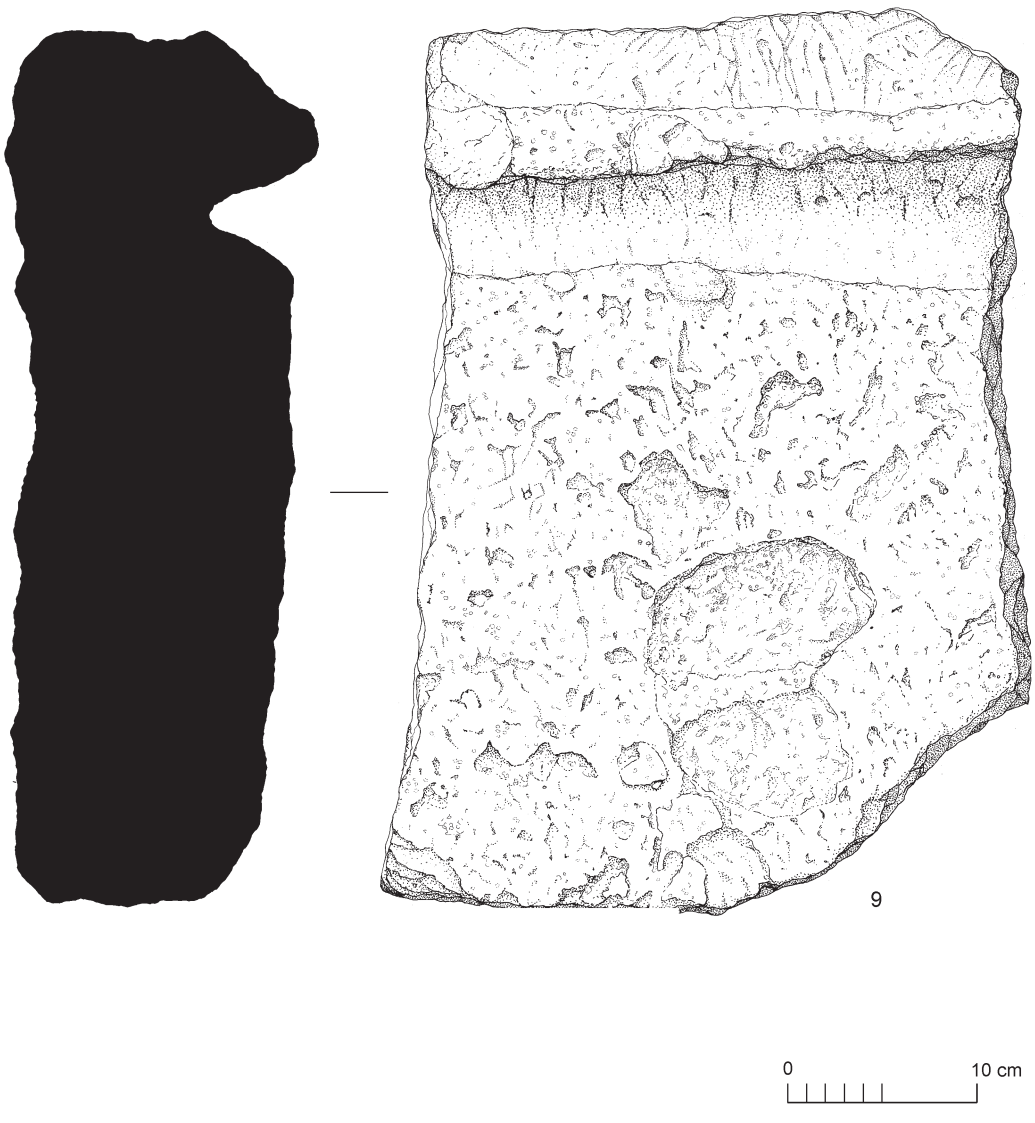
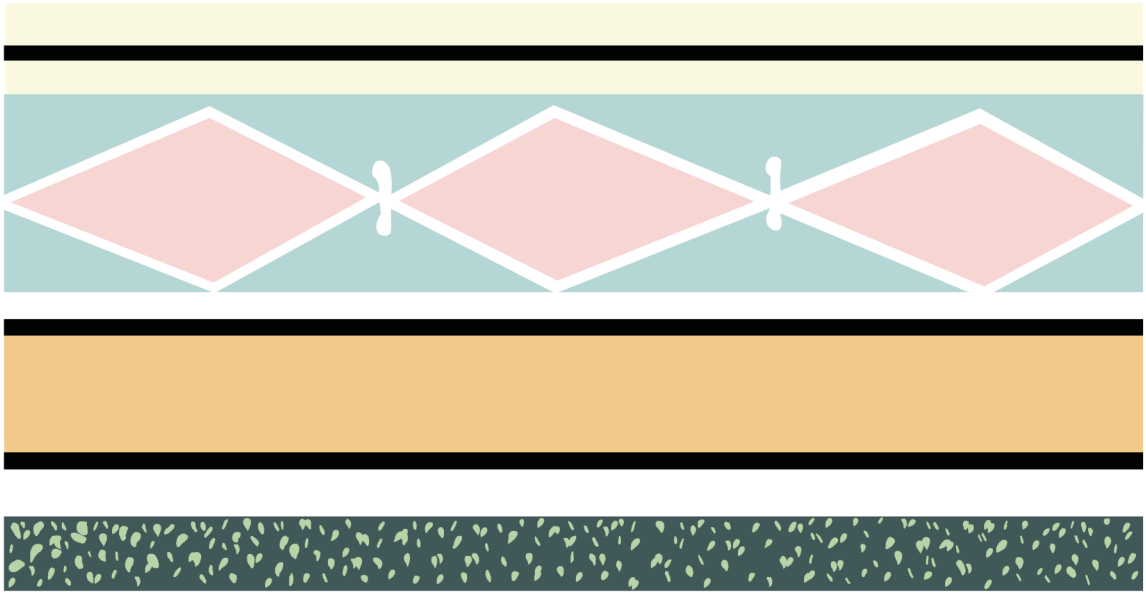
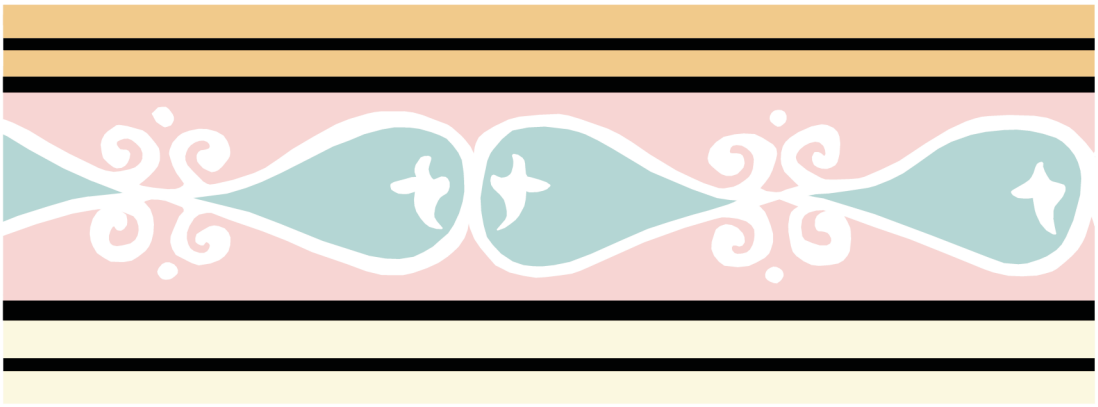


Fig 17 Area B: stone small find.



1



2

0 5 cm

Fig 18a F37/L42: painted wall-plaster friezes.

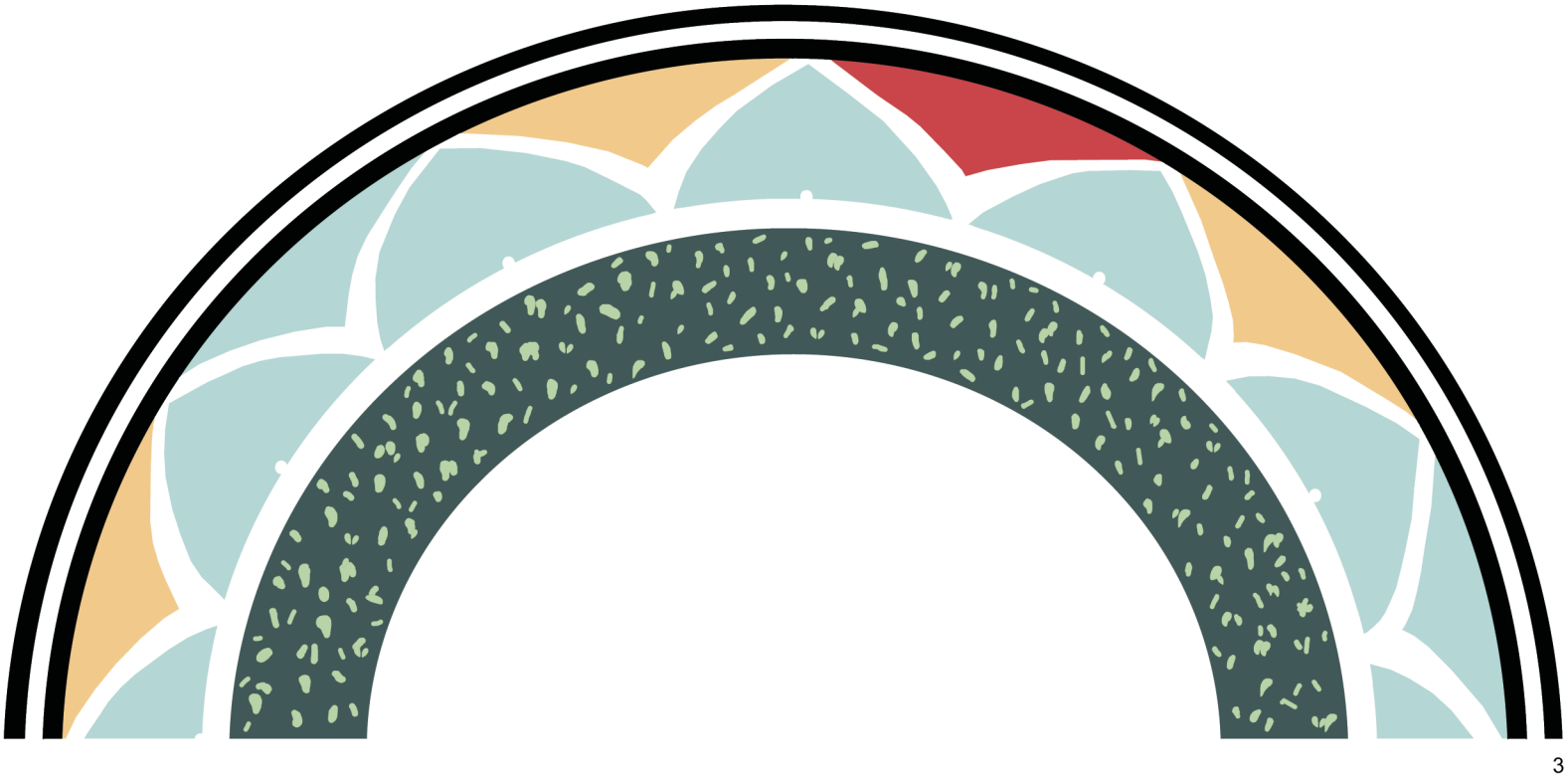


Fig 18b F37/ L42: painted wall-plaster roundel frieze.

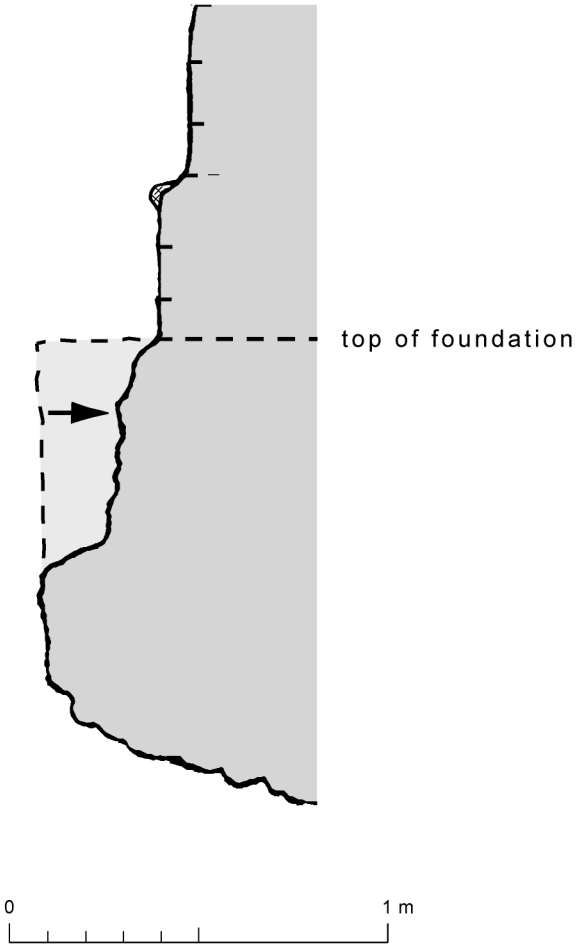


Fig 19 Hypothetical reconstruction of the outline of the town wall foundation, showing how it might have been distorted during construction.

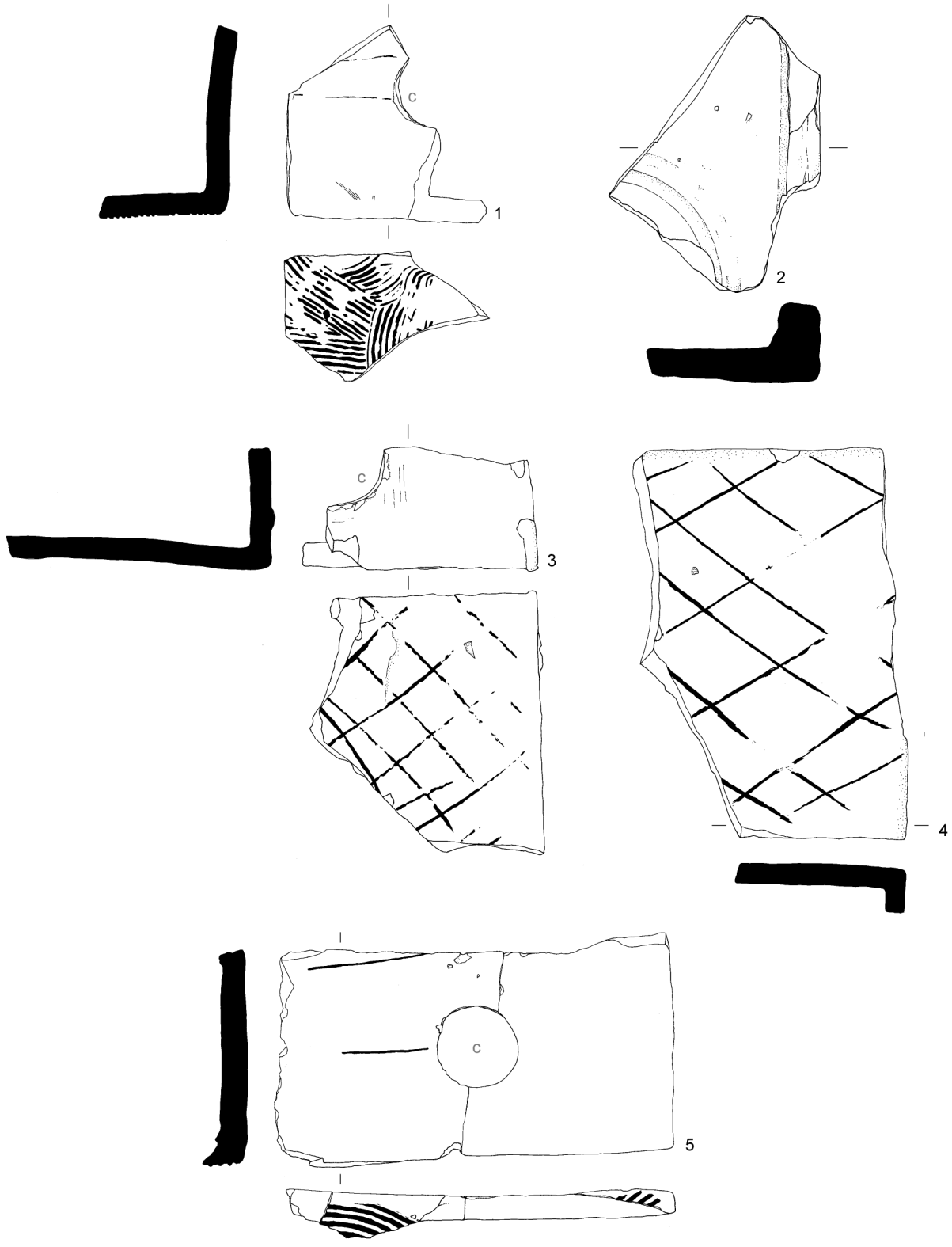


Fig 20 Insula 1a, Building 211: tile (c = cutout).

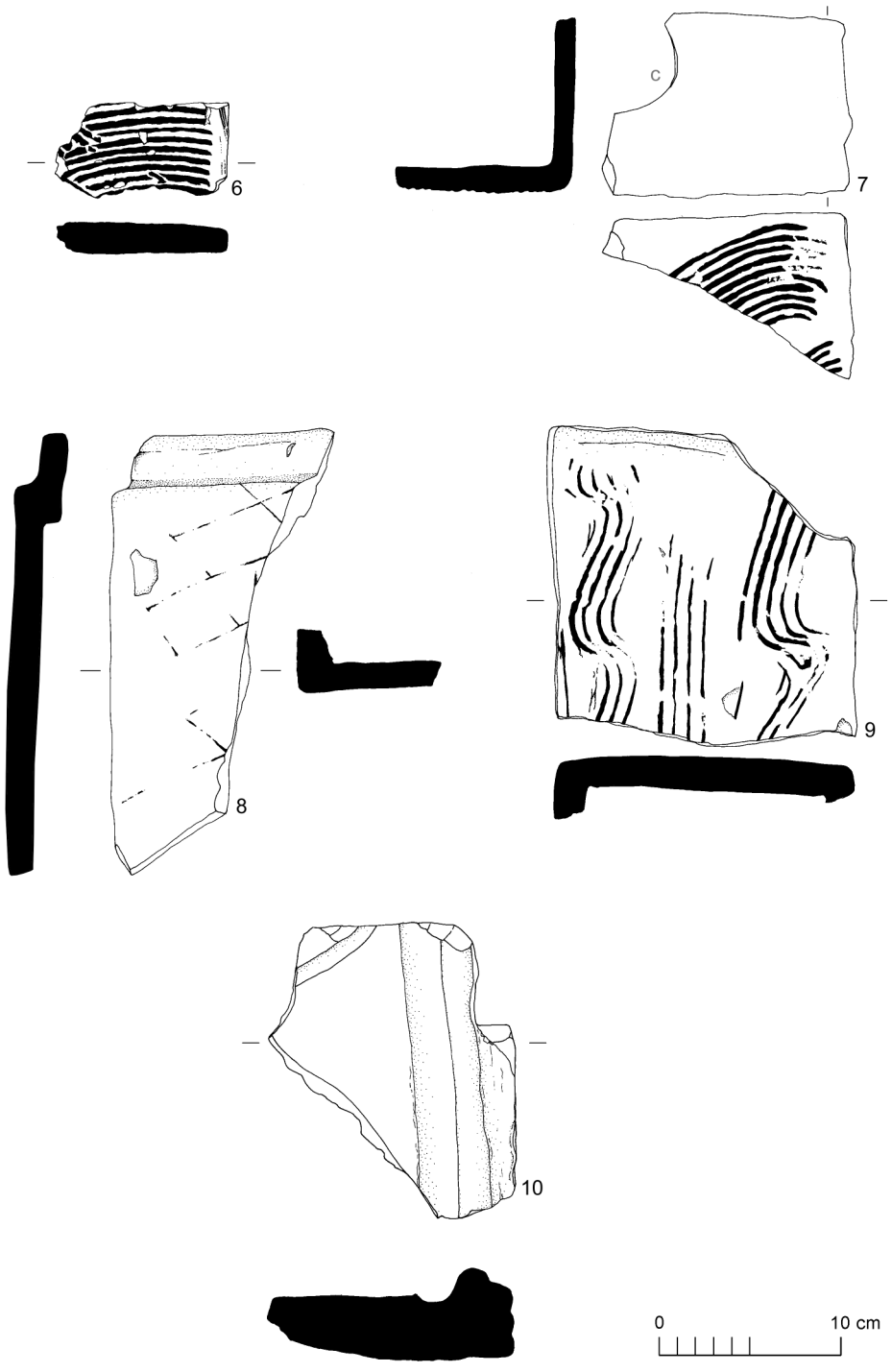


Fig 21 Insula 1a, Building 211 (nos 6-9) and Insula 1b, Building 214 (no 10): tile.

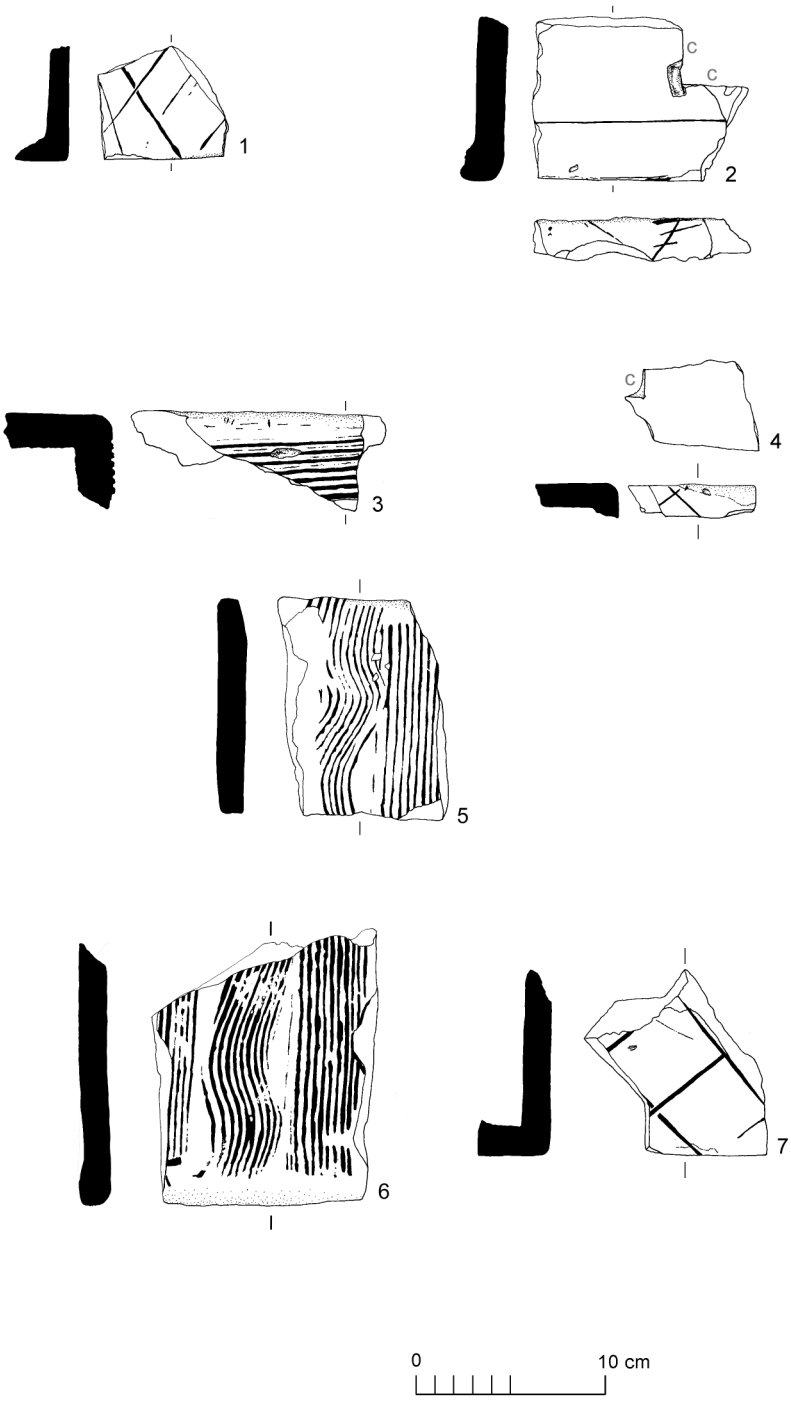


Fig 22 Insula 1a, Building 212: tile from the ?bath-house (nos 1, 4-7); Insula 1a, shaft: tile (nos 2-3) (c = cutout).

Fig 23 Reconstruction of the Roman ?bath-house and two town houses.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 'Mid site', Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 9930 2540 (c)	***Site code:*** Museum accession codes 2005.38 (watching briefs) and 2005.83 (excavation)
Type of work: Two watching briefs and an excavation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: April 2005-February 2006	***Size of area investigated:*** 221m of trenching, a 3.2m² shaft, and an area approximately 3,190m²
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	***Funding source:*** Sixth Form College
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHER nos:*** 12433-12437, 12341, 3530
Final report: CAT Report 347 and summary in *EAH*	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern	

Summary of fieldwork results:

The grounds of the Sixth Form College occupy a sizeable proportion of the north-west corner of the walled Roman town, including parts of Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a, 9b, 17a and 17b (in fact, Insulas 1a and 9a are wholly within the college grounds).

Archaeological work described here (mainly watching briefs with selected excavation) was carried out in advance of the construction of the new mid site building (Area B here) and in advance of the construction of an access road on its east and north sides (Area A). Pipe trenches to run off water down-slope were also monitored as part of Area A. Services required the Roman town wall to be breached to allow a pipe to pass through it. In advance of this work, and to provide access for the contractors, a deep vertical shaft (Area C) was archaeologically excavated against the inner face of the town wall from modern ground-level to below the base of the wall.

Principal discoveries were as follows. In Insula 1a, there was a large building consisting of surviving in situ *masonry wall foundations, robbed-out wall lines, and of tessellated,* opus signinum *and mosaic floors (Colchester Building 211). Associated finds, principally marble and decorated wall-plaster, indicate that this was a high-status building.*

To the north of Building 211 and also in Insula 1a, a separate structure with a timber water channel (Building 212) may have been a room of a bath-house associated with Building 211, or possibly a shrine to a water deity.

In Insula 1b, to the east of Building 211 and Building 212 and across the previously unknown gravel street dividing Insula 1a from Insula 1b, was the south-western corner of another possibly high-status building, with decorated wall-plaster, surviving in situ *masonry wall foundations and* opus signinum *floors (Building 214). The assemblage of decorated wall-plaster from F37/L42, adjacent to Building 214, is important, being painted in imitation of marbles and* opus sectile.

The excavation of the shaft against the inner face of the Roman town wall went through the Roman rampart and revealed the construction road below. It also exposed 6.84 m of standing Roman masonry, 3.3 m of which was faced with alternating bands of septaria and Roman brick. Parapet walk level can be inferred at approximately 6.70 m above Roman street level.

Also on the inner face of the Roman town wall, there was a substantial piece of robbed masonry exposed in a pipe trench which is best interpreted as the remains of a previously unknown interval tower.

There appears to have been very little post-Roman activity on the land now occupied by the Sixth Form College. Recent excavation and evaluation work has shown that a substantial depth of topsoil accumulated over the site in this period. The usual interpretation of this soil accumulation, often found in Colchester, is that the land was left open and/or was used for small-scale agriculture or horticulture in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

Previous summaries/reports: ECC FAU Report 830, CAT Reports 260 and 309, *CAR* **6**	
Keywords: Roman town house, Roman street, ?bath-house, high-quality painted wall-plaster, Roman town wall, Roman interval tower	***Significance:*** **
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	***Date of summary:*** January 2009