

**Stage 1b archaeological evaluation,
Garrison Alienated Land Area K,
Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex
February-March 2009**

**report prepared by
Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway
with Robert Masefield (RPS)**

**on behalf of
Taylor Wimpey**

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

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



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1 Summary

Colchester Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) Area K coincides with the northern part of Goojerat Barracks, situated to the north of Goojerat Road and to the east of Butt Road. This evaluation links the two previously-evaluated Areas at the former Cavalry Barracks (Area J2, to the north) and Goojerat Barracks (Area L/N, to the south).

The principal remains revealed by the twelve evaluation trenches were the widespread remains of the barracks (constructed in 1900-1902, and rebuilt in the early 1970s). Significant archaeological features were very thinly distributed. Three undated features in T5 may have been Roman in date, mainly because one, a ditch, shared the orientation of a Roman field system found, for example, on GAL Area J2, to the north of Areas K1 and K2, and elsewhere. Only three sherds of pottery were found during this evaluation (two late Roman and one medieval), all of which were residual in later contexts.

Other features included natural linears (probably of glacial origin), and tree-throw pits, of which some were natural and some were possibly due to the deliberate removal of tree stumps in connection with agricultural land clearance.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on the Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) under overall project management by RPS Planning on Taylor Wimpey's Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) redevelopment Areas K1 and K2, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). Previous stages of evaluation in this Area are listed in section 3 (below). Since both Area K1 and Area K2 were evaluated at the same time, the evaluation area is sometimes referred to simply as 'Area K' in this report.
- 2.2 Goojerat Barracks is located to the east of Butt Road and Cambrai Road, and is bisected by Goojerat Road.
- 2.3 The Area K evaluation site, which is centred on NGR TL 9894 2418, has been passed from the ownership of the MoD/RMPA Services to Taylor Wimpey for redevelopment. It is located to the north of GAL evaluation Area L/N, which was investigated in late 2007/early 2008, and is close to the military police station.
- 2.4 The archaeological requirements for archaeological evaluation of this land parcel were included in a strategy document for the overall development (*Colchester Garrison Alienated Land outline archaeological project strategy proposal and quality plan*, RPS 2004). This document was required by and agreed by Colchester Borough Council. The fieldwork took place on 23rd February-4th March 2009.
- 2.5 Due to constraints, no part of the trial-trenching had previously been undertaken on behalf of RMPA Services in advance of outline planning permission in 2002 (Stage 1a). The archaeological strategy required the quantity of Stage 1b trenching for full planning permission to be 3% by area. Area K1 is 0.61 ha in extent. Therefore, to reach the required 3%, an additional area of 182 m² was required. This equated to a total length of 101m of 1.8m-wide trenches. The same calculation for Area K2 (0.797 ha) is 239 m², or a length of 133m of 1.8m-wide trenches.
- 2.6 The information obtained from the Stage 1b evaluation was intended to determine whether further mitigation (excavations, watching briefs, or avoidance strategies) were required ahead of or during the construction phase.
- 2.7 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by RPS Planning in association with CAT was agreed with the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) in advance of the fieldwork. This document, entitled *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation, Areas K1 and K2, Colchester Garrison, Colchester* (RPS in association with CAT 2009) set out proposals for the archaeological work, including details of trench location, project aims, methodology for archaeological recording and reporting, treatment of finds, production of a report, and deposition of the archive.
- 2.8 The above WSI, and all Area K fieldwork and reporting, were consistent with standards and practices contained in CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIM 2008a), and *Guidelines*

on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums (CIM 2008b), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). 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, historical and natural background (Fig 1)

3.1 Introduction

The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment site has already been comprehensively explored in CAT Report 97: An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site.

Area K, like much of the land to the south and south-west of Colchester's modern town centre and Roman walled town, lies within the area of the pre-Roman *oppidum* of Camulodunum, the Catuvellaunian royal estate. The Garrison site lies within the eastern edge of the *oppidum*, the only above-ground traces of which are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. One of these (the Berechurch Dyke) crosses the extreme south-eastern edge of the Garrison, on the east edge of Roman Barracks (GAL Area S2 (south); CAT Report 428).

3.2 Geology

Drift geology of the area is predominantly sand-and-gravel. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is capped by a cover loam. The evaluation site is flat.

3.3 Previous archaeological work

Prior to 2002, there had been no previous archaeological finds within Area K; there are no records of any finds listed on Urban Archaeological database (UAD) maintained by the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service.

However, the archaeological context of Area K is now relatively well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent Areas since 2000.

3.4 Prehistory

The earliest activity in the vicinity of Area K is dated to c 2,500-2,000 BC and takes the form of Late Neolithic pits associated with settlement found in 2004 in Taylor Wimpey development Areas C1 and C2, west and south of Flagstaff House respectively (CAT Report 412). There is also some evidence for later prehistoric activity within the immediate area: Middle Bronze Age vessels, probably burial urns, were found on the north-western boundary of redevelopment Area J1 (Cavalry Barracks) in 1908 (UAD event no 1247). A Late Bronze Age pit was excavated beneath Flagstaff Road during the installation of the storm-water drain by Anderson Group in January 2006, whilst several Late Bronze Age settlement-related features were excavated in 2005 during the archaeological excavations for Taylor Wimpey at the northern edge of Area J1 (excavation Area J1 North; CAT Report 412). No clear traces of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* landscape (the Catuvellaunian royal estate of Camulodunum) have been identified by investigations in the vicinity of Area K, although undated ditches found by the Stage 1a evaluation of Area J2 could date to this phase (CAT Report 437).

3.5 The Roman circus

The Roman period is of major importance in the wider context of Area K. A stone-built monumental Roman circus, currently unique in Britain, was discovered during excavations in GAL Areas C1, C2 and J1 to the north and north-east of Area K in 2004 and 2005, with further walls and a monument base uncovered during

service works at Napier Road (CAT Report 412). The east-west orientated circus is approximately 450m in length and 70m wide and was used for chariot-racing. The circus is well to the north of Area K, and it is, therefore, unlikely that archaeological remains directly associated with it will be present within this land parcel.

3.6 The Roman cemeteries

The other major aspect of Roman archaeology to the south of the modern town centre and Roman walled town are parts of Colchester's Roman cemeteries. Before the GAL investigations, there were several indications of the presence of burial grounds. There was a clear group of records from the northern corner of Garrison Urban Village (GUV) Area J1, close to the entrance of Le Cateau Barracks (UAD ref nos 1022-1023, 1095). These appear to be on the southern fringe of a wide area of burials focused on the partially-explored Butt Road cemetery (CAR 9, 4-202). Other informative excavations of Roman cemeteries in Colchester to date have been at Area J (to the north of Area K2; CAT Report 412), the Abbey Field (revised CAT Report 138, in prep), Turner Rise (CAT Report 322, forthcoming) and Handford House (CAT Report 323, in prep). Roman Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practice in Britain, because the town started off as a coming together of two different populations, ie the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had its own beliefs and funerary practices.

At least 28 Roman burials were found during construction of the athletics ground and sports pitches to the immediate east of Circular Road North in 1925, at the Abbey Field (Hull no 200; UAD event no 1099; TL 9940 2430). Trial-trenching and excavation in the vicinity for the all-weather hockey pitch by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremations, some only 300mm below existing ground-level (CAT Report 97; TL 9954 2441; revised CAT Report 138, in prep). Further groups of Roman burials - a mixture of inhumations and cremations - have been excavated in 2004 and 2005 in GUV Area J1 North (360 burials) and Area C2 (66 burials; CAT Report 412). Although the Area J1 investigations identified a dense area of burials at the northern end of the Area J1 site, only five cremations were found in the excavation Area J1 (South) immediately north-east of Area K. It appears, therefore, that the density of burials diminishes to the south of Area J1. This was confirmed by the Stage 1b trial-trenching within Area J2 (CAT Report 437).

In terms of the antiquity of the road system, it is not thought that Butt Road, which flanks the west side of GAL Areas K, J1, J2 and H, was originally a Roman road. Instead, one of the main routes leading south from the Roman town was on the line of Mersea Road, from the south-east gate of the town. In addition, a 20m-wide ditch-defined Roman track/droeway has now been identified leading north to south through the central part of Area J1. This track/droeway connected Area J1, where 360 burials were excavated, and probably continued on to the Lexden area where further burials and cemetery structures have been found. Notably, human burials appear to have been located in clusters on the east side of the track/droeway. The western flanking ditch produced a hoard of 41 silver Roman coins within Area J1 adjacent to Circular Road North. The only Roman find that had been located in close vicinity to Area K prior to the 2002 Stage 1a survey was a Roman coin found in the garden of 173 Butt Road, directly opposite Area K2. This find suggests the possibility of Roman activity in Area K2, although a rural context for this area in the Roman period is likely.

The full 3% evaluation of Area L/N in Goojerat Barracks in late 2007/early 2008 revealed evidence for a possible enclosed farmstead of Late Iron Age to early Roman date adjacent to and east of Circular Road North (CAT Report 456). The main features located comprise ditches aligned north-west/south-east, with other north-east/south-west orientated ditches extending at right-angles to them. The ditches contained (possible) Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, tile and a substantial piece of worked masonry from a building. These ditches formed three sides of an enclosure, the eastern side of which was not encountered. However, no settlement features were encountered in its interior. This may have been the focus for the dominant farm in the immediate vicinity of Area K. There were possible traces of the associated field system to the south and west of the possible enclosure, but much of

the northern part of Area L, including the area adjacent to Area K2, had been quarried or infilled with made-up ground associated with the construction of the Garrison. This made-up ground was well over a metre deep.

3.7 Post-Roman

Cartographic evidence suggests that this area was farmland in the 17th century. The exception is the grounds and buildings of the medieval St John's Abbey within its partially extant precinct wall, which is located partially within the Flagstaff House compound. Although Area K currently defines the northern extent of Goojerat Barracks, prior to the 1970s it was part of the former Cavalry Barracks (see section 3.8, below). The OS 1st Edition 1:10,560 map (1874-1876) shows the land now defined as Area K flanking the east side of Butt Road comprising buildings of narrow linear form around an open central area with a circular feature within. The 1893/1904 OS map refers to the circular feature as 'exercise ground infirmary', although the map does not show which of the flanking buildings was the infirmary (possibly all of the buildings in Area K comprised the infirmary). This component of the barracks lay to the south of the main, rigidly-laid out set of barrack and stable blocks (within Taylor Wimpey Area J2). The Colchester Garrison desk-based assessment (CAT Report 97, 33) has the following section on the former barracks:

'... This was built in brick between 1862 and 1864 or perhaps earlier, by 1861 (Douet 1998, 136) to house 2,500 cavalymen and their horses. A plan hanging on the quartermaster's wall from 1961 shows the original layout (Fig 20), as do maps from 1876 onwards. At least six of the original buildings have been demolished. None of the remaining buildings are listed but they are nevertheless of historic value, being the earliest examples nationally to remain of the Aldershot-type plan. The barracks have been bisected by Circular Road West, those to the south of this road now occupied by the Royal Military Police and Supply Depots which are now part of Goojerat Barracks ...'

3.8 20th century

The buildings shown on the early OS maps had been destroyed by 1949, by which time Gryphon House, which dominates Area K2, had been constructed (Colchester Garrison 1:2,500 map; see CAT Report 97, fig 35). Gryphon House occupies the central part of Area K2 that had previously been devoid of structures. The construction of Circular Road West in the 1970s cut Area K off from the Cavalry Barracks. They were later absorbed into Goojerat Barracks.

4 Aims and strategy

The general aim of the evaluation was to recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of archaeological features on the Area K evaluation site. The over-arching research themes, as stated in the research design, are:

- a) 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?
- b) to elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within the *oppidum*,
- c) to address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town on the agricultural hinterland, and
- d) to elucidate the relative density of Roman burials across the area and the influence of the burial grounds across the northern zone of Colchester Garrison.

Specific aims for Area K were:

- a) to excavate, record and remove any human burials legally under a Ministry of Justice Licence;
- b) to establish the origin and development of cemeteries and cemetery areas especially in relation to roads, fields and other parcels of land;
- c) to establish the location and nature of cemetery boundaries;

- d) to establish the relationship of cemeteries to non-funerary activities such as industrial production, eg tile kilns, such as that found on the site of the former NAAFI (now the Arena Club), and settlement (as seen in Area E to the east of the Abbey Field).
- e) to establish the date and nature of the transition from the rite of cremation to that of inhumation;
- f) to establish the relationship between burials of different periods: ie whether it is possible to identify the existence of long-term burial traditions, including through the cremation/inhumation interface;
- g) to establish relationships between the movement, expansion and contraction of cemeteries and the topography of contemporary settlement in the Roman town;
- h) to establish the extent to which different populations and social groupings within them can be distinguished by their funerary remains;
- i) to characterise the population of Colchester and social groupings within it by the study of human remains;
- j) to establish the meaning of grave goods as expressions of religious beliefs and superstition;
- k) to establish the relationship between cemetery areas and buildings (notably the Roman circus), tombs and other structures (funerary and otherwise); and
- l) to improve the understanding of burial ritual, specifically the nature and location of cremation pyres and *busta*.

5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-6)

This section gives an archaeological summary of each trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information.

Trench 1: summary (Figs 2, 4)

T1 was located on the northern edge of Area K. It was cut through hard-standing (L6), a foundation layer of crushed rubble (L7), a thin deposit of surviving topsoil (L3), an accumulation horizon (L4), and into natural geological material (L5).

There were no significant archaeological features in T1. Three modern features were observed. These were a large drain (F18) and two water-supply spurs (F19, F20). All three of the features cut L4 and L5, and were sealed by L7 and L6.

Trench 1 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F18	drain	-	modern
F19	water-supply spur	-	modern
F20	water-supply spur	-	modern

Trench 2: summary (Figs 2, 4)

Located on the northern edge of Area K, T2 was cut through hard-standing (L6), a foundation layer of crushed rubble (L7), a thin deposit of surviving topsoil (L3), an accumulation horizon (L4), and into natural geological material (L5).

T2 contained two features. These were the terminal end of a linear (F25), and a small pit (F26). Both of them are likely to be natural in origin. The profile of F25, in particular, was irregular and its fill was leached out, suggesting a natural (geological) origin. F26 was probably a natural tree-throw pit, although its regular profile, leached out fill, and charcoal flecking in the fill may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal as part of agricultural land clearance rather than natural tree-throw.

T2 also contained two service runs - a water-supply spur (F27), and a defunct drainage channel with two spurs (F28). These service runs were associated with the early 1900s Goojerat Barracks.

Trench 2 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F25	natural linear	-	?glacial
F26	?tree-throw pit	-	?glacial
F27	service run	-	modern
F28	service run	-	modern

Trench 3: summary (Figs 2, 4)

Located on the north-eastern corner of Area K, T3 revealed heavy disturbance from the eastern half of one of the supply buildings, and landscaping around the military police station.

T3 was cut through modern topsoil (L1), and modern dump deposit (L2). The remaining horizons had been removed by the construction and subsequent robbing out of modern foundation F29 which was probably associated with the early 1900s brick-built Goojerat Barracks.

A small area of undisturbed natural L4 was identified in the centre of the trench. No archaeological material was observed in T3.

Trench 3 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F29	robbed-out foundation	brick, rubble (not retained)	modern

Trench 4: summary (Figs 2, 4)

Originally to be located on the western edge of Area K, T4 was relocated to the north-east corner of Area K and shortened as a result of space constraints. Lost meterage was replaced in T12.

T4, as with T1 and T2, was cut through hard-standing (L6), a foundation layer of crushed rubble (L7), a thin deposit of surviving topsoil (L3), an accumulation horizon (L4), and natural geological material (L5).

T4 contained three pits (F14, F15, F16). Pits F14 and F16 appeared to be natural tree-throw pits. However, both had regular profiles, highly-leached fills, and charcoal flecking, which may indicate that they were associated with an episode of agricultural land clearance.

Pit F15 was a modern stanchion and, like all modern pits on Garrison sites, was plotted and left unexcavated due to possible EOD risk.

In addition to the pits, several modern service features were exposed in T4. These included a soakaway (F11), a water-supply spur (F12), and a drainage run (F17). In addition, a geotechnical borehole (F13) was recorded, cutting pit F14.

Trench 4 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F11	soakaway	-	modern
F12	water-supply spur	-	modern
F13	geotechnical borehole	-	modern
F14	natural pit	-	?glacial
F15	pit	modern brick (not retained)	modern
F16	natural pit	-	?glacial
F17	drainage run	-	modern

Trench 5: summary (Figs 2, 4)

T5 was located in the northern half of Area K, and, like the majority of the Area K trenches, was cut through hard-standing (L6), a foundation layer of crushed rubble

(L7), a thin deposit of surviving topsoil (L3), and an accumulation horizon (L4), to the surface of the natural geological material (L5).

T5 contained three archaeological features, ie ditch terminal F22, and pits F23 and F24. Ditch F22, although undated, was probably an agricultural landscape feature and part of the Roman landscape as identified in previous evaluation work (for instance, in Areas J2 and L/N). Pits F23 and F24 were also undated, but may also have been Roman in date.

In addition to the archaeological features, a modern service run (F21) was probably a water-supply spur associated with the early 1900s Goojerat Barracks.

Trench 5 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F21	service run	-	modern
F22	?ditch	-	?Roman
F23	pit	-	?Roman
F24	pit	-	?Roman

Trench 6: summary (Figs 2-3)

Located in the central part of Area K, T6 was cut through hard-standing L6 (although significant reinforcement was noted), the base material (L7), fragmentary topsoil (L3), an accumulation horizon (L4), and natural geological material (L5).

T5 contained three features, ie pits F30, F31 and F32. All appeared to be natural in origin, probably tree-throw pits. There was substantial animal disturbance in the base of F31.

F32 had a slightly more regular profile and frequent charcoal inclusions in its fill. This may indicate the possibility of deliberate tree-stump removal for agricultural land clearance rather than a natural tree-throw pit.

In addition to the archaeological material, modern structural features were recorded. Foundation F33 is part of the remains of one of the supply/stable buildings which were part of the early 1900s Goojerat Barracks. The foundations were brick-built, and mirror the dimensions of a standing building to the north. The foundations were sealed by modern hard-standing. This suggests that the building was demolished to ground-level, presumably at the time that Goojerat Barracks were extensively rebuilt in the mid 20th century to make way for the Brigade Headquarters building (formerly Gryphon House). In addition to the foundations, other modern features observed were two drain runs F34 and F35 associated with a vehicle laager and wash station to the west of T5.

Trench 6 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F30	tree-throw pit	-	?
F31	tree-throw pit	-	?
F32	tree-throw pit	-	?prehistoric
F33	foundation	brick (not retained)	modern
F34	service run	-	modern
F35	service run	-	modern

Trench 7: summary (Figs 2-3)

T7 was located in the centre of Area K. Like the other trenches in the centre and northern parts of Area K, T7 was excavated through hard-standing (L6), base material (L7), remaining topsoil (L3), accumulation material (L4), and natural geological material.

No archaeological features were identified. A number of service runs were left unexcavated. There was evidence for much root activity throughout the trench, and L4 was particularly leached out as a result of this.

Trench 8: summary (Figs 2-3)

Located on the western edge of Area K, T8 was cut through hard-standing (L6), a foundation layer of crushed rubble (L7), a thin deposit of surviving topsoil (L3), an accumulation horizon (L4), and natural geological material (L5).

A single feature was identified in T8. This was F10, a natural linear aligned north-west/south-east.

T8 also contained a service run F9, and the foundation of a building (F8). The foundation was of concrete and brick construction, and probably formed part of the early 20th-century barrack complex which was demolished during the remodelling of Goojerat Barracks in the mid 20th century and the construction of the former Brigade Headquarters building (Gryphon House).

Trench 8 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F8	foundation	brick (not retained)	modern
F9	service run	-	modern
F10	natural linear	-	?glacial

Trench 9: summary (Figs 2-3)

T9 was located on the south-eastern corner of Area K, and was, as were the majority of the trenches in the evaluation, excavated through modern hard-standing (L6), a modern base layer (L7), remaining topsoil (L3), accumulated material (L4), and natural geological horizons (L5).

No significant archaeological features were identified in T9, but five modern features were identified. Two modern pits F2 and F3 were plotted but left unexcavated due to possible EOD risk. Three service ducts (F4, F5, F6) were also plotted. These service runs all appear to be associated with the old Brigade Headquarters building.

Trench 9 – archaeological contexts and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F2	pit	brick fragments (not retained)	modern
F3	pit	concrete fragments	modern
F4	service duct	-	modern
F5	service duct	-	modern
F6	service duct	-	modern

Trench 10: summary (Figs 2-3, 5)

Located in grass is in the south-eastern corner of Area K, T10 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), modern accumulation material/made-up ground (L2), original buried topsoil (L3), accumulation horizon/reworked cover loam (L4), and geological deposits (L5).

During the 2007/2008 evaluation of the adjacent GAL Area L/N (ie the part of Goojerat Barracks to the south of Area K), it became apparent that, prior to construction, and presumably to level the ground, there had been large-scale movement of earth. This took the form of ground reduction (ie truncation) or infilling (ie made-up ground). It was possible to map these truncation and infill areas in GAL Area L/N (CAT Report 456, fig 2), and it was of interest to see if the northern extent

of this earth-moving was apparent in Area K. In fact, L2 in T10 appears to be part of the same made-up ground deposit, presumably infilling a former dry valley. There was no clear sign of made-up ground in any trenches to the north of T10, and, therefore, the possible extent of the infill is shown on Figures 2-3.

Trench 11: summary (Figs 2-3)

Located in a grassed area in the south-western corner of Area K, T11 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), modern accumulation horizon (L2), buried topsoil (L3), and accumulation horizon (L4), to the top of the natural geological levels (L5).

As in T10, there was no significant early archaeological material in T11, the only recorded feature being a modern foundation (F1). This was a poured concrete stanchion foundation probably associated with the rebuilding of Goojerat Barracks in the mid 20th century.

Trench 11 – archaeological context and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F29	foundation	brick, rubble (not retained)	modern

Trench 12: summary (Figs 2-3)

T12 was located on the south-western edge of Area K. This trench was added to intended trenching design to compensate for lost meterage due to the relocation of T4 and T11.

As was the case with T10 and T11, T12 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1), modern accumulation material (L2), a buried topsoil (L3), accumulation horizon (L4), and natural geological levels (L5).

There were no significant archaeological features in T12. The only recorded feature was a modern drainage hub (F7), probably associated with a building demolished prior to the construction of the Brigade Headquarters building in the mid 20th century.

Trench 12 – archaeological context and dating.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F7	drainage hub	brick (not retained)	modern

6 Finds

The Roman pottery and medieval pottery

by S Benfield and H Brooks

Comment

This very small group includes residual and abraded late Roman and medieval sherds, all in a context which is associated with a modern wall foundation. The only point of interest is the presence of late Roman pottery. There is no evidence of later Roman sites along Butt Road or in this area in general, and therefore it is probable that the material was deposited on late Roman fields during manuring processes.

Medieval pottery fabric code is after *CAR 7*.

Catalogue

T8, L4

2 sherds late Roman pottery, probably Oxford ware, 8g. Late 3rd-4th century.

1 sherd medieval coarse ware (Fabric 20), 1g. 13th century.

7 Discussion

7.1 Prehistory

There were no remains of this period, except that some of the tree-throw pits, if they are of human origin and connected with agricultural land clearance, are probably of prehistoric date.

7.2 Roman

Two major themes come into play when discussing any area of land to the south of the Roman town. The first is the Roman cemeteries, and the second is the farmed rural hinterland to the south of the cemetery zone.

Although previous excavations and recording, especially the major excavations at Butt Road in the 1970s and 1980s (CAR 9), had shown the extent of the cemetery zone, recent evaluations and excavations in connection with the GUV and GAL projects have confirmed and added detail to previous knowledge.

In summary, the cemetery zone extended some 300m south of the Roman town wall. Allowing that there was probably a difference between the burial density between different cemetery plots, it is still true to say that the cemetery zone had a southern edge which has been defined by the cemetery excavations on the Abbey Field in 2000 (revised CAT Report 138, in prep), at Area C2 (CAT Report 412), at Napier Road and Circular Road North (*ibid*), at Area H (CAT Report 456), and especially at Area J1 North, where a double-ditched track/droeway formed the effective southern boundary of the cemetery zone (CAT Report 361).

The centre of Area K lies approximately 500m to the SSE of the wall of the Roman town. In this position, it should be well to the south of the Roman cemeteries, and almost entirely in the rural hinterland. In this location, its position in relation to the recently-discovered Roman ditched enclosures and Romanised building in Area E and Area L/N should be discussed. The two enclosures, located a little over 600m apart, can probably be interpreted as two separate small Roman farms operating in the rural hinterland of the Roman town, and in the area which was previously part of the *oppidum*. While the Area E enclosure is 600m away and Area K probably has no connection with it, the centre of the Area L/N enclosure lies only 200m south of Area K, and Area K is most likely to be in its farmlands.

Roman material consisted of two residual sherds from T8, and three undated but possibly Roman features in T5. One of these, ditch F22 in T5, may be a Roman agricultural field ditch because its east-to-west orientation broadly reflects that of the Roman agricultural landscape as recorded in previous evaluation projects in the GAL areas, and, in particular, in Area J2, in the former Cavalry Barracks to the north of Area K (CAT Report 437, fig 2). The two possible Roman features in T5 and the sherds in T8 seem to represent small-scale Roman activity which is otherwise difficult to define. While it is not impossible that the sherds are derived from a disturbed Roman burial, the fact that they were found approximately 250m to the south-west of the southern boundary of the cemetery zone (as defined in Area J1; CAT Report 412) would argue against this interpretation. It is more likely that the finds derive from the manuring of contemporary fields.

7.3 Anglo-Saxon

There were no finds or features of this period.

7.4 Medieval

Medieval finds are limited to one sherd from T8.

7.5 Post-medieval and modern

The majority of the recorded features consisted of the foundations of the original, early 20th-century barracks (which were demolished and rebuilt in the mid 20th century) and other modern features such as service runs associated with the original or rebuilt barracks. The other significant modern finding was that T10 and T11 mark the northern extent of modern infilling of the natural dry valley identified by the previous evaluation of Area L/N to the immediate south within Goojerat Barracks. The approximately east-west aligned valley did not extent as far north as T9 and T12, where natural gravel was typically encountered at a depth of approximately 600mm.

7.6 Natural features

Archaeological features not associated with the barracks consisted of natural pits and a number of possible linear features. The pits had irregular cuts containing highly mottled and leached fills, and, in places, plant and animal disturbance. These features were probably tree-throw pits produced by natural wastage of trees. However, some of them had a slightly more regular profile and contained substantial charcoal flecking, which indicates deliberate tree-stump removal as part of an episode of agricultural land clearance.

Like the natural pits, the linear features had irregular profiles and leached fills, and they are almost certainly of natural, possibly glacial origin.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT and RPS Planning would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for commissioning and funding the work.

The project was managed by B Holloway, and the site work was carried out by C Lister and A Wightman, with digital survey carried out by C Lister assisted by B Holloway.

The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Martin Winter, and for RPS Planning by Robert Masefield and Josh Williams.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs (desk-based assessments) are available online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> in .pdf format.

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan
CAT CAT Report 97	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i> An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site, unpublished CAT archive report, by K Orr, 2000
CAT Report 138, revised	in prep	Archaeological excavations at the Garrison sports pitch, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex (the Abbey Field), February-March 2000, CAT archive report, by C Crossan, 2001, revised by D Shimmin
CAT Report 322	forth- coming	Archaeological investigations at Turner Rise, Colchester, Essex, 1996-99, CAT archive report, by D Shimmin
CAT Report 323	in prep	An archaeological excavation at 1 Queens Road (Handford House, now 'Handford Place'), Colchester, Essex: February 2003-April 2004, CAT archive report, by K Orr
CAT Report 361		Assessment report on the archaeological investigations carried out on Areas C1, C2, E, J1, O, Q and S1 of the Alienated Land, Colchester Garrison, including the Time Team trenches and the Alienated Land watching brief, 2004-2005, CAT archive report, by L Pooley, B Holloway, P Crummy and R Masefield, 2006
CAT Report 412		Report for Taylor Wimpey on the archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, May 2004-October 2007, CAT archive report, various authors, 2009
CAT Report 428 (CAT in association with RPS)		Interim assessment report on Stage 2 archaeological excavations, Alienated Land Area S2 (south), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex, February-March 2007, CAT archive report, by H Brooks, B Holloway and R Masefield, 2007
CAT Report 437		Stage 1b archaeological evaluation, Alienated Land Area J2, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex, October 2006 and

		August-September 2007, CAT archive report, by H Brooks and B Holloway, 2007
CAT Report 456		Stage 1b archaeological evaluation, Alienated Land Area L/N, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex, October 2007, CAT archive report, by H Brooks and B Holloway, 2008
CIM	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> (CBC)
CIM	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> (CBC)
Douet, J	1998	<i>British barracks 1600-1914: their architecture and role in society</i> (HMSO)
EAA 3	1997	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 3 , ed by J Glazebrook
EAA 8	2000	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 8 , ed by N Brown and J Glazebrook
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MAP 2	1991	<i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , second edition (English Heritage)
RPS	2004	<i>Colchester Garrison Alienated Land outline archaeological project strategy proposal and quality plan</i>
RPS in association with CAT	2009	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Stage 1b archaeological trial-trenching evaluation, Areas K1 and K2, Colchester Garrison, Colchester</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	post-Roman, AD 410 to c AD 1066
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	2,500 BC to c 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CIM	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EH	English Heritage
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, or ditch; can contain contexts
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Late Iron Age	c 200 BC-AD 43
medieval	c AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	c 1800 to the present day
natural	natural deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	New Stone Age, c 4,000 BC to c 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	c AD 1500 to AD 1800
prehistoric	belonging to the Stone, Bronze or Iron Ages, ie pre-Roman
residual	an early find in a late context, eg a Roman coin in a 19th-century pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
RPS	RPS Planning (project consultants)
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held and maintained by CIMS

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 and Ipswich Museums, under accession code COLEM 2006.127.

12 Context list

Context	Trench	Description	Date
F1	T11	foundations	modern
F2	T9	pit	modern
F3	T9	pit	modern
F4	T9	service duct	modern
F5	T9	service duct	modern
F6	T9	service duct	modern
F7	T12	drainage hub	modern
F8	T8	foundation	modern
F9	T8	service run	modern
F10	T8	natural linear	?glacial
F11	T4	soakaway	modern
F12	T4	water-supply spur	modern
F13	T4	geotechnical borehole	modern
F14	T4	natural pit	?glacial
F15	T4	pit	modern
F16	T4	natural pit	?glacial
F17	T4	drainage run	modern
F18	T1	drain	modern
F19	T1	water-supply spur	modern
F20	T1	water-supply spur	modern
F21	T5	service run	modern
F22	T5	?ditch	?Roman
F23	T5	pit	?Roman
F24	T5	pit	?Roman
F25	T2	natural linear	?glacial
F26	T2	?tree-throw pit	?glacial
F27	T2	service run	modern
F28	T2	service run	modern
F29	T3	robbed-out foundation	modern
F29	T11	foundation	modern
F30	T6	tree-throw pit	?
F31	T6	tree-throw pit	?
F32	T6	tree-throw pit	?prehistoric
F33	T6	foundation	modern
F34	T6	service run	modern
F35	T6	service run	modern

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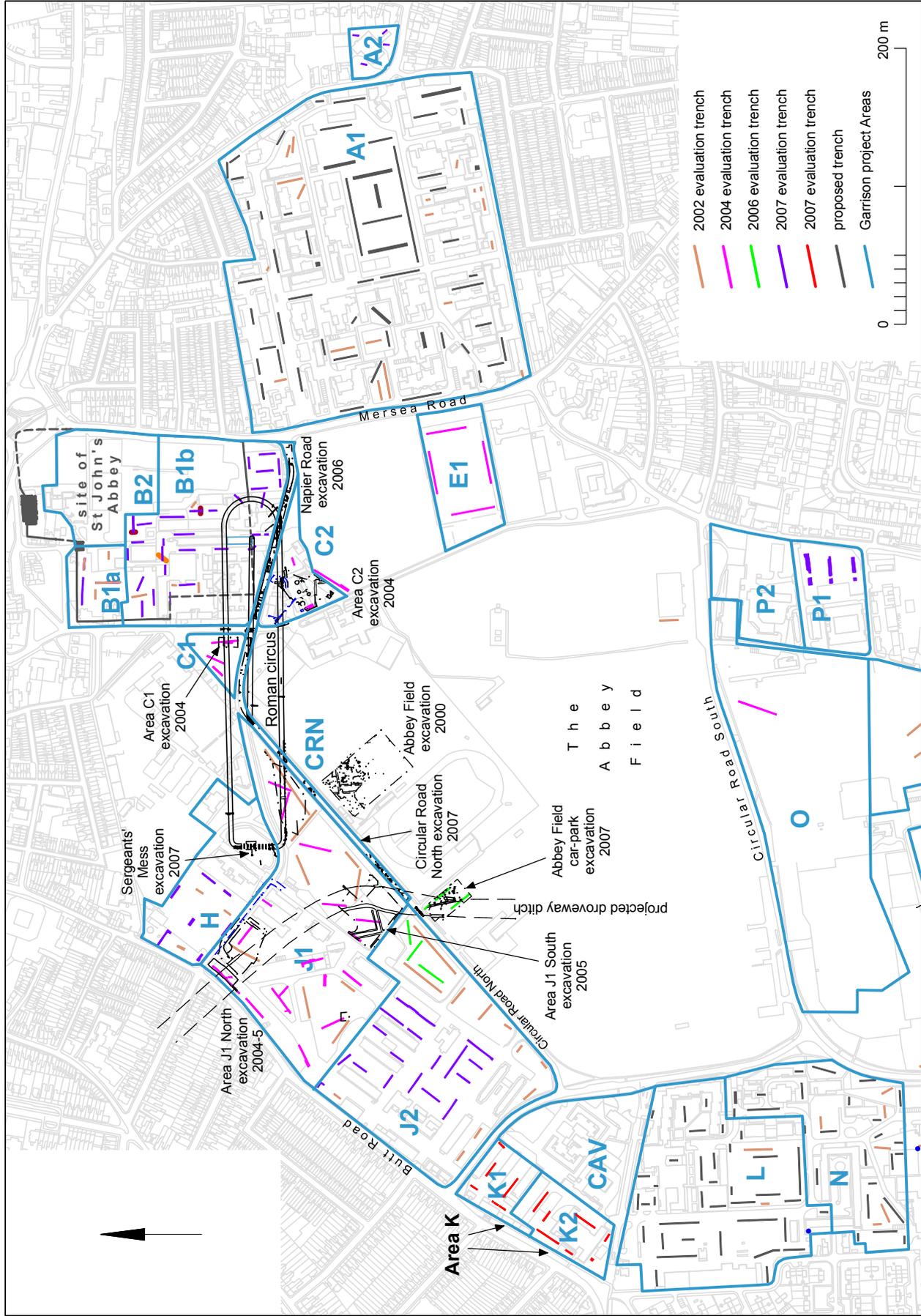
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(01206) 500124

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

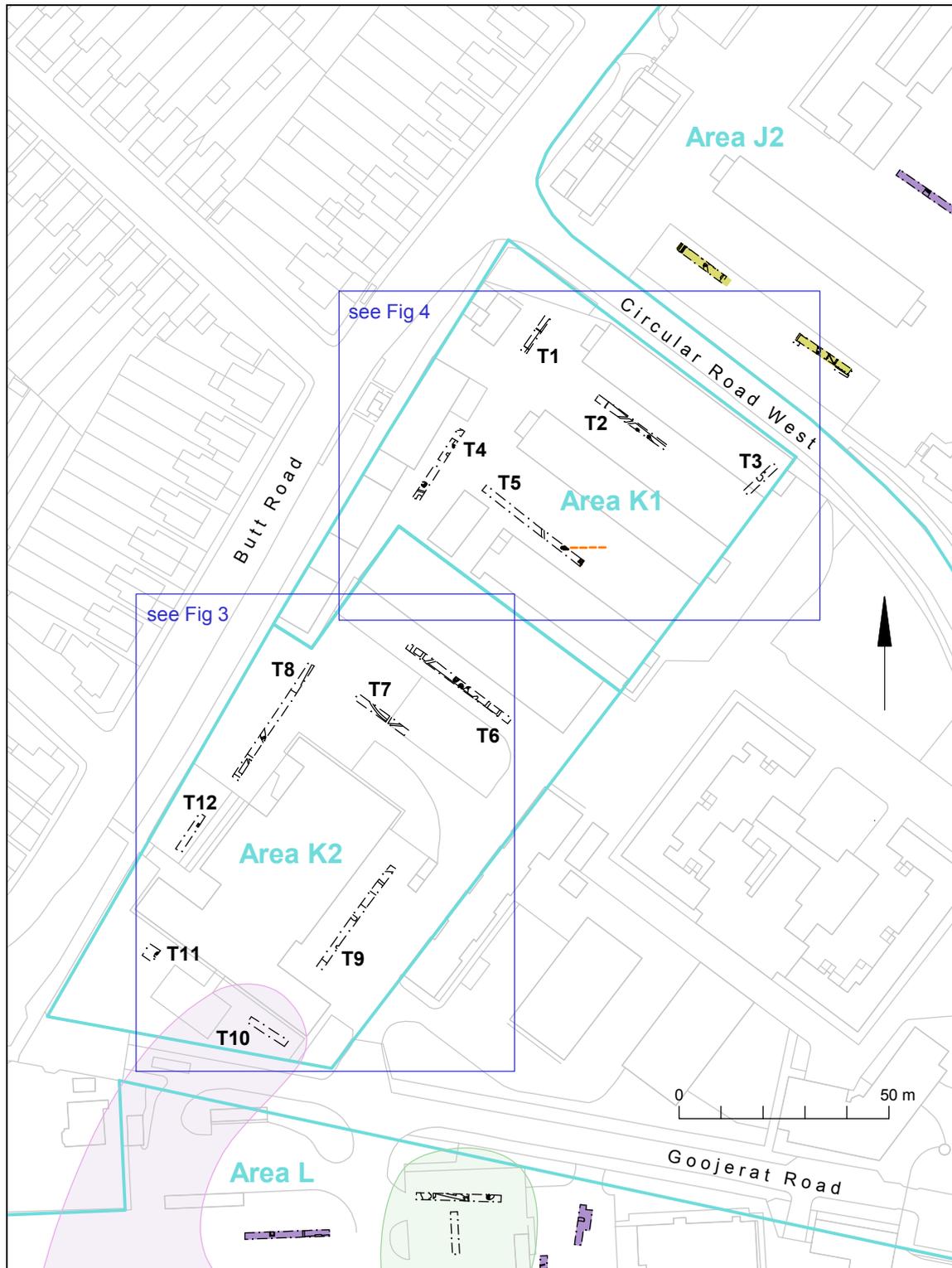
Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 06.04.09

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Fig 1 The northern part of Colchester Garrison, showing Area K and previous archaeological investigations.



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- | | |
|--|--|
|  Garrison project Areas |  ?Roman features, including field ditch |
|  2002 evaluation trench |  suggested minimum area of infill |
|  2007 evaluation trench |  suggested minimum area of truncation |

Fig 2 Trench location plan.

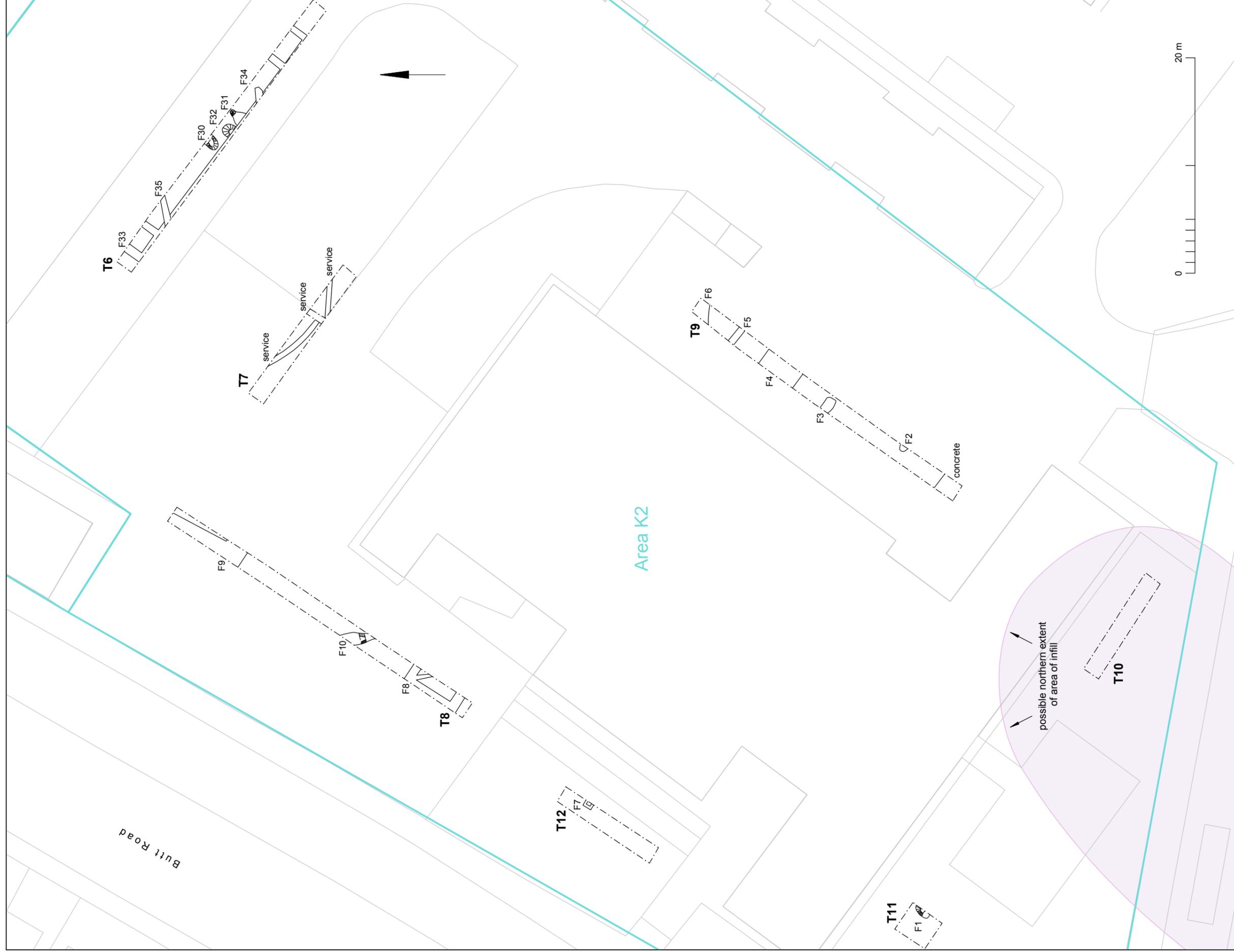
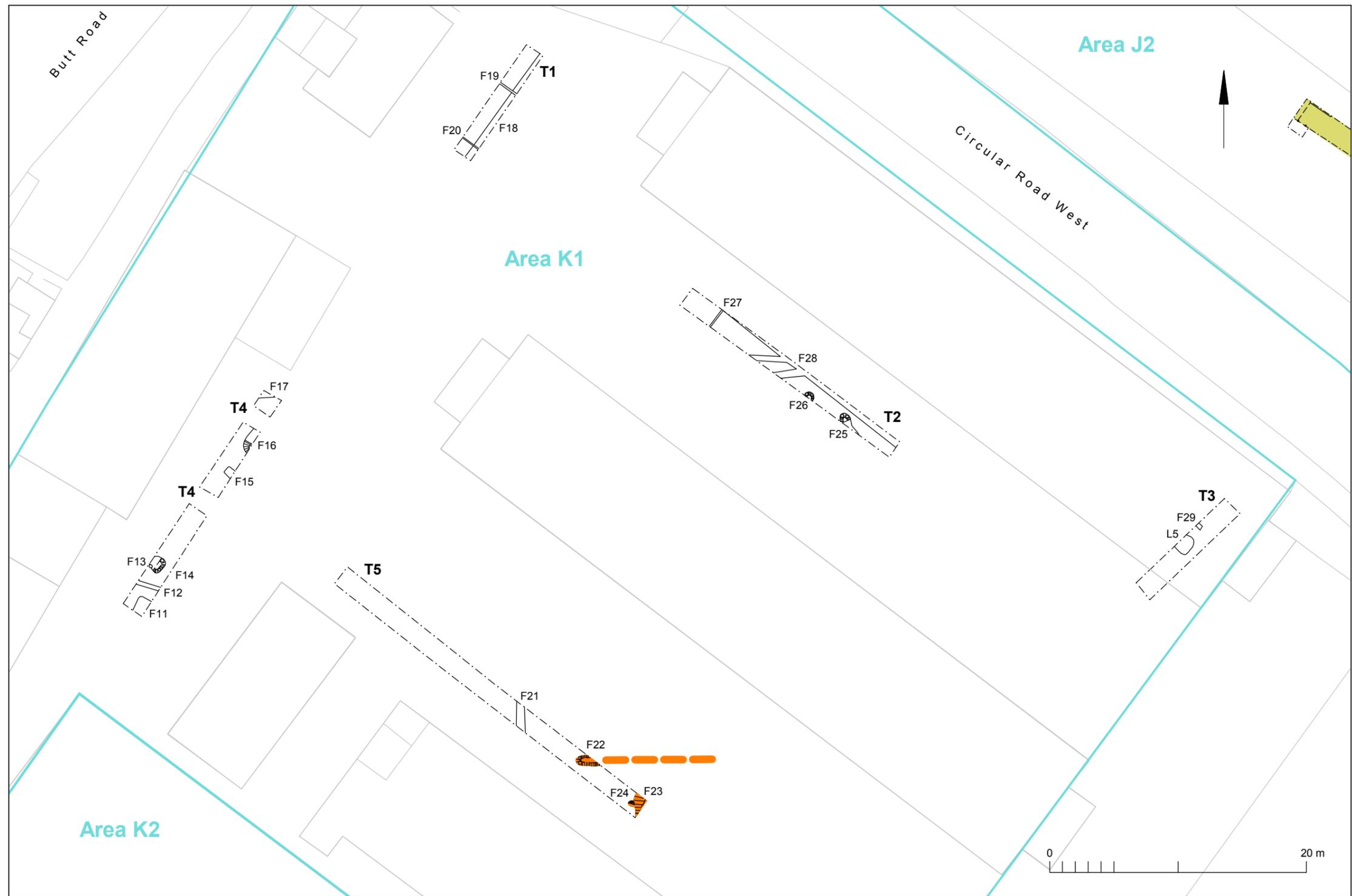


Fig 3 Area K2: T6-T12 - plan.

█ suggested minimum area of infill



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 ?Roman features, including field ditch F22

Fig 4 Area K1: T1-T5 - plan.

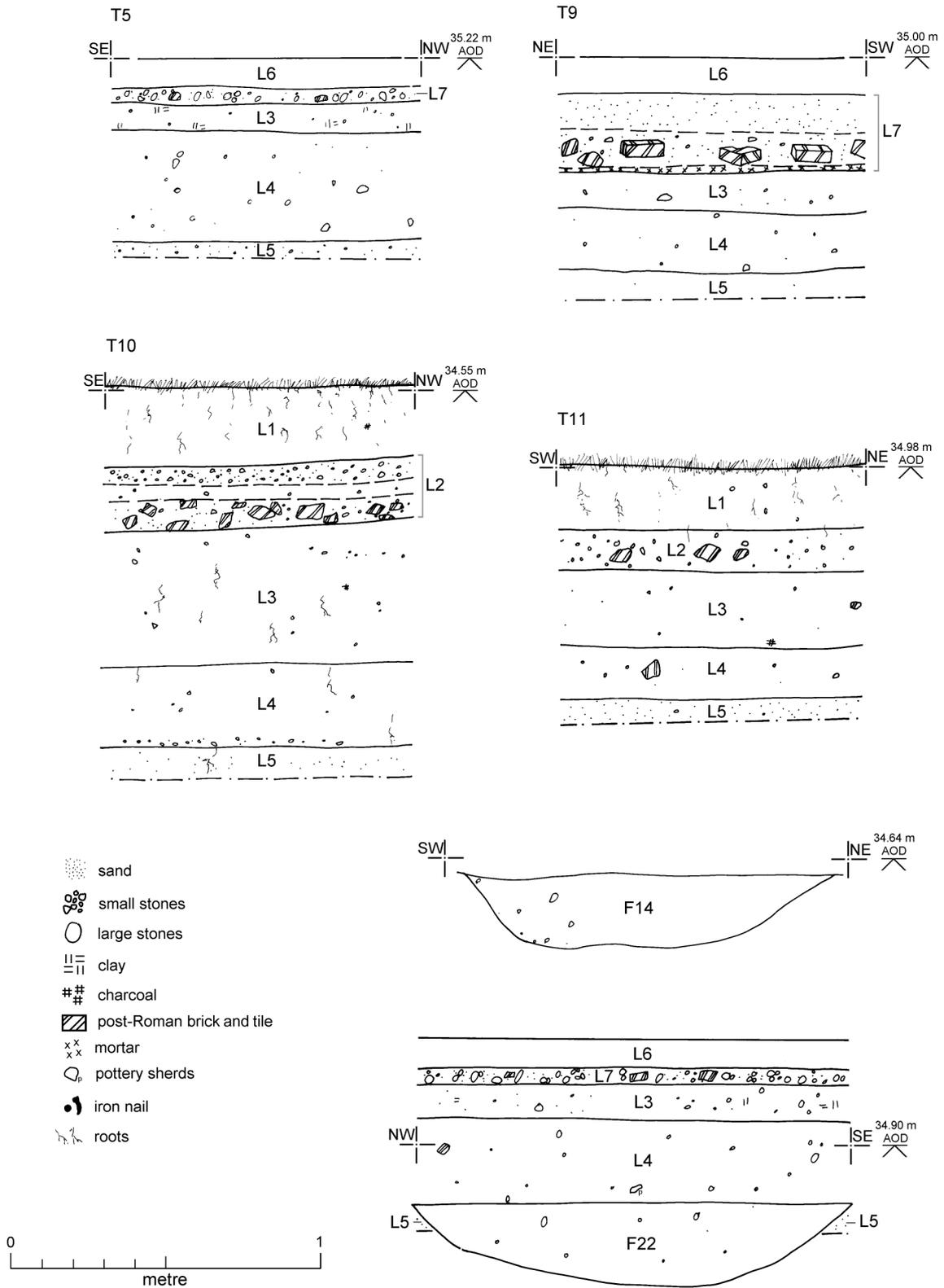


Fig 5 T5, T9, T10, T11: representative sections; F14; F22: sections.

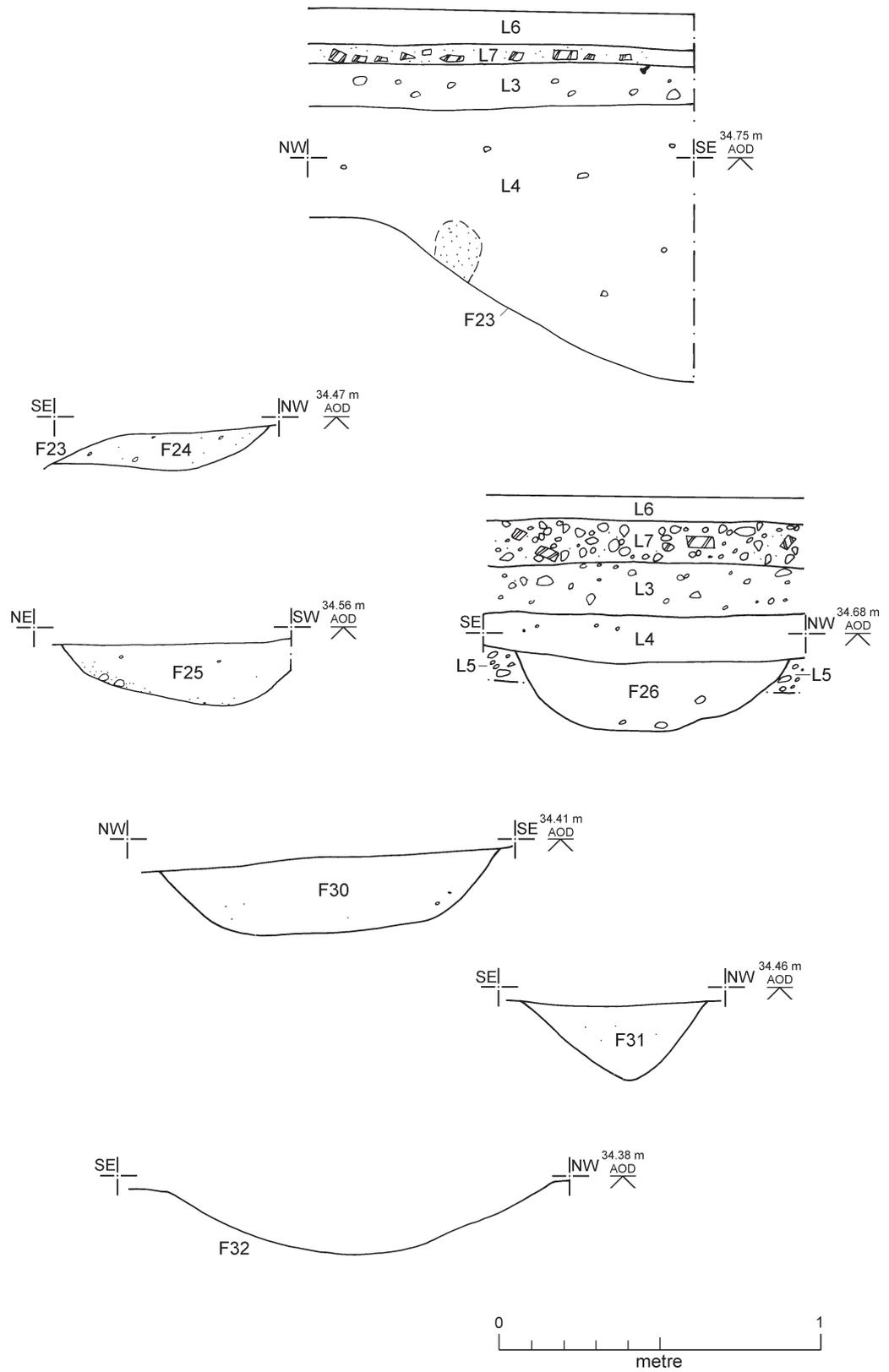


Fig 6 T2, T5, T6: sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Garrison Alienated Land Area K, Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9894 2418 (c)	Site codes: CAT - 06/10d Accession code - COLEM 2006.127
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd February-4th March 2009	Size of area investigated: 12 trenches (total length 234m, width 1.8m) in a site of approximately 1.4ha
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Unknown	Related UAD nos: 1022-1023, 1095, 1099, 1247
Final report: CAT Report 456 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: ?Roman, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Colchester Garrison Alienated Land (GAL) Area K coincides with the northern part of Goojerat Barracks, situated to the north of Goojerat Road and to the east of Butt Road. This evaluation links the two previously-evaluated Areas at the former Cavalry Barracks (Area J2, to the north) and Goojerat Barracks (Area L/N, to the south).</i> <i>The principal remains revealed by the twelve evaluation trenches were the widespread remains of the barracks (constructed in 1900-1902, and rebuilt in the early 1970s). Significant archaeological features were very thinly distributed. Three undated features in T5 may have been Roman in date, mainly because one, a ditch, shared the orientation of a Roman field system found, for example, on GAL Area J2, to the north of Areas K1 and K2, and elsewhere. Only three sherds of pottery were found during this evaluation (two late Roman and one medieval), all of which were residual in later contexts.</i> <i>Other features included natural linears (probably of glacial origin), and tree-throw pits, of which some were natural, and some possibly due to the deliberate removal of tree stumps in connection with agricultural land clearance.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Keywords: Roman field ditch, Colchester Garrison	Significance: *
Author of summary: H Brooks and B Holloway	Date of summary: April 2009