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LAND AT SOUTH WITHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(TRIAL TRENCHING)

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

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**LAND AT SOUTH WITHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE
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(TRIAL TRENCHING)**

NGR: SK 9137 1869
Site Code: HAT 498

Peter Boyer
Dan Hounsell
Jonathan Last

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Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Planning &
Conservation

THE SEED WAREHOUSE, MAIDENHEAD YARD
THE WASH, HERTFORD SG14 1PX
TEL (01992) 558170
FAX (01992) 553359
E-mail: herts.archtrust@virgin.net

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SUMMARY

During January 2001, HAT carried out an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) on land at South Witham, Lincolnshire, in advance of proposals to extract minerals. A geophysical survey (Fluxgate Gradiometer survey) undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in November 2000 had revealed potential archaeological anomalies, and consequently ten archaeological trial trenches were excavated. Four of the trenches revealed archaeological features, principally ditches and pits, many of which contained material of later prehistoric date. The anomalies identified in the other trenches by the geophysical survey proved to be geological rather than archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During January 2001, the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at South Witham, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 9137 1869) (Fig. 1). The works were commissioned by T. Smith (Minerals Consultant) on behalf of Mick George Haulage Ltd in advance of proposals to extract minerals from the site.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out according to a brief issued by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (LCC CS), and a specification compiled by HAT. A desk-based assessment had already been undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (Hardwick 1999), and a Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey by Pre-Construct (Geophysics) (Rylatt & Bunn 2000).

1.3 The specific objectives of the project (as defined in the LCC CS brief) were to:

- test the reliability of the geophysical survey previously undertaken on the site
- provide information on the anomalies identified
- identify the need for any further evaluation of the northern area
- provide sufficient information to allow assessment of the planning application

1.4 The evaluation generally aims to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aims to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 A detailed description of the site and its environs is contained in the desk-based assessment which is summarised here.

2.2 South Witham lies between Stamford and Grantham in the south-western corner of Lincolnshire, close to the border with Rutland. The site is located directly south of Mill Lane, 1 km west of the village and 0.5 km north of Thistleton, Rutland.

2.3 The proposed development site covers an area of *c.* 5.7 hectares and is bisected east-west by a disused railway line. The area selected for evaluation lies south of the railway and covers *c.* 3 hectares. The ground lies at an altitude of 120 m OD, but slopes away sharply to the north and south. Cropmarks and cereal stubble indicate modern agricultural use of the land.

2.4 The site lies on an outcrop of limestone in a broad band of clayey mudstone. The topsoil is a relatively shallow (0.25 - 0.30 m) slightly yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent shattered limestone inclusions. It overlies a thick (1.5 m) layer of frost-shattered limestone brash which in turn overlies solid limestone bedrock.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The discovery of artefacts such as a Neolithic flint axe (SMR 33696) near Manor Farm, 1 km east of the site, indicates a prehistoric presence in the area. South Witham also lies close to the Sewstern Lane prehistoric trackway that runs for over 40 km between Great Casterton and Long Bennington. This, and Hewlett's (1935) discovery of fossilised red deer antlers at South Witham quarry, indicate that there is potential for prehistoric remains of any period at the site.

3.2 Evidence for a Romano-British presence in the area is well recorded, principally comprising inhumation burials. These were found to the east of the village in 1746 (SMR 33690), and to the west, between the railway and Mill Lane, in 1920 and 1922 (SMR 33686), close to a well and a building. More recently, in 1967, a lead-lined limestone coffin and associated Romano-British pottery was discovered *c.* 1.5 km north-east of the present site, overlying the Sewstern Lane trackway (SMR 33692). To the south Thistleton was once the site of a substantial Romano-British settlement, while the line of Roman Ermine Street lies just 3 km to the east. Hence the site has potential for Romano-British activity.

3.3 The village names South Witham and Thistleton appear to be Saxon in origin (although as indicated there is evidence for earlier settlement). There is, however, little archaeological evidence in the area relating to this period.

3.4 Domesday Book records South Witham to have consisted of 1200 acres under cultivation and 250 acres of woodland. The area of the parish has changed little since, although much of the woodland has been cleared.

3.5 The most documented site associated with South Witham is on Temple Hill, c 2 km north-east of the proposed extraction area. Temple Hill is the site of a 12th-century Preceptory, originally the property of the Knights Templars, excavated in 1966-67 (SMR 22611). About 1312 it was passed to the Knights Hospitallers, though a 1332 survey described the site as a ruin, which was supported by the archaeological evidence.

3.6 In the 17th century the town became a significant thoroughfare on the London – Berwick post road, before being replaced on the route by Colsterworth in 1752. The fields of South Witham were subject to an Enclosure Act in 1794, which re-organised the pattern of field boundaries inherited from earlier times.

3.7 The railway and station associated with the site were constructed in 1894, the limestone mine opening in 1907, under the control of the Holwell Iron Company. The quarry was opened at right angles to the railway, utilising a pre-existing pit of uncertain function that adjoined the highway. The station closed to passengers in 1960.

4 METHOD OF WORK

4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief and specification. It complied with the LCC CS *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*. The evaluation also adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 1999)

4.2 The brief required a programme of trial trenching to evaluate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and 10 trenches measuring 10-30 m long and 2-3 m wide were excavated with specific purposes (Fig. 2):

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Trench 1 (10 x 3 m) | to identify the area between parallel linear anomalies and an area of possible 'burning' |
| Trench 2 (20 x 2 m) | targeting a 'blank' area |
| Trench 3 (20 x 2 m) | to identify a linear (?geological) anomaly |
| Trench 4 (10 x 3 m) | targeting potentially 'burnt' areas |
| Trench 5 (20 x 2 m) | to investigate an area of concentrated anomalies |
| Trench 6 (20 x 2 m) | targeting a possible curvilinear anomaly |
| Trench 7 (10 x 3 m) | targeting a linear anomaly and possible pits |
| Trench 8 (20 x 2 m) | to investigate parallel linear anomalies and an area of possible pits |
| Trench 9 (30 x 2 m) | targeting parallel linear anomalies within an area of good definition |
| Trench 10 (20 x 2 m) | to investigate possible ridge and furrow and anomalies possibly associated with the parallel linear anomalies. |

4.3 The aim of the trial trenching was to identify and adequately characterise any surviving archaeological features or deposits.

4.4 The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were removed by machine. Exposed surfaces of the trenches were cleaned by hand as necessary. Deposits revealed were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 3-4)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

5.1 Trench 1 Fig.3

Sample Section:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 0.00 – 0.26m | L1000. Topsoil. Very dark grey/brown, silty loam with frequent sub-rounded/sub-angular stone (primarily limestone). |
| 0.26m + | L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. Mid-yellowish brown to dark reddish brown clay with frequent medium-sized sub-angular limestone. |

Description This trench contained four subcircular pits, three of medium size and one small. At the northern end of the trench was a possible ditch. All were overlain by topsoil.

F1011 was a ditch, aligned north-east/south-west, in the north-western corner of the trench (length >2 m long; width c. 1.3 m; depth 0.82 m). It had regular, gently sloping sides at c.45° and gave way to a V-shaped base. The fill (L1012) was primarily re-deposited boulder clay comprising a dark red, silty clay with moderate to frequent sub-angular limestone fragments. The finds comprise pottery (2 g) and animal bone (10 g).

Pit F1013 was sub-oval in plan (length 1.7 m; width 1.65 m; depth 1.2 m). It had slightly irregular, vertical sides which gave way to a flat base. It contained five distinct fills: the upper fill (L1021; 0.45 m thick) was a dark brown redeposited clay with moderate sub-angular limestone fragments. It contained no finds. Below this, L1014 (0.35 m thick) was a dark reddish brown, silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions. It contained pottery (2 g). Below L1014, L1022 (0.22 m thick) was a dark brown, silty clay with moderate limestone fragments. It contained no finds. Below this, L1023 was a thick (0.26 m) pale brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular limestone. It contained animal bone (6 g). The basal fill, L1024 (0.15m thick), was a greyish brown, re-deposited clay with moderate sub-angular limestone fragments. It contained animal bone (2 g).

F1025 was a small, shallow, sub-rectangular pit or post hole (length 0.52 m; width 0.37 m; depth 0.31 m). It had vertical sides and a U-shaped base. It was filled with a very dark grey/brown, silt with frequent limestone inclusions (L1026). The finds comprise pottery (1 g) and animal bone (1 g).

F1031 was an oval pit (length >1.25 m; width 1.35 m; depth 1.20 m). The sides were irregular and nearly vertical, and gave way to a flat irregular base. The pit contained two fills. The upper fill, L1033, was a thick (0.50 m) orange/brown silt with moderate

limestone pebbles. It contained pottery (10g). The basal fill, L1032 (0.70 m thick), was a mid-orange/grey, clayey silt with occasional limestone pebbles. It contained pottery (14 g), animal bone (4 g) and struck flint (2 g).

F1037 was partially revealed in the south-east corner of the trench (length >1.35 m; width >1.3 m; depth 1.28 m). The sides were irregular and near-vertical with a sharp break giving way to a flat base. Three fills were present. The upper fill, L1040 (0.55 m thick) was an orange/brown, clayey silt with frequent limestone pebbles. No finds were present. The middle layer, L1039 (0.50 m thick), was a grey/brown, clayey silt with occasional limestone pebbles. It contained animal bone (2 g). The basal fill, L1038 (0.30 m thick), was an orange-brown sandy silt with moderate limestone fragments. The finds comprise pottery (1 g) and animal bone (4 g).

5.2 Trench 2

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.25m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.25m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.3 Trench 3

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.26m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.26m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay, as Trench 1. The natural includes red and yellow clays with few inclusions. These discolorations were first identified as a 'feature' but hand-digging revealed that they were natural. Such geological peculiarities may be responsible for the anomalous geophysical results.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.4 Trench 4

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.24m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.5 Trench 5 Fig.3

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.24m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
 0.24m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description A pit was revealed below the topsoil, L1000.

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 F1034 was a sub-oval pit, largely contained within the southern end of the trench (length 0.86 m; width 0.60 m; depth 0.60 m). Its sides were nearly vertical towards the top, below which they turned outwards and gave way to a slightly uneven base. Two fills were identified. The upper fill, L1035 (0.55 m), was a mid-reddish brown silt, possibly weathered boulder clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. The finds comprise pottery (12 g), animal bone (64 g) and struck flint (22 g). The basal fill, L1036, was a very thin (0.05 m) dark brown/grey silt with small, burnt, sub-angular limestone. Occasional large limestone fragments were present and some showed evidence of having been burnt. Animal bone (50 g) and struck flint (4 g) were found in this layer.

5.6 Trench 6

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.25m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
 0.25m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.7 Trench 7

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.28m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
 0.28m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

5.8 Trench 8

Sample section:

0.00 – 0.27m L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
 0.27 – 0.44m L1001. Subsoil. A dark red clayey silt with moderate sub-angular limestone. This layer became thinner towards the southern end of the trench.
 0.44m + L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1.

Description Four ditches were revealed in Trench 8, all sealed by L1001.

Ditch F1017 was located in approximately the centre of the trench. It was aligned south-west/north-east (length >1.5 m; width 0.70 m; depth 0.35 m). It had gently sloping sides at $c.40^\circ$, which gave way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1018) was a mid-brown silt with occasional sub-angular limestone. It contained no finds.

F1007 was very similar and parallel to F1017. It measured >1.5 m long, 0.60 m wide and 0.30 m deep with gently sloping sides at $c.40^\circ$ giving way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1008) was similar to L1018: a mid-brown silt with occasional sub-angular limestone. It contained no finds.

Ditches F1017 and F1007 may be contemporary, and represent a double-ditched feature.

Ditch F1005 was located towards the southern end of Trench 8, aligned south-west/north-east (length 1.5 m; width 0.8 m; depth 0.20 m). The sides sloped gently at $c.45^\circ$. The fill (L1006) was an orange-brown silt with moderate sub-angular limestone. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1003 was parallel to F1005, $c.1.2$ m to the south (length >1.5 m; width 0.7 m; depth 0.3 m). The north-eastern side of the ditch was steep ($c. 60^\circ$) and the south-west side less so ($c.45^\circ$). The base was V-shaped. The fill (L1004) was an orange-brown silt with moderate sub-angular limestone. It contained no finds.

5.9 Trench 9

Sample section:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 0.00 – 0.24m | L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1. |
| 0.24 – 0.44m | L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 8. |
| 0.44m + | L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1. |

Description Four ditches were present, all sealed by the subsoil.

13F F1009 was located at approximately the centre of the trench, aligned east/west (length >1.5 m; width 1.55 m; depth 0.68 m). It had regular, gently sloping sides at $c.45^\circ$, giving way to a slightly concave base. The fill (L1010) was a mid-reddish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The finds comprise pottery (14 g), animal bone (12 g) and struck flint (10 g).

Ditch F1027 was located at the southern end of the trench, again aligned east/west (length >1.5 m; width 0.60 m; depth 0.32 m). The sides were steep at $40^\circ - 70^\circ$ and gave way to a concave base. The fill (L1028) was a mid-reddish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. F1027 was cut by F1019.

13F F1019 was parallel and adjacent to F1027 (on its southern side). It was < 1.5 m long, 0.93 m wide and 0.34 m deep. It had a near-vertical northern side and a slightly more shallow ($c. 70^\circ$) southern side (both were fairly regular). F1019 cut F1027 and F1029. The fill (L1020) was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The finds comprise pottery (26 g), animal bone (14 g) and struck flint (1 g).

Daub
Ditch F1029 (>1.5 m long, 0.97 m wide and 0.32 m deep) was parallel to F1019 (to the south). Its sides were steep at the top and became more shallow towards the base (c.70° - 40°). The fill (L1030) was a mid-reddish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. F1029 was cut by F1019. Daub (4 g) was found in this fill.

5.10 Trench 10

Sample section:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 0.00 - 0.23m | L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1. |
| 0.23 - 0.39m | L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 8 (thinning not seen) |
| 0.39m + | L1002. Natural Boulder Clay. As Trench 1. |

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified in this trench.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It was not felt that any factors significantly affected the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODELLING

7.1 The majority of the site comprises topsoil overlying the natural clay geology. Subsoil was present in only three trenches (Nos.8, 9 and 10) in the north and north-eastern corner of the site. It appeared that the site had been heavily ploughed, with evidence of ploughing truncating the boulder clay. Where present the subsoil seals the archaeological features.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The geological survey must be judged a qualified success in identifying archaeological features. Ditch F1011 in Trench 1 is presumably the northern linear anomaly identified by the geophysics. It appears to continue as F1009 in Trench 9 and F1007/1017 in Trench 8, which seem to represent a single feature, perhaps a heavily recut ditch. Similarly, ditches F1019/1027/1029 in Trench 9 and F1003/1005 in Trench 8 must mark the southern linear. The magnetic anomaly therefore appears to represent a ditched trackway or droveway, c. 6 m wide, with recut ditches suggesting it was in use for some time.

8.2 Although not burnt, the pits in Trench 1 were clearly the source of the other magnetic anomalies in this area. Their apparent presence within the 'trackway' suggests they are not contemporary with the use of that feature as a route. Elsewhere, the absence of features in Trench 2 mirrors the negative geophysical assessment while the anomaly in Trench 3 was indeed shown to be geological. On the other hand the anomalies in the areas of Trenches 4-7 and 10 did not correspond with significant

archaeology, nor did the 'ridge-and-furrow' appear as subsoil features. Only a single cut feature was identified in the six trenches south of the 'trackway', suggesting that area was not intensively occupied. This isolated pit (F1034) contained the only heavily grogged sherd from the site, indicating it might not be contemporary with the features to the north. It also had the most animal bone on the site and some evidence of flint knapping - which might suggest a Bronze Age date.

8.3 All in all, the finds suggest only limited activity on the site: the probable Iron Age sherds in the 'trackway' ditches could well be residual but those from the pits in Trench 1 are no better preserved. Hence assigning a firm date might be misleading, even if the pottery were more diagnostic. However, the total absence of Roman sherds from the excavated features suggests they are all pre-conquest. Indeed the lack of Roman finds is something of a surprise given the known sites in the vicinity. Instead, the development area may well lie on the periphery of an Iron Age farmstead, which the trackway approaches.

9 ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited with the City & County Museum, Lincoln.

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South Witham (HAT 498)by *Jonathan Last PhD*

From the topsoil came a fragment of land drain, 10 sherds of post-medieval glazed wares (most probably 17th to 18th century) and an abraded Roman sherd. The rest of the material comprised 31 handmade sherds from stratified contexts which are prehistoric in date. Mean sherd size is just 3.6 g, which suggests the pieces are residual or secondary; there is no difference between the condition of those from the pits and those from the ditches. The assemblage appears relatively homogeneous, however, and all contexts may be contemporary in ceramic terms (with the possible exception of isolated pit 1034, which produced one heavily grogged sherd. Five fabrics were recognised, but the majority of the pottery (90%) is tempered predominantly with shell, which is characteristic of the region and not diagnostic of period. In addition, two fragments of daub or fired clay, tempered with moderate amounts of chalk and sand, came from ditch 1029.

Fabric descriptions (descriptions and codes follow Knight 1998)

F1 (SHCM) OX exterior, UNOX interior and fabric, with common medium/coarse shell (up to 2 mm but most less than 1 mm), sometimes with sparse sand and/or grey grog.

F2a (SHCC) UNOX, with common coarse shell only (up to 6 mm but most 1-2 mm).

F2b (As 2a but with OX exterior)

F3 (SHSS) UNOX, with sparse fine/medium shell, sand and grog.

F4 (GRMM) INCOX surfaces, UNOX fabric, with moderate fine to coarse grog, sparse sand and medium shell, rare coarse flint.

F5 (GRCM) OX surfaces, UNOX fabric, with common fine to coarse grog, moderate medium shell & sparse fine sand.

HAT 498: Summary of prehistoric pottery

| <i>Feature</i> | <i>F1</i> | <i>F2a</i> | <i>F2b</i> | <i>F3</i> | <i>F4</i> | <i>F5</i> |
|----------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 'N ditch' | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1009 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 1011 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1013 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 1015 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1019 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| 1025 | 1? | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1027 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 1031 | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |
| 1034 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| 1037 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>1</i> |

Within this small assemblage, diagnostic elements and decoration are sparse. One possible base junction from the 'north ditch' suggests the presence of flat-based pots, but two rim sherds (both F2a), from stakehole 1015 and ditch 1019 in Trench 9, are the only indicators of vessel form. Both are flat-topped, internally expanded rims from pots of open form (or conceivably jars with flaring necks). The sherd from 1015 (rim

type FEI) has traces of diagonal incised lines on the exterior while that in 1020 (FPI) has a slight shallow horizontal groove below the rim.

The limited evidence on forms suggests a Middle Iron Age date, though direct comparisons for the vessel forms are uncertain. The expanded rims are not inconsistent with the Breedon-Ancaster jars, typical of the region in the 4th - 1st centuries BC, illustrated by Cunliffe (1978) but there is no scored decoration on the South Witham assemblage, in contrast to e.g. Tallington, in the Welland valley east of Stamford, where some 20-25% of the MIA pottery is scored (May in Simpson *et al.* 1993, 55-64; cf. Jackson & Ambrose 1978, 174). Decorated rims are more frequent on the Early/Middle Iron Age pottery from Twywell (Harding in Jackson 1975).

As for fabrics, Williams' analysis of Iron Age pottery from Fengate, Peterborough (in Pryor 1984, 134-5), which is c. 35 km away, shows a similar situation to Witham: a group with common shell inclusions is sub-divided between those with larger and smaller fragments (cf. F1-2) while another group has a mixture of grog, sand and shell (cf. F3-5). A third group with common quartz sand is not paralleled here.

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Concordance of finds by feature

| Feature | Context | Trench | Description | Spot Date | Pottery | Building material | Animal Bone | Struck flint | Other |
|---------|---------|--------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| - | - | 7 | north ditch fill | ?IA | 1 sherd 6g | | | | |
| - | - | 7 | south ditch fill | | | | 52g | | |
| TOPSOIL | 1000 | | | Post med | 11 sherds 74g | tile 22g | | | |
| 1009 | 1010 | 9 | ditch fill | ?IA | 7 sherds 14g | | 12g | 10g | |
| 1011 | 1012 | 1 | ditch fill | ?IA | 1 sherd 2g | | 10g | | |
| 1013 | 1014 | 1 | pit fill | ?IA | 1 sherd 2g | | | | |
| " | 1023 | 1 | pit fill | | | | 6g | | |
| " | 1024 | 1 | pit fill | | | | 2g | | |
| 1015 | 1016 | 9 | stake-hole fill | ?IA | 3 sherds 18g | | | | |
| 1019 | 1020 | 9 | ditch fill | ?IA | 6 sherds 26g | | 14g | <1g | |
| 1025 | 1026 | | post-hole fill | ?IA | 1 sherd <1g | | <1g | | 1 frag burnt stone (2g) |
| 1027 | 1028 | 9 | ditch fill | ?IA | 1 sherd 8g | | | | |
| 1029 | 1030 | 9 | ditch fill | | | daub 4g | | | |
| 1031 | 1032 | 1 | pit fill | ?IA | 2 sherd 14g | | 4g | 2g | |
| " | 1033 | 1 | pit fill | ?IA | 4 sherds 10g | | | | |
| 1034 | 1035 | 5 | pit fill | ?IA | 3 sherds 12g | | 64g | 22g | |
| " | 1036 | 5 | pit fill | | | | 50g | 4g | |
| 1037 | 1038 | 1 | pit fill | ?IA | 1 sherd <1g | | 4g | | |
| " | 1039 | 1 | pit fill | | | | 2g | | |

Struck Flint

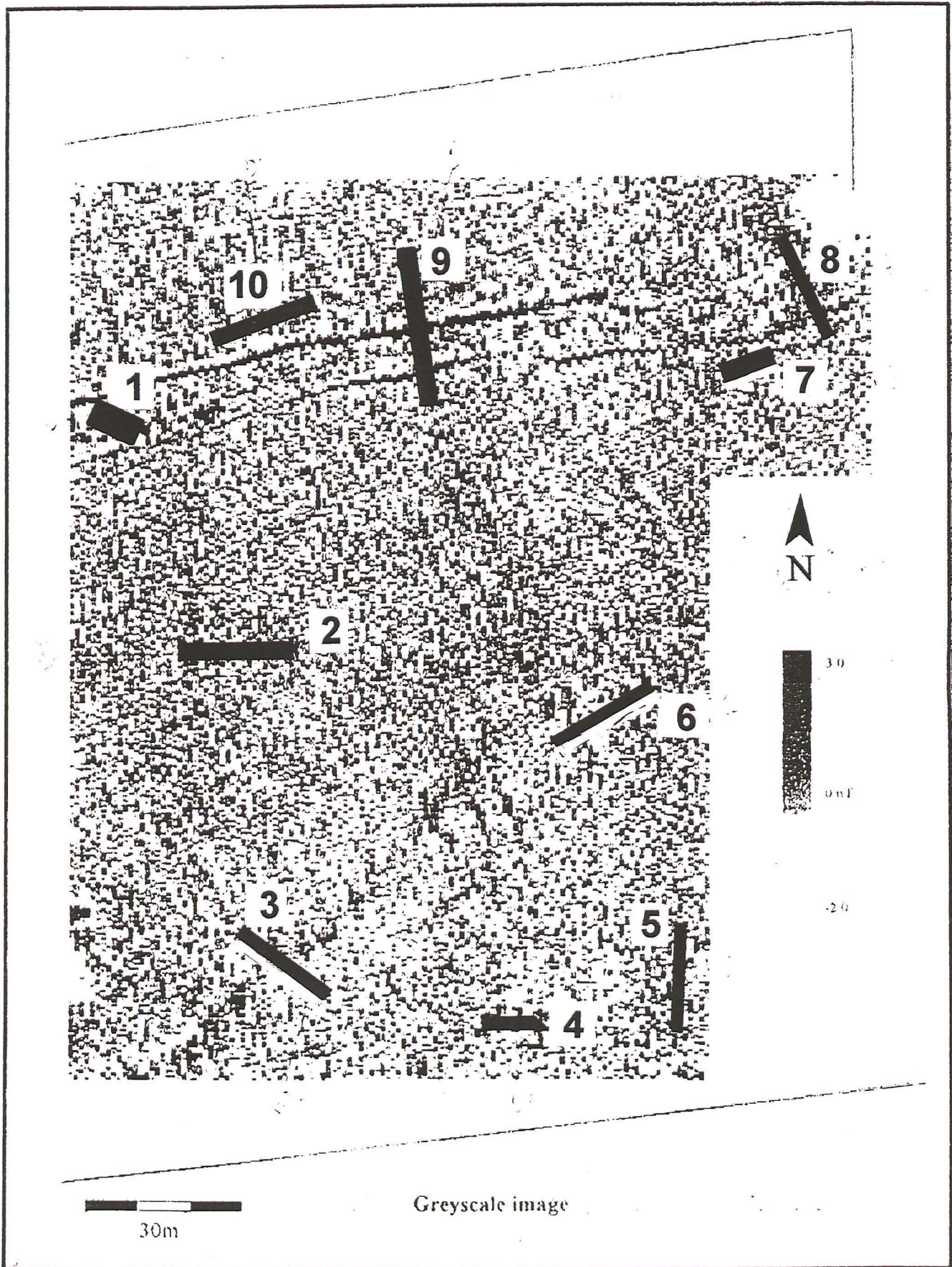
by Tom McDonald MIFA

Eight flints were found within four features (F1009, F1019, F1031 and F1034). None of the pieces are retouched, all displayed varying degrees of patination. The presence of a core rejuvenation flake with flake scars within feature F1034 is suggestive of flint knapping. The majority of the flints are flakes: they display wide platforms, perceptible bulbs of percussion and hinged fractures characteristic of flint derived from a hard hammer core reduction technique. They may belong to the later Bronze Age period (Holgate in Brown 1988). However, two small snapped blades from F1009 may be Mesolithic.

| Tr. | Context | Weight/ Dimension | Description |
|-----|---------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | 1032 | <1g | Small thick flake: fairly sharp; secondary; heavily patinated (light blue-white) |
| 5 | 1035 | 5g | Small thick flake: fairly sharp; secondary; heavy patination (light blue-white); wide platform; hinged fracture |
| | 1036 | 3g | Small flake: fairly sharp; lightly scorched. |
| | | 14g | Core rejuvenation flake: fairly sharp; heavy patination (light blue-white); wide platform; perceptible bulb |
| 9 | 1010 | <1g, 20 x 8 mm | Small blade: fairly sharp tertiary; heavy patination (light blue-white); snapped; hinged fracture |
| | | <1g, 21 x 8 mm | Small blade: not sharp; secondary; v light patination; mottled grey; snapped (distal end) |
| | | 7g | Small thick flake: fairly sharp; light patination (light blue-white) |
| | 1020 | <1g | Flint chip: heavily patinated (very light blue-white). |

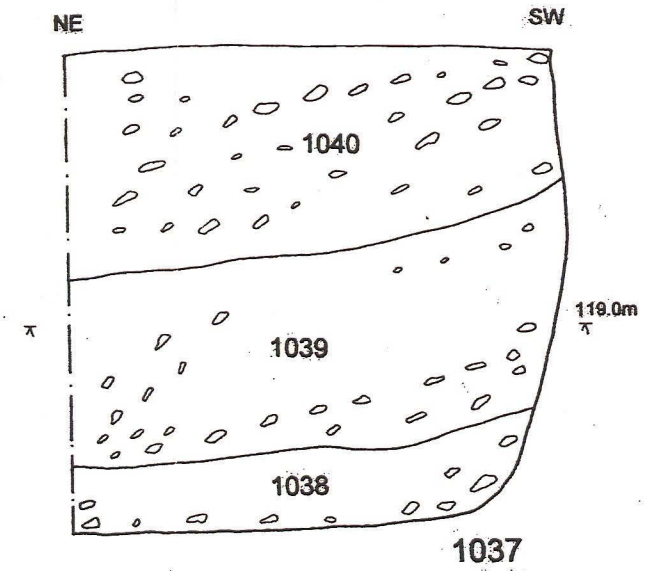
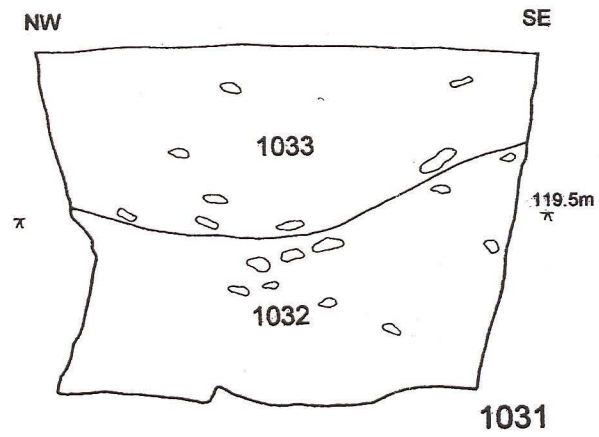
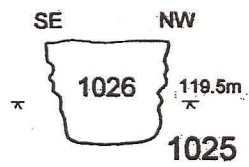
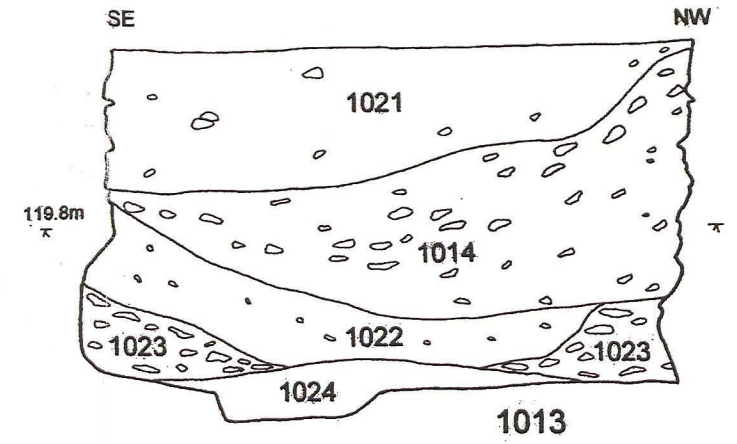
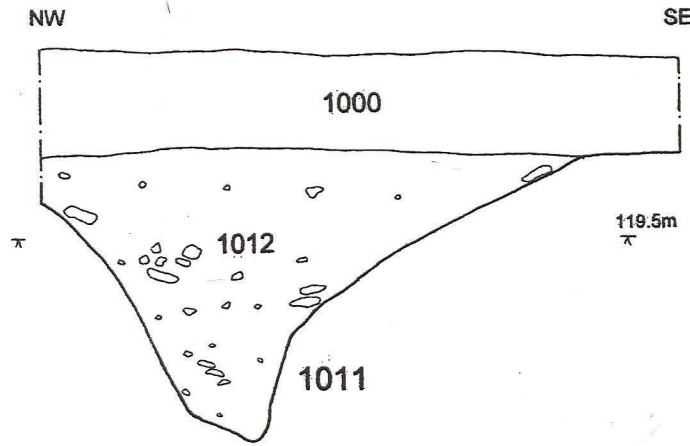
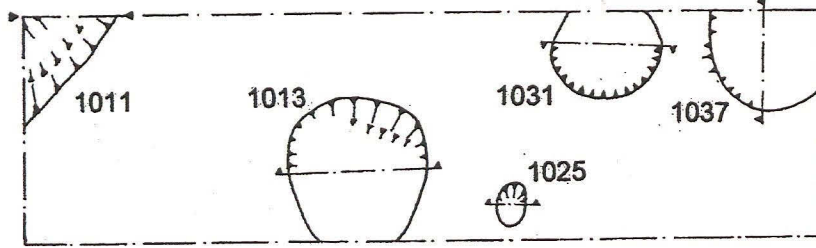
Reference

Brown, N. 1988. A Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 54, 249-302.

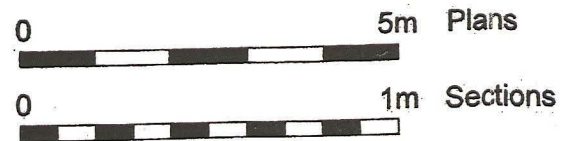
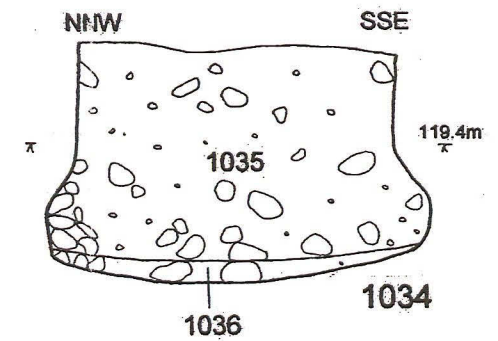
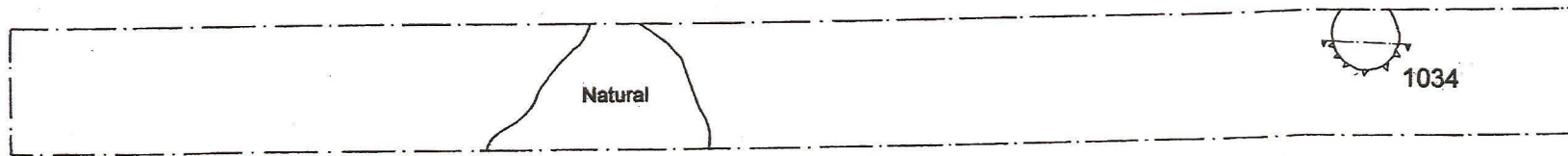


Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
 Fig.2 Trench Location Plan
 Scale: 1:1000

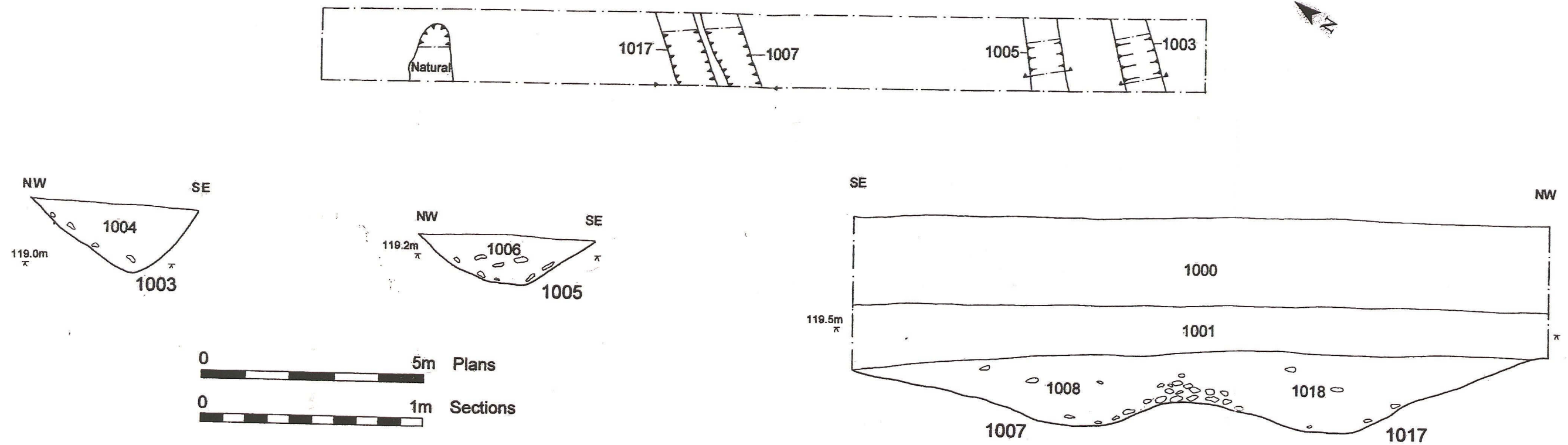
Trench 1



Trench 5



Trench 8



Trench 9

