An archaeological evaluation at Dry Street, Basildon, Essex May-June 2006

report prepared by Howard Brooks

commissioned by Entec on behalf of English Partnerships

CAT project ref: 06/5c
Site code: BADS 06
NGR: TQ 697 870 (centre)

Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
tel./fax: (01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 375
July 2006

Contents

List of figures

List of tables

1 Summary

An evaluation of a 20 hectare parcel of land west of Basildon College has uncovered evidence of multi-period occupation. Sporadic activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age was evidenced by occasional finds of pottery and flints. In the Iron Age, the landscape was parcelled up by the creation of a ditched system of rectilinear fields which continued in use and was adapted in the Roman period. The site was also occupied in the early Anglo-Saxon period, possibly using the existing Roman field system. No buildings were found, but the finds suggest domestic occupation here throughout the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. There is evidence of weaving in both the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods, when the local economy must have included an element of pastoral farming.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the north of Dry Street, Basildon, Essex. The work was commissioned by Entec UK (Mr Rob Johns) on behalf of English Partnerships.

2.2 Proposed work is housing. A planning application will be submitted in due course.

2.3 The archaeological work was carried out according to a brief written by Mr Pat Connell of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (HEM) team.

2.3 Site work took place between the 25th May and 28th June 2006. Post-excavation work was carried out between the 12th June and 7th July 2006.

2.4 The development site lies in the Nethermayne Ward, Basildon, Essex and is centred at NGR TQ 697 870. The hospital and college sites lie to the east, and Dry Lane to the south. The northern edge of the site is bordered by the residential area of Lee Chapel South.

2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *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 1)

3.1 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the site by Entec staff (Johns & Williamson 2005) identified records of a Roman jug and a medieval jug (Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER nos 5120-5121). As both finds have the same find spot, it is likely that they are the same object. This find spot lies just to the south of the developable area (Field 4b). Evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman occupation was found during construction of a reservoir in 1961 (EHER nos 5267-5268). The reservoir site is 300m north of the north-west corner of the site boundary. Three possible cropmarks are known from the western side of the site: one of these is west of the developable area, and two are inside it (Field 4). Prehistoric flint tools, including some of Mesolithic date, were found in the wider study area (outside the site).

3.2 Little structured archaeological work has been done in the vicinity of the study area. However, the desk-based assessment concludes that further evidence for prehistoric and later occupation or activity may survive within the area proposed for future development, and that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be completed in line with advice contained in PPG 16. This will provide necessary data to allow an informed and reasonable decision to be made regarding any further mitigation measures in relation to the historic environment.

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains, and to assess their quality, extent, date and importance.

5 Results (Figs 2-3, 11-12)

A brief report is given here on each trench. Trench positions are given on Figure 2 and detailed trench plans on Figures 3-6. Selected trench sections are given on Figures 11-12. Reports on major finds groups (pottery, flints, environmental sampling and faunal remains) are given in the finds section (section 7, below). Other finds, especially burnt flints, are quantified in the trench reports below.

Trench 1 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F1	Natural pit		natural
F2	Linear feature	charcoal in fill	undated
F3	Natural pit		natural
L2	Disturbed natural	8, burnt flint 15g	modern

This trench contained two natural features (F1 and F3). Some of the smaller 'natural' features such as F1 may be tree-throws. F2 is an undated linear feature.

Trench 2 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F7	Ditch		undated
F8	Post-hole	Flecks of pot only	undated
F9	Ditch		undated
F10	Post-hole	1, Iron Age/Roman pot and Roman? pot; 1, worked flint 2g	Late Iron Age/ Roman (with residual)
F11	Natural pit		natural
F12	Ditch	3, Late Iron Age-Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F14	Natural pit		natural
L2	Disturbed natural	7, 5 burnt flints 2136g	modern

This trench contained three undated features (ditches F7, F9) and post-hole (F8), two natural features (F11, F14), a Late Iron Age or Roman post-hole (F10), and a Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F12). There is no ditch corresponding to F12 in T3.

Trench 3 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F4	Linear – natural		natural
F5	Linear – natural		natural
F6	Linear – natural	pot flecks	natural

This trench contained three natural linear features.

Trench 4 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F17	Packed post-hole		undated
F18	Packed post-hole		undated
F19	Packed post-hole		undated

This trench contained three post-holes packed with small stones. They are not dated. These were probably part of a modern fence across this field.

Trench 5 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F13	Natural pit		natural
F15	Natural pit		natural
F16	Pit or ditch terminal – natural?		undated

This trench contained two natural pits (F13, F15) and an undated ditch terminal (F16). There is no corresponding ditch in any of the nearby trenches.

Trench 6 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F20	Pit	28, CBM – peg-tile; 28, 1 burnt flint 65g	medieval/post-medieval

This trench contained a single medieval or later pit (F20).

Trench 7 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
unstratified		1 burnt flint 320g	

There were no archaeological features in this trench, but a single, unstratified burnt flint was recovered.

Trenches 8-13
These trenches (in Field 1 in the north-western part of the site) were not opened up, for ecological reasons.

Trenches 14-18
No archaeological features were recorded in these trenches.

Trench 19 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F152	Pit/post-hole		undated

There was a single undated pit or post-hole (F152) in this trench.

Trench 20 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F153	Post-hole		undated

There was a single undated post-hole (F153) in this trench.

Trench 21
No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 22 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F151	Pit		natural

There was a single natural pit (F151) in this trench.

Trench 23 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F150	Packed post-hole		undated

There was a single post-hole or pit (F150) in this trench. It was packed with small stones.

Trench 24-25
No archaeological features were recorded in these trenches.

Trench 26 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F144	Tree-throw pit?		prehistoric?
F145	Pit	103, possible early Anglo-Saxon pot	Late Iron Age/Roman, possibly Anglo-Saxon
F157	Pit		Late Iron Age/ Roman?

This trench contained a pit (F144) which may be a tree-throw pit, a Late Iron Age or Roman pit (F157), and a possible Anglo-Saxon pit (F145).

Trench 27 (Fig 3, Fig 12)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F146	Burnt pit/oven	104, Early Iron Age pot; 104, 18 burnt flints 465g; 107, Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age pot; 107, 3 burnt flints 63g; 108, Late Bronze Age pot; 108, burnt flint 154g	prehistoric (Middle Iron Age, with residual?)
F147	Natural feature		post-Glacial

This trench contained a natural pit (F147) and a burnt pit (F146). F146 had burnt sides, and it is clear from that fact that it once held a fire. However, it is not certain whether it was merely a pit in which a fire had been made (for cooking?) or whether it was used to burn pots. There was a 682g group of burnt flints in the fill, which might support the idea of a cooking pit. There was also a group of prehistoric pottery focussing on the Iron Age (possibly earlier). This feature, if it is a cooking pit, indicates that there was prehistoric settlement nearby.

Trench 28 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F148	Ditch	109, animal bone, post-medieval pottery; 109, Roman CBM	post-medieval/ modern

The direction of this trench coincides with a post-medieval ditch (F148) which runs down its eastern edge. As this trench is quite close to the eastern boundary of Field 4, it seems unlikely that F148 is an old field boundary.

Trench 29 (Fig 3)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F142	Packed post-hole	112, lumps of stone	undated

This trench contained an undated post-hole F142, packed with small stones.

Trench 30 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F141	Small pit/post-hole		undated
F154	Ditch		undated (Late Iron Age/Roman?)

This trench contained two features, a small pit or post-hole and a ditch, both undated (possibly Late Iron Age). Ditch F154 may be the same feature as ditch F156 in T31.

Trench 31 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F155	Pit	110, CBM – peg-tile (intrusive? or thin *tegula*?); 110, burnt flint 43g	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F156	Ditch	111, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?

This trench contained a ditch (F156) and a pit (F155), both probably Late Iron Age or Roman. The burnt flint in F155 would be residual in this context. The thin tile in F155 could be a thin flat piece from a Roman *tegula* or could be an intrusive peg-tile. Ditch F156 may be the same feature as ditch F154 in T30.

Trench 32 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F149	ditch	106, CBM undated. Roman?	Late Iron Age/ Roman?

This trench contained a single Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F149). The CBM in its fill may be Roman.

Trench 33 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F92	Ditch	80, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F93	Pit	79, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F94	Ditch	78, CBM, undated	Roman or later
F95	Ditch	116, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric
F96	Pit	120, Iron Age-Roman pot, presumably Roman, with residual Late Bronze Age pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F97	Pit	119, Middle Iron Age or Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F98	Ditch	117, Roman pot, 1st-2nd or 3rd century and Roman CBM, and Anglo-Saxon sherds	early Anglo-Saxon with residual Roman
F99	Ditch	115, Iron Age-Roman and ?Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F100	Pit		natural?
F101	Ditch	77, Roman? pot; 77, 1 burnt flint 7g	Late Iron Age/ Roman

Apart from a natural pit (F100), the features in this trench are typical of the range of material found on the site. Ditch F95 had a single sherd of flint-gritted pottery which could date to anywhere in the range Late Bronze Age to Iron Age. There were seven Late Iron Age or Roman features: pits F93, F96 and F97, and ditches F92, F94, F99 and F101. One ditch (F98) contained early Anglo-Saxon pottery. This Anglo-Saxon ditch, presumably a field boundary, indicates that Anglo-Saxon farmers were operating in the same area as the previous prehistoric and Roman farmers.

Trench 34 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F103	Packed post-hole		undated
F104	Ditch	92, early Anglo-Saxon pot	Anglo-Saxon
F105	Ditch	91, Roman pot (?3rd century); 91, ?worked flint 9g	later Roman
F106	Ditch	118, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained an undated post-hole (F103), a Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F106), a Roman ditch (F105), and an Anglo-Saxon ditch (F104). Though not quite in line with Anglo-Saxon ditch F98 in T33, the Anglo-Saxon boundary represented by F104 may be on the same alignment.

Trench 35 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F113	Packed post-hole		undated

This trench contained a single undated post-hole packed with small stones (F113).

Trench 36 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F112	Ditch	88, Late Bronze Age? pot, and Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained a single Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F112).

Trench 37 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F111	Pit	90, Roman? CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained a single Late Iron Age or Roman pit (F111).

Trench 38 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F107	Ditch	89, Late Iron Age-Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F108	Pit		undated
F109	Ditch		undated
F110	Ditch	87, animal bone	undated
F122	Pit		undated

This trench contained four undated features (ditches F109-F110 and pits F108, F122), and a Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F107).

Trench 39 (Fig 4)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F114	Ditch		undated

This trench contained an undated ditch (F114).

Trench 40 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F115	Pit		undated
F116	Ditch		undated
F117	Pit		undated
F118	Ditch		undated
F119	Pit	83, probably early Anglo-Saxon, plus residual Late Bronze Age? pot	Anglo-Saxon
F120	Ditch	84, CBM – Roman?	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F121	Ditch		undated
F123	Ditch	82, Anglo-Saxon with residual Roman	Anglo-Saxon
F124	Pit	85, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F143	Ditch	93, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
L2	Disturbed natural	95, Roman? pot	modern

This trench contained five undated features (pits F115, F117 and ditches F116, F118, F121), Late Iron Age or Roman ditches (F120, F143), a Roman pit (F124), and an Anglo-Saxon pit and ditch (F119, F123).

Trench 41 (Fig 5)
No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 42 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F134	Ditch		undated
F135	Pit	102, Roman pot, CBM undated	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained an undated ditch (F134) and a Late Iron Age or Roman pit (F135).

Trench 43 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F136	Pit		undated
F137	Ditch		undated
F138	Ditch		undated
F139	Ditch	101, Iron Age-Roman pot and Roman pot; 101, 1 burnt flint 71g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F140	Pit	100, pot?	undated

This trench contained two undated pits (F136, F140), two undated ditches (F137-F138), and a Late Iron Age or Roman ditch (F139).

Trench 44 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F125	Ditch	94, Iron Age-Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age? pot; 94, 3 burnt flints 68g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F126	Ditch		undated
F127	Pit		undated
F128	Pit	99 and 121, lumps of stone	undated
F129	Ditch	96, Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F130	Ditch	97, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F131	Pit	98, Late Iron Age-Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 98, four burnt flints 57g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F132	Pit		undated
F133	Ditch		undated

This trench contained two undated ditches (F126, F133), two undated pits (F127, F132), three Late Iron Age ditches (F125, F129, F130), and a Late Iron Age or Roman pit (F131). The Late Iron Age/Roman ditches in T44 may line up with similar ditches in T43.

Trench 45 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F68	Pit		Late Iron Age/ natural
F69	Ditch	47, Roman Flavian to early 2nd-century pot	later Roman
F70	Pit	46, Iron Age pot?	Late Iron Age/ Roman?

This trench contained two Late Iron Age/Roman pits (F68, F70) and a Roman pit (F69).

Trench 46 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F71	Pit	48, Roman pottery, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 48, 107 burnt flints 1,613g	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained a Late Iron Age/Roman pit (F71).

Trench 47 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F72	Pit	49, burnt flint 22g	prehistoric
F73	Pit	50, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman

Trench 48
No archaeological features wer recorded in this trench

Trench 49 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F74	Ditch		undated?
F75	Pit	56, animal bone; 56, 1st-century Roman pot; 58, Late Bronze Age? pot; 58, animal bone	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained an undated ditch (F74) and a Late Iron Age/Roman pit (F75).

Trench 50 (Fig 5)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F76	Ditch	59, Late Bronze Age? pot; 59, burnt flint 13g	prehistoric
F77	Pit	62, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric
F78	Ditch	63, Roman CBM?; 63, burnt flint 4g; 68, Late Bronze Age pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F79	Ditch	64, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric?

This trench contained a higher proportion of probable prehistoric features than elsewhere on the site; ie ditches F76 and F79, and pit F77. There was also a Late

Iron Age/Roman ditch (F78). Ditch F78 was circular in plan (assuming the second half of the circle lies to the north). Although far smaller than ring-ditches normally associated with burials, a non-domestic function may be suggested for this possible ring-ditch. Pit F77 is placed centrally within ditch F78, and is probably associated with it. The burnt flints from this trench suggest nearby cooking (and therefore settlement).

Trench 51 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F51	Ditch		undated
F85	Pit		undated
F86	Ditch	67, Roman 1st- to 2nd-/3rd-century pot; 67, burnt flint 6g	later Roman
F87	Pit	66, animal bone; 66, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 66, 1 burnt flint 43g; 66, 1 worked flint 17g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F88	Ditch	71, Iron Age? pot; 74, Roman? pot; 81, animal bone; Roman CBM; 81, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F90	Ditch	70, animal bone; 70, Late Bronze Age? pot; 71, animal bone; 70, 1 burnt flint 17g; 70, 2 worked flint 12g	prehistoric
F91	Pit	69, Late Bronze Age? pot and (?intrusive) peg-tile	prehistoric with intrusive post-medieval
F102	Ditch	72, Roman? pot; 73, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained two undated features (F51, F85), a prehistoric ditch (F90), a Roman pit (F87), and Late Iron Age or Roman ditches (F86, F88, F102). The status of ditch F91 is uncertain, as it contains prehistoric pot and peg-tile. The peg-tile may indicate a level of disturbance not evident elsewhere on the site, which has virtually no material post-dating the Roman period. The prehistoric activity here resembles the prehistoric activity in nearby T50. There is a spread of fragments of Iron Age loomweights with a total weight of 1.35kg from features in this trench (F51, F87, F88, F89). This is good evidence for weaving taking place on or very close to this spot, and, by association, a local supply of wool (sheep in nearby fields?).

Trench 52 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F80	Ditch	54, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric?
F81	Ditch	55, Late Bronze Age? pot; 55, four burnt flints 49g; 57, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F82	Ditch	60, animal bone; 60, 1st -century Roman pot, plus ?Roman with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 60, three burnt flints 123g; 75, animal bone; 75, Late Iron Age pot with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 75, 7 burnt flints	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual,

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
		314g; 75, 1 worked flint 19g; 76, animal bone; 76, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot plus residual Late Bronze Age pot ; 76, 1 burnt flint 8g; 76, 1 worked flint 8g	
F83	Blob	53, Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F84	Ditch	52, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot; 61, animal bone; 61, Roman pot of 1st-2nd century plus residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot	later Roman
F89	Ditch		undated

This trench contained a prehistoric ditch (F80) and Late Iron Age or Roman ditches (F81, F82, F83, F84). Ditch F82, which is almost certainly a continuation of ditch F84, contained much residual prehistoric material (pottery and flints). If it is a continuation of ditch F84, the two ditches almost form a right-angle. This could be the corner of an enclosure. The general level of prehistoric finds is similar to the prehistoric activity in nearby T50 and T51.

Trench 53 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F21	Ditch	9, worked flint 2g	prehistoric?
F22	Pit		undated
F23	Ditch	charcoal in fill	undated
F24	Post-hole/pit	charcoal in fill	undated
F25	Ditch		undated
F26	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F27	Ditch	11, animal bone; 11, Late Iron Age-Roman and early Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pot, with residual Late Bronze Age? pot; 11, 1 burnt flint 6g; 11, 2 worked flints 8g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Roman and prehistoric
F28	Natural? pit		natural?
F29	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F30	Ditch	16, Roman 3rd- to 4th-century pot	later Roman
F31	Pit	15, Roman and Late Iron Age-Roman pot; 2 burnt flints 15g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F32	Ditch	22, CBM undated, prob not Roman; 22, Roman 1st-century pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained four undated features (F22-F25) and three features of natural origin (F26, F28, F29). There was also a possible prehistoric ditch (F21), and three Late Iron Age or Roman features (ditches F30 and F32, pit F31). Ditch F27 is Anglo-Saxon, although, in common with some other features on the site, it contained residual Roman and prehistoric material.

Trench 54 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F33	Ditch	17, Roman mid-late 1st- to mid 2nd-century pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F34	Pit	19, early Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F35	Pit	21, Roman or late Roman pot	later Roman
F36	Ditch	14, animal bone; 14, oyster shell; 14, Roman late 3rd- to 4th-century pot and early Anglo-Saxon pot; 14, Roman CBM; 14, 1 burnt flint 3g; 14, 1 worked flint 5g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Roman (and prehistoric flints)
L2	Disturbed natural	30, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot	modern

This trench contained two Late Iron Age or Roman pits (F34-F35), a Roman ditch (F33), and an Anglo-Saxon ditch (F36). Three of these features contained fragments of Iron Age loomweights (F33, F34, F36: total weight 0.35kg). This is good evidence for weaving taking place on or very close to this spot, and, by association, a local supply of wool (sheep in nearby fields?). Although one of these fragments occurs in an apparently Anglo-Saxon context, it is residual here, and the bulk of the loomweights (as in T51 above) are Iron Age.

Trench 55 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F37	Linear feature – ditch?	24, Roman 2nd-century or later pot	later Roman
F38	Linear feature – ditch?	23, Roman 3rd- to 4th-century pot	later Roman
F39	Ditch	28, animal bone, oyster shell; 28, Roman early-mid 2nd-century pot; 28, 4 burnt flints 36g	later Roman
F40	Linear feature – ditch?	25, Roman pot early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; 25, burnt? flint, 73g	later Roman
F41	Pit/post-hole	37, 11 burnt flints 240g	prehistoric
F55	Ditch	27, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot; 27, 9 burnt flints 190g	Late Iron Age/ Roman

This trench contained a prehistoric pit or post-hole (F41) and four Roman ditches (F37-F40).

Trench 56 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F42	Pit	34, residual Iron Age?, and Roman 2nd- to 3rd-century pot and Roman CBM	later Roman
F44	Ditch	29, CBM (probably post-medieval); 29, Roman pot and late 3rd- to 4th-century AD pot	later Roman
F45	Linear feature	33, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F46	Pit	35, Roman with residual Iron Age? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F47	Linear feature	pot flecks	undated
F49	Linear feature	burnt flint fragments	prehistoric

This trench contained an undated linear feature (F47), a prehistoric ditch (F49), and four Late Iron Age or Roman features (pits F42, F46 and ditches F44, F45).

Trench 57 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F57	Ditch		undated
F58	Ditch	45, 1 burnt flint 30g; 113, Iron Age-Roman and ?Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F59	Ditch		undated
F61	Ditch	41, CBM undated	Roman or later
F62	Ditch		undated
F63	Ditch	40, probably Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F64	Feature	39, animal bone, 39, Roman or intrusive post-medieval glass?; 39, late 3rd- to 4th-century Roman pot with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 39, burnt flint 10g	later Roman
F65	Ditch	38, Roman? pot and CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?

This trench contained three undated ditches (F57, F59, F62), two possible Late Iron Age/Roman ditches (F63, F65), and two Roman ditches (F61, F64).

Trench 58 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F50	Ditch	31, Late Iron Age-Roman? pot, with possible early Anglo-Saxon pot; 31, 22 burnt flints 205g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Late Iron Age/Roman (and prehistoric flints)
F52	Ditch	44, Roman pot	undated
F53	Ditch	43, Late Bronze Age pot	prehistoric
F54	Ditch	114, Roman and possible early Anglo-Saxon pot, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 114, 12 burnt flints 205g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, possibly Anglo-Saxon
F56	Horseshoe-shaped ditch	32, Roman pot, and early Anglo-Saxon pot, and Middle Iron Age or Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 32, 1 burnt flint 6g; 32, 1 worked flint 7g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual prehistoric and Late Iron Age/ Roman
L2	Disturbed natural	42, Roman? pot; 42, 6 burnt flints 221g	modern

This trench contained an undated ditch (F52), a prehistoric ditch (F53), two certain Anglo-Saxon ditches (F50, F54), and a possible Anglo-Saxon ditch (F56). The latter

is horseshoe-shaped in plan. It is difficult to be sure whether this is the sharp corner of an enclosure or merely an oddly-shaped feature.

Trench 59 (Fig 6)

Feature/Layer	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F66	Post-hole	pot flecks and charcoal	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F67	Natural feature		post-Glacial

This trench contained a natural feature (F67) and a possible Late Iron Age/Roman post-hole (F66).

Trench 60
No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

6 Finds

6.1 Small finds

by Nina Crummy

Loomweights

A total of 101 triangular loomweight fragments weighing 2.727 kg in total came from a scatter of features across the site (Table 1), but were primarily concentrated in trenches 51 and 54. Apart from a large, but shattered, fragment from F88, they are small and sometimes abraded. All bar a very few fragments are in the same hard-fired fabric (A), with only the occasional void left by vegetable matter, although in many cases the surfaces are covered with these voids where the weights were in contact with chopped vegetable matter while drying. The pattern of reduction and oxidation varies across the surfaces and throughout the core, the colours ranging from orange to black, although grey and orange-brown predominate. A few pieces are slightly sandier than the majority, but only four fragments from F71 are so sandy that they could be defined as a separate fabric (B), and they are so small that their identification as part of a loomweight is only tentative.

Triangular loomweights originated in the Middle Iron Age and did not die out until after the Roman conquest of Britain. They occur on many Iron Age sites, and provide evidence for communities who were self-sufficient in textile production. In practical terms they are indicative of the use of an upright warp-weighted loom for weaving textiles, and of the keeping of a flock of sheep or goats, at least some of whom would have been allowed to achieve maturity rather than being slaughtered within their first or second year, as would occur if the animals were kept only for the production of milk or meat. In some cases deposits of loomweights may have a ritual aspect, placed in pits as a ritual act, possibly a public one (Hamilton 1998, 29, 38, fig 5). This does not seem to be the case at Dry Street, where the fragments are in general very small, although a possible candidate for such an interpretation is the large piece from F88. At 821g it represents a substantial proportion of the complete weight, which is likely to be about 1.2-1.5 kg on comparison with complete weights from Danebury, Hampshire, and from Stanway near Colchester (Cunliffe & Poole 1991, 375; Crummy *et al* forthcoming). The average of 2 kg given by Major for Essex is distorted by the inclusion of a group of large weights, some as heavy as 3.5 kg, which may be have been used for another purpose, perhaps as thatch weights (Jones & Jones 1973, 33; Wymer & Brown 1995, 125).

Table 1: incidence of loomweight fragments.

SF	Find	Feature/ Layer	No of fragments	Fabric	Weight (g)
3	10	F22	3	A	19
5	17	F33	18	A	65
6	19	F34	3	A	24
7	14	F36	1	A	93
8	28	F39	11	A	62
9	36	F39	1	A	107
10	45	F51	1	A	45
12	48	F71	12	8 x A; 4 x B	193
13	56	F75	5	A	48
14	58	F75	5	A	462
15	60	F82	3	A	17
16	66	F87	7	A	39
17	71	F88	1	A	821
18	81	F88	3	A	231
19	70	F90	3	A	219
20	103	F146	4	A	35
21	107	F146	19	A	86
4	20	L2	1	A	161

Annular loomweight
SF 11. (39) F64. Fragment of a fired clay annular object, too large and with too big a central hole to be a spindlewhorl. The hole slopes inwards from the top of the ring. Though thinner than most, this may be part of an Anglo-Saxon annular loomweight. The fabric is a sandy clay, fired patchily buff-orange on the surface and with an evenly reduced core. Diameter approximately 75 mm, height 33 mm, thickness 25 mm (incomplete); maximum diameter of central hole 40 mm.

Structural clay
F72 contained 1.39 kg of small and often abraded fragments of structural clay, with a few reduced, or patchily reduced, pieces providing evidence for contact with heat. No obvious original external surfaces remain, and only one fragment retains part of a wattle void, approximately 20 mm in diameter. This material is likely to derive from a wattle-and-daub built structure, but there is insufficient evidence to suggest that it comes from an oven or kiln.

A fragment of a fired clay slab from F82 has one slightly irregular but smooth surface while the other is more irregular and is crossed by a row of three deep thumb or finger impressions. Measuring 99 by 95 mm, with all edges fractured, and a maximum of 54 mm thick, it may have been used as a building block or to line a hearth, although it bears no scorch marks from contact with intense heat.

The only other piece of structural clay is a small fragment of daub (weight 8g) from F64.

Metalwork
SF 1. (12) F27. Lead(-alloy) drip, probably from small-scale lead-working. Length 25 mm.

SF 2. (26) F20. Double-pointed iron object, irregularly triangular along most of its length. The metal is dense and may be either a piece of bloomery iron, such as a smith's blank, or cast. If the latter, then it must date to the later post-medieval or modern period and may be a piece of agricultural machinery. Length 131 mm, maximum width 30 mm.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery (Tables 2-3)

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction
The prehistoric pottery is defined as that preceding the introduction of Late Iron Age 'Belgic' pottery in the early-mid 1st century BC. There are approximately 292 sherds (weighing 1,446 g) of prehistoric pottery. Of this, the majority 168 sherds (822 g) are flint-tempered, and also 69 sherds (399 g) are tempered with sand and/or quartz. The quantity of flint- and sand-tempered fabrics for each feature is shown in Table 3.

A small number of sherds were not classifiable to a particular fabric. Almost all of the sherds are of small-medium size with an average sherd weight of just under 5 g. Almost all of the pottery is residual in later-dated contexts. Sherds diagnostic of the type and date of the pottery assemblage are extremely rare. Only two rim sherds or possible rim sherds were recorded; one (T51, F90, find bag 70) is a flint-tempered bead rim and is not dated, while the other (T27, F146, find bag 104) is slightly flaring and flat-topped although it is possibly a false rim caused by facture along a manufacturing joint. However, one body sherd (T27, F146, find bag 104) is almost certainly from a Darmsden-Linton-style angular tripartite bowl and can be dated to the Early Iron Age. A number of the sherds from F146 (T7) are burnt.

The prehistoric pottery fabrics (Table 2) follow those devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988). The fabrics and quantity of pottery recorded for each feature are listed in Table 3.

Table 2: prehistoric pottery fabric codes.
size of inclusions: S-small (<1 mm), M-medium (1-2 mm), L large (>2 mm)
density of inclusions: 1 = less than 6 per square cm, 2 = 6 to 10 per square cm, 3 = more than 10 per square cm.

Fabric A	Flint S 2 well sorted
Fabric B	Flint S-M 2
Fabric C	Flint S-M with occasional L
Fabric D	Flint S-L 2 poorly sorted
Fabric F	Sand S-M with addition of occasional L flint
Fabric H	Sand S 2
Fabric I	Sand S-M 2-3
Fabric L	Quartz with sometimes with some sand S-L 2
Fabric O	Quartz and flint and some sand S-L poorly sorted
Fabric Z	Unclassifiable

Table 3: prehistoric pottery by feature and find bag.
IA = Iron Age, EIA = Early Iron Age, MIA = Middle Iron Age, LIA = Late Iron Age.

trench	feature	find bag no	feature/ note	fabrics recorded	flint temper sherds	flint temper weight (g)	sand/ quartz temper sherds	sand/ quartz temper weight (g)	comments/ description
T36	F112	88	ditch	B C	2	12			
T40	F119	83	pit	C	1	5			
T41	F125	94	ditch	C	1	2			
T33	F131	98	pit	D	1	15			
T27	F146	104	pit with burning	C O	74	357			base and body sherds, probably many from one dark surfaced jar or bowl, one rim? sherd, also Fabric O 25 sherds (204 g) (mixed flint and sand temper) many sherds, possibly most from one pot, with oxidised surfaces, several are cracked or show signs of being burnt or over-fired, one rim? sherd possibly from a tripartite bowl with two grooves forming a cordon in the

trench	feature	find bag no	feature/ note	fabrics recorded	flint temper sherds	flint temper weight (g)	sand/ quartz temper sherds	sand/ quartz temper weight (g)	comments/ description
									angle between the body and rim, probably EIA (Darmsden-Linton)
T27	F146	107	pit with burning	C F Z	15	38	11	69	one flint-tempered rim fragment, Fabric Z (unclassified); 20 sherds and fragments (14 g)
T27	F146	108	pit with burning	A	6	24			sherds all from same thick-walled pot
T53	F27	11	ditch	C	1	1			
T56	F42	34	pit	L			1	5	
T56	F46	35	pit	F			1	3	
T58	F53	43	ditch	D	8	6			fragments only
T58	F54	114	ditch	D H	12	34	1	10	
T58	F56	32	ditch	C	2	11			
T57	F64	39	feature	D F I	1	6	14	75	sand-tempered fabric base of pot(s), possibly two vessels, both coated with patchy sand from standing on sanded surface when wet or sanded to avoid sticking
T45	F70	46	ditch	I?			2	1	fragments ?IA
T46	F71	8	pit	C H Z	9	26	11	29	Fabric Z (unclassified); 10 other sherds and fragments (7 g) unclassified
T49	F75	58	pit	C	1	4			
T50	F76	59	ditch	C	3	21			
T50	F77	62	pit	A	3	2			
T51	F78	68	ditch	D	2	8			
T50	F79	64	ditch	D	1	4			
T52	F80	54	ditch	C D	4	22			
T52	F81	55	ditch	B C H	2	7	1	4	
T52	F82	60	ditch	B C D I	5	29	1	8	
T52	F82	75	ditch	D	14	119			includes flint-tempered base sherd
T52	F82	76	ditch	C D	3	29			
T52	F84	61	ditch	C H	2	5	2	8	sand temper - dense, very fine sand ?MIA
T52	F87	66	pit	C F	5	44	1	24	
T51	F88	71	ditch	F			1	9	abraded
T51	F90	70	ditch	B C	4	28			flint-tempered bead rim
T51	F91	69	pit	D	1	4			
T33	F95	116	ditch	D	1	7			
T33	F96	120	pit	C	4	11			
T33	F97	119	pit	I			1	5	sand-tempered black sherd, ?MIA or Roman
T33	F99	115	possible ring-ditch	C	1	3			

Discussion

From the Langdon Hills, south of the present evaluation site, an assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery has been published (Brown & Buckley 1986). The only clear diagnostic sherd among the present assemblage is from an angular tripartite bowl of Early Iron Age Darmsden-Linton style (T27 F146). Other than this, the only dating evidence is provided by the fabric types recorded. There are both flint-tempered fabrics and sand-tempered fabrics which overall suggest a broad dating bracket of the Later Bronze Age to the Early-Middle Iron Age. While both Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age assemblages are dominated by flint-tempered fabrics, a greater range of fabric types, including an increase in sand-tempered wares, is more typical of Early Iron Age assemblages than those of the Late Bronze Age in Essex (Brown 1991, 27). Shell temper is also a common component of Early Iron Age assemblages from south Essex (Brown 1995, 30). However, while no shell-tempered sherds are recorded among the assemblage, shell temper is also absent from other assemblages of Early Iron Age date in the south of the county (Sealey 1996, 47). A few sand-tempered body sherds, based on their appearance, are probably of Middle Iron Age date.

Almost all of the pottery is residual. The only features which produced exclusively prehistoric pottery are a few lengths of ditches (T36, F112; T40, F119; T45, F70; T58, F53) and a few pits (T33, F97; T51, F91). However, the quantities from these features are small and a few of the sherds are of dubious identification, so that overall the use of the pottery as dating evidence for these features is doubtful. Only one feature produced a significant quantity of exclusively prehistoric pottery, the pit F146 (T27), although one, presumably intrusive Roman tile fragment also was recorded from the fill. This pit produced 97 sherds (419g) of flint-tempered pottery and 11 sherds (69g) of sand-tempered pottery, with a further 25 sherds (204g) of mixed flint- and sand-tempered pottery. The Darmsden-Linton-style bowl came from this feature (find bag 104) and overall an Early Iron Age date seems probable for the pottery from the feature. One notable feature of the assemblage from F146 is that a number of sherds, possibly from one pot, are burnt with cracking affecting some surfaces. It is not clear if the burning is a product of the firing of the pot or of later burning.

6.3 The Roman pottery (Tables 4-6)

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The quantity of sherds per fabric type by weight and the approximate number of sherds present for each fabric were recorded together with the vessel forms and the date ranges for the fabrics and vessels. The fabrics were recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR* **10** in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. Three-letter fabric codes, additional to the *CAR* **10** fabric series, were used for grog-tempered wares (GTW), Romanising coarse wares (RCW), and Rettendon-type wares (RET). The full fabric names for each of the lettered codes are given in Table 4 (below). The pot forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 and Hull 1958) and the Roman pottery type series for Chelmsford (Going 1987), the forms from which, when recorded here, are prefixed by 'Going'. Samian vessels are recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers.

Just under 8 kg (7,754 g) of Roman pottery was recovered comprising 909 sherds. Most of the pottery consists of small- to medium-sized body sherds which are often abraded, with the average sherd weight for the whole assemblage being about 8.5 g, and the total estimated vessel equivalent (eve) recorded as the % of rim present (1.00 representing a whole pot rim) is 5.86.

Fabrics and descriptions additional to *CAR* **10 f**abrics used in this report:

Fabric GTW Grog-tempered wares of Late Iron Age potting tradition/background
Surfaces are patchy red-brown to dark-brown, fabric contains various quantities of crushed fired clay (grog) and is grey to brown.

Fabric RCW Romanising coarse wares
Sherd thickness is generally medium-thin. Fabric contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog, though can be sandy. The fabric is either grey-brown with dark grey-brown surfaces (this includes some black surfaced wares) which have a tendency to laminate, or pale brown to light grey and appearing abraded.

Fabric RET Rettendon type wares
Roman coarse ware, principally grey wares, tempered with various quantities of crushed burnt flint (Going fabric 48).

Table 4: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names (after *CAR* 10 with additions).

Fabric code	Fabric name
BA	plain samian forms
SG	South Gaulish plain samian
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian
EG	East Gaulish plain samian
BX	decorated samian forms
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian
CH	oxidised Hadham wares
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London type and north Kent wares)
GTW	grog-tempered wares
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
GT	Fabric HZ with grog temper
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware
RCW	Romanising coarse wares
RET	Rettendon type wares
TY	mortaria, other British unsourced (not Colchester or Verulamium)

Table 5: quantification of Roman pottery by find bag for each feature and layer.
IA = Iron Age, LIA = Late Iron Age.

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 10)	form types recorded	sherd quan	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T2	F10	1	post-hole	GX?		1	1	0.00	sand-tempered sherds/fragments, ?Roman	IA-Roman, ?Roman
T2	F12	3	ditch	HZ?		1	5	0.04	vesicular, vegetable-tempered rim sherd, presumed LIA-Roman	LIA-Roman
T33	F96	120	pit	GX?		1	4	0.00	sandy sherd	IA-Roman, presumed Roman
T33	F98	117	ditch	?BX(SG) GX	Dr 30?	2	7	0.05	very abraded, possibly east Gaulish, Fabric GX flat top rim	Roman, 1st century ?early 2nd-early 3rd century
T33	F99	115	possible ring-ditch	GX?		2	2	0.00	sand-tempered black sherds/fragments, ?Roman	IA-Roman, ?Roman
T33	F101	77	linear	HZ?		1	7	0.00	abraded small lump	?Roman
T34	F105	91	ditch	GX		9	50	0.00	Fabric GX abraded, one sherd with roller stamp band, includes coarse dark sandy ware,	Roman, ?3rd century

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 10)	form types recorded	sherd quan	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
									presumed Roman	
T38	F107	89	ditch	HZ?		3	12	0.00	three vesicular, vegetable-tempered sherds, presumed LIA-Roman	?Roman
T40	F123	82	ditch	GX		2	16	0.00	Fabric GX includes rough sandy sherd	Roman
T40	F143	93	linear	GX		7	11	0.03	Fabric GX very abraded rim of bowl, presumed Roman, also includes miscellaneous fragments, abraded ?IA-Roman	Roman?
T41	F125	94	ditch	GX?		2	3	0.00	abraded sandy fragments, presumed IA-Roman	IA?-Roman
T42	F135	102	pit	GX		1	4	0.00		Roman
T43	F139	101	ditch	GX		1	1	0.00	very abraded fragment	Roman
T44	F129	96	ditch	GX		1	4	0.00		Roman
T44	F131	98	pit	GX		4	5	0.00	includes abraded fragments, ?IA-Roman	Roman
T45	F69	47	ditch	GX	Going ?C3	1	4	0.05		Roman, ?Flavian-early 2nd century
T46	F71	8	pit	GX?		6	17	0.03	abraded sandy sherds with firing core and margin	?Roman
T47	F73	50	pit	GTW		1	1	0.00	red grog	LIA-?early Roman
T49	F75	56	pit	GTW HZ		6	60	0.05	Fabric GTW, well-made grog-tempered pottery includes sherd from pot with bead rim and small indentations around shoulder	1st century, ?LIA-Roman
T49	F75	58	pit	GTW RCW		5	40	0.00		1st century, LIA-early Roman
T50	F76	59	ditch	DJ GTW GX		26	112	0.00	Fabric DJ abraded, appears superficially similar to Hadham oxidised ware but is probably not Hadham, Fabric GX some sherds are burnt	Roman, ?LIA-early Roman
T50	F77	62	pit	GX RCW		5	10	0.00	plus 15 abraded fragments of ?pottery	Roman, ?1st-2nd century
T50	F79	64	ditch	GX		2	4	0.00	abraded	Roman
T51	F78	68	ditch	GX HZ		5	6	0.00		Roman ?LIA-Roman
T51	F88	71	ditch	GX RCW	Cam 243-244/246, (Going C16)	5	12	0.10	many sherds abraded	Roman, 1st to early-mid 2nd century
T51	F88	74	ditch	DJ GTW GX HD HZ(GT)	Cam 155	42	344	0.05	Fabric GTW red grog temper, Fabric GX sherds from several pots, joining sherds from one complete base, base has post firing hole just above base in one side, possible that others may have been present	Roman, 1st-mid 2nd century

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 10)	form types recorded	sherd quan	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T51	F88	81	ditch	DJ GX HD HZ KX	Cam 37 (Going B2), Going G5.11	39	655	0.13	Fabric GX includes joining sherds from a base, much is dark surfaced sandy wares, medium-large sherds	early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century
T51	F90	70	ditch	GTW HZ RCW	Cam 266? Going G5.11	99	1067	0.80	Fabric HZ includes significant part of one bowl type resembles Cam 221/G20 but with straight upright neck, medium- to large-sized sherds	Roman, 1st century
T51	F102	72	ditch	HZ RCW	Cam 257, Going H7, Going G5	58	408	0.45	Fabric RCW butt beaker with slightly cupped rim, cordoned and decorated with fine vertical incised lines, much of the pot represented by base body and rim sherds, medium-large sherds	1st century, probably pre-Flavian
T51	F102	73	ditch	HD RCW		16	335	0.00	Fabric HD shell-tempered, not dissolved out and indicates shell temper can survive quite well on the site	1st-early 2nd century
T52	F80	54	ditch	GX RCW		9	34	0.00	abraded	Roman, 1st-?2nd century
T52	F81	55	ditch	DJ RCW		7	12	0.04	six sherds and other fragments	Roman, probably early Roman
T52	F81	57	ditch	TY	Cam 504/505	9	196	0.05	sherds all from one pot, Fabric sandy with reddish brown surfaces and grey core, no surviving grits, very abraded	3rd-4th century
T52	F82	60	ditch	GX HZ HZ(GT) RCW	Cam 254	17	174	0.14		1st century
T52	F82	75	ditch	GTW		18	120	0.05	includes pedestal bowl	LIA
T52	F82	076	ditch	HZ RCW		2	22	0.00	Fabric HZ sherd probably Roman	Roman, 1st-2nd century
T52	F83	53	natural? (blob)	GX		2	23	0.00	abraded gritty sandy dark sherds, probably Roman	Roman
T52	F84	52	ditch	GX		16	64	0.00	one body sherd with post firing hole bored through it	Roman, possibly 1st-2nd century
T52	F84	61	ditch	DJ GX HZ RCW		9	77	0.00	Fabric HZ grey ware from a large storage jar	Roman, probably 1st-2nd century
T52	F86	67	ditch	GX HZ		4	14	0.00		Roman, 1st-2nd/3rd century
T52	F87	66	pit	GTW RCW		3	10	0.02	Fabric GTW two joining rim sherds/fragments	LIA-?early Roman
T53	F27	11	ditch	GTW GX		3	39	0.00		Roman, LIA-early Roman
T53	F30	16	ditch	RET?		1	1	0.00		Roman, 3rd-4th century?

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 10)	form types recorded	sherd quan	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
T53	F31	15	pit	GTW GX		7	43	0.00	merging into Fabric RCW	Roman, LIA-early Roman
T53	F32	22	ditch	RCW		62	591	0.00	sherds almost all from the lower part of a jar in sandy fabric tempered with black organic matter, one or two sherds from other vessels also in Fabric RCW	Roman, 1st century
T54		30	subsoil	GX	Going G5	2	19	0.05	includes very abraded rim	1st-2nd century
T54	F33	17	ditch	FJ GTW GX HZ RCW		19	123	0.20	Fabric FJ rim probably from a two-handled flagon, Fabric GTW red grog	mid-late 1st-mid 2nd century
T54	F34	19	pit	GTW GX RCW		20	165	0.10	Fabric GTW includes burnt sherds from a lid-seated jar	Roman, ?early Roman
T54	F35	21	pit	GX		9	22	0.20	all from one jar in gritty grey ware with rilled shoulder	Roman, ?late Roman
T54	F36	14	ditch	BA(CG) BA(EG) CH GX HD HZ(GT) RCW RET	Going E2	40	310	0.10	Fabric HD most likely to date from the 1st century or 4th century	late 3rd-4th century
T55	F37	24	linear	GX		2	24	0.10		Roman, probably 2nd century or later
T55	F38	23	ditch	GX RET		2	27	0.00	Fabric RET quite heavily flint tempered but is wheel turned grey ware	3rd-4th century
T55	F39	28	linear	BA(EG) GTW GP GX HZ RCW	Dr 18/31, Cam 37, Cam 120B, Cam 122 or 123, Cam 218 or Cam 222, Going G5.11	198	1879	2.15	sherds probably all from one pot, jar or bowl, which contains grog temper in the fabric, vertical internal marks indicate that while thin walled it may be hand made	early-mid 2nd century
T55	F40	25	linear	KX GX HD RCW	Cam 40B, Going G5.11	47	242	0.67		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century
T55	F55	27	ditch	GTW		1	2	0.03	rim	LIA-early Roman
T56	F42	34	pit	CZ GX		3	7	0.00	Fabric CZ ?Colchester	Roman, probably 2nd-3rd century
T56	F44	29	ditch	CH RET		3	22	0.03	Fabric RET some flint, probably Rettendon ware	late 3rd-4th century
T56	F46	35	pit	GX		3	5	0.00		Roman
T57	F58	113	ditch			1	2	0.00	sand tempered oxidised sherds/fragments ?Roman	IA-Roman, ?Roman
T57	F63	40	ditch	GX		1	7	0.00	abraded	probably Roman
T57	F64	39	feature	BA(EG) CH GTW TY		22	201	0.20	Fabric GTW tempered with red grog, Fabric TY abraded thick sandy	late 3rd-4th century

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 10)	form types recorded	sherd quan	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
									sherds probably from two pots, just possibly amphora but more probably mortaria, abraded	
T58	F50	31	ditch	GX		3	10	0.00	includes some abraded sandy sherds ?LIA-Roman?	
T58	F52	44	ditch	GX		1	31	0.00		Roman
T58	F54	114	ditch	GX		1	10	0.00		Roman
T58	F56	32	ditch	GX		6	14	0.00	includes small abraded sandy sherds, ?possibly MIA	Roman, MIA?-Roman?
T58	L02	042	subsoil	GX		2	5	0.01	abraded sherds	Roman

Table 6: Roman pottery forms recorded and their date ranges.

pottery form type	vessel type	date range (after *CAR* 10 and Going 1987)	number recorded
Dr 18/31 (East Gaul)	dish	*c* AD 120-150	1
Dr 30 (South Gaul))	bowl	1st century AD	1
Cam 37A (Going B2)	bead-rim dish or bowl	early 2nd-early 3rd century AD	2
Cam 40B	dish or bowl	early 2nd-mid-late 3rd century AD	
Cam 120B	sharply carinated beaker	*c* AD 55-90	1
Cam 122/123	beaker	late 1st-late 2nd/early 3rd century AD	1
Cam 155	ring-neck flagon	1st-mid 2nd century AD	1
Cam 218	bowl/jar	1st-early 2nd century AD	1
Cam 222	bowl	early-mid 1st century AD	1
Cam 243/244-246 (Going C16)	reed-rim bowl	1st-early 2nd century AD	1
Cam 254	cooking pot	early-mid 1st century AD	1
Cam 257	cooking pot	early-mid 1st century AD	1
Cam 266	jar	1st-early 2nd century AD	1
Cam 504/505	mortarium	3rd-4th century AD	1
Going C3	bowl	Flavian-early 2nd century AD	1
Going E2	bowl	late 2nd-4th century AD	1
Going G5	neckless jars with ledge rim	1st-2nd/?3rd century AD	2
Going G5. 11	neckless jar with ledge rim	1st century AD	4
Going H7	butt-beaker	1st century AD	1

Discussion

There are two aspects of significance for the evaluation which can be approached through a brief discussion of the Roman pottery recovered from the site. The first relates to the date of the pottery, and hence to the dating of the features, and the second to the nature of the occupation in the Roman period.

There is a small quantity of grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW; 88 sherds, 753 g) of Late Iron Age type or tradition. However, very few features contained only grog-tempered ware (T47, F73; T55, F55), and these contained only small quantities of pottery. There is a greater number of features which contain Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW) in association with grog-tempered ware or other pottery of possible early Roman date, and which can probably be attributed mostly if not entirely to the post-conquest period of the 1st-early 2nd century. In this respect, the greater proportion of the features examined contain pottery which can be dated or attributed to the early Roman period (Table 5).

Pottery of the mid-Roman period (mid 2nd-mid 3rd century) and late Roman period (mid 3rd-4th century) was not recorded so frequently as that attributed to the early Roman period. Among the coarse wares, there were only a few vessels in forms copying black-burnished ware types (dating from after the early 2nd century) and only one sherd of 2nd- or 3rd-century colour-coat ware (possibly of Colchester origin). However, while only a small amount of samian was recovered, all (apart from one questionable sherd) was from Central or East Gaulish workshops of 2nd- to earlier 3rd-century date. Recognisable late Roman pottery was predominantly represented by a few oxidised sherds from the Hadham potteries and by coarse ware sherds in Rettendon-type wares. There was also a mortarium of late Roman form (Cam 504/505) from F81 (T52). The Hadham wares sherds are probably of 4th-century date.

The limited quantity of fine wares and diagnostic coarse ware sherds means that much of the dating is reliant on the date assigned to individual coarse ware fabrics. The presence of some 2nd- to earlier 3rd-century samian could indicate that the predominantly early Roman dating, based mainly on the 1st- to early 2nd-century date assigned to the Romanising coarse ware fabrics, may be slightly too restrictive, and it is clear that the date ranges of the types of Roman pottery from the site cover the whole of the Roman period. However, the forms of the pottery recorded from the site (Table 6) are also predominantly 1st-early 2nd century and support the dating of the Romanising fabrics.

The types of Roman pottery and the fabrics indicate that the majority of pottery in use was jars, bowls, cooking pots and dishes, with a few beakers. Other recorded vessel types are represented by one (possibly two-three mortaria) and a flagon. There is a small quantity of samian, most (if not all) plain and most (if not all) of Central or East Gaulish origin. Colour-coats were represented by only one recorded sherd, and while it is possible that some sherds of colour-coat ware were not recognised due to the abraded nature of the pottery, there were only a few sherds to which this could apply, so that colour-coated ware is not a significant part of the assemblage. Overall, the assemblage reflects the types of pottery that would be expected to be associated with a fairly ordinary rural settlement.

One aspect of the assemblage which also deserves some comment is that overall much of the pottery is quite broken up. In general, the sherds fall with a size range which can be described as small-medium, and many are abraded. This suggests that much of the pottery was not deposited soon after breakage but after it had been further broken down into small sherd sizes, in which case it may represent pottery deposited toward the periphery of the settlement area.

6.4 The early Anglo-Saxon pottery (Table 7)

by Stephen Benfield

I am grateful to Paul R Sealey of Colchester Museums who initially looked at the pottery and confirmed that it was Anglo-Saxon and not Iron Age, and to Sue Tyler for examining the pottery and providing the details given here.

There is a small quantity of sherds, including one base and two rim fragments, with moderate-abundant quantities of chopped organic material or chaff temper. The majority of these sherds have kindly been examined by Sue Tyler (Essex County Council) who has identified them as early Anglo-Saxon. These sherds have been recorded (Table 7) using the fabric code for early Anglo-Saxon vegetable-tempered ware following *CAR* **7** (Fabric 1). With these are also a few sherds in a predominantly sand-tempered fabric, which Sue Tyler also identified as probably Anglo-Saxon. In total, there are 46 sherds (weighing 181 g) from the evaluation identified as early Anglo-Saxon pottery.

Table 7: early Anglo-Saxon pottery by find bag and feature for each trench.

trench	context F or L	find bag no	feature type	Fabrics (after *CAR* 7)	sherd quantity	weight (g)	eve	comments/description	date
	U/S			1	2	10	0.02	Includes small rim fragment	early Anglo-Saxon
T26	F145	103	pit		1	11	0.00	single sherd, possibly Anglo-Saxon but not positively identified	
T33	F117	117	pit	1	2	18	0.30	early Anglo-Saxon sherds; rim is typical of early Anglo-Saxon vessels	early Anglo-Saxon
T34	F104	92	ditch	1	21	76	0.00	sherds and fragments, most, probably all Anglo-Saxon, includes some sherds in sandy fabric	early Anglo-Saxon
T40	F119	83	pit	1	2	2	0.00	probably Anglo-Saxon	
T40	F123	82	ditch	1	3	9	0.00	includes small raised base edge; typical early Anglo-Saxon	early Anglo-Saxon
T53	F37	01	linear feature	1	1	10	0.00		early Anglo-Saxon
T54	F36	04	ditch	1	5	22	0.00	4 sherds Fabric 1, includes 1 sherd in sandy fabric	early Anglo-Saxon
T58	F50	01	ditch	1	2	3	0.00	Anglo-Saxon	
T58	F54	114	ditch	1	2	6	0.00	uncertain, possibly Anglo-Saxon	
T58	F56	02	horse-shoe shaped ditch	1	5	14	0.00	4 sherds Fabric 1, includes 1 sherd in sandy fabric	early Anglo-Saxon

6.5 Post-medieval pottery

A single piece of Fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware was recovered from F148 in T28 (fabric code after *CAR* **7**).

6.6 The flints

by Hazel Martingell

A total of thirteen flints was studied, three of which were naturally fractured flints. Of the worked flint artefacts, the earliest are a blade (T21, F53, find bag 9) and crested blade fragment (T53, F27, find bag 11). these should be early Neolithic in date. The fine, delicately knapped scraper (T52, F82, find bag 76) with slight patination should also be early Neolithic. These artefacts are all from the north-east area of the site. From the south-west area, some small trimming (1) was recovered. This could be a flake from a Neolithic artefact. The remaining five pieces are probably later prehistoric in date. The notched block (T52, F82, find bag 75) and the retouched fragment (T52, F87, find bag 66) and the colourful, banded flake fragment (11) have the casual appearance of later prehistoric artefacts. The burnt blade fragment (T51, F90, find bag 70) is not datable.

The site is situated in the north Thames area of archaeological interest. This area stretches from Southend to London. Excavations over the years have revealed important prehistoric sites from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Roman period. The evidence for a Mesolithic presence and early Neolithic settlement is positive, and continuing excavation can only reveal a more detailed picture of the environment and the day-to-day life of the people during those times.

6.7 Faunal remains (Table 8)

by Julie Curl (Norfolk Archaeological Unit)

Introduction

A total of 1.762 kg of faunal remains, consisting of 261 fragments, was recovered from twelve features during the evaluation. Four species were identified, mostly of domestic origin, including equid; some Red Deer bone was identified, suggesting local hunting of wildlife.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined, primarily to determine species present, types of bones, and any butchering that has occurred. Ages of the animals were estimated where possible from the fusion of the bones and the wear on the teeth. Bone was quantified by counting the total number of pieces in each context, the number of measurable and countable bones following guidelines supplied by English Heritage (Davis 1992), and the number of bones identified for each species. Bone was also weighed and counted for each context. All of the information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and the information input into an Excel database for analysis. A table giving a summary of the information is included with this report (Table 8).

Results and discussion

Bone was recovered from twelve features, mostly consisting of Late Iron-Age to Early Roman ditch and pit fills; a small amount of bone from one context (F148, find bag 109) was of a post-medieval to modern date.

All of the bone in this assemblage had suffered some degree of fragmentation due to butchering and wear. Many of the bones showed softer, powdery surfaces that are typical of bones from an acidic environment.

The most frequent species in this assemblage is cattle; all remains are from adult animals and butchering was evident on bones such as the humerus, radius and metatarsal, suggesting production of meat and other by-products.

Remains of sheep/goat were found in four features and included both adult and juvenile elements; the juveniles would indicate local breeding. Butchering was noted on the sheep/goat bones, as with the cattle, suggesting production of food and other products, such as milk and wool.

A single equid bone was produced from F88 (71). The proximal phalange was from a small equid, either a small pony or mule. These animals would have been commonplace around most occupation sites in the Late Iron-Age to Early Roman period and used for transport.

Remains of Red Deer were recorded in two features. A single, well-worn third molar was found in F87 (66) and four butchered bones were yielded from F82 (76). The butchering on the deer bones in F82 show that this animal had been used for meat and it was probably hunted in local woodland.

Recommendations for further work

No further work is needed on this assemblage.

Table 8: catalogue of the faunal remains (listed by feature number and find bag no).

LIA = Late Iron Age, PM = post-medieval.

F no	Other no	Find bag no	Date	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp. Qty	Age	Butchering	Comments
F110	T38	87	LIA/ Roman	16	96	Cattle	16	adult		molars and molar fragments
F148	T28	109	PM / modern	35	89	Mammal	35			fragments, poor condition
F27	T53	11	LIA/ Roman	10	48	Mammal	10			poor condition, fragmentary
F36	T54	14	LIA/ Roman	21	42	Cattle	21	adult		molar and molar fragments
F39	T55	28	LIA/ Roman	3	17	Sheep/ goat	1	adult	chopped	scapula, articular end, burnt grey
F39	T55	28	LIA/ Roman			Mammal	2			
F64	T57	39	Roman?	6	5	Mammal	6			small fragments, burnt grey-white
F75	T49	56	LIA/ Roman	1	46	Cattle	1	adult		molar
F75	T49	58	LIA/ Roman	2	32	Mammal	2			
F80	T51	70	LIA/ Roman	24	48	Cattle	6	adult		molar fragments and other bone frags
F82	T52	60	LIA/ Roman	5	4	Mammal				small fragments
F82	T52	75	LIA/ Roman	2	46	Cattle	2	adult		molars
F82	T52	76	LIA/ Roman	78	562	Cattle	10	adult	cut/chopped	metatarsal, humerus, radius, carpal, teeth
F82	T52	76	LIA/ Roman			Deer	3	adult	chopped	calcaneus, tibia, phalange; Red Deer
F82	T52	76	LIA/ Roman			Mammal	65			
F84	T52	61	LIA/ Roman	5	33	Cattle	4	adult		molar fragments
F84	T52	61	LIA/ Roman			Sheep/ goat	1	adult		small talus
F87	T52	66	LIA/ Roman	4	29	Sheep/	1	juv		metapodial condyle, unfused
F87	T52	66	LIA/ Roman			Deer	1	adult		worn third molar of Red Deer
F87	T52	66	LIA/ Roman			Mammal	2			
F88	T51	71	?LIA	3	39	Equid	1	adult		small equid proximal phalange
F88	T51	71	?LIA			Mammal	2			
F88	T51	74	?LIA	12	175	Cattle	2	adult	chopped	tibia, scapula fragments
F88	T51	74	?LIA			Sheep/ goat	1	adult	chopped	radius
F88	T51	74	?LIA			Mammal	9			
F88	T51	81	LIA/ Roman	34	451	Cattle	6	adult	cut/chopped	humerus fragments, radius, tibia, molars
F88	T51	81	LIA/ Roman			Mammal	28		butchered	probably cattle fragments

6.8 An evaluation of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains (Table 9)

by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

The evaluation revealed features of prehistoric and Roman date, and samples for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two Roman features, both of which showed signs of intense *in situ* burning.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, and the flots were collected in a 500-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below on Table 9. All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were abundant within both assemblages.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve, and sorted when dry. As both residues consisted almost entirely of either burnt stone or pieces of burnt/fired clay, the entire residues were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Charcoal fragments were abundant within both assemblages. A high density of the pieces recorded were 'flaked', probably as a result of combustion at extremely high temperatures. With the exception of an indeterminate bud and fragments of charred root/stem noted within F146, other plant macrofossils were entirely absent.

Small pellets of burnt/fired clay and splinters of burnt stone were recorded within the assemblage from F72.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the processes conducted within these two features obviously involved combustion at extremely high temperatures. Wood/charcoal appear to have been the principal fuels used, although hedge brush and dried plant material may have been used as kindling. However, it should be noted that such high temperature combustion will destroy all but the most robust of plant remains and, therefore, these assemblages may not be a true reflection of the original material.

If further excavations are to be conducted within this area of Basildon, the following recommendations should be included within any strategy for environmental sampling:

- Additional samples of between 10-30 litres in volume should be taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts, for example, pits, post-holes and ditches. Special attention should be paid to any features which appear to be ancillary to the above burnt features, as these may contain a wider range of plant remains.
- Samples should be stored in cool, dark conditions and transported to the specialist at the earliest possible opportunity. Supporting documentation should accompany samples at all times.
- Consideration should be given to charcoal analysis, as this may provide useful data about fuel selection.

Table 9: charred plant macrofossils and other remains.

x = 1-10 specimens; xx = 10-100 specimens; xxx = 100+ specimens

Bag no	**65**	**105**
Feature no	**F72**	**F146**
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xxx
Charred root/stem		x
Indet. bud		x
Burnt/fired clay	xx	
Burnt stone	x	
Sample volume (litres)	**30**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**	**0.3**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**50%**

7 Discussion (Figs 7-11)

The general condition of the site and finds

There are several general points to make about the archaeological material from this site. First, although the number of excavated features appears to be high (157), this is actually an average of fewer than three features per trench. Of those 157 features, 49 are undated (31% of total feature count) and 16 are of natural or geological origin (10% of total feature count). Second, none of the features are intercutting, and there is no stratification apart from the normal sequence of natural ground (L3) overlaid by ploughed horizon (L2), and with the whole sealed by topsoil/turf (L1). In the absence of stratification, we must rely on the dates of the finds to date the contexts in which they occur. However, the finds are fragmentary and the potsherds in particular are relatively small. This indicates that many of the potsherds are not in their primary context and have been redeposited in later features. Ditches originally dug in prehistory have been reused and quite probably re-dug in the Roman period and possibly again in the Anglo-Saxon period. If this is so, accurate site phasing will be difficult. It is possible to define both the general periods of activity and the general areas of activity on this site, but the level of residuality of the finds means that it is difficult to extrapolate too much information from individual features.

The general appearance of the landscape and its fields

The evaluation trenches were aligned on the existing hedges and land parcels, which are slightly west of N-S and E-W. In general, the excavated linear features (assuming they are field and paddock boundaries) cut E-W or N-S across the trenches, which suggest that the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon landscape was aligned in much the same pattern as the current hedges and fields. The reason for this is not difficult to ascertain. There is a low-lying and fairly damp stretch of lower ground running SSE to NNW through the centre of the evaluation site, flanked by higher ground on either side (particularly on the east). The alignment of both modern and ancient landscapes follows this topography, with field boundaries running parallel with the bands of lower and higher ground.

To a large extent, this higher/lower ground division has dictated the location of settlement (see Figs 7-10), with all periods of settlement favouring the higher ground on the east, immediately east of the land now occupied by Basildon College.

Many of the excavated features are linear and presumed to be field boundaries, but it is difficult to know precisely when they were dug. The Iron Age seems the most likely period for the initial layout of the fields, mainly because all earlier material seems convincingly residual. There are then enough Late Iron Age or Roman ditch fills to be fairly certain that the field system was added to and or re-dug at that time. The evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period is much less certain. It is very likely that the Anglo-Saxon pottery found its way into the top fills of existing Roman ditches.

The nature of the occupation (Figs 7-10)

The earliest dated material is Neolithic flint work. This occurs in small quantities, and is interpreted as casual Neolithic losses. The evaluation site must have been within the larger farming environment of Neolithic people, but there is no evidence that they lived here.

The Bronze Age is also poorly represented. There are flint-gritted wares typical of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in residual contexts, but Stephen Benfield sees no reason why this should be separate evidence of Late Bronze Age occupation here. It is just as likely that this material is the coarse ware element of an otherwise Middle Iron Age sandy ware tradition. A general Iron Age date is therefore preferred for the start of settlement on this site. Several ditches are dated to this period, so a rectilinear field pattern is suggested with settlement on the top of the hill immediately east of Basildon College (ie Fig 1: east side of Field 2, east side of Field 5, all of Field 6). There is a large burnt pit (cooking pit or oven?) in T27, which is a short distance away from the settlement focus, an unsurprising location for a smoky activity. The general range of finds (pottery) suggests domestic activity in the Iron Age, with the important proviso that there are Iron Age loomweight fragments from the east edge of the site, particularly T51 and T54 in Field 6. This indicates that wool was locally available, and was being woven on or close to this spot. Again, this has

implications for the landscape; there must have been sheep in a nearby field. Perhaps those are the fields whose field boundaries have been intercepted in various places during this evaluation (Figs 7-8).

Many of the site features have pottery which is classified as either Late Iron Age or early Roman (principally 1st century AD) or later Roman (principally 2nd and 3rd century AD). This is good evidence for an expansion of activity and the creation of new fields at that time. The distribution plan of Roman-period material shows a slight expansion on the previous area of activity, with more use of the downslope areas away from the hill top. The Roman-period finds indicate general domestic activity here, with nothing as specific as the evidence for weaving in the Iron Age (Fig 9). There is a reasonable quantity of Roman brick and tile from this site. This must derive from Roman buildings whose structures were at least partially constructed of tile. However, no Roman buildings were found on the site.

Among the most interesting aspects of this evaluation has been the discovery of early Anglo-Saxon material (pottery and a loomweight fragment). Some of the pits on site do seem to be of the Anglo-Saxon period, but the Anglo-Saxon pottery in the ditches is probably in the top fills of earlier (probably Roman) field ditches. The distribution of Anglo-Saxon material is fairly restricted, indicating a focus of activity in Fields 5 and 6 and probably centred on the 5th to 7th centuries (based on the pottery evidence).

There is no significant post-Anglo-Saxon material from the site, but it is perhaps worth repeating that the current hedges and field boundaries share their alignment, in general terms, with fields laid out in the Iron Age and Roman periods.

8 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited in a museum yet to be decided under accession code BADS 06.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to English Partnerships Ltd for commissioning and funding the work, via Rob Johns of Entec. The fieldwork was carried out by CAT staff supervised by Ben Holloway. The project was monitored by Pat Connell (Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team).

10 References

Brown, N	1988	'A Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, **54**
Brown, N	1991	'Prehistoric pottery in Asheldham Camp – an early Iron Age hill fort: excavations 1985', by Owen Bedwin, *Essex Archaeology and History*, **22**
Brown, N	1995	'Prehistoric pottery', in 'Early Iron Age Hill settlement at Southend: excavations at Fox Hall Farm, 1993', by Jo Ecclestone, *Essex Archaeology and History*, **26**
Brown, N, & Buckley, D	1986	'Langdon Hills', in 'Work of the Essex County Council Archaeology Section 1983-84', ed by D Priddy, *Essex Archaeology and History*, **16**
CAR **7**	2000	*Colchester Archaeological Report* **7**: *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*, by J Cotter
CAR **10**	1999	*Colchester Archaeological Report* **10**: *Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86*, by R P Symonds and S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom
CM	2003	*Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums*

Crummy, P, Benfield, S, Crummy, N, Rigby, V, & Shimmin, D	forthcoming	Stanway: excavations at Colchester Quarry (Stanway Hall Farm), Colchester, Essex, 1987-2003, Britannia Monograph
Cunliffe, B, & Poole, C	1991	*Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire, 5. The excavations 1979-88: the finds*, CBA, Research Report, **73**
Davis, S	1992	*A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*, English Heritage AML report 71/92
EAA **3**	1997	*Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, **3**, ed by J Glazebrook
EAA **8**	2000	*Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, **8**, ed by N Brown & J Glazebrook
EAA **14**	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, **14**, by D Gurney
Going, C	1987	*The* mansio *and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman pottery*, CBA, Research Report, **62**
Hamilton, S	1998	'Using elderly databases: Iron Age pit deposits at the Caburn, East Sussex, and related sites', in *Sussex Archaeol Collections*, **136**, 23-39
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	*Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39*, RRCSAL, **14**
Hillson, S	1996	*Teeth*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology
Hull, M R	1958	*Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, **20**
IFA	1999	*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*
IFA	2001	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
Johns, R, & Williamson, P	2005	*Proposed development at Dry Street, Basildon*, Cultural Heritage desk-based assessment
Jones, M U, & Jones, W T	1973	'The Mucking excavations 1972', in *J Thurrock Local Hist Soc*, **16**, 32-8
MAP 2	1991	*Management of archaeological projects*, second edition (English Heritage)
Sealey, P R	1996	'The Iron Age of Essex', in *The archaeology of Essex, proceedings of the 1993 Writtle conference*, ECC
Wymer, J J, & Brown, N R	1995	*North Shoebury: settlement and economy in South-east Essex*, East Anglian Archaeology, **75**

11 Glossary

CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CM	Colchester Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor
medieval	period from AD 1066 to *c* AD 1500
modern	period from the 20th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
prehistory	the years BC
post-med	post-medieval, the period from *c* 1500 to *c* 1900
residual	an early find in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit).
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410 approximately
U/S	unstratified, ie no context

12 Context list

Finds types not reported on above are quantified here.

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F1	T1	Natural pit		natural
F2	T1	Linear feature	charcoal in fill	prehistoric?
F3	T1	Natural pit		natural
F4	T3	natural linear		natural
F5	T3	Linear – natural?		natural
F6	T3	Linear – natural?	pot flecks	natural
F7	T2	Ditch		undated
F8	T2	Post-hole	flecks of pot only	undated
F9	T2	Ditch		undated
F10	T2	Post-hole	1, Iron Age-Roman pot and Roman? pot; 1, worked flint 2g	Late Iron Age/ Roman (with residual)
F11	T2	Natural pit		natural
F12	T2	Ditch	3, Late Iron Age-Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F13	T5	Natural pit		natural
F14	T2	Natural pit		natural
F15	T5	Pit – natural?		natural
F16	T5	Pit or ditch terminal – natural?		undated
F17	T4	Packed post-hole		undated
F18	T4	Packed post-hole		undated
F19	T4	Packed post-hole		undated
F20	T6	Pit – post-medieval	28, CBM – peg-tile; 28, 1 burnt flint 65g	medieval/post-medieval
F21	T53	Ditch	9, worked flint 2g	prehistoric?
F22	T53	Pit	notes say pot, but none so far	undated
F23	T53	Ditch	charcoal in fill	undated
F24	T53	Post-hole/pit	charcoal in fill	undated
F25	T53	Ditch		undated
F26	T53	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F27	T53	Ditch	11, animal bone; 11, Late Iron Age-Roman and early Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pot, with residual LBA? pot; 11, 1 burnt flint 6g; 11, 2 worked flints 8g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Roman, and prehistoric
F28	T53	Natural? pit		natural?
F29	T53	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F30	T53	Ditch	16, Roman 3rd- to 4th-century pot	later Roman
F31	T53	Pit	15, Roman and Late Iron Age-Roman pot; 2 burnt flints 15g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F32	T53	Ditch	22, CBM undated, prob not Roman; 22, Roman 1st-century pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F33	T54	Ditch	17, Roman mid-late 1st- to mid 2nd-century pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F34	T54	Pit	19, early Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F35	T54	Pit	21, Roman or late Roman pot	later Roman
F36	T54	Ditch	14, animal bone; 14, oyster shell; 14, Roman late 3rd- to 4th-century pot and early Anglo-Saxon pot; 14, Roman CBM; 14, 1 burnt flint 3g; 14, 1 worked flint 5g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Roman (and prehistoric flints)
F37	T55	Linear feature	24, Roman 2nd century or later pot	later Roman

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F38	T55	Ditch	23, Roman 3rtd-4th century pot	later Roman
F39	T55	Linear feature	28, animal bone, oyster shell; 28, Roman early-mid 2nd century pot; 28, 4 burnt flints 36g	later Roman
F40	T55	Linear feature	25, Roman pot early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; 25, burnt? flint, 73g	later Roman
F41	T55	Pit/post-hole	37, 11 burnt flints 240g	prehistoric
F42	T56	Pit	34, residual Iron Age?, and Roman 2nd-3rd century pot and Roman CBM	later Roman, with residual
F43 (void)				
F44	T56	Ditch	29, CBM probably post-medieval; 29, Roman pot late 3rd- to 4th-century AD pot	later Roman
F45	T56	Linear feature	33, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F46	T56	Pit	35, Roman with residual Iron Age? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F47	T56	Linear feature	pot flecks	undated
F48 (void)				
F49	T56	Linear feature	burnt flint fragments	prehistoric
F50	T58	Ditch	31, Late Iron Age-Roman? pot, with possible early Anglo-Saxon pot; 31, 22 burnt flints 205g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Late Iron Age/Roman (and prehistoric flints)
F51	T51	Ditch		undated
F52	T58	Ditch	44, Roman pot	undated
F53	T58	Ditch	43, LBA pot	prehistoric
F54	T58	Ditch	114, Roman and possible early Anglo-Saxon pottery, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 114, 12 burnt flints 205g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with possible Anglo-Saxon (and residual prehistoric pottery)
F55	T55	Ditch	27, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot; 27, 9 burnt flints 190g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F56	T58	Horseshoe-shaped ditch	32, Roman pot, and early Anglo-Saxon pot, and Middle Iron Age or Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 32, 1 burnt flint 6g; 32, 1 worked flint 7g	Anglo-Saxon, with residual prehistoric and Late Iron Age/ Roman
F57	T57	Ditch		undated
F58	T57	Ditch	45, 1 burnt flint 30g; 113, Iron Age-Roman and ?Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F59	T57	Ditch		undated
F60 (void)				
F61	T57	Feature	41, CBM undated	Roman or later
F62	T57	Ditch		undated
F63	T57	Ditch	40, probably Roman pot	undated
F64	T57	Feature	39, animal bone, 39, glass Roman (?) or post-medieval (?); 39, late 3rd- to 4th-century Roman pot with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 39, burnt flint 10g	later Roman, with residual?
F65	T57	Ditch	38, Roman? pot and CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F66	T59	Post-hole	pot flecks and charcoal	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F67	T59	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F68	T45	Pit		Late Iron Age/ natural
F69	T45	Ditch	47, Roman – Flavian-early 2nd century pot	later Roman
F70	T45	Pit	46, Iron Age pot?	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F71	T46	Pit	48, Roman pottery, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 48, 107 burnt flints 1613g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F72	T47	Pit	49, burnt flint 22g	prehistoric
F73	T47	Pit	50, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F74	T49	Ditch		undated?
F75	T49	Pit	56, animal bone; 56, 1st century Roman pot; 58, Late Bronze Age? pot; 58, animal bone	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F76	T50	Ditch	59, Late Bronze Age? pot; 59, burnt flint 13g	prehistoric
F77	T50	Pit	62, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric
F78	T50	Ditch	63, Roman CBM?; 63, burnt flint 4g; 68, Late Bronze Age pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F79	T50	Ditch	64, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric?
F80	T52	Ditch	54, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric?
F81	T52	Ditch	55, Late Bronze Age? pot; 55, four burnt flints 49g; 57, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F82	T52	Ditch	60, animal bone; 60, 1st-century Roman pot, plus Roman or early Anglo-Saxon pot?, with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 60, three burnt flints 123g; 75, animal bone; 75, Late Iron Age pot with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 75, 7 burnt flints 314g; 75, 1 worked flint 19g; 76, animal bone; 76, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot plus residual Late Bronze Age pot; 76, 1 burnt flint 8g; 76, 1 worked flint 8g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual, plus possible Anglo-Saxon
F83	T52	Blob	53, Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F84	T52	Ditch	52, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot; 61, animal bone; 61, Roman pot, 1st-2nd century, plus residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot	later Roman
F85	T51	Pit		undated
F86	T52	Linear	67, Roman 1st-2nd/3rde century pot; 67, burnt flint 6g	later Roman
F87	T52	Pit	66, animal bone; 66, Late Iron Age-early Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age-Middle Iron Age pot; 66, 1 burnt flint 43g; 66, 1 worked flint 17g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F88	T51	Ditch	71, Iron Age? pot; 74, Roman? pot; 81, animal bone; Roman CBM; 81, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F89	T52	Ditch		undated

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F90	T51	Ditch	70, animal bone; 70, Late Bronze Age? pot; 71, animal bone; 70, 1 burnt flint 17g; 70, 2 worked flint 12g	prehistoric
F91	T51	Pit	69, Late Bronze Age? pot and (?intrusive) peg-tile	prehistoric with intrusive post-medieval
F92	T33	Ditch	80, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F93	T33	Pit	79, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F94	T33	Ditch	78, CBM, undated	Roman or later
F95	T33	Ditch	116, Late Bronze Age? pot	prehistoric
F96	T33	Pit	120, Iron Age-Roman pot, presumably Roman, with residual Late Bronze Age pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F97	T33	Pit	119, Middle Iron Age or Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F98	T33	Ditch	117, Roman pot, 1st-2nd or 3rd century, and Roman CBM, and Anglo-Saxon sherds	early Anglo-Saxon with residual Roman
F99	T33	Possible ring-ditch	115, Iron Age-Roman and ?Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F100	T33	Pit		natural?
F101	T33	Linear feature	77, Roman? pot; 77, 1 burnt flint 7g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F102	T51	Ditch	72, Roman? pot; 73, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F103	T34	Packed post-hole		undated
F104	T34	Ditch	92, early Anglo-Saxon pot	Anglo-Saxon
F105	T34	Horseshoe-shaped ditch	91, Roman pot (?3rd century); 91, ?worked flint 9g	later Roman
F106	T34	Ditch	118, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F107	T38	Ditch	89, Late Iron Age-Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F108	T38	Pit		undated
F109	T38	Ditch		undated
F110	T38	ditch	87, animal bone	undated
F111	T37	Pit	90, Roman? CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F112	T36	Ditch	88, Late Bronze Age? pot, and Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F113	T35	Packed post-hole		undated
F114	T39	Ditch		undated
F115	T40	Pit		undated
F116	T40	Ditch		undated
F117	T40	Pit		undated
F118	T40	Ditch		undated
F119	T40	Pit	83, probably early Anglo-Saxon pot, plus residual Late Bronze Age pot	Anglo-Saxon, with residual Late Bronze Age or Iron Age
F120	T40	Ditch	84, CBM – Roman?	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F121	T40	Linear feature		undated
F122	T38	Pit		undated
F123	T40	Ditch	82, Anglo-Saxon, with residual Roman	Anglo-Saxon
F124	T40	Pit	85, Roman CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
F125	T41	Ditch	94, Iron Age-Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age? pot; 94, 3 burnt flints 68g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F126	T44	Ditch		undated
F127	T44	Pit		undated
F128	T44	Pit	99 and 121, lumps of stone	undated
F129	T44	Ditch	96, Roman pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F130	T44	Ditch	97, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F131	T44	Pit	98, Late Iron Age-Roman pot, with residual Late Bronze Age pot; 98, four burnt flints 57g	Late Iron Age/ Roman, with residual
F132	T44	Pit		undated
F133	T44	Ditch		undated
F134	T42	Ditch		undated
F135	T42	Pit	102, Roman pot, CBM undated	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F136	T43	Pit		undated
F137	T43	Ditch		undated
F138	T43	Ditch		undated
F139	T43	Ditch	101, Iron Age-Roman pot, and Roman pot; 101, 1 burnt flint 71g	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F140	T43	Pit	100, pot?	undated
F141	T30	Pit/post-hole		undated
F142	T29	Packed post-hole	112, lumps of stone	undated
F143	T40	Linear feature	93, Roman? pot	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F144	T26	Tree-pull pit?		prehistoric?
F145	T26	Pit	103, possibly Anglo-Saxon, otherwise undated	Anglo-Saxon?
F146	T27	Burnt pit/oven	104, Early Iron Age pot; 104, 18 burnt flints 465g; 107, Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age pot; 107, 3 burnt flints 63g; 108, Late Bronze Age pot; 108, burnt flint 154g	prehistoric (Middle Iron Age, with residual?)
F147	T27	Natural feature		post-Glacial
F148	T28	Ditch	109, animal bone, post-medieval pottery; 109, Roman CBM	post-medieval/modern
F149	T32	Ditch	106, CBM undated	Late Iron Age/ Roman
F150	T23	Packed post-hole		undated
F151	T22	Pit		natural
F152	T19	Pit/post-hole		undated
F153	T20	Post-hole		undated
F154	T30	Ditch		undated
F155	T31	Pit	110, CBM – peg-tile (intrusive? or thin ?*tegula*); 110, burnt flint 43g	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F156	T31	Ditch	111, CBM	Late Iron Age/ Roman?
F157	T26	Pit		Late Iron Age/ Roman?
L1	all	Turf and topsoil		modern
L2	all	Disturbed natural	42, Roman sherds, CBM undated	modern
L2	T54	Disturbed natural	30, Roman 1st- to 2nd-century pot	modern
L2	T58	Disturbed natural	42, Roman? pot	modern
L2	T40	Disturbed natural	95, Roman? pot	modern

Feature/ Layer	Trench	Description	Find bags and types	Context date
L2	T2	Disturbed natural	7, 5 burnt flints 2136g	modern
L2	T58	Disturbed natural	42, 6 burnt flints 221g	modern
L2	T1	Disturbed natural	8, burnt flint 15g	modern
L3		Natural ground		
U/S	T7		1 burnt flint 320g	

Distribution list:
Rob Johns (Entec)
English Partnerships
Southend Museum
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
tel./fax: (01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: *Philip Crummy*
Date: *10.07.06*

Adams c:/reports06/Basildon/report375.doc

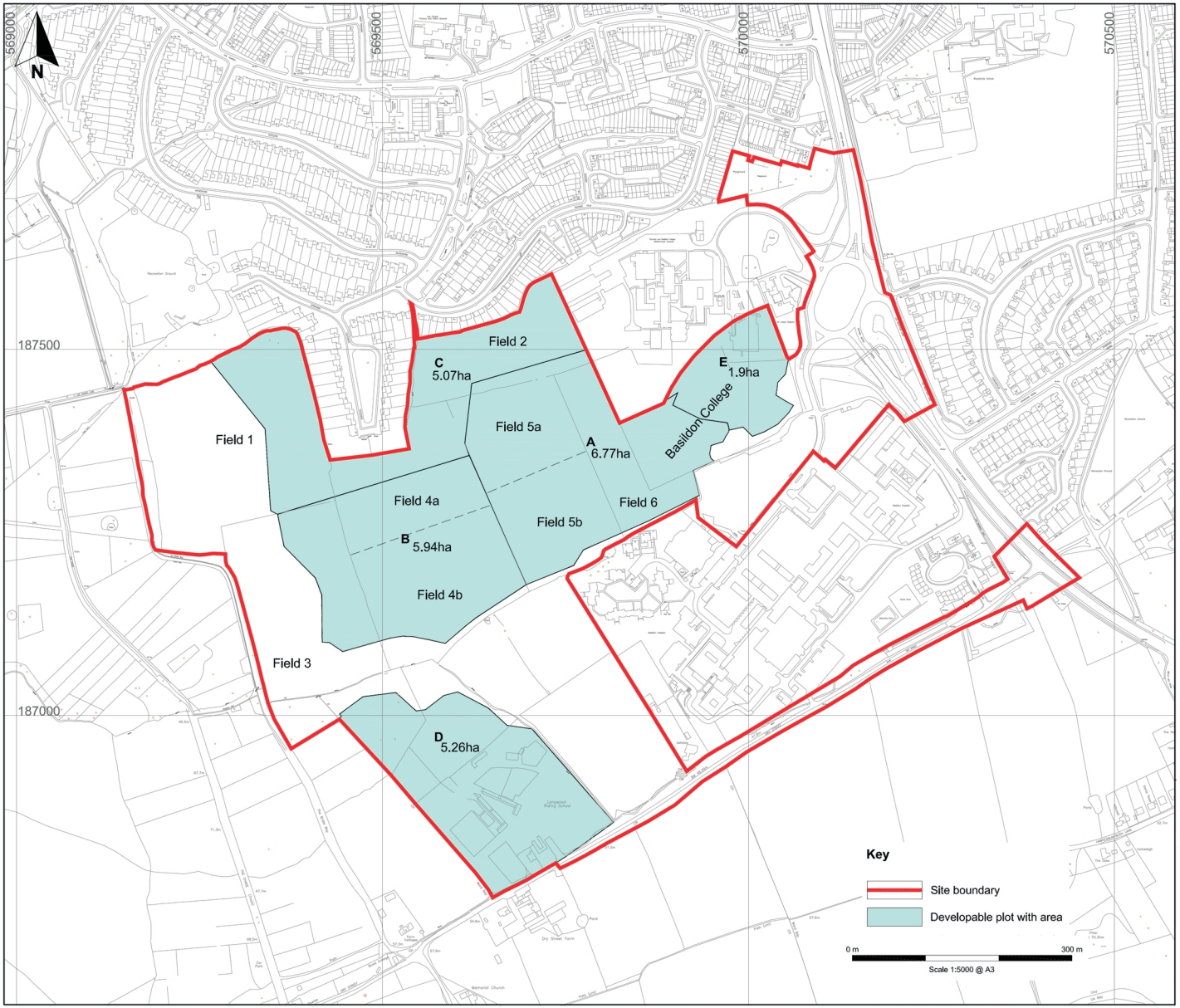

Fig 1 Site location (based on a plan by Entec and English Partnerships).

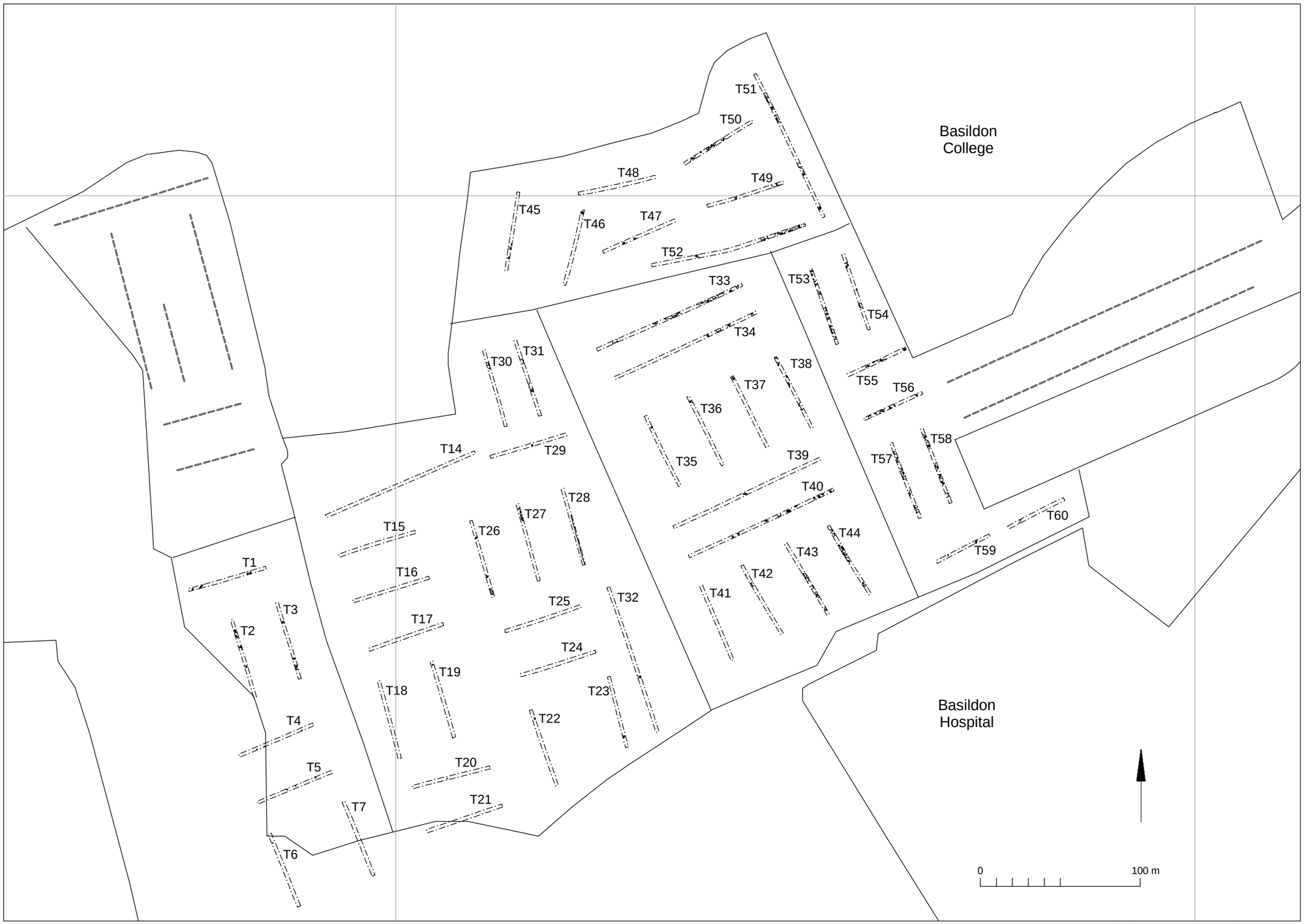

Fig 2 Plan of site, showing trench locations.

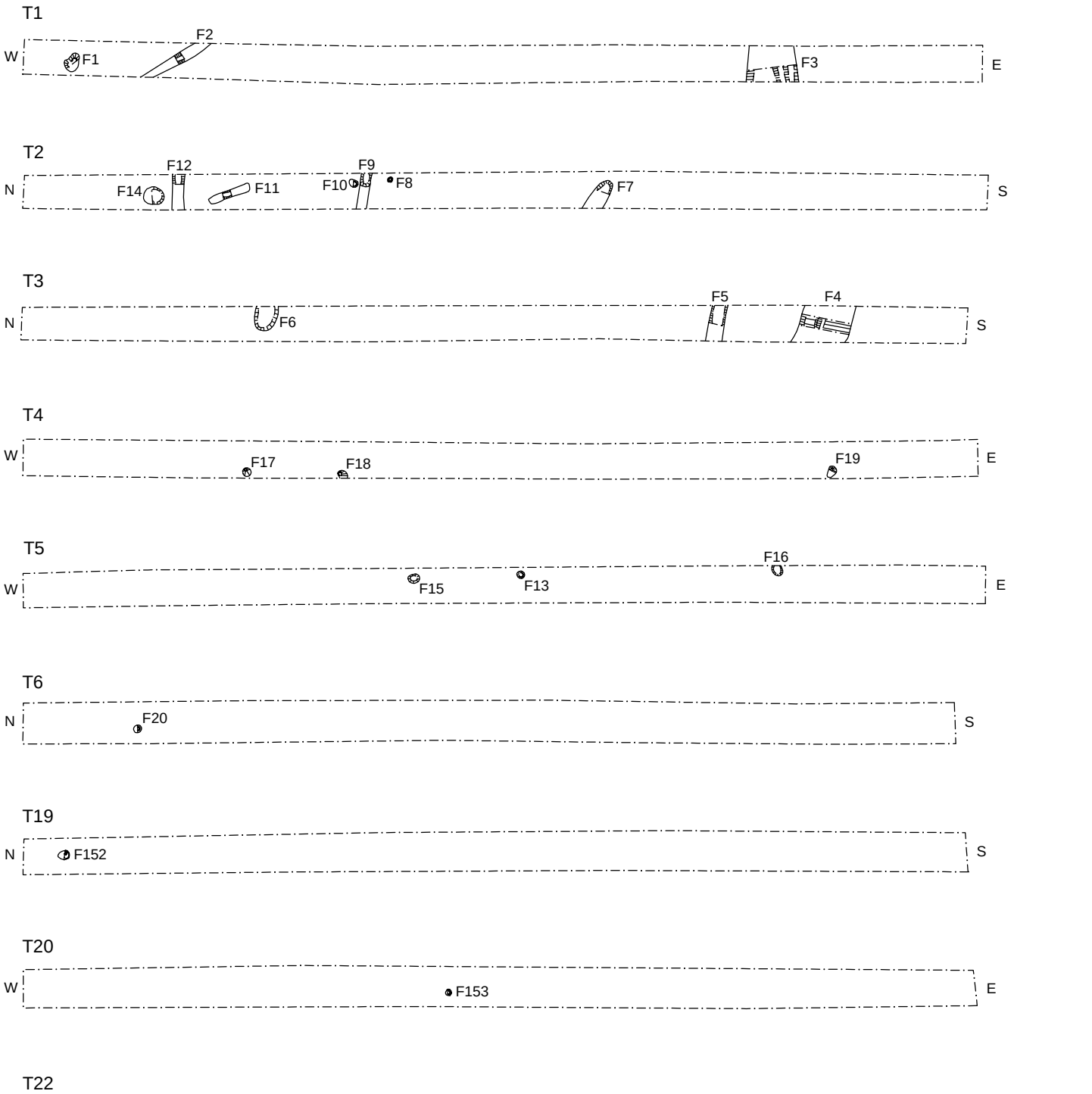

Fig 3 T1-T5, T19, T20, T22, T23, T26-T29: plans.

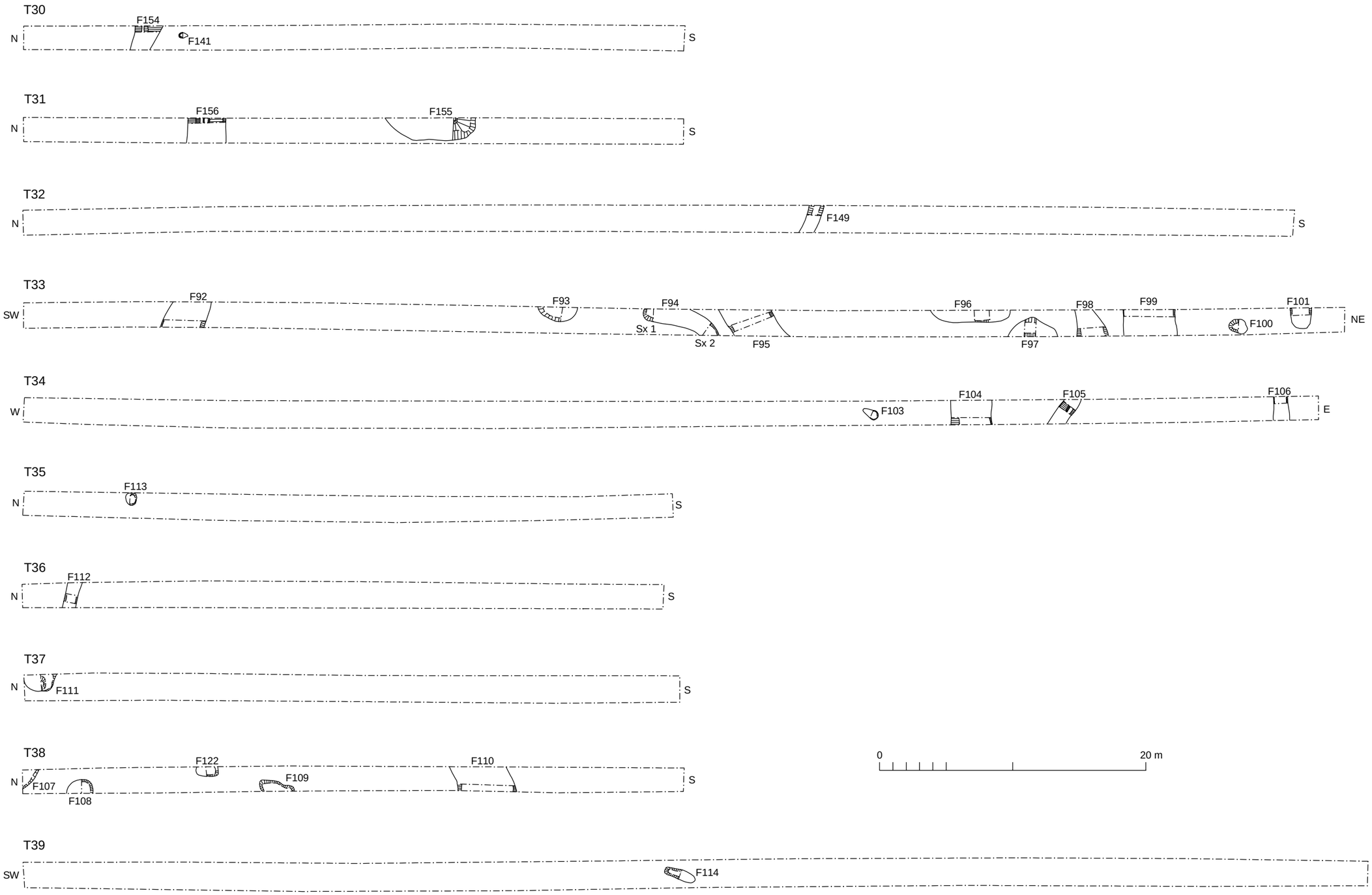

Fig 4 T30-T39: plans.

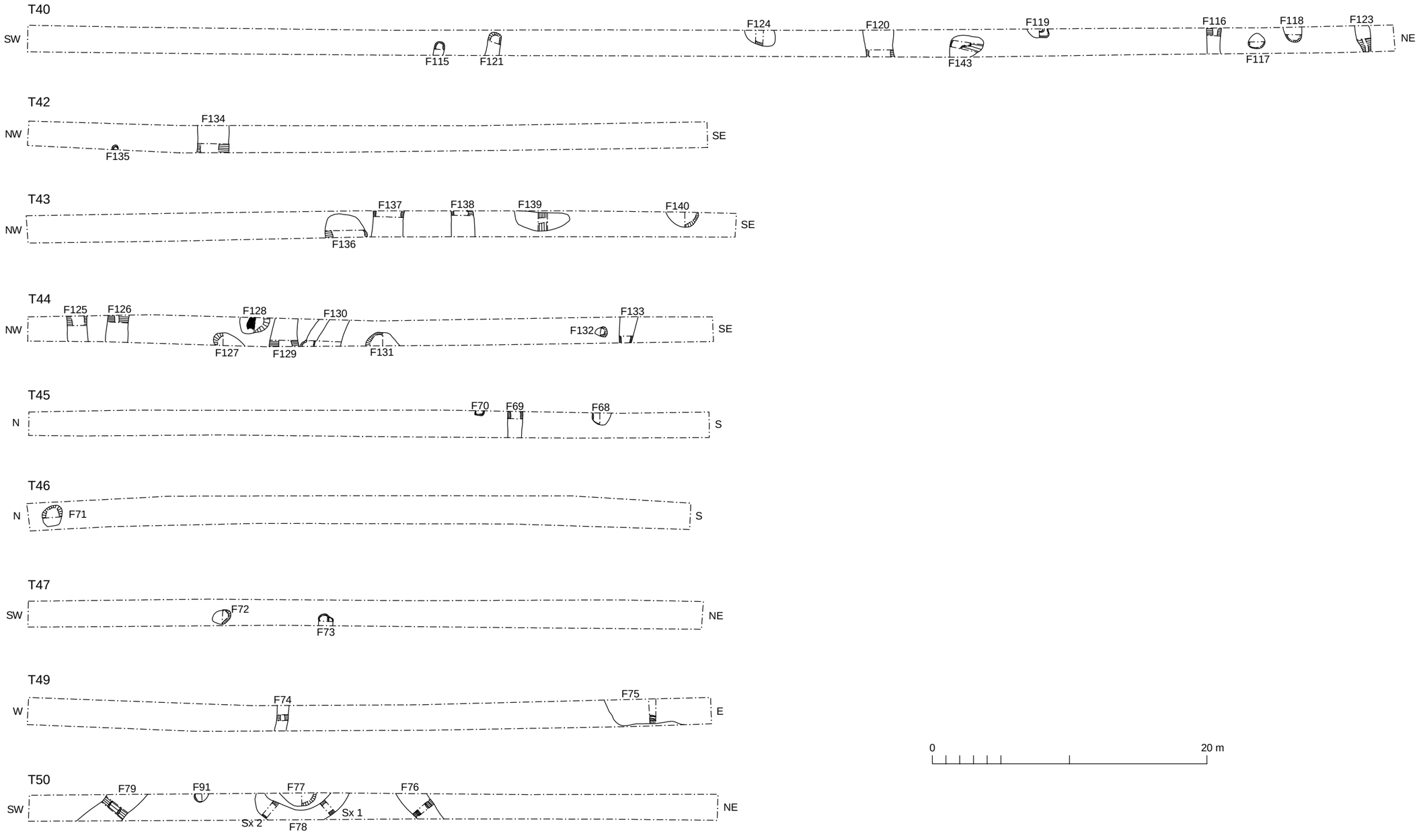

Fig 5 T40-T47, T49, T50: plans.

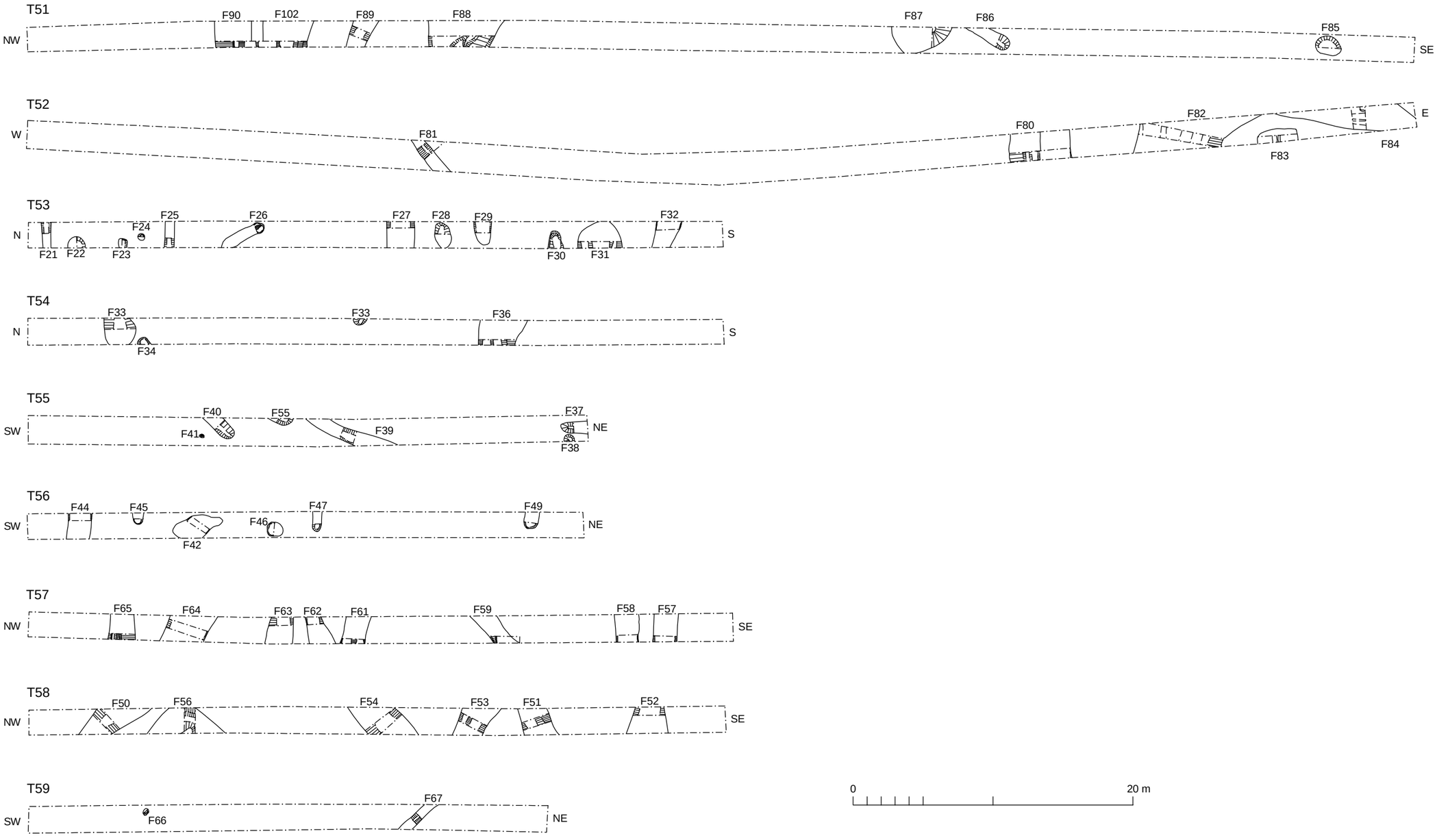

Fig 6 T51-T59: plans.

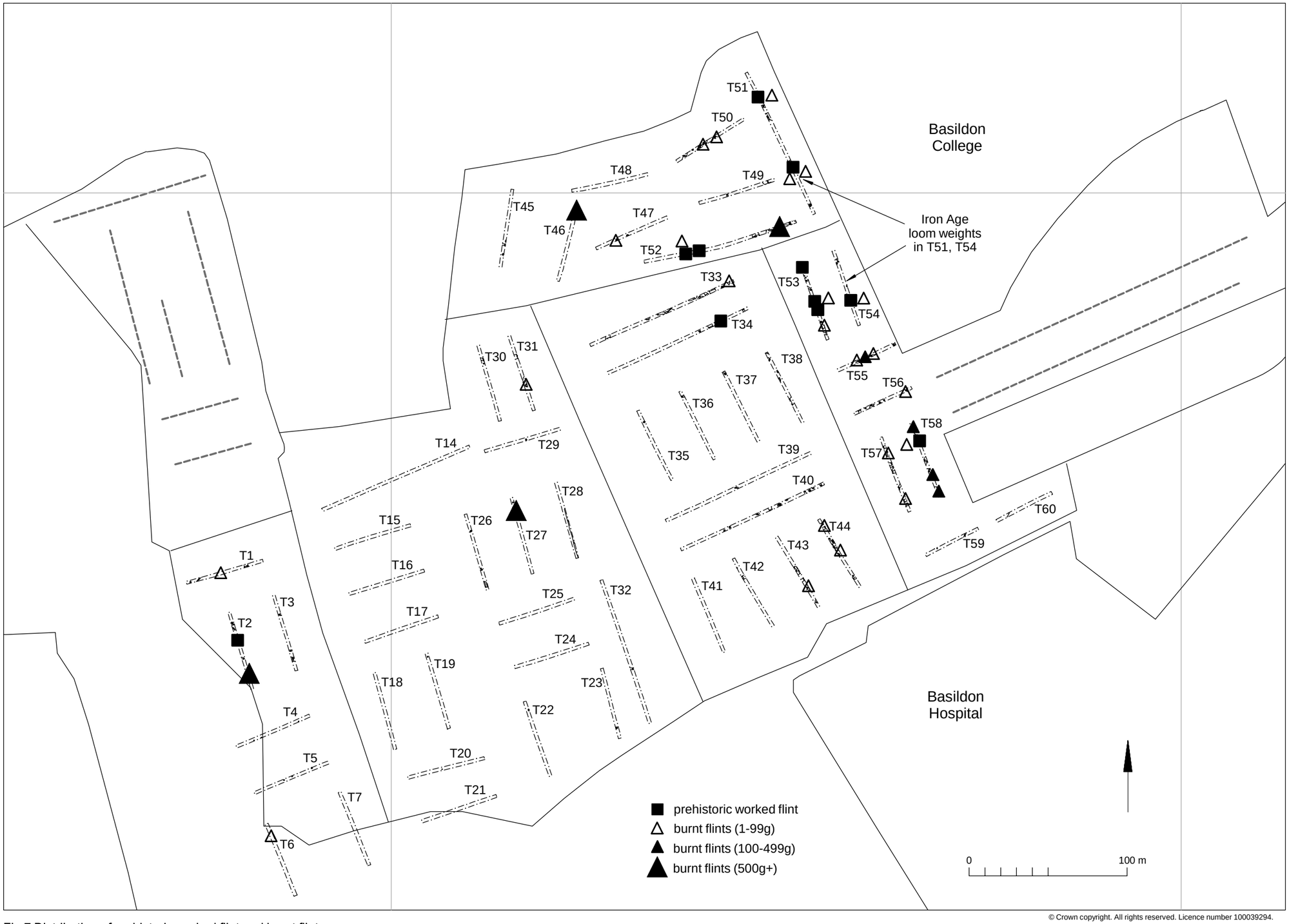

Fig 7 Distribution of prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint.

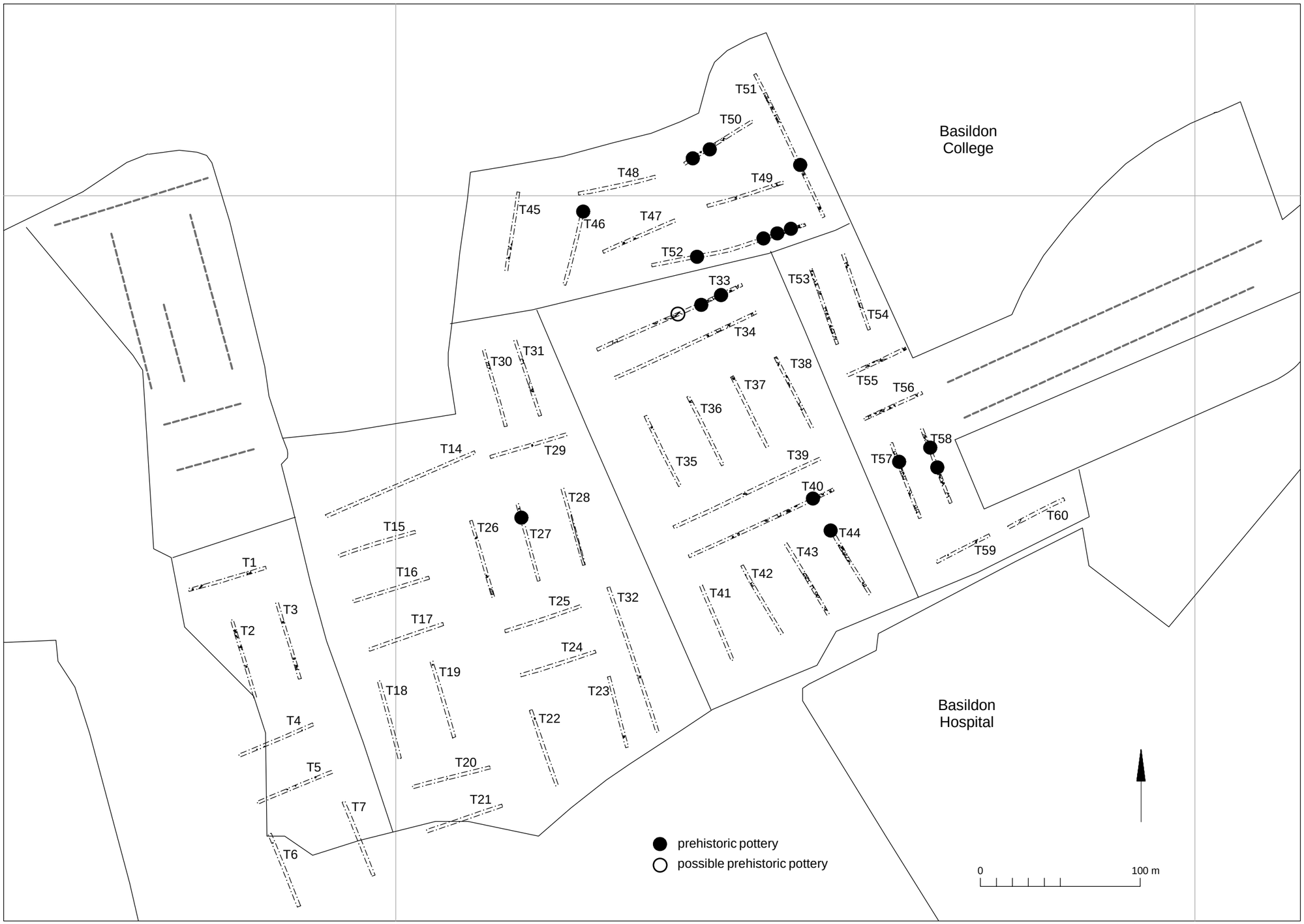

Fig 8 Distribution of prehistoric pottery.

Fig 9 Distribution of Roman pottery and CBM.

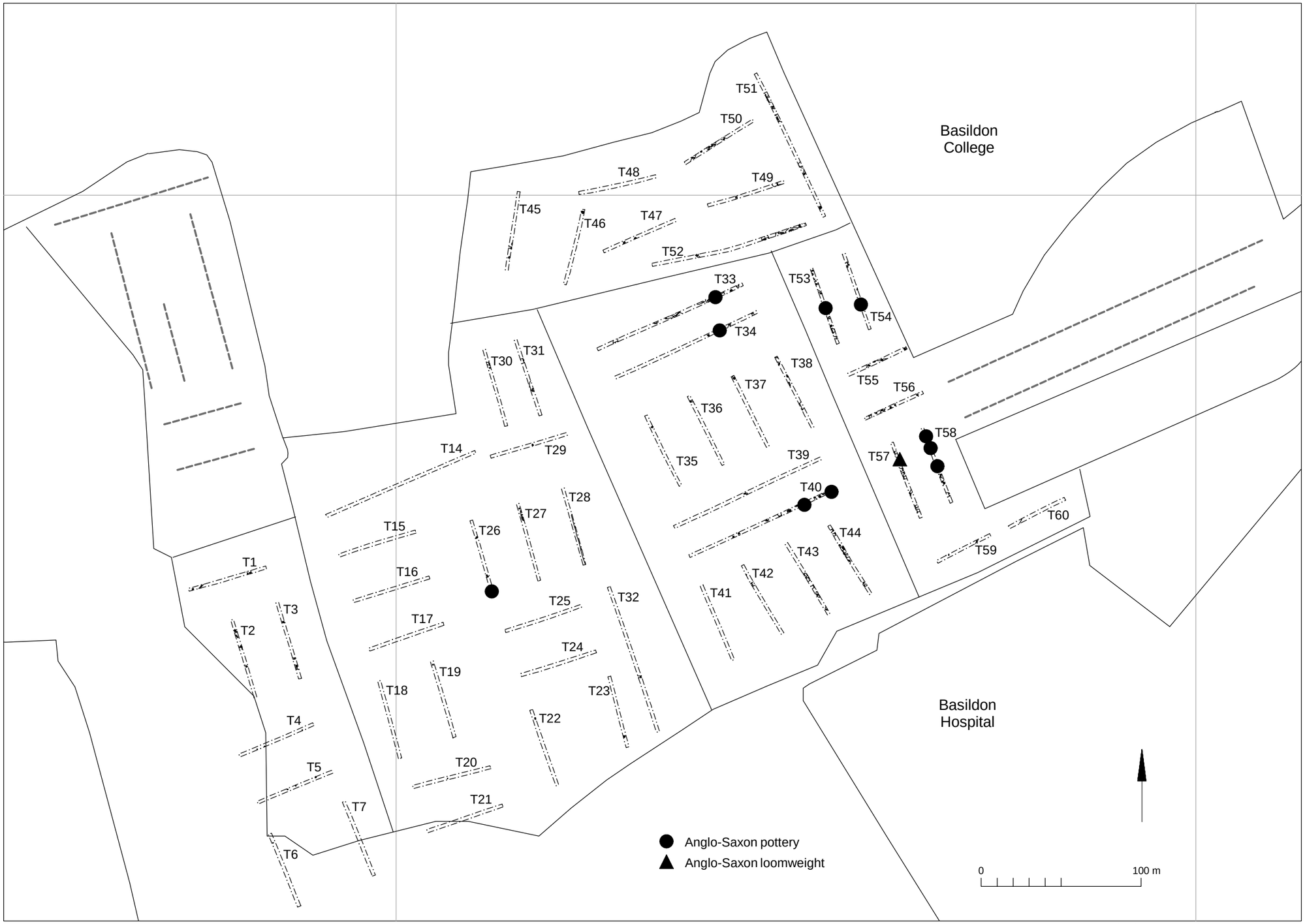

Fig 10 Distribution of Anglo-Saxon pottery and loomweight.

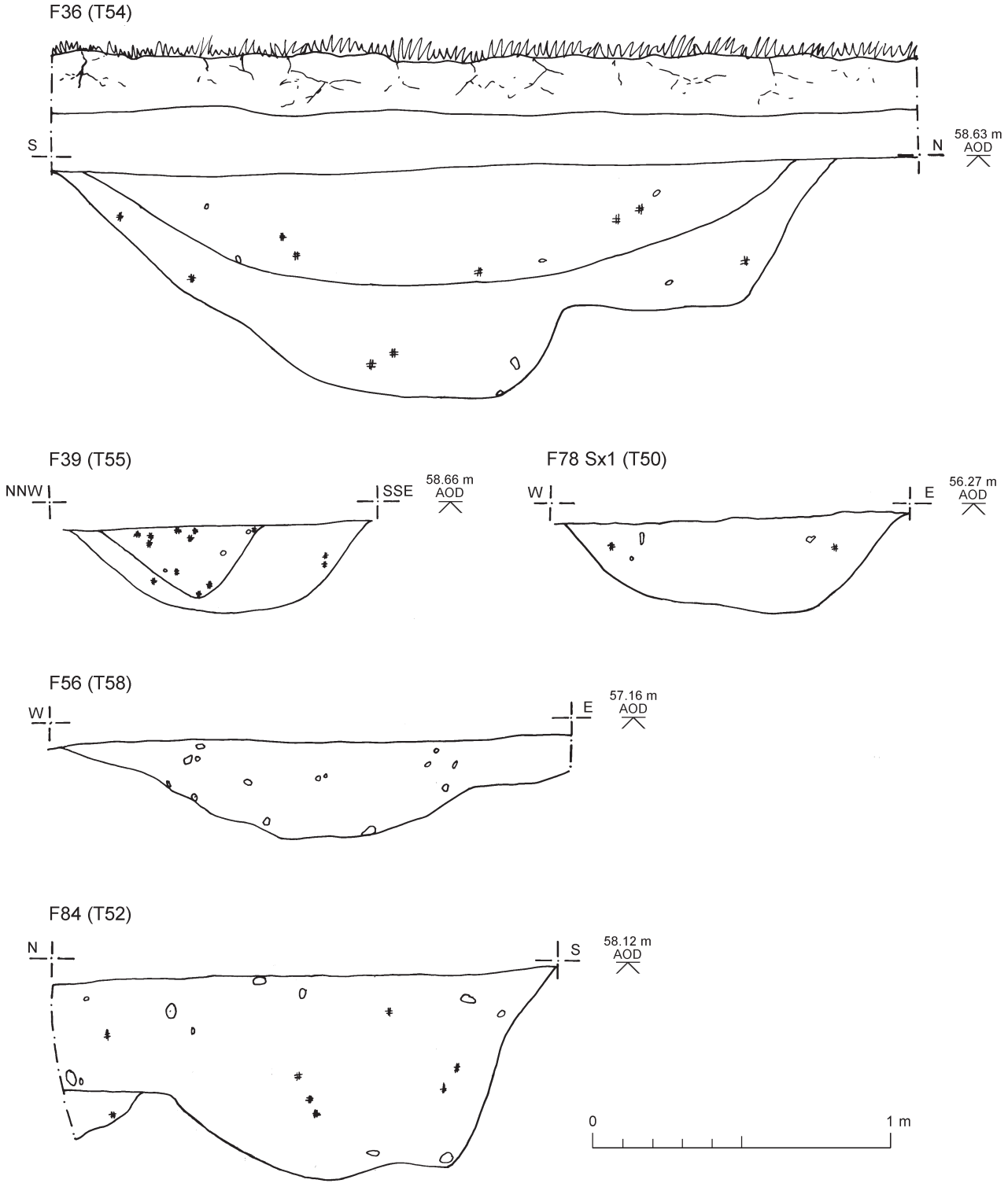

Fig 11 F36, F39, F56, F78, F84: sections.

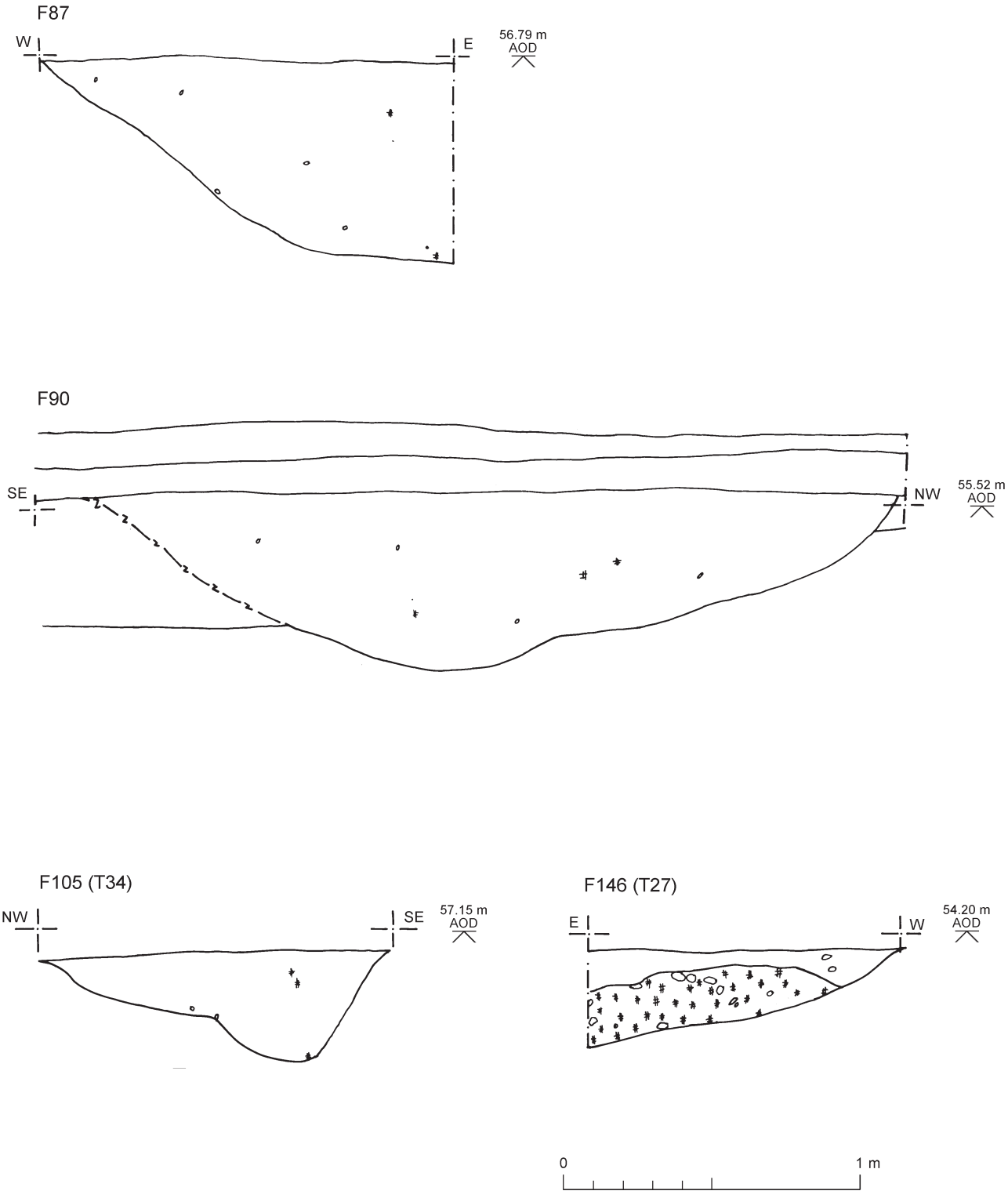

Fig 12 F87, F90, F105, F146: sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Dry Street, Basildon, Essex	
Parish: Basildon	***District:*** Basildon
NGR: TQ 697 870 (centre)	***Site code:*** BADS 06
Type of work: Evaluation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May-June 2006	***Size of area investigated:*** approx 20 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHER/UAD nos:*** EHER nos 5120, 5121, 5267, 5268
Final report: CAT Report 375 and summary in *EAH*	
Periods represented: prehsitoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon	
Summary of fieldwork results: *An evaluation of a 20 hectare parcel of land west of Basildon College uncovered evidence of multi-period occupation. Sporadic activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age was evidenced by occasional finds of pottery and flints. In the Iron Age, the landscape was parcelled up by the creation of a ditched system of rectilinear fields which continued in use and was adapted in the Roman period. The site was also occupied in the early Anglo-Saxon period, possibly using the existing Roman field system. No buildings were found, but the finds suggest domestic occupation here throughout the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. There is evidence of weaving in both the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods, when the local economy must have included an element of pastoral farming.*	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	***Date of summary:*** July 2006