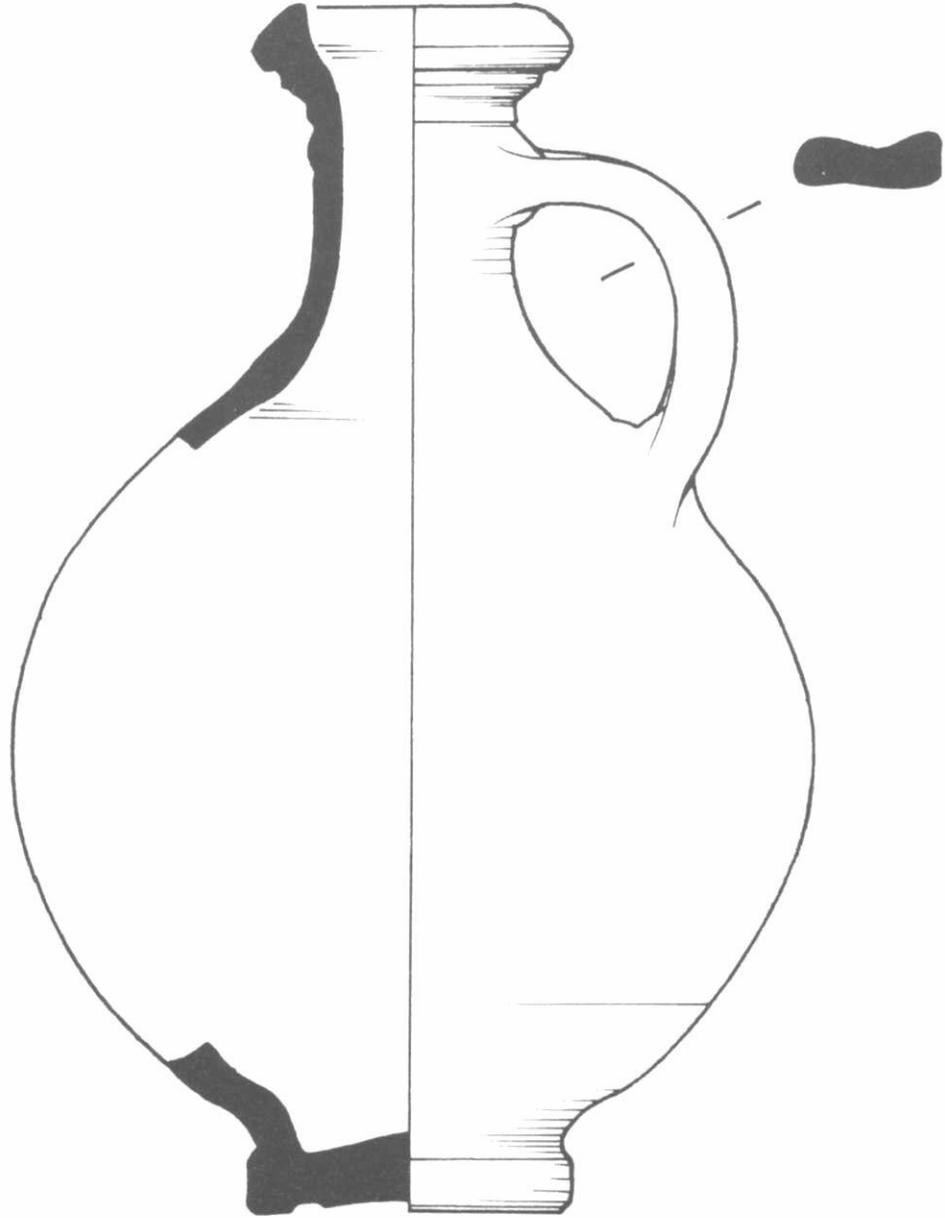


1



2

0 50 mm

Fig. 1. (Drawn by Mary Iles)

## Excavation at 147 Lexden Road, Colchester

by M.D. Brasier

As a result of accidental finds, a small excavation took place between 1960 and 1965 in the garden (TL 9770 2525) of 'Somerford', 147 Lexden Road, Colchester (Fig. 1). The work was carried out by the author and Dr CM. Brasier and others who assisted are thanked.

The main feature discovered was a gully, pit or trench (Fig. 2). Dark silt at the bottom (IV, lower) was rich in vegetable matter but devoid of artefacts. Dark organic loam above (IV, upper) contained an exceptional amount of pottery and other domestic and building debris: this is comparable to Phase IV at Sheepen (Hawkes and Hull, 1947), A.D. 49-60. A burnt layer above may be attributed to the Boudiccan revolt of A.D. 60. There was little evidence of later occupation.

### The Finds (Figs. 3 and 4)

- 1 **Samian:** CAM 56A', 56A" (potter's stamp AQVITANI Fig. 3.5), S14B, S19, Dr.29 (Fig. 3.6, 12). South Gaulish.
- 2 **Gallo-Belgic Platters:** CAM 8.15, 16A (potter's stamp ATECDNVDVS, Fig. 3.4), 16AC.
- 3 **Sub-Belgic Platters:** CAM 17A, 24, 31A, 31D.
- 4 **Romano-British Bowl:** CAM 62.
- 5 **Gallo-Belgic Pedestal Beaker:** CAM 79A.
- 6 **Native Girth Beaker:** CAM 85B.
- 7 **Globular and Ovoid Beakers:** CAM 92, 94, 102, 108Aa, 109.
- 8 **Gallo-Belgic and Native Butt-Beakers:** CAM 115B, 115C, 116A, 119A.

- 9 **One handled Flagons:** CAM 140, 140B, 141, 141B, 154 (?).
- 10 **Two Handled Jugs:** CAM 170, 174B.
- 11 **Radish Amphora:** CAM 186A (base only).
- 12 **Mortaria:** CAM 192B, 193A, 195.
- 13 **Native Pedestal Urns:** CAM 203, 204e (Fig. 3.8), 205. Unusual for period IV site.
- 14 **Native La Tene Cups and Bowls:** CAM 218A, 218B, 221A, 221B (Fig. 3.11).
- 15 **La Tene Narrow Mouthed Flasks:** CAM 232, 232A, 232Aa, 232Ab, 234.
- 16 **Carinated Bowls:** CAM 242, 243, 244.
- 17 **Neckless and Bead-rim Cooking Pots:** CAM 257, 259.
- 18 **Necked Cooking Pots:** CAM 263A, 266B, 267B, 268B.
- 19 **Large Storage Vessels:** CAM 270B, 271, 272, 273. Many sherds.
- 20 **Lids:** Sherds of six lids, various fabrics.
- 21 **Glass:** Nine fragments of pale blue-green fabric including two bottle necks and an octagonal vessel; bright blue glass from a flask; wine-red glass from the rim of a cup; purple, yellow and white millefiori fragments (cup?); Black gaming counter.
- 22 **Bronze:** Aucissa Brooch (Fig. 4.5); gold-plated pin of similar brooch; two springs of safety-pin brooches; finger-ring (Fig. 4.6); part of a bracelet (Fig. 4.3); tweezers (Fig. 4.9); silver-plated fragments from a mirror (?). Military bronze included a cuirass buckle (Fig. 4.2); a silver coated button (Fig. 4.3), and three studs with Maltese Cross motif (Fig. 4.7).

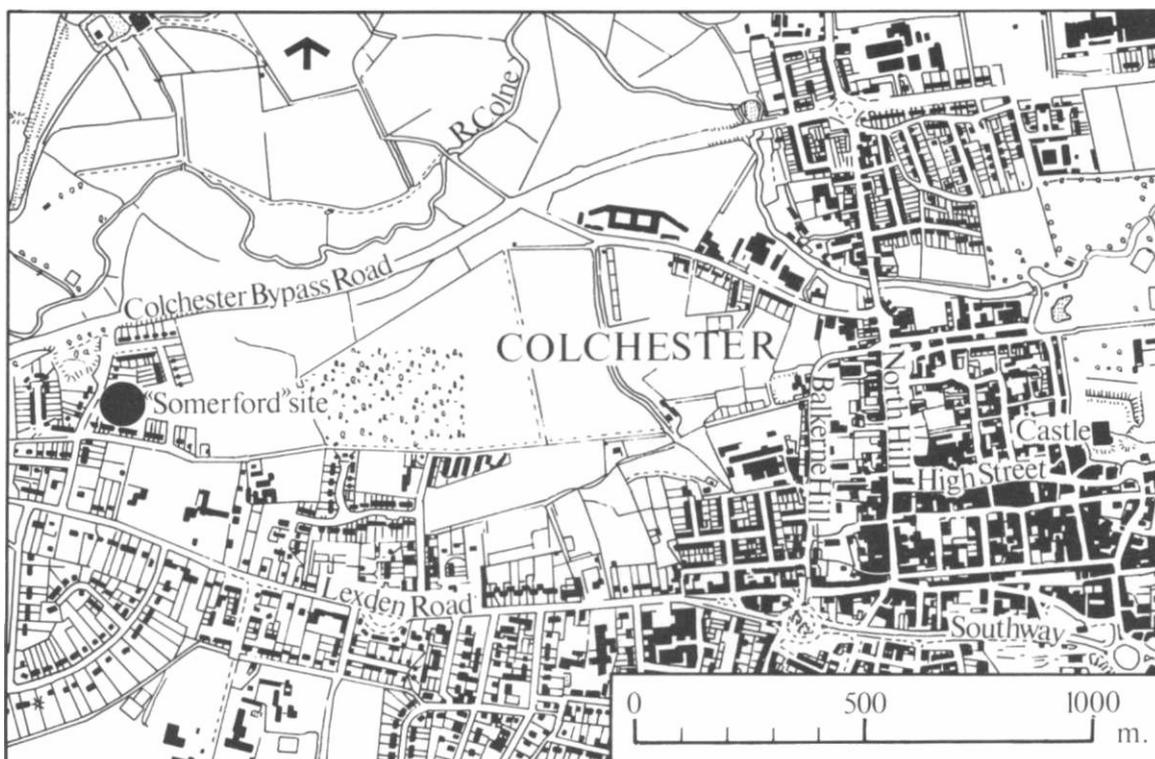
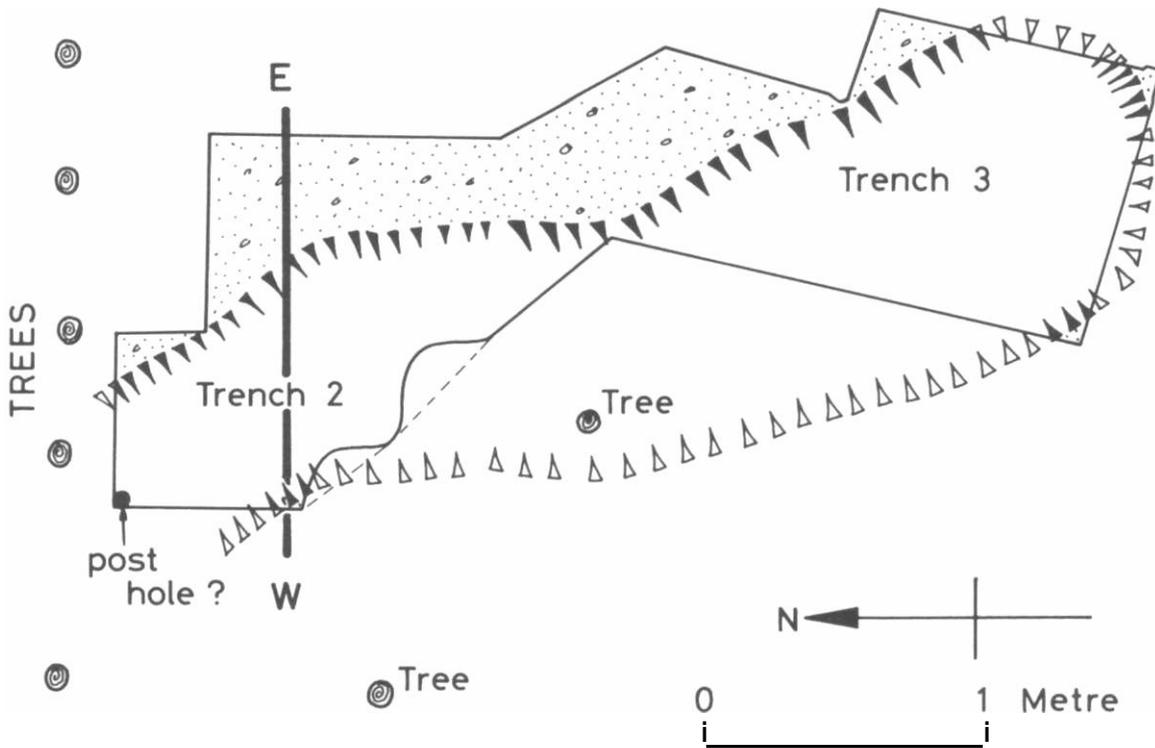


Fig. 1

**Site Plan**



**Section E—W Across trench,**

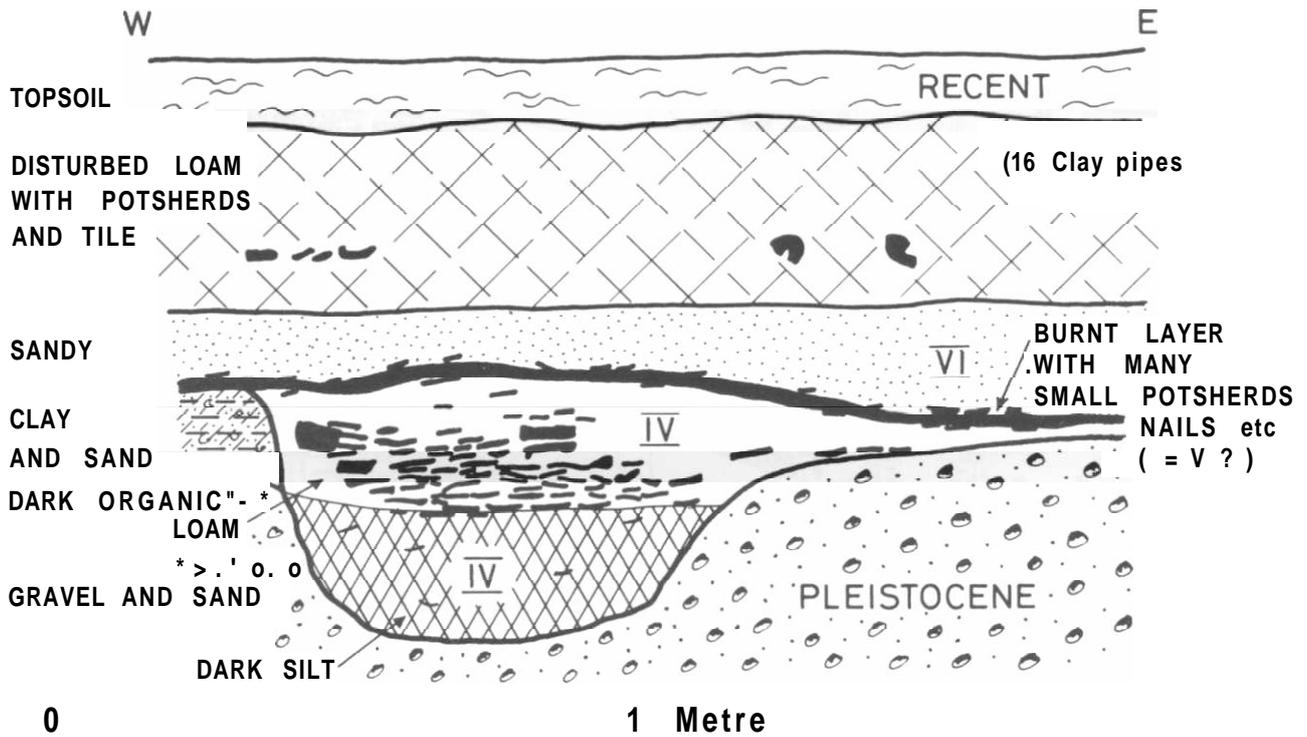


Fig. 2

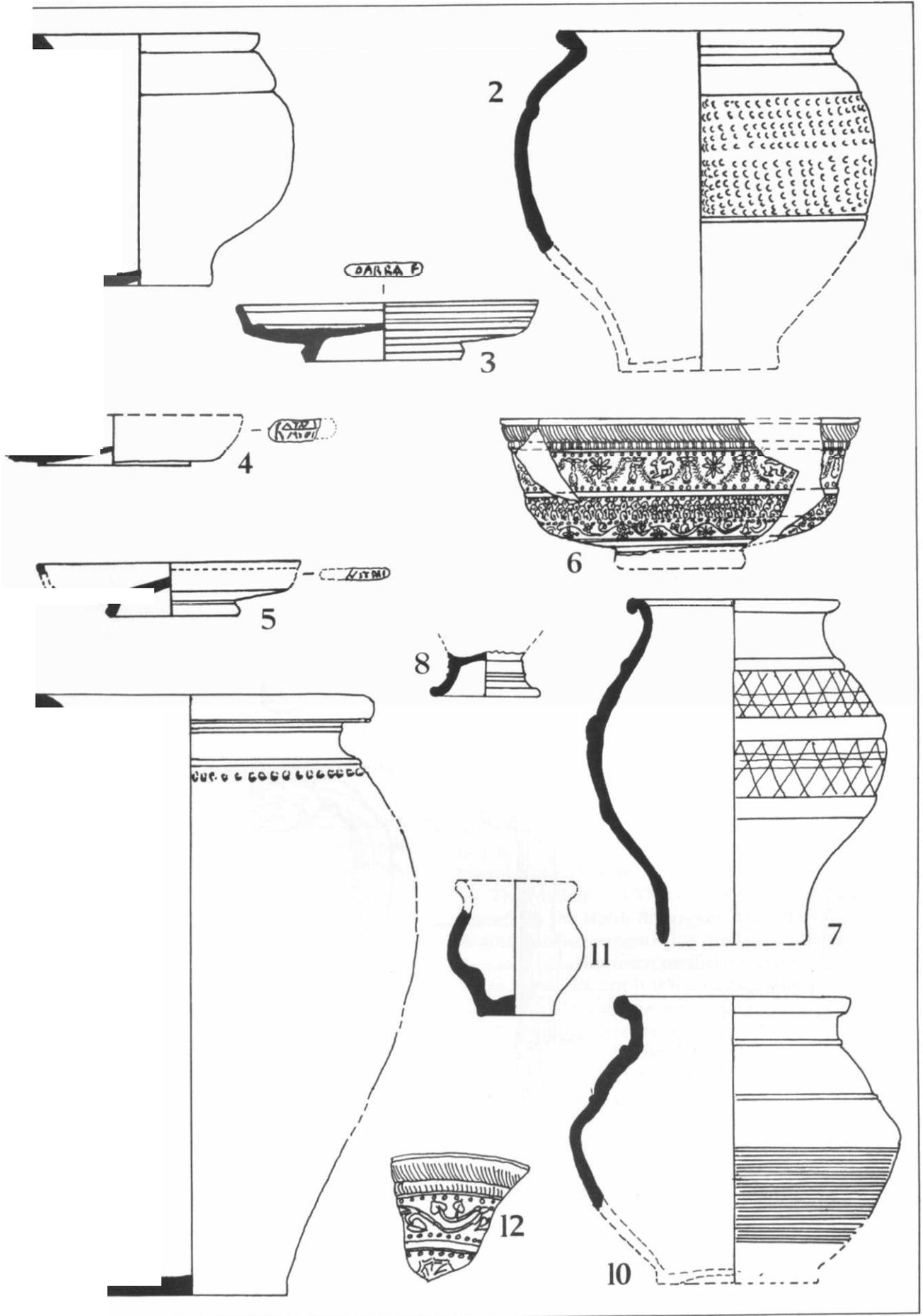


Fig. 3

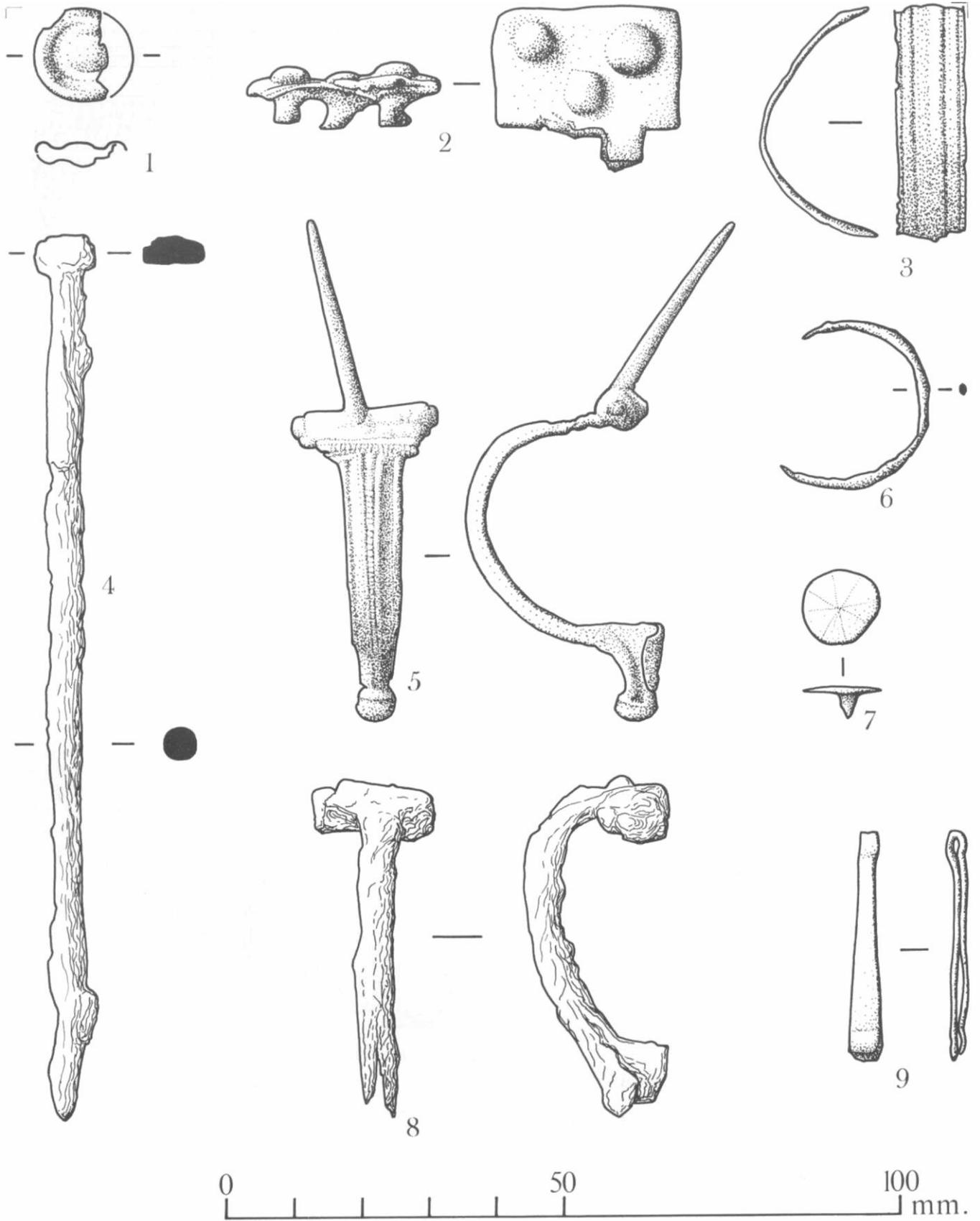


Fig. 4

23 **Iron:** Abundant square-headed nails; large round headed and bevelled pins; indeterminate rectangular plates and bars, often with rivets; two styli (Fig. 4.4); unusual iron dolphin brooch (Fig. 4.8).

24 **Stone:** Half a conglomerate quern; block of grey pumice; three whetstones, quartzite and sandstone; quartzite cobbles charred and fractured by heat; small polygonal-sided stylus of slate.

25 **Tile:** Roofing tiles were common; one small hypocaust tile fragment.

26 **Mineral:** Numerous lumps of vitreous slag, clinker and jet.

27 **Bone:** Many animal bones not analysed.

### **Conclusions**

Similar signs of occupation during Claudian-Neronian times are known from a site on the opposite side of Lexden Road (Hull, 1958 p.295), where a rubbish pit was found. Sherds of this date have also been found by the writer in the garden of nearby Lexden Rectory (CAM S16 and a butt-beaker) and along Norman Way (CAM 83, 270 and native ware). A Claudian-Neronian earthwork was found there in 1939 and contemporary kilns existed at Endsleigh and Queen's Road (Hull, 1963).

The diversity of articles is noteworthy. As at Sheepen, native ware predominates. Being close to the road from Londinium, the area of the excavation might well be a favoured site for settlement during the early development of the Colonia.

*Small finds drawn by Christine Couchman.*