Report on an archaeological evaluation and excavation on the site of the former G.S Brown's garage, Dunmow Road, Great Easton, Essex May 2011

report prepared by
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on behalf of
P&A Woods

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1 Summary

Archaeological excavation was carried out on the site of the former G.S Brown Garage, Dunmow Road, Great Easton ahead of the construction of a new workshop and showroom for P&A Woods. The site is situated on the eastern slope of the valley of the River Chelmer near to a small tributary. It is likely that the long history of human occupation in the area, as indicated by the findings of this excavation and the extant medieval remains in close proximity, is attributable to the geographical location of this piece of land.

Prehistoric activity on the valley slope was indicated by small pits, post-holes and a gully as well as significant assemblages of residual worked flints and prehistoric pottery sherds. It is probable that the prehistoric finds from this site are associated with the occupation, albeit possibly intermittent, of this area of the River Chelmer valley from the Early Neolithic period and throughout the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The most intensive period of occupation recorded on the site is Late Iron Age and Roman. Ditches dating to this period have been interpreted as the south-eastern line of an enclosure, probably surrounding a rural farmstead. The outermost enclosure ditch probably defines a track or droveway. Significant finds assemblages were recovered from the enclosure ditches as well as from adjacent rubbish pits and cess-pits/latrines. Evidence from these features suggests that the inhabitants of the farmstead undertook both animal and crop husbandry and that the settlement was involved in activities such as food processing, preparation and consumption. The scale of this activity is unknown due to the peripheral locality of the excavation area in relation to the presumed habitation centre. Evidence suggests that the farmstead buildings were constructed of wood with wattle and daub walls and that the inhabitants of the farmstead were of a relatively low economic status. Occupation of the enclosure probably continued until the mid 3rd-4th century, with domestic waste disposal continuing in this area.

No evidence was found for the continued occupation of this part of the river valley in the Anglo-Saxon period and it is presumed that the site was abandoned following the Roman period. Despite the close proximity of extant medieval monuments no deposits or contexts dating to this period were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and the resulting open area excavation carried out on behalf of P&A Woods by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the site of the former G.S Brown garage in Great Easton, Essex (site centred at NGR TL 6101 2542).

2.2 The two hectare site occupies a corner plot at the junction of the B184 Dunmow Road and The Endway and is adjacent to the existing P & A Woods workshop and showroom (Fig 1).

2.3 A planning application was made to Uttlesford District Council (no UTT/1503/09) in November 2009 for the for the demolition of the G.S Brown garage and workshop and the erection of new car showroom and workshop for P&A Woods. Due to the proximity and significance of the known archaeological deposits in the immediate area of the proposal, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team recommended that an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching should be carried out. The recommended work was described in a brief written by Richard Havis of the ECC HEM team in April 2011 (Havis 2011).

2.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in May 2011 in accordance with the HEM brief and a corresponding Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (CAT 2011) and agreed with the HEM team. As significant archaeological deposits were uncovered during the evaluation an open area excavation followed immediately.

2.5 The development site is located to the east of the historic core of the village of Great Easton on a south-east facing valley slope of the River Chelmer which is fed by a small stream located 280m to the south-east of the site (Fig 1). Over a distance of

only 30m from the north-western corner of the excavation area to the south-eastern corner there was a decrease in height of over 1.5m. The petrol station canopy and industrial style workshop and storage building of G.S Brown garage had been demolished prior to the commencement of fieldwork, but the concrete forecourt which covered two underground fuel tanks still covered the eastern third of the site.

2.6 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008c). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

3.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record identifies the proposed development as lying close to and between the historic, scheduled medieval earthworks of Great Easton Castle (EHER 1178 & SM 31221), the church/hall complex at Great Easton Hall (EHER 1284 & 37560) and the site of a medieval moat a short distance to the east (EHER 1190) (Fig 1).

3.2 The Church of St John (formerly the Church of St Giles) is located at the east end of the village, 230m west of the development area (Fig 1). In the Domesday Book it is recorded that a priest was present here in 1066. However, the existing nave is probably early 12th century in date. The walls of the church are made of flint and pebble rubble with some Roman brick and tile used as dressing (EHER 1282). Fragments of Rhenish lava quern also dated to the Roman period can be seen in the western wall.

3.3 To the west of the church is Great Easton Hall (EHER 37560), a timber-framed building dated to the 15th/16th century (Fig 1). A barn dated to the 14th century is located to the south-west of the hall (EHER 37561).

3.4 Only 70m to the west of the development area is Great Easton Castle, a motte and bailey castle in the grounds of Easton Hall (Fig 1). The motte is locally known as "the mound" or "mount" and is on a broad south facing spur. The mound is grass covered and the surrounding ditch is largely filled in and lawned. No identifiable remains of a bailey exist and an alleged homestead moat to the south-east is probably a drainage enclosure post-dating the bailey. Excavations undertaken between 1964 and 1966 within the vicinity of the scheduled area have produced material culture dating from the 11th to 14th centuries. One sherd of coarse, flint-tempered prehistoric pottery probably dating to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (EHER 1175) and two sherds of Romano-British pottery were also recovered during these excavations (EHER 1176).

3.5 To the east of the development site is Moat Cottage (EHER 1191), a 17th-century timber-framed building with elements dating to the 16th century (Fig 1). The cottage is surrounded on three sides by a moat presumed to be medieval in date (EHER 1190). The rectangular, water-filled moat is 60m north-south by 40m east-west and the arms of the moat are between 3m and 10m wide. No trace survives of the east arm of the moat. An archaeological evaluation prior to a residential development east of the moat revealed only modern features and features of uncertain date (field boundaries, a post hole, an animal burial and a gully) (Hudson 2007).

4 Aim

The specific aim of the archaeological trial-trenching and excavation was to preserve, by record, the archaeological deposits that would be destroyed by the development. The site specific research aim was to investigate the location, extent and character of medieval settlement outside the scheduled earthworks.

5 Results (Figs 1, 2 & 3)

5.1 Introduction

In fulfilment of the brief and WSI (HEM 2011; CAT 2011), three trenches totalling 65m in length (T1-T3) were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development (Fig 2). Two of the trenches (T1- 30m long and T2- 15m long) were positioned in soft ground to the west and to the north of the footprint of the former garage building. A third trench (T3-20m long) was excavated within the footprint of the demolished garage which had been built on a terrace excavated into the natural slope of the plot. The eastern area of the proposed development was not investigated due to the presence of large underground petrol tanks (Fig 2).

The ground to the north and west of the former garage building had been used for car parking and was covered by compacted gravel as well as debris from the demolition of the former garage building. These modern layers are L1. Beneath L1 was a clayey silt topsoil (L2) which contained no distinct archaeological horizons and very few inclusions (Fig 6). It is probable that this soil had been cultivated prior to the construction of the first building on the plot in the early 1950's. Beneath L2 and directly overlying the natural geology was a thin layer of mottled yellowish grey sandy-clay (L3) (Fig 6). This soil is interpreted as a colluvial deposit or 'hillwash' which accumulated on the on the side of the valley. The natural geology was yellow/orange/grey clay (L4).

In trenches T1 and T2, the modern debris (L1) and topsoil (L2) were stripped using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Excavation ceased at the top of the hillwash layer (L3), at which point the cuts of archaeological features could be seen. Within the footprint of the former garage building, the modern debris (L1) directly overlay the natural clay (L4). Numerous archaeological features were uncovered, many of which contained Roman pottery sherds in their upper fills. Following a site meeting with the ECC HEM officer, the trenches were opened out into a wider excavation area the same day. The terraced area of the former garage building was stripped to allow the alignment of the ditch (F1) to be accurately plotted, although any other archaeological features in this area had already been destroyed. All three trial-trenches were subsumed within the expanded excavation area and the project was able to move immediately to the excavation stage without the CAT team leaving the site.

The residual nature of some of the finds and the limited number of closely-dated pottery form types makes close dating of many of the features difficult and makes detailed stratigraphic analysis similarly problematic. Nevertheless, the evidence for activity on the site has been grouped as follows;
Period 1: prehistoric
Period 2: Late Iron Age-early Roman
Period 3: mid-late Roman

5.2 Period 1: prehistoric

Four features on the site contained finds dateable to the prehistoric period and no Late Iron Age/Roman finds (F3, F9, F18 & F36). Eleven other features have also been assigned to the prehistoric period based on their proximity to the above features, the similarity of their fills, the absence of Late Iron Age/Roman finds and the presence of undateable finds which suggest a prehistoric date (such as burnt stones).

In two features (F3 & F18) the only find type recovered was prehistoric pottery (see section 6 below). F3 was a shallow pit partially beneath the western limit of excavation (Fig 3) which contained two sherds of hand-made flint-tempered pottery dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Fig 5). F18 was a post-hole located in the centre of the site (Fig 3) which also contained two small fragments of hand-made flint-tempered pottery (Fig 5). Three post-holes (F7, F12 & F29) and a pit/post-hole (F13) in close proximity to F18 did not contain any dating evidence and could

also be prehistoric in date (Figs 3 & 5). The post-hole F29 was noteworthy due to its considerable depth and because it appears to have held two separate posts (Fig 5).

A small cluster of shallow pits (F5, F8, F9, F11) near the eastern limit of excavation (Fig 3) all had a similar light grey/brown silty-sand fill which contained no inclusions and very few finds (Fig 5). A worked flint was recovered from F9 and a sherd of prehistoric hand-made flint-tempered pottery and another worked flint were recovered from F5. A small sherd of Roman pottery also came from the upper fill of F5, although it was very abraded and could be intrusive or from the overlying soil. It is probable that these pits are all prehistoric in date.

A narrow, shallow gully (F36) in the centre of the site (Fig 3) had a light sandy-silt fill with no inclusions (Fig 5). The only find recovered from F36 was a worked flint. Therefore, it is possible that this feature is also prehistoric in date.

Four small, shallow pits (F22, F27, F28, F30) near the northern limit of excavation (Fig 3), contained no datable finds. However, a burnt flint was recovered from F27, and a large, flat flint nodule appeared to have been intentionally laid in the base of the pit F22. Burnt flints (more of which were recovered from other contexts on the site) are commonly associated with prehistoric occupation, and the intentional placement of a large stone in the bottom of a pit is most likely to also be associated with prehistoric activity.

Overall, a significant quantity of the pottery sherds recovered from the site were prehistoric (almost 10%, 6% by weight) and the prehistoric worked flint assemblage was equally noteworthy (7% of the finds recovered, 9% by weight). However, the majority of these were residual in seventeen features which are securely dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman periods (see section 6).

5.3 Period 2: Late Iron Age and early Roman

In the north-western corner of the site were two parallel north-east south-west aligned ditches F19 and F33 (Fig 3). It is probable that these ditches are enclosure ditches surrounding a settlement or farmstead which was centred to the north-west of the excavation area (see section 7).

Three sections were excavated into each ditch, two of which crossed the full profile of both ditches (Fig 3 & Fig 6). In the south, the two ditches were a similar depth and had similar profiles (Fig 6- F33 Sx3 & F19 Sx2). At the northern limit of excavation, the ditches were still a similar depth but F33 had widened significantly as a result of a probable change in the alignment of the ditch (Fig 6- F33 Sx1 & F19 Sx1).

The lower ditch fills were a greenish grey sandy-silt which contained very few finds or inclusions. The lower fills of F33 were notably darker and more silty than those in F19, in particular in F33 Sx3/F19 Sx2 (Fig 6). Only two pottery sherds, both of which date to the Middle Iron Age-mid 1st century AD were recovered from the lowest fills of F19 (Appendix II). The earliest pottery sherds from the mid/lower fills of F33 generally date to the mid 1st- 2nd century AD (Appendix II). It is possible that the two ditches form a 'double-ditch', although the pottery evidence suggests that it is most likely that F19 was the original enclosure ditch and that F33 was excavated once F19 had partially infilled with the similarity in the fills making it difficult to distinguish the cut. The pottery evidence suggests that F33 had begun to silt up by the middle of the 1st century AD at the earliest, which would mean that F19 had probably substantially infilled by this time. Unfortunately, no pottery sherds were located in the very lowest part of the fill near the boundary with the natural which could confirm this.

The upper fill of F19 and F33 was a dark grey/brown sandy silt containing a greater quantity of charcoal flecks, pottery sherds and animal bone than the lower fills (see section 6). The pottery dating evidence indicates that the upper ditch fills accumulated, or were intentionally deposited, in the late 1st or 2nd century. The presence of late Roman features cut into the ditch backfill supports an early Roman date for the infilling of the ditches. Only two sherds from the upper ditch fills dates with certainty to after the 2nd century (both from F33, dated late 3rd-4th century). These sherds may have been in the uppermost fill of this ditch or may have been from late Roman features cut into the backfill which were not discernable. Other finds recovered from F19 and F33 included a significant quantity of the residual prehistoric pottery sherds and worked flints, animal bone (42.6% of the bone

assemblage from the site by weight) and infantile human remains from an individual no older than 6 months of age (see section 6).

A short length of ditch (F34) was identified on the north-western edge of the enclosure ditch F33 (Figs 3 & 6). F34 was only 3.5m long but was relatively wide and deep. F34 may have been much longer having been cut by, or even replaced by, the enclosure ditches, or the two ditches may have been contemporary (Fig SX). Although the former would seem most likely, the finds recovered from F34 are mostly similar in date and character to the finds recovered from the enclosure ditches suggesting that F34 infilled during the same time span. A small piece of copper-alloy rod from a pin or possibly an implement such as a toilet spoon was also recovered from F34.

On the south-eastern edge of the enclosure ditch F19 was a shallow NE-SW aligned gully (F15) (Fig 3 and Fig 6). The gully was parallel to the enclosure ditch and appeared to begin turning northwards in the same location. A significant quantity of animal bone and two pottery sherds were recovered from F15, one residual prehistoric sherd and one dating to the mid 1st-2nd century. Two stake-holes within F15 (F16 & F17) suggest that the part of the gully may have contained a line of posts (Fig 3).

To the south-east of the enclosure ditches on the same alignment, was the ditch F1 (Fig 3). The profile of F1 was variable. There could have been a separate gully on the north-western edge of the ditch (Fig 5-Sx2) or the ditch may just have had an eroded edge on this side (Fig 5-Sx1). F1 had a medium grey/brown sandy-silt fill similar to the upper fills of the enclosure ditches. The finds from F1 included frequent pottery sherds and animal bone, residual flints and prehistoric pottery, heat affected stone and a piece of saddle quern. The pottery fabrics and forms identified from F1 were very similar to those identified from the enclosure ditches and it has been suggested that sherds from F1 and F33 may be from the same vessel (see section 6.2). The dates and the stratification of the pottery are also very similar and it is probable that F1 also formed part of the enclosure and was contemporary with F33.

Three pits located to the north-west of the enclosure ditch F19 date to the early Roman period. The pit F4 had two distinct sandy-silt fills (Fig 6). The lower fill was a greenish grey/brown colour with daub inclusions and the upper fill was darker and contained a sherd of mid 1st-2nd century Roman pottery, and a corroded iron object, possibly a nail.

The pit F21 was square in shape with a smaller, circular cut offset in the NW corner of the square (Figs 3 & 6). The fill of the upper square-shaped cut was a grey/brown sandy-silt with a greenish tint which increased as depth increased. The fill within the offset circular cut was a 'cessy' greenish yellow sandy-silt with lenses of dark brown. The lower fill contained pottery sherds which could all be Late Iron Age in date, a couple of which could date to the 1st century AD at the latest. The pottery in the upper fill was similarly early, the latest piece dating to the mid 1st-2nd century AD. Seven small pieces of tufa and pieces of structural fired clay (daub) retaining parts of wattle holes were also recovered from F21 (sections 6.11 and 6.5 respectively). Residual prehistoric pottery, worked flints and heat affected stone were also recovered from this context.

A feature which was initially recorded as two pits either side of a baulk (F23 & F24), is probably one large, square pit (Fig 3). The pit had steep sides (Figs 6 & 7) and contained a mottled medium grey/brown fill with a 'cessy' greenish tint which increased as depth increased. The bulk of the pottery recovered from F23/F24 was mid 1st- 2nd century in date but some late Roman sherds were recovered from the pit to the right of the baulk (F23). There are a number of possible explanations. Firstly F23 and F24 may not be the same feature and F23 may be a late Roman pit cutting the earlier pit F24, secondly, the whole feature could be a late Roman pit with residual early Roman pottery, or thirdly, the pit could be early Roman and the later finds were actually from the fill of the later pit F14. It is probable, based on its size, shape and stratigraphic position that the latter is the most likely.

The similarity in the size and shape of F21 and F23 and the 'cessy' appearance of the lower fills appeared to suggest that both features could be cess-pits, perhaps used *in situ* as latrines. Soil was sampled from the lower fills of F21 and F23 to see if

this could be confirmed. The results of the analysis did not substantiate this conclusion as no mineralised faecal material was found. However, other remains identified during analysis, which include plant macrofossils, indicate that small quantities of hearth waste or similar domestic rubbish was disposed of in these pits. The presence of pottery sherds and animal bone in both features supports the use of the pits for the disposal of domestic waste but does not necessarily preclude the initial use of the pits as latrines.

5.4 Period 3: mid-late Roman

The continued occupation of the enclosure into the mid-late Roman period is indicated by the recovery of mid-late Roman pottery from the upper fills of the enclosure ditches F19, F33 and F1. A series of pits cut into the infilled ditches F19, F33 and F34 are also dated to this period.

F31 is a probable rubbish pit located to the north-west of the enclosure ditches and cut into the ditch F34 (Figs 3 & 7). The latest sherd of pottery from F31 dates to the mid 2nd century or later. This means that it is possible that F31 was cut through F34 after the ditch had either mostly or completely silted up or been infilled.

The pit F14 cut ditches F33 and F34 as well as the two pits F31 and F23 (Fig 7). F14 had a distinctly darker fill than the features into which it was cut and contained pottery dating to the late 3rd-4th centuries as well as numerous residual sherds. F14 also contained two pieces of flue tile, one of only three features on the site to contain Roman CBM.

Six other features which contained no mid-late Roman pottery have been assigned to this period based on their stratigraphic relationship to the enclosure ditches. One shallow pit (F2) contained no datable finds and four other small, shallow pits (F6, F20, F25 & F35) contained only residual prehistoric and early Roman finds.

A post-hole (F26) which cut the infill of ditch F33 and contained no finds has also been assigned to the mid-late Roman period although, like many of the features above, it could be considerably later in date.

Only five fragments of Roman CBM were recovered during the excavation and it is probable that all five pieces derive from late Roman contexts (F6, F14 & F23 (probably actually from F14)).

5.5 Period 4: Post-Roman

No Anglo-Saxon, medieval or post-medieval features were identified in the excavation area. The only post-Roman find recovered during the fieldwork was a single sherd of medieval Hedingham ware (mid 12th-early/mid 14th century) from the colluvial deposit (L3) during machining. Two pits containing modern material cut archaeological features (one of which was labelled F10) (Fig 3). Both features are presumed to be associated with the garage which formerly occupied the plot and are not considered significant.

6 Finds (Fig 8)

The types of bulk finds material and the total quantities recovered (other than small finds) are set out in Table 1. All of the pottery is listed by context and finds number in Appendix II.

Table 1: type and quantities of finds.

Bulk finds types	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	347	6758
Ceramic building material (CBM)	5	245
Fired clay	23	146
Worked flint	59	1820
Burnt flint & heated stone	8	497
Iron nails	1	13
Stone	12	1882
Animal bone	412	8737

6.1 Prehistoric pottery

by Stephen Benfield

The prehistoric pottery consists of thirty-three sherds with a total weight of 410 g. The sherds can be divided between two broad groups based on fabric inclusions. These are hand-made flint-tempered (HMF) pottery and hand-made sand-tempered (HMS) pottery.

Hand made flint-tempered pottery

A small quantity of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery was recovered from ten features and from one layer. The pottery consists of a total of twenty-eight sherds, together weighing 323 g with an average sherd weight of 11 g. The fabrics used to describe the pottery are listed in Table 2 and a full catalogue of the pottery is provided below. None of this pottery is illustrated.

Table 2: flint-tempered pottery fabric descriptions and quantity by fabric type.
size of flint inclusions: s-small (<1 mm), m-medium (1-2 mm), l-large (>2 mm)

Fabric code	description	no.	wt (g)
HMF(l)	Hand made, large size flint-temper	1	5
HMF(s-m/l)	Hand made, small-medium/large size flint-temper	1	52
HMF(m)	Hand made, medium size flint-temper	2	13
HMF(s-m)	Hand made, small-medium size flint-temper	18	211
HMF(s)	Hand made, small size flint-temper	4	12
HMF(sp)	Hand made, sparse flint-temper	1	5
HMF/S	Hand made, sparse flint-temper and sand	1	25
	totals	**28**	**323**

Almost all of this pottery was recovered as residual sherds from later dated features and layers which also contained pottery dated as Late Iron Age or Roman. Two features (F3 & F18) produced only flint-tempered prehistoric sherds.

Almost all of the sherds are plain body sherds containing predominantly common small and medium-sized fragments of crushed, calcified flint; one sherd, from F31(30) contains a mix of flint and sand. Of themselves, the sherds are not closely dated, although all almost certainly pre-date the Late Iron Age period and probably are not significantly later in date than the Early Iron Age. A few of the sherds which can be more closely dated indicate a Late Bronze Age-Iron Age date. There is one decorated body sherd from F19(39) which has small, spaced, angled slashes around the shoulder carination, a small rim sherd from F21 (22) which is upright with a flat, plain top and an undecorated shoulder from a jar with off-set neck from L3(45). Three base sherds are from vessels with flat bases, although none of these are densely flit-gritted as is sometimes encountered on vessels of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. Overall, while the quantity of pottery is small, the few closely

dated sherds indicate a post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblage of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

Catalogue of hand-made flint-tempered pottery

F1
Sx 1 Finds no. 1 (upper fill) HMF(sp) 1@5g; thick sherd, sparse flint, hard fabric, hand made/finished.
Sx 1 Finds no. 3 (lower fill) HMF(s-m) 1@9g
Sx 2 Finds no. 47 HMF(s-m) 1@4g; moderate s-m flint, thin walled, fairly fine, smoothed dark grey-brown surfaces

F3
Finds no. 7 HMF(s-m) 1@45g flat base sherd including scar from broken pot wall (dated BA-IA); 1@16g flat base(?) edge sherd (dated BA-IA)

F5
Finds no. 10 HMF(s-m) 1@5g; thick sherd

F6
Finds no. 11 HMF(s-m) 2@11g

F15
Finds no. 18 HMF(s-m) 1@27g; flat base sherd from edge of base (dated BA-IA)

F18
Finds no. 15 HMF(s) 2@1g; fragments

F19
Sx 1 Finds no. 39 HMF(s-m) 1@7g moderately thick sherd; 1@5g shoulder sherd with angled, spaced slash decoration (dated LBA-EIA)
Sx 1 Finds no. 41 HMF(m) 1@9g; grey core, pale brown surface, well fired
Sx 2 Finds no. 55 HMF(s-m) 2@36g; moderately thick sherds

F21
Finds no. 22 HMF(s-m) 1@4g; HMF(s) 1@8g upright, flat-topped rim (dated LBA-EIA);
Finds no. 23 HMF(m) 1@4g

F31
Finds no. 30 HMF/S 1@25g, mix of sparse flint and quartz sand

F33
Sx 3 Finds no. 49 (upper fill) HMF(s-m) 2@23g
Sx 3 Finds no. 52 (lower fill) HMF(s-m) 1@4g; moderately thin sherd, dark grey

F34
Finds no. 32 HMF(l) 1@5g; small sherd with coarse flint-temper, possibly from a flat base (dated BA-IA)
Finds no. 37 HMF(s) 1@3g; black fabric

L3
Finds no. 45 HMF(s-m); 3@24g moderately thick sherds; HMF(s-m/l) 1@52g carinated shoulder from jar, oxidised surface (dated LBA/EIA)

Hand-made sand-tempered pottery

Five sherds in hand-made sand-tempered fabric with a combined weight of 87 g were recovered from three features, the ditches F1 and F19 and the pit F21. The average sherd weight is 17 g. These sherds are typical of pottery dating from the period of the Middle Iron Age, although none of the sherds are burnished and two appear to have been either burnt or are overfired. Most of the sherds are plain body sherds, but include one base sherd and one rim from a bowl. A full catalogue of the pottery is provided below.

Although the few hand-made sand-tempered sherds are typical of Middle Iron Age assemblages, it should be noted that the sand-tempered fabrics are similar in

appearance to the fabric of some sherds from the site which are wheel-made and can be dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman period. The hand-made sherds are all residual in features with later dated pottery. The sherds are mostly small, plain body sherds, but include a base from a jar and one larger sherd from the rim of a bowl which appears to have been burnt or overfired (Fig 8) as does another plain body sherd from the same context as the bowl. The bowl is of a type which appears among assemblages of Middle Iron Age date. The closest parallel is with bowls of form 15A from Little Waltham (Drury 1978, 56) and a bowl at Ardeligh (Erith & Holbert 1970, fig 16.2). The form at Little Waltham is primarily associated with the Period II settlement, dated mid 3rd-late 2nd century BC (Drury 1978, 14), and the vessel from Vinces Farm was considered to be early among the assemblage there.

Catalogue of hand-made sand-tempered pottery

F1

Sx 1 Finds no. 2 (mid fill) HMS 1@6g; body sherd

F19

Sx1 Finds no. 39, HMS 1@8g, body sherd, well fired, oxidised surface
Sx 2 Finds no. 56, HMS 1@13g, body sherd
Finds no. 19, 1@ 23g base with lower pot wall, sharp angle between base and pot wall, moderately well fired

F21

Finds no. 23 HMS 2@50g
Illustrated Fig 8. Over-fired/burnt(?) open deep bowl form with slightly in-turned rim, hard, dark sandy fabric (weight 30g)
Over-fired/burnt(?) body sherd, dark sandy fabric (weight 20g)

6.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

In total there are 316 sherds of pottery which can be dated to the Late Iron Age and Roman period. These weigh 6384 g with an average sherd weight of 20.2 g.

The sherd count and weight was recorded by fabric type for each finds number by context. The fabric names are listed in Table 3 and the quantity of each fabric type are listed in Table 4. The pottery fabrics and forms refer, where possible, to the Essex (Chelmsford) fabric series (Going 1987). Many of the coarse wares, broadly corresponding to Going's Fabric 47 but possibly including sherds from other fabric types, have been described as Black surface wares (BSW) (Martin 2003). Samian vessels were recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers following those used in Webster 1996 with specific references for unusual form types. The pottery is listed by fabric for each context in Appendix II.

Table 3: Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics.

Fabric code	Fabric name
SASG	South Gaulish plain samian
SAEG	East Gaulish plain samian
amphora	amphora
16	Miscellaneous fine white- or cream- slipped red-buff wares
21	Miscellaneous oxidised red wares
35	Hadham black-surface ware
36	Hadham grey wares
41	Black-burnished wares 2
44	Storage jar fabrics
BSW (45)	Black surface wares (including Romanising coarse wares)
47	Sandy grey wares
50	?South Essex shell-tempered ware
53	Grog-tempered fabrics
2	Nene Valley colour-coated wares
4	Hadham oxidised red wares

Table 4: Iron Age and Roman pottery quantity by fabric type.

Fabric code	sherd no	sherd %	wt (g)	wt %
Imported fine wares:				
SASG	1	0.3	4	0.1
SAEG	1	0.3	14	0.2
Imported coarse wares:				
amphora	2	0.6	40	0.6
Local and regional coarse wares:				
16	1	0.3	13	0.2
21	3	0.9	9	0.1
35	1	0.3	15	0.2
36	28	8.9	447	7.0
41	1	0.3	7	0.1
44	32	10.2	1559	24.5
BSW (45)	170	54.1	3292	51.8
47	37	11.7	305	4.8
50	7	2.2	177	2.7
53	22	7.0	406	6.3
late Roman regional wares:				
2	2	0.6	8	0.1
4	6	1.9	52	0.8
Total	*314*	*99.6*	*6348*	*99.5*

Fabrics and vessel forms

Imported fine wares (Fabrics SASG & SAEG)

The quantity of imported fine wares is very small and consists entirely of samian. There is a single sherd from a cup of form Dr 27 from F1(47) from South Gaul which can be dated to the mid-late 1st century. There is also a single East Gaulish sherd from F23(25) broadly dated as mid 2nd-mid 3rd century. The former is of some significance as it is from a plate or dish of unusual form which is illustrated (Fig 8) and is described below.

F1 Sx 2 (47). Single sherd (14 g). Slightly everted, flat rim from a plate or dish (Fabric SAEG) with a probable diameter of approximately 280 mm. The surface is a slightly lustrous red-brown with an orange-brown fabric, slightly worn on the rim edges. The rim is decorated with animal figures in barbotine work, parts of two of which remain. One figure is the head of a bird (facing left) with upright neck, large eye and long beak. Of the other animal figure only the curving line of the tassel-ended tail (lowered) and a small part of the upper hind quarters survives as abraded undulations at the sherd edge. The tassel-ended tail suggests that this figure was a large cat, probably a lion.

Sherds from a small number of samian dishes from London which have barbotine decoration around the rims and in the base have been discussed by Bird (1998). These are probably all products of Rheinzarbern and this appears a likely source for the dish here. The rims from the London dishes suggests a variant of from Dr 36 although the curved rims have a heavy bead edge. The decoration on these rims consists of running scrolls. The rim of the vessel here is flat and inward sloping with a T-shaped or heavy bead edge and is rather more similar to that of some Ludowici form types than Dr 36. Also, the rim is decorated with animal figures rather than a running scroll. Although no exact parallel for this dish is known to the author; a rim from a vessel in the Colchester museum collections, described as Marne ware (presumably Argonne ware) and decorated with stamped volutes is of similar profile and may be of similar form (May 1930, plate XXXIII A). The dishes from London appear to be associated with contexts dated to the early 3rd century. The latest closely dated pottery associated with the dish rim here are sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware, conventionally date to the mid-late 3rd to 4th century.

Imported coarse wares (amphorae)
Two sherds in a well fired sandy, orange/pale red fabric in which the most distinctive inclusion is common large plates of gold mica, are almost certainly amphora sherds, probably from the same vessel. The sherds are approximately 8 mm thick. They were recovered from the ditches F1 Sx3 (43) and F33(58) where the sherd was associated with late Roman pottery.

Local and regional coarse wares
Miscellaneous fine white- or cream-slipped red-buff wares (Fabric 16)
There is one body sherd in this fabric which came from the mid-lower fill of the ditch F33 Sx1(33).

Miscellaneous oxidised red wares (Fabric 21)
The two sherds in this fabric, come from the ditch F19(19), the other from the pit F20(16). The forms are not known, although the sherd from F20 possibly suggests a beaker form.

Hadham black surfaced-ware (Fabric 35)
Only one sherd in this fabric was recorded. This has a dark, burnished surface and is from a flanged bowl of form B6 (dated late 3rd-4th century). The sherd was recovered from the pit F14(13).

Hadham grey wares (Fabric 36)
Sherds which could be identified as Hadham grey wares make up approximately 9% of the assemblage by sherd count and 7% by weight. These sherds were recovered from ditches F1(43), F19(19, 55) and F33(49) and pits F14(13), F23(25) and F31(30), with largest group (thirteen sherds weighing 258 g) associated with ditch F1 Sx3. Forms recorded consist of the jar form G19.

Black-burnished wares 2 (Fabric 41)
Only one sherd could be assigned to this fabric category and is not sourced. This came from the pit F23(25) and is the rim of a form Cam 39 dish (dated mid 2nd-3rd/4th century).

Storage jar fabrics (Fabric 44)
Sherds which are typical of large storage jars form approximately 10% of the assemblage by sherd count and 24% by weight. Various fabrics are represented ranging from grog-tempered to grey sandy wares and probably range in date over the Late Iron Age/early Roman period and Roman period. Body sherds from F31(30) and F33 Sx3(51) were decorated with combed lines which appears to be an early trait, probably indicating a 1st century date. Only one form type was identified, G44, a rim of which type was recovered from the mid-lower fill of the ditch F33 Sx1(33) associated with pottery dated to the mid 1st-2nd century.

Black surface wares (Fabric BSW(45))
Pottery sherds classified as black surface wares form the largest fabric category and make up just over 50% of the assemblage both by sherd count and weight. This fabric comprises a catch-all category of various fabrics which cannot be attributed to other specific fabrics types and which cannot easily be further divided into separate fabric types. The fabrics are united by a black-surface finish and a oxidised, or part oxidised, red-brown to dark-grey brown fabric which commonly contains inclusions of varying quantities of grog, dark burnt organic fragments or sand. The majority consists of sherds which could be classified as Romanising grey wares (Fabric 45) and probably date to the period of the 1st-2nd century (Going 1987, 9). This is clearly reflected in the date of the forms recorded in this fabric (see below). However, it is likely that the fabric group also includes later black surfaced vessels and unrecognised sherds from vessels in other similar fabric types, the dating of which will extend throughout the Roman period (Martin 129-134). Black surface wares are associated with most of the contexts excavated on the site and a number of vessel

forms were recorded. The most common incidence is that of the jar G17 (dated mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century) with individual examples of the forms dish A1/A2 (identified from a footring) (dated mid-late 1st century), neckless jar G3 (dated mid-late 1st century), jar G19 (dated mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century) and carinated beaker H10 (dated mid-late 1st century). The largest quantities of this fabric were recovered from the ditches F33 (94 sherds weighing 1722 g) F1 (21 sherds weighing 1127 g) and F19 (13 sherds weighing 77 g).

Sandy grey wares (Fabric 47)
Roman sandy grey wares make up approximately 11% of the sherds recovered but only about 5% of the assemblage by weight. These are unsourced, but are presumed to be almost, if not entirely of local origin including nearby regionally important potteries and are likely to include unrecognised vessels from Hadham. Small quantities of grey wares were recovered from the ditches F1, F19, F33 and F34 and pits F5, F14, F23, F24 and F31. The largest group of these sherds was associated with the ditch F1 (9 sherds weighing 88 g). It can be noted that the sherds from F1 and F19 were all associated with the mid-upper ditch fills, but were recovered from all levels of fill in the ditch F33. Forms recorded are the dish form B7 (dated mid 1st-2nd century), necked jar G20 (dated mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century) and a folded beaker (dated late 2nd-4th century). An abraded, rilled sherd in a sandy fabric from F33 Sx3(50) is possibly from a Braughing type jar, form G21 (dated mid 1st-4th century).

?South Essex shell-tempered ware (Fabric 50)
The sherds of shell-tempered ware were all recovered from one feature, the ditch F33. Only one vessel form could be identified, the 'cooking pot' Cam 254, although possibly at least two vessels are presented. The form Cam 254 is dated Late Iron Age-early Roman, but barely appears to survive into the post-conquest period among assemblages from Colchester (*CAR* 10, 478).

Grog-tempered fabrics (Fabric 53)
The grog-tempered fabrics comprise sherds which correspond to Southern British ('Belgic') grog-tempered ware (Fabric SOB GT,Tomber & Dore 1998, 214) or are thinner black surfaced sherds, possibly of post-conquest date, which contain significant quantities of grog-temper. The black surfaced grog-tempered wares make up approximately half (54% by number and 44% by weight) of the grog-tempered wares recovered. Only one vessel form could be identified. This is a ripple shouldered bowl of from G15 (Cam 229) (Fabric SOB GT) from F33 Sx3(53); although part of a pedestal base (Fabric SOB GT) from F21(23) is possibly from a pedestal urn of form Cam 202-203. Other sherds are from a cordoned bowl or jar (F34 Sx2 (53)) in Fabric SOB GT and a bowl or jar (F1 Sx1(4)) and a bowl or lid (F19 Sx 2(54)) in black surfaced fabrics.

Late Roman regional wares
Nene Valley colour-coated wares (Fabric 2)
There are two small sherds in this fabric, both are from beakers, one with white painted line decoration. Both sherds were recovered from the mid-lower fill of the pit F23(25).

Hadham oxidised red wares (Fabric 4)
Six sherds which can be attributed to this fabric type were recovered. These came from the upper fill of two of the ditches F1 Sx1(4) and F33(58), from the layer L3(45) and two sherd were unstratified (US). Vessel forms identified are a handled flagon with flat-topped rim (*CAR* 10 Fabric CH Type 41) from the ditch F1 and single rim sherds from bowls from L3 and unstratified (US).

Pottery discussion
The pottery recovered spans the Late Iron Age and Roman period. Almost all of the pottery consists of coarse wares, with a limited number of identified closely-dated

form types which makes close dating difficult, although the bulk of the pottery appears to date to the early Roman period of the mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD.

Late Iron Age and early Roman (1st-mid 2nd century)
Grog-tempered pottery forms a small, but significant part of the assemblage, although there are no contexts in which grog-tempered wares are the latest dated pottery. Some of the grog-tempered sherds are in relatively thin walled, black-surfaced fabrics which could date to after the conquest period. However, other grog-tempered sherds, notably from a ripple-shouldered bowl and a pedestal base, are of Late Iron Age type and suggest a pre-conquest phase of occupation. The grog-tempered wares are predominantly associated with the ditches F19, F21 and F33. A small number of sherds from shell-tempered 'cooking pots' of form Cam 254, probably from south Essex, may also date to the pre-conquest period. These were also recovered from the ditch F33.

The Roman coarse wares are dominated by black surface wares (Fabric BSW(45)). The black surface wares consist primarily of Romanising coarse wares. These are most common in the early Roman period (1st-2nd century) at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 107, table 9, Fabric 45). The largest quantities of black surface wares are associated with the ditch F1 and especially ditch F33. That at least some of the of the sandy grey wares (Fabric 47) and Hadham grey wares (Fabric 36), date to the early Roman period is also indicated by the vessel form types recorded. The most common vessel forms among the coarse wares are necked jars of form G17 and G19 (dated mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century). Most of the storage jars (Fabric 44), some of which have combed surfaces, probably also belong to the Late Iron Age-early Roman phase.

mid-late Roman (mid 2nd-4th century)
There is very little pottery that can be closely dated to the mid Roman period (mid 2nd-mid 3rd century). Pottery which might date to this period includes a black-burnished-ware dish (Fabric 41) of form B1, a sherd from a folded beaker (Fabric 47) and rims from a bowls of forms E2 (Fabric 36) and possibly E5/E6 (Fabric 47). However, all of these vessel forms extend into the late Roman period. In part, the difficulty of dating pottery to this period may be due to the nature of the assemblage, comprised mostly of coarse wares, combined with the absence of any of identified products from regionally important industries of this period, other than Hadham. One vessel which can be closely dated to this period is an East Gaulish samian dish (Fabric SAEG). The dish is unusual as the rim is decorated with barbotine animal figures (described above) and is probably a Rheinzarbern product of early 3rd century date.

Pottery which can be closely dated to the late Roman period (mid/late 3rd-4th century) is much more distinct within the assemblage than for the mid Roman period. The coarse wares include sherds from two bowls of form B6 (dated late 3rd-4th century) (Fabrics 35 & 47). The fine wares include two sherds from colour-coated beakers from the Nene Valley (Fabric 2) and sherds from a number of vessels in Hadham oxidised wares (Fabric 4). It can be noted that the latest-dated Roman pottery types, notable late shell-tempered wares and Oxford colour-coated wares are absent, but this is probably not significant given the essentially local supply of much of the pottery.

The assemblage and pottery supply
For the Late Iron Age and early-mid Roman period the pottery assemblage suggests only limited or local integration into wider economic networks. The Late Iron Age pottery consists entirely of coarse wares, probably of local origin, although sherds from south Essex shell-tempered vessels indicate some wider links in the early-mid 1st century AD.

The Roman pottery from the mid 1st-mid 3rd century also consists almost entirely of coarse wares of local or regional origin. The identified vessel forms are dominated by jars which, including the large storage jars, may continue the broad character of the Late Iron Age pottery from the site. One dish or platter form was recorded but the

range of vessels is limited. Imports which can be closely dated to this period consist of just two samian vessels, a cup and dish. There are no specialist vessels such as mortaria, nor were any flagons identified among the assemblage. Two sherds which are probably from an imported amphora are not closely dated, although one was associated with late Roman pottery, and the most common amphora form, Dressel 20, which is not unusual on rural sites is not represented.

While the source of much of the coarse ware is not identified the only regionally important pottery certainly represented is Hadham, which is the closest large producer to the site. Although some of the coarse grey wares (including black surface wares) might derive from other sources, clearly identifiable products of the Colchester potteries, which are an important regional pottery supplier in the 2nd-3rd century were not identified. There is a notable absence of black burnished ware forms, colour coated vessels and buff wares, all types manufactured at Colchester, suggesting either little requirement or access to Colchester industry products. This may in part contribute to the difficulty of identifying pottery of mid Roman date (mid 2nd-mid 3rd century) and reflect either a limited range of pottery requirements or what was attainable by the site; although some decline in the quantity of pottery deposited after the mid 2nd century seems likely. In this respect the presence of a samian dish of unusual form, probably dating to the early 3rd century, is somewhat surprising.

Recognised sources of late Roman pottery supply sees the continued dominance of the local Hadham industry, especially late oxidised fine wares. The closest of the other large regionally important late Roman pottery industries, located in the Nene Valley, is also represented by fine colour-coated ware, although just two sherds from beakers were recorded in this fabric. The presence of fine wares among the assemblage, with beaker forms, small fine ware bowls and one flagon recorded, appears to present a contrast with the character of the earlier dated assemblage. However, specialist vessels, notably mortaria, remain absent and identified pottery sources remain essentially local. Any perceived difference may simply reflect wider changes in availability and supply within the provincial economy rather than any significant change in the aspirations or circumstances of the site's inhabitants.

6.3 Post-Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

A single sherd of medieval Hedingham ware (Fabric 22) which can be dated to the period of the mid 12th-early/mid 14th century was recovered from L3.

L3

Finds no. 45 Fabric 22, 1@3g. Pale red/orange fabric with fine mica. Darker red coloured surface, except under light green glaze band on edge of sherd. Some splash glaze on red surface area.

6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

A very small quantity of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from three pit features. In total there are five pieces which together weigh 245 g. All are in red, or red-brown, fine sandy fabrics with no other significant visible inclusions. No mortar was recoded on any of the pieces. The CBM and is listed by feature below.

Catalogue of CBM

F6 Finds no. 11
small abraded fragment, presumed Roman 1@1g.

F14 Finds no. 13
Roman flue tile 1@69g. Red, one combed surface, discoloured on combed face (dated 2C+)
Roman flue tile 1@59g. Red-brown, tile edge, smooth surfaces, not sanded almost certainly a flue tile piece from the base/top edge of the tile (dated 2C+)

F23 Finds no. 25

Roman brick/tile 1@ 107g. Tile edge, red, grey core, recently broken in two.
Roman brick/tile 1@9g. Fragment.

Discussion
The Roman brick and tile recovered from the site is small in quantity and does not suggest any significant use of ceramic building material on or close to the site. The identifiable brick and tile pieces were found in two pits, F14(13) and F23(25), one of which (F23) is identified as a cess pit. Both features contained late dated Roman pottery. Of interest among such a small assemblage is the presence of two pieces of flue tile, one piece with a combed face, and which can be dated to the 2nd century or later. A small abraded fragment, presumed to be of Roman date was recovered from F6(11).

6.5 Fired clay

by Stephen Benfield
Twenty-three pieces of fired clay with a combined weight of 146 g were recovered from five features (F4, F13, F19, F21 & F34). The average weight is 6.3 g. The fired clay is listed by finds number for each context below. The largest quantity from any one feature is from F19 which produced six pieces (14 g). Almost all of the pieces are abraded with no distinguishing features. Some of the fired clay from F21(23) is structural daub as parts of wattle holes are preserved on three pieces. No fragments of fired clay objects were recognised.

Overall the quantity of fired clay is small. The material presumably derives from the covers, surrounds or the bases of ovens or hearths. The chalk fragments and pale clay in some of pieces are natural inclusions reflecting differences within the clay of the surrounding area. The small quantity recovered from the individual features indicates that the fired clay is an incidental inclusion in the fill of these features and probably residual. Where closely-dated finds were recovered from features with fired clay, these are of Late Iron Age/early Roman date (F4, F19, F21) and Roman date (F34).

Catalogue of fired clay
Fabric: fs=fine sand, fs(c)=fine sand with some chalk fragments, fsc=fine sand with chalk fragments, fspc fine sand with pale-firing clay

F4 Finds no. 9
Fabric fs, 6@17 g. Pale orange, vesicular
Fabric fs(c), 2@20 g. Pale orange/red, vesicular with rare chalk

F13 Finds no. 18
Fabric fs, 1@2 g. Orange

F19
Finds no. 19 Fabric fs, 2@2 g. Orange
Finds no. 39 Fabric fspc, 1@2 g. Orange
Finds no. 40 Fabric fsc, 1@5 g. Orange
Finds no. 55 Fabric fspc, 2@5 g. Orange

F21
Finds no. 22
Fabric fs c, 1@11 g. Orange/grey moderately well fired
Fabric fs, 1@1 g. Orange

Finds no. 23
Fabric fs(c), 4@71 g Dark-grey to pale brown, small lengths of parts of wattle holes on three pieces from small wattles 10-15 mm diameter; structural daub.
Fabric fs, 1@6 g. Orange, vesicular

F34 Finds no. 36
Fabric fs(c), 1@4 g. Orange

6.6 Small finds

by Stephen Benfield

Four objects were allocated individual small find (SF) numbers, two metal objects and two stone objects one of which is a piece of quernstone. All of the small finds were recovered from contexts which contain pottery dated to the Roman period. The small finds are listed and described below.

The single quernstone piece (SF3) is of interest as it is an edge piece from a Millstone Grit quern (Fig 8). This was recovered while cleaning over the area of ditch F19. The finds assemblage from the ditch indicates an almost certain Roman date for this quern. One surface, which has a lipped edge, is covered in close-set, pecked indentations. The other surface is roughly finished. The inner edge of the lip has elongated areas of glassy polish suggesting wear from the other stone during use and indicating that the pecked surface is the grinding surface. Pecked grinding surfaces on Roman querns of this type are known from Great Holts Farm, Essex (Major 2003, 87). Small numbers of Millstone Grit querns appear in Essex from the early Roman period, but come to predominate over imported lava querns from the late 2nd century onwards (Major 2004, 284).

Metal

SF2 F34(8) Copper alloy. Round, small rod piece with pointed end, other end broken. From a pin or possibly from an implement such as a toilet spoon. Surviving length 25 mm

SF1 F4(8) Iron. Corroded. Flat bar piece (50 mm long) tapering to blunt point on the other. Corroded iron object, possibly a nail, attached by corrosion to one face central to bar. Overall length 100 mm, width 28 mm.

Worked stone

SF3 (Fig 8) F19 (20). Quernstone of Milllstone Grit. Edge piece with lipped edge. There are small areas of glassy wear polish on the inside of the lip suggesting a close fit with the other stone. Closely pecked grinding surface on lipped face. The surviving edge suggests a diameter of about 420 mm. Thickness 25-30 mm , Weight 465g

SF4 F1 Sx2 (47) Sandstone/quartzite piece. Small rectangular piece broken from a larger block retaining some flat, original edge surfaces. One of the original surfaces is polished and faintly dished from wear. This is possibly part of a saddle quern and a number of stone types are known to have been used as in querns of this type (Anderson 1978, 110-111). Weight 280g.

6.7 Lithics

by Adam Wightman

Fifty-eight worked flints were recovered from fourteen contexts. One worked flint was unstratified. Eleven of the contexts containing worked flints also contained other finds dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman periods and therefore the worked flints from these contexts are almost certainly residual (96% of the worked flint assemblage). Worked flint was the only find type recovered from two features, the pit F9 and the gully F36. However, worked flints were recovered in relatively high numbers from across the site (7% of the finds recovered, 9% by weight) suggesting a high level of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Very few of the worked flints were typologically diagnostic (see below). However, a detailed analysis of the flake and core assemblage has facilitated a comparison of the technological characteristics of the core reduction process exhibited within the assemblage. Such characteristics can be used to indicate the age of an assemblage. The assemblage consists of:

40 flakes
4 cores/core fragments
8 retouched flakes (inc 1 flaked flake)
3 retouched natural pieces
1 axe-thinning flake
2 blades
1 flake/blade

Twenty-two of the unretouched flint flakes had breaks (13) or hinge fractures (9) which would almost certainly have occurred during the knapping process. Lots of the flakes and the core fragments also exhibited percussion marks from miss-hits and failed attempts to remove a flake. Breaks and miss-hits are characteristic of knapping with a hard-hammer and can result from poor quality raw material and/or a lower level of knapping ability. Other characteristics of hard-hammer knapping noted throughout the assemblage were large, pronounced bulbs of percussion, wide striking platforms and the thickness of the flakes near the proximal end.

The average dimensions of an unbroken flake in this assemblage is 32mm long, 31mm wide and 8mm thick. This equates to a relatively thick and 'squat' flint flake assemblage. The unretouched flake assemblage was dominated by flakes that retained some cortex (outer surface of the original nodule) on the dorsal face (secondary flake- 78%), with only 17% of the flakes having no cortex due to previous flake removals (tertiary flakes) and 5% still retaining cortex over the entire dorsal face (primary flakes). There is also a low average number of previous flake removals noted on the dorsal faces of the secondary and tertiary flakes (average 2.5 flakes). The characteristics described above suggest that either the assemblage represents the early stages of the knapping process and that the later stages were being undertaken elsewhere, or that relatively small flint nodules were generally utilised for flake production at the site and that the cores were not being heavily worked.

One core recovered from the site is of a considerable size and was discarded very early on in the knapping process. Although there are few viable knapping angles retained on the core, a skilled knapper could have created new striking platforms to remove further tertiary flakes from the core. The lack of a discernable knapping strategy (based on the number and relationship of striking platforms and types of removals) and the number of miss-hits on this core and the other core fragments in the assemblage suggests that the skill level of the knappers was relatively poor and that the core reduction strategy was relatively *ad hoc*.

Eight of the unretouched flakes exhibited usewear/edge-damage and eight had been intentionally retouched. The retouched flakes were slightly larger on average than the unretouched flakes with less cortex remaining. Small retouched notches were observed on three of flakes. One of these flakes had two notches and another had a small area of semi-abrupt retouch as well as the notch. Three flakes had lengths of abrupt retouch on the dorsal face which lacked the continuity or uniformity to be classified as scraper retouch. These pieces may have been retouched to strengthen a cutting edge. One flake had two large removals from the ventral face and one from the dorsal face. It is probable that it was the smaller flakes detached from the larger flake that were intended for use making this piece classifiable as a flaked flake. Another flake exhibited controlled, neat abrupt retouch around the right lateral edge and distal end of the flake. This piece is typologically classifiable as an end scraper. The scraper is made on a dark grey flint flake which has a slightly patinated flake scar on the dorsal surface. The scraper retouch cuts through the patinated flake and is not patinated itself. This could indicate that that the scraper was made on a much older flake which has been detached from a core, discarded, picked up again possibly thousands of years later and retouched. With the exception of the end scraper, the quality of the retouching is poor and the pieces are roughly shaped. Most of the pieces are probably expedient tools created for a one-off task and then discarded. This *ad hoc* knapping strategy is highlighted by the possible retouching of a much older flint flake and also the presence of three retouched thermal flakes in the assemblage to create what would be classified as 'tools of convenience'.

The core described above is evidence that some large flint nodules were procured as the raw material for knapping at, or in the vicinity of, the site. Based on the profile and cortex on the dorsal faces of some of the pieces it is evident that water-borne pebbles were also used as a raw material. The main material was a dark grey or dark reddy brown flint (over 80%). A lighter grey/brown flint and a light brown/orange flint were also present. Most of the raw material would have been recovered from the immediate vicinity as flint is prevalent in the local boulder clays. However, one piece was made on bullhead flint, which is mostly derived from the Thames estuary area.

Four of the worked flints are dated to the Early Neolithic period (a tertiary axe-thinning flake, two blades and a soft-hammer flake with a prepared platform). The rest exhibit evidence of a lower degree of control during the core reduction process than would be expected of Early Neolithic flint knappers. The characteristics of the core and flake assemblage and the retouched flakes described above are particularly indicative of the declining ability of flintknappers in the Bronze Age when an intensification in farming activities and the emergence of a wider range of metal tools led to an increasing decline in the quality of flintworking techniques. Moreover, it may be suggested tentatively that these flints could have been discarded at the site in association with the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery which was mostly residual in the same contexts as the flints (see above).

Table 5: worked flints (a more detailed table can be found with the archive).

context	finds no.	artefact type	cortex %	soft/hard hammer	retouch	date
F1 Sx1	1	flake	10	hard		
F1 Sx1	2	flake	15	hard		
F4	9	flake	15	hard		BA
		retouched natural flake	50		abrupt	
F5	11	flake-axe-thinning	0	soft		early Neo
F9	12	flake	15	hard		
F14	13	flake-retouched	0	hard	abrupt, distal, dorsal, ?denticulated edge	BA
		flake	0	hard		
		core fragment	5			
		flake-retouched	15	hard	abrupt, right lateral, dorsal	BA
F15	57	flake	30	hard		
F19	19	flake-notched	0	hard	abrupt, left lateral, ventral	BA
		flake	20	hard		
F19 Sx1	39	flake	10	hard		
		flake	15			
F19 Sx1	40	blade	20	hard		early Neo
		flake	10	hard		
		flake	35	soft		early Neo
F19 Sx1	41	flake	55	hard		
		flake	0	hard		
		flake	45	hard		
		flake	5	hard		
		retouched natural flake	30			?BA
F19 Sx2	54	flake-notched	35	hard	abrupt	
F20	16	flake	0	hard	usewear/edge-damage	
F21	22	flake	90	hard		
		flake	30	hard	usewear/edge-damage	
		flake-notched	0	hard	semi-abrupt, distal, dorsal	BA
		flake	60	either		
		flake	0	soft		
F21	23	flake	70			
		flake	50			
		flake	0	hard		
F31	30	flake	35	hard		
F33	49	flake	0	hard		
		flake	10	hard	usewear/edge-damage	
F33 Sx1	33	retouched natural	60		abrupt	BA

		flake				
F33 Sx3	50	flake	10	hard	usewear/edge-damage	
F33 Sx3	51	flake	15	hard	usewear/edge-damage	
		flake	45	hard		
		core fragment	25			
		core fragment	10			
		core	15			
F33 Sx3	52	flake	10	hard		
		flake	0	either		
F34	32	flake	5			
		flake	100	hard		
		flaked flake	70			
F34	36	flake	35	hard		
		flake-retouched	10	hard	abrupt, distal ?laterals, dorsal	
F34	37	flake/blade	15	hard		
		flake-scraper	45	hard	abrupt, R&L lateral & proximal, dorsal and ventral	?BA
F35	42	flake	15	hard	usewear/edge damage	
		flake	100	hard		
		flake	25	hard		
F36	46	blade	0	soft		early Neo
L3	45	flake	5	hard		
		flake	10		usewear/edge-damage	
U/S	60	flake	10	hard	usewear/edge-damage	

6.8 Faunal remains

by Adam Wightman

Introduction

In total, 412 bone fragments (weighing 8.737g) were recovered. The fragments are from a minimum number of 222 elements (MNE). The bone was hand collected from the layer that directly overlay the archaeological contexts (L3 <1% weight) and from eleven cut features. All of the bone was recovered from contexts dating to the Roman period.

The level of bone preservation in this faunal remains assemblage can be described as good. The bone is solid in structure and erosion to the cortical surface of the bone is not commonplace. This suggests that most of the bones were not sub-aerially exposed for a long time prior to deposition and that there is a relatively low level of acidity in the soil.

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. All identifiable elements were recorded. However, certain elements were not identified to exact taxon but rather to the level of unidentified small, medium or large taxon. These comprise carpals, tarsals (apart from the astragalus and calcaneus), cranial fragments, ribs and cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. Fragments recorded as medium sized taxon will predominantly be from sheep and pig, although goats, canids (dog) and roe deer may also be represented. Fragments of unidentified large taxa derive primarily from cattle although may also include horse, red deer and wild boar. If the determination of the element from which a small fragment originated was not possible it was noted whether the fragment was from the appendicular sleketon (limbs) or the axial skeleton (vertebrae, ribs etc.. including cranial skeleton). Each bone was inspected to determine if bone, horn or antler working was present in the assemblage. Butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other

modifications were recorded. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context. The side of the body from which the bones were derived was also noted. Measurements were not taken for most of the bones as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. Bones of sheep and goats were recorded as *Ovis* (sheep species) based on the greater frequency of this species in these climes, but diagnostic metapodials, horn cores and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) were distinguished between the two species following the criteria of Boessneck (1969). The completeness and parts represented for each specimen were noted using Serjeantson's (1996) eight-zone method of recording (Z1-Z8 in Table 1). Only fragments that accounted for at least 50% of a single zone were recorded. In this instance the zone was not noted for elements that are not identified to exact taxon (ie ribs, vertebrae, etc.). When multiple fragments of the same element are represented in a sample, the fragments were recorded as one entry and the MNE (minimum number of elements) determined.

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and also with reference to Cohen & Serjeantson 1996, Hillson 1986, Outram 2001, and Payne 1987. A catalogue of the faunal remains is included in the site archive.

Results

Most of the bone was recovered from the Roman enclosure ditches (F33, F19 and F1- 14.6%, 28% and 28% of the assemblage weight respectively). Contexts contemporary with the enclosure ditches which contained animal bone included the short stretch of ditch F34, (2.5%) and the gully F15 (11%). The early/mid Roman pit F4 (<1%), three later Roman pits F6, F14 and F31 (<1%, 7.5% & 1% respectively) and two probable cess-pits F21 and F23 (2.3% and 3.2% respectively) also contained small animal bone assemblages.

Analysis of the pottery assemblage has indicated that there is a high incidence of residual pottery sherds from earlier contexts in these features and it would be reasonable to assume that some of the animal bone in these contexts would also be residual. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately separate the animal bone assemblage temporally for analysis. Based on the pottery evidence, the majority of the bone is likely to have derived from waste disposal from within the enclosure in the Late Iron Age-early Roman period with some deposition occurring in the late Roman period. For this reason, the bone has been analysed below as a single assemblage representative of human/animal interactions throughout the occupation of the enclosure with a probable focus of activity in the Late Iron Age-early Roman period.

The bone fragments which were identifiable to a species (50% of assemblage) were all from the main domesticates; cattle (*Bos* - 72%*)*, sheep (*Ovis* - 14%), goat (*Capra* - 2%), pig (*Sus* - 2%) horse (*Equus* - 2%) and dog (*Canid* - 8%). There is a notably high proportion of cattle bone fragments in the assemblage (mirrored when the MNE are compared), particularly in relation to the other domesticates likely to have contributed to the diet of the enclosures inhabitants (sheep/goat and pig). In addition, based on the low frequency of horse bones in the assemblage, a high percentage of the bone which was not identified to the exact taxon but was from large mammals (59%) and medium/large mammals (34%) is likely to be from cattle. Only 6% of the bone which was not identified to exact taxon was from medium mammals and 1% from small/medium mammals. Dog bones were recovered from two contexts. In both instances the size of the bones recovered indicate they came from large dogs. No evidence of hunting to supplement the diet was identified.

The speciated bone was primarily from sub-adult and adult individuals. Some juvenile and foetal bones were also identified. Tooth wear patterns indicate that a surprising number of cattle mandibles in the assemblage are from significantly aged individuals.

The quantities of different skeletal elements in the assemblage showed very little patterning of interest. Most of the cattle skeleton elements were present in the assemblage, with no biasing towards different areas of the skeleton. Conversely,

there was a notable dominance of bones from a meat-bearing area of the sheep (the shank), as tibias accounted for just under 50% of the sheep bone assemblage. No articulating bone groups were recorded during the excavation.

Evidence of butchery, in the form of cut, chop and filleting marks, was evident on over 15% of the bones. Butchery marks were identified on bones from individuals of varying ages (juvenile to adult) and on most skeletal elements on which you would expect to find cut marks. There were notably few chop marks recorded in comparison to cut marks, and in general the cut marks were low in number and quite fine. Some of the very fine cut marks and the scoops from the surface of the bones are from the filleting of the meat. Dog gnawing was identified on bones from across the site, more frequently on sheep bones than cattle bones. Some of the tooth marks on the cattle bones indicate that they were gnawed by particularly large dogs. Black staining was observed on bones from five different contexts. This probably indicates a high organic content in these contexts at the time of deposition. Two burnt bone fragments were also identified.

A pathology noted on a cattle 1st phalanx has almost certainly resulted from the exploitation of the animal in traction work, and bit wear identified on a horse molar (from the maxilla) is evidence that this individual was used either for agricultural purposes or transport.

Faunal remains discussion and conclusions

The dominance of cattle bones in this assemblage suggests that cattle husbandry was probably occurring within the enclosure. The presence of butchery marks on the cattle bones indicates they were used for meat, with beef probably the most commonly consumed meat by the enclosure's inhabitants. There was no clear bias in the assemblage towards the skeletal elements from meat-bearing areas of the cattle which implies that all stages of the butchery process are represented in the assemblage. This may suggest that the whole butchery process as well as the consumption of the meat was occurring within the enclosure as opposed to meat bearing cuts being imported to the site. However, the opposite is true for the sheep bones, either indicating that the butchery waste from the processing of sheep carcasses was disposed of elsewhere in the enclosure or that meat-bearing cuts of lamb were being imported into the site. An analysis of the butchery marks on the bones from the enclosure revealed very few chop marks. This can be explained in one of two ways. The preferred tool for butchery was a small knife, probably wielded by a highly skilled butcher or those elements exhibiting chop marks are absent from this particular assemblage.

The pathology observed on a cattle 1st phalanx and the age of many of the cattle at their time of death suggests that cattle were also used for traction and probably milk production. Sheep, pigs and goats may have been kept in the enclosure but in much smaller numbers than cattle. The presence of large dog bones and evidence of bone gnawing indicates that dogs were probably kept in the enclosure and there is also evidence that horses were used either for agricultural purposes or for transport. No evidence for the exploitation of wild resources was identified in the animal bone assemblage and no mollusc shells were noted in any of the contexts.

6.9 Human bone

by Richard Ward

Six infantile human bones were recovered from the enclosure ditch F33 (Sx3 - finds no 49). It is assumed that all the bones belong to the same individual. The remains are relatively well preserved, with no noticeable pathology present. The remains seem to originate from the upper body: both the left and right humeri, the right clavical, two ribs and one unidentified bone, possibly the radius. The level of preservation of the right humerus and clavical was sufficient to gain greatest length measurements and thus estimate the individual's age, placing it at around the time of birth and no older than 6 months of age (Schaefer, Black & Scheuer, 2009:142-4, 171).

6.10 An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from two square pits (F21 – sample 1 and F23 – sample 2), both of which were thought to be possible cess/refuse pits as they contained fills of a distinctive green colour.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds and fibrous/woody roots were also recorded.

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at a low density within both samples. Preservation was generally good, although some macrofossils were fragmentary and others were coated with fine silt and grits.

Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were noted within both assemblages. Most were of an elongated 'drop-form' typical of spelt (*T. spelta*), although some were possibly of a more rounded hexaploid form. Spelt glume bases were recorded within the assemblage from sample 1, which also contained a possible fragment of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) rachis. Weed seeds were scarce. All were of common segetal taxa including brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) and persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*). Although charcoal/charred wood fragments were present within both assemblages, other plant macrofossils were very scarce.

The fragments of black porous material were all probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Other remains occurred infrequently, but did include bone fragments (some of which were burnt), small pieces of burnt or fired clay and vitreous concretions.

Although both samples are from features which were thought to have acted as cess pits, mineralised faecal material is not present. However, the fact that such material is not preserved does not preclude the use of the features as latrines. The plant macrofossils and other remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from small quantities of hearth waste or similar domestic detritus, and it would appear most likely that, as with similar contemporary features from elsewhere in eastern England, the pits served both as latrines and a convenient place for the deposition of other refuse.

Table 6: charred plant macrofossils and other remains.

Key to table
x = 1-10 specimens
xx = 11-50 specimens
xxx = 51-100 specimens
xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare
b = burnt

Sample No.	**1**	**2**
Finds No.	**24**	**26**
Feature No.	**F21**	**F23**
Feature type	**Pit**	**Pit**
Cereals		
Hordeum sp. (rachis node)	xcf	
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	*xcf*
(spikelet bases)	x	
T.spelta L. (glume bases)	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x
Herbs		
Bromus sp.	x	
Chenopodiaceae indet.	x	
Fabaceae indet.		x
Galium aparine L.	x	
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia	x	
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	x x x	x x
Charcoal >2mm	x x x	x
Charred root/stem	x	
Indet.seeds	x	
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Bone	x xb	x xb
Burnt/fired clay	x	
Fish bone		x
Small coal frags.	x	
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	
Vitrified material	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**42**	**28**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.2**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**100%**

6.11 Other material culture

by Stephen Benfield

Heat-affected stone

Eight pieces of heat-affected stone with a total weight of 497g were recovered from seven features. The majority consists of heated (burnt) flint, with six pieces weighing 347g. There are also two pieces of sandstone/quartzite weighing 150g.

Catalogue of heat-affected stone

F1 Finds no. 6
Flint 1@131g, white/red, crazed

F14 Finds no. 13
Flint 2@43g, one white, crazed, other slightly altered and discoloured

F20 Finds no. 16
Flint 1@70g, white, crazed

F21 Finds no. 23
Flint 1@69g, white, crazed

F27 Finds no. 29
Flint 1@34g, white, crazed

F33 Finds no. 34
Sandstone/quartzite 1@95g, may be heat affected but not clear, possibly just a natural piece
Finds no. 50
Sandstone/quartzite 1@55g, blackened part of a rounded cobble

The heat-affected stone was recovered as individual pieces from a number of different features. The absence of any concentration of this material in particular features suggests that it is probably residual in the contexts from which it was recovered, almost all of which contain pottery dated to the Roman period. Heat affected stones, especially 'burnt flints', are commonly associated with prehistoric occupation and it seems probable that most, if not all of this material is associated with prehistoric occupation on the site.

Iron nails
A single iron nail (13 g) was recovered from F33(34) which also contained late dated Roman pottery. Flat, round/sub-rectangular head; shank tip missing, surviving length 45 mm. Presumed Roman. Manning Type 1b (Manning 1985).

Stone
Small pieces of tufa were found in F21 and a large piece of unworked greenish-grey sandstone was recovered from F1. Both of these features contain pottery dated to the Roman period. A small piece of heavy, weakly magnetic iron stone or iron pan/slag was recovered from F15 which also contained a small quantity of pottery dated as Roman. These finds are listed below.

F1 Sx2 Finds no 48
Fragments of greenish-grey sandstone, probably a natural erratic. 4@1744g

F15 Finds no 14
Small piece of iron-rich (weakly magnetic) stone or iron pan/slag, possibly natural. 1@82g

F21 Finds no 21
Small pieces of porous, white limestone, probably tufa. 7@7g

7 Discussion (Figs 3 & 4)

7.1 Period 1: prehistoric

There are two separate strands of evidence for activity in this period: the eleven archaeological features assigned to the prehistoric period and the significant quantity of residual prehistoric finds recovered from the Late Iron Age/Roman contexts.

Pits were the most common prehistoric feature on the site, two of which contained pottery sherds dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. The presence of pits would usually suggest domestic occupation nearby and, although there is a series of post-holes which may be associated with these pits, it is difficult to say whether or not they form the remains of a building due to this area having been heavily truncated by a Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch and the modern garage. One small pit did not contain any datable material but contained a large, flat flint nodule which appeared to have been deliberately deposited in the bottom of the pit. Similar activity has been identified in Neolithic pits at Lufkins Farm near Great Bentley in the east of Essex (CAT Report 450) although the reason for this action remains obscure. A narrow gully, possibly for drainage, may have formed part of a prehistoric field system, the orientation of which appears to have been mirrored in the Late Iron Age-early Roman period.

It is probable that other prehistoric features were destroyed when the Late Iron Age/ Roman features were dug. This is supported by the presence of a significant quantity of residual worked flints, unabraded hand-made flint-tempered and sand-tempered pottery sherds and burnt flints in these contexts. With the exception of four pieces dated to the Neolithic period, the worked flint assemblage exhibited traits that are characteristic of flint working in the Bronze Age. Most of the hand-made flint-tempered pottery sherds were not closely datable, but those that are indicate a post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblage of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. These pottery sherds were mostly recovered from the same contexts as the worked flints and may even have been discarded at the same time, perhaps sometime in the Late Bronze Age. The hand-made sand-tempered sherds are typical of Middle Iron Age assemblages, indicating that activity on the site may have been almost continual throughout the Iron Age.

The former Brown's garage site is situated on the eastern slope of the valley of the River Chelmer near to a small tributary. It is likely that the long history of human occupation in the area, as indicated by the findings of this excavation and the extant medieval remains in close proximity, is attributable to the geographical location of this piece of land. River valleys were of great importance in prehistory due to the fertility of the soil and the proximity of a water source. It is probable that the prehistoric finds from this site are associated with the occupation, albeit possibly intermittent, of this part of the valley slope from the Early Neolithic period through the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

7.2 Period 2: Late Iron Age and early Roman

The main phase of activity on the site belongs to the Late Iron Age and the early Roman period (mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD). The most significant features from this period are the ditches F19 and F33, which for two reasons are interpreted here as the south-eastern line of an enclosure ditch. Firstly, rubbish pits and cess-pits/latrines have been identified to the north-west of the ditches but not to the south-east. This suggests that activities associated with occupation, such as rubbish disposal, were taking place to the north-west (Fig 4). Secondly, the apparent widening and slight change in alignment of the ditches identified near the northern limit of excavation seems to indicate that either the ditches are beginning to curve north/westwards or that a gap or entranceway is situated in this location. It is probable that the ditch F1 also forms part of the enclosure ditch system and defines the south-eastern edge of a track or droveway which may have encircled the enclosure. Although no surfacing material was found, the absence of any contemporary archaeological features within this corridor as well as its width and alignment supports this conclusion. It is probable, based on the dating evidence, that F19 was the original Late Iron Age enclosure ditch and that the ditch was recut to the north-west just after the Roman conquest (F33), with the track or droveway ditch (F1) being dug at the same time. Other possible, but much less likely, interpretations include the enclosure ditches F19 and F33 forming a single double-ditch, or F33 as the enclosure ditch with ditches F19 and F1 defining the track or droveway.

Based on the depths and profiles of the three probable enclosure ditches It is unlikely that they were dug for defensive purposes. Moreover, the location of three contemporary pits on the north-western edge of F33 indicates that there could not have been an internal bank in this area as would have been expected if the ditch was defensive. Similarly, the position of a shallow gully (F15) or palisade trench on the south-eastern edge of enclosure ditch F19 implies that an external bank is equally unlikely. Post-holes identified in this gully may have been from a fence intended to keep livestock out of the ditch (Fig 4). It is probable that the enclosure ditches defined the boundary of the settlement and were used to help manage livestock.

Based on the pottery evidence it is likely that the enclosure ditch F19 was dug in the Late Iron Age, not long before the Roman conquest. This is indicated by the presence of Late Iron Age pottery sherds in the lower fill and the presence of a small, but significant assemblage of Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares from across the site. There may also have been an earlier ditch (F34) which was replaced by the

enclosure ditch F19, although this cannot be substantiated by the finds evidence. The enclosure ditches appear to have significantly silt up in the mid 1st century AD, with the use of the ditch for waste disposal as indicated by the significant animal bone and pottery assemblages from the ditch fills. The use of the ditch for the disposal of domestic waste seems to have continued throughout the 1st century AD and into the 2nd century. Based on the narrow date range of the pottery sherds, the enclosure ditches appear to have been mostly infilled by the end of the 2nd century, with later Roman domestic waste (at a considerably lower frequency) being scattered into whatever was left of the ditches or being deposited into rubbish pits cut into the infill of the ditches. It is possible that the ditches were intentionally infilled and the area levelled. It would be expected that the material banked up when the ditches were dug would have been used to infill the ditches, although the evidence suggests that if there was an internal bank it must have been located at least 3m from the north-west edge of the ditch.

It is assumed that the finds recovered from the enclosure ditches and the contexts in close proximity derive from the domestic waste generated by the inhabitants of the Late Iron Age to Roman enclosure. This domestic waste, along with probable human waste in the cess-pits/latrines, was disposed of around the periphery of the occupation area, possibly in a corner of the enclosure away from the main area of habitation. Analysis of the finds recovered from the domestic waste allows us to draw tentative conclusions about the type of settlement which the ditches may have enclosed and the lives of the inhabitants within it. However, as only a small area on the periphery of the settlement has been excavated it is unlikely the finds recovered are fully representative of the complete range of activities which took place or the economic status of the inhabitants.

The agricultural regime of the settlement indicates a mixed farming base of both animal and crop husbandry. The presence of a cereal grains in the two cess-pits/latrines and the recovery of a fragment of quern stone, indicates that cereals were consumed, processed and probably grown, by the inhabitants of the settlement. A significant animal bone assemblage and the provision of a ditched track or droveway around the edge of the enclosure also indicated that animals were utilised and managed by the inhabitants of the enclosure. Cattle were the primary animal exploited for meat, with butchery probably taking place in the settlement. Cattle also appear to have been used for milk production and traction. Other animals such as pigs, sheep and goats may have also been farmed, although it is possible that their meat may have been bought to the site already butchered ready for consumption. Other animals kept in the settlement were large dogs and horses, the latter of which were used for agricultural purposes and/or transport. The only evidence that inhabitants of the settlement supplemented their diet by exploiting the wild animal population was the presence of a small fish bone in one of the cess-pits/latrines.

It is probable that the inhabitants of the enclosure were of a relatively low economic status. Very few metalwork items were recovered from the site and no coins were found. The dominance of pottery sherds of local or regional origin, the low number of imported vessels and the absence of specialist vessels are indicative of a settlement which had only limited or local integration into wider economic networks, a limited range of pottery requirements or found such vessels to be unobtainable. The recovery of only a handful of fragments of CBM, none of which had mortar on their surfaces, suggests that there was unlikely to have been any significant use of CBM on or near to the site. Structural daub retaining parts of wattle holes from one of the pits suggests that the buildings inside the enclosure were probably constructed from wood.

7.3 Period 3: mid-late Roman

A number of pits cut into the infill of the enclosure ditches are datable either stratigraphically or by the pottery sherds recovered from them, to the mid-late Roman period. Occupation of the enclosure probably continued until the mid 3rd- 4th century, with this area of the enclosure continuing to be used for the disposal of domestic waste. The presence of fine ware pottery sherds and CBM fragments,

including flue tile, in the late Roman finds assemblage could indicate an improvement in the circumstances of the sites inhabitants, or it may simply reflect changes in availability and supply within the local economy. Far fewer archaeological features and finds are datable to this period than to the Late Iron Age-early Roman period. This may suggest a decline in activity in the enclosure during this period or a change in the use of the land surrounding the area of habitation following the infilling of the enclosure ditch.

7.4 Period 4: Post-Roman

No evidence was found for the continued occupation of this part of the river valley in the Anglo-Saxon period and it is presumed that the site was abandoned following the Roman period.

The medieval village of Great Easton was presumably focused on the area of the Church of St John, Great Easton Hall and the motte and bailey castle (Fig 1). Despite the close proximity of these extant monuments to the development site, no deposits or contexts dating to this period were uncovered. Moreover, the recovery of just one single medieval find seems to suggest that this locale is unlikely to have been much more than marginal agricultural land during this period, presumably outside of the range of any potential manure scattering which may have distributed domestic waste into the topsoil.

No post-medieval finds were recovered during the excavation. It is probable that the site continued to be used for agricultural purposes until the modern development on the site occurred in the early 1950's (based on OS map evidence).

8 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession SAFWM 2011.39.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at http://cat.essex.ac.uk

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11 Glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* AD 410 to Norman conquest of AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Bronze Age (BA)	period from *c* 2,500 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, ie brick and tile
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made, usually a layer or a feature
daub	clay used in construction (eg, of a wall), often found burnt
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ECC	Essex County Council
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
enclosure	a rectangular, circular or other area defined by a ditch
ERO	Essex Record Office
faunal	animal
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management team (ECC)
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists (formerly the Institute of Field Archaeologists)
Iron Age (IA)	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
lithics	literally 'stones', actually 'flints'
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
MNE	Minimum number of elements
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from *circa* 4,500 to 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
prehistory	the years BC
quernstone	stone for grinding corn into flour
residual	something out of its original period context (eg, a Roman coin in a modern pit)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Distribution list:
P&A Woods
Mr Richard Havis, ECC HEM team
Essex Historic Environment Record

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checked by: P.Crummy
date: 01/03/2012

12 Appendix I: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing;

1 Introduction

3.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by SCCAS.
3.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
3.3 Risk assessment
3.4 2x A3 site plans provided by developer
3.5 1x A4 site plans provided by developer

2 Site Archive

3.1 Site digital photo record
3.2 Attendance register
3.3 Context sheets (F1-F36, L1-L4)
3.4 Finds register
3.5 2x Soil sample record sheets
3.6 Site photographic record on cd
3.7 Total station and benchmark data

3 Research Archive

3.1 Monitoring (client) report
3.2 Finds reports and data

Not in file

The finds occupy 4 boxes
A3 SX drawing sheets

Appendix II: pottery catalogue

ctxt	fill	find no.	Fabric	no.	wt (g)	abr	description/notes	form	pot period	spot date
F001 sx1	lower	003	HMF(s-m)	1	9				preh	
F001 sx1	lower	003	BSW(45)	4	56		black surface, inc. neck sherd from cordoned bowl	G17	Rom	M1-E2C
F001 sx1	lower	003	44	1	8		dark grey-brown surfaces		LIA/E Rom	1C
F001 sx1	lower	006	BSW(45)	11	1026		black surface, misc fabrics, necked jar, cordoned jar, base in fine sandy fabric (RCW)		Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx1	lower	006	53	1	17		black surface dark grog-temp		Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx1	mid	002	HMS	1	6		body sherd		IA	M-LIA
F001 sx1	mid	002	BSW(45)	1	19		shoulder, burnished RCW	G20	Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx1	mid	002	47	1	4				Rom	Rom
F001 sx1	upper	001	HMF(sp)	1	5		thick sherd, sparse flint, hard fabric, hand made/ finished		preh	
F001 sx1	upper	001	BSW(45)	1	2		open form, burnished both sides	dish/bowl	Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx1	upper	001	47	1	7				Rom	
F001 sx1	upper	001	44	1	68		burnt organic matter and some grog	LSJ	Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx1	upper	004	53	1	25		black surfaced, grog-temp, simple everted rim, burnished on neck and inside rim		LIA/E Rom	1C
F001 sx1	upper	004	47	5	48		necked jar, folded beaker (L2-3/4C), poss Col product		Rom	L2-3/4C
F001 sx1	upper	004	4	1	5		orange fabric, dark brown burnished surface		Rom	L3-4C
F001 sx2		047	SASG	1	14	*	abraded surfaces, possibly Flavian(?)	Dr 27	Rom	M-L1C
F001 sx2		047	HMF(s-m)				moderate s-m flint, thin walled, fairly fine, smoothed dark grey-brown surfaces		preh	
F001 sx2		047	BSW(45)	4	16				Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx2		047	47	2	29		inc. necked shouldered bowl/jar	G20	Rom	M1-E2C
F001 sx2		047	44	1	60		some grog-temp		Rom	M1-2C
F001 sx3	mach sx	043	amph	1	17		sandy pale orange fabric with large gold mica inclusions, probably an imported amphora fabric, sherd 9 mm thick		Rom	Rom
F001 sx3	mach sx	043	HAD(36)	1	38		dull black surface, grey fabric, cordoned bowl G19, sooted external surfaces		Rom	M1-E2
F001 sx3	mach sx	043	HAD(36)	12	220		sherds all fine sandy, grey fabric inc large cordoned bowl G19 and base with edge of central, circular post-firing perforation		Rom	M1-E/M2C
F001 sx3	mach sx	043	BSW(45)	1	10				Rom	
F003		007	HMF(s-m)	1	45		broken edge of flat base		preh	BA-IA
F003		007	HMF(s-m)	1	16		flat base(?) sherd		preh	BA-IA
F004		009	BSW(45)	2	27		grog-temp, inc. everted slightly hooked rim burnished on neck and rim top, black surfaces.		Rom	M1C-2C
F005		010	HMF(s-m)	1	5		thick sherd		preh	

ctxt	fill	find no.	Fabric	no.	wt (g)	abr	description/notes	form	pot period	spot date
F005		010	47	1	1	*	abraded small sherd		Rom	Rom
F006		011	HMF(s-m)	2	11				preh	
F006		011	BSW(45)	1	6		black surface, small grog & burnt organic frags (RCW).		Rom	M1-2C
F014		013	HAD(36)	4	28		inc. necked bowl/jar rim, and everted plain rim		Rom	1-2C
F014		013	HAD(35)	1	15		flanged bowl rim B6	B6	Rom	L3-4C
F014		013	BSW(45)	5	51				Rom	M1-2C
F014		013	BSW(45)	1	4		dark sandy fabric			
F014		013	53	1	16		black surface grog-temp		Rom	M-L1C
F014		013	47	7	63		sherd from bowl with combed wavy line, surface oxidised sandy base		Rom	Rom (M1-2C+)
F014		013	44	1	16				Rom	M1-2/3C
F015		018	HMF(s-m)	1	27		flat base		preh	BA/IA
F015 sx5		057	BSW(45)	1	4		(RCW)		Rom	M1-2C
F018		015	HMF(s)	2	1		frags.		preh	
F019	upper	019	HMS	1	23		sand-temp base, hand made, well fired		IA	M-LIA(?)
F019	upper	019	HAD(36)	2	75		rim poss. E2 bowl	E2(?)	Rom	L2-4C(?)
F019	upper	019	HAD(36)	1	45		base			
F019	upper	019	BSW(45)	3	17				Rom	M1-2C
F019	upper	019	53	1	3				LIA	M1C BC-M1CAD
F019	upper	019	44	2	253		tempered grey fabric		Rom	M1-2/3C
F019	upper	019	44	4	47		some grog-temp		Rom	M1-2C
F019	upper	019	21	1	6		everted rim		Rom	1-2C
F019 sx1	upper	039	HMS	1	8		body sherd, well fired, hand made, oxidised surface		IA	M-LIA
F019 sx1	upper	039	HMF(s-m)	1	7		moderately thick sherd			
F019 sx1	upper	039	HMF(s-m)	1	5		slash decorated shoulder sherd		LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
F019 sx1	upper	039	47	1	10				Rom	Rom
F019 sx1	middle	040	BSW(45)	2	36		black surfaces, some grog-temp (RCW)		Rom	M1-L1C
F019 sx1	middle	040	53	3	31		black surfaces, grog-tempered, prob hand made		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
F019 sx1	middle	040	44	1	96		thick base from a LSJ, sandy fabric (RCW)		Rom	Rom
F019 sx1	upper	041	HMF(m)	1	9		grey core, pale brown surface, well fired		preh	
F019 sx1	upper	041	BSW(45)	6	13		SV, black surfaces, pos temp. small storage jar		LIA/Rom	M1-2C
F019 sx1	upper	041	53	1	46		black surfaces grog-tempered		LIA/Rom	M-L1C
F019 sx2	upper	054	BSW(45)	1	5		poss Had?		Rom	M1-2C
F019 sx2	upper	054	53	2	18		black surface, grog-temp inc. one bowl or lid(?) rim, poss LIA		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
F019 sx2	upper	054	47	1	15		residue/sooted interior, brown oxidised surface		Rom	E-M Rom?
F019 sx2	middle	055	HMF(s-m)	2	36		moderately thick sherds		preh	
F019 sx2	middle	055	HAD(36)	1	8		from a carinated bowl (RCW)	H10	Rom	M-L1C
F019 sx2	middle	055	47	1	7		residue/sooted interior, brown oxidised surface		Rom	E-M Rom?

ctxt	fill	find no.	Fabric	no.	wt (g)	abr	description/notes	form	pot period	spot date
F019 sx2	lower	056	53	1	5		black surfaces		LIA	M1C BC-M1CAD
F019 sx2	lower	056	53	1	13		body sherd, sandy fabric		LIA	M-LIA
F019 sx3	upper	044	BSW(45)	1	6		sherd from dish with small foorting (poss HAD?)	A1	Rom	M1-E2C
F020		016	44	1	7		thick, fine sandy sherd from a large pot, poss. a STJ,		LIA/E Rom	M1-2C
F020		016	21	2	3		thin oxidised frags., possibly from a beaker/ butt-beaker (RCW)		LIA/E Rom	E/M-M/L1C(?)
F021	up-mid	022	HMF(s-m)	1	4				preh	
F021	up-mid	022	HMF(s)	1	8		upright, flat-topped rim		preh	LBA/EIA
F021	up-mid	022	BSW(45)	1	24		red sandy fabric poss HAD?		Rom	Rom
F021	up-mid	022	BSW(45)	4	4				Rom	M1-2C
F021	up-mid	022	53	1	7		base, part oxidised surface, grog-temper		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
F021	up-mid	022	53	1	2		sandy fabric, grog on surface		LIA	M1C BC-M1CAD
F021	up-mid	022	53	1	45		base, hard fired, oxidised surface		LIA/E Rom	1C AD
F021	lower	023	HMS	1	20		miss fired/burnt, dark sandy fabric		IA	
F021	lower	023	HMS	1	30		miss fired/burnt, open deep bowl form, dark sandy fabric		IA	
F021	lower	023	HMF(m)	1	4				preh	
F021	lower	023	53	1	50		pedestal base, dark, fine sandy fabric, poss Cam 202-203 pedestal urn	Cam 202-203(?)	LIA	M1C BC-E/M1CAD
F021	lower	023	53	1	40		burnt, hard thick sherd, base? with dark grog/burnt organic matter		LIA/E Rom	1C AD
F021	lower	023	44	1	9		thick, sand temp		LIA/E Rom	LIA/Rom
F023		025	SAEG	1	14		barbotine decorated flat rim, unusual form		Rom	mid 2nd-mid 3rd C, poss. early 3rd C
F023		025	HAD(36)	1	5				Rom	Rom
F023		025	BSW(45)	1	10		burnished spaced lines, poss BB form		Rom	M2-M3C(?)
F023		025	BSW(45)	4	31				Rom	Rom
F023		025	47	3	10				Rom	Rom
F023		025	41	1	7		prob. BB2 (un sourced), burnished rim Cam 39 (BSW fabric)	Cam 39	Rom	M2-3/4C
F023		025	2	2	8		beaker sherds, one with white painted line decoration.	2 beakers	Rom	M/L3-4C
F024		027	BSW(45)	5	79		black surface, cordoned bowl, burnished lines on cordon G17; neckless jar, small everted rim G3	G17, G3	Rom	M1-E2/2C
F024		027	53	1	6		abraded sandy, oxidised sherd, grog-tempered		Rom	M-L1C
F024		027	47	2	9		rim from small beaker/jar with everted rim		Rom	M1-2C+
F024		027	44	3	65		some grog		Rom	M1-E2C
F024		027	44	1	376		base, (broken) in grey fabric		Rom	M1-2/3C
F025		028	BSW(45)	1	5		grog-temp		LIA/R Rom	M-L1C
F031	up-mid	030	HMF/S	1	25		mix of quartz sand and some flint		IA	IA
F031	up-mid	030	HAD(36)	1	7		bead rim from a bowl, burnished		Rom	M2C+(?)

ctxt	fill	find no.	Fabric	no.	wt (g)	abr	description/notes	form	pot period	spot date
F031	up-mid	030	BSW(45)	5	49		inc. dark, fine sand-temp sherds; sherd from cordoned bowl G17	G17	Rom	M1-E2/2C
F031	up-mid	030	53	1	6		black surface		LIA/E Rom	1C AD
F031	up-mid	030	47	4	26		inc. bowl B7, also sherd from bowl with combed wavy line	B7	Rom	M1-2C+
F031	up-mid	030	44	6	149		inc. comb decorated body sherds		LIA-Rom	M1-E2C
F031	lower	031	47	1	15				Rom	Rom
F033	upper	058	amph	1	23		sandy pale orange fabric with large gold mica inclusions, probably an imported amphora fabric, neck(?) sherd 7 mm thick		Rom	Rom
F033	upper	058	BSW(45)	1	15		black surface		Rom	M1-E2C
F033	upper	058	50	1	38		Cam 254	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	E-M1C
F033	upper	058	47	2	42		2 rims, one from flanged bowl B6	B6	Rom	L3-4C
F033	upper	058	4	2	25		join, handled flagon with flat rim (CAR 10 Fabric CH Type 41)		Rom	L3-4C
F033 sx1	mid-low	033	BSW(45)	1	13		black surface		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
F033 sx1	mid-low	033	BSW(45)	4	53		black surface		Rom	M1-2C
F033 sx1	mid-low	033	47	3	12		sherd from cordoned bowl, poss. G17			M1-E/M2C(?)
F033 sx1	mid-low	033	44	2	82		rim, sherd from 2nd pot	G44	Rom	M1-3/4C
F033 sx1	mid-low	033	16	1	13				Rom	M1-2/3C
F033 sx2		035	BSW(45)	2	7				Rom	M1-E2C
F033 sx3	lower	052	HMF(s-m)	1	4		moderately thin sherd, dark grey		preh	
F033 sx3	lower	052	BSW(45)	7	82		black surface, shouldered/ cordoned bowl G17/G20		Rom	M1-E2C
F033 sx3	lower	052	50	1	21			Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	E-M1C
F033 sx3	machine rec	034	BSW(45)	12	181		black surfaces		Rom	M1-2C
F033 sx3	machine rec	034	BSW(45)	1	20		some grog, sandy, grey-black surface, hand formed-wheel finished?		LIA/E Rom	1C
F033 sx3	machine rec	034	44	1	61				Rom	M1-E2/2C
F033 sx3	mid	050	BSW(45)	11	185		black surfaced, inc, necked, upright hooked rim and high shouldered jar/bowl		Rom	M1-2C
F033 sx3	mid	050	50	1	36		Cam 254	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	E-M1C
F033 sx3	mid	050	47	1	2		soft sandy grey ware, abraded, rilled surface , poss. Broughing jar(?)	G21?	Rom	Rom
F033 sx3	mid	050	44	1	26		dark, fine sandy fabric		LIA/E Rom	1C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	BSW(45)	3	252		dark sandy fabric, black surface, small, pointed bulge on neck G19/G20	G19	Rom	M1-E2C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	BSW(45)	3	132		join, G17 large (neck too wide for G38), brown/grey surfaces	G17	Rom	M1-E2C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	BSW(45)	33	505		inc. hooked jar/bowl rim, bowl with plain flat expanded rim and base of jar with 3 post firing perforations and one started but not completed		Rom	M1-2C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	BSW(45)	2	26		base & poss. other sherd from a platter with low footring, soft silty fabric , brown-black surface		LIA/E Rom	M1C-L1/E2C

ctxt	fill	find no.	Fabric	no.	wt (g)	abr	description/notes	form	pot period	spot date
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	53	1	14		Black surface, base with perforation in lower wall		LIA/E Rom	E-M/L1C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	50	4	82		inc. 2 rims Cam 254	Cam 254	LIA/E Rom	E-M1C
F033 sx3	mid-low	051	44	2	107		one comb decorated		LIA/E Rom	M-L1C
F033 sx3	upper	049	HMF(s-m)	2	23				preh	
F033 sx3	upper	049	HAD(36)	5	21		grey wares (47) inc. sherds from a cordoned pot		Rom	Rom
F033 sx3	upper	049	BSW(45)	15	266		black surfaced, inc. 2 rim sherds from bowls, one poss E5/6 type or similar		Rom	M1-2C poss L2C+
F033 sx3	upper	049	53	1	10		ripple shouldered bowl (G15) Cam 229	Cam 229	LIA	M1C BC-M1CAD
F033 sx3	upper	049	44	2	37		Romanising type fabric		Rom	M1-E2/2C
F034 sx1		032	HMF(l)	1	5		small sherd with coarse flint-temper, poss from a flat base		preh	
F034 sx1		032	BSW45)	1	21		thick sherd with dark sandy fabric, sooted/ residue on interior (see Niblett 1985 Fabric B3)		LIA(?)	LIA(?)-E Rom
F034 sx1		032	BSW(45)	1	5		grog-temp, abraded		LIA? E Rom	M-L1C
F034 sx1		036	BSW(45)	2	18		black surface		Rom	M1-2C
F034 sx1		036	47	1	5				Rom	Rom
F034 sx2		037	HMF(s)	1	3		black		preh	
F034 sx2		037	BSW(45)	3	1		black surface, frags			
F034 sx2		053	53	1	52		thick sherd from a cordoned bowl/jar, dark fine sandy fabric (see Niblett 1985 Fabric B3)		LIA/?E Rom	M1CBC-M1CAD
L003		045	HMF(s-m/l)	1	52		shoulder from jar		preh	LBA/EIA
L003		045	HMF(s-m)	3	24		moderately thick sherds		preh	
L003		045	BSW(45)	1	5				Rom	M1-2C
L003		045	44	1	92			LSJ	Rom	M1-2/3C
L003		045	4	1	11	*	rim, everted bowl rim, two grooves below		Rom	L3-4C
L003		045	22 (med)	1	3	*	pale red fabric with fine mica, darker red surface, except under light green glaze band with some splash glaze on red area		med	M12-E/M14C
US		060	BSW(45)	1	5		rim, simple everted		LIA/E Rom	M1-E2C
US		060	4(?)	1	4		soft, laminating sherd, orange-red fabric with darker matt red slip		Rom	M/L1-2C?
US		060	4	1	7	*	abraded orange rim sherd prob. from a bowl of E4 type, abraded, but burnished surface below rim, this bowl form appears to be commonly associated with Oxford than Hadham, although for similar see CAR 10 fabric CH Type 66 no. 122		Rom	L3-4C

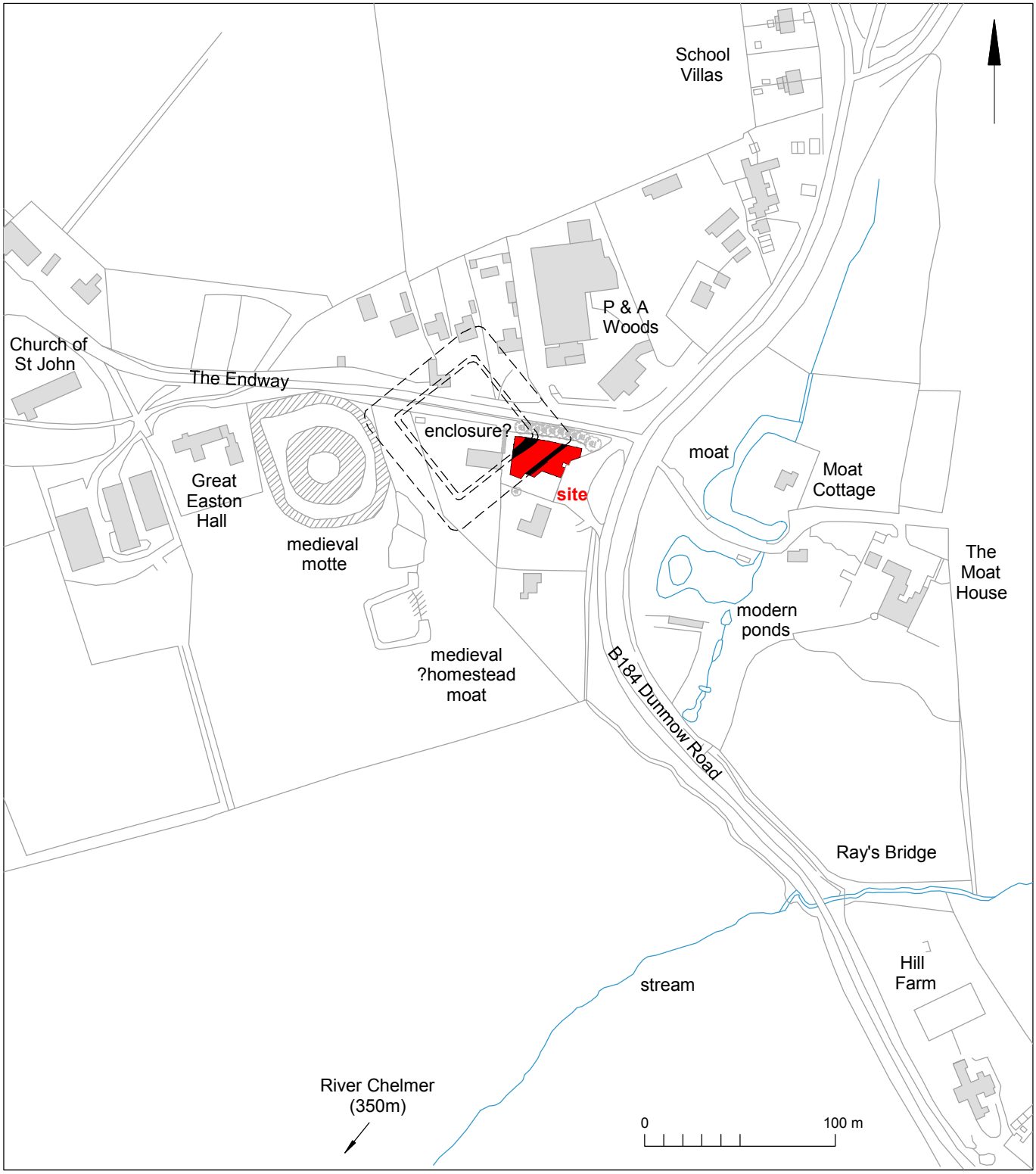

Fig 1 Site location and position of probable Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure (plan and extent speculative).

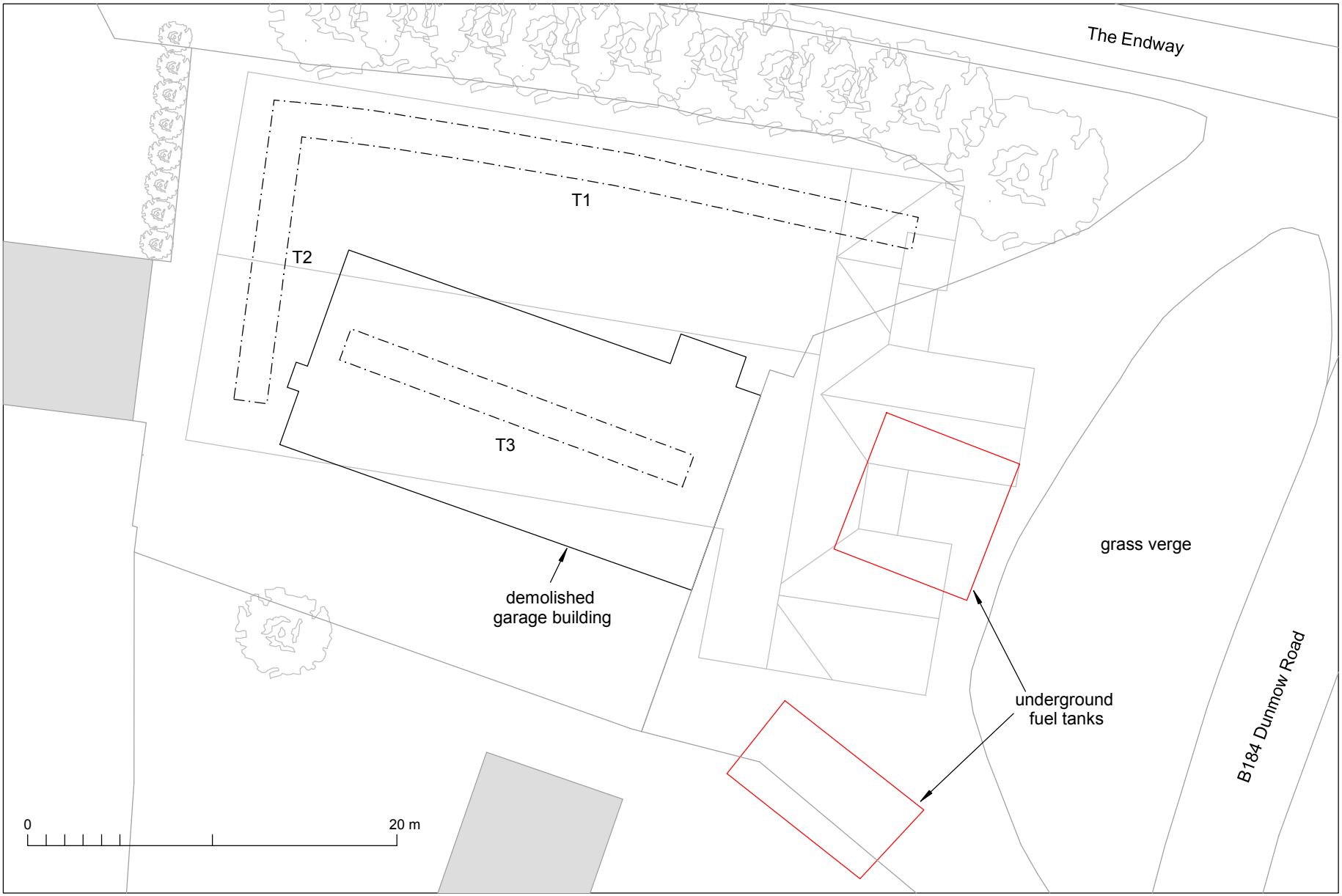

Fig 2 Location of the three trial-trenches (T1-T3) in relation to the proposed development (shown in light grey).

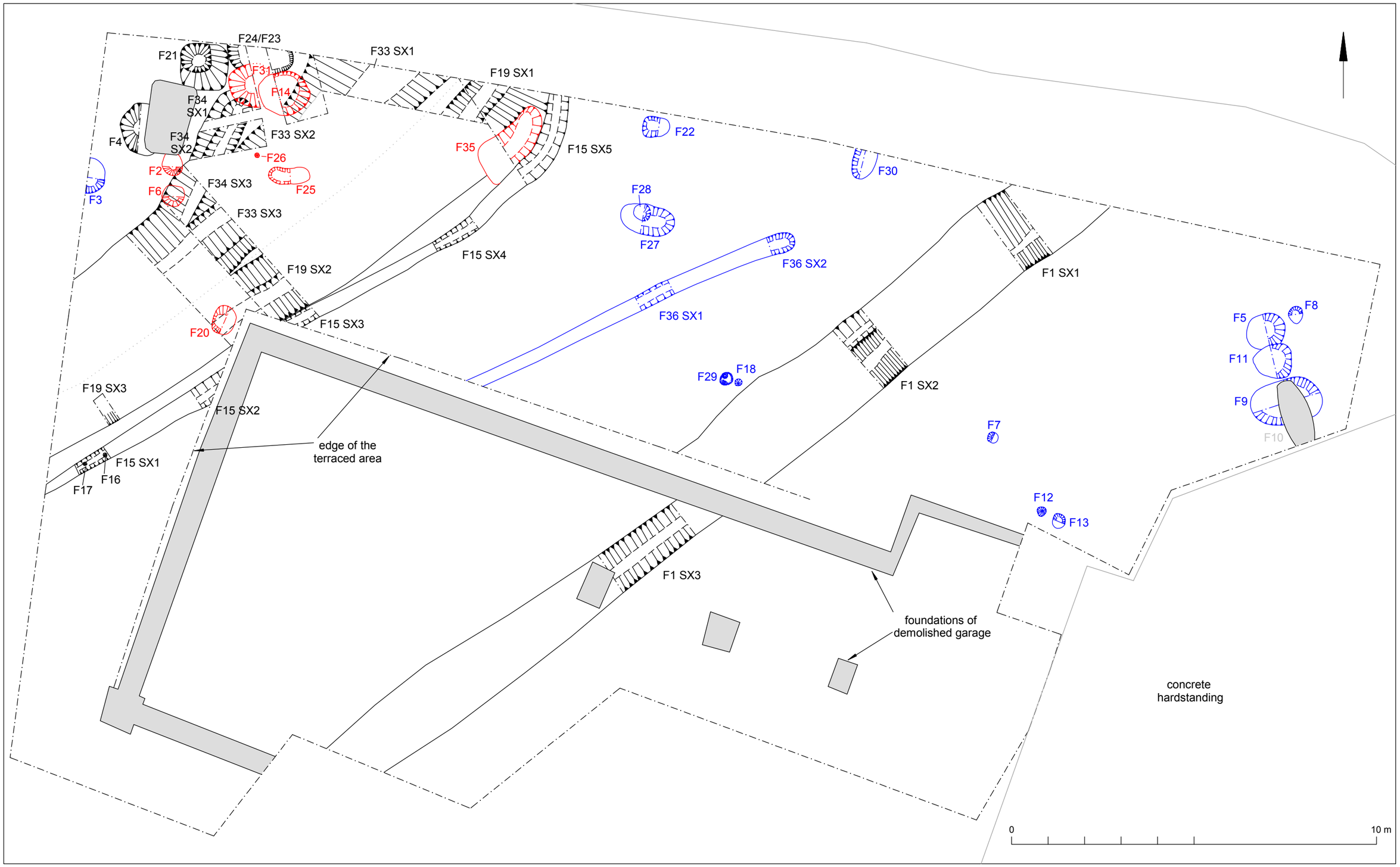

Fig 3 Excavation site plan.

Key: Period 1: prehistoric | Period 2: Late Iron Age and early Roman | Period 3: mid-late Roman | Period 4: post-Roman

Fig 4 Late Iron Age and Roman interpretation.

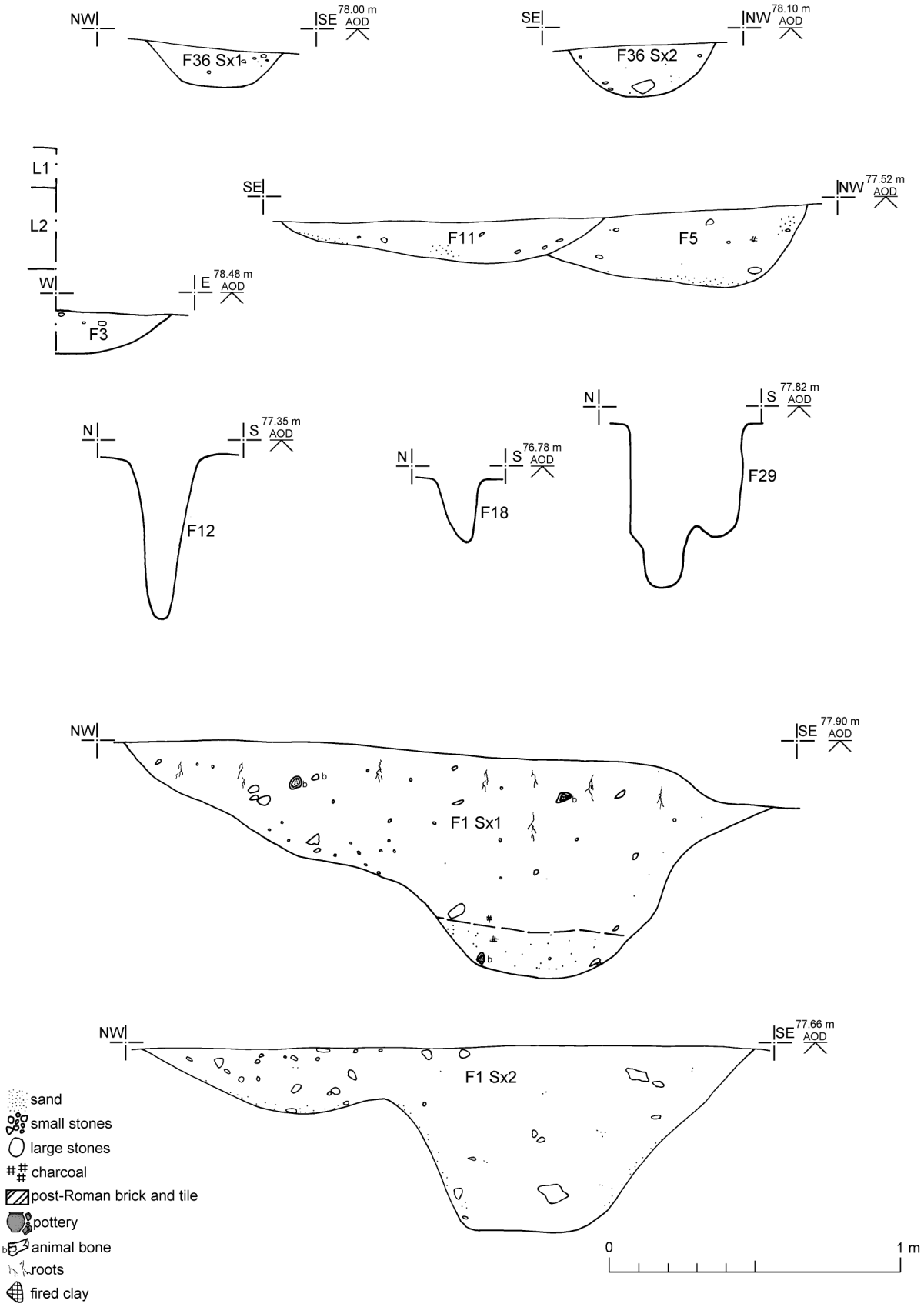

Fig 5 Prehistoric gully feature (F36 Sx1-2), prehistoric pit features (F3, F5 and F11), prehistoric post-holes (F12, F18 and F29). LIA-early Roman ditch feature (F1 Sx1-2): sections and profiles.

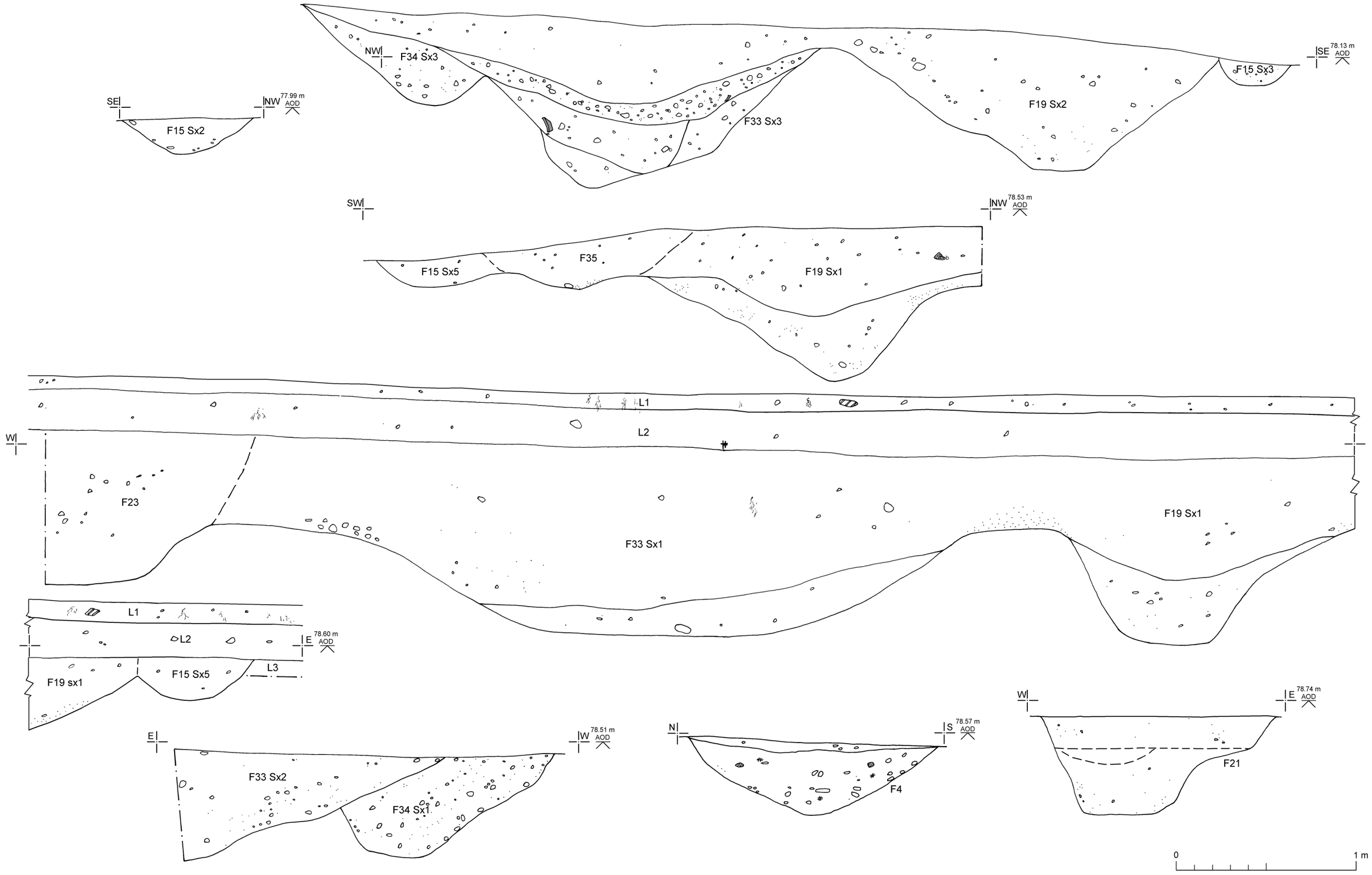

Fig 6 LIA-early Roman ditch features (F15 Sx2-3 and 5, F19 Sx1-2, F33 Sx1-2, F34 Sx1 and 4). LIA-early Roman pit features (F4, F21, F23 and F35): sections.

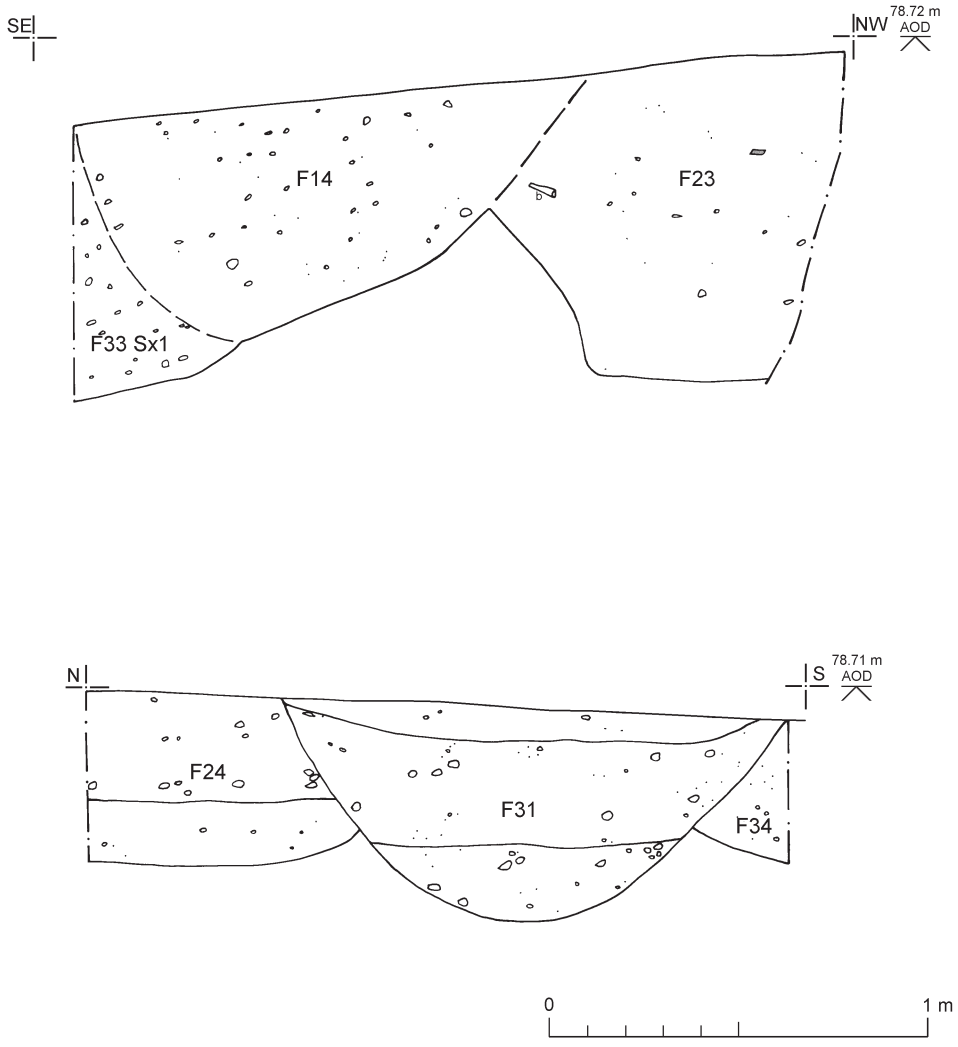

Fig 7 LIA-early Roman ditch features (F33 Sx1 and F34), mid-late Roman pit features (F14, F23-4 and F31): sections.

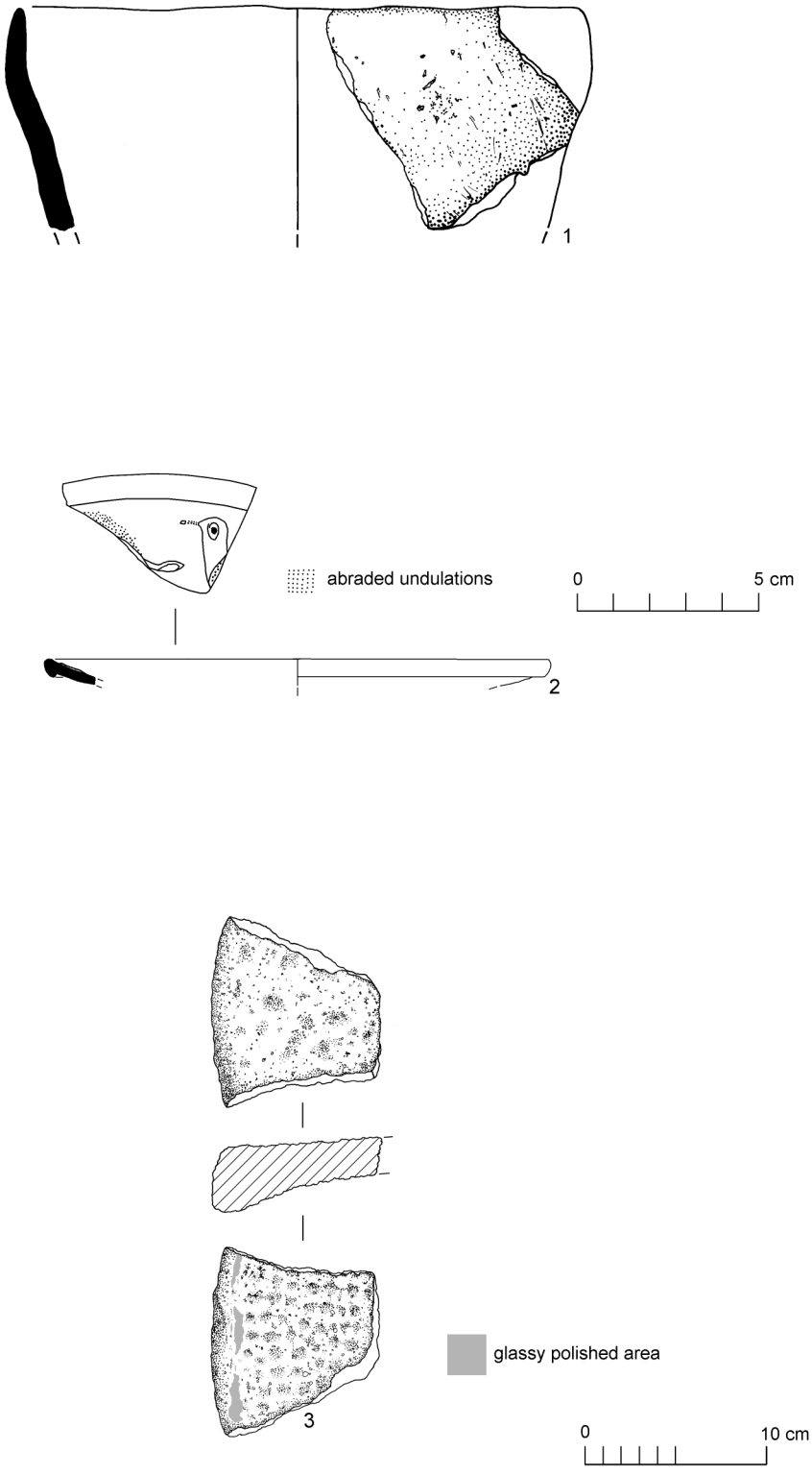

Fig 8 Prehistoric pottery (1), Roman pottery including detail (2) and small find (3)

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: The former G.S Brown's garage site, Dunmow Road, Great Easton, Essex.	
Parish: Great Easton	***District:*** Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6101 2542	***Site codes:*** CAT project – 11/5d ECC – GEABG11
Type of work: Evaluation & Excavation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2011	***Size of area investigated:*** 560m^2
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession – SAFWM 2011.39	**Funding source:** Client
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHER numbers:*** 1175, 1282, 1190
Final report: CAT Report 608	
Periods represented: *Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman*	

Summary:

Archaeological excavation was carried out on the site of the former G.S Brown Garage, Dunmow Road, Great Easton ahead of the construction of a new workshop and showroom for P&A Woods. The site is situated on the eastern slope of the valley of the River Chelmer near to a small tributary. It is likely that the long history of human occupation in the area, as indicated by the findings of this excavation and the extant medieval remains in close proximity, is attributable to the geographical location of this piece of land.

Prehistoric activity on the valley slope was indicated by small pits, post-holes and a gully as well as significant assemblages of residual worked flints and prehistoric pottery sherds. It is probable that the prehistoric finds from this site are associated with the occupation, albeit possibly intermittent, of this area of the River Chelmer valley from the Early Neolithic period and throughout the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The most intensive period of occupation recorded on the site is Late Iron Age and Roman. Ditches dating to this period have been interpreted as the south-eastern line of an enclosure, probably surrounding a rural farmstead. The outermost enclosure ditch probably defines a track or droveway. Significant finds assemblages were recovered from the enclosure ditches as well as from adjacent

rubbish pits and cess-pits/latrines. Evidence from these features suggests that the inhabitants of the farmstead undertook both animal and crop husbandry and that the settlement was involved in activities such as food processing, preparation and consumption. The scale of this activity is unknown due to the peripheral locality of the excavation area in relation to the presumed habitation centre. Evidence suggests that the farmstead buildings were constructed of wood with wattle and daub walls and that the inhabitants of the farmstead were of a relatively low economic status. Occupation of the enclosure probably continued until the mid 3rd-4th century, with domestic waste disposal continuing in this area.

No evidence was found for the continued occupation of this part of the river valley in the Anglo-Saxon period and it is presumed that the site was abandoned following the Roman period. Despite the close proximity of extant medieval monuments no deposits or contexts dating to this period were uncovered.

Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure, farmstead, track or droveway	***Significance:*** ***
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	***Date of summary:*** March 2012