An archaeological watching brief at Grey Friars Hotel, High Street, Colchester, Essex February 2012-June 2015

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1 Summary

Significant archaeological remains were recorded during a watching brief at the Grey Friars Hotel, High Street, Colchester. In several places on the site Roman deposits were observed, including the floors of a Roman building in the entrance foyer area between Grey Friars and All Saints House. Medieval remains in the vicinity of the existing buildings were sparse, although a pit was uncovered that possibly predated the Franciscan friary. Machine-trenching in the hotel car park at the northern end of the site revealed a large medieval pit, which had probably been dug for sand and gravel extraction. Further east, in trenches in the public car park, archaeological deposits associated with the demolition of the friary buildings were uncovered, including two north-south robber trenches and a layer of demolition debris. Among the other remains exposed on the site were post-medieval and modern foundations, floors and pits. During the underpinning of an internal wall within Grey Friars, a probable Early Bronze Age flint dagger was discovered by a workman.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

2.1 An archaeological watching brief took place at the former Grey Friars Adult Community College, High Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundwork as the vacant premises were converted into a 'boutique' hotel. The archaeological work was commissioned by OMC Investments Ltd and was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between February 2012 and June 2015.

2.2 The site is located at the eastern end of the High Street, on its northern side. It includes three listed buildings: Grey Friars, which is grade II*, and All Saints House to the east and Hillcrest to the west, both of which are grade II. Vehicular access is from the rear via Castle Road. The modern ground level across the site slopes slightly from south-west to north-east, from approximately 25 m AOD on the High Street frontage to approximately 20.75 m AOD at the northern end of the site.

2.3 The existing buildings on the site were largely retained, but with some internal and external alterations. These included the construction of a covered entrance foyer and a lift shaft. The services across the site were upgraded, and the hotel grounds to the north of the buildings were remodelled. The OMC public car park to the east of the hotel site remains in use, although its layout was modified.

The hotel site covers an area of approximately 0.506 hectares, and its NGR is centred at TM 0007 2530. The OMC public car park to the east covers an area of approximately 0.435 hectares, and its NGR is centred at TM 0012 2533.

2.4 The excavation and recording methods used were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site, which was produced by CAT in December 2011 (WSI 2011; see Appendix 3). The WSI also set out proposals for post-excavation work, the production of a report, an archive, and (if necessary) publication texts. It followed a brief written by Colchester Borough Council's Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) in December 2011 (CBC 2011).

2.5 This report follows the standards set out in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), and also those in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006), and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA **3**), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA **8**), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14**), and *Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA **24**), was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Figs 1, 2, 5 & 7)

3.1 The site lies in the eastern part of the walled area of the town, approximately 150 m east of Colchester Castle and the site of the Temple of Claudius. The archaeological potential of the site was outlined in a CAT desk-based assessment in November 2006 (CAT Report 391). The more significant and relevant entries that were listed in CAT Report 391, as well as some more recent discoveries, are summarised briefly below.

3.2 The site is located within Insula 24 of the Roman town, about which comparatively little is known. The Grey Friars site lies immediately to the north of the position of Roman Colchester's main east-west street, and some 80 m west of the Roman east gate, which survived until the 17th century (*VCHE* **9**, 250).

3.3 A layer of gravel was exposed under the pavement at the entrance to Grey Friars in 1930, at a depth of 610-760 mm (Hull 1958, 75). It was approximately 5.5 m wide and was interpreted as metalling from a north-south Roman street. However it does not line up with the projected north-south street on the western side of Insula 24, which was located at the Central Clinic site in 2006-8 (CAT Reports 372 & 473).

An east-west Roman street forming the northern side of Insula 24 may possibly lie along the northern edge of the site.

3.4 During an archaeological evaluation in 2004 in a small yard area towards the rear of Grey Friars, between the 18th-century building and the Edwardian west wing (Fig 5), part of a Roman tessellated pavement was uncovered at a depth of 1.1 m below the modern ground level (CAT Report 290).

An archaeological watching brief took place during some small-scale building works in the immediate vicinity of Grey Friars in 2006 (CAT Report 369), although little of archaeological significance was exposed.

3.5 Grey Friars takes its name from the Franciscan friary, which was established shortly before 1237 and dissolved in 1538 (*VCHE* **9**, 306-7). At the time of the dissolution, the friary included a church, a hall, an infirmary, chambers, a kitchen, a bakery, a brewery, gardens, and four acres of land within the precinct walls, with at least two fishponds. In 1622, a gatehouse still stood in Friars Street or Frere Street (now part of the High Street). Nothing of the medieval establishment appears to have remained by 1847 (*ibid*) and all physical trace had probably disappeared by 1777 (CAT Report 408, 2). Human skeletons found at Grey Friars between 1847 and 1857 were believed to have derived from medieval graves, associated with the friary (*ibid*).

3.6 CAT carried out fieldwork during work on the boundary wall along the northern edge of the OMC public car park to the east of the hotel site. This included an evaluation trench of limited depth in 2003 (CAT Report 219) and a subsequent watching brief in 2004 (CAT Report 264), but little of archaeological significance was uncovered.

3.7 A series of evaluation trenches was dug by CAT in the OMC public car park to the east of the site in 2007 (CAT Report 408). These revealed a wide east-west medieval foundation, which was possibly part of the friary church. A smaller north-south foundation lay to the north-east, and may have belonged to the same building or perhaps to a cloister attached to the church. The foundations were covered by a layer of demolition material, containing medieval and post-medieval finds, suggesting that the buildings continued in use well after the Dissolution.

3.8 The three listed buildings, Grey Friars, All Saints House and Hillcrest, were built in the 18th century and have red brick fronts. Early in the 20th century, east and west wings were added to Grey Friars, when it was converted into a convent. It was subsequently turned into a school, before becoming the Adult Education Centre, later known as the Adult Community College (Gurney and Skinner 2014). Further information about all three buildings, which form a significant and attractive group, is given on the web-sites of the Colchester historic buildings forum and Colchester Adult Learning Assistance (see internet references below).

4 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to record the depth and extent of any archaeological remains uncovered during the redevelopment, and to assess the date and significance of these remains.

5 Methods (Figs 1-8)

5.1 The archaeological watching brief commenced initially on 3rd February 2012, when a couple of trenches were hand-dug for replacement drains in a small yard area immediately to the north of Hillcrest. Archaeological monitoring resumed on 7th November 2012, when the main contractors, Rose Builders, began the groundwork in earnest. The watching brief continued intermittently until 11th June 2015.

5.2 The limited structural alterations to the existing buildings included the construction of a covered entrance foyer in a yard area between Grey Friars and All Saints House. Also, a lift shaft was attached to the rear elevation of the eastern Edwardian wing of Grey Friars. The lift enclosure measured approximately 3 m east-west by 2.5 m north-south, and extended approximately 1.5 m deep below the modern ground level. Prior to the construction of the lift enclosure, a drain was laid beneath it. The drain extended from west to east along a narrow yard area (Fig 4). The trench for the drain was 500-700 mm wide and approximately 2.0 m deep. The yard area was subsequently infilled.

5.3 Several of the existing walls in the area of the entrance foyer and the lift shaft needed underpinning. This involved the digging of trenches by the contractors alongside and below the existing wall foundations (Figs 3-4). The depth of the trenches varied from approximately 1.7 m to 2.5 m below the modern ground level. The existing foundations were between 1.0 m and 1.5 m deep.

In addition, structural supports were inserted into a cellar beneath the north-eastern part of Grey Friars. The cellar is situated below the single-storey block to the north of the lift shaft. Two small holes, each approximately 900 mm square and 550 mm deep, were dug in the brick floor of the cellar to take steel supports (not on plan; further details are available in the site archive). The cellar floor lay roughly 3.2 m below the existing ground floor level within Grey Friars.

5.4 A number of other minor alterations took place to the existing buildings to form the accommodation and other facilities. This included the construction of an external east wall for the single-storey block in the north-eastern corner of Grey Friars (Fig 4). As the contractors dug the foundation trench, a modern well or soakaway was uncovered, and this necessitated the redesign of the foundation. The redesigned foundation consisted of a ground beam, set in a trench approximately 1.1 m deep and 900 mm wide. This rested on deep pad foundations at either end. The northern one was L-shaped and was approximately 2.4 m deep, while the southern one was square, approximately 3.4 m deep.

Several other foundation trenches were dug by the contractors, mostly for internal walls within Grey Friars and All Saints House.

5.5 The upgrading of the drains and other services involved the contractors digging numerous trenches in and around the existing buildings. Those trenches outside the existing buildings were usually dug by mini-digger, while others, especially those inside, were dug by hand. The trenches varied considerably in size and depth, although those inside the existing buildings were usually fairly shallow (ie less than 1 m deep). Many live and redundant services were encountered during the watching brief. A few small trial-holes were also dug by the contractors at different points around the site.

5.6 In addition to the trenches for services inside the existing buildings, the floor levels over larger areas, including whole rooms, were lowered by hand in several places. For example, an east-west corridor between the 18th-century part of Grey Friars and the Edwardian west wing was lowered by approximately 800 mm. Similarly, the floor level in the room immediately to the east of the corridor was lowered by up to 1 m, and the north wall of this room was underpinned (Fig 5).

5.7 Work also took place within the hotel grounds to the north of the existing buildings. A trench was dug by the contractors for the foundations of a boundary wall along the eastern side of the hotel site. From the north-east corner of All Saints House, this extended northwards for approximately 74 m, with a gap for an entrance about two-thirds of the way down. The trench was approximately 1.1-1.2 m wide and 700-800 mm deep.

In addition, trenches were dug by the contractors for the foundations of low retaining walls around the edges of the terrace to the north of the 18th-century part of Grey Friars. These trenches were approximately 700 mm wide and 700 mm deep.

5.8 Among other work that took place in the hotel grounds was the remodelling of the car parking areas. Following some exploratory excavation by hand by CAT staff, the contractors machine-dug a large rectangular trench for a soakaway in the car park at the northern end of the site (Figs 2 & 6). The trench measured approximately 10.5 m by 5.2 m.

The eastern part of the trench was dug roughly 2 m deep, but the western part had to be dug up to 3.75 m deep to remove the backfill of a large post-Roman pit.

The northern car parking area was subsequently extended southwards. This involved ground reduction by machine of a rectangular area, measuring approximately 21 m east-west by 6.5 m north-south (Fig 2). Stripping took place up to a depth of 1.4 m in this area. Also, a north-south trench was dug by machine southwards from the eastern part of this stripped area. This trench was approximately 10.2 m long and 1.6 m wide, and was dug to a depth of 700-750 mm below the modern ground level. Subsequently, stone-filled gabions were housed in the trench.

5.9 The OMC public car park to the east of the hotel site was also remodelled, although most of the changes did not involve significant ground disturbance. However, in the north-eastern part of the car park, a trench was dug for a soakaway and narrow pipe trenches were dug to the west and south-east of it (Fig 7). The trench for the soakaway was approximately 1.9 m square and 2.75 m deep. The pipe trench to the west was approximately 600 mm wide and 1 m deep. That to the south-east was 700-750 mm wide, and varied in depth from approximately 850 mm, close to the soakaway trench, to 1.9 m deep at the south-eastern end of the pipe trench, adjacent to an existing manhole.

5.10 The groundwork was monitored by CAT staff during intermittent site visits. Machining of the deeper trenches in the more archaeologically sensitive areas was monitored continuously. The machining was carried out using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. CAT staff were given time by the contractors to investigate and record any archaeological remains uncovered, and to collect up the finds unearthed. On health and safety grounds, the recording of archaeological deposits in the deeper trenches, notably during the underpinning and in the trenches for the soakaways, had to be done from the modern ground level looking down into the trenches. Trenches where no significant archaeological remains were found are not usually shown on plan or mentioned in the text.

5.11 Individual records of archaeological contexts, such as layers or features, as well as finds, were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Site plans were usually drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Standard record shots of the site and of individual contexts were taken on a digital camera. Further details of the recording methods used can be found in the WSI, and in the CAT document *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2014).

6 Results

6.1 The natural subsoil consisted of brownish-yellow gravelly sand (Layer or L6). This was capped in places by shallow pockets of pale brown cover loam. During much of the watching brief, the natural subsoil was not reached, but it was exposed in some of the deeper trenches. For example, at the northern end of the entrance foyer area, between Grey Friars and All Saints House, the top of the natural subsoil lay roughly 2 m below the modern ground level (Sx 4, Fig 10). In the same general area, the natural subsoil was located in two small holes in a cellar floor beneath Grey Friars (see section 5.3). This was to be expected, as the natural sand was here exposed at a depth of approximately 3.45 m below the modern floor level.

In a trench for a soakaway at the northern end of the hotel site, the natural subsoil (L6) lay approximately 1.15 m below the modern ground level (ie in places where no significant archaeological or modern features were present) (Sx 1, Fig 9). In the public car park to the east, in a trench for another soakaway, the natural subsoil (L6) was reached at approximately 1.55 m below the modern ground level (Sx 5, Fig 10). In a pipe trench some 18 m to the south-east of the soakaway, L6 was roughly 1.85 m deep (Sx 2, Fig 9).

6.2 Early Bronze Age flint dagger (Figs 5 & 11; Plate 7)

6.2.1 No prehistoric features were observed during the watching brief. The only prehistoric find recovered was an almost complete flint artefact. It was probably an Early Bronze Age flint dagger, and it is described in section 7.4.

The flint artefact was found by a workman inside Grey Friars. It came from an east-west trench that was dug during the underpinning of an internal wall. This wall extends along the north side of a room on the western side of the 18th-century part of Grey Friars (Fig 5). It was not possible to record the exact position and depth of the flint within the trench. The trench was only approximately 500 mm deep, measured from the contractor's temporary working level. The latter lay roughly 800 mm below the internal floor level. The

deposits observed in the trench consisted of post-medieval and/or modern dump/make-up (L2), probably associated with the existing building. It seems likely that the flint was redeposited in these layers.

6.2.2 This suggestion is reinforced by examining the approximate level at which the flint was found in comparison to the level of known archaeological deposits nearby. The internal floor level is approximately 320 mm higher than the external ground level in the yard area, immediately to the west. Here, a Roman tessellated pavement was uncovered in 2004 at 1.1 m below the modern external ground level (see section 3.4). Therefore, the tessellated pavement lay roughly 1.42 m below the internal floor level, whereas the flint artefact was found between only 800 mm and 1.3 m below the internal floor level. As the flint was found at a higher level than the Roman levels a short distance away, it seems likely that it was residual in post-Roman deposits.

6.3 Roman floors (Figs 3, 4 & 10; Plate 2)

6.3.1 In the southern part of the entrance foyer area, between Grey Friars and All Saints House, the floors of a Roman building were uncovered. These floors were exposed in the sides of several service trenches, not all of which were open at the same time. There was also much modern disturbance in this area. It was therefore not always possible to correlate the deposits in the different trenches with certainty. In this area, the latest Roman levels were reached at a depth of approximately 600-700 mm below the modern ground level.

6.3.2 The earliest Roman deposit uncovered in this part of the site was a thick layer of brownish, gravelly make-up (L8). In the southern part of the entrance foyer area, the upper part of L8 was observed in a few of the deeper trenches, underlying the floors of the Roman building. In this area, L8 was reached at a depth of approximately 820-930 mm below the modern ground level.

This layer was better attested in trenches further north in the entrance foyer area, and also in the adjacent narrow yard area on the eastern side of Grey Friars (now infilled). In this area, L8 lay approximately 1.6-1.75 m below the modern ground level (Sx 4, Fig 10). It was approximately 300-400 mm thick and sealed the natural subsoil (L6). It should be noted, however, that in this area there were no definite traces of Roman floors.

This extensive make-up deposit (L8) presumably extended back from the Roman town's main east-west street. No dating evidence was recovered from L8, but it was perhaps laid down during the spread of the town eastwards early in the post-Boudican period.

6.3.3 In places, in the southern part of the entrance foyer area, L8 was sealed by a yellowish-brown make-up deposit (L14), which was approximately 150 mm thick. This layer was slightly more clayey and less gravelly than L8, but they were fairly similar and L14 was perhaps deposited shortly after L8.

6.3.4 The make-up L14 was sealed in places by the remains of a thin mortar floor (L11; Plate 2; Fig 3, Sx 3, Fig 10). This floor consisted of a layer of slightly pinkish, gravelly mortar (*opus signinum*), 20-65 mm thick. It lay approximately 700-750 mm below the modern yard surface. As exposed in the service trench, L11 appeared to be a large patch, measuring approximately 2.5 m across. It was unclear whether this was just a remnant from a more extensive floor surface. There was no evidence that it was the remains of the base for a tessellated pavement, and no *tesserae* were recovered from this area.

The mortar floor (L11) was sealed by a thin charcoal-enriched occupation lens (L13), approximately 20-30 mm thick. Elsewhere in the room, L13 appeared to seal L14 directly.

6.3.5 Slightly to the south of L11, another patch of mortar floor (L15; Fig 3) was observed. It was approximately 120 mm thick and lay roughly 500 mm below the modern ground level. Thus, L15 was appreciably thicker than L11, it lay at a higher level than L11, and it also differed in composition to L11. The upper part of L15 consisted of pinkish mortar (*opus signinum*), approximately 30 mm thick. However the lower part of L15 consisted of loosish, light grey mortar. The mortar floor L15 sealed an occupation lens, which was similar to L13. It is possible therefore that L15 was stratigraphically later than L11, rather than part of the same floor. This could not be confirmed on site, and, if it was later, it was unclear whether L15 was a remnant of a more extensive floor or just a patchy reflooring.

6.3.6 In the south-western corner of the entrance foyer area, a loose deposit of very small pieces of Roman brick/tile and small fragments of pinkish mortar (*opus signinum)* was revealed in two separate service trenches (Fig 3). It was 90-150 mm thick, and lay approximately 450 mm below the modern ground level. This deposit was only observed over a small area, but

it was presumably the damaged remains of a mortar floor. Its depth, thickness and location suggested it was perhaps associated with L15. An alternative explanation is that it derived from the demolition and/or robbing of another Roman structure, such as a hypocaust or drain. The loose rubbly deposit sealed a thin clayey lens, 30-80 mm thick, which in turn overlay an occupation lens that looked similar to L13. The rubbly layer was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4).

Plate 2 Roman mortar floor (L11), viewed from the south-west.
(L11 shows as a thin, light-coloured layer in the side of a trench.)

6.3.7 In places, the occupation lens (L13) was sealed by a mixed, clayey, brownish layer (L12), roughly 80-150 mm thick. This was possibly a Roman make-up layer, laid down during a reflooring of the room. Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, L12 could have derived from the demolished daub walls of the building, after it went out of use. It was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4).

6.3.8 No definite evidence was observed of foundations or robber trenches associated with the remains of the Roman floors. A possible exception was an east-west, stone-and-mortar foundation (F5), which was uncovered slightly to the north of the floors (Fig 3). However it seemed more likely that this was of post-Roman date (see section 6.8.1). The extent of the Roman building associated with the floors was therefore unclear, but it presumably fronted onto the Roman town's main east-west street, which lay a few metres to the south of the site.

6.4 Other Roman deposits (Figs 2-5 & 9-10)

6.4.1 At the northern end of the entrance foyer area, and in the narrow yard area immediately to the west of it (now infilled), the earliest Roman make-up layer (L8) was sealed by thick yellowish-brown dump/make-up deposits (L5 & L7). These were more clayey and less gravelly than L8, and also had more inclusions, such as fragments of mortar, *opus signinum*, brick/tile, stone, animal bone, pottery, and oyster shells. The deposits on the western side of the area, close to Grey Friars, were labelled as L5, while those on the eastern side, close to All Saints House, were labelled as L7 (Sx 4, Fig 10). However, they looked fairly similar and were probably broadly contemporary. They were roughly 500-600 mm thick, although L7 seemed to be slightly thicker than L5. These deposits were reached at approximately 1.1-1.2 m below the modern ground level, and were sealed by 'dark earth' (L4).

It was not possible to examine L5 and L7 in detail, due to their depth and the narrowness of the trenches in which they were exposed. A quantity of finds, including some Roman potsherds, was recovered during machining; many were found by workmen. As these finds were not well stratified, the potsherds are of limited use as dating evidence. No definite building remains were identified associated with L5 and L7.

6.4.2 The above interpretation of L5 and L7 as a homogeneous deposit may be over-simplistic. For example, in a couple of places, thin, brownish dump lenses were observed within the upper parts of L7. These contained inclusions such as oyster shells and charcoal flecks, and lay between roughly 1.2 and 1.4 m below the modern ground level. They were perhaps dump layers or possibly one or more shallow pits.

Also, in the south side of a trench for a manhole, towards the northern end of the entrance foyer area, a gravelly deposit was observed (Fig 4). This lay between 1.4 m and 1.6 m below the modern ground level. This deposit lay close to, and at the same level as, exposures of L5. It appeared to be sealed by 'dark earth' (L4) or post-Roman pitfill. Not much of this gravelly deposit was seen, but it did not seem to be metalling.

6.4.3 A short distance to the north of the Edwardian east wing of Grey Friars, a yellowish-brown, clayey deposit, of probable Roman date, was uncovered in a service trench (a on Fig 2). This deposit was approximately 200 mm thick and lay approximately 1.3 m below the modern ground level. It sealed a reddish-yellow sandy layer, possibly natural subsoil (L6), in the bottom of the trench. It was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4) or post-Roman pitfill.

The clayey layer looked similar to the Roman dump/make-up deposit L5, which was exposed a short distance to the south and south-east. It was perhaps make-up, or alternatively was derived from the demolished daub walls of a Roman building.

6.4.4 In several other places close to the existing buildings, possible Roman deposits were observed. These were yellowish-brown, clayey deposits, and they appeared to be the latest surviving Roman layers in the areas where they were found.

A yellowish-brown, clayey deposit (L9; Fig 5) was observed in a trench for a drain, immediately to the north-west of the 18th-century part of Grey Friars. The clayey deposit L9 had been truncated by later activity, and survived for approximately 750 mm in the side of the trench. It lay at a depth of approximately 1.25 m below the modern ground level, and probably extended below the bottom of the trench, which was at roughly 1.4 m below the modern ground level. It was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4) and/or post-Roman pitfill. No structural remains were observed associated with L9, but it was probably of Roman date, although whether it was a dump/make-up layer or demolition debris was unclear.

This layer (L9) lay approximately 10 m north of the remains of the Roman tessellated pavement uncovered at a depth of 1.1 m in 2004 (CAT Report 290, 2). Although several service trenches were dug in the immediate vicinity of the 2004 trench (Fig 5), these were only 800-900 mm deep and so did not reach the tessellated pavement. Despite a careful search in some of the deeper trenches nearby, any remains of the tessellated pavement or associated Roman deposits appeared to have been destroyed by later activity.

6.4.5 Further traces of yellowish-brown, clayey deposits were observed in the area to the north of the Edwardian west wing of Grey Friars. These looked similar to L9 and were probably also of Roman date.

A yellowish-brown clayey layer was uncovered in a small trench that was dug immediately north of the north-west corner of the former chapel (b on Fig 2). The layer was reached at approximately 1.75 m below the modern ground level and extended below the bottom of the trench at 2.2 m deep. Much modern disturbance was observed in this trench.

Another yellowish-brown, clayey deposit was observed, about 8 m further north, in the bottom of a service trench that was dug in the north-west corner of a small outbuilding, known as the 'liquor store' (c on Fig 2). The clayey layer was exposed at the western end of an east-west trench dug up against the north wall. It lay approximately 1.15 m below the modern floor level, and extended below the bottom of the trench at 1.25 m deep. The layer was sealed by 'dark earth' (L4) and/or post-Roman pitfill.

6.4.6 A light yellowish-brown Roman clayey make-up layer (L16; Sx 1, Fig 9) was also uncovered in a trench dug for a soakaway at the northern end of the hotel site. It extended over the eastern part of the trench, but over the western part had been destroyed by a large post-Roman pit (F6). The deposit L16 was approximately 300 mm thick, and lay approximately 850 mm below the modern ground level.

A circular burnt patch (F8; Fig 6), approximately 700 mm across, was revealed in the top of L16, and was probably the remains of a small hearth. There was no definite evidence that L16 and F8 were located within a Roman building. No finds were recovered from L16 or F8, although a quantity of residual Roman finds, including pottery, *tesserae,* brick/tile and painted wall-plaster, was recovered from the large post-Roman pit F6.

6.5 Post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' (Figs 9-10)

6.5.1 Across much of the site, there was a thick layer of dark greyish-brown, post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' (L4). This layer sealed the latest Roman deposits. The 'dark earth' (L4) varied in thickness, but was typically between 400 mm and 650 mm thick. In a few places, L4 appeared to be approximately 1 m thick, but here it probably included post-Roman pitfills. In places, especially within the hotel grounds, L4 merged into, or was indistinguishable from, the post-medieval/modern topsoil (L10). Elsewhere L4 and L10 were separated by medieval and/or later deposits.

6.5.2 Inside the existing buildings, the trenches tended to be fairly shallow, and it was usually only the uppermost part of L4, if at all, that was exposed. In these areas, the top of L4 lay approximately 650-950 mm below the modern floor level. At the northern end of the entrance foyer area, between Grey Friars and All Saints House, the top of L4 lay approximately 600-700 mm below the modern ground level (Sx 4, Fig 10). Nearer the High Street frontage, L4 lay closer to the modern ground level (Sx 3, Fig 10).

In the northern part of the hotel site, including the car parking areas, the 'dark earth' (L4) lay 400-600 mm below the modern ground level (Sx 1, Fig 9; Sx 6 Fig 10). In the public car park to the east, 'dark earth' (L4) was observed below deposits associated with the friary at roughly 1-1.16 m below the modern ground level (Sx 2, Fig 9; Sx 5, Fig 10).

6.6 Medieval pit F3 (Fig 4)

6.6.1 The backfill of what was probably a large medieval pit (F3) was uncovered during machine trenching for a manhole on the eastern side of Grey Friars. This lay at the western end of a narrow yard area, a metre or so to the west of the lift shaft. The edges of the pit were not definitely established, as they lay beyond the sides of the trench. Some tip-lines within F3 however were visible, and these indicated that it was probably the northern, eastern and central parts of F3 that were exposed. The pit extended below the bottom of the trench for the manhole, which was at approximately 1.8 m below the modern ground level. Subsequently, the probable eastern edge of F3 was observed in a pipe trench dug to the east of the manhole. This suggested that F3 measured at least 2 m across.

6.6.2 The upper fill of F3 was a dark greyish-brown loamy deposit, with occasional lenses of lighter sandy and clayey material. These lenses were perhaps redeposited natural subsoil and Roman dump/make-up. The upper fill was fairly similar to the post-Roman topsoil that sealed it; so it was not possible to definitely establish the level that F3 was cut from; but this was probably about 1.25 m below the modern ground level. The lower fill of F3 was slightly lighter and more clayey.

6.6.3 Due to the depth of the trench, it was not possible to excavate F3 by hand. Some finds were recovered by hand from cleaning over the surface of F3 and some initial excavation (finds numbers 6 & 7, Table 4), but most were recovered during machining. As well as some residual Roman finds, there was a quantity of medieval potsherds of probable 12th-13th/early 14th century date. A fragment of peg-tile was recovered from the surface of F3 during cleaning. The medieval potsherds included a couple of sherds of Thetford-type ware, as well as several sherds of early medieval shelly ware and sandy ware. These suggest that F3 possibly predated the Franciscan friary, which was established shortly before 1237. Among the other finds from F3 was a small quantity of fired clay fragments, which were perhaps part of one or more clay moulds.

6.7 Large medieval pit F6 (Figs 2, 6 & 9; Plate 3)

6.7.1 A large pit (F6) was uncovered in the western part of a trench that was dug by the contractors for a soakaway in the car park at the northern end of the hotel site. During the initial machining of the trench, the uppermost backfill of F6 was revealed at a depth of 450-650 mm below the modern ground level. Trial excavation by CAT confirmed that the eastern edge of F6 extended across the middle of the trench. The northern, southern and western edges of F6 lay beyond the limits of the trench. Subsequently, most of the fill of F6 within the trench was dug out by machine under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Some collapse of the sides of the trench occurred, particularly along the south section of the trench, and the collapsed material was also largely removed. Recording was mainly done from the modern ground level looking down into the trench.

6.7.2 Close to the north section of the trench, the pit F6 was up to 2.8 m deep (ie the bottom of the pit lay approximately 3.25 m below the modern ground level). By the west and south sections of the trench, F6 was slightly less deep. For example, in the south-west corner of

the trench, F6 was approximately 1.8 m deep (ie the bottom of the pit lay roughly 2.4 m below the modern ground level). Machining continued half a metre or so into the natural sand (L6), so that the bottom of the trench was up to 3.75 m below the modern ground level. The full extent and shape of F6 was unclear, but it measured well over 5.3 m across from east to west.

As well as cutting a couple of metres into natural sand (L6), F6 also cut a Roman deposit (L16) and a layer of post-Roman topsoil (L4) (Sx 1, Fig 9). It was sealed by post-medieval/modern topsoil (L10).

6.7.3 While the backfill of F6 consisted mainly of greyish-brown sandy loam, numerous layers and tip-lines were visible within the fill (Plate 3). These varied in colour from dark greyish-brown to brownish-yellow. Within the main fill were large dumps of mollusc shells, peg-tile fragments, and loose mortar. There were also smaller quantities of other inclusions, such as fragments of septaria and slate, as well as some decayed wood. The lower 600 mm or so of the backfill was somewhat different to the main fill. It consisted of lenses of brownish-yellow sand and dark greyish-brown loamy fill, with fewer inclusions and finds than the overlying fill. Perhaps much of this material had slumped in from the edges of the pit. Some settlement or sinkage of later deposits into the top of F6 might be expected, but there was no discernible difference between the uppermost fill and the main fill of F6.

Plate 3 Medieval pit (F6) during machining, viewed from the south.

6.7.4 Many of the finds from F6 were recovered from the machine spoil and were not well stratified. As well as some residual Roman finds, there was a quantity of medieval potsherds. These were broadly dated to the 12th-15th century. There were a couple of sherds of possible 15th-16th century date, as well as several sherds that were clearly intrusive. Most, if not all, of these later sherds probably came from the uppermost backfill.

Other finds included several fragments of medieval floor tiles, some with traces of glaze, and a medieval bone pin (Plate 6). Significantly, no fragments of clay pipe were found.

Despite the limitations of the dating evidence, it seems likely that F6 was dug and largely backfilled during the medieval period. However, it is possible that the latest phase of backfilling continued into the 16th century.

6.7.5 Among the organic remains recovered from F6 was a quantity of animal bone (section 7.5). Some of the bone fragments were hand-picked out of the spoil during machining, both by CAT staff and by workmen. It is likely that in this material the larger mammal bone fragments are over-represented, as these were easier to recognise. Bone was also recovered by wet-sieving from soil samples (47) and (48). Sample (47) in particular contained bones from a range of fish species, including eel, mackerel, herring, ling, butterfish and rockling. This sample came from the upper fill (Fig 6) and, as well as some mammal bones, also contained bird bones, including fowl and goose.

6.7.6 There were large quantities of mollusc shells in F6, often concentrated in bands within the fill (section 7.6). A soil sample (48) was taken from a thick layer of shells near the eastern edge of F6, close to the north section (Sx 1, Fig 9), at a depth of approximately 2.3 m below the modern ground level. Shells were also recovered from soil samples (47), and a few were hand-picked during machining. Oyster shells dominated the assemblage, but there were also significant numbers of whelk and mussel shells. A few other species were represented, including some small land and freshwater molluscs.

6.7.7 The large pit F6 was probably a medieval sand extraction pit. It seems likely that it was associated with the Franciscan friary. The pit was presumably dug during a period of building or rebuilding at the friary, the main structures of which were located 50 m or less to the east of F6. The pit must have taken a considerable length of time to fill up, so this, together with the lack of firm dating evidence, means that it is difficult to accurately date this episode of construction.

6.8 Other possible medieval remains

(Figs 2-6; Plate 4)

6.8.1 Fragments of several foundations or footings, of possible medieval date, were uncovered close to the existing buildings. The most substantial of these was a stone-and-mortar foundation (F5; Plate 4; Fig 3) in the entrance foyer area between Grey Friars and All Saints House.

Plate 4 ?Medieval foundation (F5), viewed from the south.

The foundation F5 was exposed in the northern side of a pipe trench, close to the east wall of Grey Friars and approximately 6 m back from the High Street frontage. The foundation probably extended east-west, although only a small part of F5 was observed. It was at least 500 mm wide, but while the southern edge of F5 seemed fairly well defined, the position of the northern edge was not definitely established. The top of F5 lay approximately half a metre below the modern ground level, and it continued below the bottom of the trench, which was at approximately 940 mm below the modern ground level.

The depth and context of F5 suggested that it was probably post-Roman, rather than Roman, in date, but this is by no means certain. If it was medieval in date, F5 could have formed part of a building within the Franciscan friary. The friary gatehouse is known to exist in this area (CAT Report 391, 7). However, to reiterate, F5 could pre- or post-date the friary.

6.8.2 A fragment of possible stone-and-mortar foundation or footing (F4; Fig 4) was uncovered in the small yard area on the eastern side of Grey Friars. It was exposed briefly in the sides of a trench during the underpinning of the existing walls, and lay within the confines of the lift shaft. The ?foundation F4 lay 350-400 mm below the modern ground level, and was only approximately 300 mm thick. It appeared to be part of an *in situ* feature, rather than just redeposited rubble. However this could not be confirmed, and it was also unclear in which direction it extended and what its date was.

6.8.3 Another fragment of possible stone-and-mortar foundation or footing was observed in a trench in the south-western corner of a small yard area on the western side of Grey Friars (Fig 5). It lay from 600 mm to 900 mm below the modern ground level. Its direction and date were uncertain, as was whether it was medieval or later in date. As with F4, it was possibly just a redeposited area of rubble. At a slightly lower level, adjacent to this ?foundation, an olive-coloured deposit was observed in the bottom of the trench. This lay roughly 1.2 m below the modern ground level and was probably the fill of a post-Roman pit. It appeared to cut the 'dark earth' (L4).

6.8.4 In the trench dug for a soakaway in the northern part of the hotel site, a shallow gully (F7; Fig 6) was uncovered. It extended roughly east-west, and was approximately 300 mm wide and 110 mm deep. It was traced for approximately 4 m in the eastern half of the trench, although its western end was damaged during machining. The gully was sectioned, and a Roman sherd and several undiagnostic fragments of brick/tile were recovered. It cut the Roman make-up layer (L16). It was mostly overlain by post-Roman topsoil (L4), although the western part of F7 was sealed by a rubble spread (L17). Some of the rubble from L17 appeared to sink into the top of F7, as if the latter was not fully backfilled when L17 accumulated. The greyish-brown fill of F7 was similar to L4 and L17, suggesting that F7 was probably post-Roman in date. It lay 1.0-1.05 m below the modern ground level.

6.8.5 The layer L17 consisted of an irregular spread of rubble in a greyish-brown deposit, approximately 250 mm thick. The rubble spread extended roughly north-south for 1.8 m (Fig 6), although the northern end was damaged during machining. It was composed mainly of fragments of septaria with some pieces of Roman brick/tile, mortar and animal bone. A Roman potsherd was also recovered. The layer looked fairly similar to the overlying post-Roman topsoil (L4), and it seems likely that it was post-Roman in date. The Roman material from L17 was probably residual. The top of L17 lay 800-850 mm below the modern ground level.

6.8.6 Further deposits of possible medieval date were exposed during the ground reduction for the extension southwards of the car park at the northern end of the hotel site (Fig 2). Over the western half of this rectangular area, approximately 1.3-1.4 m was stripped off, most of which was dark greyish-brown, post-Roman topsoil (L4/L10). More differentiated and significant deposits were reached at a depth of 1.2-1.3 m below the modern ground level (Sx 6, Fig 10). This was roughly equivalent to the level of the top of the backfill of the large medieval pit F6, slightly to the north. Over the eastern part of the car park extension, only 800-900 mm was stripped off, and significant archaeological deposits were not reached.

The deposits in the bottom of the western part of the stripped area were in general lighter and browner in colour than the post-Roman topsoil, and included several well-defined patches. These consisted of yellowish-brown clayey, sandy, gravelly and mortary patches, and dumps of oyster shells and peg-tile fragments, often associated with flecks and fragments of mortar. It seems likely that most or all of these patches were layers in the backfill of pits of probable medieval or later date. They remained unexcavated and undamaged. Further details are available in the site archive.

6.8.7 Machine stripping also took place in a north-south trench dug for gabions, which extended southwards from the eastern part of the rectangular stripped area (Fig 2). The trench was dug to a depth of 700-750 mm below the modern ground level. Over the northern part of the trench, only post-Roman topsoil (L4/L10) was encountered and no significant archaeological deposits were exposed. However, in the southern part of the trench a thick dump of oyster shells (L19; Fig 2) was uncovered. It extended out for approximately 500 mm from the east section of the trench. This layer of shells was at least 500 mm thick, but continued below the bottom of the trench.

The deposits adjacent to L19 in the bottom of the trench were lighter brown in colour and more clayey than the post-Roman topsoil. Also, just over a metre to the north of L19, a band of brownish-yellow sandy material, 300 mm wide, extended from east to west across the trench. These deposits in the southern part of the trench, including L19, lay only 350-400 mm below the modern ground surface. They were probably layers within a large pit or pits of medieval or later date.

6.9 Deposits associated with the demolition of the medieval friary

(Figs 1, 7, 9 & 10; Plate 5)

6.9.1 During the machine-digging of pipe trenches and a soakaway in the public car park, archaeological remains were uncovered that were probably associated with the Franciscan friary. In the pipe trench to the south-east of the soakaway, two north-south robber trenches (F11 & F12) were exposed. They extended diagonally across the trench.

The more westerly robber trench (F12) was roughly 1.2 m wide. The top of the backfill of F12 was reached at approximately 840 mm below the modern ground level. Only the uppermost 260 mm or so of the fill of F12 was removed during the trenching. Most of the fill lay undisturbed below the bottom of the pipe trench, which was at approximately 1.1 m below the modern ground level. The fill was greyish-brown in colour, and contained many fragments and flecks of mortar, as well as some small stone fragments, and a few pieces of peg-tile and slate.

This robber trench F12 lay approximately 4 m to the south of a fragment of medieval foundation that was uncovered in a CAT evaluation trench (T2) in 2007 (CAT Report 408, 6). This foundation (labelled F20 in 2007) extended north-south and was on the same alignment as F12. Presumably the robber trench F12 represents post-medieval robbing of the medieval foundation uncovered further north in 2007.

6.9.2 Another north-south robber trench (F11) was uncovered further to the south-east in the same pipe trench. It was approximately 1.1 m wide, and was exposed to a greater depth than F12. The top of the backfill of F11 lay approximately 1 m below the modern ground level, and the fill of F11 extended below the bottom of the pipe trench at 1.75-1.8 m below the modern ground level (Sx 2, Fig 9). The robber trench F11 was fairly straight-sided, and the fill was greyish-brown in colour. The fill contained many fragments and flecks of mortar, as well as some small stone fragments, and a few pieces of peg-tile and slate.

The robber trench F11 appeared to extend parallel to, and approximately 7 m to the east of, F12. These robber trenches probably represent post-Dissolution robbing of medieval foundations that belonged to a building or buildings within the Franciscan friary. How soon after 1538 the robbing occurred is unclear.

6.9.3 Distinctive series of deposits were visible in the sides of the pipe trench immediately to the east of robber trench F12 and immediately to the west of robber trench F11. Those adjacent to the robber trench F12 consisted of thin horizontal bands of dark greyish-brown loamy soil alternating with lighter brown, more gravelly layers (L21; Plate 5). The different layers were each approximately 80-100 mm thick. The uppermost of these layers lay about 800 mm below the modern ground level, at roughly the same level as the top of the robber trench F12. They continued below the bottom of the trench at approximately 1.15 m below the modern ground level. The layers were visible in section for about 1.5 m to the south-east of F12, but then became less clear and the deposits more homogeneous. They were probably medieval make-up layers, associated with the foundation that stood in F12, or alternatively were related to the robbing of the foundation.

Plate 5 ?Medieval make-up layers (L21), viewed from the west.
(L21 shows as horizontal bands near the bottom of the pipe trench, immediately to the right of the backfill of robber trench F12.)

6.9.4 A similar series of thin layers was observed immediately to the west of robber trench F11. They consisted of alternating bands of dark greyish-brown loamy, brownish clayey, and brownish-yellow sandy deposits (L22; Sx 2, Fig 9). They were reached approximately 1 m below the modern ground level, at roughly the same level as the top of the robber trench F11. They continued close to or below the bottom of the trench at 1.75-1.8 m below the modern ground level. They were visible for about 1.6 m north-west of F11, before the deposits became more homogeneous.

It was not possible to record the deposits in detail and they remained undated. Both L21 and L22 were possibly medieval make-up layers, associated with the adjacent foundations. It seems most likely that they were make-up for the floors of a building or buildings within the friary. Alternatively they could be associated with the demolition of the friary buildings.

6.9.5 A layer of probable demolition debris (L20) was revealed in the northern part of the trench that was dug for a soakaway in the public car park (Fig 7; Sx 5, Fig 10). It consisted of a greyish-brown deposit with many fragments and flecks of mortar, as well as some pieces of stone and a few pieces of brick/tile. This was comparable to the fills of robber trenches F11 and F12. However, along the bottom of L20 was a well-defined mortar spread approximately 40-50 mm thick. In total L20 was about 260 mm thick, and it was reached approximately 900 mm below the modern ground level.

It was not possible to examine L20 in detail, but it appeared to extend roughly 400 mm out from the north section of the soakaway trench. It seems likely that it was originally more extensive, but was cut by a later pit (F10) over the southern part of the soakaway trench. A medieval floor tile (56) was recovered during machining and perhaps derived from L20.

In this same area, an extensive layer of demolition debris was uncovered in an evaluation trench (T2) in 2007 (labelled L8 in 2007; CAT Report 408, 5-6), and L20 was probably the same deposit. The medieval foundation that was uncovered during the 2007 evaluation (labelled F20 in 2007; *ibid*, 6) lay only 3.5 m or so to the east of the soakaway trench. The layer of demolition debris L20 was not closely dated, but presumably resulted from an episode of post-Dissolution demolition and/or robbing of buildings that had formed part of the Franciscan friary (*ibid*, 16). The significance of the thin mortar spread along the bottom of L20 was unclear, but it perhaps indicates that a floor of some sort, possibly of tiles, had been removed from this area.

6.10 Other post-medieval and modern remains (Figs 2, 4-10)

6.10.1 Several trenches were dug in the small enclosed courtyard immediately to the north of Hillcrest. In one of these trenches, in the south-eastern corner of the yard, a probable foundation or footing (F1; Fig 8) was exposed. Only a small part of the top of F1 was uncovered in the bottom of the trench. It was aligned north-south, and lay approximately 700 mm below the modern yard surface. The ?footing was traced for approximately 600 mm north-south and 300 mm east-west. It was constructed of brownish-yellow mortar, with a line of pale yellowish bricks, laid end-to-end, along its eastern edge. A peg-tile had been laid on edge between the bricks and the mortar. The western edge of F1 lay beyond the limits of the trench. The exposed part of F1 survived undamaged in the bottom of the trench, although immediately to the north it was cut by an existing modern manhole. To the east of F1, a small area of what appeared to be a pale brownish clay floor was uncovered. The ?footing F1 and the floor were sealed by post-medieval/modern dump/make-up (L2).

Too little was seen of F1 to be sure what it was, but it was perhaps a post-medieval footing, which supported a timber-framed structure, possibly an outbuilding. It was probably associated with an early phase of Hillcrest or the building that preceded it. A small structure is shown in this position on the 1876 OS map.

The other trenches in the courtyard were approximately 500-700 mm deep, and only deposits of post-medieval and/or modern dump/make-up (L2) were observed in them.

6.10.2 A narrow north-south trench for a drainage pipe was dug in a room at the rear of Hillcrest; on its eastern side. This pipe extended through the north wall of Hillcrest and joined-up with the pipe-trench containing F1 in the enclosed courtyard immediately to the north. Part of a possible feature (F2; Fig 8) was uncovered, approximately 360-370 mm below the existing concrete floor, in the room. It consisted of an upper yellowish, mortary layer, 30-40 mm thick, sealing a hard, brown, clayey deposit. The latter was at least 120 mm thick, but continued below the bottom of the trench at approximately 540 mm below the modern floor surface. This feature contained fragments of peg-tile and unfrogged 18th or 19th-century brick, as well as a 16th-17th century potsherd.

This post-medieval feature (F2) was possibly a footing or compacted make-up deposit, and was perhaps associated with the construction of a fireplace immediately to the west. The ?footing (F2) was probably contemporary with a yellowish-brown clayey layer (L3), which lay immediately to the east of it. This layer was at least 200 mm thick, but also continued below the bottom of the trench. It was perhaps a post-medieval clay floor or make-up layer. Both F2 and L3 were sealed by post-medieval or modern dump/make-up (L2), and their northern edges were cut by modern service trenches. They were probably associated with an earlier phase of Hillcrest.

6.10.3 A number of pits of probable post-medieval or modern date were uncovered during the watching brief, including a large pit (F10; Fig 7). The northern edge of F10 was revealed in a trench dug for a soakaway in the public car park. It was not possible to examine this pit in detail or to establish where it was cut from. The backfill was mainly exposed as a result of the collapse during machining of the south section of the soakaway trench. The pit was at least 2 m wide and had a mixed loamy fill. The pitfill extended below the bottom of the trench, which was at 2.75 m below the modern ground level.

Some finds (55), including several post-medieval sherds and a fragment of clay pipe stem, were recovered from the machine spoil, but possibly came from F10. It seems likely that F10 was post-medieval, or possibly later, in date, and was perhaps originally dug for sand and gravel extraction. It was not possible to demonstrate the relationship of F12 to the modern ditch (labelled F18 in 2007; CAT Report 408, 6-7) that was exposed in an evaluation trench (T2) in 2007.

6.10.4 Part of another large pit (F9; Fig 6) was observed in the south-eastern corner of the trench for a soakaway in the car park at the northern end of the hotel site. It extended out for approximately 2 m from the east section and 1.6 m from the south section. The pitfill was dug out by machine until natural sand (L6) was reached at a depth of approximately 3 m below the modern ground level. The resulting hole was then backfilled immediately with sand to prevent collapse of the edges, so it was not possible to record F9 in any detail. The pit itself was approximately 2.5 m deep, and was sealed by modern topsoil (L10). The upper 2 m or so of the backfill was greyish-brown in colour, and contained large quantities of peg-tile fragments and mortar flecks and fragments. There were also a few oyster shells and pieces of stone and brick. The lower 500 mm or so of the backfill was dark greyish-brown in colour; more loamy and with less inclusions than the upper fill.

The small part of F9 exposed in the soakaway trench clearly belonged to a large pit that was perhaps originally dug for sand extraction. No firm dating evidence was recovered from F9. During excavation, it was thought to be post-medieval or modern in date, but given its proximity to the large medieval pit F6, an earlier date cannot be ruled out. However, the sides of F9 appeared straighter than F6, and the backfill contained much building rubble, without the same quantities of shell and bone as was found in F6. A post-medieval or modern date for F9 therefore seems more likely.

The western edge of F9 was cut by a small rectangular trench, approximately 800 mm wide. Further west, a squarish pit, approximately 1.2 m across, cut the east edge of F6, and a rectangular pit, approximately 2.1 m long and 500 mm wide, cut the fill of F6. All three pits were probably modern geotechnical trial pits (Fig 6).

6.10.5 Extensive post-medieval and modern dump/make-up deposits (L2) were encountered in trenches across the site, both inside and outside the existing buildings. These deposits were mainly mixed, dark greyish-brown deposits, with abundant inclusions, such as fragments of brick, peg-tile, mortar, slate, oyster shell, clay pipe, and animal bone, as well as potsherds. These deposits varied considerably in thickness, from roughly 200 mm to over 600 mm thick. In trenches in the courtyard area to the north of the Edwardian west wing of Grey Friars, modern dump/make-up deposits about 1 m thick were observed, including lenses of sand and mortar.

6.10.6 During ground reduction in the northern part of the hotel site, a layer of large water-worn cobbles (L18; Fig 2 & Sx 6, Fig 10), approximately 200 mm thick, was uncovered. It clearly formed a cobbled surface within the grounds of Grey Friars. Occasional fragments of unfrogged brick were observed in L18. The cobbles lay 400-450 mm below the modern ground level. They extended out for approximately 2 m north of the south edge of the stripped area, and for approximately 15 m from the western edge of the stripped area. The layer of cobbles sealed post-Roman topsoil L4 and was sealed by post-medieval/modern topsoil L10.

Although not closely dated, L18 was probably of 18th or more likely of 19th-century date. It perhaps formed a track or path, rather than a yard surface. An east-west path is shown in roughly the same position as L18 on the 1876 OS map.

6.10.7 There were extensive deposits of dark greyish-brown topsoil (L10), of post-medieval and modern date, on the site. These were found at, or close to, the modern ground level in the hotel grounds to the north of the existing buildings, and also in the public car park to the east. In places, L10 merged into, or was indistinguishable from, the underlying post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' (L4). Elsewhere L4 and L10 were separated by medieval and/or later deposits. The post-medieval/modern topsoil (L10) varied in depth, but was typically between 300 mm and 500 mm thick.

Among the places where thick deposits of post-medieval and modern topsoil (L10) were exposed, were: the trenches for the boundary wall along the eastern side of the hotel site; the trenches for the retaining walls in the terrace area; trenches for drains along the north side of All Saints House; the trench dug for a soakaway in the northern part of the hotel site; the area of ground reduction in the northern part of the hotel site; and in the trenches for drains and a soakaway in the public car park to the east.

6.10.8 Undoubtedly, there were pits dug within the modern topsoil L10, although, as the pitfills were fairly similar to L10, it was not usually possible to distinguish pit edges.

A collection of finds, of late Victorian and/or Edwardian date (finds number 33), was recovered from L10 by workmen, who were digging a shallow trench immediately to the north of All Saints House (d on Fig 2). The finds included stoneware and other ceramic vessels, and glass bottles and jars. They probably derived from a pit, although it was not possible to distinguish the pit edges.

Several metres to the east of these finds, a large dump of post-medieval/modern brick and tile, consisting mainly of peg-tile, was uncovered in a shallow east-west service trench (e on Fig 2). This rubble had probably been dumped in a pit, which measured approximately 1.4 m east-west. The service trench lay between 800 mm and 1.15 m north of All Saints House

Another collection of finds, of Victorian and/or Edwardian date (finds number 35), was recovered from the modern topsoil by workmen approximately 9 m north of All Saints House, in the trench for the foundation of the boundary wall along the eastern side of the hotel site (f on Fig 2). Again, these finds included ceramic and glass vessels, and probably came from a pit, although it was not possible to make out the edges.

Yet another collection of Victorian and/or Edwardian finds (finds number 53; g on Fig 2), including ceramic and glass vessels, was recovered from the modern topsoil during ground reduction in the northern part of the hotel site. The finds lay between 300 and 500 mm below the modern ground surface, and were probably later in date than the cobbled surface (L18). The finds appeared to derive from a roughly circular pit, a metre or so across. However, the fill of the pit was very similar to L10 and it had been damaged during machining, so it was not possible to confirm the position of the pit edges.

6.10.9 Numerous post-medieval and modern brick walls and foundations were uncovered during the groundwork, particularly in and around the existing buildings. These indicated that there had been extensive post-medieval and later rebuilding on the site. Some of the brickwork possibly belonged to the walls of backfilled cellars, notably in the yard area on the western side of Grey Friars (Fig 5). Brickwork was also exposed in the northern side of the lift enclosure trench (Fig 4), and this probably formed part of the south wall of an existing cellar beneath Grey Friars.

Among the other modern features was a brick-lined soakaway or well with a brick capping that was uncovered during the construction of a north-south wall in the north-eastern corner of the Edwardian east wing of Grey Friars (Fig 4). Also, the western part of a north-south brick culvert was exposed in the side of a trench to the north of the east wing of Grey Friars (a on Fig 2). The culvert lay 650 mm below the modern ground level.

Not all of the modern foundations and other features that were recorded during the watching brief are shown on plan or are mentioned in this report. Further details are available in the site archive.

6.10.10 A variety of modern surfaces (L1) existed before building work began. Many were made of concrete. External surfaces of tarmac were also common, particularly in the car parking areas, and occasionally surfaces of paving slabs and bricks were encountered. The internal floors were mainly of wood or concrete, although modern mosaic floors (Gurney & Skinner 2014, 112) and cellar floors of brick were also observed. The various modern surfaces were typically between 100 mm and 250 mm thick, including the associated underlying base layers, which were usually of gravel or stone chippings.

7 Finds

7.1 Introduction

A quantity of finds was recovered during the archaeological watching brief. Where appropriate the finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context, in line with the recommendations in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b). The small finds are described in section 7.2. An explanation of the pottery fabric and form codes used is given in section 7.3. The flint dagger is described in section 7.4. Reports on the animal bone and mollusc shells from F6 are given in sections 7.5 and 7.6. The other finds, including brief descriptions of the pottery, are listed by context in Table 4 in Appendix 2. Further details are available in the site archive.

7.2 Small finds

by Stephen Benfield

SF 1. (9) L4. Post-Roman topsoil, outside Grey Friars east wing. Bone ?baton. Rectangular length of worked bone, with polished smooth surfaces and rounded edges; one rounded end with small V notch which may be damage, other end broken; one side mostly consists of the exposed cellular bone core that is smoothed at one end where it is level with the polished surfaces. Length 85 mm, width 15 mm; weight 13 g.

SF 2. (23) Unstratified, inside Grey Friars. Hone. Smooth, sub-rectangular piece of unidentified stone (dark surface, light and crystalline where damaged) with rounded, sub-square cross-section, probably naturally narrowing at one end with a small protruding lump, other end worked with a tapering point-sharpening groove made in each face, which deepens toward the end of the stone (*CAR* **5**, 76-78 & fig 79). Length 85 mm, maximum width 21 mm; weight 58 g. Late Saxon/medieval or later.

SF3. (26) Unstratified, inside Grey Friars. Spindlewhorl. Round body in orange-red fired clay with central perforation; possible deliberate vertical groove on exterior (for

similar shape see stone whorl in *CAR* **5**, fig 34, 1933). Diameter 29 mm, height 20 mm, diameter of central hole 10/11 mm, weight 18 g. Saxon-medieval.

SF4. (14) Unstratified, outside Grey Friars west wing. Pottery counter. Base of pot made into counter, edges smoothed, Fabric GX. Diameter 47 mm, thickness 13 mm, weight 16 g. Roman.

SF5. (29) Unstratified, inside Grey Friars. Copper-alloy coin. Very worn, edges damaged, extensive corrosion deposits with ?chaff covering much of surfaces. Illegible. Maximum diameter 27 mm, weight 8 g. Probably Roman.

SF6. (43) F6. Large medieval pit, upper fill. Copper-alloy object. Thick, rectangular piece with semi-circular hole (about 12 mm dia.) against one of the longer sides, corrosion on surfaces. Probably half of a mounting point for a bar/spindle. Length 26 mm, width 15 mm, thickness 9 mm, weight 19 g. Medieval?

SF7. (46) F6. Large medieval pit, found by workman during machining. Plain copper-alloy strip, rectangular, tapering slightly; cut away at one end, and possibly on whole or part of one longer side; some faint traces of lipping on the right-angle corner of the piece. Appearance does not suggest any great age. Length 60 mm, maximum width 27 mm; thickness 0.5 mm, weight 9 g. Post-medieval-modern?

SF8. (51) L17. ?Medieval rubble spread. Flint flake, weight 14 g.

SF9. (45) F6. Plate 6. Large medieval pit, recovered from backfill during machining. Bone point, made on the shaft extending from the proximal end of a pig fibula. The bone has been trimmed on the mid-shaft, probably to form a pin or awl (*CAR* **5**, 6-7). The shaft has been fairly roughly cut at an angle from one side to form the point. There is smoothing along the underside of the shaft extending almost to the proximal end, and there may be some slight, smooth use-wear along the shaft in general, but otherwise the piece appears unmodified with little sign of use. The rough nature of the cutting of the point might possibly suggest repair of a broken piece. Length 57 mm, weight 1.5 g. Saxon-early medieval.

Plate 6 Medieval bone pin SF9

7.3 Pottery fabric and form codes

(Identifications by Stephen Benfield)

The Roman pottery was recorded using the Colchester Roman fabric type series (*CAR* **10**) and the National Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). Roman pottery vessel forms refer to the Colchester - *Camulodunum* (Cam) - pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). The medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester post-Roman fabric type series (*CAR* **7**).

Table 1: List of pottery fabrics

Fabric codes	Fabric name
Roman:	
AA	amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 & Verulamium region amphorae)
AJ	amphorae (Dressel 20)
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian
CH	oxidised Hadham wares
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares, except CB (roughcast ware)
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HAM GT	Hampshire grog-tempered
HD	shell-tempered and calcite gritted wares
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated wares
TZ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the continent
UX	Romano-Saxon grey ware and types in similar fabric
Post-Roman:	
9	Thetford-type ware
12	Early medieval shelly wares
13	Early medieval sandy wares
20	Medieval sandy greywares (general)
21A	Colchester-type ware
22	Hedingham ware
23A	Medieval Surrey white wares (general)
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares (general)
42	Surrey/Hampshire Border white ware ('Border' ware)
43	Martincamp flasks
44	German slipwares
44B	Werra slipware
45	German stonewares (general)
45C	Raeren stoneware
45M	Modern stoneware, probably English
46	Tin-glazed earthenware (general)
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
51B	Modern (19th-20th century) flowerpot

7.4 Flint dagger (Fig 11; Plate 7)

(from notes by Peter Berridge and Katie Marsden)

7.4.1 An almost complete flint artefact was found by a workman inside Grey Friars (see section 6.2). He took it to the museum for identification, and accordingly it was recorded as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS ID: ESS-2B9134). The artefact is roughly oval in shape with a pointed distal end, thickened middle and narrow proximal end. It measures 108 mm in length, 36 mm in width and 16 mm in thickness. The flint is a light mottled grey, with a creamy white patination covering approximately 90% of the dorsal face and approximately 25% of the ventral face. Less than 5% of cortex remains, located at the tip of the dagger. The bulb of percussion is pronounced. On the dorsal face there are long, thinning flake removals and short, parallel edge retouch. There is small, short edge retouch on the ventral face.

7.4.2 The artefact was examined by several flint tool specialists, including Peter Berridge, Nick Barton, Alison Roberts, and Hazel Martingell, who also drew it (Fig 11). They concluded that the flint artefact probably lies at the cruder end of the range of Early Bronze Age flint daggers, and that it is likely that it was made in this country (Berridge 2013).

Plate 7 Early Bronze Age flint dagger
(Photographs reproduced by kind permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, PAS ID: ESS-2B9134.)

7.5 The animal bone from medieval pit F6

by Julie Curl

7.5.1 Methodology

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine the range of species and the elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were taken, to 0.2mm using digital callipers where appropriate, following Von Den Driesch, 1976. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'fish'. The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and analysis. A summary table is presented in this report (Table 2) and a catalogue of the bone is included in Appendix 3. A full catalogue of the faunal remains is available in the digital archive.

7.5.2 Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 1699g of bone, consisting of 248 elements, was recovered from six fills from the medieval pit F6. Additional small fragments of bone were seen in the unsorted sample residue from (47), these mostly very small and unidentifiable fragments have not been included in the quantifications and analysis in this report. The bone fragments from finds numbers (39), (41), (45) and (50) were hand-picked on site, while those from (47) and (48) came from the wet-sieving of soil samples.

The bone preservation and collection is good, with very small elements of fish recovered. A good deal of fragmentation has occurred, with frequent, often heavy,

butchering throughout the assemblage. Further fragmentation of smaller bones is to be expected from pressures of the soil and processing of sieved samples.

A few fragments of bone from the fill (47) had been burnt heavily, resulting in white, fully oxidised remains. A single bone from the fill (48) had been charred. These remains are probably from a domestic or cooking fire and discarded with other rubbish.

One bone from (45) and a single bone from (50) show light canid gnawing, although on one sheep/goat calcaneus, this was just one puncture hole, suggesting less enthusiastic gnawing from a well-fed animal. Meat waste from this site may have been given to domestic or working dogs and the rubbish discarded with other food waste; scavenger activity is possible around a rubbish pit.

7.5.3 Species

A total of ten species were identified from pit F6. Three species of food mammals were recorded, two species of bird and five of fish. Quantification of the bone by finds number, species and NISP can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2: Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species, finds number and NISP.

Species	Finds number and NISP						Species total
	(39)	(41)	(45)	(47)	(48)	(50)	
Bird - fowl	2		5	2		1	10
Bird - goose	1			1		2	4
Bird – juv, no ID			1				1
Bird - misc				5			5
Cattle	3	1	6	3		13	26
Fish	1						1
Fish - butterfish				8			8
Fish - eel				10	4		14
Fish - herring				6	2		8
Fish - ling				3			3
Fish - mackerel				11			11
Fish - misc				60	12		72
Fish - rockling				7			7
Mammal	8		4	35	14	4	65
Pig/boar			2			1	3
Sheep/goat	1		2		2	5	10
Finds number total	16	1	20	151	34	26	248

Cattle were seen in five of the fills with a range of head, limb and foot bones. The cattle mandible from (50) showed full wear on the third molar, suggesting a mature animal; maturity is also suggested by the high levels of calculus present. The sheep/goat remains were seen from four fills, with a variety of limb bones, rib, scapula and mandibles, suggesting a range of cuts of meat.

A pig radius and fibula were found in (45). The pig fibula is the proximal end of the bone and the bone has been trimmed on the mid-shaft to form a pin or other tool (Plate 6), although there is little evidence for polishing of the surface from use and wear, which suggests this object was not used. A butchered porcine scapula was recorded from (50).

Goose were recorded from three fills, with leg bones from three different birds, with a chop on the distal end of one juvenile goose tibiotarsus. Fowl were recorded from two fills. Wing bones were seen in (39) and a selection of robust bones from (45). A large fowl tarsometatarsus, with a 14.5 mm spur was found in (45). The tarsometatarsus (Plate 8) is robust and measured over 92 mm in length. Although this bird is in the range for a small peacock, it is more likely that this bird is a large cockerel that was perhaps kept for fighting, a popular sport in the medieval period. The additional growth on the shaft, the exostoses on

the proximal end of the bone and the growth around the base of the spur, suggest possible trauma and/or an infection, perhaps supporting the idea that this is a large male kept for sport.

Plate 8 Fowl tarsometatarsus from (45) F6.
(The spur and several areas of additional, abnormal growth are visible.)

Canid gnawing was seen on a sheep/goat calcaneus from fill (45), attesting to the presence of this species, even temporarily or as a scavenger, at this site.

Six species of fish were identified. Five were of marine origin, with bones from mackerel, herring, rockling, ling and butterfish, all of which could have been caught in local waters. Rockling and butterfish are inshore species, possibly caught by hand methods, rather than boat and nets. Mackerel and herring in particular were very popular fish and eaten in large numbers. The eel would be found in lowland rivers, fens and ditches and would have been a popular addition to the diet.

7.5.4 Discussion

The range of bone from this medieval pit is quite typical of an urban medieval assemblage. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig are likely to all be from domestic stock and would have provided the bulk of the meat, while cattle and sheep could have also been kept for milk. Cattle may also provide traction (ploughs or carts) and the sheep would have also provided fleeces, which would be in demand in the medieval period with the increasing wool trade.

Fowl and goose would have provided additional meat, as well as a supply of eggs. It is quite likely that the large male in the assemblage might have been a bird kept for fighting, which was a popular sport in the medieval period (Reeves 1997), although perhaps not if the waste was from the monastery. It is possible that this particular bird might have come from one of the other nearby establishments in the town or provided for meat if it lost a fight or even moved to this site by a dog or a fox.

The fish would have all been available locally and available at local markets and would have provided a useful and acceptable source of meat for religious fasting days, and this is expected in the waste from a monastery.

7.6 The mollusc shells from medieval pit F6

by Julie Curl

7.6.1 Methodology

All of the shell was identified to species where possible using a variety of comparative reference material. The molluscs were recorded by group (bivalve or univalve), general habitat (land, freshwater or marine) and by species; counts were taken for all. Bivalves were also counted and recorded according to the half present, recording top and base shells, which would allow an estimation of the number of individuals present. All molluscs in the assemblage were briefly scanned for any modifications such as drilling (for use in

decoration), burning or for traces of pigments (where they have been used as painters palettes). A basic catalogue is included in Appendix 4 and the full database is available in the digital archive as part of the general faunal catalogue.

7.6.2 Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 4,345g of mollusc remains were recovered from four fills of the medieval pit F6, consisting of 546 elements. The shells from finds numbers (39) and (45) were hand-picked on site, while those from (47) and (48) came from the wet-sieving of soil samples. The remains are in very good condition, larger shells are mostly complete and there are a few remains of tiny land snails and one pond snail.

Additional small fragments of oyster, mussel, piddock and tellin were seen in the unsorted sample residue from (48), which were not included in the totals for this report. No burning was seen on any of the shells and none showed any signs of pigment that might suggest use as painter's palettes. No other modifications were seen.

7.6.3 Species and discussion

Twelve species were identified in the mollusc assemblage: five species of marine origin, six species are land snails and one is a freshwater pond snail. Quantification of the assemblage by species, NISP and finds number is presented in Table 3 and a fuller record is in Appendix 4.

Table 3: Quantification of the mollusc remains by species, finds number and NISP.

Species	Finds number and NISP				Species total
	(39)	(45)	(47)	(48)	
Aegopinella nitidula			2		2
Ceciloides acicula				3	3
Columella aspersa				2	2
Columella edentula			1		1
Common oyster	2	3	105	266	376
Lymnaea peregra (Wandering pond snail)				1	1
Macrogastra rolihii				1	1
Merdigera obscura			1		1
Mussel		1	1	94	96
Oyster - misc frags				38	38
Piddock				2	2
Tellin				3	3
Whelk		2	1	16	19
?Piddock frag				1	1
Finds number total	2	6	111	427	546

Marine species

The Common European Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) was the most frequently identified in four contexts and found in large numbers in the main fill of (48). This species is common all around the British coast and a popular food supplement for centuries.

Mussel were seen in three fills, more common in (48). This species is common all around the British coast and a popular food. Whelk were recorded from three fills, with several in the fill (48), and is also common around the British coastline.

Fragments of Common Piddock (*Pholas dactylus*) were seen from the fill (48), this is a widespread species, but more common in the south and known for boring into wood. A Tellina species was found in (48), these frequently highly coloured and striped species are seen around Britain. Both of these species are less common for food, but can be eaten and may be collected with other main food molluscs.

Freshwater species
Lymnaea peregra, or the Wandering Pond Snail, was found in the sieved remains from (48). This species is quite common in ponds, slow-flowing rivers, ditches, brooks, springs and bogs.

Land snails
Six species of land snail were identified in small numbers from the sample material. From the fill (47) there were three species of land mollusc. Two specimens of *Aegopinella nitidula* were recorded, which is a species common in gardens, woods, grassland and wasteground. *Merdigera obscura* is a species of woods and hedges, preferring richer calcareous soils. *Columella edentula* is a widespread species of varied habitats, including in vegetation.

The fill (48) produced a further three species of land snails. Three specimens of *Ceciloides acicula* were found, a subterranean snail, preferring calcareous soils, it is often brought to the surface in rabbit burrows and molehills. Two *Columella aspersa* were recovered, which is a widespread snail, although it prefers woodland. A singe *Macrogastra rolihii* was identified, a small snail found in leaf litter and deciduous woodland, more frequent in southern Britain, especially the south-east.

7.6.4 Conclusions

The marine species are likely to be from food waste, especially the oysters, mussel and whelk, which are all common supplements to the diet. The paddock and tellin may have been eaten, but they are perhaps more likely to have simply been collected with the other marine shells.

The land snails, especially the ones preferring woodland, may have been collected and brought to the site on wood collected for domestic and cooking fires and they might leave the woodpile and seek the refuge of a damp rubbish pit that may have included vegetation. The pond snail may have been brought to the site in collected water. All of the smaller snails may also have been eaten by birds and brought to site via these birds.

8 Discussion

8.1 Despite extensive modern disturbance on the site, significant archaeological deposits were recorded during the watching brief. Most of the contractors trenches inside the existing buildings were fairly shallow and did not reach Roman or medieval levels, although some post-medieval and later remains were observed. In the area outside, but close to, the existing buildings, Roman deposits were reached in some of the deeper trenches, although medieval remains were sparse. Roman, medieval and later deposits were uncovered in the hotel car park at the northern end of the site, and also in the public car park to the east.

A quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief, although many of these were poorly stratified or unstratified.

8.2 Among the finds was an intriguing flint artefact, found by a workman inside Grey Friars. This was probably an Early Bronze Age flint dagger. It was not possible to record its exact position, depth and context, although most likely it was residual in a post-medieval or modern deposit, associated with the existing building. How it became incorporated into this deposit remains unclear.

8.3 No trace of any Boudican deposits was identified on the site. Boudican remains have not been recorded elsewhere in this part of the town (*CAR* **6**, fig 2.1). It therefore seems unlikely that the site was built over in the pre-Boudican period. The earliest Roman deposit uncovered on the site was an extensive gravelly make-up layer (L8) in the entrance foyer area. No dating evidence was recovered from this layer, but it was perhaps laid down as part of the post-Boudican extension of the town eastwards (*CAR* **3**, fig 7). This took place around the time that the town wall and associated gates were built, probably in the late 1st century (*CAR* **6**, 14-18).

8.4 Floors from a Roman building were uncovered in service trenches in the southern part of the entrance foyer area. The floors appeared to belong to one room, but there was no definite evidence for walls or foundations associated with them. It seems likely that the building had timber-framed walls infilled with daub. Although the extent of the Roman building was unclear, it probably fronted onto the Roman town's main east-west street, which lay slightly to the south of the site. This street extended between the Balkerne Gate and the East Gate, roughly on the line followed today by the High Street. No firm dating

evidence was recovered from the floors, but they seem to represent the first phase of building activity on the site, perhaps in the late 1st century.

The tessellated pavement uncovered in 2004 (CAT Report 290, 2) on the western side of Grey Friars was not re-exposed. It was unclear whether this tessellated pavement belonged to the same Roman building as the floor deposits uncovered in the entrance foyer area. Also, no evidence was found of the possible Roman metalling observed outside Grey Friars in 1930 (Hull 1958, 75). On the basis of more recent discoveries, the presence of a Roman street in this position seems unlikely.

8.5 Roman deposits were uncovered in several other places on the site, including a small Roman hearth or oven (F8) near the north end of the hotel grounds. The hearth probably lay towards the northern end of Insula 24 in the Roman town, although there was no definite evidence that it was located within a Roman building.

Many Roman finds were found during the watching brief, including pottery, *tesserae,* brick and tile, painted wall-plaster, and fragments of *opus signinum.* These were often residual in post-Roman contexts. The quantity of finds, together with the evidence of Roman floors and other deposits, suggests that significant Roman remains survive on the site. Little had previously been found in this part of the Roman town, so the recent discoveries show that it was not just a backwater.

8.6 Medieval remains in the vicinity of the existing buildings were fairly sparse. They included a medieval pit (F3) that was revealed during machining for a manhole on the eastern side of Grey Friars. The finds from F3 included potsherds of Thetford-type ware and other early medieval wares. These suggest that F3 may predate the Franciscan friary, which was established shortly before 1237.

Also, fragments of several stone-and-mortar foundations or footings, of possible medieval date, were uncovered close to the existing buildings. The best preserved of these (F5) was located in the entrance foyer area, between Grey Friars and All Saints House. If it was of medieval date, it perhaps formed part of the friary gatehouse (CAT Report 391, 7).

8.7 At the northern end of the hotel site, a large medieval pit (F6) was uncovered in a trench for a soakaway. The pit was almost 3 m deep and was probably dug for the extraction of sand and gravel. It seems likely that it was associated with the Franciscan friary, the main structures of which lay 50 m or less to the east of the pit. It was perhaps dug during a phase of building or rebuilding at the friary, although it was not possible to closely date this phase. The pit was probably backfilled during the later medieval period, although backfilling possibly continued into the 16th century. Among the finds recovered from F6 were quantities of fishbone and mollusc shells, and these emphasized the importance of coastal fisheries in the medieval period.

Similar large sand and gravel extraction pits, ranging in date from Roman to post-medieval and later, have been found on a number of sites in Colchester. They include medieval examples uncovered in the 2007 evaluation trenches in the public car park to the east of the hotel site (CAT Report 408, 7-8). A couple of possible later examples (F9 and F10) were observed during the present watching brief.

8.8 In the public car park, more direct evidence was found for the Franciscan friary, including two robber trenches (F11 and F12) and a spread of demolition debris (L20). These deposits were probably associated with the demolition of the friary buildings and the robbing of building materials from them. They supplement the evidence uncovered in the 2007 evaluation trenches (CAT Report 408). How soon after the Dissolution in 1538 the demolition occurred is unclear. No clay pipe fragments were observed in the demolition/robbing deposits during the recent work in the car park, and this may provide tentative evidence that they date to sometime between 1538 and *c* 1600. However demolition probably took place over many years, and some remains were still visible in the 18th century (CAT Report 408, 16).

8.9 Little is known about the layout of the main friary buildings, although they appeared to be set back from the High Street (CAT Report 408, 15; *Col Arch* **20**, 24-5; *VCHE* **9**, 307). A wide east-west foundation was uncovered in an evaluation trench (T1) in 2007 (Fig 7), and could represent part of the friary church. The robbed-out foundations F11 and F12 possibly formed part of the same building or of a cloister attached to the church.

An alternative reconstruction of the layout has been suggested, with the church further south on the High Street frontage (Ashdown-Hill 2009, 69 & 2015). In this interpretation, the foundations uncovered recently in the car park belonged to the friars' domestic buildings (Ashdown-Hill 2009, 71).

8.10 The post-medieval and modern remains that were uncovered during the watching brief indicated that there had been many alterations to the buildings on the site. These remains included foundations, cellar walls and other features, such as soakaways and culverts; all usually of brick. There were also extensive dump/make-up deposits. These remains probably dated to the early phases of the three existing 18th-century buildings: Grey Friars, All Saints House and Hillcrest, or, less likely, the buildings that immediately preceded them.

Several collections of Victorian and/or Edwardian finds, mainly of household items, were recovered from the grounds of the hotel site. These were probably buried in shallow pits, and included a number of complete or near complete stoneware and glass bottles and jars.

9 Abbreviations and glossary

amphora	large Roman pottery storage jar, used especially for oil and wine
AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Boudican	dating to the time of the native uprising led by Boudica in AD 60/1
Bronze Age	period from *c* 2300 BC to *c* 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made; usually a layer or a feature
cover loam	a natural, wind-blown deposit, probably formed towards the end of the last Ice Age
dark earth	post-Roman topsoil; probably the result of long-term cultivation, refuse disposal and pit-digging.
DBA	desk-based assessment
Early Bronze Age	period from *c* 2300 BC to *c* 1500 BC
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford
feature	an identifiable context, such as a pit, a wall or a posthole
hypocaust	Roman underfloor heating system
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists (now the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists)
imbrex	curved Roman roof tile
insula	an area or block within the grid pattern of a Roman town (plural *insulae*)
medieval	period from AD 1066 to *c* AD 1500
modern	period from *c* 1850 onwards to the present
mortarium	Roman mixing bowl, with grit-roughened interior (plural *mortaria*)
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from *c* 4000 BC to *c* 2000 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
NISP	Number of Individual Species elements Present
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS
opus signinum	Roman 'concrete' with a pinkish appearance due to the addition of brick/tile fragments
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
peg-tile	rectangular roof tile of medieval or later date; intact examples usually have two peg-holes
post-medieval	period from *c* 1500 to *c* 1850
residual	finds that were deposited earlier than the context in which they were found
robber trench	a trench left after the robbing of building materials from a foundation; eg Roman foundations were often robbed in the medieval period
Roman	period from AD 43 to *c* AD 410
RRCSAL	Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
SAM	scheduled ancient monument
samian	glossy Roman fine reddish pottery, used mainly as tableware
septaria	calcareous, clay concretions found on the Essex and Suffolk coast
tegula	flanged Roman roof tile
tessera	small ceramic cube used to make Roman tessellated and mosaic floors (plural *tesserae*)
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester and Ipswich Museums

U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 References

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

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Colchester historic buildings forum:
www.colchesterhistoricbuildingsforum.org.uk/

Colchester Adult Learning Assistance:
www.greyfriarscolchester.org.uk

11 Acknowledgements

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12 Archive deposition

The archive from the archaeological investigation, including the site records, photographs and finds, will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, under accession code COLEM 2012.8, in accordance with *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b) and *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (IfA 2007).

13 Appendices

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Project management archive
1.1 Copies of the brief issued by CBCAO on paper & CD
1.2 Copies of the WSI produced by CAT on paper & CD
1.3 Site plans provided by developer on paper & CD

2 Site archive
2.1 Attendance register
2.2 Context sheets
2.3 Photographic record sheets
2.4 Site plans/sections on 13 sheets of A4 paper
2.5 Site plans/sections on 2 sheets of A3 drafting film
2.6 Site photographs on CD
2.7 Site diary/notes on 27 sheets of A4 paper
2.8 Sundry papers

3 Research archive
3.1 Lists of finds, including small finds, on paper & CD
3.2 Copies of specialists reports on paper & CD
3.3 Photographs of selected finds on paper & CD
3.4 Copies of final report (CAT Report 740) on paper & CD

Not in wallet:

4 Finds archive
4.1 One medium-sized plastic box containing the small finds
4.2 Four museum boxes

Appendix 2: list of finds by context

All weights are in grammes. For the pottery fabric and form codes, see section 7.3 (identifications by Stephen Benfield). A report on the animal bone from F6 is given in section 7.5 and a catalogue in Appendix 3. A report on the mollusc shells from F6 is given in section 7.6 and a catalogue is in Appendix 4. The clay tobacco pipe types follow those used in *CAR* **5**. The glass is clear, unless stated otherwise. The fabrics of the ceramic building materials are reddish in colour, unless stated otherwise.

Table 4: list of finds by context

Context	Finds no	Qty	Description	Wt (g)	Comments
F2	3	1	post-medieval pottery sherd	46	German slipware, Fabric 44, rim sherd from a dish, probably Werra slipware, Fabric 44B (late 16th-early 17th century; *c* 1580-1630)
F3	6	2	Roman pottery sherds	22	Fabric CH: base sherd (late 3rd-4th century); Fabric GX: dish sherd (Roman).
		9	medieval pottery sherds	126	Fabric 9: jar rim sherd (9/10th-12/13th century); Fabric 13: 4 base and body sherds (late 11th-12th/early 13th century); Fabric 20: 4 body sherds (late 12th-13th/early 14th century). Group date: late 12th-13th/early 14th century
		7	fired clay fragments	184	Five pieces (129 g), with a buff, smooth surface and grey body in a moderately dense, silty fabric; interior surface missing, slight curvature to some of

					the surface pieces, others flat, pieces joining as two pairs and clearly all pert of the same fired clay structure/object. Possibly part of a clay mould. Two other pieces (55 g), possibly separate from the pieces above, grey/reddish brown silty (slightly coarse) fabric, one with a flat, pitted surface, other a small rounded piece.
		7	animal bone fragments	143	
		1	iron nail fragment	6	41mm long
		1	*imbrex* fragment	198	
		2	probable Roman brick/tile fragments	257	
		1	peg-tile fragment	85	
F3	7	1	Roman pottery sherd	8	Fabric GX: jar rim sherd (Roman)
		2	animal bone fragments	221	
F3	8	8	Roman pottery sherds	187	Fabric GX: jar rim sherd (burnished); bowl rim sherd, thick fabric and single groove (burnished); 5 body sherds (3rd-4th century). Fabric KX: jar rim sherd, Cam 278? (late 2nd-3rd century).
		19	medieval pottery sherds	234	Fabric 9: jar rim, rippled neck sherd from a jar (9th/10th-12th/13th century); Fabric 12: body sherd (shell-temper dissolved out) (9th/10th-12th century); Fabric 13: upright beaded rim, 4 body sherds (late 11th-12th/early 13th century); Fabric 20: 12 body sherds (late 12th-13th/early 14th century). Group date: late 12th-13th/early 14th century
		57	animal bone fragments	1,780	
		13	probable *tegula* fragments	4,508	2 with signatures, 2 with cutaways
		6	probable *imbrex* fragments	968	2 in buff fabric
		1	Roman keyed tile fragment	184	brownish fabric, with stamped chevron pattern
		1	*tessera*	23	
		1	Roman brick fragment	1,088	37mm thick
		5	Roman brick/tile fragments	680	1 in buff fabric, 1 in grey fabric
		1	iron nail fragment	4	37mm long
F6	39	9	Roman pottery sherds	105	Fabric CZ: sherd from a rouletted beaker (early/mid 2nd-mid/late3rd century); Fabric GX: 7 sherds, incl. Cam 306? rim sherd (mid/late 2nd-3rd century), 2 sherds with internal water? scale; Fabric KX: bowl base sherd (mid 2nd-4th century)
		1	medieval floor tile fragment	161	no trace of glaze, 22-24mm thick
		8	peg-tile fragments	410	including 2 joining pieces
		2	*tesserae*	62	
		1	painted wall-plaster/mortar fragment	209	degraded but traces of bluish white paint with red ?stripe
		1	painted wall-plaster fragment	27	painted white
		2	slate fragments	77	
		1	iron nail fragment	4	33mm long
F6	41	1	Roman pottery sherd	6	Fabric GX: jar shoulder sherd (2nd-4th century)
		6	medieval/post-medieval pottery sherds	61	Fabric 20: 4 sherds (late12th/13th-14th century), incl. cooking pot rim; Fabric 23A: 1 sherd (mid 13th-15th century); Fabric 45C?: 1 sherd (late 15th-16th century)
F6	42	1	medieval pottery sherd	8	Fabric 20: body sherd (late 12th/13th-14th century)
		4	peg-tile fragments	437	
F6	45	10	Roman pottery sherds	252	Fabric AJ (Dressel 20): body sherd (mid 1st-early 3rd century); Fabric CH: rim sherd, flat-top wide-mouthed flagon (late 3rd-4th century); Fabric DJ: body sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century); Fabric GX: 4 sherds, incl. Cam 404 beaker rim sherd (Roman – 2nd century+); Fabric KX: lattice-decorated jar

					sherd (mid 2nd-3rd century); Fabric HZ: 2 sherds (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
		11	medieval pottery sherds	327	Fabric 9: sagging base sherd from jar (mid 9th-mid 12th century); Fabric 13: 2 grey sandy sherds, upright slightly flaring rim, base (12th century); Fabric 20: 4 sherds, incl. square-rimmed cooking pot (13th-14th century); Fabric 21A (early): 2 base sherds, glazed (13th-14th century); Fabric 22: jug base (mid 12th-early 13th century)
		1	modern pottery sherd	5	Fabric 51B: flowerpot body sherd (19th-20th century)
		1	glass fragment	6	dark medieval ?window glass
		1	medieval floor tile fragment	115	white slip on surface, 21mm thick, traces of mortar on edges
		1	*imbrex* fragment	663	
		7	peg-tile fragments	786	4 in greyish fabric
		3	*tesserae*	84	1 in buff fabric
F6	47	1	?Roman pottery sherd	2	Fabric GX
		12	medieval pottery sherds	62	Fabric 20: one small medieval greyware sherd (12th-14th century); Fabric 13: 10 sherds, including part of an abraded rim, and the condition of these sandy sherds suggests they may be residual and some may have been burnt (11th-early 13th century); Fabric 21A: one base sherd is typical of Colchester-type ware, it has an internal clear glaze on the base only (13th-14th century).
		22	peg-tile fragments	530	
		7	brick/tile fragments	173	probably Roman
		1	*imbrex* fragment	37	cream-coloured fabric
		1	*?tessera*	30	
		2	burnt daub fragments	12	
		8	iron fragments	11	incl 5 nail shaft fragments, lengths 31, 24, 23, 22 & 18 mm
		12	slate fragments	25	
F6	48	2	peg-tile fragments	37	
		1	burnt daub fragment	5	
F6	49	1	medieval pottery sherd	115	Fabric 21A: skillet sherd, a relatively rare form (*CAR* **7**, 143), internal glaze (15th-early 16th century)
F6	50	7	Roman pottery sherds	128	Fabric AA: body sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century); Fabric GX: 6 sherds (Roman)
		24	medieval & post-medieval pottery sherds	1,235	Fabric 9?: 1 rippled body sherd from a jar (mid 9th-mid 12th century); Fabric 13: 1 sherd (11th-12th century); Fabric 20: 8 sherds, includes jug handle & rim, and cooking pot rim (13th-14th century); Fabric 21A: 12 sherds, mostly oxidised, incl. sherds from a green-glazed baluster jug (14th-15th century), chafing dish with clear glaze (prob.15th century), thumbed large jar/cistern base and jar rim (14th-16th century); Fabric 40: glazed body sherd (mid/late16th-early 18th century); Fabric 51B, probable flowerpot base (19th–20th century)
		1	glass fragment	5	broken in two in modernity; dark medieval ?window glass, with straight edge
		1	Roman brick fragment	310	35-38mm thick
		2	*tesserae*	72	
		2	medieval floor tile fragments	289	one 20mm thick, with traces of dark green glaze on edge and mortar adhering to surfaces and edge; other 23mm thick
		1	?medieval brick fragment	372	85mm wide, 38mm thick, traces of green glaze on end
		3	peg-tile fragments	883	one with peg hole
		1	slate fragment	15	
F7	44	1	Roman pottery sherd	2	Fabric GX: folded beaker (late 2nd/3rd-4th century)
		5	brick/tile fragments	59	?Roman
F11	57	1	?Roman pottery sherd	7	Unidentified oxidised sherd, lightly burnished with

					clear wheel turning marks in moderately fine, slightly micaceous fabric that has a grey core. The overall nature suggests a Roman date, although the fabric is not easily recognised as such and a later dating in the post-medieval period may be possible.
		3	peg-tile fragments	72	one with peg hole
		1	*imbrex* fragment	89	
		1	brick/tile fragment	61	15-18mm thick, possibly medieval floor tile fragment
		1	probable post-Roman brick fragment	83	yellowish fabric, mortar adhering on one face
		1	slate fragment	43	
L2	1	1	post-medieval pottery sherd	26	Fabric 42: base sherd (mid 16th-17th century)
		1	clay pipe stem fragment	6	with foot
		2	animal bone fragments	206	
		1	?post-medieval glazed ?pipe fragment	152	brown glaze, reddish fabric, 25mm thick
L2	2	1	Roman pottery sherd	10	Fabric GX: body sherd (Roman)
		3	post-medieval pottery sherds	60	Fabric 40: 2 body sherds, green glaze (17th-18th/19th century); Fabric 45: body sherd (16th-17th/18th century) Group date: 17th-18th/19th century
L2	30	1	medieval pottery sherd	85	Fabric 21a: rim sherd from a large storage jar with horizontal thumbing below rim and dark glaze on exterior (13th-15th/early 16th century, possibly 15th-early 16th century)
L4	5	2	Roman pottery sherds	25	Fabric GX: body sherd (Roman); Fabric KX dish with groove, Cam 40B type (mid 2nd-3rd century)
		12	medieval pottery sherds	198	Fabric 13: upright flat-topped rim sherd, base sherd, 2 body sherds (late 11th-12th/early13th century); Fabric 20: base sherd, 7 body sherds, many heavily sooted (late12th-13th/early 14th century)
		1	post-medieval pottery sherd	4	Fabric 40: body sherd, orange glaze, both surfaces, some brown speckles (17th-18th/19th century, probably post *c* 1650/70.
		1	?post-medieval/modern vessel glass fragment	3	
		18	animal bone fragments	394	
		1	*tegula* fragment	810	
		1	*imbrex* fragment	71	
		3	Roman brick fragments	2,974	36-44, 38-43 & 38mm wide
		2	Roman brick/tile fragments	448	
		1	*tessera*	18	
L4	21	1	Roman pottery sherd	52	Fabric TZ: mortarium rim, part of spout, abraded, Cam 499 (mid/late 2nd-3rd century)
L5	11	4	Roman pottery sherds	75	Fabric GX: 3 sherds (Roman); Fabric HZ: 1 sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
		3	animal bone fragments	74	
		1	*tegula* fragment	126	
L5	32	1	Roman pottery sherd	145	Fabric HZ: base sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
L7	18	5	Roman pottery sherds	35	Fabric MP rim sherd (late 3rd-4th century, prob. late 4th century); Fabric DJ: base sherd, micaceous (Roman); Fabric GX: 3 sherds (Roman)
		2	medieval pottery sherds	9	Fabric 9: 2 rippled neck sherds, one sooted (mid 9th-mid 12th century)
		2	*tegula* fragments	2,123	1 with signature & cutaway
		3	animal bone fragments	222	
L7	19	3	Roman pottery sherds	349	Fabric AJ: Dressel 20 amphora (mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century); Fabric DJ: 1 sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
		3	animal bone fragments	320	
		1	*imbrex* fragment	205	

L7	22	10	Roman pottery sherds	138	Fabric BASG: platter/dish base sherd (mid-late 1st century); Fabric GX: 7 sherds (Roman); Fabric HZ: 2 sherds (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
		3	animal bone fragments	51	
L10	33	18	modern pottery vessel & sherds	2,868	Fabric 45m: intact stoneware vessel, height 95mm, weight 362g, 'porpoise' oil container stamped near foot on side **PORPH**(*sic*)**ISE OIL FOR NOURISHING & WATERPROOFING ALL KIG**(*sic*)**DS OF BOOTS**, residue in bottom; 1 large profile sherd from another stoneware vessel, height 110mm, weight 347g; 5 sherds from another stoneware vessel, weight 284g; Fabric 48d: 11 sherds from one near complete large bowl, glazed whitish on inside and yellowish on outside, floral design on outside, weight 1,875g. Group date: mid/late 19th-20th century
		11	modern glass bottles & fragments	1,247	1 intact bottle, height 140mm, weight 102g, **M L** stamped on base; 1 intact green glass bottle, rectangular with bevelled edges, height 160mm, weight 188g, **MAILLE** stamped on side; 1 intact ?medicine bottle, rectangular with bevelled edges, height 165mm, weight 207g, **E T PROSSER COLCHESTER** stamped on side; 1 intact cylindrical jar, with screw thread, height 140mm, weight 272g, **YORK GLASS C$^{o.s}$. PATENT** stamped on base; 1 cylindrical green glass bottle, complete but in 2 pieces, height 190mm, weight 224g; 1 blue glass bottleneck fragment, 21g; 1 vessel base fragment, with criss-cross decoration, 195g; 1 glass ?base fragment, 23g; 2 other vessel fragments, 15g. Late 19th-early 20th century
		2	modern window glass fragments	16	
		1	clay pipe bowl fragment	8	rim missing
		1	clay pipe stem fragment	5	
L17	40	1	Roman pottery sherd	6	Fabric GB: Cam 40B (mid 2nd-mid/late 3rd century)
		1	*imbrex* fragment	330	
		1	Roman tile fragment	368	
		1	Roman brick fragment	374	35mm thick
		4	animal bone fragments	310	
U/S	4	1	Roman pottery sherd	24	Fabric EA: beaker base (mid/late3rd-4th century)
U/S	10	3	Roman pottery sherds	70	Fabric GB: dish rim, Cam 40B (mid 2nd-3rd century); Fabric GX: rim and body sherd (Roman).
		1	medieval pottery sherd	23	Fabric 20: base sherd (late12th-13th/early 14th century)
U/S	12	2	Roman pottery sherds	132	Fabric GX: body sherd from large jar (Roman); Fabric HD: body sherd (4th century, probably mid-late 4th century)
		3	animal bone fragments	165	
		2	*tegula* fragments	784	1 with paw print (probably cat)
		1	Roman brick fragment	703	44mm thick
U/S	13	1	Roman pottery sherd	91	Fabric GX: rim from a large narrow-necked jar with stab decorated cordon and vertical slashes on shoulder (Roman, 2nd-3rd/4th century?)
U/S	15	3	Roman pottery sherds	47	Fabric EA: rim from a bowl with painted scrolls (late 3rd-4th century); Fabric GB: rim sherd, Cam 278 (mid 2nd-3rd century); Fabric GX: body sherd (Roman)
		1	clay pipe stem fragment	1	
		1	animal bone fragment	4	
		1	*imbrex* fragment	191	
		1	Roman brick/tile fragment	498	
		1	peg-tile fragment	41	
U/S	16	2	medieval pottery sherds	167	Fabric 21a: body sherd with white slip painted trail,

					(13th-14th century); sherd from thick walled pot, possibly burnt (15th-early 16th century?)
		2	animal bone fragments	132	
		2	peg-tile fragments	176	
U/S	17	2	Roman pottery sherds	106	Fabric DJ: base from large jar, possibly small amphora in Fabric AA, (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century); Fabric GA: base sherd from a dish (mid 2nd/3rd-4th century)
U/S	20	2	Roman pottery sherds	168	Fabric EA: flanged bowl (late 3rd-4th century); Fabric HZ: body sherd, flaking (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century)
		1	modern glass bottle	309	probable ginger beer bottle, neck missing, stamped on face **MALLINSONS COLCHESTER**, stamped near foot on other face **E. BREFFIT & C^{o} L^{d} MAKERS LONDON** Late 19th-early 20th century
		2	animal bone fragments	46	
		1	*tegula* fragment	1,217	with signature & cutaway
		1	Roman brick/tile fragment	429	15mm thick
U/S	24	1	medieval pottery sherd	72	Fabric 21a: rim sherd from a large jar, probably Colchester-type ware, glazed internal and splashes on exterior (14th/15th-16th century).
		4	post-medieval pottery sherds	193	Fabric 40: body sherd (late 16th-18th century); Fabric 46: 3 sherds from a charger(s), including a rim and base sherd with blue pattern on white background (17th-18th century)
		1	peg-tile fragment	58	with mortar adhering
U/S	25	4	Roman pottery sherds	120	Fabric DJ: body sherd (mid 1st-2nd/3rd century); Fabric CZ: pedestal beaker base (3rd century); Fabric GX: 2 rim sherds from jars/bowls (Roman)
		7	post-medieval and modern pottery sherds	404	Fabric 42: 3 rim and base sherds from a bowl, all over green glaze (mid 16th-17th century); Fabric 45: handled bowl (15th-17th century); Fabric 45m: near complete inkwell, broken in two; profile sherd from a jar/mug (18th/19th-20th century)
		1	?medieval/post-medieval floor tile	615	traces of pale yellowish glaze; 115mm square, 25mm thick
		5	clay pipe stem fragments	21	
		9	animal bone fragments	487	
U/S	27	*c* 50	Roman amphora sherds	3,451	Fabric AJ: Dressel 20, Spanish oil amphora, body sherds, laminating, almost certainly all part of one vessel (mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century)
U/S	28	4	Roman pottery sherds	33	Fabric GA: jar body sherd (mid 2nd/3rd-4th century); Fabric GX: 3 body sherds (Roman)
		1	animal bone fragment	36	
U/S	31	1	medieval pottery sherd	22	Fabric 21a: body sherd (13th-15th/early16th century)
		1	post-medieval/modern pottery sherd	14	Fabric 40: glazed handle (17th/18th-19th century)
		1	?post-medieval vessel glass fragment	61	
		2	clay pipe bowl fragments	17	2 joining pieces, probably Type 8, *c* 1680-1710
		5	clay pipe stem fragments	39	
		15	animal bone fragments	219	
		1	oyster shell	30	
U/S	34	3	Roman pottery sherds	260	Fabric AA: body sherd, smoothed surface from an amphora or large storage vessel (mid 1st-3rd century); Fabric DJ: body sherd, oxidised coarseware, probably late Roman (3rd-4th century?); Fabric GX: rim sherd, burnished (Roman)
		1	*imbrex* fragment	169	
		1	Roman brick fragment	1,247	35-37mm thick
U/S	35	4	modern pottery vessels	1,372	Fabric 45m: complete small jar with printed label **R. HALLS, COLCHESTER.**, height 110mm, weight 399g; complete jar, cylinder body, narrower slightly

					flaring neck to plain rim, height 192mm, weight 750g; Fabric 48d: complete paste pot, body and lid, white, plain, max dia 82mm, weight 223g. Group date: 19th-20th century
		2	ceramic handles	264	with corroded ?brass fittings
		4	intact modern glass bottles	536	1 bottle, height 150mm, weight 171g, illegible stamp on base; 1 long-necked bottle, height 168mm, weight 211g, 5 cordons at junction of neck & body, 5 cordons around bottom of body; 2 identical small bottles, height 72mm, weight 75g & 79g, one with remains of metal ?stopper; also glass marble, ?bottle-stopper, 8g. Late 19th-early 20th century
U/S	36	3	post-medieval pottery sherds	155	Fabric 40: 2 base sherds from a mug or cup with dark brown all-over glaze; complete large handle with similar dark brown glaze but almost certainly from a second vessel (17th/18th-19th century)
		2	?post-medieval glass fragments	45	2 bottle neck fragments with rims
		15	animal bone fragments	483	
U/S	37	4	Roman pottery sherds	54	Fabric DJ: 1 sherd (Roman); Fabric GX: 2 sherds (Roman); Fabric HAM GT: 1 sherd (late 3rd-4th century)
		7	medieval/post-medieval pottery sherds	120	Fabric 13: 1 sherd (11th-12th century); Fabric 20: 3 sherds (13th-14th century); Fabric 22: 1 glazed sherd with orange-brown stripe (mid 12th-early 13th century); Fabric 23: 1 green mottled glazed sherd (13th-15th/16th century); Fabric 43?: 1 sherd (16th-17th century)
		3	peg-tile fragments	177	
		1	*tessera*	9	buff fabric
		1	clay pipe stem fragment	3	probably burnt
		10	animal bone fragments	300	
		2	painted wall-plaster fragments	34	1 painted white; other degraded but possibly white
		1	slate fragment	10	
U/S	38	1	medieval pottery sherd	9	Fabric 20: cooking pot sherd (late 12th/13th-14th century)
		1	medieval floor tile fragment	170	green glaze, 20-24mm thick, traces of mortar on edge and underside
		1	*tessera*	30	
		1	painted wall-plaster fragment	7	degraded, but slight trace of ?yellowish paint
U/S	52	4	Roman pottery sherds	49	Fabric BACG: body sherd (2nd century); Fabric GX: body sherd (Roman); Fabric KX: 2 rim sherds, Cam 37B (late 2nd-mid/late 3rd century)
		1	medieval pottery sherd	31	Fabric 20: cooking pot rim sherd (late 12th/13th-14th century)
		3	modern pottery sherds	496	Fabric 45M: 3 stoneware sherds, including lid
		6	?post-medieval/modern glass bottle fragments	856	1 green bottle with kick-up base, neck & shoulder damaged, 312g; 1 green glass bottleneck fragment, 91g; 2 clear gless bottleneck fragments, 92g; 1 green glass bottle kick-up base fragment, 179g; 1 clear glass bottle base fragment, 182g
		1	modern window glass fragment	18	
		2	*tegula* fragments	572	both with slight traces of mortar adhering, including on breaks, and thus reused
		1	Roman brick fragment	1,205	35-38mm thick
		1	peg-tile fragment	64	
		1	animal bone fragment	190	
U/S	53	1	Roman pottery sherd	40	Fabric AJ: body sherd (mid 1st-early 3rd century)
		17	modern pottery vessels & sherds	3,052	Fabric 45M: intact stoneware bottle, height 173mm, weight 545g, stamped on side near neck **JAMES CATER COLCHESTER**, stamped on side near foot **BAILEY & C^{O} FULHAM**; intact

					stoneware jar, height 154mm, weight 505g, stamped on side near foot **PRICE L BRISTOL**; intact brown stoneware jar, height 152mm, weight 560g, stamped on side near foot **BAILEY & C^{o} FULHAM**, traces of paper label on side; intact stoneware bottle, height 148mm, weight 343g; 6 plain stoneware sherds, 805g, including 3 rims & 2 joining body sherds; 1 blue/grey decorated stoneware sherd, 17g, with inscription **–ER DRINK ??ND DO H K**, 6 other post-medieval/modern potsherds, 277g. Late 19th-early 20th century
		12	modern glass bottle fragments	1,655	1 green glass kick-up base fragment; 2 blue ?medicine bottle fragments; 1 clear ?lemonade fragment with rounded base; 1 clear ?ginger beer bottle, stamped on side **-DWARDS PATENT [L]ONDON**, stamped near foot **E. BREFFIT & C^{o} L^{d} MAKERS LONDON**; 4 pale blue fragments, including 2 necks & 1 base; 3 clear fragments, including 1 neck & 1 base with joining shard . Late 19th-early 20th century
		1	?modern wine glass fragment	31	
		1	*tegula* fragment	88	
		1	iron nail fragment	20	55mm long
		1	piece of iron slag	24	
U/S	54	2	Roman pottery sherds	11	Fabric GB (BB2): sherd with lattice-decorated surface (early/mid 2nd- early/mid 3rd century); Fabric KX: body sherd, burnished (2nd-3rd/4th century)
		3	medieval pottery sherds	124	Fabric 20: rim sherd from a neckless cooking pot, grey fabric (early/mid 13th-14th century); body sherd, sooted exterior (12th/13th-14th century); sherd from a large thick-walled pot, burnt, possibly a piece from a ceramic chimney pot or louver (*CAR* **7**, 104-106) (prob. medieval)
		1	?medieval floor tile fragment	81	20mm thick, no trace of glaze
U/S	55	3	post-medieval pottery sherds	189	Fabric 40: single sherds from three plain, post-medieval dishes & bowls. The sherds consist of: a complete profile sherd from a shallow bowl/dish, with a splash of glaze on top of an externally thickened rim and spots on external body; a profile sherd from an unglazed medium-sized bowl with externally thickened (almond-shaped) rim; a rim sherd (not glazed) from a bowl in sandy, orange-coloured fabric with externally thickened rim and groove around body. The rim glaze and absence of glaze on the bowls is reminiscent of late Colchester ware (Fabric 21A) (dated 15th-early 16th century). Overall the pottery can be seen as lying early in the post-medieval tradition The body groove is typical of pots in Fabric 40 as is the flat base of the dish. (16th-early 17th century)
		1	clay pipe stem fragment	5	
		1	peg-tile fragment	115	
		1	?medieval floor tile fragment	47	20mm thick, with mortar adhering, no trace of glaze
U/S	56	1	medieval floor tile fragment	346	16mm thick, 110mm wide
U/S	58	1	Roman pottery sherd	7	Fabric UX: micaceous, with black, burnished surface and grey fabric (Roman, probably late 3rd-4th century)

Appendix 3: catalogue of the animal bone from F6

Listed in finds number order.

Key:
NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present
Age – ad = adult, juv = juvenile (older than 1 month)
Element range – ll = lower limb, ul = upper limb, scap = scapula, pel = pelvic bone, r = rib, sk = skull, mand = mandible, t = tooth, v = vertebrae
Butchering = c = cut, ch = chopped, s = sawn

Table 5: catalogue of the animal bone recovered from medieval pit F6.

Finds no	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Element range	Ch	C	Path	Comments
39	16	152	Cattle	3	3		ul, r, f	2	1		proximal phalange, radius shaft, rib
39			Sheep/goat	1	1		ll				cuboid
39			Bird - Goose	1		1	ll	1			tibiotarsus, chop at distal end, juvenile
39			Bird - Fowl	2	2		ul	1			ulnas
39			Fish	1			misc				fragment
39			Mammal	8			misc				
41	1	2	Cattle	1	1		t				lower P4
45	20	250	Cattle	6		6	t, v, r				
45			Sheep/goat	2	2		ll				calcaneus with canid tooth puncture, metacarpal - sheep
45			Pig/boar	2		2	ul				radius, proximal fibula worked into a pin or tool, possibly unused
45			Bird - Fowl	5	5		ll, wishbone			1	2 tibiotarsus, wishbone, robust femur, large robust tarsometatarsus with spur and pathology
45			Bird - Juv	1		1	ul				humerus, copper stained
45			Mammal	4			misc				
47	151	99	Cattle	3			rib frags				
47			Bird - Fowl	2							femur, tibiotarsus
47			Bird - Goose	1							proximal tibiotarsus
47			Bird - Misc	5							
47			Fish - Mackerel	11			jaws, v				

47			Fish - Herring	6			v			one burnt white
47			Fish - Rockling	7			jaw, v			
47			Fish - Ling	3			jaw			
47			Fish - Butterfish	8			jaw, v, scap			
47			Fish - Eel	10			v			
47			Fish - Misc	60						
47			Mammal	35						
48	34	14	Sheep/goat	2			r	2		chopped sections of rib
48			Fish - Eel	4			v, scap, misc			
48			Fish - Herring	2			v			
48			Fish - Misc	12			misc			
48			Mammal	14			misc			
50	26	1182	Cattle	13	13		mand, ul, v, scap, sk, r, pel	8	3	1	mandible with M3 in full wear, heavy butchering, chopped and gnawed rear skull frag, heavy calc dep.
50			Sheep/goat	5	5		mands, ul, scap, ll, t	3	3		chopped and cut scap, robust mandibles and radius
50			Pig/boar	1	1		scap	1	1		
50			Bird - Fowl	1	1		ll				tibiotarsus
50			Bird - Goose	2	2		ll, fercula				tibiotarsus, fercula
50			Mammal	4			misc				

Appendix 4: catalogue of the molluscs from F6

Listed in finds number order.

Key:
Mollusc type: F = freshwater, M = marine, L = land mollusc
NISP + Number of Individual Species elements Present
Top = Top shell (Bivalve)
Base = Base shell (Bivalve)
MNI = Minimum number of individuals
Frag = Fragments only (probably part of other shells)

Table 6: catalogue of the molluscs recovered from medieval pit F6.

Finds no	Ctxt Qty	W (g)	F	M	L	Species	NISP	Top	Base	MNI	Apex	Frag	Comments
39	2	26		2		Common Oyster	2	1	1	1	2		
45	6	66		3		Common Oyster	3	2	1	2	3		
45				2		Whelk	2			2	2		
45				1		Mussel	1			1	1		
47	105	1076		105		Common Oyster	105	50	49	50	99	6	
47	6	7		1		Whelk	1				1		
47				1		Mussel	1						fragment
47					1	Columella edentula	1				1		widespread, varied habitats inc vegetation
47					1	Merdigera obscura	1				1		common in woods and hedges, pref richer calcareous soils
47					2	Aegopinella nitidula	2				1		common in woods, gardens, grassland, waste ground
48	304	2430		304		Common Oyster	304	119	129	137	266		
48				38		Oyster - misc frags	38					38	
48	96	601		94		Mussel	94				71	23	
48				2		Tellin	2				1	1	
48	11	4		2		Piddock	2			1	1		Common Piddock.
48				1		Tellin	1			1	1		Tellina sp.
48				1		?Piddock frag	1						
48					3	Ceciloides acicula	3			3	3		subterranean, calcaerous soils, seen in molehills and burrows
48					2	Columella aspersa	2			2	2		growth lines more regular than Columella edentula, widespread, pref woodland
48					1	Macrogastra rolihii	1			1	1		leaf litter, deciduous woodland, south of England, esp south-east
48			1			Lymnaea peregra	1			1	1		Wandering pond snail, common in ditches, ponds, brooks, springs, bogs
48	16	135		16		Whelk	16			16	16		

Distribution list:
OMC Investments Ltd
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
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tel.: 01206 501785
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 27.11.15

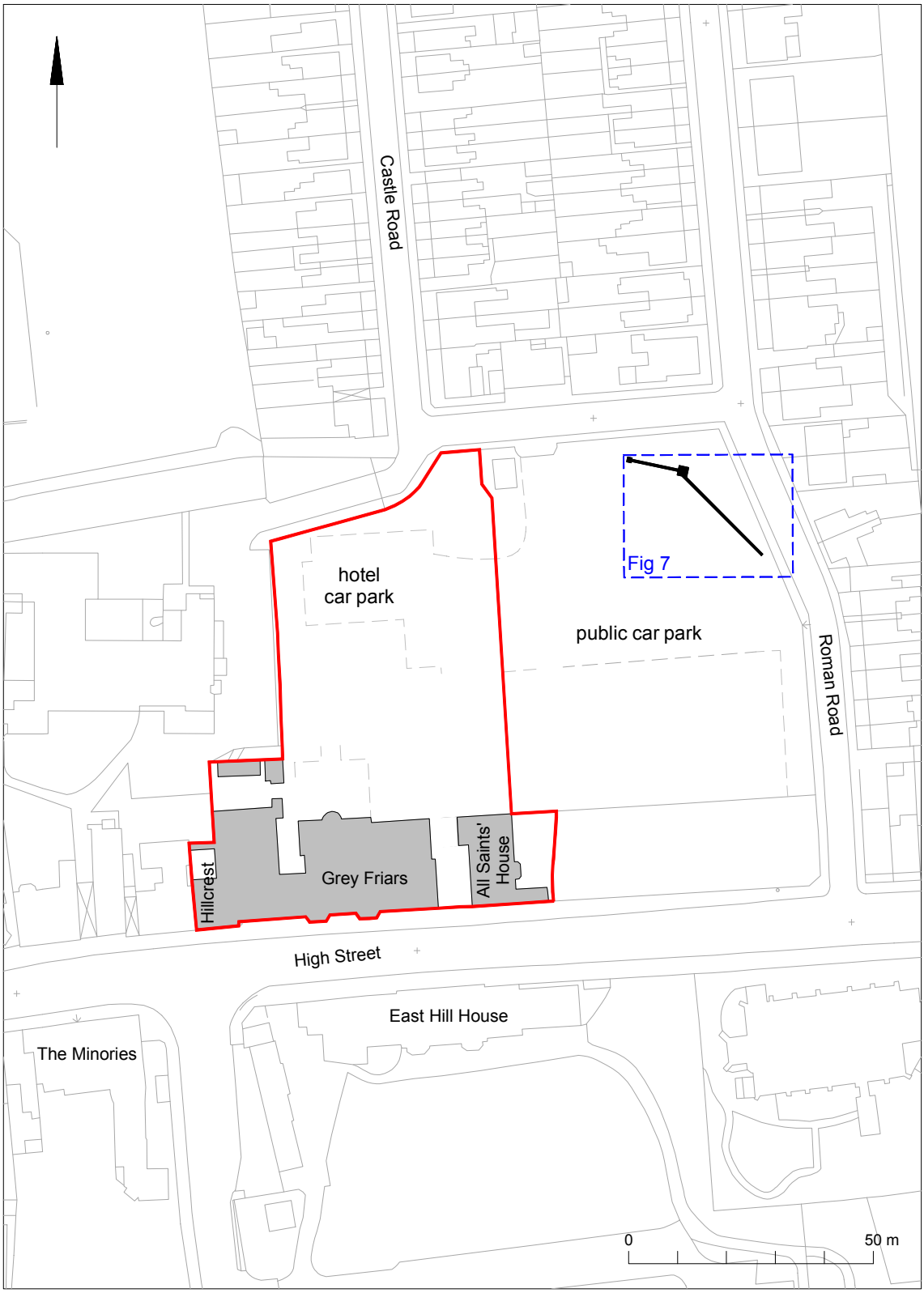

Fig 1 Site location, with the hotel site outlined in red.

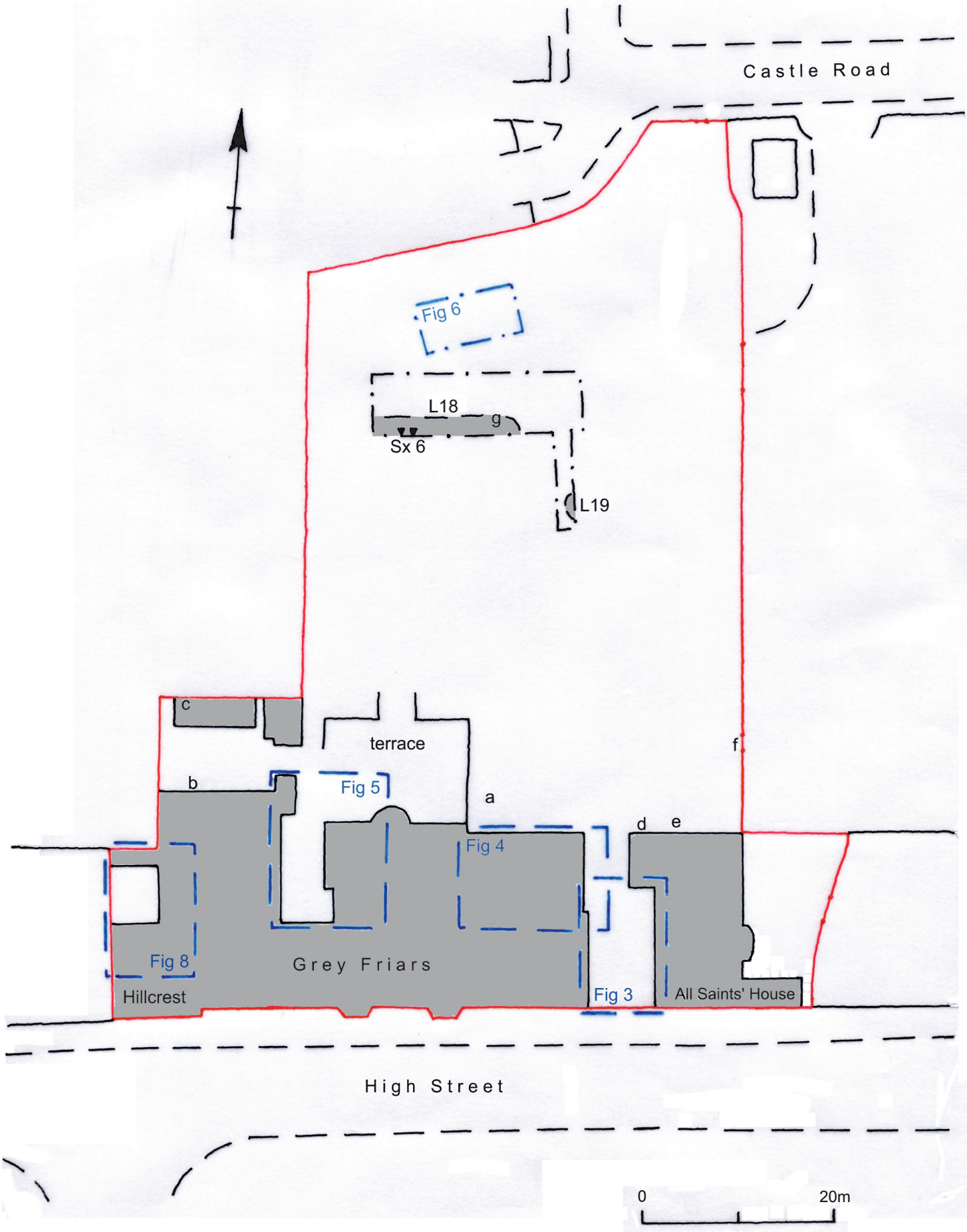

Fig 2 Plan of the Grey Friars Hotel site (outlined in red).

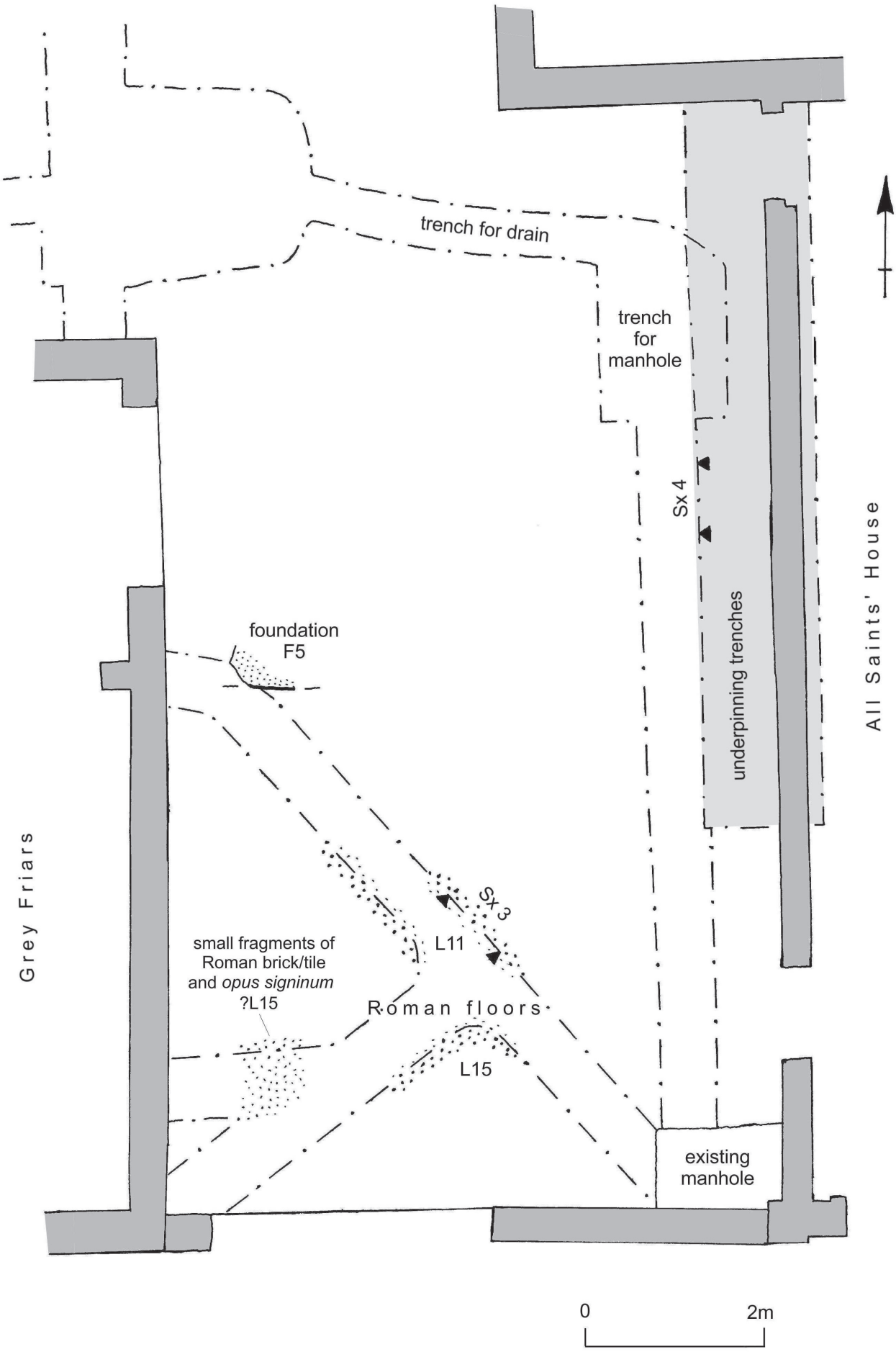

Fig 3 Plan of the entrance foyer area between Grey Friars and All Saints' House.

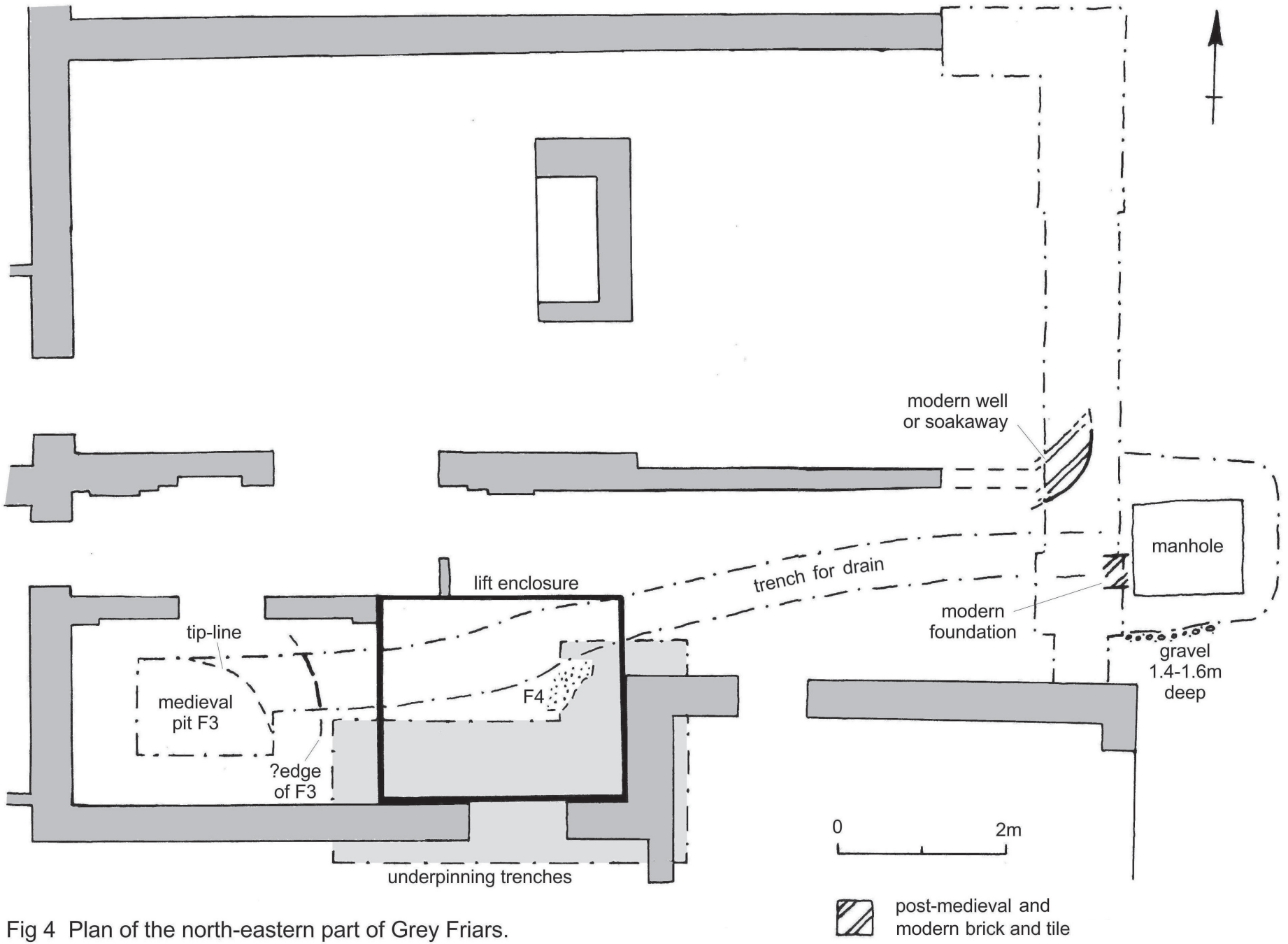

Fig 4 Plan of the north-eastern part of Grey Friars.

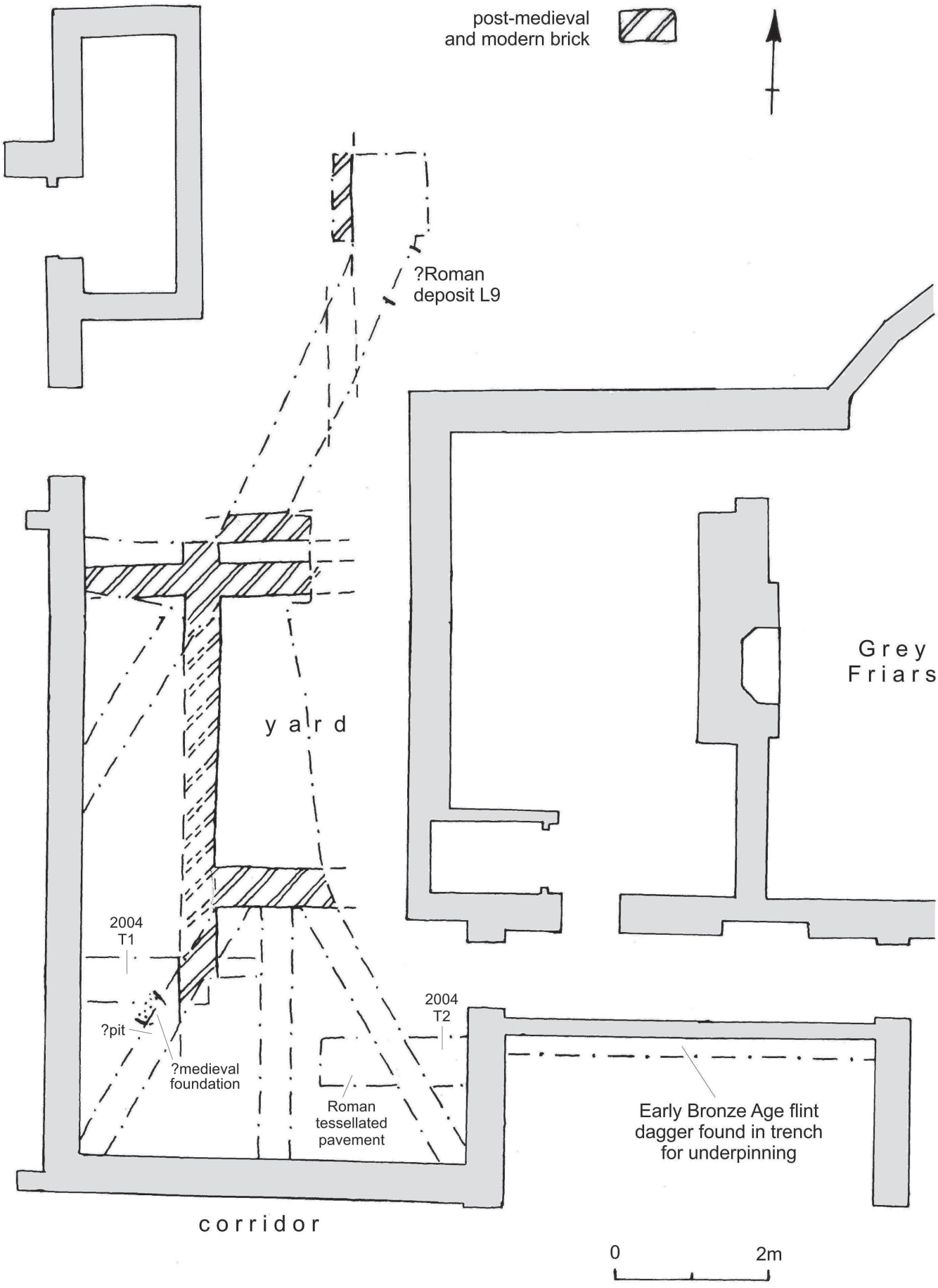

Fig 5 Plan of trenches in the yard area immediately west of the 18th-century part of Grey Friars.

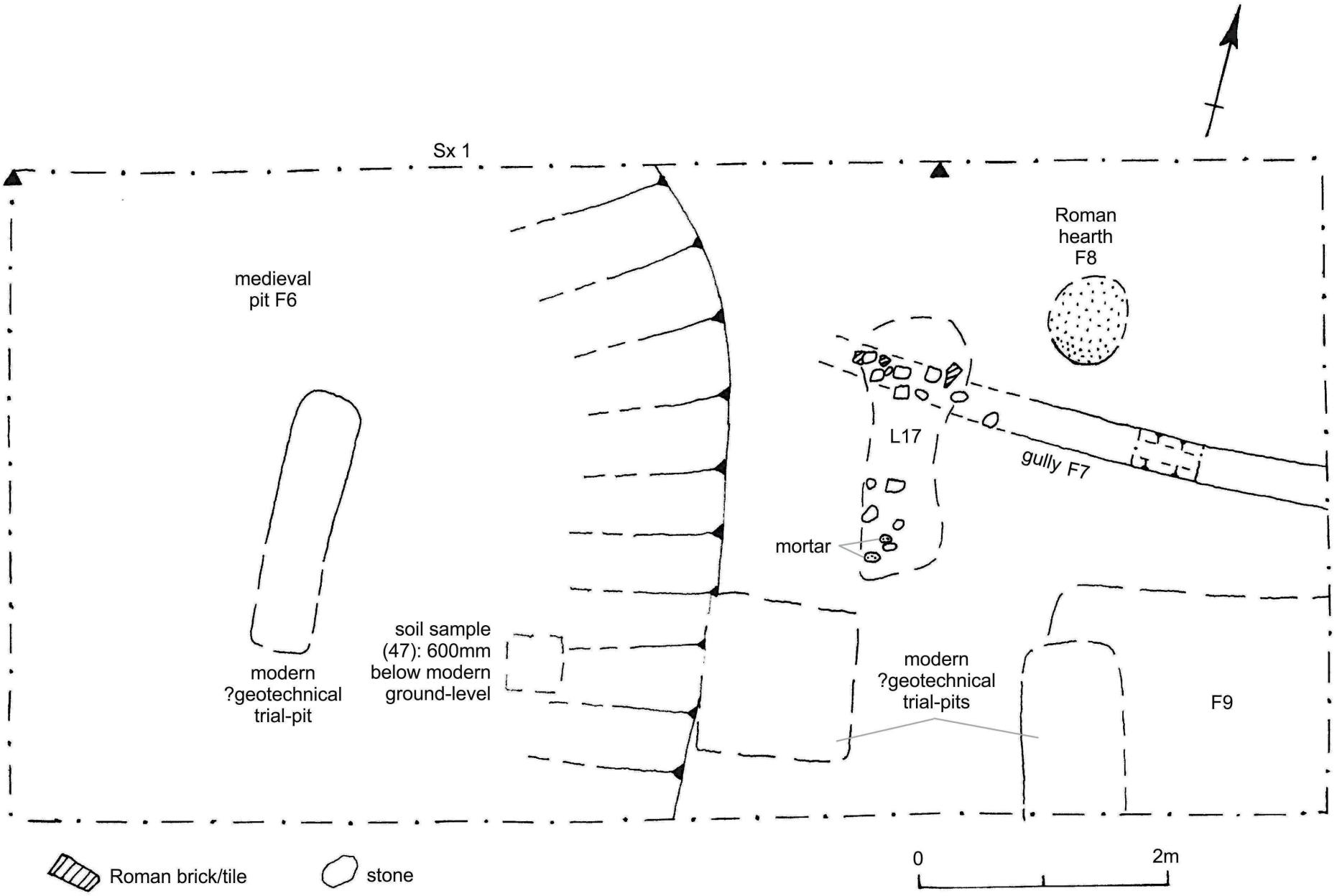

Fig 6 Plan of the trench for a soakaway at the northern end of the hotel site.

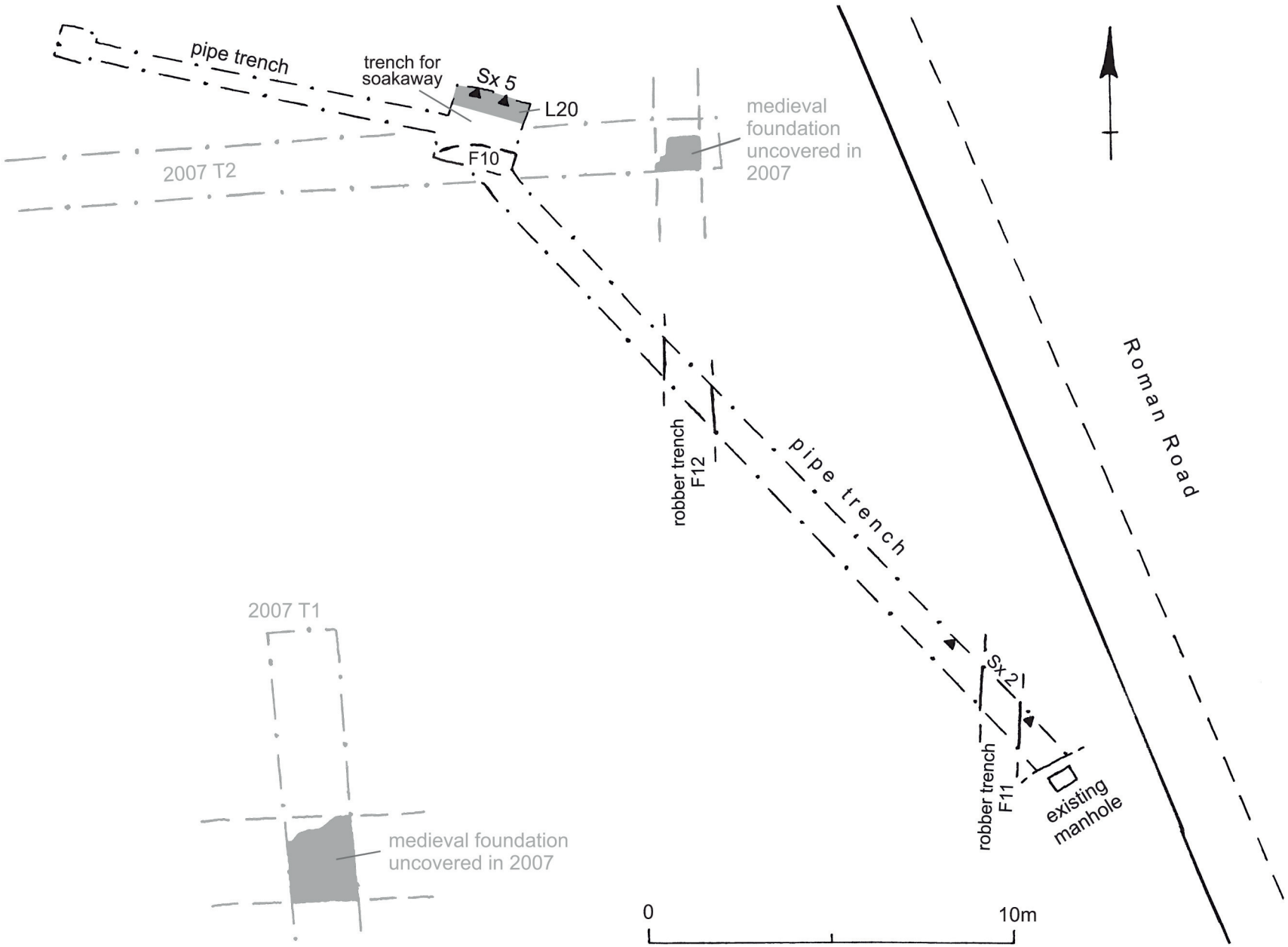

Fig 7 Plan of trenches in the north-eastern part of the public car-park.
(The 2007 evaluation trenches are shown in grey.)

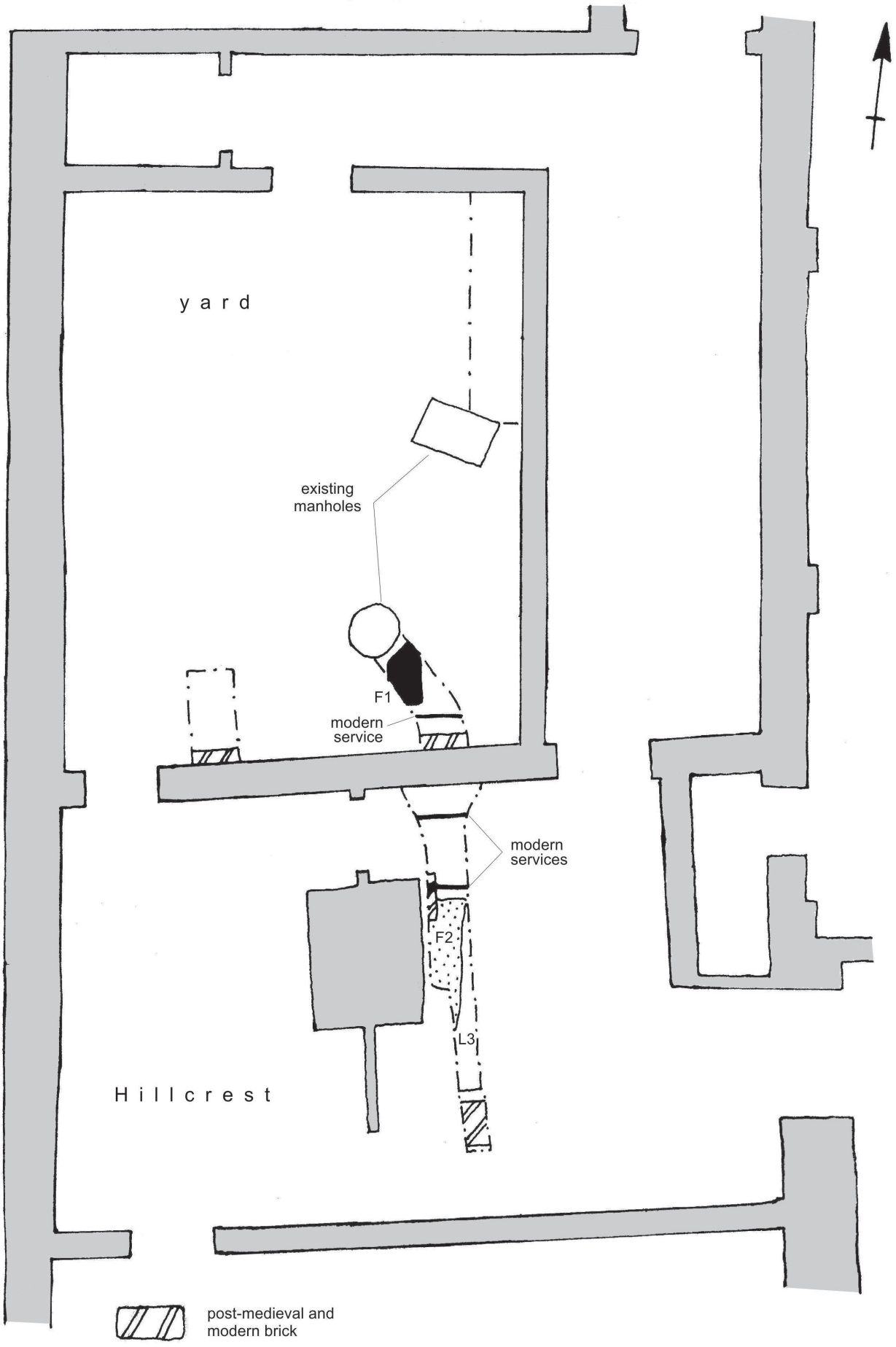

Fig 8 Plan of the northern part of Hillcrest.

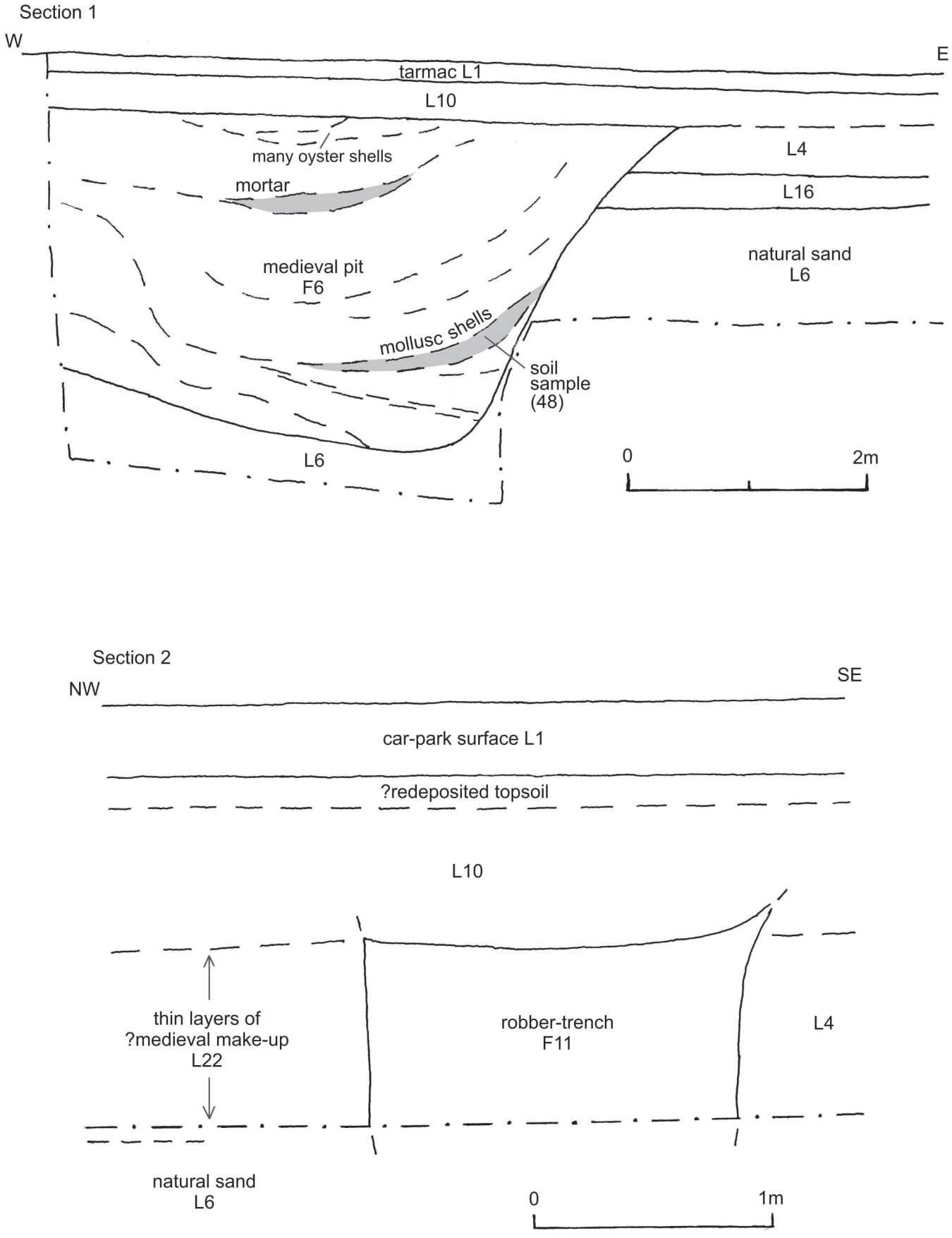

Fig 9 Sketch sections 1-2.

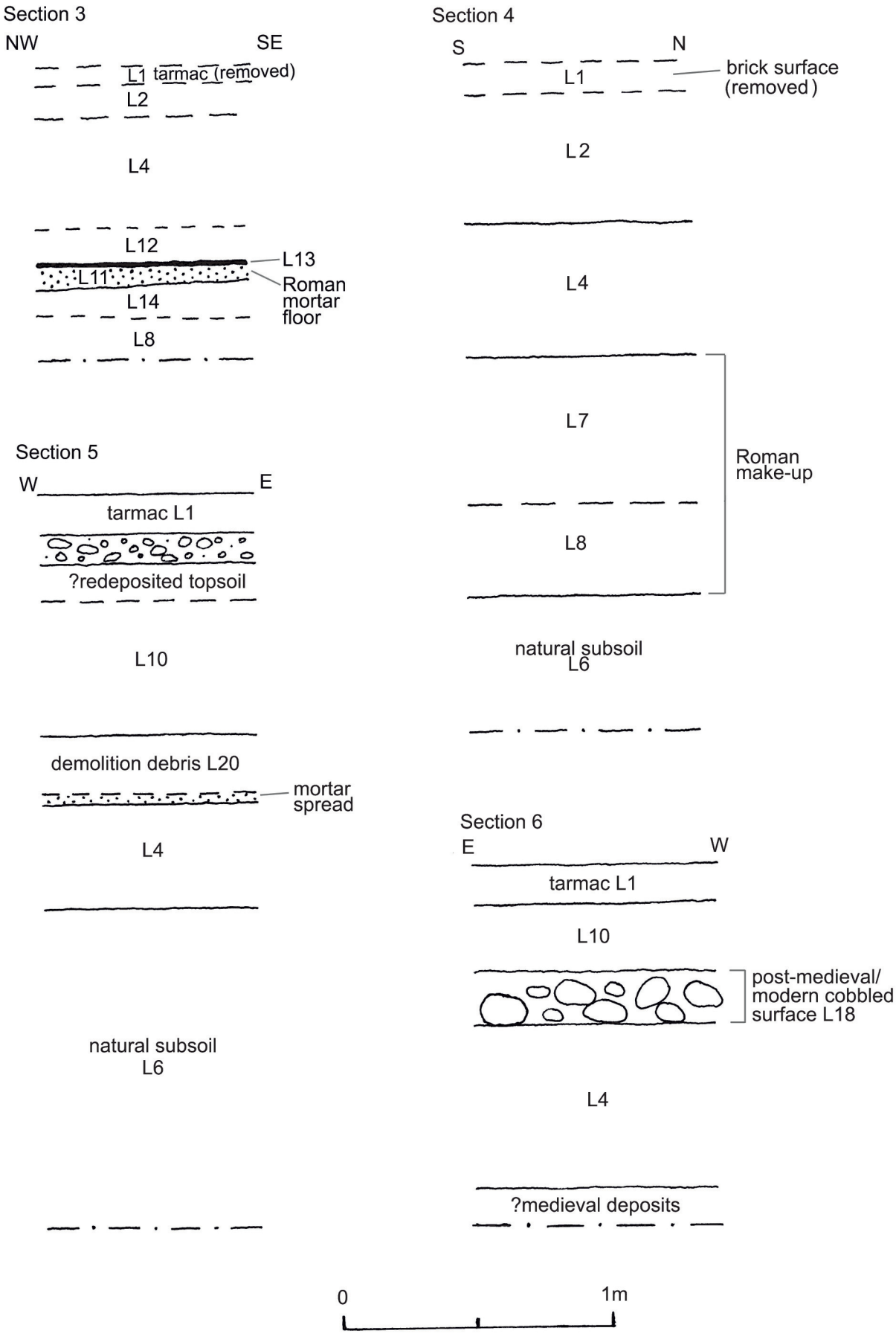

Fig 10 Representative sections 3-6.

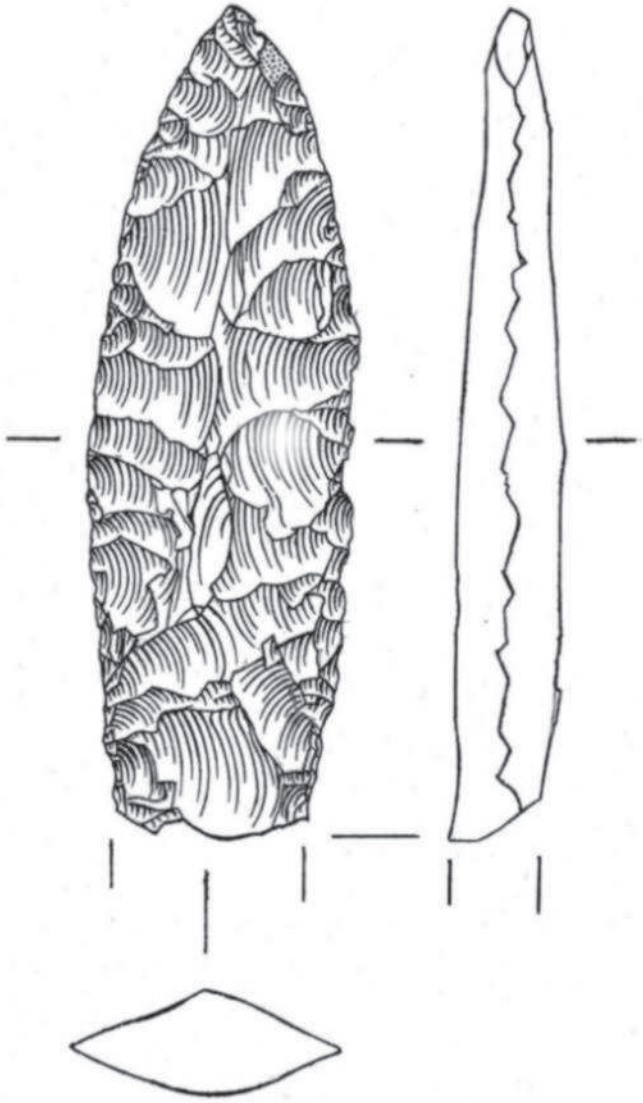

Fig 11 Early Bronze Age flint dagger (1:1).
(Drawing by Hazel Martingell; reproduced by kind permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, PAS ID: ESS-2B9134.)

Written Scheme of Investigation for

Archaeological monitoring at Greyfriars, Hillcrest and All Saints House, High Street, Colchester, Essex

Planning applications: COL/10/0045, COL/10/2680 and COL/10/2681
NGR: TM 0007 2527

December 2011

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1 Introduction

1.1 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological watching brief at Greyfriars, Hillcrest and All Saints House, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1UG, on behalf of OMC Investments Limited.

1.2 The development involves the redevelopment of the three grade II listed buildings, (formerly Greyfriars Community College), Hillcrest and All Saints House into a boutique hotel within an area comprising 0.506 hectares. This includes partial demolition of outbuildings and boundary walls, and internal and external alterations to the existing buildings to form the accommodation. External works include low impact hard and soft landscaping and resurfacing work fro car parking. Several trees are to be retained. The existing public car park to the east is to remain in use.

1.3 The proposal involves infilling of the gap in frontage between Greyfriars and All Saints House with a new covered entrance foyer. The depth of this foyer will extend back from the High Street beyond the depth of Greyfrairs' flanking Edwardian wing to link with the rear projecting wing of All Saints House. This new entrance feature will present a glass wall towards the street.

1.3 Apart from the entrance feature, the principal new external alteration is the proposed lift shaft to be attached to the rear elevation of the eastern Edwardian wing of Greyfriars. This extension is proposed to run the full height of this wing. The lift enclosure will have a modest footprint, (3.2m X 2.3m), and is proposed to be sited in a recess which means that it will not be visible in views from the High Street or East Hill.

1.5 The site is located to the north of the centre of Colchester, on the northern side of the High Street at the East Hill end at NGR TM 0007 2527 (centre).

1.6 This WSI sets out proposals for the evaluating and recording, which will lead to post-excavation work and the production of archive and (if necessary) publication texts.

1.7 Any variations in this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer (CBCAO).

2 Archaeological background

2.1 The site lies within the north-east corner of the walled town within *insulae* 24 (street block), close to the site of Roman Colchester's main east-west street. The temple of Claudius stood 200m to the west and the east gate lay 140m to the east.

2.2 The site takes its name from the Franciscan Friary, which was established by 1237 and dissolved in 1538 (Urban Archaeological Database or UAD no 13136). At the time of the dissolution, the friary included a hall, infirmary house, chambers, kitchen, bakery, brewery, gardens and four acres of land within the precinct walls. In 1622, a gatehouse still stood in Friars Street or Frere Street (now part of the High Street), with buildings set back from the frontage. Nothing of the medieval establishment appears to have remained by 1847 (*VCH* **9**, 306-7). Human skeletons found at Greyfriars are believed to have derived from medieval graves (UAD no 3833).

2.33 Fieldwork at Greyfriars Community College in recent years was undertaken during the replacement of a car park boundary wall situated 80m to the north of the present site. Here a preliminary trial-trench of limited depth and a subsequent watching brief on the works produced no archaeologically significant features (CAT Reports 219 and 264). An evaluation in advance of the installation of a lift shaft in 2004 revealed part of a Roman tessellated pavement at 1.1m below modern ground level (CAT Report 290). This tessellated floor was found immediately south of Area 2 where disabled access to the rear of the building was to be added. In 2006 a watching brief only revealed post-

medieval strata, however the contractor's works only penetrated to 0.6m below modern ground level (CAT Report 369). In 2007 a series of trenches were excavated across the car park Trench 1 and 2 revealed a wide medieval foundation thought to be part of the Friary Church and possible attached cloisters. The foundations were covered in a layer of demolition material containing medieval and post-medieval finds suggesting the buildings continued in use well after the dissolution (CAT Report 408).

3 Aim

The aim of the excavation is to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits exposed by the proposed works.

4 General Methodology

4.1 All works will be undertaken by professional archaeologist(s) employed by CAT. The field officer(s) will have a level of experience appropriate to the work.

4.2 Prior to excavation, CAT will seek information about existing service locations from the developer.

4.3 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard Health and Safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 1999 updated 2008).

4.4 For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Colchester Museum. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.

4.45 The relevant document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavation (2008a)*, including its 'Code of Conduct'. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA **3**, EAA **8** and EAA **14** as well as CBC's guidelines for standards of fieldwork (1999).

4.6 At the start of the work an OASIS online record will be initiated. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5 Monitoring Methodology

5.1 The work will comprise of a CAT archaeologist making visits to observe ground works as part of the redevelopment especially for the new lift. Following an on-site meeting with the CBCAO further work may be required should significant features/deposits be identified which cannot be preserved *in situ*.

5.2 A CAT archaeologist will be present during all topsoil striping, which will be undertaken with using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.3 All investigation (pending the results of site discussions with the CBCAO will be carried out by hand to an extent necessary to achieve the aims set out in section 3. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits etc) and 10% of linears (ditches etc).

5.4 Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

5.5 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds and samples.

5.6 The normal recording scale will be feature plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.

5.7 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.

5.8 The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. Standard 'record' shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. Colour transparencies will be used for overall site shots and all important contexts.

5.9 The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

5.10 The policy for environmental sampling will be as follows; any features, which appear to be organically rich, should be sampled, but only if they can be dated. If advice is required Helen Chapel the English Heritage regional science advisor will be consulted.

6 Finds

6.1 Environmental sampling policy. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. Helen Chapel of EH is available for further advice.

6.2 The policy with regard to human remains depends on how old they are. If it is clear, from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed. **Note: As the relevant legislation is currently in a state of flux, advice will be sought from HEM and DoJ on best practice.**

6.3 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with CBCAO and the site owner.

6.4 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.

6.5 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.

6.6 The site archive will be presented to Colchester Museum in accordance with their requirements.

6.7 All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

6.8 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b).

6.9 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

7 Results

7.1 Notification will be given to CBCAO when the fieldwork has been completed.

7.2 An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE English Heritage 2006) will be submitted to the CBCAO within a length of time not exceeding six months from the end of fieldwork, with one copy supplied to EHER (with a digital copy) and one to Colchester Museum with the archive.

7.3 This report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the excavation.
- Location plan of the excavation area, with 10-figure grid references at two points.
- A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground level.
- The excavation methodology and results with a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- All specialist reports and assessments. Recommendations for further work will be kept separate from the results.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

7.4 If, after discussion with CBCAO, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

8 Archive deposition

8.1 The full archive will be deposited at Colchester Museum within 6 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to CBCAO. All requirements for archive storage as required by Colchester Museum (CBC 1996).

8.2 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester Museum.

8.3 Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Colchester Museum storage systems.

8.4 The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Colchester Museum.

8.5 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to CBCAO at the time of deposition at the museum.

9 Monitoring

9.1 CBCAO will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

9.2 Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

9.3 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with CBCAO in writing prior to them being carried out.

9.4 CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete. The involvement of CBCAO shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

10 References

Brown, N and	2000	*Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern*

Glazenbrook, J.		*Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy,* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (**EAA8**)
Colchester Archaeological Trust		*Policies and procedures.* 1999 (updated 2008)
CAT Report 219		An archaeological evaluation at the car-park of Greyfriars Community College, Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, January 2003, unpublished CAT archive report, by Kate Orr, 2003
CAT Report 264		An archaeological watching brief at Greyfriars Adult Community College car-park, Colchester, Essex, January-February 2004, unpublished CAT archive report, by Kate Orr, 2004
CAT Report 290		An archaeological evaluation at the rear of Greyfriars Community College, High Street, Colchester, Essex, October 2004, unpublished CAT archive report, by Carl Crossan, 2004
CAT Report 369		An archaeological watching brief at Greyfriars Community College, East Hill, Colchester, Essex, January-March 2006, unpublished CAT archive report by Howard Brooks and Will Clarke, 2006
CAT Report 408		An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car-park of the Adult Community College, Grey Friars, High Street, Colchester, Essex, January-February 2007, unpublished CAT archive 2007
Colchester Borough Council	1999	*Guidelines on standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (revised 2008)
Colchester Borough Council	1996	*Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums* (revised 2008)
English Heritage	1991	*Management of archaeological projects, 2nd edition* (MAP 2)
Glazebrook, J.	1997	*Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment,* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 (**EAA3**)
Gurney, D.	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (**EAA14**)
IfA	2008a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field excavation.*
IfA	2008b	*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*
Winter, M.		Brief for Archaeological attendance & recording (a watching brief), Greyfriars, High Street, Colchester, Essex. CBC brief December 2011

Emma Spurgeon 12/12/2011
es@catuk.org

APPENDIX: TEAM STRUCTURE

List of team members

Site supervision and Recording
Ben Holloway

Assistants
TBC

Finds consultants
Stephen Benfield (CAT): LIA/Roman pottery
Hazel Martingell (Braintree): lithics
Joanna Bird (Guildford): samian ware
Francesca Boghi (NAU) Human bone
Ernest Black (Colchester): Roman brick/tile
Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass
Nina Crummy (Colchester): small finds
Julie Curl (NAU): animal bone
John Davis (Norwich Museum): Roman coins
Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): environmental
Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics
Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman amphoras, prehistoric & Roman pottery
Helen Walker (ECC): Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Graphics
E Spurgeon, G Adams

Report writing
Adam Wightman, Howard Brooks

Senior Site Staff

Ben Holloway BSc AIFA
Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

Emma Spurgeon BA
Emma first joined CAT in 2000 to work on the Head Street excavations, and returned in 2002 after graduating from Reading University with a BA Hons in Ancient History and Archaeology. Emma has worked on many large sites and reports including St Marys Hospital, Handford House, Stanway and many Garrison excavations, including supervising the drawn record of the cemetery and Roman circus discovered in 2004-5, as well as evaluations and watching briefs. Emma became a permanent member of staff since 2003 when she became the trust draughtsperson with particular interest in finds illustration and since become the small finds assistant. She has licentiate level membership of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors.

Finds Specialists

Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Late Iron Age and Roman pottery
Steve's first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in

Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

Peter Berridge (Colchester Museum) Lithics
A graduate of the University of Wales, Peter is now Curator of Colchester Museum. He has over the years, built up a working knowledge of flints, and his published works include contributions to *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.*

Francesca Boghi MSc (Norfolk Archaeological Unit) Human bone
Francesca has been the Norfolk Archaeological Unit's human bone specialist since 1998. Her previous experience includes work for the Calvin Wells laboratory at the University of Bradford, where she undertook the analysis of 79 skeletons from the medieval cemetery of Pennell Street, Lincoln, Lincolnshire and of a group of Romano-British cremations from Kempston, Bedfordshire. Since joining Norfolk Archaeological Unit she has analysed the medieval assemblage from the parish church of Brettenham, Norfolk (89 skeletons), the human remains from Norwich Whitefriars (thirty-three skeletons from the Carmelite Friary and thirty-seven from the Baptist Chapel of Friary Yard), the skeletal remains from a medieval well in Norwich and numerous other smaller assemblages of inhumations and cremated human remains from the county. In addition she contributes to local education programmes by providing short sessions on skeletal analysis and interpretation. Her professional qualification is an MSc from the University of Sheffield and Bradford in Osteology, Paleopathology and Funerary Archaeology. She is a member of the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Osteoarchaeologists (BABAO).

Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian
Joanna is one of the country's top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986.*

Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile
Ernest is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall, and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the *Arch J* , *CAR 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-1985.*

Howard Brooks BA, FSA MIFA: **(CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery**
Howard's involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1969 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1975 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (*Colchester Archaeological Report 3* [1994]). Between 1986 and 1991 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (*East Anglian Archaeology* 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC in 1991 to set up and run HBAS, the county's smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He completes specialist reports on medieval and post-medieval pottery and other finds and has written a comprehensive list of site reports. He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*, and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass
Another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85,* and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*. Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85.*

Nina Crummy BA, FSA (Colchester) Small finds
Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports*, and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports* 2 (Roman small finds), 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

Julie Curl (Norfolk) Animal Bone
Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. After many years working as both a bone specialist and in graphics for the NAU Julie has recently established her own freelance company Sylanus in which she specialises in Archaeological and Natural History illustrations as well as being a freelance animal and human bone specialist. She has been producing faunal remains reports for many years and produces assessments and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins
John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specialises in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to *British Numismatic Journal* on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to *Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9,* and *CAR 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993).*

Val Fryer BA, MIFA (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist
Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in East Anglian Archaeology (including occasional papers), Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Medieval Archaeology and Norfolk Archaeology. Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics
Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major works include *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72* (*Britannia Monograph Series* 7, with Ian Stead). On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88,* and to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Research Report 57, 1985).

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile
Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to Essex Archaeology & History , therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of *Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex* (1993).

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras
Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include *Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen* (BAR 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History.*

Sue Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery
Sue is the County authority on Saxon material, especially pottery. She has had several spells working with Essex County Archaeology Section, interrupted by a late-1980s spell in Hertfordshire. She has written reports on Saxon material for many Essex Projects, and contributes regularly to Essex Archaeology & History, including the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Prittlewell (*Essex Archaeol Hist* 19 (1988)).

Helen Walker BSc (ECC) Medieval and post-medieval pottery.
Helen is Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group's medieval and post-medieval pottery specialist. Before joining ECC in 1985, she worked on finds in Carmarthen, and for Hampshire CC on projects in Winchester. Since 1985, she has contributed reports on ceramics to many other projects in the county. A regular contributor to *Essex Archaeology & History*, her principal publications include reports on the Rayleigh kiln dump, and George Street and Church Street, Harwich (*Essex Archaeology & History*, 21 [1990]), and North Shoebury (*EAA* 75).

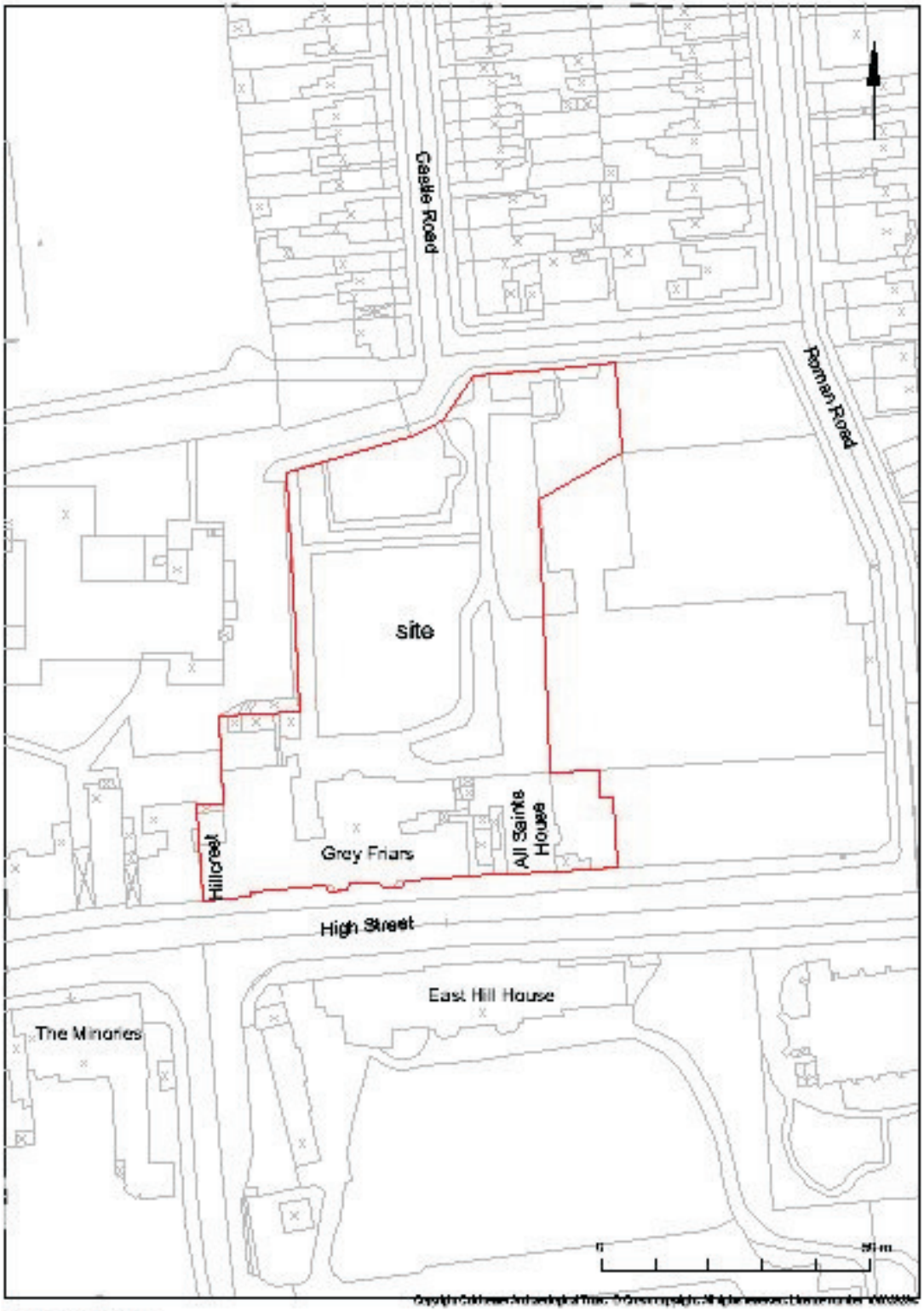

Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-139488

Project details

Project name	Grey Friars, High Street, Colchester watching brief 2012-15
Short description of the project	Significant archaeological remains were recorded during a watching brief at the Grey Friars Hotel on the High Street in Colchester. In several places on the site Roman deposits were observed, including the floors of a Roman building in the entrance foyer area between Grey Friars and All Saints House. Medieval remains in the vicinity of the existing buildings were sparse, although a pit was uncovered that possibly predated the Franciscan friary. Machine-trenching in the hotel car park at the northern end of the site revealed a large medieval pit, which had probably been dug for sand and gravel extraction. Further east, in trenches in the public car park, archaeological deposits associated with the demolition of the friary buildings were uncovered, including two north-south robber trenches and a layer of demolition debris. Among the other remains exposed on the site were post-medieval and modern foundations, floors and pits. During the underpinning of an internal wall within Grey Friars, a probable Early Bronze Age flint dagger was discovered by a workman.
Project dates	Start: 03-02-2012 End: 11-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	11/12b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2012.8 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	FRANCISCAN FRIARY Medieval
Monument type	HOUSE Roman

Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	SAND PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE/BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Modern
Significant Finds	BONE PIN Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	MOLLUSCA REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Greyfriars, Hillcrest and All Saints House, High Street
Postcode	CO1 1UG
Study area	0.51 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 0007 2530 51.889765890729 0.907773062202 51 53 23 N 000 54 27 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager	Philip Crummy
Project supervisor	D Shimmin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM 2012.8
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2012.8
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2012.8
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological watching brief at Grey Friars Hotel, High Street, Colchester, Essex: February 2012-June 2015
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Shimmin, D
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 740
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 comb-bound report
URL	http//cat.essex.ac.uk

Entered by	D Shimmin (ds@catuk.org)
Entered on	2 December 2015

OASIS:

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Grey Friars Hotel, High Street, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester Borough
NGR: TM 0007 2530	***Site codes:*** Museum accession code: COLEM 2012.8 CAT project code: 11/12b
Type of work: Watching brief	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: February 2012-June 2015	***Size of area investigated:*** hotel site: 0.506 hectares; approx 26 sq m was also monitored in the public car park
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	***Funding source:*** Client
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related EHER and UAD nos:*** UAD nos 591, 3833, 13136
Final report: CAT Report 740 and summary in *EAH*	
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval & modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Significant archaeological remains were recorded during a watching brief at the Grey Friars Hotel on the High Street in Colchester. In several places on the site Roman deposits were observed, including the floors of a Roman building in the entrance foyer area between Grey Friars and All Saints House. Medieval remains in the vicinity of the existing buildings were sparse, although a pit was uncovered that possibly predated the Franciscan friary. Machine-trenching in the hotel car park at the northern end of the site revealed a large medieval pit, which had probably been dug for sand and gravel extraction. Further east, in trenches in the public car park, archaeological deposits associated with the demolition of the friary buildings were uncovered, including two north-south robber trenches and a layer of demolition debris. Among the other remains exposed on the site were post-medieval and modern foundations, floors and pits. During the underpinning of an internal wall within Grey Friars, a probable Early Bronze Age flint dagger was discovered by a workman.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 219, 264, 290, 369, 391 & 408	
Keywords: flint artefact, Roman mortar floor, medieval pit, robber trench, foundation, demolition debris	***Significance:*** **
Author of summary: Donald Shimmin	***Date of summary:*** December 2015