Stage 1b archaeological evaluation, Alienated Land Area B1a, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex January 2007

report prepared by
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on behalf of
Taylor Woodrow

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1   Summary

Two evaluation trenches (totalling 82m by 1.8m) were located within Area B1a of the Colchester Garrison Alienated Land redevelopment site. In total, 22 archaeological features were identified: five Roman, one medieval, three late medieval/early post-medieval, nine early post-medieval, two modern, and two undated. The Roman features provide evidence for Roman domestic/settlement activity in the vicinity of the circus and the medieval features and finds (including a wall foundation) are probably associated with St John's abbey. The early post-medieval features consisted mainly of ditches and pits, but an interesting structural feature may represent a post-dissolution building recorded on Speed's map of 1610.

2   Introduction (Figs 1-3)

2.1   This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on Taylor Woodrow's Alienated Land redevelopment Area B1a, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1).

2.2   The site has recently passed to Taylor Woodrow from previous ownership by MoD/RMPA as part of the redevelopment of Colchester Garrison. It contains administrative buildings to the west and a grassed area to the east. The site is centred on NGR TL 599714 224733.

2.3   Part of the trial-trenching had previously been undertaken on behalf of RMPA Services in advance of outline planning permission in 2002 (Stage 1a). At this time 0.74% of the area was sampled, comprising three trenches (75 square metres) within grassed areas to the east of Flagstaff Road (Fig 2). Trench BT1 was in the garden of Abbey House, trench BT2 was to the east of the house, and trench BT3 was located to the south (CAT Report 206). Although some Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval features and finds were identified, most of the archaeology from the three trenches was post-medieval and modern in date and included evidence of occupation and buildings.

2.4   The archaeological strategy for the overall project required the level of trenching for full planning permission to be raised to 3% unless otherwise agreed with Colchester Borough Council (CBC). Therefore a further 2.26% trenching was required in this area, equating to 227 square metres (126m linear of 1.8m-wide trenches). The trenches described here comprise 82m of 1.8m-wide trenches. The remaining 44m linear will now be completed as part of the Areas B1b and B2 areas, following a revision of the redevelopment boundaries. The information obtained from the combined Stage 1a and 1b evaluations will determine whether further mitigation (excavation, watching brief or avoidance strategies) will be required ahead of or during the construction phase (subject to Scheduled Monument consent).

2.5   The area lies entirely within the precinct of the former Benedictine Abbey of St John (Figs 2-3), most of the site of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no 26307), and this evaluation has therefore required Scheduled Monument consent. The monument description states that all visible and buried remains of the abbey are included within the SAM, including part of the Roman extra-mural cemeteries that are located within the abbey precinct wall. Also included are the remains of a medieval church (thought to have been Sigeric's Church of St John the Evangelist) and a 17th-century house and its formal gardens whose terraces are visible within the Garrison Officers' Club grounds. For clarity, in terms of buried remains, it is stated that all ground beneath the modern non-scheduled standing buildings, surfaces and services are included.

2.6   An overall *Archaeological Strategy* has been provided for the project by RPS (RPS 2004). This provides an outline framework for the mitigation of the archaeological impacts at the Alienated Land.

2.7   A specific archaeological proposal (Written Scheme of Investigation or WSI) for Area B1a has been submitted to and approved by CBC (RPS 2006).

2.8   The archaeological work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Taylor Woodrow in association with RPS Planning (RPS), between 2nd and 5th January 2007. Post-excavation work was carried out between 5th and 26th January 2007.

2.9 In addition to the *Archaeological Strategy* (RPS 2004) and the Area B1a WSI (RPS 2006), all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for 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

3.1 The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment area has already been comprehensively explored in *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site* (CAT Report 97), with archaeological fieldwork ahead of the new garrison development providing an opportunity for detailed archaeological fieldwork including 12km of trial-trenching and two excavations.

3.2 The remains of St John's abbey is the dominant standing archaeological feature in the northern area of the overall Taylor Woodrow redevelopment site (Figs 2-3). Parts of the abbey walls still survive along with the magnificent abbey gatehouse, but the remainder of the abbey is not visible above ground. The eastern and northern parts of the abbey are part of the nationally important SAM. However, the fact that the western side (Area B1a) is not scheduled does not detract from the potential importance of below-ground remains which could include domestic buildings belonging to the abbey, the abbot's lodgings, guests' lodgings and gardens.

3.3 Prior to 2002, there were few archaeological finds within the specific Area B1a site. However, the archaeological context of the area is now relatively well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2002. Among other evidence, these evaluations and excavations have revealed a cluster of Late Neolithic pits, a single Early Bronze Age pit, several Late Bronze Age features, two major areas of Roman burials, and a stone-built monumental Roman circus (CAT Report 361; CAT forthcoming).

There was little evidence for abbey-period archaeology within the 2002 trenches BT1-BT3, although a large group of Colchester-type ware came from trench BT1, including cisterns and cooking pots which must have been part of a pre-dissolution dump of domestic rubbish from the abbey. Evidence for post-dissolution activity was more evident. This evidence consisted of a number of ditches, pits and post-holes, and it is possible that a crescent-shaped ditch within trench BT1 was a 1648 Siege-related feature (although no firm dating evidence was obtained to confirm or refute this). However, most of the features within trenches BT2 and BT3 post-date 1648 and the post-holes within trench BT3 in particular clearly post-date the Civil War (CAT Report 206).

3.4 Historic maps show that, after the Civil War, the site consisted of a building in the location of Abbey House and open ground with trees to the east within Area B1a. Later, after the construction of barrack blocks to the west, the area continued to be occupied by gardens prior to the development of military buildings within the Flagstaff House compound, to the south and south west of Area B1a.

4   Aims and strategy

The general aim of the evaluation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the effected area. The overarching research themes, as stated in the research design, are to:

- Inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the construction of Camulodunum (are there further indications of late Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement?),
- To elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*,
- To address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland,
- To elucidate the relative density of Roman burials and the influence of the recently discovered Roman circus across the northern zone of Colchester garrison.

5   Results of the evaluation (Figs 4-7)

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information. The trench numbers for the 2007 evaluation work follow the sequencing used in 2002 evaluation of Area B1 (CAT Report 206).

Trench 7 (Figs 4-6)

T7 was aligned east to west and was excavated in the northern half of the Area B1a evaluation area, parallel with the abbey precinct wall. It measured 50m by 1.8m, but had to be excavated in two sections due to the presence of a modern wall obstructing machine access to the trench (T7 east and T7 west). The trench was substantially deeper than T8 to the south, reflecting post-medieval ground-levelling which raisied the northern area.

The western part of the trench was dug through 0.20m of modern topsoil (L1), 0.35m of buried modern topsoil (L2, which contained 0.18m of a modern hogging base layer L4 in part of the trench only) and 0.33m of post-dissolution demolition (L5). Below L5, six archaeological features were recorded cutting through a medieval accumulation layer (L6 – 0.46m deep) into natural sand (L3). Natural was exposed in this eastern part of the trench at 1.33m below modern ground-level (30.41m AOD).

The western part of the trench was dug through 0.36m of L1 and 0.34m of L2. Below L2 a total of two archaeological features were recorded cutting through L5 (0.38m deep). Beneath L5 was L6 (0.32m deep), which in turn sealed natural (L3). Natural was exposed in this trench at 1.4m below modern ground-level (30.31m AOD).

All of the eight recorded features were either medieval or post-medieval in date and they consisted of three ditches[1] (F15, F16, F19), two pits (F21, F23), a robber trench (F17), a wall foundation (F20), and a foundation plinth (F22).

Beginning at the far western end of the trench, the first feature encountered was ditch F15, followed by ditch F16 which had been cut by pit F23. Pottery from the pit dated from the late 15th-16th century, which would make it either late medieval or early post-medieval in date. Little good dating evidence was recovered from F16 but its relationship with F23, and the 25 peg-tile fragments recorded from it, suggest that it was also either of late medieval or early post-medieval date. Similarly, the dating evidence from F15 would also appear to date this ditch to the same period.

Next was robber trench F17 which was cut by ditch F19, and 6m further to the east was wall foundation F20. F17 was a post-medieval robber trench which had robbed out an earlier east-west building foundation, ditch F19 was also post-medieval or later, and wall foundation F20 was undated (see section 7).

Finally in the eastern part of the trench was pit F21, foundation plinth F22, and surface L7/L8. The pit contained pottery dating from the late 15th to the early 16th

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[1]   None of the ditches were fully excavated as they exceeded the 1.2m trench depth.

centuries; however, it was cut through L5, suggesting that it is more likely to be post-medieval in date. F20 was a section of surviving *in situ* wall foundation consisting of re-used Roman building material (tile and greensand stone). This wall foundation was aligned north-south and was located at a right-angle to F17, possibly suggesting that F20 and the robbed out wall foundation were a part of the same building. The foundation plinth (F22) was a peg-tile and mortar foundation plinth; which is typical of early post-medieval foundation plinths for timber framed buildings recorded in other areas of the town. To the south of this plinth was a tile surface (L7/L8: crushed peg-tile loosely set into mortar) which appears to have been located outside the structure.

Trench 8 (Figs 4 and 7)
T8 was aligned north to south and was excavated in the southern half of the Area B1a evaluation area. It measured 32m by 1.8m, and was cut through L1, L2 and down onto natural. At the northern end of the trench, this sequence measured 0.07m of L1 and 0.26m of L2, and natural was exposed at 0.25-0.40m below modern ground-level (31.46m AOD). However, the southern 10m of trench was cut through a raised terrace in the modern garden and therefore produced a deeper sequence of remains – 0.47m of L1 and 0.53m of L2 onto natural. Natural was exposed at 1.00m below modern ground-level (31.68m AOD). Fourteen archaeological features were identified; each was sealed by L2 and cut into L3 (except for modern feature F1 which was cut through L2).

The earliest recorded features were three Roman pits (F5, F7, F14) and two Roman post-holes (F11, F13). All five of these features were located within the southern half of the trench and produced a significant quantity of Roman domestic, and some structural material (ie brick, tile, *imbrex*, painted wall-plaster). Their presence, along with the large quantity of residual Roman material recorded from later features, suggests that some degree of Roman settlement activity occurred nearby.

Five features were also identified as early post-medieval. These were four pits (F2, F3, F6, F9) and a ditch (F8), each of which contained a small quantity of post-medieval material as well as a large amount of residual Roman finds. The remaining four features were identified as a modern post-hole (F1), a modern pit (F10), and two undated pits (F4 and F12, although F12 must be post-Roman as it cuts F7).

6 Finds
6.1 The Roman pottery
by S Benfield

Introduction
In total, the evaluation produced just under 6 kg (5,718 g) of Roman pottery. The pottery was recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR* **10** in which all of the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes (Table 1). Where appropriate, reference has been made to the corresponding fabric types described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). The vessel forms were recorded using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels were catalogued where possible using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996. The pottery fabrics and the vessel forms present in each site context were recorded for each finds no. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric, and the identifiable pottery forms present in each fabric type. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot date was recorded for each finds no (Table 2).

Table 1: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR* 10).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
AA	amphoras, all excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphora	
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 3
BA	plain samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish plain samian	LGF SA
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian	LEZ SA 2
BX	decorated samian forms	
SG	South Gaulish decorated samian	LGF SA
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	COL CC2
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH
DZ	fine oxidised wares	
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent	COL WH

Discussion

The closely datable pottery spans the 1st to mid-late 3rd century. However, it can be suggested that the majority of the pottery is probably of early 2nd- to early-mid 3rd-century date.

There are a few pottery vessel forms that can be dated to the 1st or early 2nd century. These are a small quantity of South Gaulish samian (forms Dr 18 and Dr 29), one or two examples of the bowl form Cam 243-244/246, and one example of Cam 241/242. The two sherds recorded from amphoras in Fabric AA are also likely to date from the 1st century or early-mid 2nd century. However, most of the closely datable pottery is of forms or fabrics of 2nd- or 3rd-century date. These are black-burnished ware fabrics and form types (Fabric GB, Fabric GA and Fabric KX), late Colchester colour-coated wares (Fabric CZ), and, in local grey ware (Fabric GX), jars of form Cam 268. The absence of pottery which need date to after the mid-late 3rd century suggests that, while a few of the vessel forms recorded remain current until the mid-late 3rd century or even early 4th century, the majority of the pottery should probably not be dated later than the mid 3rd century. It can be noted that one unstratified sherd in Fabric DZ (finds no 19) could be of late Roman (mid-late 3rd- to 4th-century) date. This is a base from an open form, possibly a bowl as the sherd is lightly burnished on the interior as well as the exterior surfaces. However, the sherd not clearly identifiable as late Roman and could be of earlier date.

While there are no whole pots, several pots are represented by large sherds that from a significant part of the vessel and can be described as partial pots. The vessels that can be described as partial pots are: a Cam 268 jar from F7, of which much of the vessel is present; part of a Cam 37B? bowl from F14; a Cam 278 jar and Cam 37A bowl from F6; and a large example of a Cam 391A/B beaker from F7, with other unstratified sherds from this pot labelled finds no 5. The date range of all of these vessels falls within the period of the early 2nd century to the mid-late 3rd century. The partial pots suggest vessels broken on the site close to the location where they were recovered, and they could represent grave goods displaced from burials.

One pot from pit F7 is of particular interest due to its large size. This is a Cam 391A/B bag-shaped, cornice-rim beaker in Fabric CZ (Colchester and other red colour-coated wares), dated AD 110-125 to late 2nd/early 3rd century (*CAR* **10**, 485). The surviving part of the pot consists of a large body sherd and two smaller sherds from F7 which join together to from much of the profile from just below the maximum girth of the vessel on the lower body up to the rim. There are also two unstratified body sherds (finds no 5), which do not join with any of the other sherds, but are clearly from the same pot. None of the base of the vessel is present. The

vessel is decorated with four rouletted bands, between about 20 mm and 30 mm broad, divided by plain areas with one or more grooves. The surviving section of the profile is about 180 mm tall. The small section of rim makes measurement of the diameter of the rim difficult, but the pot is approximately 250 mm in diameter at the point of maximum girth. This suggests that the complete vessel was over 200 mm tall and the diameter at the rim was about 160 mm. Typically beakers of this form appear to be between about 100-140 mm tall and about 80-110 mm in diameter at the rim (based on examples published on *CAR* **10**, fig 5.33 and Hull 1963, fig 57). While not common, other examples of very large colour-coated beakers from the Colchester potteries are known. There is one example of a vessel of similar size of form Cam 391A/B illustrated in *CAR* **10**. Only the upper part of this pot was recovered but the rim of the vessel is of similar size to the one here, being 168 mm in diameter (*CAR* **10**, fig 5.33 no 87). Another large colour-coated beaker of similar size, although of a different form (Cam 396), is illustrated by Hull, who comments on the very large size of this vessel (Hull 1963, fig 57 no 9 & p 105). Both of these examples are also decorated with rouletting.

Table 2: the Roman pottery.

Feature no	Finds no	Weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	Comments	Spot date
F2	2	143	GX 7 sherds, Roman. HZ 2 sherds, 1st-2nd century. KX 1 sherd, Cam 39 B early Antonine-3rd century.		early Antonine-3rd century
F3	1	694	AA 1 sherd, 1st-early 2nd century. BA(CG) 1 sherd, abraded, 2nd century. BX(SG) 1 sherd, Dr 29 Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian. DJ 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century. CZ 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GA 1 sherd, Cam 279A/B, early-mid 2nd century. GX 18 sherds, Roman. HZ 7 sherds, 1st-2nd century.	Fabric GA Cam 279A/B decorated with wavy line below upright rim	early-mid 2nd century
F5	3	37	DJ 1 sherd, Cam 198 Claudian-late 2nd/early 3rd century. GX 3 sherds, Roman.	Fabric DJ Cam 198 has burnt residue on interior	1st-2nd century
F6	4 & 12	915	BA(SG) 1 sherd, 1st century. CZ 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GA 1 sherd, early 2nd-4th century. GB 22 sherds, Cam 278 early-mid 2nd century, Cam 37A early 2nd early 3rd century. GX 20 sherds, Roman. HZ 3 sherds, 1st-2nd century.	Fabric GB Cam 278 jar rim upright and only slightly flared, possibly much of this pot is present, also Cam 37A bowl not decorated, large sherd	early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
F7	15	1,207	BA(CG) 1 sherd, Dr 33 2nd century. CZ 2 sherds, joining, Cam 391A/B early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century. GB 1 sherd, Cam 278 early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GX 22 sherds, Cam 243-244/246 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 268 early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century. HZ 2 sherds, 1st-2nd century. TZ 1 sherd, 1st-mid 3rd century.	Fabric CZ Cam 391A/B beaker, very large example of this form, large body sherd decorated with rouletted bands, joins with rim from U/S finds no 5. Fabric GX Cam 268 much of vessel present including complete profile	early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
F8	9	39	GB 1 sherd, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GX 3 sherds, Roman.		early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century

Feature no	Finds no	Weight (g)	Roman pottery fabrics (with number of sherds and dated form types)	Comments	Spot date
F11	10	3	GX 1 sherd, lid.		Roman, probably 1st-2nd century
F13	11	148	DJ 1 sherd, 1st-2nd/3rd century. GX 5 sherds, Cam 268, early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.	Fabric GX Cam 268 large shoulder sherd	2nd-3rd century
F14	13	461	DJ 1 sherd, beaker, 1st-2nd/3rd century. GB 7 sherds, Cam 268 early 2nd-mid 3rd century, Cam 37A early 2nd-early 3rd century, Cam 37B? early 2nd-mid-late 3rd century. GX 1 sherd, Roman.	Fabric GB Cam 37B? almost all of base present, also Fabric GB other large sherds	early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, possibly late 2nd-mid-late 3rd century
F22	22	175	GX 1 sherd, Cam 270B 1st-2nd/3rd century. HZ or GX 1 sherd from edge of base, knife trimmed around edge, 1st-2nd/3rd century.		1st-2nd/3rd century, probably 2nd-3rd century
F21	23	10	BA(CG) 1 sherd, Dr 18/31 early 2nd-mid 3rd century.		early 2nd-mid 3rd century.
F23	28	33	GX 2 sherds, abraded, Cam 306? late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century.		Roman, late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century?
U/S	5	1,569	AA 1 sherd, 1st-early 2nd century. BA(SG) 1 sherd, 1st century. CZ 2 sherds, Cam 391A/B early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd century. DJ 1 sherd, 1st-2nd century. GB 6 sherds, Cam 37A early 2nd-early 3rd century, Cam 40A early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century, Cam 278, early 2nd to mid-late 3rd century. GX 32 sherds, Cam 241/242 late 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 243-244/246 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 268 (2) early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century. HZ 5 sherds, 1st-2nd century.	Fabric CZ Cam 391A/B beaker rim joins with vessel from F7 find 15, also 2 body sherds from same vessel	early-mid 2nd to early-mid 3rd century
U/S	7	30	BA(SG) 1 sherd, Dr 18 1st century. GX 3 sherds, Roman.		Roman
U/S	19	384	AJ 3 sherds, all joining, 1st-early 3rd century. DZ 1 sherd, late Roman?	Fabric DZ sherd is a whole base probably from a bowl, the fabric has similarities with Hadham oxidised wares (Fabric CH) and brown colour-coated ware (Fabric MR) but is not identifiable as these fabrics	Roman, but may possibly be late Roman (3rd-4th century)

6.2 The post-Roman pottery
by H Brooks

Description of pottery
Fabrics present are as follows (after Cunningham 1985 and *CAR* **7**): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware), Fabric ?22 (Hedingham ware); Fabric ?35 (Mill Green ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 42 (Border ware); Fabric 45c (Raeren stoneware); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone).

Find 1, F3: Two sherds Fabric 20 medieval grey ware. 13th-14th century.

Find 2, F2: Fabric 21a, handle with decayed glaze. 15th/16th century.

Find 5, U/S: Very abraded Fabric 21. 13th-16th century.

Find 7, U/S: Two sherds Fabric 20 medieval grey ware, 13th-14th century. One sherd PMRE. 17th-18th century.

Find 9, F8: Two sherds Fabric 20 medieval grey ware. 13th-14th century.

Find 18, F9: One sherd PMRE. 17th-18th century.

Fig 8, Find 22, F22: This is the largest group, and is interesting, if mixed in date. It mainly consists of Fabric 21a (fourteen sherds), including a large jar or cistern, cooking pots and a bowl/pancheon. The slip painting is of Cotter's late period (*CAR* **7**, 73), which suggests a date in the late 15th or early 16th century. There are two sherds of Fabric 40, a bowl with upright neck and trimmed exterior, with internal yellow glaze over a white slip (*CAR* **7**, fig 136.49). The other is a pancheon which Cotter places predominantly in the mid 17th century (*CAR* **7**, 196). The most interesting pieces are two sherds of sgraffito ware in Fabric 21a (illustrated on Fig 8). Both are on rim sherds, the first on a flat-topped jug rim of approximately 10cm diameter with overall white slip and partial external clear glaze. Although this is too small a piece to match with confidence, the nearest parallel in *CAR* **7** is a baluster jug which Cotter dates to AD 1250-1350 (*CAR* **7**, fig 74.23). The sgraffito decoration takes the form of a horizontal line parallel with the rim and 11mm below it, with four incised lines running off it at right angles. The horizontal line is 19mm long up to the break, and the lines are approximately 7-9mm long, mostly stopping at a carination.

The second sgraffito piece is on a flat-topped jar or bowl of approximately 18cm diameter and consists of seven 13-17mm-long and irregularly spaced, upright lines (ie they are at right-angles to the rim lines). John Cotter dates most of the Colchester sgraffito sherds to the 14th or 15th century (*CAR* **7**, 170). That dating is followed here.

There is also a green-glazed Border ware sherd (Fabric 42) with a hard, pale brown fabric. Its form looks like something small and rounded, perhaps a costrel (*CAR* **7**, 227). If that is so, it would be an unusual form. Border ware is dated mid 16th century to late 17th century (*CAR* **7**, 225).

There are two unidentified pieces. One is a severely burnt base of a thick vessel, so burnt that it is not identifiable. The second is a dark-surfaced fine orange fabric, possibly a rough Hedingham fine ware sherd (Fabric 22). The latest piece is a sherd of modern ironstone (Fabric 48d). It might be an intrusive piece.

In terms of dating, these sherds span the 13th to the 19th centuries. It is perhaps best to identify two groups. First, the medieval and late medieval 'transitional' sherds of Fabrics 20, 21 and 21a (including the sgraffito pieces). This group (and especially the uncommon sgraffito wares) is probably to be associated with the nearby St John's abbey. In fact, this group is probably entirely residual, because the second group here, the PMRE and Border ware, must be later (probably 17th century). It may be best to regard the Fabric 48d as intrusive.

Find 23, F21: Of all the material from this evaluation, this group comes nearest to a closed late medieval group. It mainly consists of a complete (though broken) handle and six body sherds of a chamber pot in Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a). There are no direct parallels in *CAR* **7**, but the lack of surface painting may suggest a late product (15th/16th century). There is another single body sherd of Fabric 21a, glazed. Also two cooking pot or jar rims. The first, with a diameter of approximately 16cm has a flat-topped, externally thickened rim with a slight internal bead. Again, there are no close parallels in *CAR* **7**, but the slip painting is quite liberal and probably of the late style (*CAR* **7**, 172), so dating to the 15th/16th century. The second rim is flat topped, with an all over internal white slip and an all over internal glaze which is clear apart from a few coppery green specks. The outer edge of the rim is attractively scalloped in a way which suggests that the clay was removed after the pot had been slip- painted. There is a good parallel in Cotter (*CAR* **7**, fig 94.156) for the rim profile, the large bowl

and the internal slip and glaze (but not for the scalloping). Cotter dates these to the mid-15th to mid 16th century (*CAR* **7**, 146). There is also one unidentified sherd with a lustrous black glaze in the fashion of Cistercian ware (Fabric 40c). However, the fabric is pale brown. This group is consistently late 15th or early 16th century in date.

Find 24, F19: Three sherds of Fabric 20 medieval grey ware. One handle/rim fragment from a flat-topped jug, with a trickle of greeny yellow glaze. The fabric is orange and rather too fine to be a Colchester product, but not micaceous enough to be a Hedingham fine ware product (Fabric 22a). It may be a Mill Green product (Fabric 35), which Cotter dates to the later 13th or 14th century (*CAR* **7**, 182).

The most interesting piece here is a fragment of a small ceramic floor tile. It is not truly square (a misfire?) being 75mm wide at one end and 85mm wide at the break. Its length is 65mm at the break (therefore only a small piece may be missing). Its thickness is 22mm. Its sides taper slightly, so that the base is 68mm wide where the top surface is 85mm. It is in a rough, local fabric in the tradition of pottery Fabric 21a or 40. A neutral glaze (ie showing orange in colour) covers most of the surface and survives on the uneven surface. Its irregular size may indicate that it was part of a mosaic floor consisting of differently sized pieces. This is possible, but the low quality of the piece probably argues against this idea. This is an unusually small tile. Most published tiles are considerably larger, for instance those from Pleshey (Drury 1977, figs 22, 23) which average at 5.5 inches square (140mm square). A search of the Museum of London catalogue shows only two tiles which are of a similar size, out of a catalogue of over 550. These are listed as Wessex and Penn types, both dated AD 1331 to 1390 (MoL web reference below).

This tile must be derived from St John's abbey. It is most likely that it was robbed at the dissolution in the 1560s, but it is possible that it was released by a rebuilding or repair phase before that date.

Find 25, F17: One sherd Fabric 40 PMRE. 17th-18th century.

Find 28, F23: With the exception of a single sherd of Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware (probably residual), and a piece of a Raeren jug, this group is all Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a). There are seven bodysherds, one with late-style painting. One other body sherd is green-glazed. One other is a thick-walled piece from a cistern or large jar. Another is a handle from a large jar. The most diagnostic piece is a rim and handle fragment from a large cooking pot with a rim diameter of approximately 19cm. The rim is internally lid-seated. *CAR* **7**, figure 90.113 is a good parallel for the general form, but the lid seating is more right-angled and with a flatter bottom than that example. Cotter dates this type to 15th or 16th century (*CAR* **7**, 138). The pot has an external bib of slip paint, and the rim is internally slipped and clear-glazed.

This group also contains a Raeren ware jug handle (late 15th or 16th century: *CAR* **7**, 282), and the whole group is consistently late 15th or 16th century in date.

Comment

The mixed quality of some of this material indicates post-medieval activity on a site which also has medieval occupation. Only two pottery groups (finds nos 23 and 28 from F21 and F23 respectively) are good, and apparently closed groups, dating in this case to the 15th or 16th centuries. They contain a normal range of domestic items, ie cooking pots, jars, cisterns, etc, and hardly anything about them is specifically monastic as opposed to domestic. That is not to say that the material is definitely not associated with St John's abbey – on the contrary, it almost certainly is, but the abbey apparently used the same range of domestic items as the townspeople of Colchester. The only items which are slightly unusual are the illustrated sgraffito sherds. These are generally uncommon, and there is a tendency to see them as slightly high-status, probably correctly. If so, their presence may be due to the influence of the abbey. The only other piece to mention is the floor tile, which must be from the abbey or one of its ancillary buildings.

6.3 The coins, metalwork and clay tobacco pipe
by Nina Crummy

The only diagnostically Roman object is a 4th-century coin. Of the remaining items many are nails that cannot be closely dated, but a belt-mount, a shoe-buckle and a rumbler bell are late medieval to early post-medieval, while a stirrup-shaped finger-ring and an illegible jeton may be contemporary with these items or earlier. None of the objects are monastic in character.

SF 1. (8) F6. Pit. Copper-alloy coin: House of Constantine, reverse Gloria Exercitus, one standard; copy as Hill and Kent 1990 87; AD 330-45. Diameter 16 mm.

SF 5. (30) F23. Pit. Copper-alloy jeton, illegible. Medieval or early post-medieval. Diameter 27 mm. Jetons were used for reckoning accounts but were sometimes fraudulently passed off as coinage.

SF 2. (20) F19. Ditch. Copper-alloy stirrup-shaped finger-ring with cabochon of cream-coloured glass set in the bezel; the present colour may be the result of decay. Diameter 22 mm, diameter at bezel 29 mm. The type occurs in contexts dating from the 12th to 15th century (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 326).

SF 3. (21) F22. Wall foundation. Crushed late medieval or early post-medieval copper-alloy two-piece rumbler bell with the suspension loop made from a bent strip of metal inserted into the upper part. Width (crushed) 41 mm.

SF 4. (29) F23. Pit. Copper-alloy rectangular strap-mount with two end rivets and a central perforation intended to display the leather of the strap, which may have been coloured. The face of the mount bears an incised lozenge within a rectangular frame, the corners filled with zigzag decoration. Length 31 mm, width 13 mm. A parallel for this mount was found in an early 15th century context in London (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 197, fig 123, 1054).

SF 6. (32) F23. Pit. Copper-alloy shaft fragment or lace-end, corroded. Length 22 mm.

SF 7. (33) F23. Pit. Copper-alloy double oval shoe buckle with the tongue and the buckle-plate intact. Length of buckle 19 mm, width 13 mm; length of buckle-plate 13 mm, width 6 mm. Late medieval to early post-medieval.

SF 9. (6). Unstratified. Fragment from the rim of the lower-stone of a rotary quern made of Mayen lava, with traces of radial grooving on the grinding surface. Maximum surviving dimensions 113 by 60 mm, 30 mm thick.

SF 10. (2) F2. Amorphous lump of iron. 42 by 28 by 21 mm.

SF 8. (22) F22. Wall foundation. Curved and tapering iron fragment, probably a branch from a horseshoe. Length 100 mm, maximum width 27 mm.

(12) F6. Pit. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 60 mm.

(9) F8. Ditch. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 57 mm.

(24) F19. Ditch. Two iron nails with flat round head (one large) and a shank fragment. Lengths 57, 53 and 63 mm.

(23) F21. Pit. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 51 mm.

(22) F22. Nine iron nails with flat round head, a nail shank fragment and a narrow shaft that is square in section at one end and flat at the other. Lengths 79, 72, 66, 63, 62, 61, 59, 39 (bent), 33, 61 (shank) and 118 (shaft) mm.

(34) F23. Pit. Bent iron nail? Length 58 mm.

(31) L5. Demolition debris. Iron nail with flat round head. Length 73 mm.

(23) F21. Pit. Clay tobacco pipe stem. Bore diameter 2 mm.

(22) F22. Wall foundation. Clay tobacco pipe stem. Bore diameter 2.5 mm.

6.4 Other bulk finds

Table 3: bulk finds from T7 (D = discarded).

Feature no	Context description	Finds no	Finds quantities and types	Finds dates	Context date
F15	ditch	27	1 Roman *tegula* flange 4 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (620g) 2 oyster fragments 1 animal bone 8 peg-tile fragments D (600g)	late medieval/ early post-medieval	late medieval/ early post-medieval
F16	ditch	26	2 Roman brick/tile scraps D (52) 2 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (360g) 1 *imbrex* fragment D (70g) 4 septaria fragments D (321g) 6 animal bones 3 oyster shell fragments 9 medieval sherds 25 peg-tile fragments D (1,599g) 2 lumps of mortar with surfaces 2 mortar scraps D (28g)	late medieval/ early post-medieval	late medieval/ early post-medieval
F17	robber trench	25	13 peg-tile fragments D (613) 1 peg-tile with peg hole 1 sherd Fabric 40 PMRE 2 oyster shell fragments	17th-18th century	post-medieval
F18	VOID				
F19	ditch	20	**SF2** copper-alloy ring	medieval/ post-medieval	post-medieval
F19	ditch	24	4 Roman sherds 15 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (1,946g) 13 Roman brick/tile scraps D (225g) 1 Roman *tegula* flange 6 Roman *imbrex* fragments D (1,200g) 4 medieval sherds 1 medieval floor tile, glazed 2 slate fragments 1 peg-tile fragment 19 animal bones 3 oyster shell fragments 3 septaria fragments D (119g)	medieval/ post-medieval	post-medieval
F20	wall foundation				
F21	pit	23	1 Roman sherd 12 medieval/post-medieval sherds 5 peg-tile fragments, one with hole D (266g) 1 slate fragment 8 animal bones 8 oyster shell fragments	late 15th-early 16th century	post-medieval
F22	wall foundation	21	**SF 3** copper-alloy bell **SF8** iron object	early post-medieval	early post-medieval
F22	wall foundation	22	2 peg-tile fragments 1 Roman sherd 9 animal bones oyster shell fragment 22 medieval sherds	early post-medieval	early post-medieval
F23	pit	28	2 Roman sherds 1 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (383g) 19 Roman brick/tile scraps D (246g) 1 *imbrex* fragment D (272g) 13 med sherds 48 peg-tile fragments, 3 with peg holes D (1,986g) 1 burnt Tudor brick fragment 2 slate fragments 2 lumps of mortar	late 15th-16th century	late medieval/ early post-medieval

Feature no	Context description	Finds no	Finds quantities and types	Finds dates	Context date
			2 septaria fragments D (40g) 77 animal bones 6 oyster shell fragments 3 mussel shell fragments 2 winkle shell fragments 3 stone chips 1 lump mortar D (65g) 1 iron nail 1 slag/clinker piece		
F23	pit	29	**SF4** copper-alloy fitting	late 15th-16th century	late medieval/ early post-medieval
F23	pit	30	**SF5** copper-alloy coin		
F23	pit	32	**SF6** copper-alloy object		
F23	pit	33	**SF7** copper-alloy buckle		
L5	demolition debris	31	1 septaria fragment 1 sherd PMRE peg-tile fragment D (102g)	post-medieval	post-medieval
U/S		6	**SF9** lava quern fragment		
U/S		5	53 Roman sherds 1 Roman brick fragment 2 Roman *tegula* flange fragments 5 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (1,027g) 1 *imbrex* fragment D (137g) 1 Roman brick fragment D (461g) 4 red Roman painted wall-plaster fragments 1 medieval sandy grey ware sherd 4 septaria chips D (584g) 3 lumps mortar, probably Roman, D (682g) 1 lump of mortar with tile 8 peg-tile fragments D (800g) 11 animal bones	(early?) post-medieval	

Table 4: bulk finds from T8 (D = discarded).

Feature no	Context description	Finds no	Finds nos, quantities and types	Finds dates	Context date
F1	post-hole		peg-tile, modern brick (not kept)	modern	modern
F2	pit	2	Roman brick tile scraps D (378g) 1 Roman *tegula* flange 10 Roman sherds 3 animal bones 3 oyster shell fragments 1 medieval sherd	early post-medieval	early post-medieval
F3	pit	1	33 Roman sherds 10 Roman tile scrap D (284g) 1 Roman brick D (113g) 5 Roman *tegula* flanges 9 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (327g) 9 *imbrex* fragments D (1,051g) 3 Roman red painted wall-plaster fragments 2 medieval sherds 1 slate fragment 1 stone fragment 1 lump of chalk 9 animal bones 28 oyster shells	early post-medieval	early post-medieval
F4	pit				undated
F5	pit	3	4 Roman sherds 4 Roman red painted wall-plaster fragments 1 Roman pink painted wall-plaster fragment	1st-2nd century	Roman

Feature no	Context description	Finds no	Finds nos, quantities and types	Finds dates	Context date
			2 Roman mustard yellow painted wall-plaster fragments 1 *imbrex* fragment D (61g) 2 Roman tile scraps D (46g) 1 burnt flint 4 oyster shell fragments 2 charcoal fragments 11 animal bones 1 septaria chip D (32g)		
F6	pit	4 + 12	(two labels in box): 17 Roman sherds	(early?) post-medieval	early post-medieval
F6	pit	4	33 Roman sherds Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (150g) 2 Roman *imbrex* fragments D (95g) 1 peg-tile fragment 1 stone 7 animal bones	(early?) post-medieval	early post-medieval
F6	pit	8	**SF1** copper-alloy coin		
F7	pit/ditch	15	29 Roman sherds 2 Roman brick/tile scraps D (45g) 1 Roman *tegula* flat piece D (66g) 1 Roman imbrex fragment D (90g) 12 Roman painted wall-plaster fragments (2 red with black stripe, 3 red, 3 faded pink?, 4 uncertain) 4 oyster shell fragments 2 septaria fragments D (317g) 1 burnt flint 2 charcoal fragments 23 animal bones 16 burnt animal bones	early/mid 2nd to early/mid 3rd century	Roman
F8	ditch	9	1 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (216) 4 Roman sherds 3 animal bones 2 medieval pot sherds 6 peg-tile fragments D (216g)	(early?) post-medieval	early post-medieval
F9	pit	16	worked stone	(early?) post-medieval	early post-medieval
F9	pit	18	1 Roman *tegula* flange 2 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (247g) 1 Roman *imbrex* fragment D (84g) 3 Roman tile scraps D (133g) 1 Roman brick septaria fragments D (1,023g) 2 animal bones 5 oyster shell fragment 1 whelk shell fragment 1 stone chip (limestone?) 1 lump of mortar D (34g) 1 medieval/post-medieval sherd 18 peg-tile fragments D (1,902g) 1 peg-tile with hole 2 bricks, frogless, thickness 48 and 50mm (ie 2 inch) – Tudor types	(early?) post-medieval	early post-medieval
F9	pit	17	worked stone		
F10	pit	14	disarticulated ?dog bones	modern	modern
F11	post hole	10	1 Roman sherd	1st-2nd century	Roman
F12	pit				undated
F13	post-hole	11	6 Roman sherds 2 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (110g) 2 septaria fragments D (68g)	2nd-3rd century	Roman

Feature no	Context description	Finds no	Finds nos, quantities and types	Finds dates	Context date
			6 animal bones 3 oyster shell fragments 3 cremated bones		
F14	pit	13	10 Roman sherds 3 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (161g) 1 cremated bone?? 1 charcoal fragment	early 2nd to mid/late 3rd century	Roman
U/S		7	4 Roman sherds 1 Roman brick D (122g) 3 Roman tile scraps D (53g) 4 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (331g) 2 Roman *imbrex* fragments D (224g) 1 septaria fragment D (281g) 2 medieval sherds 1 post-medieval sherd 3 animal bones D (44g) 6 oyster shell fragments D (77g)	(early?) post-medieval	
U/S		19	4 Roman sherds 2 Roman *tegula* flat pieces D (379g)	Roman	

7　Discussion

7.1　Roman

Five Roman features were identified within the evaluation trenches along with a large quantity of residual Roman material. This evidence would suggest some form of Roman domestic/occupation activity in the vicinity which centres on the 2nd-3rd centuries (although 1st-century pottery and a 4th-century coin may hint at a longer period). The 26 pieces of painted wall-plaster combined with the two post-holes are of particular significance and may suggest timber-framed buildings with some pretensions of grandeur.

It is also interesting to note the close proximity of the Roman circus to this site, and two possible interpretations arise. First, the features and finds may be associated with this monumental structure which would have dominated the area. Second, the feature and finds may be evidence of occupation which was unrelated to the circus, in which case this would be the closest known suburban occupation to the circus and within an area which is otherwise surrounded by cemeteries.

7.2　Anglo-Saxon

Although a single Anglo-Saxon sherd was found residually within the 2002 evaluation trenches (trench BT3), no features or finds of an Anglo-Saxon date were identified in either of the two trenches. However, trench BT3 was located further to the south of the two trenches recorded here, and further Anglo-Saxon evidence may be discovered in the evaluation trenches which are due to be placed in Area B1b in the future.

7.3　Medieval

Little archaeological work has so far been completed on the layout of the abbey complex and little is known about the buildings associated with it. However, we know that the buildings were first laid out in 1095 and completed in 1115, and that the cloister and other domestic buildings lay to the north of the church. In 1133 the abbey was burnt down, and documentary evidence from this time states that the cloister and other buildings were then relocated to the south of the church (*VCH* **9**, 303; *CAR* **1**, 40-41). A drawing of the southern elevation of the abbey's church does exist (Morant 1748, 2, facing p 36), but it is suspect as it does not show any trace of the relocated buildings.

Although we do not know exactly where either the church or the associated buildings were, we can roughly estimate their location. CAT excavations during an extension to the east side of the Garrison Officers' Club in 1988 (findings

unpublished) revealed a stone wall foundation believed to have been part of the abbey church, but none of the evaluation trenches (from 2002 or this report) found any feature associated with it. This would place the church further to the east of Area B1a and the cloister and other buildings to the south-east (Fig 3), although it must be remembered that other associated buildings are likely to be located throughout the precinct. All of this would have implications for any subsequent work on Areas B1a, B1b and B2.

However, although most of the features associated with the church, cloister and other buildings appear to be located further to the east of Area B1a, two possible medieval structural features were identified in T7 which may have been a part of the abbey precinct. The first was wall foundation F20 which, being sealed by L5, was probably medieval in date, and the second was an early wall foundation which had been completely robbed out by post-medieval feature F17. This wall foundation would have been located at right-angles to F20 and, at roughly the same level as F17, the two are likely to be contemporary, although this cannot be stated with any certainty. However, if the two were a part of the same structure, the lack of similar walls in T8 suggests that the building was not extensive.

Further medieval activity within Area B1a is confirmed by the presence of a quantity of residual medieval pottery found across the trenches. This material most probably came from the abbey site and it indicates that domestic/occupation activity associated with the abbey did occur on Area B1a. Furthermore, although none have as yet been found, there is also the possibility that monastic burials could be located within the area.

7.4 Post-medieval

The most significant post-medieval feature within the Area B1a evaluation trenches was the foundation plinth in T7. This feature indicates the presence of a building or buildings on the site in the early post-medieval period which were aligned east-west, and located within 10 metres of the abbey gatehouse in line with its southern wall. The external surface to the south of the foundation plinth would also suggest that the buildings continued further to the north where they are likely to have fronted onto St John's Green.

After the dissolution of the abbey in 1538, the next map we have of the area is Speed's map of 1610 (Gamble 2000, 31). On this map, a series of buildings is shown along the northern edge of the old abbey precinct, the wall of which had been demolished, and it is likely that the structural remains in our trenches were a part of these buildings. Therefore, the construction of these buildings must date from the dissolution of 1538 to some time before 1610, and it is likely that they are associated with the Lucas family who took over the site. Furthermore, by the time of Morant's map of 1748 and Sparrow's map of 1767 (Gamble 2000, 32), the buildings were gone. So, they must have been demolished at some point between 1610 and 1748, and given the fact that the northern side of the abbey precinct was attacked by the Parliamentarians during the Siege of Colchester in 1648, it is tempting to suggest that the buildings may have been demolished around 1648.

Both Morant's and Sparrow's maps also show that the original boundary of the abbey had been re-established and the precinct wall rebuilt. This wall has survived *in situ* (*CAR* **9**, 219-35) and can now be seen along the northern boundary of Area B1a (Fig 2).

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10   Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	2500 BC to *c* 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CM	Colchester Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
medieval	*c* AD 1066 to *c* AD 1500
modern	*c* 1800 to the present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	the New Stone Age, ie the period of the first farmers *c* 4000 BC to *c* 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	*c* AD 1500 to AD 1800
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages (before the Romans)
residual	an early find in a late context (e.g a Roman coin in a Victorian pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning (Project Consultants).
Anglo-Saxon	post-Roman, AD 410 to *c* AD 1066

11   Archive deposition
The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums, under accession code 2006.127.

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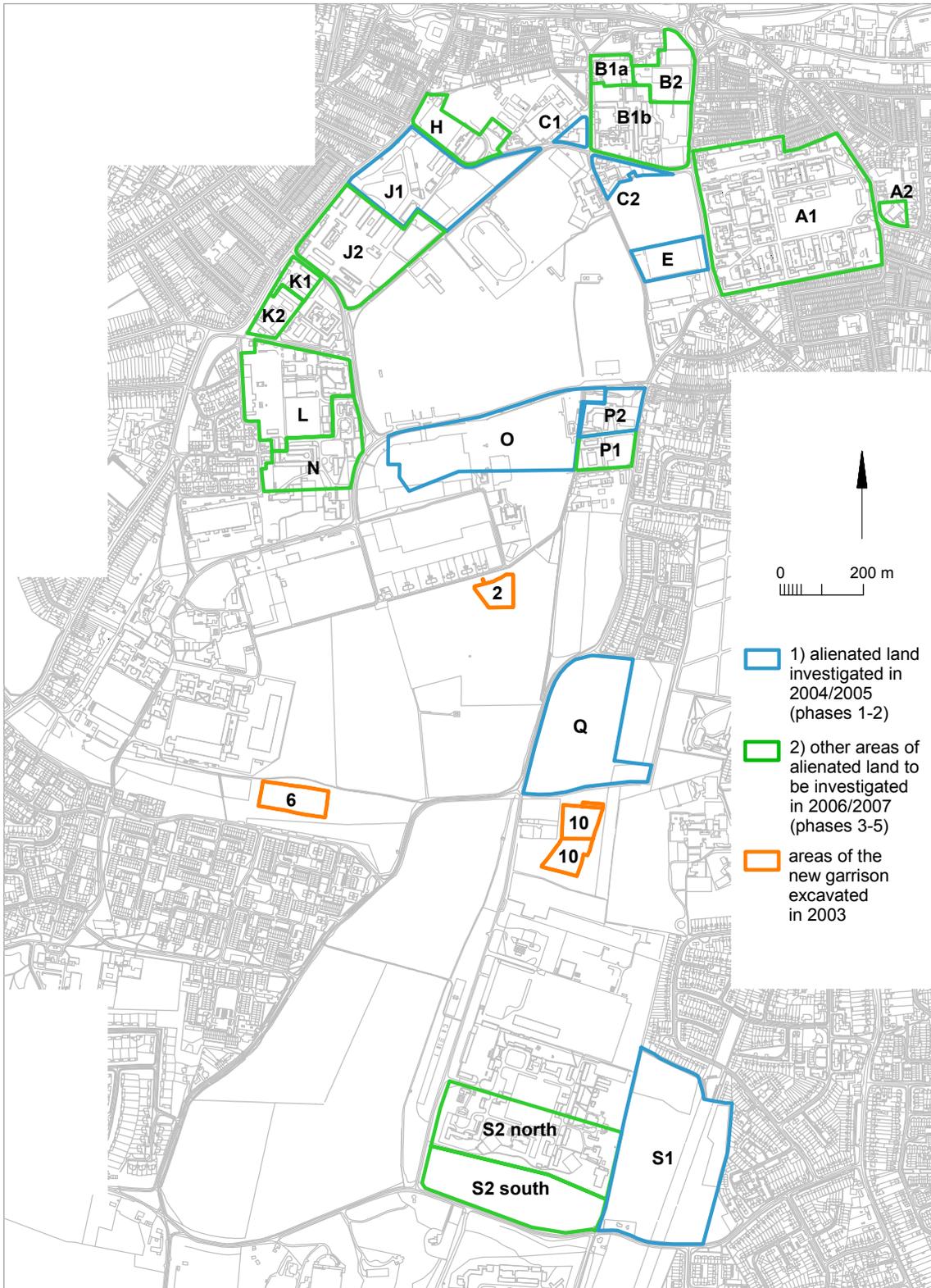
Fig 1 Colchester Garrison, showing location of Alienated Land.

Legend:

- 1) alienated land investigated in 2004/2005 (phases 1-2)
- 2) other areas of alienated land to be investigated in 2006/2007 (phases 3-5)
- areas of the new garrison excavated in 2003

0   200 m

S o u t h w a y

SAM no 343
St John's Abbey
gatehouse

SMR no 3019
(pre-historic)

SMR no 1122
(Roman)

T7 west   T7 east

BT1   T8

SMR no 1194
(Saxon/medieval)

BT2

B1a

SMR no 1181
(Saxon/medieval)

SMR no 1249
(pre-historic)

BT3

B2

Flagstaff Road

BT5

B1b

BT6

BT4

Area C1
excavation
2004

SMR no 1197
(Roman)

C1

WBT4

SAM no 26307
St John's Abbey

WBT3

FHT4

FHT1   FHT2

Napier Road
excavation
2006

WBT1

FHT3

C2

Mersea Road

Circular Road East

Area C2
excavation
2004

0   100 m

—— 2002 evaluation trench   —— 2007 evaluation trench
—— 2004 evaluation trench   • burial, current project

Fig 2 Area B1a: trench location plan.
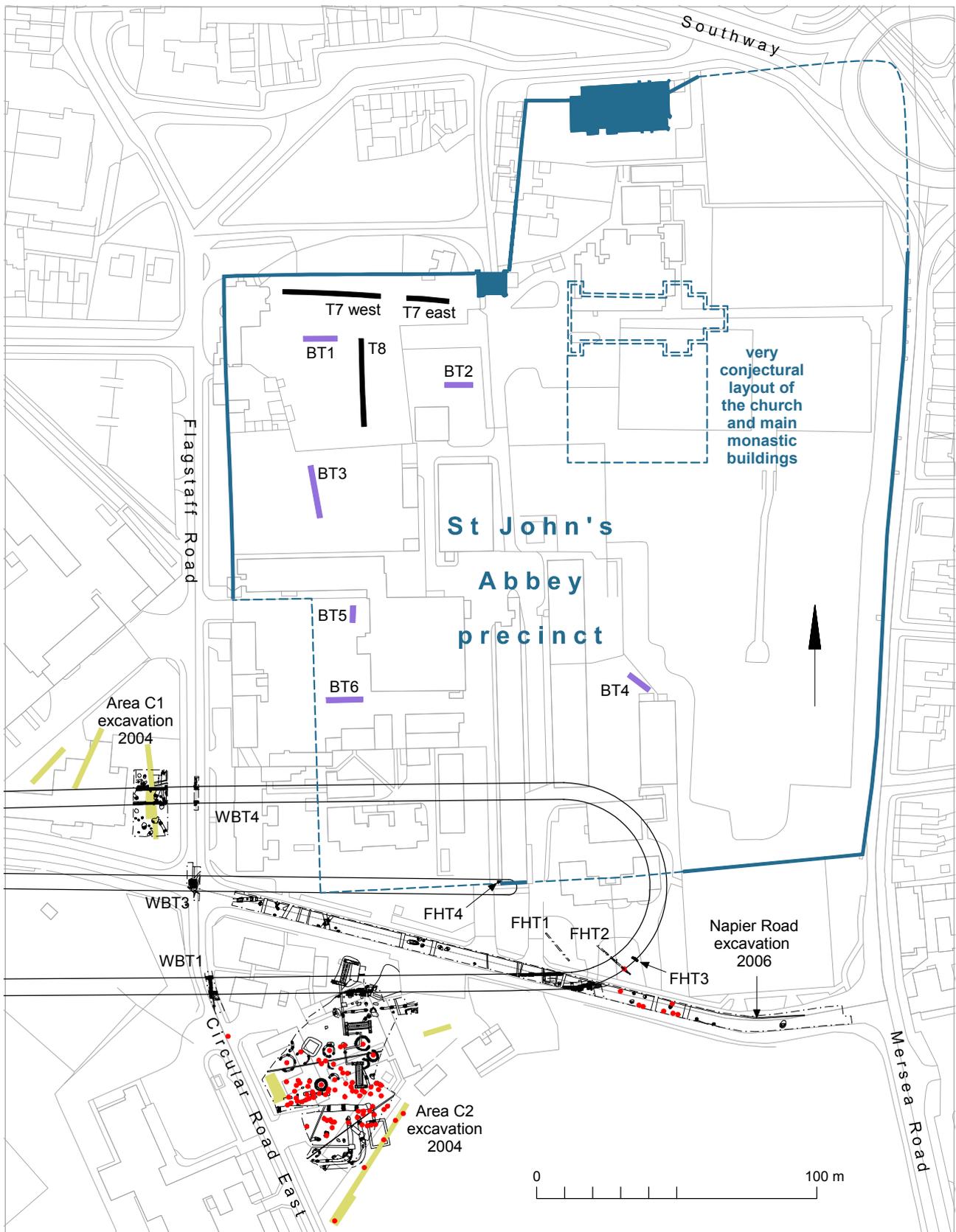
Southway

T7 west   T7 east

BT1   T8

BT2

BT3

St John's

Abbey

precinct

very
conjectural
layout of
the church
and main
monastic
buildings

Flagstaff Road

BT5

BT6

BT4

Area C1
excavation
2004

WBT4

WBT3

FHT4

FHT1   FHT2

Napier Road
excavation
2006

WBT1

FHT3

Mersea Road

Circular Road East

Area C2
excavation
2004

0   100 m

▬ 2002 evaluation trench	▬ 2007 evaluation trench	
▬ 2004 evaluation trench	• burial, current project	

Fig 3 Area B1a: trench location plan, showing St John's Abbey. The plan of the monastic buildings, including the church, is speculative, as is their position.

T7 west

F15 F16 F23 F17 F19 sondage F20

T7 east

F22 F21 manual Plan 1 sondage

T8

F9 F10 F8 F7 F12 F14 F6 F11 F5 F13 F3 F4 F2 F1 service

0   10 m
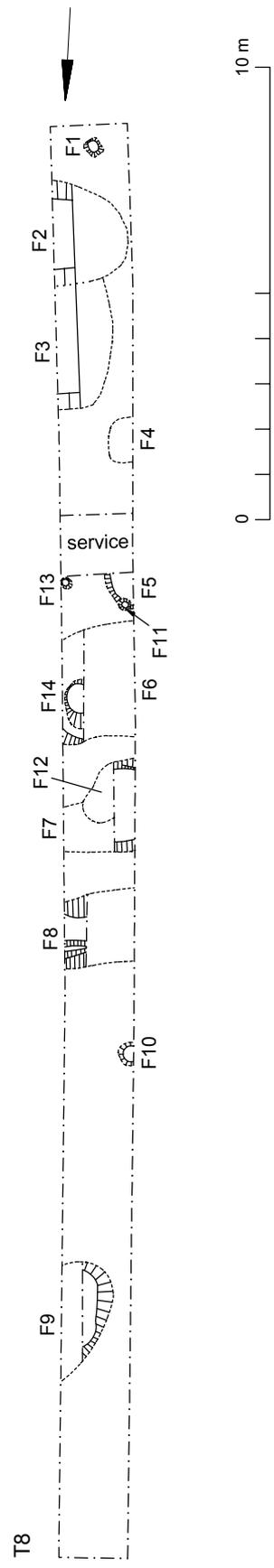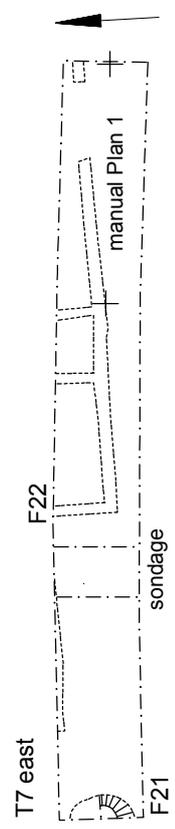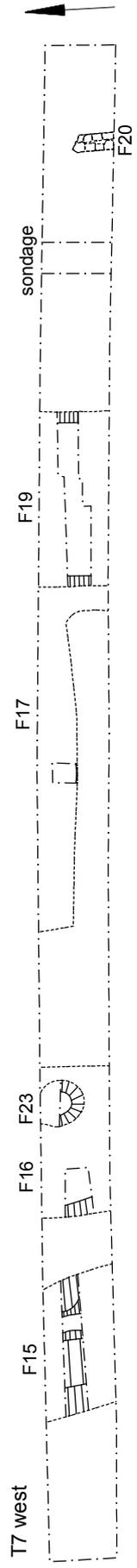
Fig 4 T7 and T8: plans.

manual Plan 1: L7/L8

F22

F22

L7/L8

0   2 m
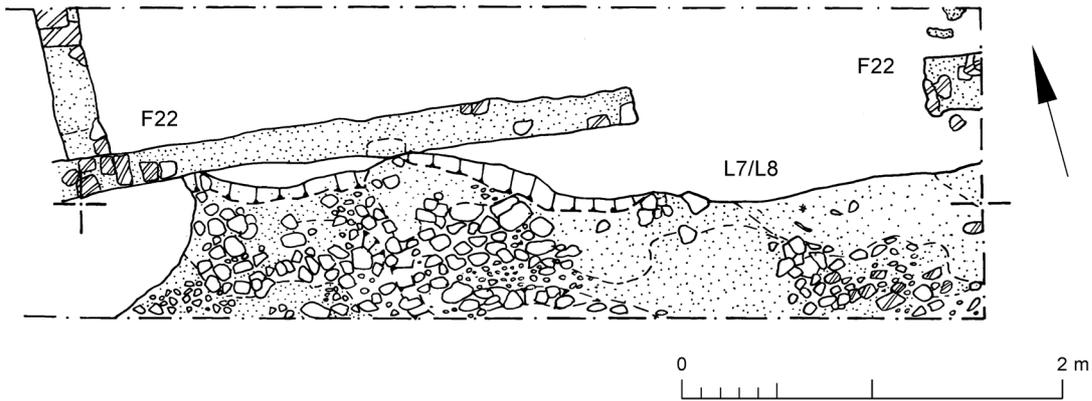
south-facing section through the western
part of T7

31.80 m
AOD

L1

W   E
L2

L4

L5

L6
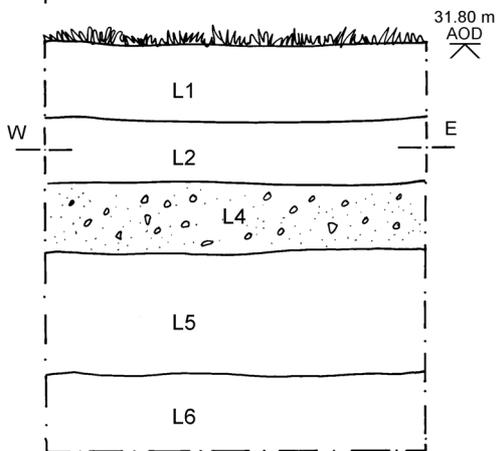
south-facing section through the sondage
in the western part of T7

W   E   31.75 m
AOD

L1

L2

L5

L6

L3
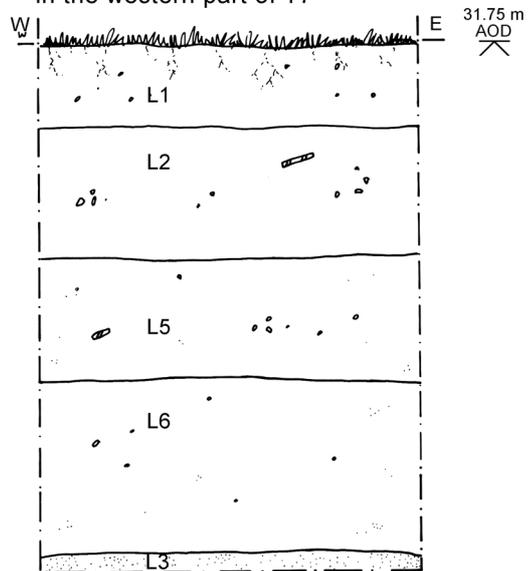
south-facing section through the sondage
in the eastern part of T7, including F22

L1

W   E   31.35 m
AOD

L2

F22

L5

L6

L3
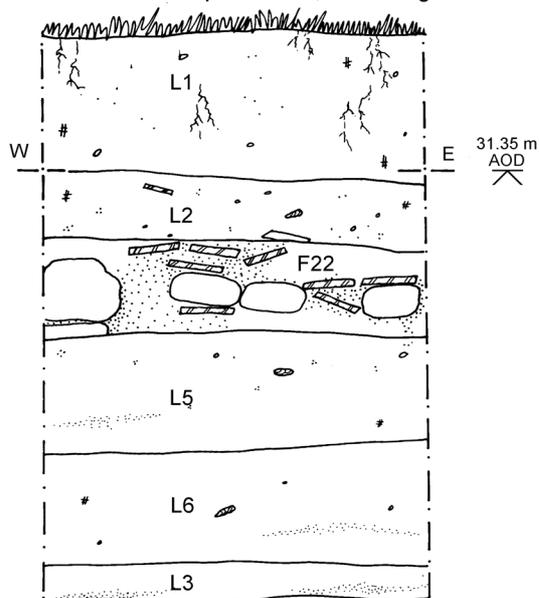
	stone
	mortar
	charcoal
	Roman brick/tile
	post-Roman brick/tile
	oyster shell
	sand
	animal bone

0   1 m

Fig 5   T7: plan and sections.
        (The location of the manual Plan 1
        is shown on Figure 4, T7 east.)

F15: south-facing section
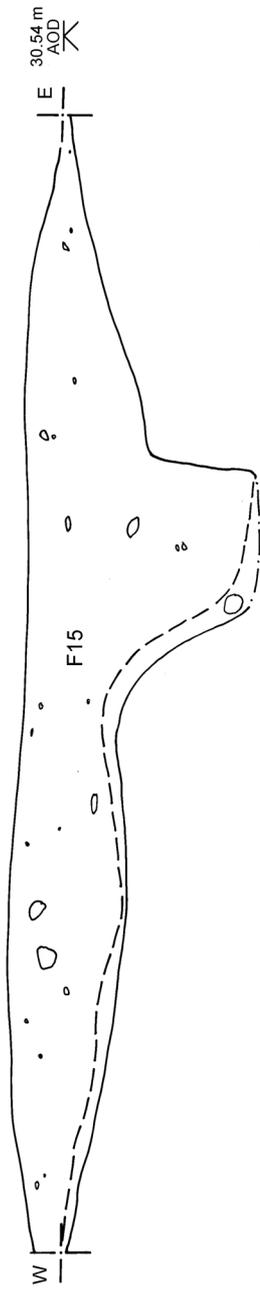
F16: south-facing section
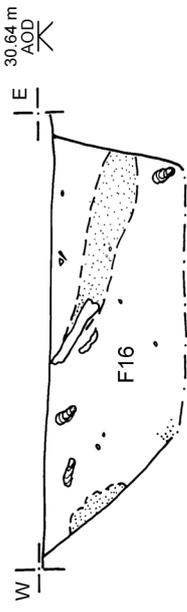
F17: west-facing section

F19: south-facing section
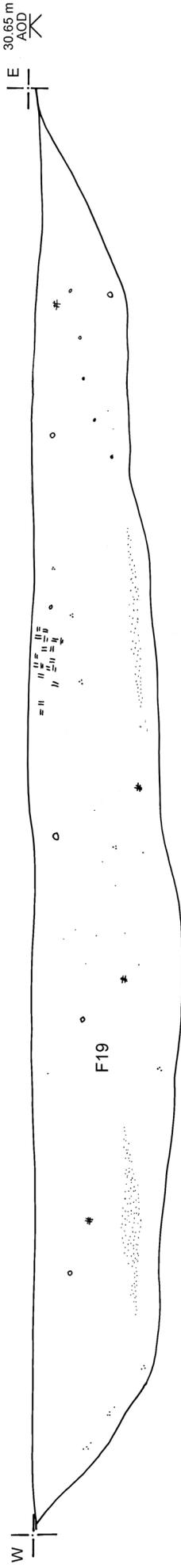
F20: north-facing section
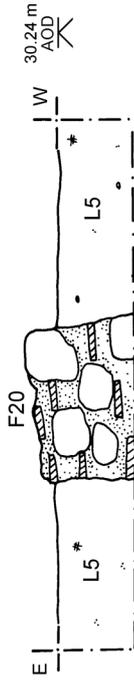
F23: south-facing section
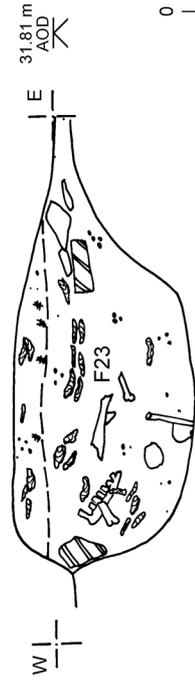
Fig 6 T7: sections.

west-facing section through the southern
end of T8

N ⊢ ⌐ S 32.68 m
AOD

L1

L2

L3
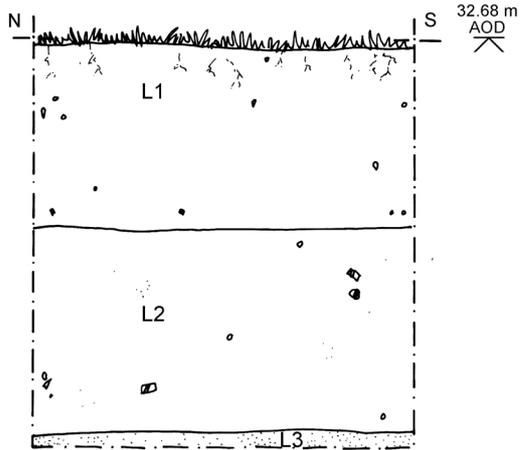
F5: north-facing section

E ⊢ ⌐ W 31.44 m
AOD

L3 F5
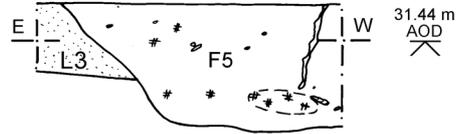
F6 and F14: east-facing section

S ⊢ ⌐ N 31.26 m
AOD

F6

F14
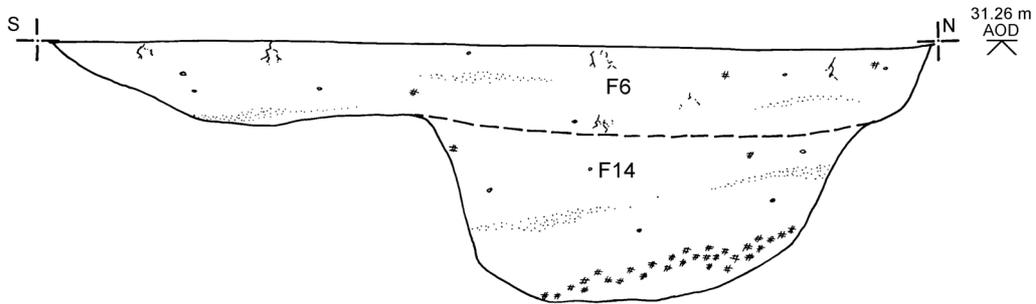
F7 and F12: east-facing section

S ⊢ ⌐ N 31.48 m
AOD

L1

L2

L3 L3

F12 F7
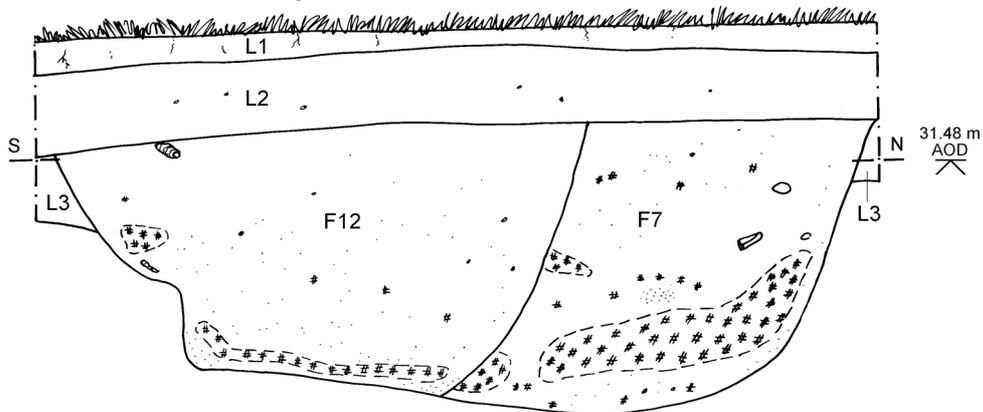
F9: west-facing section

N ⊢ ⌐ S 31.27 m
AOD

F9

0 1 m

Fig 7 T8: sections.

0   5 cm
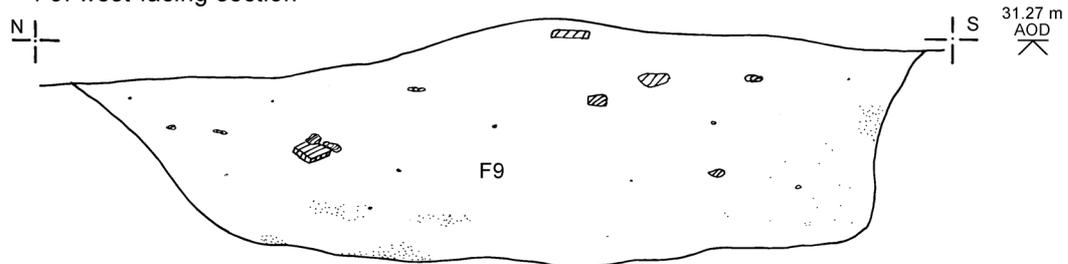
Fig 8 Post-Roman pottery.

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Alienated Land Area B1a, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	

Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester

NGR: TL 599714 224733 (c)	***Site code:*** Museum accession code 2006.127
Type of work: Evaluation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: January 2007	***Size of area investigated:*** 2 trenches (82m by 1.8m in total)
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	***Funding source:*** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	***Related UAD nos:*** 10, 1122, 1157, 1181, 1249, 3019

Final report: CAT Report 405 and summary in *EAH*	

Periods represented: Roman and early post-medieval	

Summary of fieldwork results: *Two evaluation trenches (totalling 82m by 1.8m) were located within Area B1a of the Colchester Garrison Alienated Land redevelopment site. In total, 22 archaeological features were identified: five Roman, one medieval, three late medieval/early post-medieval, nine early post-medieval, two modern, and two undated. The Roman features provide evidence for Roman domestic/settlement activity in the vicinity of the circus, and the medieval features and finds (including a wall foundation) are probably associated with St John's abbey. The early post-medieval features consisted mainly of ditches and pits, but an interesting structural feature may represent a post-dissolution building recorded on Speed's map of 1610.*

Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 206

Author of summary: Laura Pooley	***Date of summary:*** January 2007