

**FORMER MANSER WORKS**

**137-139 NEW ROAD, RAINHAM, ESSEX**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

**INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT**

August 2004





FORMER MANSER WORKS  
137-139 NEW ROAD, RAINHAM, ESSEX  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

SITE CODE: MNM03

APPROXIMATE SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 51035 82860

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PLANNING REFERENCE NO: P1261.02

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED  
63 UNION STREET  
LONDON SE1 1SG

Telephone: 020 7403 9660

Facsimile: 020 7403 9661

e-mail: [mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)

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Project 219

## ***Abstract***

*Archaeological investigation of a site at the junction of New Road and Manser Road, Rainham, London Borough of Havering, took place in July and August 2003. This work was carried out as part of the planning process prior to residential redevelopment.*

*The site had potential for a range of archaeological finds, in particular of prehistoric and Roman date. In more recent times the plot appears to have lain within open marshland to the west of the historic town of Rainham.*

*One trial trench c. 25m by 3m in plan was investigated within the area of proposed development. The northern part of the trench contained evidence for significant prehistoric activity in the form of cut features and overlying deposits, both containing burnt flint and other evidence of human activity. These remains were sealed by layers of sterile alluvium that extended through to the post-medieval period.*

*Further investigation in this area revealed several large pits and many other smaller features such as stake and postholes, plus substantial quantities of burnt/fire-cracked flint, fired clay and charcoal and occasional struck flint and pottery. Several of the pits exhibited evidence of possible in situ burning, and some of the stake/postholes may have supported structures associated with this activity. The backfill within pits was largely composed of redeposited and partly burnt material, indicating activity over some period of time.*

*Many of these remains were associated and formed what is loosely termed a 'burnt mound' – a series of pits and deposits (particularly of burnt flint) associated with the deliberate heating of water for cooking or other, possibly ritual, purposes. This activity is provisionally ascribed to the mid-later Bronze Age (c.1,600 to 800 BC), pending further finds analysis and radiocarbon dating.*

*Burnt mounds have been noted on a number of sites, usually in proximity to a watercourse. The presence of such a feature in relation to the present site is clearly indicated by the overlying alluvium, and by an extant ditch or small stream just to the north-east of the site boundary.*

<b>Contents</b>		page
1	Introduction	1
2	Acknowledgements	1
3	Site background	
3.1	Location and topography	2
3.2	Archaeology and history	2
4.	Background to the archaeological investigation	
4.1	Research questions	3
4.2	Methodology	3
5	The archaeological investigation	
5.1	Summary of the findings	4
5.2	Prehistoric activity	4
6	Matrix to show the stratigraphic relationship of contexts	5
7	Deposits and features by context	6
8	Finds quantification	22
9	Conclusion and assessment of the results of the archaeological investigation	
9.1	Archaeological research questions	23
9.2	Revised research objectives and potential for further analysis	23
9.3	Publication proposals	24

## Figures

- 1 The site outlined on a reduced extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map. A section of the north-eastern bank of the Thames lies in the south-west corner, fed by the Beam and Ingrebourne Rivers to the west and east of the site respectively
- 2 The evaluation trench shown green and the site outline red, in relation to an extract from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 scale map
- 3 The extent of the archaeological excavation shown blue, within the evaluation trench shown in dot and dash outline
- 4 Plan showing prehistoric features cutting natural deposits within the excavation trench. Sections A-B / E-F are illustrated on Figs 5 & 6 and sections C-D / G-H on Figs 7 & 8. Section I-J is illustrated on Figure 9
- 5 Section A-B, located on Figure 4
- 6 Section E-F, located on Figure 4
- 7 Section C-D, located on Figure 4
- 8 Section G-H, located on Figure 4
- 9 Section I-J, located on Fig 4. The trench edge was cut back to facilitate the taking of archaeo-environmental samples. The location of two tins (A and B) each used to take a monolith sample are shown
- 10 View looking north-west along New Road, Rainham, with the site on the right-hand side of the image behind the advertising hoarding and to the right of the pedestrians
- 11 View looking north just outside the north-east corner of the site, showing a north-south flowing watercourse. The feature is thought to be a survival of an ancient watercourse that laid down the archaeo-alluvial deposits on the site
- 12 View looking south-east, showing archaeologists during the initial evaluation phase
- 13 The same view after cleaning. The grey fill (14) of pit (13) is visible in plan in the left foreground. Pit (2) can be seen in the base of the central slot below the 0.5m scale
- 14 View looking north-east, showing part of the western end of the evaluation trench. The grey deposit to the left of the 0.5m scale is (14), a fill of pit cut (13). The curvilinear feature (47) can be seen in plan at the foot of the scale
- 15 View looking north-east in the central part of the evaluation trench, with alluvial clay/silt (7) below and to the right of the 0.5m scale. The alluvium overlies a burnt flint deposit (18), the upper layer of the 'burnt mound' exposed in plan to the left of the scale

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- 16 View showing an earthmoving machine extending the north-east side of the evaluation trench. This was done for safety reasons to reduce the height of the ground surface in the area of the archaeological excavation
- 17 View looking south-east showing the archaeological excavation in progress. The archaeologist nearest the camera is excavating pit fill (14) and the archaeologist in the white helmet the burnt flint layer (18)
- 18 View looking north-east during the excavation of context (8)
- 19 Working shot looking north-west. Features (31), (36), *etc*, cut into yellow natural brickearth (12) are visible between the archaeologists
- 20 Working shot looking south-east during sampling of the lower fill (1) of pit cut (2)
- 21 General view looking south-east with pit (13) in foreground, showing archaeologists excavating and recording during the latter stages of the excavation
- 22 Working shot looking south-west, showing an archaeologist sampling context (28), the lower fill within pit (29)
- 23 A member of the Museum of London Specialist Services hammering a monolith sampling tin into section I-J, towards the north-east corner of the excavation
- 24 View at the north-east corner of the excavation showing a 0.2m scale on the surface of organic clay/silt layer (21), with overlying clay/silt (7) visible in section
- 25 Detail of the above area after excavation of context (21), exposing in plan the surface of the natural brickearth (12)
- 26 Section I-J with monolith sampling tins in position to extract samples <17> and <18>
- 27 View looking south at the western end of the excavation to show a section dug through context (14), the redeposited brickearth upper fill of pit cut (13)
- 28 View looking north-east showing context (86), the bottom fill of pit cut (13). This was a possible *in situ* burnt layer and was cut by three stake-holes including (88) and (90)
- 29 View looking north-east showing curvilinear cut (47) after excavation
- 30 View looking north-east and showing a 0.2m scale on context (19), the upper fill of pit (29)
- 31 View after partial excavation of pit (29) cut into natural brickearth (12). The 0.1m scale rests on a lower fill (28) that may have been burnt *in situ*
- 32 View north-east in the centre of the trench across the burnt flint deposit (18) that formed the upper layer of the 'burnt mound'. The right hand section shows the overlying 'tail' of dark brown organic clay (21)

- 33 View looking north-east after removal of layer (18), showing pit cut (31) in front of the 0.2m scale. The unexcavated grey fill to the left is (45), the upper fill of pit (2)
- 34 A 0.2m scale within the excavated pit cut (2), view from above looking to north-east. Most of the pit is located within the original central evaluation slot
- 35 Subsequent view of the above area, with the 0.2m scale in excavated pit cut (49). The adjacent pit cut (2) lies in shadow in the foreground
- 36 View looking north-east showing excavated pit cuts (40) and (42), to the left and right of the 0.2m scale
- 37 View to north-east showing a 0.2m scale within the excavated pit cut (36), to the east of Fig 36
- 38 View looking south-east near the end of the archaeological excavation, showing features including pit (13) in foreground cut into the natural brickearth (12)

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report forms a preliminary summary of the results of an archaeological investigation undertaken by Compass Archaeology on a site at the junction of New Road and Manser Road, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (Fig 1).

The land was previously used for light industrial work and was occupied by one main brick-built building, Manser Works (Fig 1). This twentieth century structure was demolished prior to the start of the archaeological investigation.

The site itself was roughly square, with sides of about 45m, and an actual ground area of approximately 0.22ha (c.5.4 acres).

- 1.2** The archaeological assessment was required as part of the planning process prior to residential redevelopment of the site. The proposal comprised twenty-four flats within two blocks located in the southern part of the site, plus associated access, parking and services (London Borough of Havering Planning Reference Number P1261.02).

It was considered that the site had potential for a range of archaeological features and finds, in particular of prehistoric and Roman date. In later periods the site appears to have lain within open and probably marginal land to the west of the historic centre of Rainham.

- 1.3** The archaeological fieldwork took place on an open site and comprised two separate phases of work: an initial evaluation that identified some significant prehistoric remains in the southern part of the site, closely followed by a more thorough archaeological excavation within this area.

The fieldwork – evaluation and excavation – took place over a period of approximately three and a half weeks between July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> 2003.

- 1.4** The on-site records are currently held by Compass Archaeology. Finds and environmental samples are still in the process of assessment by the Museum of London Specialist Services (including external radiocarbon dating).

The site code is MNM03. All records and retained finds will ultimately be deposited within the MoL Archaeological Archive.

## **2. Acknowledgements**

The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mr John Turrell of Ridgemount Construction on behalf of Estuary Housing Association, the developers of the site.

Nick Truckle (English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) monitored the project on behalf of the London Borough of Havering

### **3. Site Background**

#### **3.1 Location and topography**

The site is located some 1.7km to the north of the Thames, and approximately centred at National Grid Reference TQ 51035 82860 (Figs 1 & 2). The immediate land surface is fairly level at about 3m OD, with a slight fall to the south of New Road.

A small watercourse runs southwards towards the north-east corner of the site (Fig 2), and may continue as a culverted feature along the eastern boundary of the site. The watercourse is evidently of some antiquity, and is shown by 19<sup>th</sup> century OS maps to have formed an eastern tributary of the Beam River.

A geotechnical investigation preceding the archaeological investigation (A F Howland Associates) revealed natural sand and gravel overlain by deep alluvial deposits in the south-eastern part of the site. It was thought likely that the alluvium derived from the adjacent watercourse, the channel gradually silting up and ultimately being levelled over by recent made ground.

By contrast natural sand and gravel were within 1m of the modern surface in the south-west corner of the site, furthest away from the likely route of the watercourse.

#### **3.2 Archaeology and history**

As previously noted, the archaeological potential of the site was considered to be chiefly for prehistoric – and possibly Roman – finds and remains.

The medieval and earlier post-medieval settlement of Rainham was evidently quite small, and concentrated on land some 1.25km to the south-east. The present site evidently lay within an area of open and probably marginal land: the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1805 shows the plot as just within the northern boundary of Hornchurch Marsh, suggesting that land use at this time was confined to pasture and rough grazing.

The present New Road had been constructed by the 1850s, but there seems to have been little relatively little associated development until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The OS map of 1904 shows a track just to the west of the site, but no other apparent activity.

### **4. Background to the archaeological investigation**

The evaluation was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site, and to assess how this might be affected by the proposed redevelopment. The fieldwork therefore sought to determine the extent, depth, character, significance and condition of any extant remains. This provided a basis on which decisions could be taken as to the need for further archaeological action.

As described above (1.2), archaeological assessment was required as part of the planning process prior to residential redevelopment (LB of Havering Planning Reference Number P1261.02).

Prior to the start of fieldwork a *Specification and Project Design for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* was produced (Compass Archaeology, June 2003) and endorsed by English Heritage on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

#### **4.1 Research questions**

A number of research questions were outlined in the preliminary *Specification* for the archaeological project. These were as follows:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and if so what is its nature and date?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity and if so what is its nature and date?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon activity and if so what is its nature and extent?
- Is there any evidence for medieval activity and if so what is its nature and extent?
- Is there any evidence for activity for post-medieval activity and if so what is its nature and extent?

#### **4.2 Methodology**

The *Specification* proposed a single archaeological evaluation trench, to be opened within the footprint of the planned new build behind the southern frontage of the site. The trench was to measure c. 25m east-west by 3m wide (Fig 2).

The trench was opened by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Recent deposits and undifferentiated overburden were removed, and thereafter the exposed deposits and features were investigated and recorded by the on-site archaeologists, and finds dating and environmental evidence recovered.

The deposits and features exposed during the investigation were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets [1] to [147] and by drawn plans and sections, supplemented by 35mm photography.

The trench position was planned on a local grid and subsequently located as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (Fig 2).

The finds and records from the archaeological investigation have been allocated the site code: MNM03.

## **5. The archaeological investigation**

### **5.1 Summary of the findings (Figs 3 & 4)**

As noted above, the initial field evaluation comprised a single trial trench measuring approximately 25m by 3m in plan.

The north-western part of this trench revealed significant prehistoric remains. These included several cut features and overlying deposits, both containing quantities of burnt flint and other evidence of human activity (primarily fragments of burnt clay/silt and scattered charcoal). The basic sequence was quite straightforward, with prehistoric features cut into the natural brickearth and the overlying deposits sealed by layers of sterile alluvium that extended through to the post-medieval period.

As a result of these findings it was agreed to undertake further and more extensive investigation within the northern part of the evaluation area, an area of approximately 13m by 1.5m in plan.

### **5.2 Prehistoric activity**

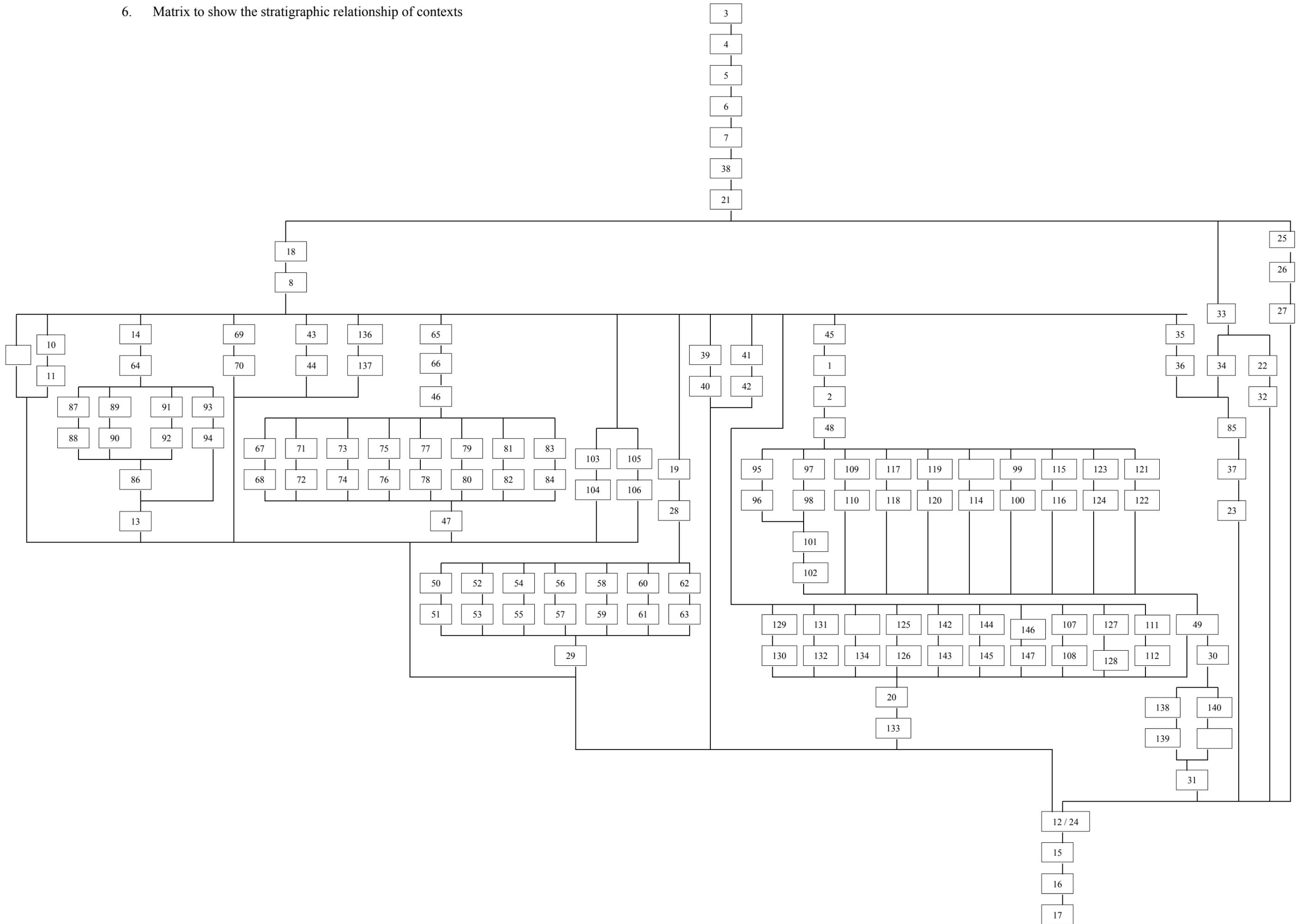
The investigation produced evidence for one major phase of activity, which is provisionally dated to the mid-later Bronze Age (C14 dating awaited). There were several substantial pits and numerous smaller features such as stake and postholes, plus further substantial quantities of burnt flint and also burnt clay or daub (see table, section 8. below). However, there were relatively few other finds such as pottery or struck flint.

Several of the features exhibited evidence of probable *in situ* burning, and it is possible that some of the stakeholes also supported structures associated with this activity – particularly where driven into the base of open pits. Much of the backfill within features was composed of mixed, redeposited and partially burnt material, indicating a continuance of activity over some period of time.

Most of the early deposits and features on the site were clearly associated, within what is loosely termed a ‘burnt mound’ complex. This refers to a range of evidence for the deliberate heating of water for cooking or other purposes, utilising flint that has been preheated over fire. Such activity has been noted on a number of sites throughout the country, and is typically denoted by the large quantities of discarded burnt and fire-cracked flint. Proximity to a watercourse is also characteristic of such sites, and there is good evidence (as discussed below) that such a feature lay just to the east.

The alluvium that sealed the burnt flint layers and other evidence of prehistoric activity was quite sterile, and so not independently dateable. However, it is likely that the deposit derives from an ancient watercourse flowing along the eastern side of the site. This feature survives today as a small stream or ditch immediately to the north-east, and is shown more substantially on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (see 3.1 above). The alluvial deposits also thickened and sloped downward to the east, towards the projected line of this watercourse (and following an underlying topographic slope).

6. Matrix to show the stratigraphic relationship of contexts



## 7. Deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
1	Soft mottled orange-brown to grey sandy clay/silt with mottled orange-red to dark brown burnt areas. Occasional charcoal to 50mm & fragments of burnt flint. Apparently the same as overlying context (45), but distinguished enable finds and samples to be differentiated. The mottled colouration was typical of the 'burnt mound' deposits on the site of which the context was part	c.0.50m thick	Dumped deposit forming lower fill within cut feature (2)	Prehistoric
2	Steep sided cut, irregular oval in plan at top and about 1.1m diameter	c.0.90m deep	Cut feature containing fills (45) and (2). A 'burnt mound' context; no <i>in situ</i> burning & function unknown, but may have been a trough to hold hot water	"
3	Varied but mostly loose, predominantly brown-grey sandy clay / silt. One post-medieval sherd at the base of context. The deposit was thicker and deeper to the east, reflecting the topographic fall of the underlying deposit into a projected ancient stream course. The context extended across the whole trench area and was excavated by machine	Up to 0.80m thick	Current ground surface and underlying dumped layers representing fairly recent development of the site; possibly associated with the construction of the former Manser Works	Recent
4	Medium compaction; dark grey sandy clay/silt with sand and occasional angular gravel to 5mm. One 10mm fragment of coal & one oyster shell (neither retained) and one iron nail. Extended across whole area of trench & removed by machine. Deposit was thicker and deeper to the east toward the lower lying ground and projected north-south stream course. Also slightly humic compared with underlying alluvial layer (5), but this distinction was lost as deposits dried	c.0.20 to 0.25m thick	Alluvial deposit, but probably exposed to air and slightly humified through bioturbation. Thought to be ground surface prior to first modern development of site	Undated; predates late 19 <sup>th</sup> C+ development of site
5	Medium compaction; pale brown-grey clay/silt; no inclusions or finds recorded. Extended across trench, sloping down to east, and largely removed by machine. Boundaries with over- and underlying alluvial layers (4) & (6) faint, and lost as the deposits dried	About 0.20m thick	Apparently sterile alluvial layer	As above

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
6	Medium compaction; pale to mid grey sandy clay/silt; no inclusions or finds recorded. Covered almost the whole length of the trench, except north-west end, and sloped down to the east. Excavated by machine. Boundaries with over- and underlying layers (5) & (7) a bit arbitrary, and lost as the deposits dried	About 0.20m thick	Alluvial deposit, slightly humified: had probably been exposed long enough for bioturbation to take place prior to deposition of (5)	Undated; predates late 19 <sup>th</sup> C+ development
7	Medium compacted mid brown-grey clay/silt deposit, overlying the whole area of the trench and excavated mainly by machine. Boundary with overlying deposit (6) was a bit arbitrary, especially as the deposits dried. No inclusions. The deposit sloped down to the east, following the underlying natural topography	Up to 0.30m thick.	Apparently sterile alluvial layer	As above
8	Medium compacted layer of mottled grey, red and black sand with fine silt. Includes frequent fragments of burnt clay/silt with sand, charcoal and burnt flint to 15mm. Sectioned by machine in evaluation and hand excavated in the subsequent excavation. The mottled colouration was typical of the 'burnt mound deposits' on the site of which the context was part	Up to 0.40m thick	Dumped deposit forming part of the 'burnt mound'	Prehistoric
9	Medium compacted layer of mid grey sand with moderate angular gravel to 20mm, found at the west north-west end of the trench. Deposit was disturbed by frequent ancient root action, seen as lines of mid to dark grey sand which in some cases continued into the underlying natural brickearth (12)	c.0.12m thick	Sandy soil layer, forming the ground surface to the north-west of the burnt mound	"
10	Medium compacted mid grey, red and pale grey sand with clay/silt, with occasional fragments of red burnt clay/silt and charcoal. Deposit was removed by machine and with cut-line (11) was recorded in section below a 'burnt mound' layer	c.0.06m deep	Fill of a probable man-made cut (11)	"
11	Small, shallow scoop containing fill (10). Feature was recorded in section after machining: the cut was c. 0.12m deep and 0.25m wide at its top. The sides were inclined up at about 60 degrees onto a bowl-shaped base. Cut into natural brickearth (12)	About 0.12m deep	Probable man-made feature, perhaps the remains of a stake or post hole but difficult to interpret in section	

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
12	Medium compacted buff/white fine sand with clay/silt and orange mottles. This layer followed the profile of the underlying sand and gravel and sloped down to the east towards the projected natural stream channel	Up to 0.20m thick	Thought to be a natural post-glacial deposit, and described as 'brickearth' by Jane Sidell, EH Science Advisor on her site visit	–
13	Oval cut about 2.4m east-west by 1.2m wide north-south, cut into brickearth (12). Contained two dumped fills, (64) & (14)	About 0.50m deep	Part of the burnt mound complex, of uncertain function but possibly a boiling trough or sweat lodge. Underlying the dumped fills (64) & (14) was a basal deposit (86) thought to be burnt <i>in situ</i> . The upper fill (14) suggested several recuts, and the feature may have had two separate elements to east and west. However, there appeared to be a only one cut into natural	Prehistoric
14	Medium to loose mid grey sand with some clay/silt and small red and black mottles; the lower part of the deposit mainly redeposited yellow brickearth. Contained frequent pieces of burnt brickearth up to 20mm, charcoal to 10mm, and fragments of burn flint to 30mm. The southern edge was sectioned by the deeper central slot of the machine-dug evaluation trench, but otherwise hand excavated and in part sieved	About 0.21m thick	Dumped upper fill of pit (13), below burnt mound layer (8) and over lower fill (64)	“
15	Medium compacted mid orange brown clay/silt, underlying brickearth (12) and over alluvial layer (16). The slope of the deposit followed that of the underlying natural, dropping eastwards towards a probable natural stream channel	Up to 0.44m thick	Sterile natural alluvium	Post-glacial
16	Medium compacted mid to pale grey sand with moderate angular gravel to 5mm, sectioned by central machine-dug evaluation slot. The deposit sloped down to the east, following the underlying natural (17)	Up to 0.30m thick	Natural alluvium	“

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
17	Pale orange buff sand with angular and rounded gravel to 80mm. Sectioned by the central machine-dug evaluation slot and sloped down to the east, towards a probable natural stream channel	At least 0.30m thick (base not reached)	Sterile natural sand and gravel	–
18	Hard mid to dark grey sand with clay-silt and burnt/fire-cracked flint (the latter grey, red or buff). The deposit also contained moderate small fragments of burnt clay/silt and occasional charcoal to 5mm. The burnt flint comprised c.20% of the volume of the deposit, with individual fragments mainly below c.25mm but with larger pieces to 100mm. The mottled colouration was typical of the ‘burnt mound’ deposits on the site. The deposit underlay a waterlain organic clay (21) and sloped down to the east, following the natural topography of the site. It was sectioned by machine in evaluation, and subsequently hand excavated. About 20% by the volume of the hand dug portion was sieved for finds in a 6mm mesh sieve	Up to 0.18m thick	Dumped ‘burnt mound’ layer, part of the overall complex of deposits	Prehistoric
19	Soft to medium mottled charcoal, grey sand and red burnt clay/silt, plus occasional fragments of burnt flint to 15mm. The deposit was sectioned in evaluation, and the remainder was hand excavated in the excavation phase	Thickness unknown, but not more than 0.30m	Dumped upper fill of hearth in pit cut (29). Part of the ‘burnt mound’ complex	“
20	Medium compacted mottled mid grey, red and black sand, <i>etc.</i> containing with one fragment of burnt flint, moderate pieces of burnt clay/silt to 25mm and occasional fragments of charcoal to 20mm. Sectioned by machine during the evaluation and subsequently hand dug. Colouration was typical of the ‘burnt mound’ deposits on the site	Depth c.0.30m	Dumped backfill of shallow cut (133); part of the ‘burnt mound’ complex	“
21	Moderately compacted mid to dark brown organic clay/silt with occasional flecks of red burnt clay/silt to 20mm, charcoal to 5mm, and pieces of burnt flint up to 50mm; also one struck flint. The deposit was very organic but had no recognisable wood or vegetation	Up to 0.20m thick	A waterlain organic fill in the stream/water feature (23) (not a peat, given the lack of recognisable wood/vegetation). Deposit is later than the ‘burnt mound’ but under alluvium (7)	?Prehistoric

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
22	Moderately compacted mid to dark brown organic clay/silt with very occasional fragments of red burnt clay/silt and charcoal, both to 5mm. More friable than the overlying deposit (21). Sectioned in evaluation trench and the remainder hand excavated	Up to 0.23m deep	The fill of a small feature (32). No wood was recognised in the deposit, but thought to be a tree throw	?Prehistoric
23	Cut line of a naturally formed watercourse/water-filled hollow containing alluvial fills. The alignment of the feature is uncertain but the south-western edge of its upper fill (21) suggests a north-west to south-east alignment. The probable south-western edge of the deeper & related cut (34) was also on this alignment.	Up to 0.44m deep, assuming fills included (33) as well as (21)	Naturally cut watercourse/ stagnant water feature, aligned north-west – south-east. Feature tails up over the east side of the burnt mound deposits. Fills included (21), (33), (37) & (85)	Prehistoric
24	Find of a prehistoric struck flint (provisional identification), found in the top of the natural brickearth (12) at the west end of the trench	n/a	Struck flint find	“
25	Medium compacted, mid brown clay/silt with occasional fragments of charcoal, burnt flint, & red burnt clay/silt. Mottled colouration is typical of burnt mound deposits on the site	About 0.24m thick	Dumped upper backfill of post-hole (27), over fill (26). Part of the ‘burnt mound’ phase	“
26	Soft, mid to pale grey clay/silt with a few fragments of carbonised wood up to 100mm by 50mm	About 0.12m	Probable waterlain lower fill of post-hole (27) under upper fill (25). Part of ‘burnt mound’ phase	“
27	Post-hole, oval outline measuring c.0.52m by 0.44m in plan. Below this was a smaller, steep-sided cylindrical element, about 0.29m by 0.22m in plan and 0.25m deep with a flattened bowl-shaped base. There was no wood <i>in situ</i> , other than as noted under (26)	About 0.35m deep	Post-hole, containing upper and lower fills (25) & (26). Part of ‘burnt mound’ phase	“
28	Hard, mottled dark grey, red and black clay/silt with frequent fragments of charcoal to 60mm and red burnt clay/silt to 30mm, plus moderate fragments of burnt flint to 25mm. Fills base of hearth cut (29), under dumped upper fill (19). The deposit was sectioned in evaluation and subsequently hand excavated	About 0.05m thick	Burnt <i>in situ</i> deposit in base of hearth cut (29). Part of ‘burnt mound’ phase	“
29	Oval cut feature measuring about 0.60m north-south by <i>at least</i> 0.44m east-west (part of the south side previously removed by machine). Base was slightly bowl shaped, and the feature had steep sides that were undercut in places	About 0.35m deep	Cut for hearth, containing burnt <i>in situ</i> lower fill (28) and dumped upper fill (19). Part of ‘burnt mound’ phase	“

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
30	Soft mottled mid grey-brown/ yellow-red and black sandy clay/silt. Included frequent fragments of burnt clay/silt, moderate charcoal to 25mm and occasional burnt flint. Mottled colouration typical of 'burnt mound' phase of which this context was part	Up to 0.46m deep	Dumped backfill of cut (31) for double post-hole, no wood <i>in situ</i>	Prehistoric
31	An irregular rectangular-shaped cut, truncated to west by pit (2) but measuring overall c.0.74m east-west by 0.46m north-south	Western post hole up to 0.46m deep, eastern one c.0.38m deep	Cut for double post-hole, containing dumped backfill (30). Probably each post not more than c.0.20m diameter; see also settings (139) & (141). Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
32	Small cut feature, up to 1.4m wide east-west by 0.70m north-south but truncated to the south by the machine-dug evaluation slot	Up to 0.23m deep	Possible tree throw, containing fill (22)	?Prehistoric
33	Medium compacted, mid brown-grey sandy clay/silt with occasional fragments of charcoal to 10mm and horizontal root fragments to 5mm	About 0.13m deep	Waterlain fill of (34). Part of larger watercourse/alluvial feature (23)	Prehistoric
34	North-west to south-east aligned edge, probably of natural water cut origin	About 0.13m deep	Watercut edge containing waterlain fill (33) on its north-east side. May also be part of the larger natural water feature (23)	"
35	Medium compacted buff with orange red and mid grey mottled fine sand with clay/silt. Occasional fragments of charcoal to 5mm and of burnt clay/silt. Mottled colouration typical of the burnt mound deposits on the site	Up to 0.17m deep, with a 0.08m deeper fill in stakehole to south-east	Dumped fill of pit cut (36). Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
36	Cut feature, northern part running into the north section of the trench so north-south dimension of 0.8m is a minimum. Feature is c.0.9m wide east-west.	Up to 0.17m deep, with a further 0.08m deep cut for a stake	Pit cut containing dumped fill (35).	"
37	Soft light grey very fine sandy silt. Very occasional wood fragments up to 5mm diameter and 20mm long thought to be decayed roots, and fragments of charcoal c.2mm to 4mm in size	Up to 0.05 thick	Waterlain lens, recorded as part of natural water channel (34)	"

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
38	Quite firm mid grey-brown humic silty clay with very occasional flint to 15-20mm and some <5mm diameter iron stained root disturbance	Up to 0.08m thick	Probable seasonal flooding deposit over organic layer (21), before deposition of sterile clay/silt (7)	?Prehistoric
39	Medium compacted brown/grey/red mottled sand with clay/silt. Frequent fragments of red burnt clay/silt to 70mm and charcoal to 10mm, but no burnt flint. Deposit ran beyond north section of trench and so was not excavated. Mottled colouration typical of burnt mound deposit on the site	Up to 0.22m thick	Dumped deposit filling cut (40); part of 'burnt mound' phase	Prehistoric
40	Cut feature continuing beyond northern limit of excavation, but the three remaining sides formed what appeared to be the southern part of a rectangular feature with rounded corners (though in section the feature was very irregular). The shape in plan was similar to that of context (42), perhaps indicating that the features were associated	"	Uncertain function but interpreted as a probable post pit, containing a dumped fill (39). Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
41	Medium compaction, mottled brown/ red/ buff sand with clay/silt containing frequent fragments of charcoal to 10mm and burnt clay/silt. Mottled red, grey, black colouration typical of burnt mound deposits	Up to 0.25m thick	Dumped fill within cut (42); part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
42	Cut feature continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation. The remaining three sides formed what appeared to be a rectangular shape, measuring c. 0.43m east-west by a minimum of 0.36m north-south. The base of the feature was recorded in section and appeared to have a downward pointing 'dimple', but was not convincing as a post-hole. Plan of cut was similar to that of (40), suggesting the two features may have been related	"	Cut containing dumped backfill (41). Unknown function but possibly a post pit. Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
43	Soft mottled grey-brown to yellow clay/silt with sand. Deposit contained occasional fragments of red burnt clay/silt and very occasional fragments of burnt flint	c. 0.21m deep	Fill of stake hole (44). Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
44	Small cut feature of triangular shaped plan c.0.20m by 0.15m. The feature had rounded corners and steep and straight sides to a rounded point	"	Stake hole containing fill (43), and perhaps related to double post-hole (31)	"

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
45	Medium compacted grey clay/silt with sand and buff, black and red mottles. Includes frequent fragments of charcoal to 40mm and fragments of red burnt clay/silt to 30mm, plus moderate fragments of burnt flint to 4mm. The differentiation between (45) and lower fill (1) was arbitrary and created to enable finds and samples from each area to be differentiated	c.0.37m thick	Dumped upper part of backfill of pit/burnt mound feature (2)	Prehistoric
46	Medium compacted brown-grey sand with clay/silt plus occasional fragments of burnt flint and charcoal flecks	c.0.10m deep	Dumped fill of curvilinear slot (47). Part of 'burnt mound' phase	"
47	Curvilinear cut feature, truncated to south by the central machine-dug evaluation slot. The portion hand excavated within the area of archaeological excavation was about 1.4m long and 0.14m wide. A number of stake holes were recognised in the base of the feature	"	Curvilinear feature containing backfill (46). Unknown function, but suggestions include a windbreak or insubstantial wall base. The feature lay at the western limit of context (8), suggesting a possible relationship	"
48	Medium compacted mottled mid grey to orange-brown and black clay/silt with sand. Includes frequent fragments of red burnt clay/silt and occasional fragments of burnt flint. Truncated by feature (2) to south	Up to 0.36m thick	Dumped backfill of feature (49)	"
49	Cut feature, truncated to south by cut (2) and extending to north beyond the limit of excavation. The west and east sides were roughly parallel and about 1.20m apart; overall the feature may have been oval or rectangular although there is no firm evidence	"	Feature containing dumped backfill (48). Unknown function, but is assumed to be part of the 'burnt mound' complex on the basis of stratigraphic position, nature of the fill and its general similarity to cuts (2) and (14)	"
50	Void, seen at base of hearth cut (29) after removal of fill (28). There were traces of decayed organic matter, probably wood, around the circumference. Similar to contexts (52), (54), (56), (58), (60) & (62)	About 0.37m deep	Void defining probable stake hole (51)	"
51	Small cut containing void (50). Circular in plan, diameter c. 25mm, with steep vertical sides. Similar to (53), (55), (57), (59), & (61)	"	Probable stake cut, hammered into the base of the hearth (29). It is possible that the stake and others near it may have been placed within (29) to support a fire or other structure	"

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness / depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Approx. date</b>
52	Void at base of hearth cut (29), seen after removal of (28). There were traces of decayed organic matter around the circumference, possibly decayed wood. Similar to (50), (54), (56), (58), (60) & (62)	About 0.34m deep	Void defining stake cut (53)	Prehistoric
53	Cut containing void (52). Circular plan 30mm diameter, with steep vertical sides. Base only established by probing so it is unknown if this was pointed. Similar to (51), (55), (57), (59), & (61)	“	Probable stake cut, hammered into the base of the hearth (29). This stake and others nearby may have been placed within (29) to support a fire or other structure	“
54	Void at base of hearth cut (29), seen after removal of (28). There were traces of decayed organic matter, possibly decayed wood, in lower part of void, and some charcoal & burnt clay/silt in the upper part. Similar to (50), (52), (56), (58), (60) & (62)	c.0.29m deep	Void defining stake cut (55)	“
55	Cut containing void (54). Circular plan 40mm diameter, with steep vertical sides but unknown if the base was pointed. Similar to (51), (53), (57), (59), & (61)	“	Probable stake cut. This stake and others nearby may have been hammered into the base of the hearth (29) to support a fire or other structure	“
56	Void at base of hearth cut (29). There were traces of decayed organic matter, possibly decayed wood, in lower part of void, and of charcoal & burnt clay/silt in the upper part. Similar to (50), (52), (54), (58), (60) & (62)	About 0.12m deep	Void defining stake cut (57)	“
57	Cut containing void (56). Circular plan 30mm diameter, with steep vertical sides but unknown if the base was pointed. Similar to (51), (53), (55), (59), & (61)	“	Probable stake cut. This stake and others nearby may have been hammered into the base of the hearth (29) to support a fire or other structure	“
58	Void at base of hearth cut (29). Similar to (50), (52), (54), (56), (60) & (62)	About 0.11m deep	Void defining stake cut (59)	“
59	Cut containing void (58). Circular plan 30mm diameter, with cut inclined at 45° up to the north-east. Unknown if the base was pointed. Similar to (51), (53), (55), (57), & (61)	“	Probable stake cut. This stake & others may have been hammered into the base of the hearth (29) to support a fire or other structure	“

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
60	Void seen at base of hearth cut (29). There were organic traces, possibly decayed wood, around the circumference of the void at all depths. Similar to (50), (52), (54), (56), (58) & (62)	About 0.21m deep	Void defining stake cut (61)	Prehistoric
61	Cut containing void (60). Circular plan 30mm diameter, with steep vertical sides but unknown if the base was pointed. Similar to (51), (53), (55), (57), & (59)	“	Probable stake cut. This stake and others nearby may have been hammered into the base of the hearth (29) to support a fire or other structure	“
62	Void seen at base of hearth cut (29). There were traces of organic matter, possibly decayed wood, at the upper level. Similar to (52), (54), (56), (58) & (60)	About 0.22m deep	Void defining stake cut (63)	“
63	Cut containing void (62). Dimensions in plan c.30mm by 30mm, with cut inclined at c.30° to the north-east. Unknown if the base was pointed. Similar to (51), (53), (55), (57), (59) & (61)	“	Probable stake cut. This stake and others may have been hammered into the base of the hearth (29) to support a fire or other structure	“
64	Medium compacted lenses of mottled orange, black and grey sand with clay/silt. Includes frequent fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt, plus occasional fragments of burnt flint to 5mm (& rarely to 50mm)	About 0.25m thick	Intermediate dumped fill of cut (13), between (14) & (86). Contained burnt material, probably redeposited rather than <i>in situ</i> , and cleaner deposits that may have been used to extinguish fires	“
65	Medium to soft mid brown-grey to orange-red sand with clay/silt, containing occasional fragments of burnt flint and charcoal flecks. Multi-coloured fill was typical of ‘burnt mound’ deposits on the site	0.15m deep	Fill of stake cut (66)	“
66	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter c.0.14m. Vertical sides and base “sharply rounded”	“	Stake cut containing fill (65). Cut intersected with stake (70) but not possible to establish the relationship between these two features	“
67	Void, seen at base of feature (47) after removal of fill (46)	0.82m deep	Void defining stake cut (70)	“
68	Cut containing void (67). Oval in plan at surviving top, c.60mm by 30mm. Straight-sided cut, inclined at c. 30° to the south-east. Shape of base/tip unknown.	“	Angled stake cut. Seen at base of cut (47) but relationship unknown	“

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
69	Medium to soft, mottled brownish grey and orange-red sand with clay/silt. with occasional charcoal flecks and with frequent fragments of red burnt clay/silt with sand	0.10m deep	Fill of stake cut (70)	Prehistoric
70	Cut feature, sub-circular in plan at surviving top (c.0.10m by 0.09m). Near-vertical sides, onto 'rounded' base	"	Stake cut containing fill (69). Relationship with adjacent cut (66) & its fill (65) unknown	"
71	Soft, mid greyish yellow sand with clay/silt but no inclusions. Seen after removal of fill (46)	0.12m deep	Fill of stake cut (72)	"
72	Circular cut feature 0.02m diameter, seen at base of cut (47). Straight sided, but top inclined at 10° to the north-east. No information on base ( <i>ie</i> , rounded or pointed)	"	Stake cut containing fill (71). Relationship with cut (47)/ fill (46) unknown	"
73	Top c.50mm soft, mid greyish brown sand with clay/silt & no inclusions. Below this was a void	Overall at least 0.55m	Fill of stake cut (74)	"
74	Circular cut feature, diameter about 30mm, seen below (47). Straight-sided but inclined at 30° to the south-east. Base probed but profile not established	"	Stake cut, filled by (73). Relationship with adjacent cut (47)/ fill (46) unknown	"
75	Void seen at base of (46)	c.50mm deep	Void defining stake cut (76)	"
76	Oval cut feature c. 20mm by 30mm in plan, with straight near-vertical sides and a sharply rounded base	"	Stake cut, filled by (75). Seen below (46)/(47); relationship with these unknown but in view of depth presumably cut (46)	"
77	Medium compacted dark brown-grey sand with clay/silt; no inclusions. No obvious difference between (77) & adjacent fill (46)	0.80mm deep	Fill of stake cut (78), seen below (46)	"
78	Oval cut feature seen below fill (46), c.70mm by 50mm in plan. Vertical sides with pointed base	"	Stake cut, filled by (77). Relationship with (46)/(47) not established	"
79	Medium compacted, dark brownish grey sand with clay/silt, no inclusions. No discernible difference with fill (46)	c.80mm deep	Fill of stake cut (80)	"
80	Oval cut feature seen below fill (46), c. 70mm by 50mm in plan. Rounded base	"	Stake cut, filled by (79). Relationship with intersecting stake (82) not established	"

Context no.	Description	Thickness / depth	Interpretation	Approx. date
81	Medium compacted dark brownish grey sand with clay/silt, no inclusions. No discernible difference with adjacent fill (46)	40mm deep	Fill of stake cut (82)	“
82	Oval cut feature seen below fill (46), c.90mm by 60mm in plan. The sides were recorded as ‘concave’, onto a rounded base	“	Possible stake cut, filled by (81). Relationship with fill (47) not recorded but in view of depth presumably cut this	“
83	Medium compacted dark brownish grey sand with clay/silt with no inclusions. No discernible difference with (46)	90mm deep	Fill of stake cut (84)	“
84	Oval cut feature c. 50mm by 40mm in plan. Sides slightly concave and tapering down to sharply rounded base	“	Stake cut, filled by (83). Relationship with (47) not recorded	“
85	Medium compacted buff white silty fine sand with very occasional charcoal flecks to 40mm and red burnt clay/silt to 30mm	c.50mm thick	Probable waterlain lens	“
86	Quite compact, mottled black, red/orange and grey clay/silt with sand. Frequent fragments of charcoal to 40mm and red daub to 50mm, plus occasional fragments of burnt flint to 20mm. A very mixed deposit, cut by three stakeholes (88), (90) & (92)	Up to 80mm thick	Basal fill of cut (13), and probably represents <i>in situ</i> burning	“
87	Void, seen after removal of fill (86)	At least 0.15m deep	Void defining stake cut (88)	“
88	Sub-circular cut, c.50mm in diameter. Steep-sided, base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut	“
89	Void, seen after removal of (86)	At least 0.16m deep	Void defining stake cut (90)	“
90	Oval cut feature, c.60mm by 40mm in plan. Sides were vertical, base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut	“
91	Void seen after removal of (86)	At least 0.40m deep	Void defining stake cut (92)	“
92	Oval cut feature, c.50mm by c.35mm in plan. Sides were vertical, base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (91). Relationship with cut (13) uncertain	“

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness / depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Approx. date</b>
93	Void seen in base of pit (13) after removal of fill (64) – basal fill (86) did not extend over this part of pit	At least 0.49m deep	Void defining stake cut (94)	Prehistoric
94	Oval cut feature, c.40mm by 60mm in plan. Steep to vertical sides but base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (93). Recorded at base of pit (13) but actual relationship uncertain	“
95	Soft mid brown wood seen below (48)	40mm deep	Fill of stake cut (96)	“
96	Oval cut feature c.60mm by 100mm in plan. Sides were tapered to a rounded point	“	Stake cut, filled by (95). Seen below fill (48) and may well have been cut into the base of the pit (49)	“
97	Void with traces of mid brown decomposed wood	c.0.30m deep	Fill of stake cut (98)	“
98	Sub-circular cut feature c.50mm by 40mm in plan. Sides inclined to the south at an angle of about 45°	“	Stake cut, fill (97). Seen below fill (48) and may well have been cut into the base of the pit (49)	“
99	Soft mottled mid and dark grey sandy clay/silt, plus dark brownish grey sand with clay/silt; no inclusions	c.90mm deep	Fill of stake cut (100)	“
100	Cut feature partly exposed at northern limit of excavation, at the base of pit cut (49). The revealed area was rounded, with a width of c.0.10m and tapered sides onto a rounded base	“	Possible stake cut, filled by (99). Relationship with pit (49) uncertain	“
101	Medium to soft mottled mid greyish yellow to brown clay/silt with sand; no inclusions. Deposit was cut by two stakes, (96) & (98)	c.0.18m deep	Fill of ?post-hole/pit (102)	“
102	Oval cut feature measuring about 0.26m by 0.20m in plan. The feature had concave sides and a flat bottom	“	Possibly a post-hole, but no post-pipe recorded	“
103	Medium compacted, mottled red, grey and black sand with clay/silt. Moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt, both to 10mm	c.0.18m deep	Fill of stake cut (104). Under context (8)	“
104	Oval cut feature c.0.10m by 0.19m in plan. Sides were vertical, sloped in at base to a rounded point	“	Stake cut, fill by (103)	“

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness / depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Approx. date</b>
105	Medium compacted mottled orange, red, grey and black sand with clay/silt. Moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt, both to 10mm	c.90mm deep	Fill of stake cut (106). Under context (8)	Prehistoric
106	Oval cut feature c.0.10m by 0.15m in plan. Sides were vertical but sloped in to a point	“	Stake cut, filled by (105)	“
107	Medium compacted, mottled grey, red and black sand with clay/silt. Moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt, both to 10mm	0.12m deep	Fill of stake cut (108)	“
108	Oval cut feature, c.0.10m by 0.18m in plan. Sides were steep to vertical but sloped in to a point	“	Stake cut, filled by (107)	“
109	Void with a few traces of decayed wood, seen below context (48)	c.0.38m deep	Fill of stake cut (110)	“
110	Circular cut feature, about 25mm in diameter. Straight sides, but base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (109)	“
111	Medium compacted mottled grey, red and black sand with clay/silt. Moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt, both to 5mm	90mm deep	Fill of stake cut (112)	“
112	Sub-circular cut feature, c. 0.10m diameter. Set vertically, with steep sides and a pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (111)	“
113	Void with a few traces of decayed timber, seen at base of context (48)	0.19m deep	Fill of stake cut (114)	“
114	Oval cut feature about 40mm by 60mm in plan. Straight-sided but inclined at about 45°to the south-east. Base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (113). Relationship with adjacent pit cut (49) not established	“
115	Void with a few traces of decayed timber, seen below context (48)	0.13m deep	Fill of stake cut (116)	“
116	Oval cut feature about 50mm by 60mm in plan. Set vertically, with sides tapering to a pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (115). Relationship with pit cut (49) not established	“
117	Void with a few traces of decayed timber, seen below context (48)	0.27m deep	Fill of stake cut (118)	“

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness / depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Approx. date</b>
118	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter about 40mm. Sides vertical onto a pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (117). Relationship with pit cut (49) not established	Prehistoric
119	Void seen at base of context (48)	0.78m deep	Void defining stake cut (120)	“
120	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter about 40mm. Sides vertical onto a pointed base	“	Stake cut, fill was (119)	“
121	Void seen below context (48)	0.18m deep	Void defining stake cut (122)	“
122	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter about 50mm. Tapering sides, inclined at about 20° to the east. Base profile was not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (121). Relationship with pit cut (49) not established	“
123	Void seen below context (48)	0.16m deep	Void defining stake cut (124)	“
124	Sub-circular cut feature, measuring about 40mm by 60mm in plan. Tapering sides, inclined at an angle of about 45° to the north-west. Base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (123). Relationship with pit cut (49) not established	“
125	Medium compacted, mottled grey, red and black sand with clay/silt plus moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt. Under context (8)	0.10m deep	Fill of stake cut (126)	“
126	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter about 0.10m. Steep sided with a pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (125)	“
127	Medium compacted, mottled grey, red and black sand with clay/silt. Moderate fragments of charcoal and red burnt clay/silt with sand, both to 10mm. Under context (8)	0.18m deep	Fill of stake cut (128)	“
128	Sub-circular cut feature, diameter about 0.12m. Steep-sided with a pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (127)	“
129	Void seen below context (8)	0.10m deep	Void defining stake cut (130)	“
130	Oval cut feature, about 60mm by 80mm in plan. Steep sides with pointed tip	“	Stake cut, filled by (129)	“
131	Void seen below context (8)	0.19m deep	Void defining stake cut (132)	“

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness / depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Approx. date</b>
132	Oval cut feature, about 50mm by 40mm in plan. Vertical setting with steep sides, but base profile not recorded	“	Stake cut, filled by (131)	Prehistoric
133	An irregular rounded cut. Approx. dimensions 1.2m east-west by 1.0m north-south, but cut by pit (2) to the east and by the machine-dug evaluation slot to the south	About 0.40m deep	Shallow cut containing fill (20)	“
134	Oval cut feature, about 80mm by 60mm in plan. Vertical setting with steep sides, but base profile not recorded	Depth unknown	Stake cut, filled by (135)	“
135	Void; no further details	“	Void defining stake cut (135)	“
136	Medium compacted buff / orange red and mid grey mottled fine sand with clay/silt. Occasional fragments of charcoal to 5mm and burnt clay/silt with sand	Depth 0.18m	Fill of stake cut (137)	“
137	Oval cut feature recorded at base of (36), measuring c.0.26m by 0.18m in plan. Vertical setting, with probable pointed base	“	Stake cut, filled by (136). Relationship with pit cut (36)/fill (35) unknown	“
138	Fill; probably similar to context (30) but no further details	c.0.25m deep	Fill of posthole/pit (139)	“
139	Oval cut feature, c.0.40m by 0.20m in plan	“	Post setting, containing fill (138)	“
140	Fill; probably similar to context (30) but no further details	c.0.17m deep	Fill of post setting (141)	“
141	Oval cut feature c.0.40m by 0.30m in plan	“	Post setting, containing fill (140)	“
142	Fill; no further details	c.0.18m deep	Fill of stake cut (143)	“
143	Small cut feature	“	Stake cut, filled by (142)	“
144	Fill; no further details	c.0.12m deep	Fill of stake cut (145)	“
145	Cut feature	“	Stake cut, fill was (144)	“
146	Fill; no further details	c.0.12m deep	Fill of stake cut (147)	“
147	Cut feature	“	Stake cut, fill was (146)	

## 8. Finds quantification

The following table gives a summary of the finds from the archaeological investigation by type and (where appropriate) by weight. The detailed finds and environmental assessment from MoL Specialist Services is awaited.

Context	?Prehistoric pot	Post-med pot	Other finds	Struck flint	Burnt flint	Burnt clay or daub	Bone
1	-	-	-	-	9 (182gm)	53 (1158gm)	-
3	-	1 (c.30gm)	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	post-medieval iron nail (10gm)	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	3 (48gm)	-	-
14	1 (2gm)	-	-	2	79 (1828gm)	200 (1456gm)	-
18	-	-	-	1	63 (570gm)	13 (250gm)	1 (6gm)
19	-	-	-	-	1 (2gm)	24 (228gm)	-
20	-	-	1 stone (28gm)	-	1 (58gm)	-	-
21	-	-	1 stone (300gm)	8	60 (2125gm)	-	7 (46gm)
22	-	-	-	-	1 (22gm)	5 (46gm)	-
24	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	2 (18gm)	-	10 (130gm)
28	-	-	-	-	9 (134gm)	3 (206gm)	-
30	1 (2gm)	-	-	-	8 (244gm)	11 (46gm)	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	2 (4gm)	-
37	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1 (18gm)	2 (48gm)	-
46	-	-	-	-	9 (76gm)	-	-
48	-	-	-	-	2 (34gm)	29 (638gm)	-
64	-	-	1 stone (629 gm)	-	20 (314gm)	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	4 (26gm)	-	-
86	-	-	-	-	7 (70gm)	-	-

## 9. Conclusion and assessment of the results of the archaeological investigation

The investigation has provided an opportunity to address the research questions as set out in the *Specification* and in section 3.3 above. The responses to these are outlined below:

### 9.1 Archaeological research questions

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and if so what is its nature and date?*

There was significant evidence for prehistoric activity within the area of investigation. This included several substantial cut features, numerous smaller features such as stakeholes, and a considerable assemblage of burnt flint. There was also frequent burnt clay or daub, although few other finds such as pottery or struck flint (see section 8 above). C14 dating is awaited from the fill of the large pit, context (2).

It appears that most if not all of these deposits and features are broadly associated, within what is loosely termed a ‘burnt mound’ complex. This refers to a range of evidence for the deliberate heating of water for cooking or other purposes, through the medium of flint that has been preheated over a fire. Brief reference elsewhere suggests that this activity may date to the mid-later Bronze Age, although features are widely distributed and may cover a considerable span of time.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity, and if so what is its nature and date?*

There was no evidence for any Roman activity, nor any residual finds.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity and if so what is its nature and extent?*

There was no evidence from the investigation for any Saxon or medieval activity, nor were there any residual finds relating to these periods.

It is likely that the site was open, and may also have been marshy or periodically flooded and therefore of marginal value.

- *Is there any evidence for activity for post-medieval activity and if so what is its nature and extent?*

There was no evidence for any activity on the site prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although there may previously have been some utilisation of the land (*eg*, pasture). Contemporary map evidence shows that the line of New Road was established in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Subsequent evidence for activity was mainly in the form of dumped and mixed soil deposits that presumably relate to the 20<sup>th</sup> century light industrial development of the site. This may well include levelling over the area of an ancient stream channel.

### 9.2 Revised research objectives and potential for further analysis and publication

The archaeological investigation revealed significant prehistoric remains that enable the original research objectives to be refined, and that warrant further analysis and publication. The principal issues arising from the investigation concern the dating of the major deposits and features (which are likely to be quite closely contemporary), and secondly, the nature of activity that was taking place on the site.

Further evidence for these points will be forthcoming when the finds/environmental assessment is completed (including the C14 dating). Further reference will also be made to the recorded examples of 'burnt mound' activity, particularly in this part of the country.

### **9.3 Publication Proposals**

It is proposed that a paper will be prepared and offered for publication within the *London Archaeologist*, describing and so far as possible interpreting the significant prehistoric findings of the investigation.

The paper will also include illustrations and a background summary. It is intended that a draft of the publication will be completed within twelve months.

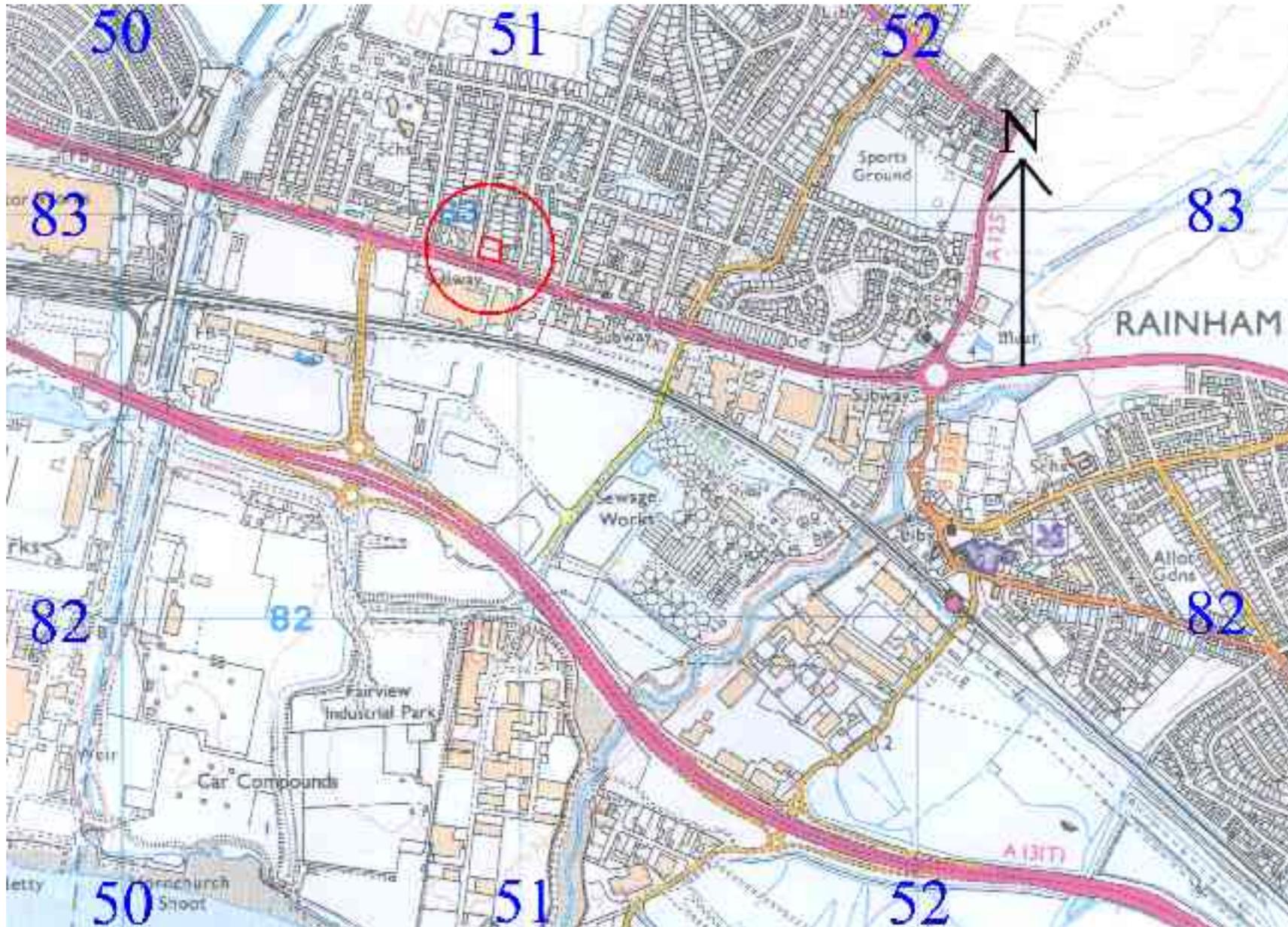


Fig 1 The site outlined red on a reduced extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map, grid lines at 1km intervals identified in blue. A section of the north-eastern bank of the Thames lies in the south-west corner, fed by the Beam and Ingrebourne Rivers to the west and east of the site respectively. A north-south aligned drain or watercourse lies just east of the site

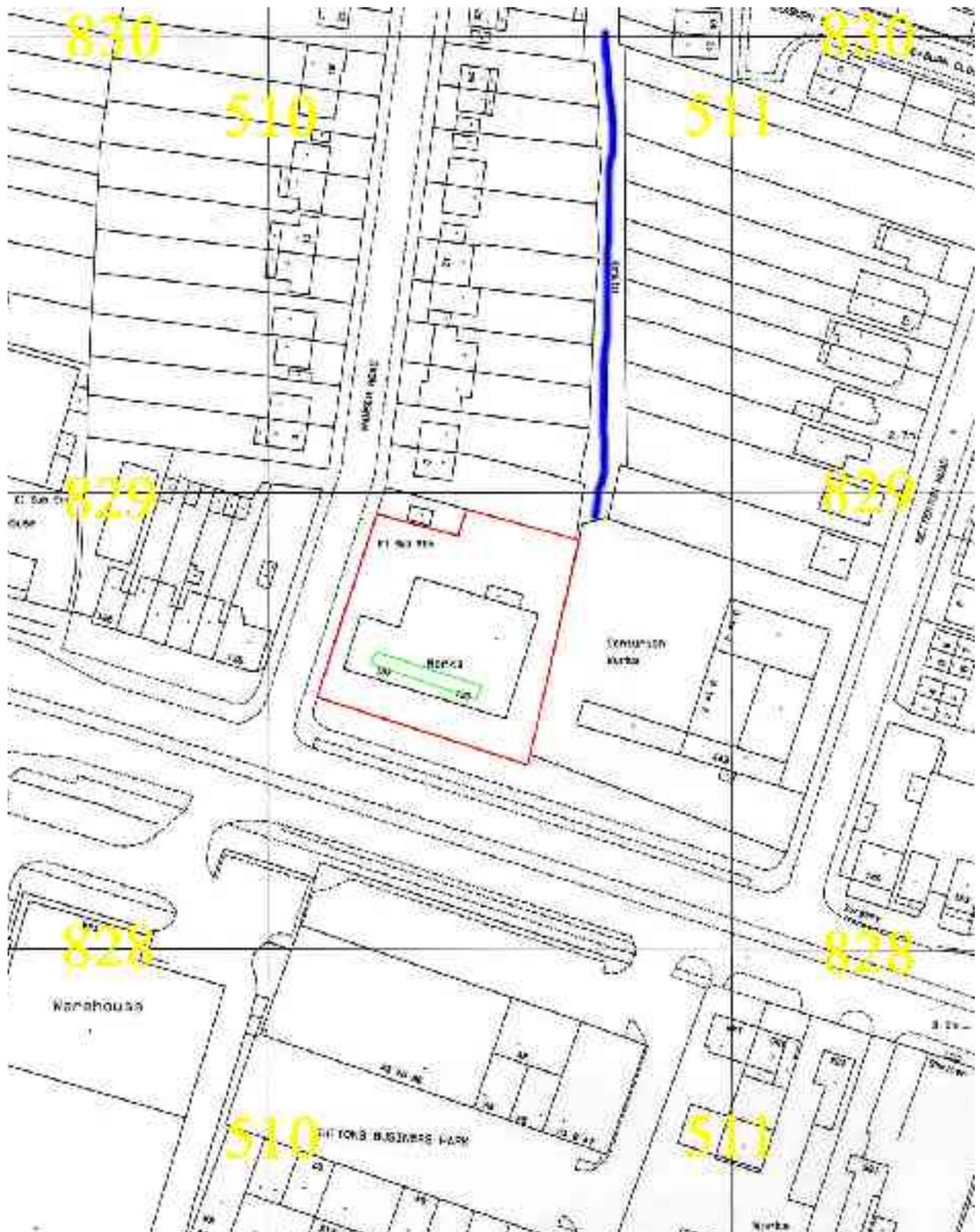


Fig 2 The evaluation trench shown green and the site outline red, in relation to an extract from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 scale map. The grid lines are at 100m intervals and the national grid references are shown in yellow. An open drain or watercourse (Fig 11) is highlighted in blue

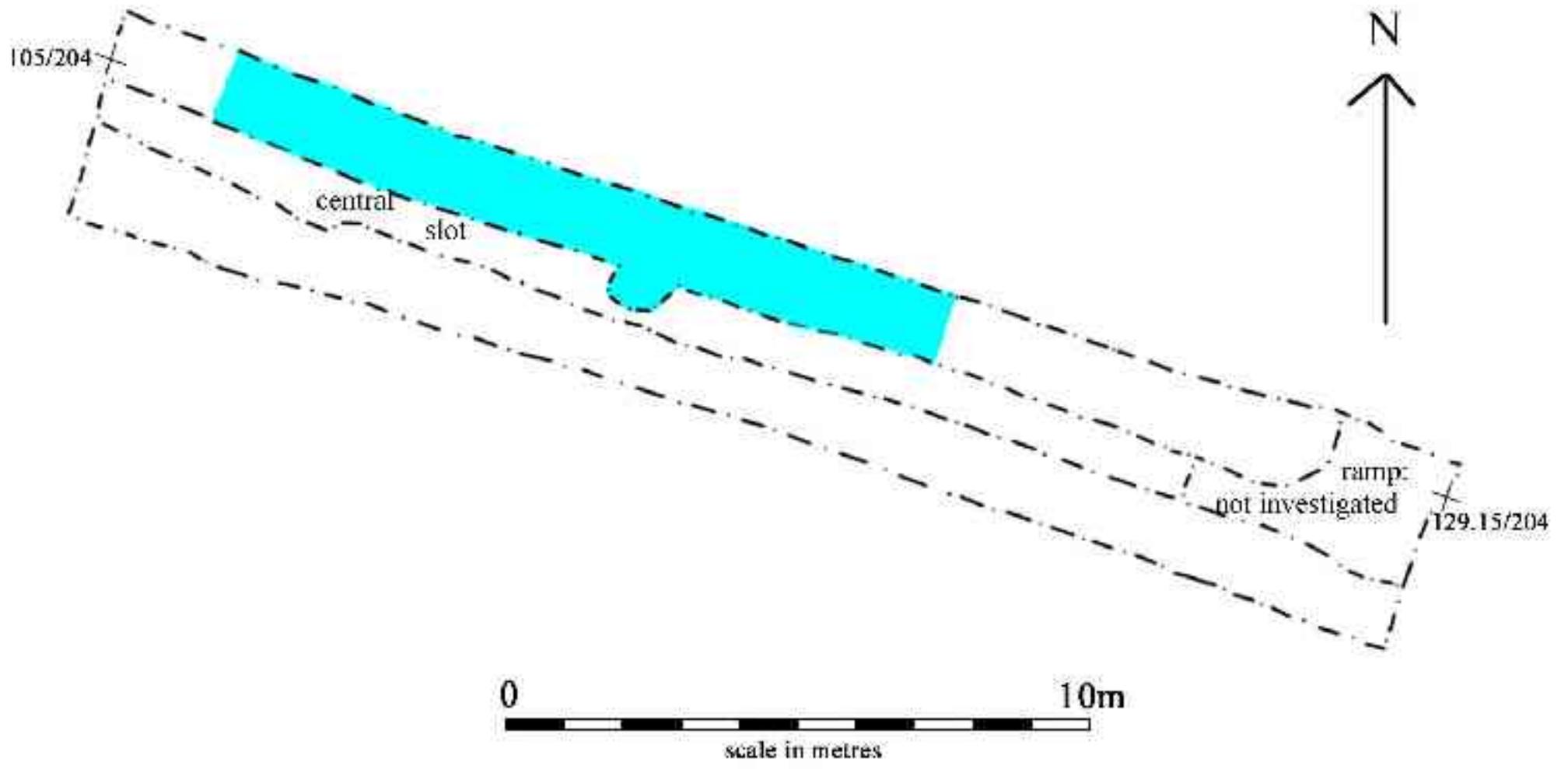


Fig 3 The extent of the archaeological excavation shown blue, within the evaluation trench shown in dot and dash outline. Two points on the local grid are given

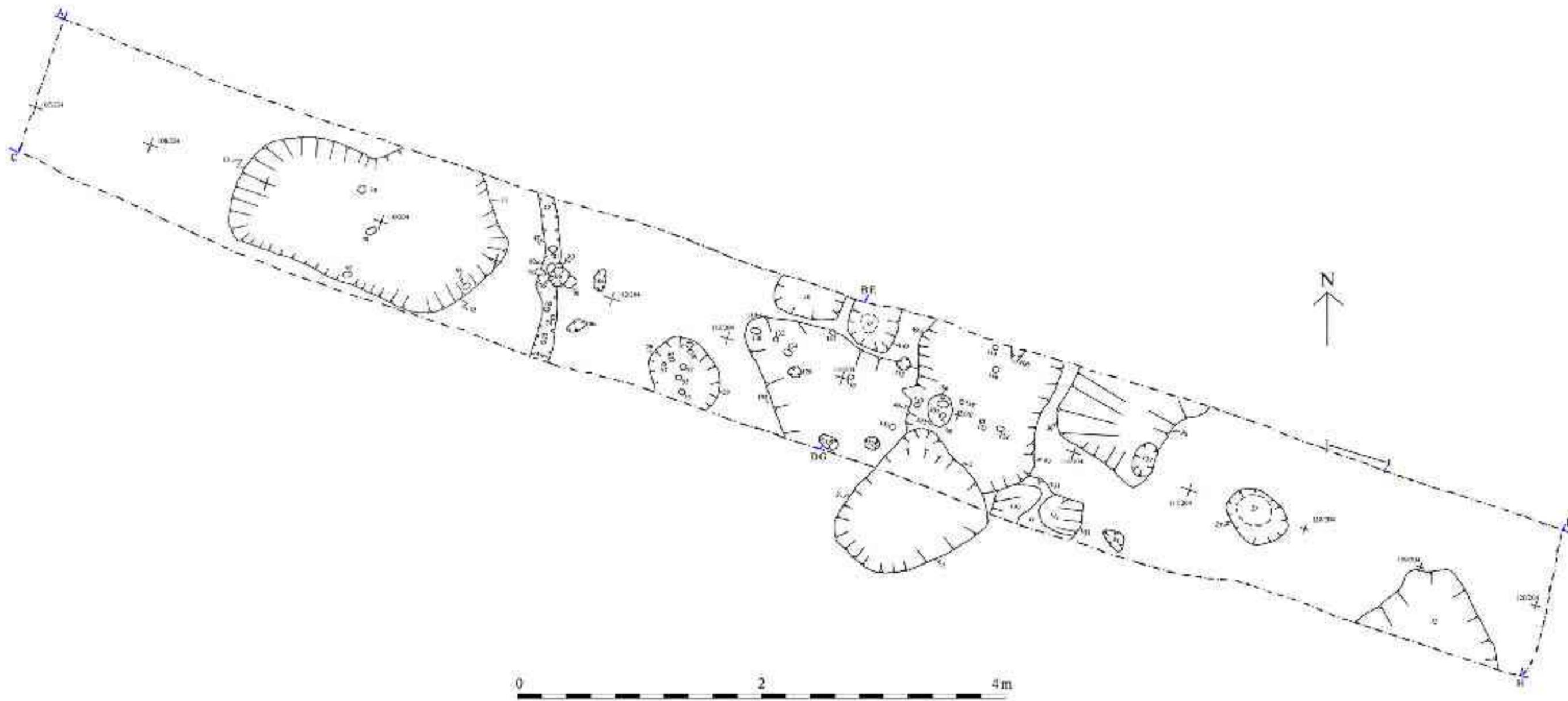


Fig 4 Plan showing prehistoric features cutting natural deposits within the excavation trench. Sections A-B / E-F are illustrated on Figs 5 & 6 and sections C-D / G-H on Figs 7 & 8. Section I-J was exposed after the trench edge was cut back to enable archaeo-environmental samples to be taken, and is illustrated on Figure 9

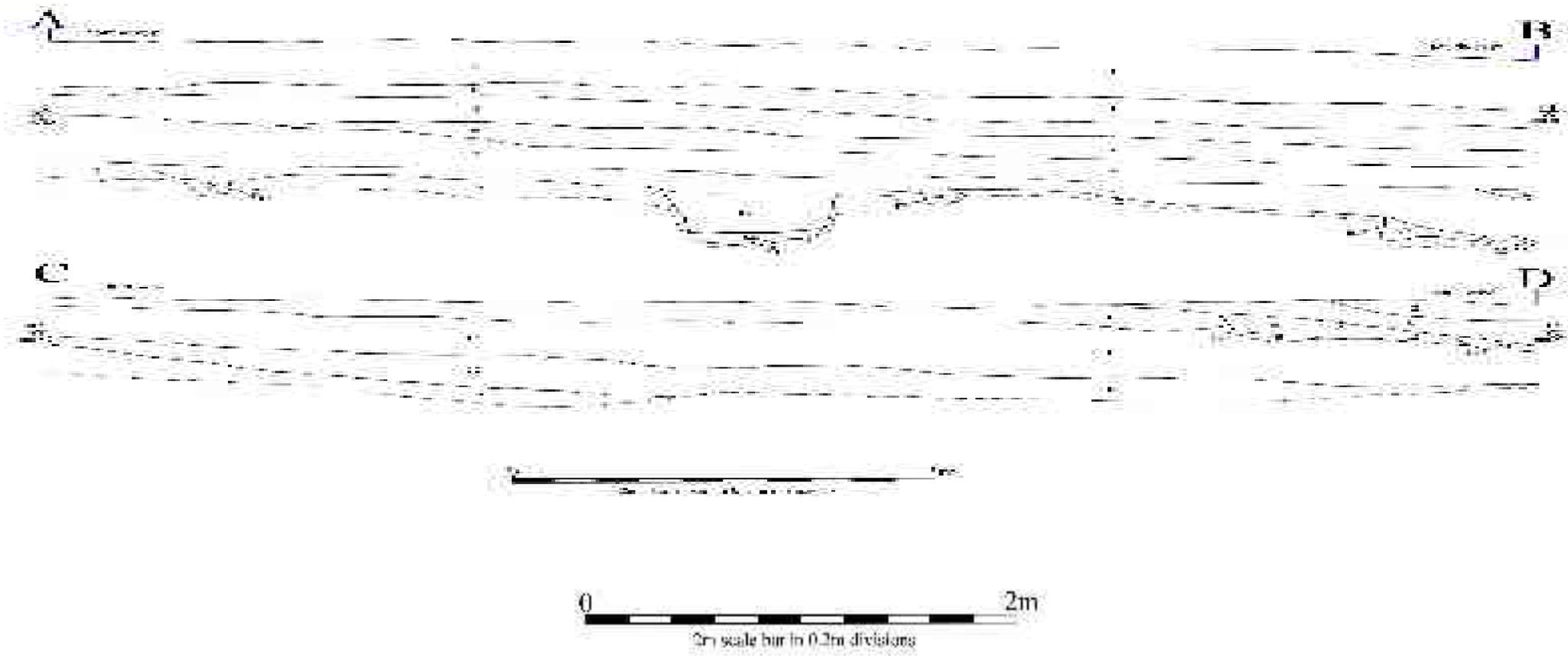


Fig 5 Section A-B, located on Figure 4

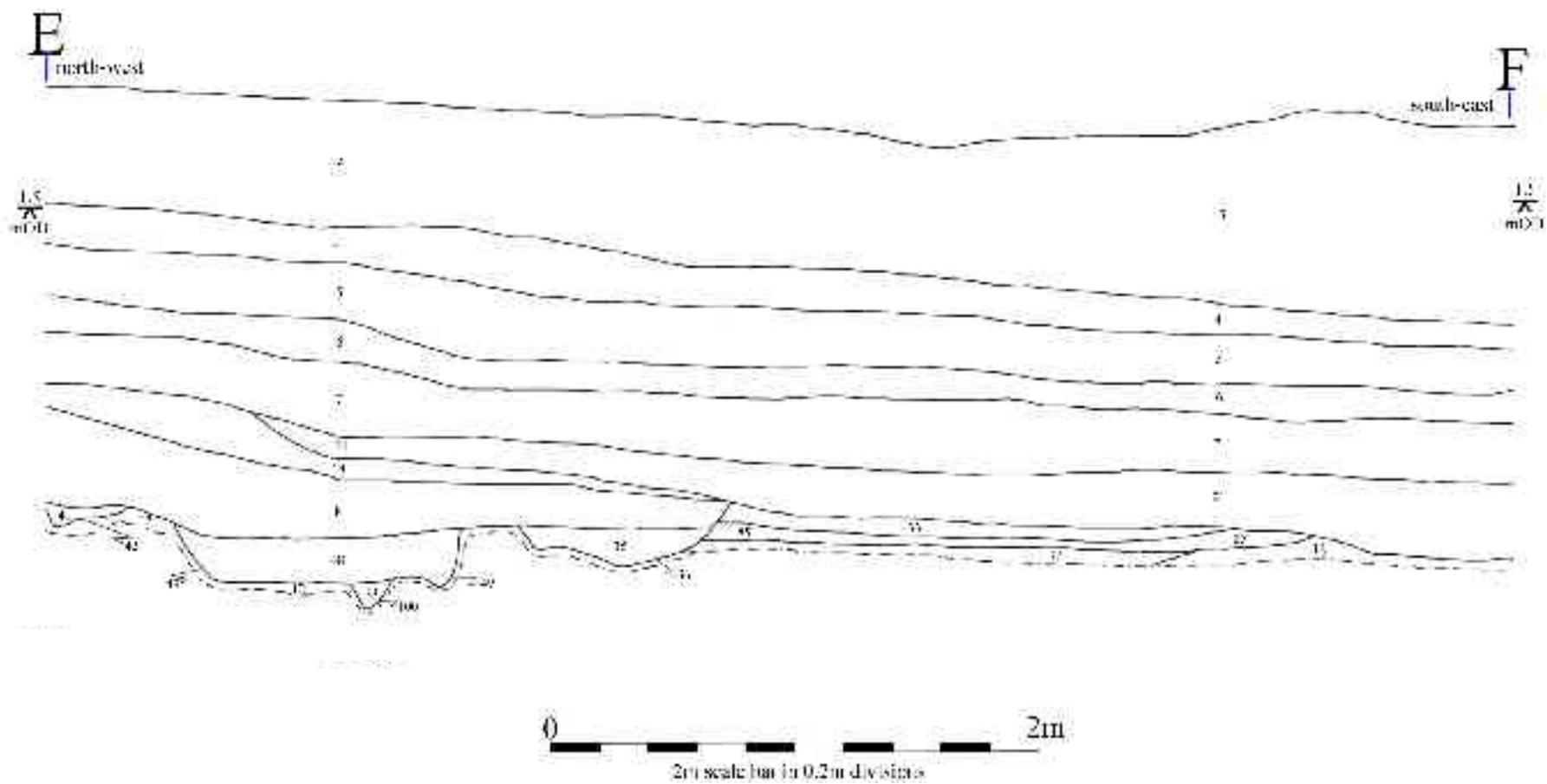


Fig 6 Section E-F, located on Figure 4

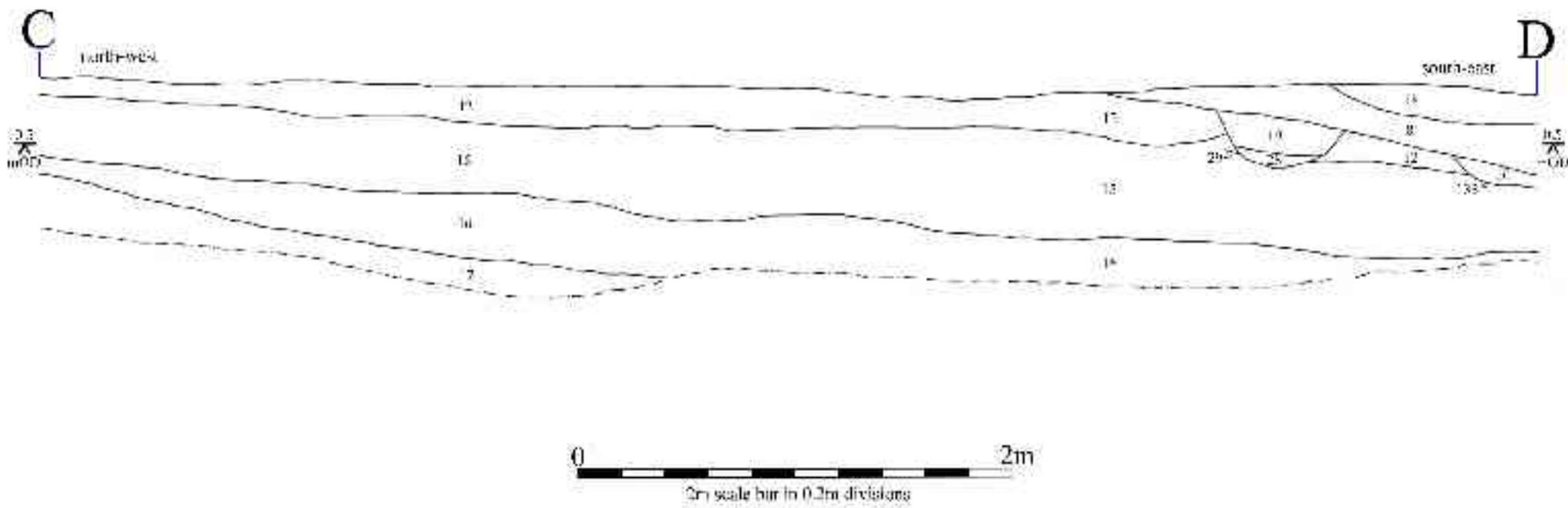


Fig 7 Section C-D, located on Figure 4

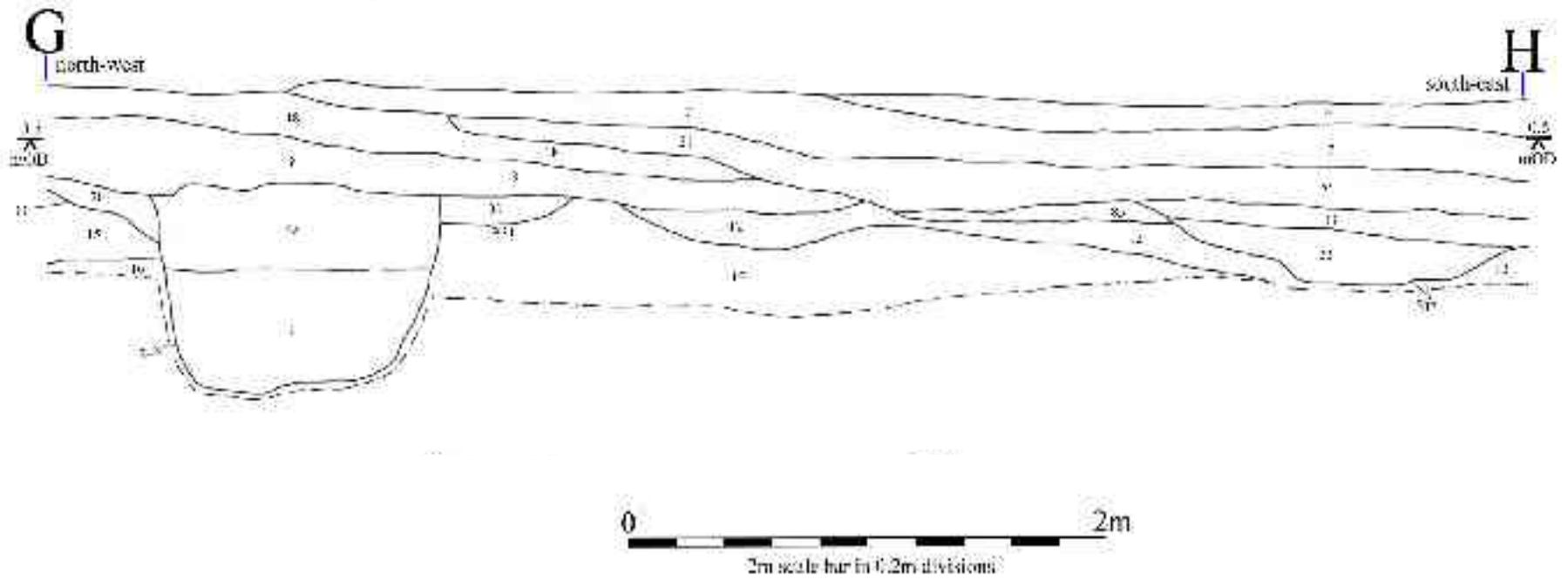


Fig 8 Section G-H, located on Figure 4

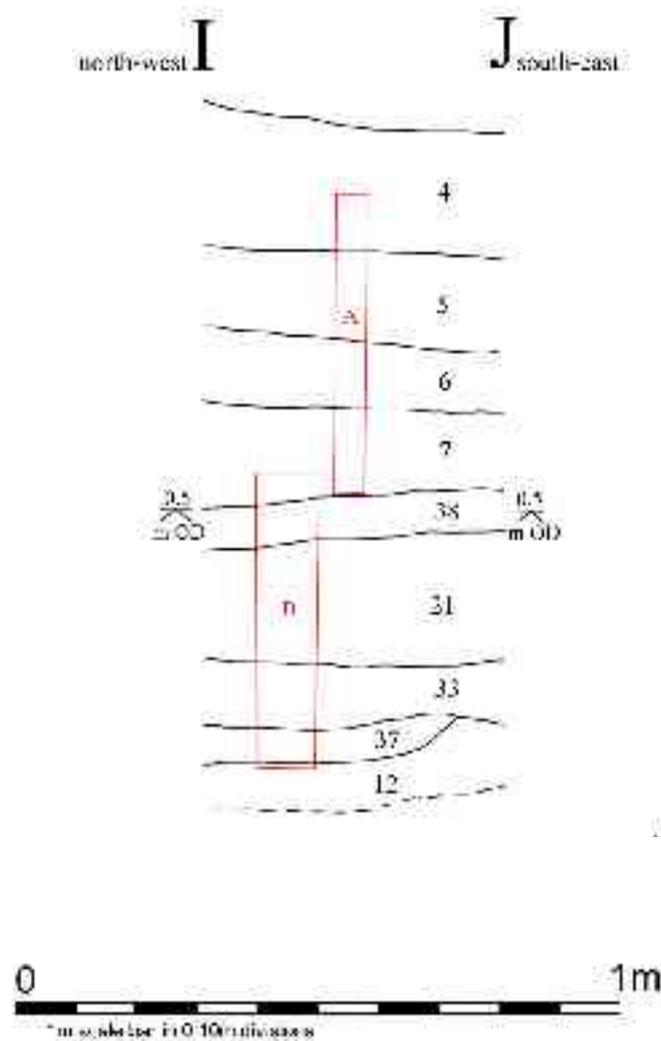


Fig 9 Section I-J, located on Fig 4. The trench edge was cut back to facilitate the taking of archaeo-environmental samples. The location of two tins (A and B) each used to take a monolith sample are shown. Tin A was used to take archaeo-environmental sample <17> and tin B was used to take sample <18>.

See also Fig 26



Fig 10 View looking north-west along New Road, Rainham, with the site on the right-hand side of the image behind the advertising hoarding and to the right of the pedestrians



Fig 11 View looking north just outside the north-east corner of the site, showing a north-south flowing watercourse (marked 'drain' on Fig 2). The feature is thought to be a survival of an ancient watercourse that laid down the archaeo-alluvial deposits on the site



Fig 12 View looking south-east, showing archaeologists during the initial evaluation phase



Fig 13 The same view after cleaning. The grey fill (14) of pit (13) is visible in plan in the left foreground. Pit (2) can be seen in the base of the central slot below the 0.5m scale. The downward slope of the alluvial deposits appears in section to the rear



Fig 14 View looking north-east, showing part of the western end of the evaluation trench. The grey deposit to the left of the 0.5m scale is (14), a fill of pit cut (13). The curvilinear feature (47) and its fill (46) can be seen in plan at the foot of the scale



Fig 15 View looking north-east in the central part of the evaluation trench, with alluvial clay/silt (7) below and to the right of the 0.5m scale. The alluvium overlies a burnt flint deposit (18), the upper layer of the 'burnt mound' exposed in plan to the left of the scale. Pit cut (2) and fills (1/45) are visible in the centre foreground



Fig 16 View showing an earthmoving machine extending the north-east side of the evaluation trench. This was done for safety reasons so as to reduce the height of the ground surface in the area of the archaeological excavation



Fig 17 View looking south-east showing the archaeological excavation in progress. The archaeologist nearest the camera is excavating pit fill (14) and the archaeologist in the white helmet the burnt flint layer (18)



Fig 18 View looking north-east during the excavation of context (8)



Fig 19 Working shot looking north-west. Features (31), (36), *etc*, cut into yellow natural brickearth (12) are visible between the archaeologists



Fig 20 Working shot looking south-east during sampling of the lower fill (1) of pit cut (2).  
See also Fig 34



Fig 21 General view looking south-east with pit (13) in foreground, showing archaeologists excavating and recording during the latter stages of the excavation



Fig 22 Working shot looking south-west, showing an archaeologist sampling context (28), the lower fill within pit (29). See also Fig 31



Fig 23 A member of the Museum of London Specialist Services hammering a monolith sampling tin into section I-J, towards the north-east corner of the excavation (Fig 9)



Fig 24 View at the north-east corner of the excavation showing a 0.2m scale on the surface of organic clay/silt layer (21), with overlying clay/silt (7) visible in section



Fig 25 Detail of the above area after excavation of context (21), exposing in plan the surface of the natural brickearth (12). Scale 0.5m



Fig 26 Section I-J with monolith sampling tins in position to extract samples <17> and <18> (see Fig 9)



Fig 27 View looking south at the western end of the excavation to show a section dug through context (14), the redeposited brickearth upper fill of pit cut (13). Scale 0.2m



Fig 28 View looking north-east showing context (86), the bottom fill of pit cut (13). This was a possible *in situ* burnt layer and was cut by three stake-holes including (88) and (90), to the left and in front of the 0.2m scale



Fig 29 View looking north-east showing curvilinear cut (47) after excavation.  
Scale 0.2m



Fig 30 View looking north-east and showing a 0.2m scale on context (19), the upper fill of pit (29)



Fig 31 View after partial excavation of pit (29) cut into natural brickearth (12). The 0.1m scale rests on a lower fill (28) that may have been burnt *in situ*



Fig 32 View north-east in the centre of the trench across the burnt flint deposit (18) that formed the upper layer of the 'burnt mound'. The top right hand section shows the overlying 'tail' of dark brown organic clay (21), and both deposits are sealed in section by alluvium (7). Pit cut (2) is visible in the centre foreground under the 'burnt mound' layers. Scale 0.2m



Fig 33 View looking north-east after removal of layer (18), showing pit cut (31) in front of the 0.2m scale. The unexcavated grey fill to the left is (45), the upper fill of pit (2)



Fig 34 A 0.2m scale within the excavated pit cut (2), view from above looking to north-east. Most of the pit is located within the original central evaluation slot



Fig 35 Subsequent view of the above area, with the 0.2m scale in excavated pit cut (49). The adjacent pit cut (2) lies in shadow in the foreground



Fig 36 View looking north-east showing excavated pit cuts (40) and (42), to the left and right of the 0.2m scale



Fig 37 View to north-east showing a 0.2m scale within the excavated pit cut (36), to the east of Fig 36



Fig 38 View looking south-east near the end of the archaeological excavation, showing features including pit (13) in foreground cut into the natural brickearth (12). Scale 0.2m