

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



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**Archaeological evaluation at the Sixth Form College,  
North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1SN:  
April 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/03i  
CHER code: ECC4780**

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**commissioned by Anna Figiel of Plater Claiborne  
on behalf of Sixth Form College, Colchester**

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex as part of a pre-planning investigation in advance of the construction of a new teaching block. The development site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area within the north-west corner of the Roman walled town. Although subject to some truncation by modern service runs, well-preserved Roman stratigraphy was encountered during the evaluation. This included Roman demolition horizons and structural remains consisting of mortar floors and clay-block walls which in plan suggest an internal corridor within a large 2nd-century building.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 12th-14th of April 2023 at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex. The work was commissioned by Anna Figiel of Plater Claiborne as part of pre-planning in advance of a proposed new geology and geography four-storey block comprised of nine classrooms with break and exhibition areas.

Simon Wood (and subsequently Richard Hoggett), Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA), was approached for advice about the potential development at pre-application stage. As the site lies within an area highlighted in the Colchester HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an evaluation scheme was recommended. The archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an evaluation at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester* written by Simon Wood and detailing the required archaeological work (CCCAA 2022). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CCCAA (CAT 2023).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC/MCC numbers), which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>).

The Sixth Form College (formerly the Gilbert School) occupies the north-west corner of the site of the Roman legionary fortress founded c AD44 (CAR 3, MCC477) and the north-west corner of the later Roman walled town (MCC9314). Within the town, metalled streets running north-south and west-east define a number of *insulae* (blocks), numbered *insula* 1-40 and often subdivided (e.g. *insulae* 1a, 1b: CAT Report 247). Roman streets passing north-south (MCC2972) and east-west (MCC8388) cross the college site and define *insula* 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, and 17 and 17b of the Roman town, with *insula* 1a and 9a being wholly within the college grounds.

A large part of a Roman building was discovered on the College site in 1865 and 1910. This building had tessellated, and possibly, mosaic floors and painted walls, and is likely to have been constructed in the 2nd or 3rd century AD (Hull 1958, 93-94: ECC624, MCC1520).

In 1984-85, there was a major excavation on the site now occupied by the 'south-site' buildings. Parts of the *contubernia* (men's quarters) of a barrack block belonging to the Roman fortress

were excavated (CAR 6, 134, ECC340). In January 2000, an evaluation by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit within the footprint of the proposed new computer block uncovered between 1.4m and 2m of topsoil covering a deposit probably derived from the demolition of an underlying Roman building (ECC FAU Report 830).

In 2003, five evaluation trenches were dug in the college grounds in preparation for the proposed 'mid-site' development. These exposed Roman tessellated and mortar floors, as well as the robbed-out foundations of a large Roman building (probably a town-house) covered by between 0.6m and 1.1m of topsoil. The Roman buildings appear to have been demolished, and the site turned over to agricultural or horticultural use at the end of the Roman period (CAT Report 260, ECC2739 and MCC2878). Evaluation in 2005 (CAT Report 309, ECC2730 and MCC2881) in what was then the tennis court (now the 'mid-site' building) confirmed the earlier evaluation findings and gained useful data on the possible extent of the town-house identified in 2003 (CAT Report 260).

Archaeological investigation (August 2005 to March 2006) during groundworks for the 'mid site' development revealed a Roman metalled street surface between *insulae* 1a and 1b, and two large Roman buildings (CAT Report 347, ECC2829). The first building, in *insula* 1b, was a Roman town-house with surviving *in situ* masonry wall foundations and *opus signinum* floor surfaces. The second building, in *insula* 1a, was an extremely large and high-status building consisting of surviving *in situ* masonry wall foundations, robbed-out wall lines, and floors of mosaic, tessellation and *opus signinum*, and a well preserved room which appears to have been part of a bath complex. The size of this building, its high-status decoration consisting of large quantities of elaborate painted wall-plaster (some of which was designed to imitate imported marbles) and the presence of a bath complex suggest that this may well have been part of a *mansio* (MCC2968-MCC2972).

A watching brief in 'south site' prior to the installation of a ramp for wheelchair users in the car park revealed two patches of tessellated pavement, was made from cubes of coarse red brick laid in east-west rows. The pavement had no straight edges so originally would have extended beyond the monitored area. The pavement lay 0.57m below the level of the car park at 21.1m above Ordnance Datum. It was sealed by modern topsoil and car park material (CAT Report 430, ECC2736 and MCC2863).

In June 2011, an evaluation (two trenches) identified the uppermost significant archaeological horizon (in this case, of Roman date) on the site of the proposed development adjacent to the 'north site' (a new languages facility). The highest Roman deposits (containing fragments of building material and pottery) were demolition layers dating to the early 3rd to 4th century, when a Roman building in this area was probably demolished. The Roman deposits were mostly sealed by a thick layer of late medieval or post-medieval topsoil (CAT Report 596, ECC3605).

A trial-trenching evaluation in August 2014 had the specific aim of locating the highest significant archaeological material in order that the proposed Student Services Building could be engineered to avoid damaging the archaeological remains (CAT Report 784, MCC3636). Results were similar to those of the 2011 evaluation (above). A thick deposit of post-Roman topsoil (between 0.7 and 1.1m thick) sealed Roman demolition material containing fragments of box-tile and finely-painted wall-plaster from 2nd-century high-status buildings. During the monitoring of the ground reduction for the building, Roman demolition deposits overlying Roman floors, mainly tessellated pavement, were exposed. There were also two robber trenches indicating the lines of robbed-out Roman walls (CAT Report 834, ECC3644).

A collective view from map evidence and excavations / evaluations is that there appears to have been very little in the way of post-Roman activity on the land now occupied by the Sixth Form College. Recent excavation and evaluation has shown that a substantial depth of topsoil accumulated over the college site in this period. The usual interpretation of this phenomenon, often found in Colchester, is that the land was left open and was probably used for small-scale agriculture or horticulture. Building work seems to have been confined in the medieval and post-

medieval periods to the properties lining North Hill, many of which are still standing and are listed buildings.

#### 4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 3-4)

One trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 12m long and 1.8m wide. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.55m below current ground level to expose the upper-most level of significant Roman remains only.

Modern hardstanding (tarmac and concrete) (L1, 0.2m thick) and an associated sub-base containing crushed brick and hoggin (L2, 0.2 thick) sealed a remnant of dark earth (L3, 0.15-0.2m thick). This overlaid a layer of late Roman demolition (L4, 0.2m thick), which contained large quantities of Roman building material (CBM, septaria, mortar, *opus signinum* and wall plaster).

A small sondage through L4 revealed further Roman deposits of levelling/make-up/demolition material (L5, 0.3m thick; L6 0.1m thick; and L7, 0.7m thick). Pottery sherds from L5 and L6 dated to the 1st century, but all of these layers would need further investigation to establish their precise date and nature. At 1.2m below current ground level, excavation of L7 ceased. An auger sample identified natural sands and gravels at 1.9m below current ground level.



**Photograph 1** The evaluation trench, looking north-west.



**Photograph 2** Mortar floors F3 and F5 with clay block wall F4, looking south.



**Photograph 3** Representative trench section, looking south.

Modern feature F1, which extends obliquely along the entire northern edge of the trench, is an easement for a modern water-main. It was >0.5-1m wide and 0.6m deep, and truncated all earlier contexts. The backfill of which contained redeposited Roman CBM and modern brick, tile and tarmac. (This material was not retained.)

Robber trench F2 at the east end of the trench was aligned north/south 0.45m wide and 0.4m deep. The backfilled trench contained fragments of mortar, Roman pottery and CBM. Mortar floor F3 was 1.7m wide, was bounded to the east by robber trench F2 and to the west by clay block wall F4. Clay block wall F4 was also aligned north/south and was 0.45m wide. To the west of wall F4 was another fragment of *in situ* mortar floor, F5. Both floors were made of a firm, dry, yellow/white mortar.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Roman pottery

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in **CAR 10** (Symonds & Wade 1999) supplemented with fabric groups from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, henceforth NRFRC (Tomber & Dore 1998) (Table 1). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; **CAR 10**, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There was a small-sized assemblage of Roman pottery at 169 sherds weighing 3.8 kg with an EVE of 5.35 (Tables 2-3). The mean sherd weight was high at 23g and the material is fresh and unworn. It recovered from three layers and one feature although most of the pottery came from demolition horizon L4 (Table 4).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BASG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) plain samian	AD 43-110
BXSG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) decorated samian	AD 43-110
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	AD 110-220
BACO	Colchester plain samian	AD 150-200
BASZ	Sinzig plain samian	AD 150-260
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	AD 150-260
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	Roman
BSW 1	Black surface ware (smooth, micaceous)	Roman
BSW 2	Black surface ware (sandier, coarser)	Roman
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	AD 100/110-275/300
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	AD 100/110-275/300
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
EMED (RH)	Eastern Mediterranean Cam 184/Rhodian	Roman
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	AD 110/125-400
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	AD 110/125-300
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
GX (S)	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares, sandy	Roman
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	Late Iron Age-Roman
HZ (BSW)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares with black surface	Late Iron Age-Roman
KOL CC*	Cologne Colour-coated ware	AD 100-220

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	AD 125/150-300
NAF AM2	North African lime poor amphora fabric	AD 200-400
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	Roman
ON	Mica-gilt wares	AD 43-150/200
OVW WH	Overwey White ware/Portchester D	AD 350-400
TZ (COL.)	Mortaria, Colchester	AD 43-225
TZ (I)	Mortaria continental import	AD 43-400
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	Roman

**Table 1** Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. \*NRFRC

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BASG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) plain samian	4	32	8	0.17
BXSG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) decorated samian	1	25	25	0.00
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	6	43	7	0.24
BACO	Colchester plain samian	1	5	5	0.08
BASZ	Sinzig plain samian	1	20	20	0.00
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	7	145	21	0.26
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	4	353	88	0.00
BSW 1	Black surface ware (smooth, micaceous)	4	59	15	0.08
BSW 2	Black surface ware (sandier, coarser)	11	228	21	0.21
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	5	12	2	0.37
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	1	16	16	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	18	324	18	0.18
EMED (RH)	Eastern Mediterranean Cam 184/Rhodian	1	17	17	0.00
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	1	15	15	0.10
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	39	541	14	1.06
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	27	515	19	1.25
GX (S)	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares, sandy	15	186	12	0.47
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	3	136	45	0.00
HZ (BSW)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares with black surface	2	57	29	0.00
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	2	44	22	0.16
NAF AM2	North African lime poor amphora fabric	6	344	57	0.00
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	1	59	59	0.27
ON	Mica-gilt wares	1	29	29	0.06
OVW WH	Overwey White ware/Portchester D	1	23	23	0.15
TZ (COL.)	Mortaria, Colchester	3	419	140	0.12
TZ (I)	Mortaria continental import	1	83	83	0.03
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	3	74	25	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>3,804</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5.35</b>

**Table 2** Details on the Roman pottery.

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
<b>BASG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.17</b>
	DRAG 18	0.02
	DRAG 33	0.15
<b>BACG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.24</b>

<b>Fabric Group</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>EVE</b>
	DRAG 31	0.05
	DRAG 33	0.19
<b>BACO</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.08</b>
	DRAG 33	0.08
<b>BAEG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.26</b>
	DRAG 31	0.26
<b>BSW 1</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.08</b>
	CAM 218	0.08
<b>BSW 2</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.21</b>
	CAM 231-232	0.21
<b>CB</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.37</b>
	CAM 391A/B	0.37
<b>DJ</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.18</b>
	?	0.18
<b>GA</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.10</b>
	CAM 279C	0.10
<b>GB</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>1.06</b>
	CAM 37A/38A	0.49
	CAM 37B/38B	0.49
	CAM 278	0.08
<b>GX</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>1.25</b>
	?	0.23
	CAM 243-244/246	0.07
	CAM 266	0.41
	CAM 268	0.46
	CAM 507	0.08
<b>GX (S)</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.47</b>
	CAM 268	0.47
<b>KX</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.16</b>
	CAM 37B/38B	0.05
	CAM 278	0.11
<b>NARB</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.27</b>
	G4	0.27
<b>ON</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.06</b>
	CAM 17	0.06
<b>OVW WH</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.15</b>
	F137.5	0.15
<b>TZ (COL)</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.12</b>
	CAM 497	0.12
<b>TZ (I)</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	CAM 497	0.03
<b>WA</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.09</b>
	CAM 37B/38B	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.35</b>

**Table 3** Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F2	Robber trench	13	301	23	0.55
L4	Demolition horizon	139	3,124	22	4.09
L5	Levelling deposit	12	261	22	0.45
L6	Re-deposited demo?	5	118	24	0.26
<b>Total</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>3,804</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5.35</b>

**Table 4** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific contexts.

The pottery ranges in date from the early Roman period until the later 4th century. Black-burnished and related wares (fabrics GA, GB, KX, WA) are well represented with examples of the Cam 37A/38A and Cam 37B/38B bowl, and the Cam 278 and Cam 278C jars (Table 3). The latest material is a possible Overwey White ware/Portchester D rilled jar (F137.5) (EVE:0.15) dating to c AD 350-400 (Fig 5.1) which came from demolition horizon L4. Samian, mostly from plain vessels, is also well-represented with an EVE of 0.75 which represents 14% of the assemblage EVE. The samian assemblage includes southern Gaulish (La Graufesenque), central (Lezoux), and eastern Gaulish material and also some Colchester samian (Table 1-2). Dishes including examples of the Drag. 18 and the Drag. 31, and cups (Drag. 33) are well represented (Table 3). Imported amphorae include sherds from North Africa (NAF AM2), Spain (Baetican Dressel 20/fabric BAET), the eastern Mediterranean (Rhodian Cam 184) and the southern French Gauloise 4 (EVE:0.27) which dates to AD 50-300 (Table 1-2).

Three sherds from the demolition horizon L4 are marked with post-firing graffiti:

- Eastern Gaulish samian (fabric BAEG) Drag.32 bowl (EVE:0.20) with 2 lines on the outer surface below the rim (Fig 5.2)
- Black-burnished 2 (fabric GB) Cam 37A/38A bowl (EVE:0.09) with a line on the top of the rim (Fig 5.4)
- Eastern Gaulish samian (fabric BAEG) Drag.38 bowl with 2-wavy lines on the exterior surface below the flange (Fig 5.3).

Table 5 gives approximate dates for the four contexts based on the pottery recovered from them.

Context	LIA-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F2, robber trench	BSW 1, DJ, EMED (RH) (CAM 184), GB (CAM 37B/38B), GX (CAM 268), KX (CAM 278)	RI, RT, TESS	AD 180-225
L4, demolition horizon	BASG (DRAG 18, DRAG 33), BACG (DRAG 31, DRAG 33), BACO (DRAG 33), BAEG (DRAG 31, DRAG 38), BASZ, BAET (DR20), BSW 1 (CAM 218), BSW 2 (CAM 231/232), CB (CAM 391A/B), CZ, DJ, GA (CAM 279C), GB (CAM 37A/38A, CAM 37B/38B, CAM 278), GX (CAM 268), GX (S) (CAM 268), HZ, HZ (BSW), KX (CAM 37B/38B), NAF AM2, NARB (G4), ON (CAM 17), OVW WH (F137.5), TZ (COL) (CAM 497), TZ (I) (CAM 497), WA (CAM 37B/38B)	RB, RI, RT, TESS, OP SIG, WALL PLASTER	AD 350-400
L5, levelling/ make-up/ demolition deposit	BASG (DRAG 33), BXSG (DRAG 37), DJ, GX (CAM 266, CAM 507), HZ	RI, RT, WALL PLASTER	AD 70-100
L6, levelling/ make-up/ demolition deposit	BASG (DRAG 18), DJ, GX (CAM 243-244/246)	RB, RI	AD 43-100

**Table 5** Dating summary.

## 6.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

by Dr Matthew Loughton

There were 103 fragments of CBM with a weight of c 17.2kg and a mean sherd weight of 167g. (Table 6). CBM was recovered from four contexts, although the majority of this material came from the demolition horizon L4 (Table 7). All of the CBM dates to the Roman period and includes a variety of material including brick, imbrex and tile (Table 6). There was also a small quantity of painted wall plaster decorated with white paint (46 cm<sup>2</sup>) including a curved section.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
RB	Roman brick	25	7,053	282
RI	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	21	2,037	97
RT	Roman <i>tegulae</i>	34	6,046	178
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	6	889	148
TESS	Tessera	5	93	19
Op sig.	<i>Opus signinum</i>	3	209	70
	Mortar	5	663	133
	Wall plaster	4	245	61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>17,235</b>	<b>167</b>

**Table 6** Building material by period and type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	Robber trench	5	415	83
L4	Demolition horizon	90	15,447	172
L5	Levelling deposit	5	873	175
L6	Re-deposited demo?	6	500	167
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>17,235</b>	<b>167</b>

**Table 7** Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

## 6.3 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

The only small find recovered from the evaluation came from demolition L4 (SF1). It is an incomplete copper-alloy Roman hair-pin with small domed oval head on top of a tapering multi-faceted neck. A similar metal hair-pin was found during excavations at Butt Road in the late 1970s (CAR 2, 30-31, ref. 513).

**Fig 6** SF3 L4, finds no. 3. Incomplete copper-alloy hair-pin with tip of tapering shaft missing. Circumferential groove around shoulder with short, multi-faceted tapering neck, leading to small multi-faceted domed oval head. Total 77.1mm long; shaft: max diameter 2.7mm; head: 2.8mm long, 2.1mm wide; 2.6g. Roman.

## 6.4 Glass, shell and stone

by Laura Pooley with the stone identifications and descriptions by Gabrielle Smith

Five fragments of blue/green Roman vessel glass came from robber trench F2 and demolition L4. This included a fragment of ribbon handle (Fig 6.2) and the remains of the base of a hexagonal bottle (Fig 6.3), both dating from the 1st to 2nd century (Price & Cottam 1998). Oyster shells came from layers L4 and L6, with fragments of septaria also from L4.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F2	1	<b>Glass, Fig 6.2:</b> Fragment of Roman blue/green vessel glass, 16.7g. The fragment is from a ribbon handle where the central rib has been drawn down on to the body of the vessel as an extended trail which is pinched into projections, 1st-2nd century.
L4	2	<b>Glass, Fig 6.3:</b> Four fragments of Roman blue/green vessel glass, 52.6g. 1) Fragment

		from the base of a hexagonal bottle with concentric circle decoration, late 1st to late 2nd century, 2) Fragment, possibly from part of a handle, 3-4) Two body fragments. <b>Shell:</b> Two oyster shells, 79g. Discarded. <b>Unworked stone:</b> Eleven fragments of septaria, highly weathered, sub-angular, fossiliferous; two fragments of dolomitic crystalline limestones, medium-grained, intermediate-dark grey, angular to sub-angular; one fragment of chalk, weathered, sub-rounded, some small fossils. All discarded.
L6	5	<b>Shell:</b> Oyster shell (large), 120g. Discarded.

**Table 8** Glass, shell and stone listed by context.

## 6.5 Animal bone by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 13 pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 192g. They derived from three layers of Roman date, specifically L4 (late 4th century demolition) and L5-L6 (earlier Roman levelling/make-up/demolition layers). The bone was fragmented and in generally poor condition with some loss of detail from surface abrasion and slight (darker) discolouration. Several pieces had been gnawed by dogs prior to deposition indicating the residual nature of the finds from these demolition and levelling layers. Three species were positively identified, including pig (three pieces), sheep or goat (one) and cattle (one). All the remaining bone, though not closely identifiable, is also likely to be of either sheep/goat or cattle. A chop mark associated with butchery and the dismembering of the carcass was noted on the pig mandible from L4.

Context	Find no.	Total weight (g)	Species	No.	Comments
L4	2	126	Sus (pig)	1	(1) Fragment of the right mandible from a boar. Tooth sockets exist for the canine (C1, absent), PM1 (absent), PM2 – PM3 (broken tooth roots present), PM4 (absent). There is a small vertical chop mark between the PM1 and the PM2.
			Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	1	(1) Metatarsal diaphysis fragment. Distal end has been dog gnawed.
			Medium sized mammal (possibly sheep/goat or smaller deer species)	2	(1) Femur diaphysis fragment. (1) Rib fragment, slightly dog gnawed?
			Large sized mammal (horse, cattle or larger species of deer)	2	(1) Tibia diaphysis fragment. (1) Thoracic vertebrae fragment.
L5	4	76	Bos (cattle)	1	(1) Ulna fragment. Heavily dog gnawed.
			Sus (pig)	1	(1) Premolar tooth root fragment.
			Large sized mammal (horse, cattle or larger species of deer)	2	(1) Fragment of the left acetabulum and ramus of ilium. Possibly dog gnawed. Acetabulum is unfused giving an age of less than 1 year if horse (younger if cattle). (1) Diaphysis fragment.
			Medium sized mammal (possibly sheep/goat or smaller deer species)	1	(1) Rib fragment. Possibly dog gnawed.
L6	5	90	Sus (pig)	1	(1) Fragment of the right mandible consisting of the rear part of the corpus, mandibular angle and lower part of the ascending ramus. Part of the M2 socket is present (tooth missing) and part of the M3 is present but badly broken.
			Large sized mammal (horse, cattle or larger species of deer)	1	Unidentified small fragment (Possibly from a rib, vertebrae or scapula?).

**Table 9** Animal bone listed by context.

## 7 Conclusion

The evaluation at the Sixth Form College revealed a high level of Roman activity at a depth of only 0.55m below current ground level. In addition to substantial deposits of Roman demolition debris, there was a robber trench delineating the line of a Roman wall foundation, an *in situ* clay block wall and two *in situ* mortar floors. This structure, likely the remains of a Roman town-house within *insula* 9b, is aligned north-south/east-west, with the 1.7m wide floor between the two walls probably indicating the position of a corridor with at least one other room to the west. Roman wall foundations identified immediately to the north of the investigation in 2005-6 (see Fig 2) could well be part of the same building (CAT Report 347).

The evaluation work has shown that despite modern truncation, substantial well preserved Roman horizons and structural remains survive from 0.55m below current ground level to at least 1.9m below current ground level. The findings are also consistent with the results of previous investigation work carried out at the Sixth Form College indicating high-status residential buildings dating to the 2nd century AD, earlier fortress remains may survive beneath these later buildings. Any further groundworks on the development site are highly likely to impact on these significant archaeological remains.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Anna Figiel of Plater Claiborne on behalf of the Sixth Form College, Colchester for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |      |  |
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| CAR 6                    | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.  |
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| CAT Report 247           | 2003 | <i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of the 'mid-site' and 'north site phase 2' developments at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, November 2003</i> , by Kate Orr   |

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CAT Report 309	2005	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: February 2005</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i> , by Howard Brooks, Will Clarke, Marius Górnaiak, and Laura Pooley
CAT Report 430	2007	<i>Archaeological watching brief at The Sixth Form College ('south site'), North Hill, Colchester</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 483	2008	<i>'An archaeological evaluation of the proposed extension to the "south site" buildings at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: May 2008'</i> , by B Holloway and H Brooks,
CAT Report 596	2011	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and borehole watching brief at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: June 2011</i> , by Mark Baister
CAT Report 784	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: August 2014</i> , by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks
CAT Report 834	2015	<i>Part of a Roman building in Insula 1a of Roman Colchester: archaeological monitoring on the site of the Student Services Building, Sixth Form College: December 2014 to January 2015</i> , by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks
CCC	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester</i> , by S Wood
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> . Revised October 2020
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Revised October 2020
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2022
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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.

feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman section	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
WSI	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** One box

**Digital record**

CAT Report 1923

CCC brief

Digital photographs

Survey data

Site data

## 12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (finds) and the Archaeological Data Service (digital record).

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### Distribution list:

Anna Figiel, Plater Claiborne

Sixth Form College, Colchester

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor

Colchester Historic Environment Record

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Hard top	Tarmac/concrete yard surface. Tarmac overlays earlier concrete surface.	Modern
L2	-	Sub-base	Firm, dry mid to dark orange sand, occasional crushed brick sub-base deposit associated with L1.	Modern
L3	-	Dark earth	Firm moist dark brown-black sandy silt.	Post-Roman
L4	2	Demolition	Firm moist medium grey silty clay contains large amount of Roman CBM, pottery.	Roman
L5	4	Levelling/make-up/demolition deposit	Firm moist medium grey brown sandy silt.	Roman
L6	5	Levelling/make-up/demolition deposit	Firm moist medium yellow orange sand.	Roman
L7	-	Levelling/make-up/demolition deposit	Firm moist grey brown, clay charcoal and shell flecking (observed only in auger sample).	Roman
L8	-	Natural	Soft to firm, moist mid yellow sand and gravel	Post-glacial
F1	-	Service run easement	Soft/loose, moist mid dark brown black silt large quantity of modern CBM in backfill (material was not retained). >12m (L) x >0.6m (W) x 0.6m (D)	Modern
F2	1	Robber trench	Firm dry mid brownish-grey silty sand with gravel inclusions. >0.72m (L) x 0.45m (W) x 0.35m (D)	Post-Roman
F3	-	Mortar floor	Firm dry yellow white mortar. >1.7m (L) x >0.8m (W)	Roman
F4	-	Clay block wall	Firm moist yellow brown clay. >0.81m (L) x 0.45m (W)	Roman
F5	-	Mortar floor	Firm dry yellow white mortar. >0.5m (L) x >0.41m (W)	Roman

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Location	Visible (Y/N)	Reading	Wind	Sooting (ext.)	Burning	Overfired	Mortar encrustation	Gritted	Fabric Grp	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	4	4																DJ					CR/WH	ROMAN	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	147	147																X TZ (COL)						AD 43-225	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	3	38	13		1	0	1												GB	CAM 37B/ 38B	BOWL	0.0 8	26 0		AD 180-275	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	4	53	13		3	0	0												GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.0 3	?		AD 125/150- 280/320	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1																			GX	?	?	0.1 0	16 0		ROMAN	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1																			GX	CAM 266	JAR	0.1 0	16 0		AD 43-80	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	17	17		1	0	0							X					GX	?	?	0.1 3	15 0		ROMAN	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	10	10		1	0	0												KX	CAM 278	JAR	0.1 1	16 0		AD 120- 250/260	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	17	17																EMED (RHOD)					? CR/PY SOME BL GRAINS	ROMAN	
F2	ROBBE TRENCH	1	1	1	15	15		0	0	1												X	BSW 1					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	2	2		1	0	0												CB	CAM 391A/B	BEAKE R	0.1 3	10 0		AD 110/125- 180/210	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	59	20																BSW 2						ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	49	25		0	0	1												GX						ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	66	22		2	0	0							X					GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.1 5	16 0		AD 125/150- 280/320	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1														X					GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.1 3	16 0		AD 125/150- 280/320	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	258	258		1	0	0												X TZ (COL)	CAM 497	MOR- TARIA	0.1 2	40 0		AD 140- 200/250	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	14	14																X TZ (COL)						AD 43-225	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	54	54		1	0	0												BSW 2	CAM 231/232	FLASK	0.2 1	13 5		AD 43- 150/180	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	23	23		1	0	0												OVV WH	F137.5	JAR	0.1 5	14 0		AD 350-400	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	4	122	31		3	0	0	X	EX T	2 Y LINES									BAEG	DRAG 31	DISH	0.2 0	27 0	GRAF EXT BELOW RIM	AD 150-260	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	5	319	64																NAF AM2		AM- PHORA E			LIME POOR	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	303	101	X															BAET	DR20	AM- PHORA E				ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	22	11																DJ				WH/CR	ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	16	16																CZ					AD 100/110- 300		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	4	62	16		3	0	0												GB	CAM 37A/ 38A	BOWL	0.0 4	25 0		AD 120- 180/220	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/ 38B	BOWL	0.0 5	20 0		AD 180-275	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/ 38B	BOWL	0.0 6	22 0		AD 180-275	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	59	59		1	0	0												NARB	G4	AM- PHORA E	0.2 7	12 0	GOLD & SILVER MICA	AD 50-300	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	83	83		1	0	0												X TZ (I)	CAM 497	MOR- TARIA	0.0 3	?		AD 140- 200/250	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	62	62		0	0	1												GX						ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	22	11																GX						ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	41	14		0	0	3												GB					AD 110/125- 300		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	15	15		1	0	0							X					GA	CAM 279C	JAR	0.1 0	11 0	S TOP RIM & NECK	AD 220-380	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	29	29		1	0	0												X	ON	CAM 17	PLAT- TER	0.0 6	26 0	BUFF/OR GOLD MICA	EARLY RO- MAN
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	20	20		1	0	0												BSW 1	CAM 218	BOWL	0.0 8	17 0		AD 43-120	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	11	11		1	0	0												BASG	DRAG 18	DISH	0.0 1	?		AD 43-100	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	56	56		0	0	1												WA						ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	20	20																DJ					P-BUFF	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	57	29																HZ BSW						LIA-AD 200/300	

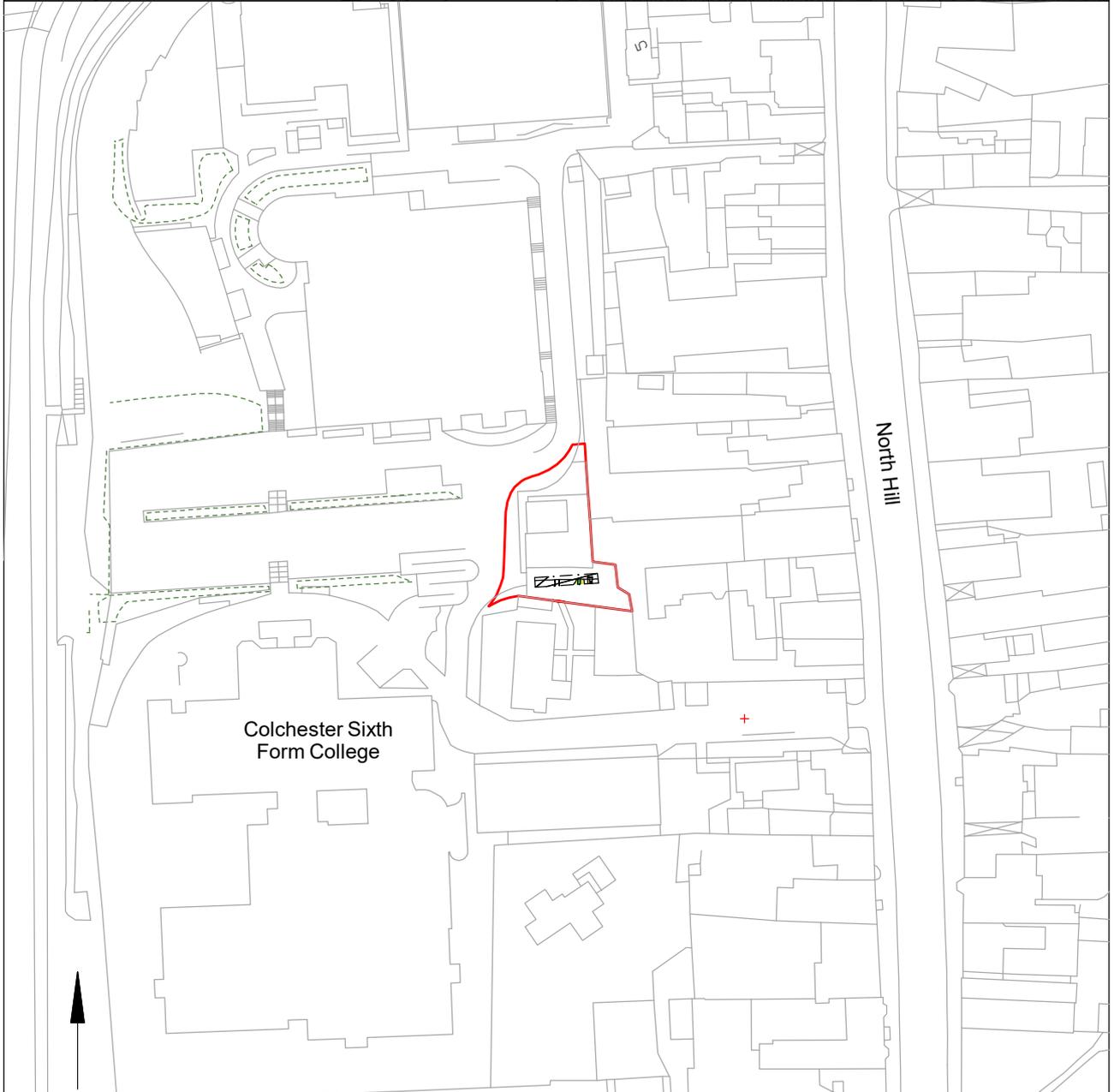
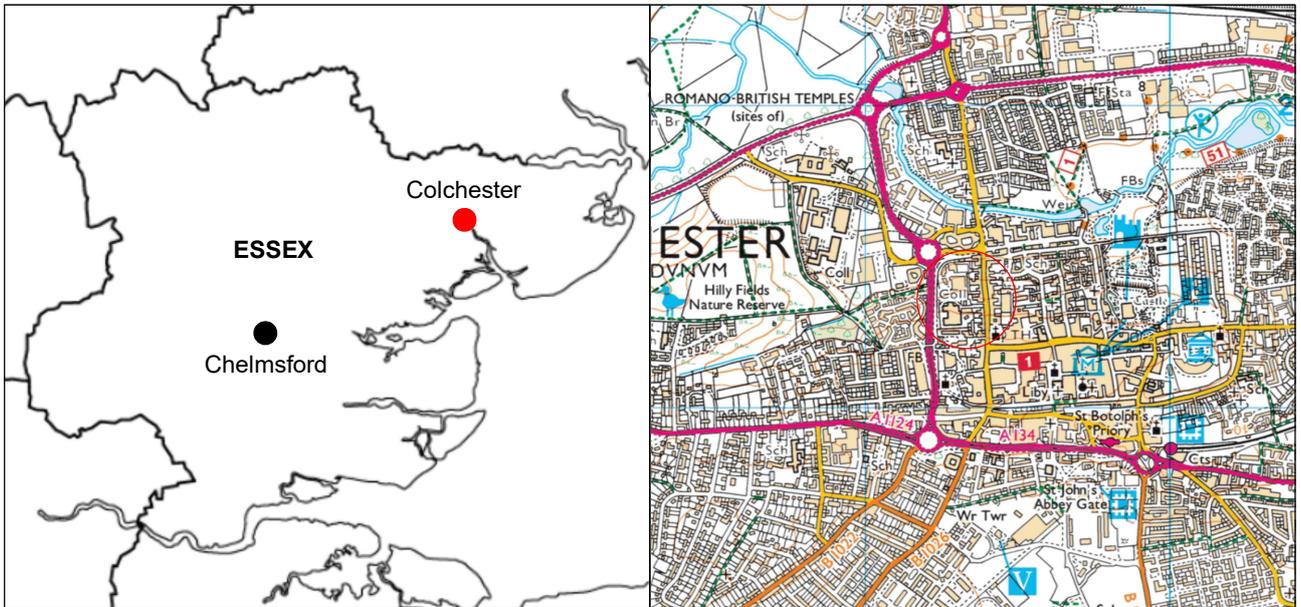
Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Location	Visible (Y/N)	Reading	Wmd	Sooting (ext.)	Burning	Overfired	Mortar encrustation	Griffed	Fabric Grp	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	39	13																DJ				WH/CR	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	24	24																DJ				F-W SLIP P-Y SURF PK CORE	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	4	10	3	3	0	0													CB	CAM 391A/B	BEAKER	0.24	90		AD 110/125-180/210
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	34	34	1	0	0													KX	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.05	22		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	25	25																NAF AM2		AM-PHORA E		AFR LIME POOR	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	6	35	6																GX (S)					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	20	10																GX					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	23	23	1	0	0								X					GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.15	14	S TOP EXT RIM	AD 125/150-280/320
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	23	304	13	8	0	6													GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.09	21		AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.09	21		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.05	22		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.14	19		AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.03	?		AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.03	?		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.05	25		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.08	22		AD 120-250/260
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	5	5	1	0	0													BACO	DRAG 33	CUP	0.08	11		AD 150-200
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	6	6	1	0	0													BACG	DRAG 33	CUP	0.08	14		AD 110-200
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	3	3	1	0	0													BASG	DRAG 33	CUP	0.09	10		AD 110-200
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	5	5	1	0	0													BACG	DRAG 33	CUP	0.08	11		AD 110-200
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	6	96	16	4	0	2		X	Y	LINE									GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.09	19	GRAF LINE ON TOP RIM	AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.07	22		AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.08	21		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1																			GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.03	?	XXX	AD 120-180/220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	69	23	3	0	0								X					GX (S)	CAM 268	JAR	0.39	14	S EXT RIM	AD 125/150-280/320
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	6	82	14	1	0	0													GX (S)	CAM 268	JAR	0.08	16		AD 125/150-280/320
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	9	9															X	GX					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	13	13																BSW 1					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	7	115	16																BSW 2					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	11	11																BSW 1					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	16	16					X	Y	LINES									BAEG	DRAG 38	BOWL			GRAF 2 WAVY LINES EXT BELOW FL	AD 150-260
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	50	50	X															BAET	DR20	AM-PHORA E				ROMAN
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	3	3	1	0	0													BACG	DRAG 31	DISH	0.05	19		AD 150-220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	20	20																BASZ					SINZIG (COLCH?)	AD 150-260
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	20	10	1	0	1													BACG	DRAG 33	CUP	0.03	?		AD 110-200
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	9	9	0	0	1													BACG						AD 110-220
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	7	4	1	0	0													BAEG	DRAG 31	DISH	0.06	17		AD 150-260
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	18	9	1	0	0													WA	CAM 37B/38B	BOWL	0.09	16		AD 180-275
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	7	130	19	0	0	2													DJ					P-BUFF	ROMAN
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	79	40																HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	
L5	DEMOLITION	4	1	1	57	57																HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Location	Visible (Y/N)	Reading	Wmd	Sooting (ext.)	Burning	Overfired	Mortar encrustation	Griffed	Fabric Grp	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	1	1	16	16	0	0	1													DJ					P-OR	ROMAN
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	1	1	9	9	1	0	0													BASG	DRAG 33	CUP	0.06	160		AD 70-110
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	1	1	25	25																BXSG	DRAG 37	BOWL			DEER, PLANTS	AD 43-110
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	1	8	154	19	3	0	1													GX	CAM 266	JAR	0.31	170		AD 43-80
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	1																			GX	CAM 507	LID	0.08	200		ROMAN
L6	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	5	1	2	40	20	1	0	0													GX	CAM 243-244/246	BOWL	0.07	210		AD 43-140
L6	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	5	1	1	9	9	1	0	0													BASG	DRAG 18	DISH	0.01	?		AD 43-110
L6	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	5	1	1	2	2	1	0	0													DJ	?	BEAKER	0.18	50	RIM LIKE CAM 408-410	ROMAN
L6	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	5	1	1	67	67																DJ					NOT COL DENSE MATRIX P-Y	ROMAN

### Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	UCA	UCA L.	Animal	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	L	BR.	TH.	Frog. L	Frog. Width	Wall Pl. Col.	cm2	Mortar	Comments	Date		
F2	ROBBER TRENCH	1	1	2	36	18	X	TESS																								ROMAN		
F2	ROBBER TRENCH	1	1	1	110	110	X	RT	0																							ROMAN		
F2	ROBBER TRENCH	1	1	1	263	263	X	RI	0																							ROMAN		
F2	ROBBER TRENCH	1	1	1	6	6	X	MORTAR	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	385	193	X	RI	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	680	227	X	RB	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	15	15	X	TESS	0								X															FROM RFT	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	99	99	X	RT	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	148	74	X	RB	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	89	89	X	RBT	0																							ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	98	98		RI	0																							VYELLOW OR/RED SMOOTH	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	3	966	322		RT	0	57	30	26																				VYELLOW OR/RED SMOOTH	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	653	653	X	RT	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	2	981	491	X	RB	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	612	612	X	MORTAR	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	157	157	X	OP SIG	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	310	310	X	RB	0							X																	ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	221	221	X	RT	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	375	375		RT	0	60	35	25																					ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	4	124	31	X	RB	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	553	553		RT	0	45	32	25	B6	55																		ROMAN		
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	50	50	X	OP SIG	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	60	60	X	RT	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	193	193	X	RI	0																								CR/WH	ROMAN
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	34	34	X	RI	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	1552	1552	X	RB	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	649	649	X	RBT	0																								ROMAN	
L4	DEMOLITION	2	1	1	1016	1016	X	RB	0																								ROMAN	

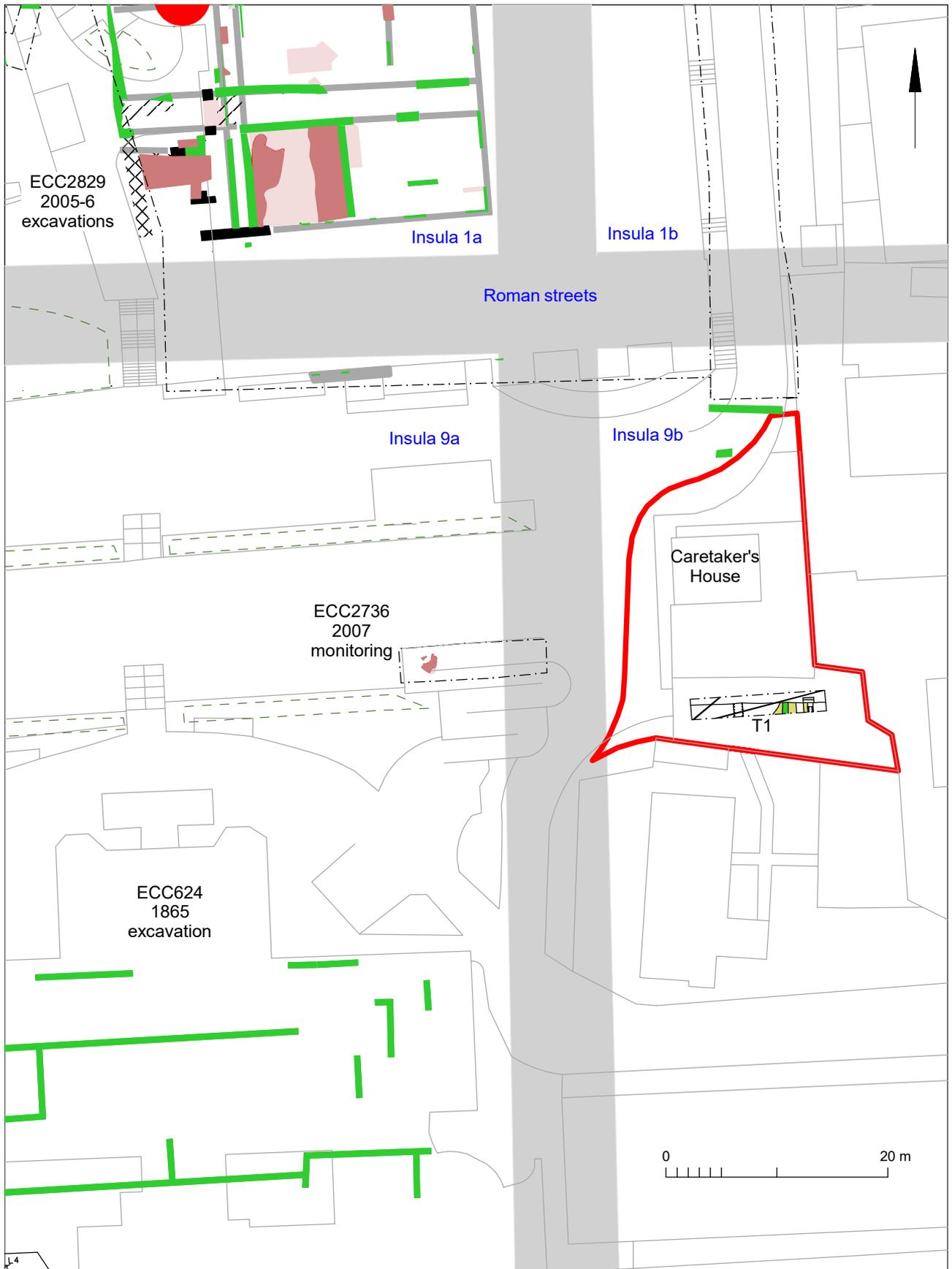




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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m



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Fig 2 Evaluation results in relation to previous archaeological work.

- |   |                  |   |                   |  |                     |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Roman house wall |  | (projected wall)  |  | mortar floor        |
|  | Roman street     |  | tessellated floor |  | opus signinum floor |

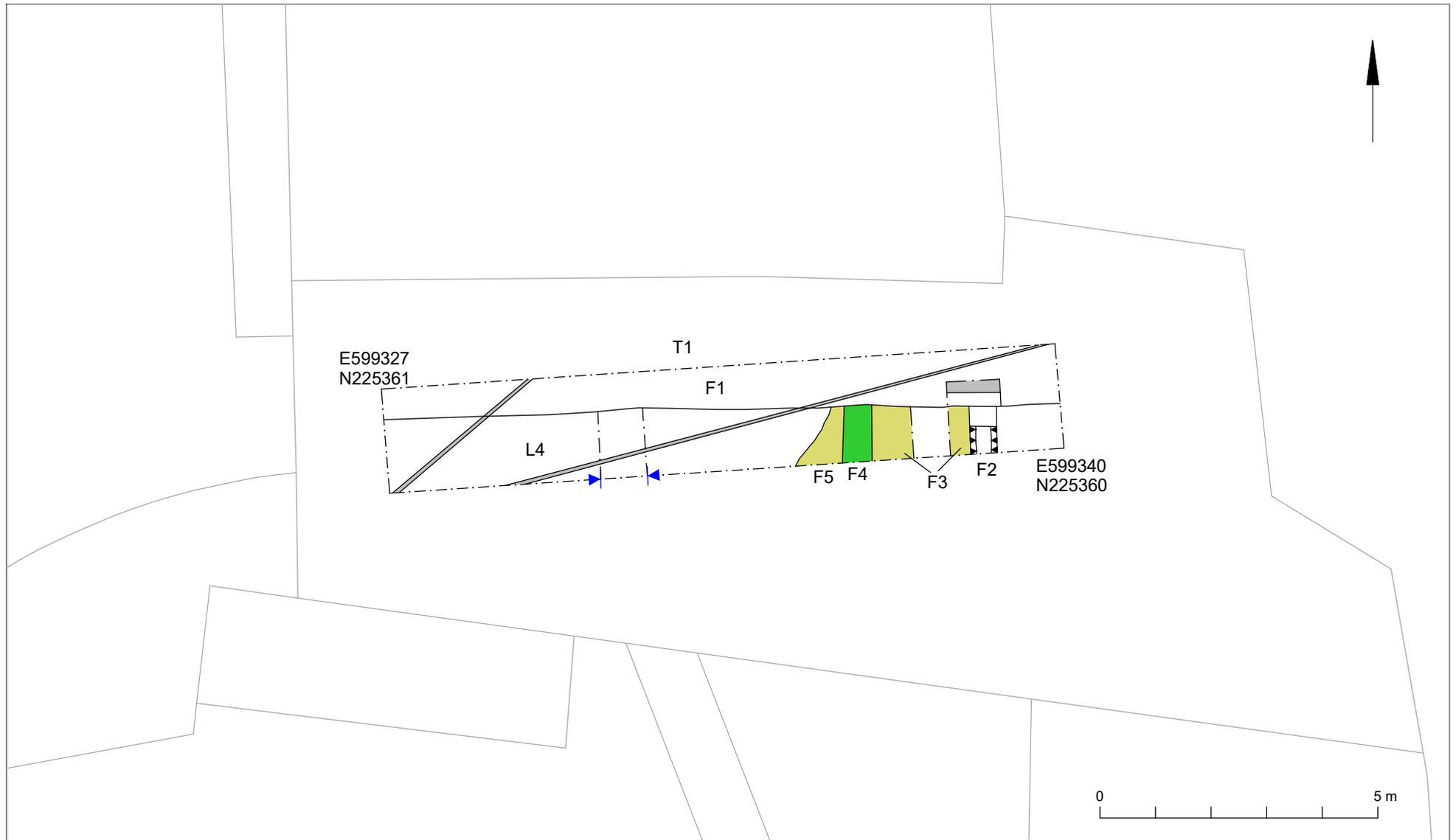


Fig 3 Evaluation results.

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— Roman clay block wall   
  Roman mortar floor

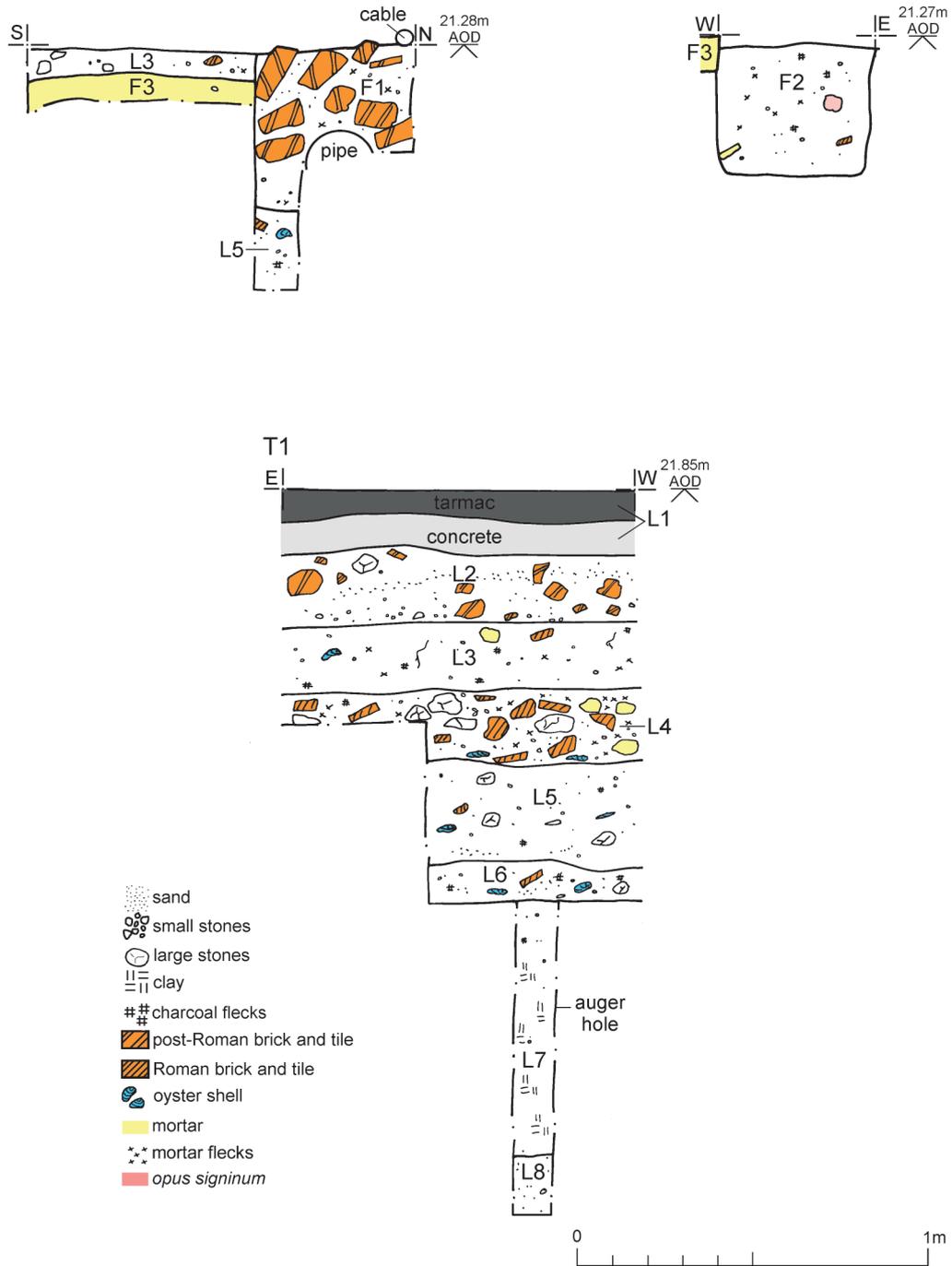


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

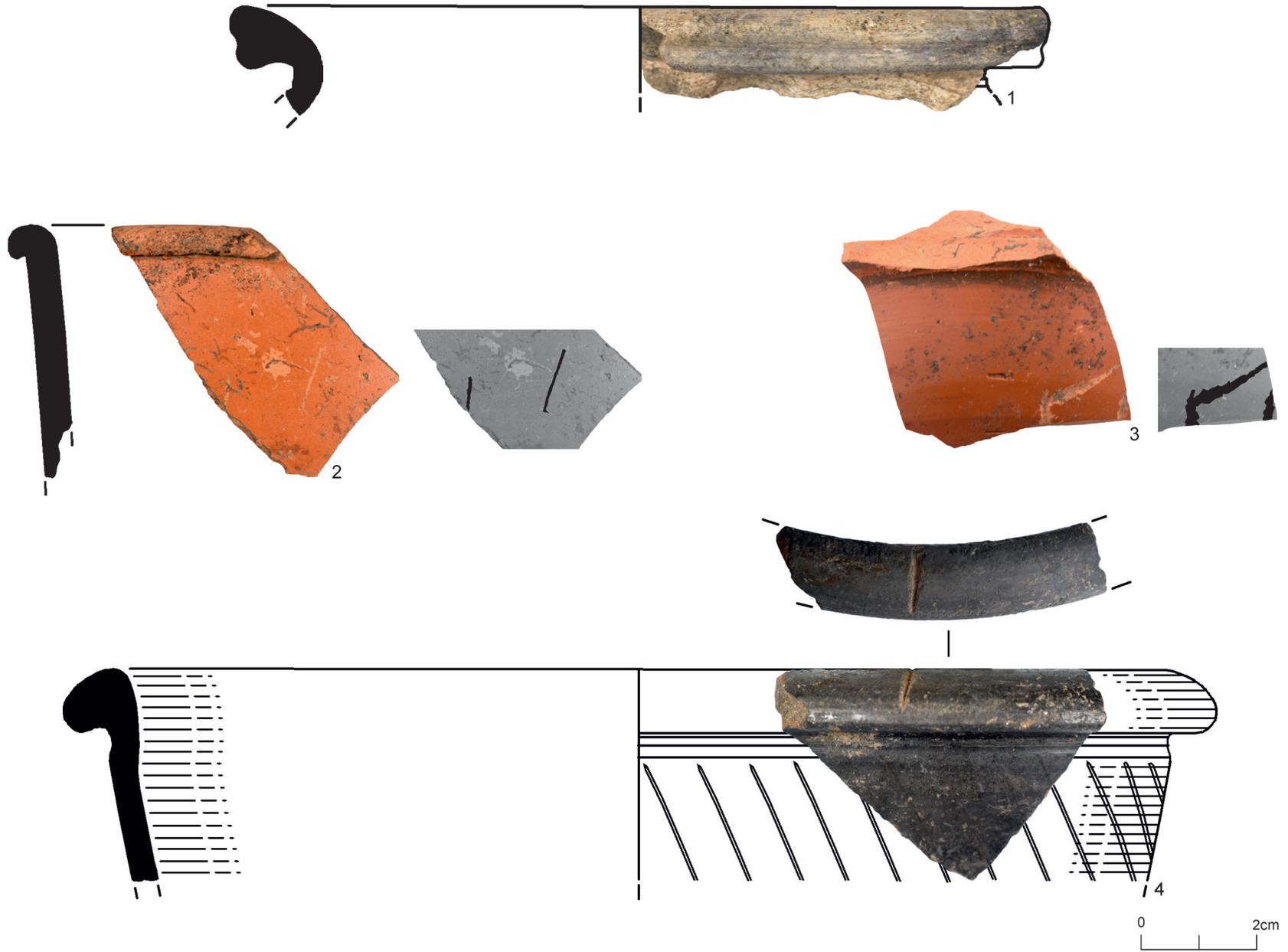


Fig 5 Roman pottery from L4: possible Overwey White ware/Portchester D rilled jar (1) and sherds with graffiti (2-4).

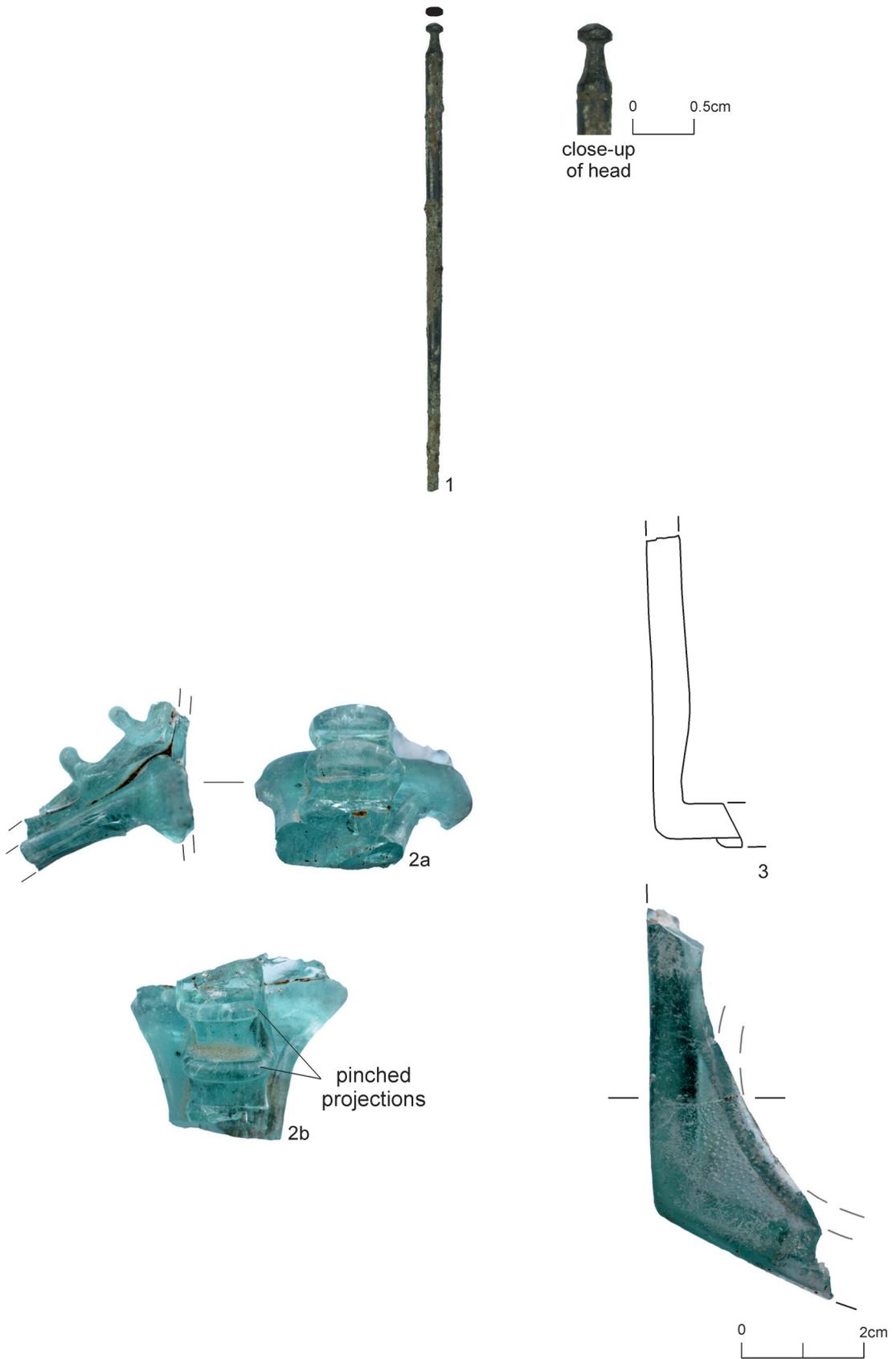


Fig 6 Roman hairpin from L4 and Roman glass from F2 (1) and L4 (2).

# Summary for colchest3-514428

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-514428
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at The Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1SN: April 2023
Sitename	Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1SN
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/03i
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Apr-2023 - 14-Apr-2023
Location	Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1SN NGR : TL 99291 25335 LL : 51.89092818306416, 0.894745726723102 12 Fig : 599291,225335
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) carried out as per the conditions of the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex as part of a pre-planning investigation in advance of the construction of a new teaching block. The development site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area within the north-west corner of the Roman walled town, containing a number of insula blocks. Although subject to some truncation by modern service runs, well preserved Roman stratigraphy and features were encountered during the evaluation. This included Roman demolition horizons and Roman structural remains consisting of mortar floors and clay block walls suggesting an internal corridor within a large 2nd-century building.
Keywords	Building - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Ben, Holloway
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4780
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection); Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;