

**EXCAVATIONS IN THE PRECINCT OF ST. JOHN'S ABBEY, COLCHESTER, MARCH -  
OCTOBER 2015**



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# **EXCAVATIONS IN THE PRECINCT OF ST. JOHN'S ABBEY, COLCHESTER, MARCH - OCTOBER 2015**

## **Summary**

The excavations were carried out to determine whether Colchester's missing Roman amphitheatre might be located in the south east corner of the precinct of the medieval St John's Abbey, an area not previously evaluated archaeologically, but which had several features which suggested it to be a suitable possible site.

No trace of the amphitheatre was found. Trial trenching recovered large quantities of Roman building and other ceramic material, typical of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century domestic activity nearby, but no actual structures were identified. Geophysical surveys of the surrounding area suggested possible domestic structures within the area, but these were not investigated. Two inhumation burials, and one cremation, all dated as Roman were uncovered.

Although part of the Abbey precinct, no medieval or later structures were discovered, and the limited number of non-Roman finds suggested that the area had been used for horticultural or agricultural purposes for much of the last 1000 years.

## **Aim**

The purpose of the excavation was to establish whether or not a Roman amphitheatre once existed in what became the south-east corner of the grounds of St John's Abbey.

## **Archaeological Background**

Colchester, in common with most other major towns throughout the Roman Empire, almost certainly had an amphitheatre. To date, no trace of one has been found, and there are few places left where one might have been located. The south-east corner of the grounds of St John's Abbey has never been evaluated archaeologically, and was thought to be a possible site for a number of reasons:

1. Its proximity to the Roman circus. Amphitheatres often, but not always, occur close to circuses and the east end of the circus lies immediately to the north.
2. The arenas in Roman amphitheatres in Britain were set in the ground and soil generated during the digging of the arena was piled up around the site to form embankments to support the seating. There is an old and unexplained mound of soil at the south end of the site, close to the east end of the circus. This could be the remnants of the 'little hill' that the medieval Colchester Chronicle tells us was removed in 1133 to facilitate the re-siting of the monastic buildings from the north side of the church to the south. This does not mean that the hill was an amphitheatre, but it is possible. But see Site History below.
3. The site slopes from south to north. When siting amphitheatres, sloping sites were often favoured because the amount of earth which had to be moved was minimised.

By comparison with other amphitheatres, it might be expected that natural ground at the base of the arena pit would be at some considerable depth. At London, for example the pit was about 1.5m deep.

## **Site History**

As stated above, the site is part of the precinct of St John's Abbey. There is no information on the status of the land before the foundation of the Abbey, but a number of sources give information on the development of the precinct after its foundation in 1095. These have been reviewed and collated in a report by John Moore, "The Precinct of the Abbey of St John the Baptist, Colchester: a Visual History". Ref 1. Much of the information therein relates to the precinct as a whole, or parts of the precinct which do not fall within the area under study, but the following observations are potentially of relevance:

1. A "small hill" stated as being present to the south side of the abbey church was said to have been removed in 1133 during rebuilding of the abbey following the fire of that year. The nature of this "small

hill” is not known, but it has been suggested that it could have formed part of the north side of the seating of an amphitheatre. As it was in the way of the construction of abbey buildings it would have been further north than the area under investigation, but an amphitheatre extending to the south would certainly have impinged. It does seem that it would have been much too far north to have been the still extant Mount, which is at the southernmost end of the precinct.

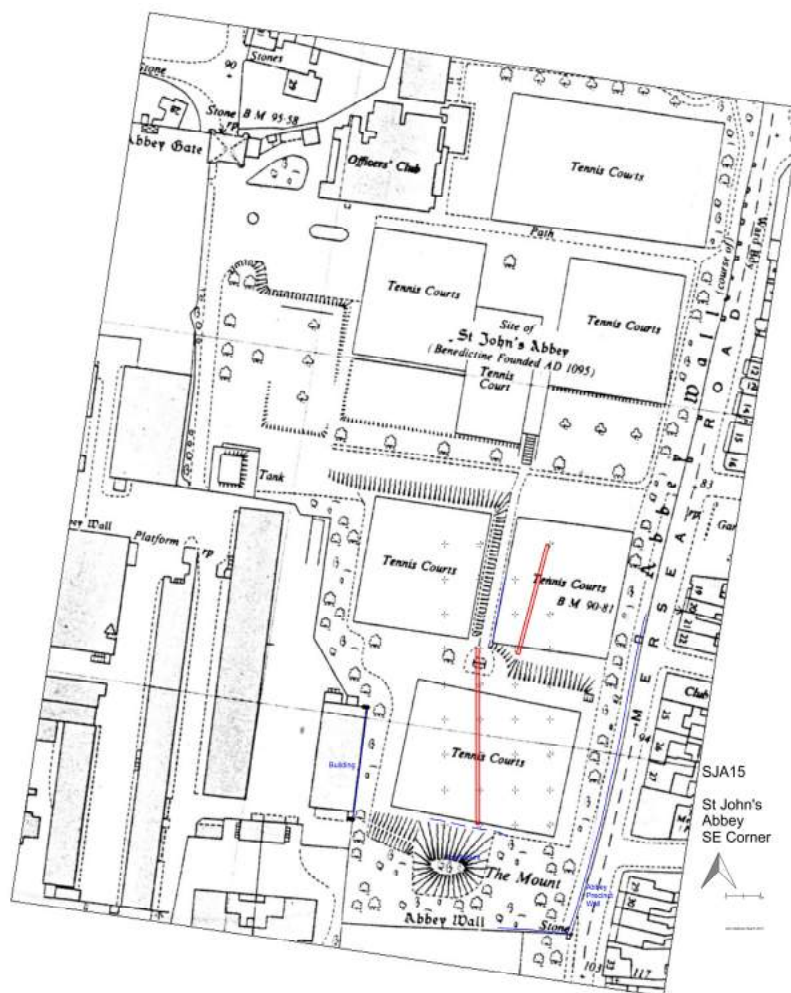
2. There are no indications of how the study site was used during the monastic period, but descriptions of the locations of abbey buildings suggest that they were all sited elsewhere. It is probable that the area was part of the monastic gardens throughout.

3. The first map showing the whole of the precinct dates from 1610, but the south east corner is blank. The Mount, along with stylised garden features, first appears in 1748, but there are no hints as to its original purpose. It is probably that the area continued as gardens, more or less formally laid out, from 1548 to 1860, when it was sold to the War Office to become part of the Garrison.

4. The area assumed its current form between 1897, when the OS map shows the site blank, and 1923, when OS shows the site as terraced and laid out to tennis courts for use by the Officers Club.

5. In c.2006 the site was sold to Taylor Wimpey, but has not been developed and is due to be transferred to public ownership in due course.

## The Plan



As part of St John's Abbey precinct, the site is a scheduled ancient monument. The original plan had been to obtain permission from English Heritage for one long trench running the full length of the site from south to north. If the amphitheatre was present, it would be expected to show as at least 30m of flat, undisturbed natural ground at some considerable depth below modern ground level. In the event the topography of the ground and the presence of several trees, which had to be avoided, meant that scheduled monument consent was sought, and obtained, for 2 trenches running more or less south – north and covering most of the length of the site (Fig. 1). Permission was also obtained for geophysical surveys of the whole of the site.

**Fig. 1 (above) St John's Abbey Precinct (OS 1923 mapping) showing trench positions, TA to the south and TB to the north.**

Total Station measurements locating the map relative to modern features are shown in blue. The building to the east has now been demolished, but the wall line remains.

## Geophysical Survey

The area surrounding the 2 trenches was subjected to detailed geophysical examination by a range of techniques. This work is contained in a separate report prepared by Tim Dennis, Ref. 3. None of the findings impinged significantly on the trial trenches.

## Trial Trenching

2 trenches 1.2m wide were dug, running approximately north south down the centre of the site, and together covering most of the total length of the area (Fig. 1). A variable depth of soil was machine stripped from both trenches. In Trench A (southern trench), the depth removed was in the region of 20 – 30 cm throughout. In trench B (northern trench) a similar thickness was removed from the north end, but at the southern end an approximately 10m length was machine stripped almost down to natural at 50 – 60cm below the modern surface. Both trenches were then excavated by hand down to natural over at least half their width.

For administrative convenience, each trench was given its own sequential Layer and Feature numbers. Where layers appeared equivalent in the two trenches, this has been noted in the table below (Table 1.). Within each trench 5m sections were lettered alphabetically, from the south. This enabled the position of finds to be defined more accurately, even where there was no feature to provide context.

**Table 1. Layer and Feature Nos.**

| Context | Equivalence | Description   | Finds  | Date   |
|---------|-------------|---|--|--|
| LA0     | LB0         | Dark grey soft modern topsoil sealing LA1 throughout. Variable thickness 10 – 15cm. Not recognised as a separate layer during stripping, and finds, recovered by sieving, were mixed with those from the top few cms LA1. Such sieved finds were recorded as unstratified | Inferred to be mostly modern pot sherds and CBM, with some Roman                               | Modern   |
| LA1     | LB1         | Medium grey soft sandy loam throughout TA. Thickness 50 - 60cm. Shading imperceptibly through orange brown at base into LA7   | Roman pottery sherds and CBM throughout, with some modern & medieval towards top. Bone & shell | Roman, though probably redeposited or disturbed. |
| LA2     |             | Redeposited LA1, with some LA7, in FA1  | As LA1, but mixed throughout   |  |
| LA3     | LA6         | As LA2, but in FA3 & FA5  | As LA2   |  |
| LA4     | LA6         | Redeposited LA1, with some LA7 in FA3 & FA5   |  | Modern - redeposited                             |
| LA5     |             | Light sandy loam at base of LA1 in TA/I   | Roman pottery  | Roman  |
| LA6     | LA4         | Redeposited LA1, with some LA7 in FA3 & FA5   |  | Modern - redeposited                             |
| LA7     |             | Natural at base LA1. Mainly firm orange sand/gravel, with some stones. Slightly more clay to north end.   |  | Glacial  |
| LB0     | LA0         | As LA0, but in TB   |  |  |
| LB1     | LA1         | As LA1  | As LA1, but with increased (though still rare) medieval material towards north end             | Roman, though probably redeposited or disturbed  |
| LB2     | LA2         | Natural, and as LA2, but with slightly more clay, as at north end LA1.  |  | Glacial  |
| LB3     |             | As LB1, but redeposited over modern gas pipe.   |  | Modern   |

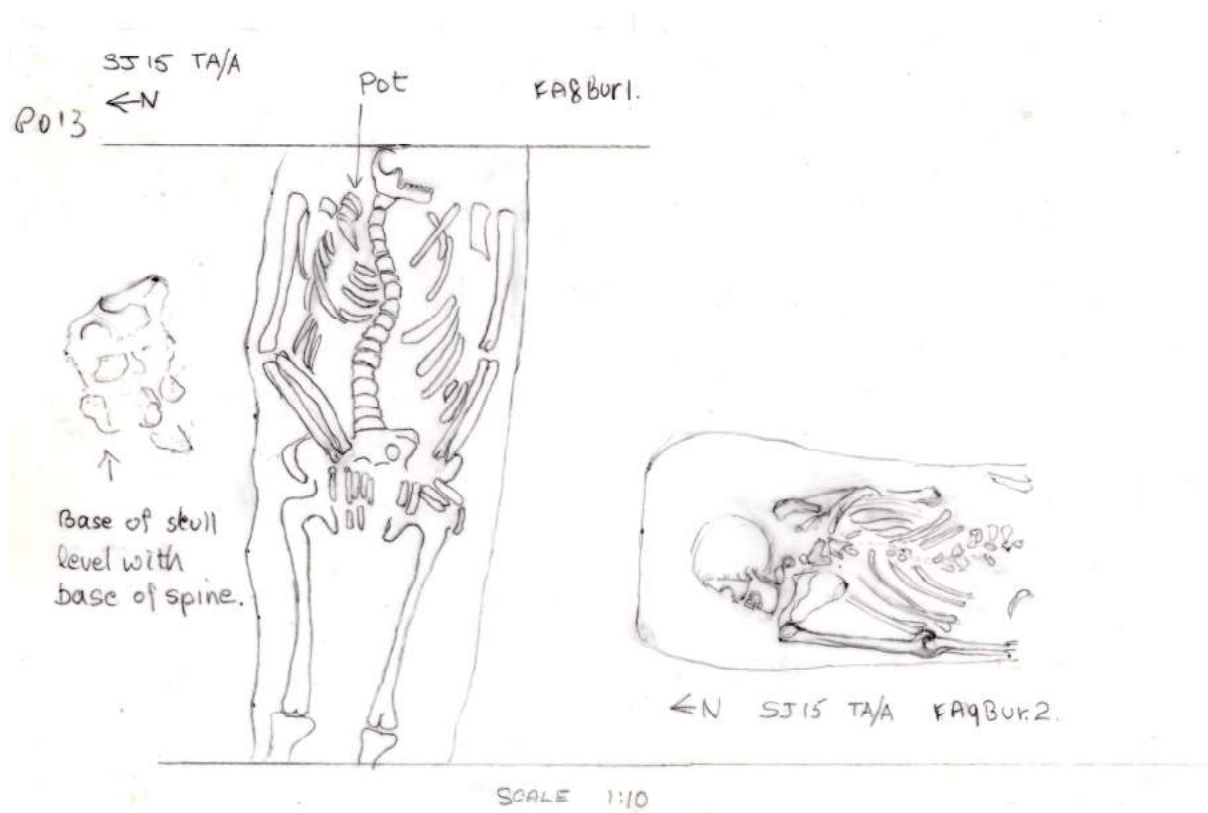
|      |  |   |   |                      |
|------|--|---|---|----------------------|
| FA1  |  | Pit in southernmost 2m at end TA. Depth 85cm with inhumations FA8 & FA9 at base   | Roman materials throughout  | Roman                |
| FA2  |  | Flat surface over northernmost 7m of TA, on top of LA1, and covered by LA0  | Mix of modern and Roman brick and tile, with some reused worked stone | Modern               |
| FA3  |  | Pit/ditch cut into LA1/LA7 in TA/G. Refilled with mixed LA1/LA7. Width 1.2m across full width Ta. Depth 1.1 – 1.2m              | Mixed modern and Roman pottery throughout                             | Modern               |
| FA4  |  | Ditch cut into LA7 in TA/E. Width 2.6m. Depth 1.05m max, V shaped with “ankle breaker” at base. Fill indistinguishable from LA1 | Mainly Roman with some later pottery in upper fill                    | Possibly late Roman  |
| FA5  |  | Pit cut into LA1/LA7 in west side TA/F. Depth 0.90m. Length c. 1.0m, but not fully excavated. Refilled with mixed LA1/LA7       |   | Modern               |
| FA6  |  | Shallow depression in TA/D, slightly cutting into LA7. Indistinct and not planned   | Small sherds of Roman , mainly 2nd/4th century                        |                      |
| FA7  |  | Shallow depression in TA/B, slightly cutting into LA7. Indistinct and not planned   | Small sherds of Roman , mainly 2nd/3rd century                        |                      |
| FA8  |  | Inhumation skeleton lying EW across TA at base FA1. Femur sampled for RCD. Head and feet beyond trench sides                    | RCD gave 93AD+/-32  | Roman                |
| FA9  |  | Inhumation skeleton lying face down NS at base FA1, immediately S of FA8. Lower half beyond trench end                          |   | Roman by association |
| FA10 |  | 12” sewage pipe EW across TA/I. Depth 0.9m  |   | Modern               |
| FB1  |  | U shaped ditch in TB/D. Width 0.5m as visible at base TB1. Depth into LB2 20cm from base LB1. Fill indistinguishable from LB1   |   | Roman                |
| FB2  |  | Cremation burial at base LB1 in east edge TA/C  | 2 cremation pots SF42 & SF43, cremated bone, 2 coins SF46 & SF47      | Roman c. 280-290AD   |
| FB5  |  | Shallow depression into LB2 in TB/E   | 1 animal bone   |                      |
| FB6  |  | Gas pipe in TA/B WE across trench. Depth 0.48m  |   | Modern               |

The most interesting feature in **Trench A** was **FA1** at its southernmost end. This was a pit, extending nearly 1m below current ground level, cut some 30cm into the natural, and extending beyond the trench on its south, east and west sides. At its base lay two skeletons from inhumation burials. **FA8** lay east-west, with its head under the east baulk, and its feet under the west baulk. It was lying on its back, with its hands resting on its thighs. **FA9** lay at the same depth, but lay north south with its head close to the hip of F8, and its bottom half under the south baulk. It was face down, and seemed to have been deposited without much care. (Figs. 2 & 3). Neither burial showed any indication of having been in a coffin. A horse skull lay slightly higher on the sloping north side of the pit, which had been backfilled (LA2) with loamy top-soil and natural sand. This contained a number of dislocated human bones, notably vertebrae, not coming from FA8 or FA9, as well as animal bones, a large quantity of Roman pottery, some medieval pottery, and a coin of Edward III (SF14). The upper fill was indistinguishable from LA1, and merged imperceptibly with LA2.





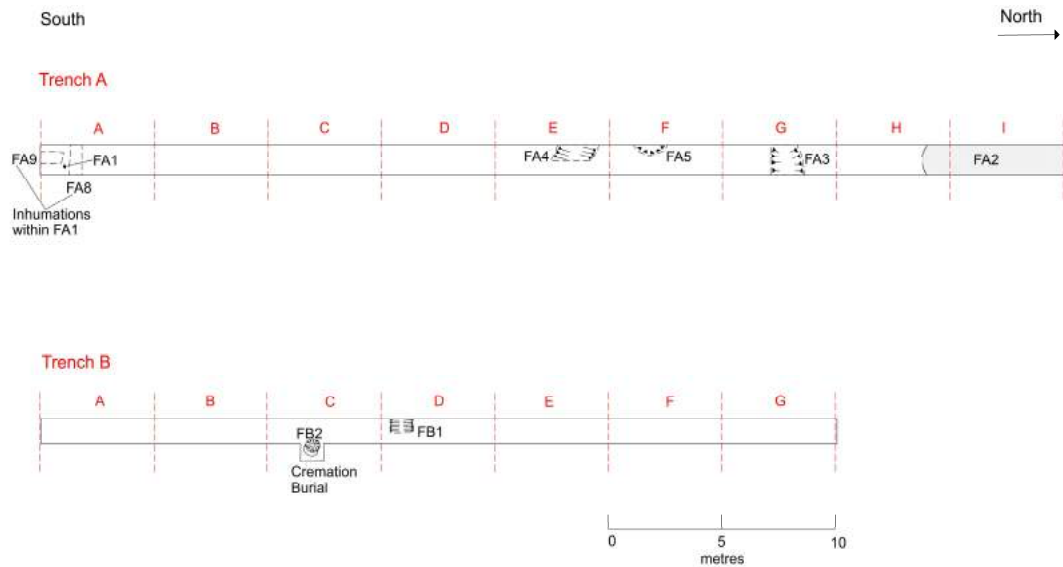
**Fig. 2 Skeleton 1 (FA8 in FA1) lies east-west. Horse head lies to the north**



**Fig. 3 Drawing Showing Relationship between the Two Skeletons in FA1**

The most notable feature in **Trench B** was the cremation burial **FB2**. Fig 4. shows the extension of the trench to the east to include the full extent of the interment. There was no clear indication of the original size of the cut, the surrounding matrix being identical to LB1 elsewhere in the trench. The cremated bones lay in a tightly packed sub-rounded cluster just to the east of the main trench line, resting on, but barely cutting into, the natural LB2. It seems probable that they were in some form of container, though if this was a box, no trace of it remained. A bag seems the most likely possibility. Associated with the bones were two coins SF46 & SF47. Immediately to the west were two small pottery vessels, which had been capped by broken sherds from a third pot. Figs 5 – 8

## SJ15 Trench Plans

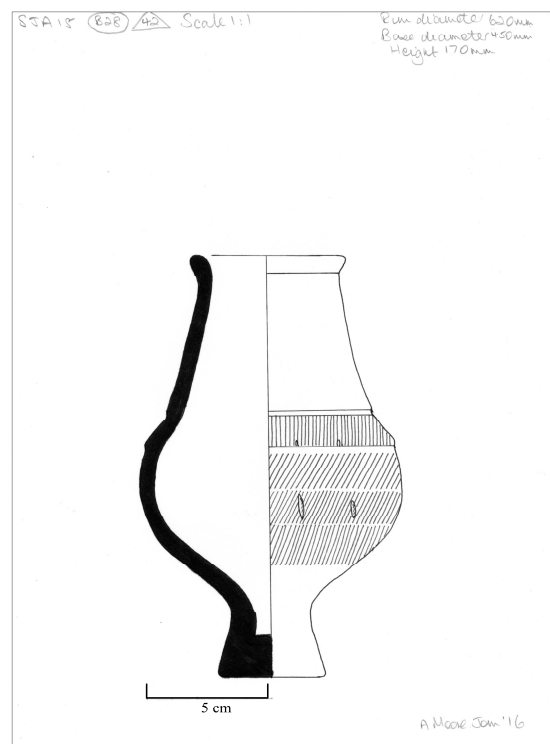


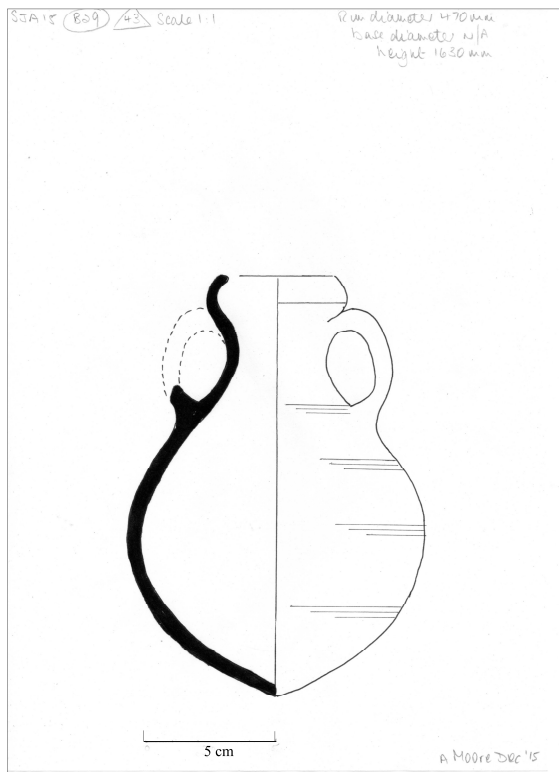
**Fig. 4 Plan of Trenches showing positions of main features**



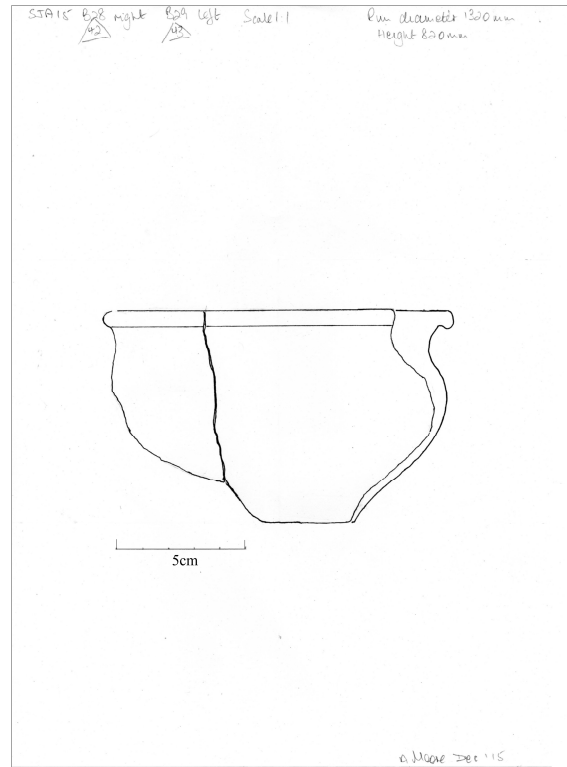
**Fig. 5 (above) Cremation Pots SF42 & SF43 in FB2**

**Fig. 6 (right) Pentice moulded beaker SF42 in FB2**

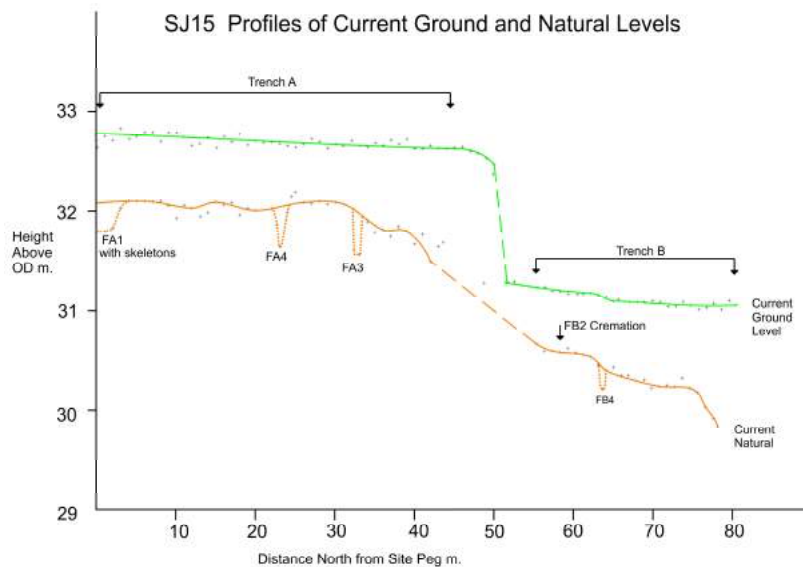




**Fig. 7 Two handled SF43 beaker in FB2**



**Fig. 8 SF48A Reconstruction of capping pot from 2 sherds covering SF42 & SF43**



**Fig. 9 Current Ground and Natural levels as excavated in TA & TB**

When excavations were complete, total station measurements were taken to record both current ground levels, and the level of natural found within the trenches. These results are shown graphically Fig. 9. Ground level approximates to the terracing carried out around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to make tennis courts. The natural shows a fairly steady fall from south to north. The slight "break" between TA and TB – the level in TB being slightly lower than might have been expected – can be explained because the general fall of the ground was from south-west to north east, and TB was laid out slightly to the east of TA, and was therefore slightly further down the hill than it would have been had it been in line with TA.



## **Pottery and other finds (Stephen Benfield, with a contribution by Adam Wightman)**

### **Pottery**

#### **Introduction**

A large quantity of pottery was recovered from two evaluation trenches (Trench A & Trench B). In total there is approximately 85 kg of pottery sherds. Of this approximately 65 kg was recovered from Trench A (TA) and 20 kg from Trench B (TB). Within the two trenches almost all of the pottery was recovered from generally undifferentiated soil deposits labelled Layer LA1 (TA) and Layer LB1 (TB) overlying the disturbed top of the natural deposits labelled LA7 (TA) and LB2 (TB). Smaller quantities of pottery were recovered from features located cut into the natural including two ditches FA3 & FA4 (TA) and two Roman burials consisting of an inhumation FA2 (TA) and a cremation with placed accessory pots FB 2 (TB).

The assemblage is dominated by pottery of Roman date, the more closely dated pieces dating to the period of the 2nd-3rd century. This pottery appears fairly typical of that which might be expected from an occupation site in the Roman town during that period, with a relatively broad range of pottery represented including a significant quantity of samian (including decorated ware), colour-coated wares and other imports and representing a relatively affluent environment. The remainder of the assemblage consists of a few prehistoric flint-tempered sherds, a small quantity of medieval pottery broadly dating to the period of the 12th-15th century and a more visible component made up of a moderate quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery, of which modern pottery, dating to the period of the late 17th/18th-19th/early 20th century, forms the major part.

Apart from the two placed pots with the cremation FB 2 (TB), almost all of the pottery is very broken-up. The sherd size is small, most being of a size where further breakage would require significant direct force. The average sherd weight (based on a sample of ten bags of finds for each trench) for TA is 5.4 g and for TB is 4.9 g. This degree of breakage is consistent for most of the pottery, although some of the modern sherds appear to not be quite so heavily broken-up. This suggests that the earlier pottery has a significant history of disturbance indicating the soil deposits within which they were located have been heavily disturbed. Pottery recovered from a distinct layer located at the base of the soil deposits in TA (LA5) is (apart from two modern finds that are clearly intrusive) all of Roman date.

Given the large quantity of pottery, the small sherd size and the mix of pottery in almost all of the excavated contexts from Roman to modern date it was decided not to quantify the pottery; rather the material was laid out and examined to provide an overview of the nature of the assemblage and its component parts by period. The resulting overview of the pottery is provided as a discussion below. Pottery fabrics refer to *CAR 7* (post-Roman) and *CAR 10* (Roman). Roman pottery forms refer to Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958. The pottery sherds in a random selection of finds bags from both trenches (11 bags from TA & 10 bags from TB) were quantified by count and weight; Roman samian pottery sherds and colour-coated wares counted as well as medieval and post-medieval & modern sherds (See Appendix).

#### **Prehistoric**

Only five prehistoric sherds (total weight 87 g) were recognised among the assemblage. They are all plain, flint-tempered body sherds with no diagnostic features (apart from the fabric) and are not closely dated other than as Neolithic-Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. A later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date is probably most likely, although the presence of flints from the site dating to the Neolithic is noted (see below).

Five sherds (weight 81 g) were recovered from LA1 (A23). The fabric of these consists of common small-medium size pieces of flint with occasional larger pieces up to 4 mm. The larger sherds have an oxidised surface with a reduced surface on the interior of the pot indicating closed vessels such as jars/deep bowls. The largest sherd is approximately 10 mm thick and suggests a moderately large pot. This sherd is 65 mm x 55 mm average sherd weight 20 g). It has a slow change of angle from a curving wall to a relative flat area that might suggest a flat base, but this is not clear. The sherds are not closely dated, but a Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date appears likely. The moderately large size of the sherds, given their age and relative fragility, suggests they have not been disturbed as much as would be implied by the condition of the Roman pottery from these soil deposits and they appear to have been more recently incorporated into this layer from a relatively undisturbed context. The average sherd weight is 20 g and the largest sherd has maximum dimensions of 65 mm x 55 mm. A

single abraded flint-tempered sherd (weight 6 g) was recovered from LB1 (B65). This sherd has an oxidised surface with common small-medium size pieces of flint partly protruding from the surface.

### **Roman**

The Roman pottery is primarily of 2nd-3rd century date. A few sherds might date to the late 1st-early 2nd century, including what appears to be a sherd from a Cam 243-244/246 flange rim bowl, but there is no indication of any significant quantity of Early Roman pottery. Equally there is no pottery that would suggest that the assemblage dates later than the late 3rd-early 4th century. One sherd is probably oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH) which is not current before the late 3rd century or early 4th century and one or two sherds of Nene Valley Colour coated ware (Fabric EA) are typical of late products of that industry, probably dating to after the late 3rd century. There are also greyware sherds (Fabric GX) from two flanged bowls of form Cam 305 that can be dated to the third quarter of the 3rd century-4th century. However, pottery typical of the late 4th century at Colchester and which would probably be expected among a relatively large assemblage, that is late shell-tempered ware (Fabric HD) and Oxford red colour-coated wares (Fabric MP), appears to be absent.

#### *Samian and imported fineware*

There appears to be a significant proportion of samian among the assemblage, especially among the pottery from TA. This is dominated by Central & East Gaulish products with most being Central Gaulish. The majority of the sherds are from plain ware, commonly indicating dish/bowl forms Dr 18/31 & Dr 31 with pikes from cups of form Dr 33. One sherd is a rim from a dish of form of Ludowici TG-type. There is one samian potter's stamp, on a Central Gaulish sherd, which comes from LA1 (A25). Unfortunately this is only part of a stamp that preserves just a final letter **J.M** - which simply refers to *manu* (by the hand of) ie. made by and the potter's name is missing. Decorated ware is well represented and there is one advertisement stamp on a central Gaulish Dr 37 bowl (Fig.10). Other fine ware imports include several sherds of late 1st-2nd century Cologne colour-coated ware (Fabric EZ) from cornice rim beakers and one or two sherds of 3rd century Trier Rhenish ware (Fabric CL) also from beakers.

#### *Local and regional finewares*

Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabrics CB & CZ) appears to be well represented, especially among the pottery from TA, but less so among that from TB. Almost all of the sherds come from beakers and include examples of form Cam 391 (cornice rim) and folded beakers. Nene Valley colour-coated wares (Fabric EA) are also present, sherds again indicating that most of the pots represented in this fabric are beakers, probably dating to after the early-mid 3rd century. One small sherd from a beaker has a part of a small, drilled hole at one edge indicating a repair (TA, AL1 (A11)). At least one Nene Valley sherd is from a thick-walled bowl in a white fabric suggesting a late 3rd or 4th century date. A few sherds of mica-gilt pottery (Fabric ON), all apparently from beaker/jar forms, were also noted.

#### *Imported coarsewares*

The only amphora sherds identified are from Spanish Dressel 20 amphorae, broadly dating to the period of the mid 1st-early 3rd century. These amphorae sherds can be described as generally present among the assemblage, but are not particularly common. Of interest are sherds from imported mortaria. One, from TA, is represented just by a potter's stamp which has flaked from the mortarium flange (Fig. 10). The stamp, of which there is only other published example from Britain, is of the potter Atticus and specifically identifies the place of manufacture as the *canabae* at Bonna. Bonna is the site of modern Bonn in Germany and *canabae* refers specifically to an area settlement immediately outside of a legionary fortress, commonly of low grade occupation involved with trading and services. There is also a section of rim from a large mortarium in a coarse quartz sand fabric that can be identified as Rheinland import. This was recovered from topsoil in TA (A21) and the curvature indicates a diameter of approximately 420 mm at the rim. None of the internal gritting survives on this sherd. The coarse fabric and yellow surface is similar to that of Mayen ware (Fabric HG) but lacks the mix of inclusions typical of that fabric. Also, mortaria in the coarse Rheinland fabrics of Mayen and another production centre at Speicher appear to be rare in Britain; although an example of a broadly similar mortarium with a 'hammer head' rim attributed to Speicher is illustrated by Gose (1950, Tafel 43, 451). The mortarium here can be identified as belonging to a Rheinland source but broadly grouped under the blanket term '*Eifelkeramik*', examples of which were recovered from New Fresh Wharf (St Magnus House) London (Richardson 1986) associated with deposits dated to the early-mid 3rd century.

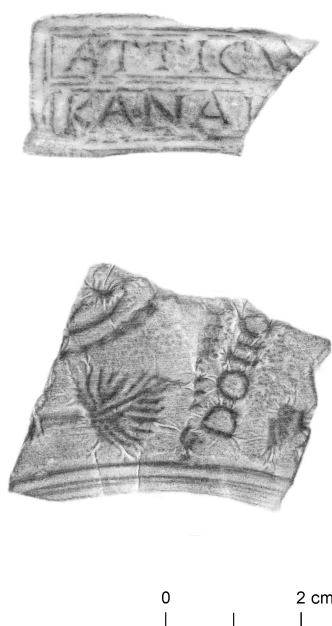
#### *Local and regional coarsewares*

A significant part of the assemblage is made up of sherds that can be identified as Roman local and regional coarsewares. These are predominantly greywares/reduced wares. The great majority of this pottery is likely to be of local manufacture and though likely to be present no sherds of regional

coarsewares, such as Dorset Black-burnished ware (Fabric GA), were identified in looking over the pottery. Significantly in terms of dating the jar forms appear dominated by the form Cam 268, dating to the period of the early/mid 2nd-late 3rd or early 4th century. There were no examples noted of the relatively common 1st century forms Cam 266 or Cam 218. Among the most easily recognised coarseware forms were examples of Black-burnished ware-types that appeared to be predominantly in local greyware fabrics (Fabrics GX & KX) rather than fabrics referred to as Black-burnished ware-type 2 (BB2) (Fabric GB), although this is not to say that BB2 is not present. Among this the most common pots appear to be bowls of form Cam 37 (dated 2nd-3rd century) with some of form Cam 40 (dated early 2nd century-4th century). There are also two examples of the flanged bowl Cam 305, which are among the latest closely dated pottery from the evaluation, dating to the mid-late 3rd (c AD 370) -4th century. Sherds of coarse white/buff wares (Fabric DJ) are present, but appear only at a low level among the pottery. The forms identified are the flagon form Cam 156, dated Hadrianic-early 3rd century, and a rim from a *tazza* (Cam 198) of mid 1st-2nd century date. The *tazza* is in an orange-red fabric with decorative grooves across the rim top. There are also sherds representing several mortaria. The majority of these are of local manufacture in cream coloured fabrics (Fabric TZ) that appear, in the main to be variants on form Cam 497 (dated 2nd-3rd century). There are also a few sherds of mortaria from the Nene Valley potteries (Fabric TE).

#### Stamps on Roman pottery Fig. 10

US (machine stripping) TA LA1. Part of a name stamp from a mortarium flange, clear neat lettering on two lines. There is little more to the sherd other than the stamp itself which is essentially a large flake from the mortarium flange. The stamp is aligned parallel to flange. Pot body has a white fabric with common quartz sand.



#### ATTICV[ / KANA (B)[

This is a rare stamp in Britain with only one other published example known to the author. This is from a site at *Verulamium* (St Albans in Hertfordshire) and is discussed in some detail by Hartley in the excavation report (2006). The stamp is known from examples on the continent and complete would read ATTICVS.FEC/KANABIS.BON which translates as 'Atticus made this at the *canabae* at Bonna' that is modern Bonn in Germany. *Canabae* are ribbon developments external to a legionary base or fortress on land owned and controlled by the legion. They are usually of low grade occupation, commonly involved with trading. Stamp dated as probably 2nd half of 2nd century (following Hartley 2006).

TA (from initial excavation surface cleaning) Dr 37 bowl Central Gaul (Fabric BACG), advertisement stamp, upright within decorative frieze.

#### DOIE(C)[

The complete stamp would read DOIECCI, this is the potter Doeccvs I (Stanfield & Simpson 1958, plate 148) can be dated c AD 160-190

SF 8 LA1 (A25) Part of a samian potters stamp. Central Gaulish Fabric BACG). The stamp that preserves the final letter in the stamp ].M standing for *manu* (by the hand of) and the potters name is entirely missing.

**Fig. 10 Fragments of Potters' Stamps – "Atticus" & "Doeccus"**

#### Roman pottery from cremation FB2 (Trench B)

Two complete, placed pots were recovered from a cremation burial FB2 located in Trench B (Fig. 4). One of these is a pentice moulded beaker of form Cam 395, broadly dating to the mid 3rd-4th century. This beaker is in a fine sand greyware fabric with fine silver mica and a black surface (Fabric BSW). The central body area is rouletted and the base is burnished. There are small, evenly spaced vertical score marks made over the rouletting around the girth. These appear to have been made by the potter. Unusually, there is an uneven line scored around the neck about halfway up, which is ancient, but has clearly been added after manufacture. The other pot is very unusual. This is a two handled

flask (one handle missing - ancient break) with a cupped rim and a rounded, slightly pointed, base. Overall the body is slightly pear shaped. The fabric is a fine, slightly powdery, white/buff ware (Fabric DJ) the core of which is a pale pink and the surface and margins are buff. For its size the pot appears quite heavy in the hand, indicating a relatively thick body wall. The pot is not easily paralleled. The beaker with which it was found indicates a 3rd-4th century date.

Fig. 6 Pentice moulded beaker of form Cam 395, whole, complete apart from some slight spalling/flaking to body at base of neck. Fine sand greyware fabric with fine silver mica and a black surface, base burnished, central body area rouletted and with evenly spaced vertical score marks made over the rouletting around the girth, there is an uneven line scored around the neck about halfway up, which is an ancient mark. Fabric BSW. Dated mid 3rd-4th century.

Fig. 7 Two handled flask, whole, near complete but with one handle missing (ancient break), surface flake missing from body on one side, cupped rim with rounded, slightly pear shaped body and slightly pointed base, fine, slightly powdery, white/buff ware fabric, pale pink core and pale buff surface and margins. Fabric DJ. Pot not easily paralleled and not closely dated other than Roman.

Note: the missing handle (which was not found with the burial) although an ancient break is not necessarily damage at the time of burial and may be likely to be damage during use. This is because while in processing, the other (remaining) handle became detached showing the upper part was only smoothed against the body as a join making a relatively weak joint.

### **Medieval pottery**

Medieval pottery, represented primarily by greywares with a few sherds from glazed flagons, was recovered from TA & TB. The small sherd prevalent among the pottery assemblage means that medieval greyware body sherds do not stand out particularly well among the larger background of Roman greywares. However, in general, the rims and bases of the medieval pots are quite distinctive so that an appreciation of the relative quantity of medieval pottery present could be gauged. Overall, medieval pottery, while present, appears to be a lesser part of the assemblage than might be anticipated given the location of the site within the grounds of the medieval St John's Abbey. Medieval pottery also appeared to be better represented among the sherds from TB.

The majority of the medieval pottery consists of greywares (Fabric 20) representing sherds from cooking pots with squared, flat-topped rims and slightly sagging bases. Some sherds could be early medieval sandy ware (Fabric 13) but this is not clear and all of the identified forms are of cooking pots that are likely to date to the 12th century or later. One sherd from TB (B2) was noted with a thumbing strip crossing the body. There were only a few small glazed sherds. These all appear to be from jugs and are all probably Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21A), broadly dating to the 12th-14th century. One form can be identified. This is represented by one sherd from TA (LA1, A98) that is probably from a pear shaped jug that has a green glaze and vertical combing/grooving on the body (Fabric 21A) and can be dated to the late 13-early 14th century. One sherd of Fabric 21A was noted that has white paint on an oxidised body which can be dated to the 15th-early 16th century.

### **Post-medieval and modern pottery**

A small quantity of post-medieval pottery was noted as present among the assemblage, but appears to be a relatively minor component. One sherd of Surrey white ware/Border ware (Fabric 42) was noted from TA and a sherd of combed Staffordshire-type slipware from TB (Fabric 50). There are also some sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40). Pottery of late 17th/18th-19th/early 20th century date is quite well represented and is the most common period pottery recovered from the soil layers after Roman in TA & TB after Roman period pottery. The majority of this pottery can be broadly grouped as Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D).

### **Pottery and other noted finds from an early soil layer and from features**

#### *Pottery from LA5*

The pottery from LA5 is associated with a layer in TA at the base of the overlying soil deposits. One modern sherd (Fabric 48D) and a small piece of modern window glass are clearly intrusive and the large quantity of sherds (50+) contained in 4 bags are otherwise of Roman date or are probably Roman. The size of the sherds is noted as appearing to be slightly larger than for most of that from the overlying soil deposits indicating this material is (at least in part) less broken-up. There are a few sherds of Central and probable East Gaulish plain and decorated samian (forms Dr 37 & Dr 31). Other fine wares include sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) and Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CZ) including the 2nd century beaker form Cam 391. Coarseware forms include the bowl form Cam 37B dated to the late 2nd-3rd century and the jar form Cam 268 dated to the early/mid 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century. Sherds from a buff fabric mortarium of probable local



(Colchester) manufacture are also present (Fabric TZ) and are likely to be of late 1st/2nd-3rd century date. There is a small quantity of blue-green Roman glass some of which is moderately thick and probably from Roman bottles. The more closely dated pottery suggests a late 2nd/early 3rd-3rd century date.

#### *Feature FA1- fill of cut for inhumation burial*

The pottery from FA1 (contained in 6 bags) consists of a large quantity of sherds (50+) and is all Roman. The sherds appear slightly larger than is the case for much of the pottery in the disturbed soil layers and the quantity of excavated finds (six bags) that are entirely Roman suggest that the feature is of Roman date. The more closely dated Roman pottery is of 2nd-3rd century date. The sherds include Central and probable East Gaulish plain and decorated samian (forms Dr 37 & Dr 31), Colchester colour-coated wares (Fabrics CZ & CB) with one sherd from a Cam 391 beaker and another from a folded beaker. Coarse wares include Dressel 20 amphora and Black-burnished ware (Fabric GB) from Cam 37A. There is also one piece of Roman blue-green glass.

#### *Feature FA2*

Three bags of pottery from feature FA2 between them contain a large quantity of pottery sherds (50+). There is modern pottery (late 18th/19th- early/mid 20th century) in all of the bags, mostly Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D). There is one clay pipe bowl of 18th century date. Residual Roman pottery from the feature is dated as 2nd-3rd century.

#### *Feature FA3*

There are seven bags of pottery from FA3 with a large quantity (50+) of sherds. There is modern pottery (late 18th/19th- early/mid 20th century) in all of the bags, also a piece of slate pencil (SF 33) and one piece of 20th century plastic crockery. The pottery includes two medieval sherds broadly dating to the period of the 13th-14th century. These are one rim and a base sherd (Fabric 20) from cooking pots. Residual Roman pottery from the feature is dated as 2nd-3rd century.

#### *Feature FA4*

The pottery associated with FA4 includes material from cleaning over this feature (A55) and material well stratified in the fill (A50 & A82). Bag A55 (50+ sherds) is similar to many of the bags of finds recovered from the soil deposits on the site. The pottery from this bag includes several modern sherds (Fabrics 45N 48D & 48E) and another sherd that is probably modern flower pot. The remainder of the pottery appears to be Roman including Central and possibly East Gaulish samian, Cologne and Colchester Colour-coated wares and Black-burnished ware-type vessel forms, all of which could be accommodated within a 2nd-3rd century date bracket. The pottery from the other two bags (from the fill of FA4) is less in quantity with about forty sherds in bag A50 and seven in bag A82. Most of these sherds are also small suggesting they have some previous depositional history prior to ending up in the fill of the feature. Almost all of the sherds are grey coarsewares, with just a few buff sherds from a mortarium and probably a flagon and one base from a cream slipped oxidised ware. The coarsewares include sherds from a Black-burnished ware (Fabric GB) bowl of form Cam 40B, a rim sherd from a Cam 268 jar and a sherd from a folded beaker all of which can be dated to the period of the 2nd-3rd/4th century. While no post-Roman pottery appears to be present, the degree of breakage of most of the Roman sherds suggests they are probably old on this context and might indicate a late Roman or even a post-Roman date.

#### *Feature FA5*

In total there is only a small quantity of pottery from FA5 contained in three bags. The feature produced sherds modern (late 18th/19th- early/mid 20th century) pottery. There is also some pottery dated post-medieval (Fabric 40). The residual Roman pottery from the feature is can be dated as 2nd-3rd century.

#### *Feature FA6*

The pottery from FA6 is Roman and consists of a large quantity of small sherds. These include Central Gaulish samian (2nd century), Colchester colour-coated ware (Fabric CZ) and a sherd of Marbled ware (Fabric EE) which is probably of 3rd-4th century date. Coarsewares included a sherd of Black-burnished ware Category 1 (Fabric GA) (dated 2nd-4th century) and jar form Cam 268 (early/mid 2nd- late 3rd/early 4th century).

#### *Feature FA7*

Feature FA7 produced two bags of pottery making in total a quantity (20-50) of sherds. All of the pottery is, or appears to be Roman; although one or two greyware sherds might be medieval. Roman finewares included Central and probably East Gaulish samian including a Dr 38 flanged bowl from

Central Gaul (dated late 2nd century). There are also sherds from colour-coated beakers from the Nene Valley (including sherds from scale decorated beakers) and from Colchester. There are also a sherds from a Dressel 20 amphora. The more closely dated Roman pottery is of mid 2nd -3rd century date.

## Flint

Adam Wightman

Four worked flints were recovered, all are from Trench A (TA). Two flints that were allocated individual small find (SF) numbers SF 23 (A38) & SF 29 (A43) can be dated as Early Neolithic and probably Early Neolithic. The flints are listed and described below.

SF 23 TA (A38) Soft hammer/punch struck flake. Possibly an axe thinning flake of Early Neolithic date. It can be noted that the flake is of arrowhead shape, but the point is the proximal (struck) end and there is no evidence of any shaping or retouch.



SF 29 TA (A43) Fig.11. Serrated blade of Early Neolithic date. Soft hammer struck flake/blade with one straight serrated (saw-like) edge. The dorsal face is smooth with a polished feel and the flake could have been taken from a polished flint implement, most likely an axe.

TA (A106) Small secondary flake, possible retouch/retouched notch, but might be damage/use wear.

TA (127) Small tertiary waste flake.

**Fig. 11 SF29 Neolithic Serrated Blade**

## Small finds

A small number of unusual or exceptional finds requiring individual attention or description were allocated individual small finds numbers. These most significant of these are listed and described below. The other small finds are simply listed. Roman potters stamps and two flints given small finds numbers are described with the pottery and flints respectively.

SF 3 TA (LA2). Complete Roman bone hairpin. Crummy Type 1 - pins with a plain conical head (CAR 2, 20-21). Length 84 mm. Dated Pre Flavian-2nd century (c 50-200 AD).

SF 21 TB (LB2 (B7)). Complete Roman small bone counter. Smooth, polished surfaces. Dished upper surface and flat base. Upper surface marked with a lightly scratched X across the face and there is a second small, faint X scratched on the base (similar to CAR 2 fig 94 no 2244). Dia 19 mm. Crummy Type 1 (CAR 2) Dated Roman.

SF 6 TA (A44) Bone handle plate from a post-medieval scale tang knife. Near complete with damage restricted to the area of the attachment holes. Slightly bevelled surface with cross-cut decoration across all of surface. This type of decoration, which also has a practical aspect, is typical of the post-medieval period (MacGregor 1985, 170). Three small holes for attachment pins with part of one small iron pin still in place. Length 73 mm, max. width 15 mm. Dated post-medieval.

SF 35 TA (A122) Part of handle from a post-medieval bone spoon showing influence of metal types (MacGregor 1985, 182-83 & fig 98 S). Thin rectangular shaft (broken) and a broad, slightly flaring, spatula-like end with rounded corners. The spatula-like end tapers down where it joins the shaft. Length 75 mm, length of spatula end approximately 45 mm, max width 14 mm, shaft approximately 3mm square.

SF 26 TA (A38) Clay pipe stem piece. Incuse stamp on both sides: on one side **COLC(H)ESTER** with the central H letter smudged, on the other side the makers name (J.W.)**PETTITT** the first two letters

making the initials are not absolutely clear but appear to be and to match the initials of James William Pettitt (CAR 5, 66). Dated mid-late 19th century.

SF 30a TA (A38) Clay pipe stem piece. Incuse stamp on both sides: on one side incomplete **COLCHEST**[(ER) in beaded boarder with beaded loop end, on the other side incomplete **]PETTITT** in beaded boarder with beaded loop end. Dated mid-late 19th century.

SF 30b TA (A38) Clay pipe base of bowl with spur foot. Initials in raised letters on either side of spur foot: on one side **J** and on the other **J**. Possibly Joseph Jennings or his son Joseph Frances Jennings (CAR 5, 66). Dated mid-late 19th century.

#### Other individually recorded finds

There is a single mosaic cube in a grey soft stone, probably septaria which comes from SF 27 TA (A6). Part of a slate pencil of post-medieval or modern date was recovered from SF 33 TA FA3 (A108) and part of a modern bone pipe-stem or possibly a cigarette holder from TA SF 22 (A67). A natural (unmodified) small, thin, leaf shaped stone with a natural perforation close to one edge at the broader end (sufficient to probably make it appealing as a curio now or in the past) was also given a small find number SF 35 TA (A122).

With these are two small pieces of painted wall plaster from TA (A31). One is dark red on an *opus-signinum* mortar (containing crushed tile) and is clearly of Roman date, the other a light red on a sandy pale-buff mortar that is probably also Roman. A small, complete, copper-alloy button of post-medieval or, more probably, modern date was recovered from TB (B12). This has a loop attachment and a radiating floral-type pattern incised on the face.

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

#### Note on a Roman tile piece

A lower cut-away was noted on a Roman tegula tile from TA (A55) from soil immediately above or just into the top of FA4. The tile is in a red fine sand fabric with a base thickness of 15 mm. The cut-away has been knife trimmed with two cut facets on the lower edge so that it is either of Type C5 or D15 (Warry 2006, fig 1.3) of which D15 is probably the closer parallel. Warry's proposed dating scheme suggests that these types of lower cut-aways are more typical of the mid-late Roman period, after c AD 160, than earlier.

### Worked stone



**Fig. 12 Worked Stone Fragments from TA**

Three pieces of worked stone were recovered from TA (A66). Fig. 12. All are in a white (pale grey-cream) coloured limestone. None have any traces of mortar on them. One piece is a squared, smooth block 140 mm x 140 mm x 110 mm that has one corner broken away. Another, the broken face from a larger stone piece (maximum dimensions 120 mm x 160 mm), has been worked and has traces of tool use on it. It has a raised rectangular section at one edge and has a relatively rough surface. The inner side of this raised section appears quite poorly finished with a row of indents, presumably made by a pointed chisel/punch. Although the raised edge gives the appearance of a possible carved stone this might be part of a roughed-out block with only minimal working. The remaining piece has

been carved. This is part of a surface (maximum dimensions 185 mm x 145 mm) broken away from a larger stone piece. The part of the carved surface that remains appears to represent a sinuous wave-like pattern or fluting. The surface finish is quite smooth and the piece suggests that this is flat area of carved decoration rather than from a rounded surface as would be represented by a column.

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## Metal Small finds (Mark Curteis)

### Coins

**SF1** TA U/S Hadrian (117-38), *dupondius*, very worn, RIC 600, AD 119-21

Obv: [IMP CAESAR TRAIANVS HADR]RIANVS AVG [PM TR P COS III] Radiate bust right

Rev: [MONETA AVGVSTI S-C] Moneta standing left with cornucopia and scales

**SF2** TA U/S Septimius Severus (193-211), *denarius*, worn, BMC 360, AD 201-10

Obv: SEVERVS PIVS AVG

Rev: RESTITVTOR VRBIS Roma seated left on shield

**SF7** TA/F LA1 Domitian (81-96), *as*, worn, RIC 335, AD 86,

Obv: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XII CENS PER PP

Rev: MONETA AVGVSTA S-C

**SF 14** TA/A FA1 LA2 Edward III (1312-77), farthing, worn

Obv: EDWARDVS REX

Rev: CIVITAS LONDON

**SF45** TB/F LB1 Henry I (1100-35), penny, type 7 - Quatrefoil with piles, slightly worn, c.1111,

Obv: HENRI REX Facing bust

Rev: Four semi-circles with alternating piles, each pile surmounted by an annulet along with the name of the moneyer and mint



**SF 46** TB/C FB2 LB2 Radiate copy, *antoninianus*, worn, AD 275+

Obv: IMP.... Radiate bust right – possibly intended to be Tetricus I (271-74)

Rev: [PROVI]D DEOR Providentia standing facing with baton and cornucopia

This is a reverse type associated with Tacitus (275-76). It is unusual for a radiate copy to have a reverse for coins dating after the end of the Gallic Empire.

**SF47** TB/C FB2 LB2 Carausius/Allectus?, *aurelianus*, slightly worn, c.AD 275-93

Obv: Radiate bust left

Rev: Female figure standing left

### Report

Five Roman coins were recovered during the excavations. This is an insufficient sample to analyse in detail and from which to draw strong conclusions. However, it is interesting that no 4<sup>th</sup> century coins were recovered. These are normally common finds on a site occupied in the later Roman period, while late 1<sup>st</sup> century and early 2<sup>nd</sup> century coins are comparatively rare. That two earlier coins have been recovered from the site may suggest that it did not flourish in the later Roman period and is generally an earlier period site. However, because of the sample size such conclusions are speculative. A silver *denarius* of Septimius Severus is not unusual as by this period the *denarius* was the denomination most commonly lost and not indicative of site status.

Two of the Roman coins (SFs 46 and 47) were associated with the cremation. The coins together would suggest a date of deposition of c.280s/90s. Coins in a burial potentially relate to the Roman practice of making payment to Charon for the journey by boat to the underworld. However, only 2-6% percent of Romano-British inhumations contain coins and an even lower proportion of cremation burials, suggesting that the Romano-British did not generally adopt this idea. In the small proportion where they are associated with cremations the coins often come from the cut and therefore possibly not directly associated with the burial. There are examples of coins being in close proximity to the cremated bones but these are extremely unusual.

The penny of Henry I is interesting and unique. The reverse has been double-struck, with traces of :O under the W, and the N of ON displaced to the position of the O. Correspondingly, the inscription has been reconstructed by Martin Allen as +hARGAW:ON[-][E?]F, and it may be reasonable to assume that the full mint signature was TEF for Thetford. Hargaw is a new moneyer for the Norman coinage making this a rare and significant discovery.

There is a small cut on the edge of the coin, this is deliberate and probably official. By the time of Henry I there were many poor quality and forged coins in circulation and many genuine coins were cut to see if they were plated counterfeits. There was a reluctance by the public to accept such damaged pieces, so in about 1107/8 an extraordinary decision was made to officially mutilate all new coins by snicking their edges, thus assuring that cut coins had to be accepted!

### Additional Metal finds

**SF4** TA U/S Livery button. Copper alloy 19<sup>th</sup> century. Originally tinned it depicts Queen Victoria's monogram and would have come from a uniform belonging to a member of the Royal household.

**SF9** TA/B LA1 Copper alloy strap end. Phallic shape and probably military. Roman. Length: 40mm, width: 5mm

**SF10** TA/D LA1 Iron nail. Hand forged. Post-medieval? Length: 60mm

**SF11** TA/H LA1 Iron nail. Hand forged, square section with small head. Date: uncertain. Length: 37mm.

**SF12** TA U/S White metal (?silver) men's finger ring. Plain band with break on one side. Post-medieval. Diam: 21mm

**SF13** TA/I LA1 Copper alloy thimble. Closed top. Date: 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. Height: 15mm.

**SF15** TA/E FA4 LA1 Iron ring. Date uncertain. Diam: 45mm

**SF16** TA/E FA4 LA1 Iron nail. Hand forged, square section with small head. Date: uncertain. Length: 60mm.

**SF17** TA/C LA1 Iron stud. Flat oval head. Short shank bent at right angles to head. Date uncertain. Height: 15mm, width 13mm

**SF18** TA/G LA1 Iron fork head. Three tine, handle missing. Date: 18<sup>th</sup> century. Length: 79mm, width 19mm.

**SF19** TA/I LA1 Copper alloy trumpet brooch. Head, spring and loop only. Roman 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Length: 32mm, width: 15mm.

**SF24** TA/G U/S Large iron chain link. Oval. Length: 71mm, width: 50mm

**SF20** TB/D LB1 Iron nail? Large flattened head. Date uncertain. Length: 29mm

**SF32** TA/C LA1 Iron key. Handle broken, cruciform head. Date: 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. Length: 56mm, width: 22mm.

**SF34** TA/B LA1 Iron nail. Large ovate flat head. Roman. Length: 41mm, width: 19mm.

**SF36** TA/G FA3 LA6 Copper alloy plaque mount. Trapezoidal but one side broken off. Embossed raised margin. Function uncertain. Date poss. 15-17<sup>th</sup> century. Length: 28mm, width 30mm.

***Dr Mark Curteis***  
***February 2016***

## **Human Skeletal Remains FA8 & FA9**

Two skeletons, in a good state of preservation, were discovered in a pit FA1 at the southern extremity of TA, at a depth of 85cm below current ground level. The full extent of the pit lay outside the trench on east, west and south sides and was not investigated.

Skeleton FA8 lay east-west, on its back (Fig. 2). It appeared to have been interred with some degree of care. There were no nails or other indications of a coffin, and the proximity of the skeleton to the natural cut suggested that it had simply been wrapped in a shroud. The spine showed clear evidence of scoliosis. The jawbone was just evident in the east section of the TA, but the rest of the skull was not visible. Similarly the feet were beyond the west edge of the trench. A sample of bone from the left femur gave a radiocarbon date of 1857±32BP (Ref. 4)

Skeleton FA9 (Fig.3) lay face down north-south with only the upper half visible within the cut of TA. The skull (broken) lay just south of and at the same depth as the hip of FA8. It seemed to have been interred with little care.

No attempt was made to further analyse either skeleton, and both were left in situ when TA was back-filled.

## **Discussion**

No trace was found on the site of a Roman amphitheatre. Even if all structures had been destroyed it would have been expected that evidence for it would have been shown by a sudden drop in underlying ground level where the floor of the arena would have been cut at least 1 metre into the subsoil. No such drop was found. A plot of natural subsoil level along the length of the two trenches (Fig. 9) showed a steady fall from south to north which reflects the known natural undisturbed geology of the area. Further, geophysics across the accessible areas of the site gave no indication of structures which could be interpreted as being part of an amphitheatre (Ref. 3). Only one feature, FA4, a ditch running east west across TA, might have been Roman.

The topsoil which covered all of the site to a depth of 60 cm or more, and which had been terraced to provide level surfaces for tennis courts (Fig. 9) did contain a very large quantity of Roman pottery, artefacts and building material, covering the whole of the Roman period, but predominantly dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The sizes and condition of this material showed that it had been much

disturbed over a long period of time. The assemblage was fully consistent with relatively high status domestic habitation nearby, but no direct evidence for this was found in the excavated trenches.

Given that the site was part of the abbey precinct for nearly 400 years, there was surprisingly little evidence of medieval occupation. A few pieces of medieval pottery were found in the topsoil, and two significant coins, one of Henry I (SF45) and the other of Edward III (SF14) were recovered. No medieval structures were found although pieces of worked stone, clearly of ecclesiastical origin, had been incorporated into later garden features. The inference is that the area was part of the monastic gardens, which would explain the abraded state of the Roman finds, and had never been built on or otherwise occupied.

The two Roman skeletons at the south end of the site are not unusual. Other burials have been found close by, to the south, and the whole of the area to the immediate south was used for burials throughout the Roman period. The cremation burial, FB2, is somewhat more unusual. It seemed to be in isolation, being well away from any other known burial sites, although there is no way of knowing whether there were more burials to the east and west of TB. As reported by MC above, it was also unusual in having two coins SF46 & SF47 in close association with it. One of the two associated pots, SF3, is described by SB, above, as being of a type of which he has been unable to find any parallels.

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Lastly thanks to all who gave up their time to take part in the work, in whatever capacity. Even though no amphitheatre was found it is hope that they had an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

## APPENDIX

### Pottery CAG St Johns (15/03/2016)

Pottery from random selected finds bags from TA & TB showing total number of pottery sherds, number of Roman samian and colour-coated sherds and number of identified medieval and post-medieval & modern sherds present. Apart from the medieval and post-medieval & modern sherds recorded the remainder of the sherds for each bag are Roman or are most probably of Roman date.

| Trench | Context | Location in Trench | Bag no. | Total no. Sherds | Total weight g. | Roman Samian sherd no. | Roman colour-coated sherd no. | Medieval sherd no. | Post-medieval & modern sherd no. |
|--------|---------|--------------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| A      | LA1     | TA/A               | A65     | 58               | 530             |                        | 3                             |                    |                                  |
| A      |         | TA/A               | A149    | 176              | 983             | 8                      | 18                            | 1                  | 8                                |
| A      | LA1     | TA/B               | A33     | 82               | 372             | 7                      | 4                             | 1                  |                                  |
| A      | LA1     | TA/C               | A57     | 81               | 308             | 3                      | 8                             |                    |                                  |
| A      | LA1     | TA/C               | A89     | 64               | 251             | 2                      | 5                             |                    | 1                                |
| A      | LA1     | TA/D               | A31     | 122              | 631             | 11                     | 15                            |                    | 1                                |
| A      | LA1     | TA/D               | A24     | 120              | 590             | 5                      | 23                            |                    |                                  |
| A      | LA1     | TA/H               | A138    | 32               | 192             | 2                      | 1                             |                    | 1                                |
| A      | LA1     | TA/I               | A60     | 116              | 569             | 7                      | 6                             | 1                  | 23                               |
| A      | LA1     |                    | A1      | 395              | 1554            | 10                     | 39                            | 7                  | 52                               |
| A      | LA2     |                    | A6      | 75               | 384             | 3                      | 5                             |                    |                                  |
| B      | LB1     | TB/B               | B87     | 27               | 135             | 1                      |                               |                    |                                  |
| B      | LB1     | TB/C               | B61     | 48               | 217             |                        | 7                             |                    |                                  |
| B      | LB1     | TB/E               | B70     | 33               | 155             | 2                      | 1                             | 2                  |                                  |
| B      | BL1     | TB/F               | B68     | 83               | 444             | 1                      | 3                             | 1                  |                                  |
| B      | LB1     | TB/E               | B30     | 26               | 127             | 1                      | 1                             |                    | 3                                |
| B      | LB1     | TB/E               | B34     | 65               | 333             | 1                      | 2                             | 4                  | 2                                |
| B      | LB1     | TB/F               | B83     | 25               | 82              |                        | 2                             |                    |                                  |
| B      | LB1     | TB/F               | B44     | 61               | 261             |                        | 1                             |                    | 4                                |
| B      | LB1     | TB/G               | B42     | 25               | 122             |                        | 2                             |                    | 2                                |
| B      | LB2     | TB/D               | B40     | 40               | 169             |                        | 2                             | 1                  |                                  |