

**An Archaeological Evaluation of the Canvey-Mucking Gas Pipeline,
Essex.**

Site Code: ECMG 06

Central National Grid References: TQ 711 829 & TQ 738 835

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on part of the route of the proposed Canvey-Mucking Gas Pipeline, Essex. The work was conducted between the 10th and 15th May 2006, was commissioned by Charles Le Quesne, RPS, on behalf of Calor Gas Limited and was monitored by Richard Havis, Essex County Council.
- 1.2 Trench 1, centred on National Grid Reference TQ 711 829, was bounded to the south by The Manorway (A1014) and to the west by Rookery Hill (B1420).
- 1.3 Trenches 2 and 3, centred on National Grid Reference TQ 738 835, was located 320m to the north of Oozedam Farm.

- 1.4 The trenches lie within the administrative area of Castle Point and Thurrock District Councils.
- 1.5 The trenches were positioned to assess the presence or absence of archaeologically significant deposits in areas that will be impacted by the proposed pipeline construction.
- 1.6 In Trench 1 a very compact clay was covered by a layer of more silty clay subsoil and by topsoil, but no archaeological activity was encountered. Trenches 2 & 3 straddled a previously unknown banked enclosure. Again the compact clay was found but no subsoil. No evidence of human occupation was found and the feature is interpreted as a cattle enclosure.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A gas pipeline is proposed by Calor Gas Limited, connecting Calor's Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Canvey Island with the main Transco high pressure gas pipeline at Mucking. The proposed pipeline route runs from TQ 784 825 to TQ 678 811 and is being evaluated by a mixture of boreholes and archaeological trenches. Trench 1 was centred on TQ 711 829 and Trenches 2 and 3 on TQ 738 835 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The planning consent was made conditional on the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation, as advised by Richard Havis Archaeological Officer for Essex County Council. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Charles Le Quesne, RPS, on behalf of Calor Gas Limited, to conduct the archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of intrusive ground works.
- 2.3 The archaeological trench evaluation comprised three trenches, each 10m in length (Figures 2 & 3). These were positioned along the proposed area of impact to evaluate the nature and extent of any preserved archaeological deposits. Trench 2 & 3 were located across a previously unknown banked enclosure found by Charles Le Quesne on a walkover survey, to establish whether it was a human occupation or animal enclosure.
- 2.4 The evaluation was supervised by Jude Westmacott under the project management of Peter Moore, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. It was conducted between the 10th and 15th May 2006 and assigned the site code ECMG 06.

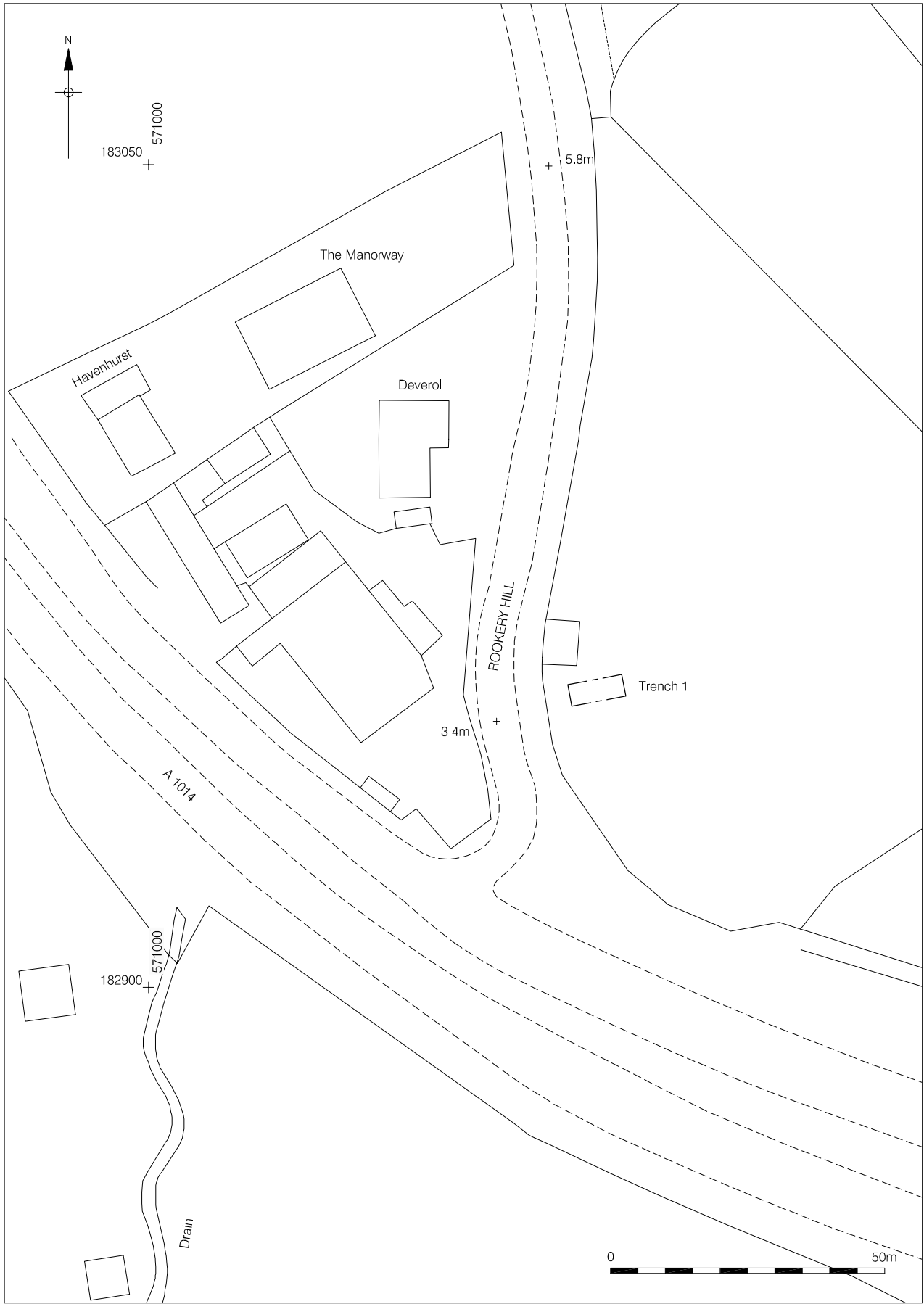


Figure 2
Location of Trench 1
1:1000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2 Government guidance provides a framework which:

- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Protects the settings of these sites
- Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
- Has a presumption in favour of in-situ preservation
- Requires adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.

3.3 In considering any proposal for development, Castle Point and Thurrock District Councils will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

3.4 The relevant Development Plan Policy framework is provided by the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Structure Plan adopted in April 2001. The following policies relate to archaeology:

POLICY HC1 HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS

THE AMOUNT, LOCATION, RATE AND DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT WILL BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED IN ALL HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS SO AS TO PROTECT, SAFEGUARD AND ENHANCE THEIR SPECIAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS OF HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS, TO BE DEFINED IN ADOPTED LOCAL PLANS, WILL BE RIGOROUSLY PROTECTED FROM INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT AND UNSYMPATHETIC CHANGE: -

1. LANDSCAPE SETTING WITHIN SURROUNDING OPEN COUNTRYSIDE;
2. GATEWAY APPROACHES;
3. PUBLIC OPEN SPACES AND CORRIDORS;
4. SPECIAL TOWNSCAPE CHARACTER; AND
5. HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

IN ADDITION, WITHIN THE HISTORIC TOWNS, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN EMERGING LOCAL PLANS AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE SET OUT IN THE RELEVANT HISTORIC TOWNS STRATEGY.

**POLICY HC5
PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD DAMAGE OR DESTROY A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR OTHER NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, ITS CHARACTER OR ITS SETTING, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS AND SITES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR SETTINGS, WILL BE PROTECTED, CONSERVED AND ENHANCED WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

**POLICY HC6
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD MATERIALLY AFFECT A SITE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:-

1. WHERE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR NOT, AND THEIR SETTINGS, ARE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THEY SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN SITU.
 2. WHERE THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WOULD AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS, DEVELOPERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ARRANGE FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE PLANNING APPLICATION CAN BE DETERMINED, TO ASSESS THE CHARACTER AND EXTENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, AND TO ALLOW AN INFORMED AND REASONABLE PLANNING DECISION TO BE MADE.
 3. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PRESERVATION IS NOT POSSIBLE OR MERITED, THEN DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNTIL THE DEVELOPER HAS ENSURED THAT SATISFACTORY PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND RECORDING PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT, COMMENSURATE WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE.
- 3.5 The relevant Local Plan framework is provided by the Castle Point Borough Local Plan (adopted 1998). The Plan contains the following policies relating to archaeology:

POLICY EC34 SETTING OF LISTED BUILDINGS

CONSENT WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING.

POLICY EC38 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS

WHERE IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS, BOTH SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED, AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, PRESERVATION *IN SITU* WILL BE SOUGHT.

IF THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS EXIST, THE EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN, THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE DEVELOPERS TO ARRANGE FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD ASSESSMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE PLANNING APPLICATION CAN BE DETERMINED IN ORDER TO INFORM THE PLANNING DECISION.

WHERE PRESERVATION IS NOT POSSIBLE OR FEASIBLE THEN THE COUNCIL WILL NOT ALLOW DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL SATISFACTORY PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

- 3.5.1 The policies cited below are set out in the Thurrock Borough Local Plan (adopted 1998) which provides the detailed framework for the determination of all planning applications in Thurrock Borough.

BEN26 SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

WHERE IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR NOT, AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF PRESERVATION *IN SITU*.

IF THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS EXIST IN THE LOCAL PLAN AREA WHOSE EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE ARE UNKNOWN, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE DEVELOPERS TO ARRANGE FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION TO BE CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE PLANNING APPLICATION CAN BE DETERMINED, THUS ENABLING AN INFORMED AND REASONABLE PLANNING DECISION TO BE MADE.

WHERE PRESERVATION IS NOT POSSIBLE OR FEASIBLE THEN THE COUNCIL WILL NOT ALLOW DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL SATISFACTORY PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The geology of the study sites is alluvial clay deposits overlying Pleistocene gravel. A combination of recent work carried out in support of the Shellhaven Port development (OA 2001), British Geological Survey borehole data, and assessment of geotechnical survey work carried out in support of the ES for the redevelopment of Calor's Canvey LNG terminal (Bates 2005), provide quite a detailed understanding of the nature of the alluvial sequence along the proposed route of the pipeline. It was this layer of natural material that was encountered during the archaeological evaluation. Trench 1 was located at a point where the underlying Pleistocene gravel was thought to be shelving upwards, however this gravel was not observed in the trench or in the auger-bore terminal pit, located within it.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Trench 1 was situated on reclaimed floodplain at the foot of a south-facing slope overlooking the River Thames. The natural level exposed during the evaluation was at 2.40mOD. Trenches 2 and 3 were also located in a flat area of reclaimed floodplain. The natural level exposed in both trenches was at 0.90mOD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The desk based assessment prepared by RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (2006A) identifies known and potential sites of archaeological significance that may be impacted by the pipeline construction. A summary of this information relating to the trenched areas is presented below.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity along the marshland portion of the pipeline, where all three trenches were located, reflecting the fact that the constant accumulation of alluvium (until the construction of comprehensive sea defences in the seventeenth century) has masked any earlier archaeological remains.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 Roman 'red hills' (salt production sites) are known on and around the Calor-Canvey Island Terminal and may exist further to the west, although none have been found within the study area. Such sites were often reused for settlement in the medieval period, and so any of the number of farms with likely medieval origins could also overlie earlier remains.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Medieval farms are generally the earliest known sites within the marshes, and are apparently referred to in late medieval documents. They formed the basis of the subsequent development of the landscape, with the gradual development of a system of small-scale sea defences and causeways leading to increased exploitation of the marshland for agricultural purposes. These farms clearly made great use of the sea, with access provided by natural meandering creeks.

5.5 Post-Medieval

5.5.1 The final realisation of the marsh's agricultural potential came in the early seventeenth century when Dutch drainage engineers were brought in to build sea defences around Canvey and, in all probability, along the shoreline of Fobbing and Corringham Marshes. With the development of the industrial economy, the position of the marshes on the Thames Estuary brought development, with the construction of

the Kynochtown Explosives Factory in the final years of the nineteenth century and the development of oil storage and importation facilities.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The agreed excavation of the trenches was set out in the written scheme of investigation (RPS 2006B). The fieldwork was designed to recover sufficient evidence to locate archaeological sites in the area that will be impacted by the proposed pipeline construction and to characterize their nature, date, function and importance. All work was consistent with IFA standards (revised 2001).
- 6.2 A mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, was used to remove topsoil and subsoil in spits under archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was to be excavated to the surface of natural gravel beneath the alluvium, or, as this was not reached, a depth of 2.5m. Trenches 2 and 3 were excavated to the depth necessary in order to assess the nature and date of the banked enclosure to the north of Oozedam Farm.
- 6.3 The trenches were cleaned and investigated by hand to identify the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence if appropriate. All site staff wore appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst working.
- 6.4 A representative section of each trench was hand cleaned prior to recording. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those outlined in the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual (MoLAS 1994). All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers) were recorded using standard recording methods onto pro-forma recording sheets. Plans and sections were recorded to scale on polyester based drawing film. The Ordnance Datum height of all principal strata and features was calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A photographic record was also made in 35mm black and white print and colour slide and in digital format.
- 6.5 For Trench 1 a benchmark was taken from the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Corringham (value 15.93mOD). For Trenches 2 and 3 a benchmark was taken from Oozedam Farm (value 2.77mOD). The trenches were surveyed and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.
- 6.6 In addition to the Archaeological Evaluation, three c.500m transects were sampled by 3m-deep boreholes by Royal Holloway, at locations along the pipeline. One of these included a borehole in the western end of Trench 1 prior to its reinstatement.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 The archaeological sequence for each trench will be considered separately below, with phasing consistent across all three trenches.

7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 Phase 1 – Alluvial Clay

Clay [102] was encountered at 2.40mOD lying flat within the trench. The deposit was a very compact mid grey orange clay, with occasional small-large sub-rounded flint gravel inclusions. Pockets of light grey blue clay were also seen throughout the deposit increasing in frequency with depth. It was excavated to a depth of 0.8mOD (2.5m below ground level) with the aim of finding the surface of the natural gravel shelf, which was not reached. Prior to reinstatement of Trench 1 a borehole was sunk by Royal Holloway at the west end of the Trench to determine the nature of the deposits beyond the excavated depth (Figure 4).

7.2.2 Phase 2 – Post Seventeenth Century

A layer of mid orange brown firm-compact silt clay [101] lay at 2.75mOD and covered the trench to a thickness of 0.46m. Although no datable material was recovered from this context it is likely to date from after the early seventeenth century when much of the land in this area was reclaimed. Its character and the nature of the interface between this layer and the clay below suggested it represented general sub-soil formation.

7.2.3 Phase 3 – Modern

A firmly compacted, very humic layer of dark brown sandy silt containing occasional small-medium sub-rounded flint gravel, and very rare pottery, glass and animal bone. This topsoil lay at 3.25mOD (ground level) and covered the area of the site, to a thickness of 0.45m.

7.3 Trenches 2 and 3

7.3.1 Phase 1 – Alluvial Clay

A clay layer [105] was encountered at 0.9mOD lying flat within the trenches. The deposit was a very compact dark reddish brown clay. Similar to [102] seen in Trench 1, small pockets of light grey blue clay were seen throughout the deposit. The alluvial clays were excavated to a thickness of 0.5m to confirm that the deposit was continuing in the same form as in Trench 1.

7.3.2 Phase 2 – Post Seventeenth Century

A bank of very compact dark reddish brown slightly silty, slightly sandy clay with very rare small CBM inclusions [104] separated Trenches 2 and 3. These were originally planned as a single trench cutting across the bank, but following consultation with Richard Havis, of Essex County Council on site, it was decided to leave the bank intact and excavate trenches on either side of it. An earthwork profile was drawn over the bank linking the two trenches (Figure 5). Bank [104] stood 1.3m high and 15.5m wide, at its peak (allowing for 0.1m of topsoil [103]) it lay at 1.6mOD dropping on the eastern side (Trench 3) to a height of 0.3mOD. The bank forms a semi-circular shape backing on to the present farm track. It appears to have been created from natural material mostly, if not entirely, gathered from the outside of the semi-circle; a slight dip was visible in Trench 3 in both the natural clays and the overlying topsoil although no cut was visible. This banked area was in use as a cattle enclosure within the memory of the present landowner and is likely to have been created between the fairly recent past and the reclamation of the land in the early seventeenth century.

7.3.3 Phase 3 – Modern

A firm layer of dark brown very humic sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints and very rare CBM inclusions [103]. This topsoil layer covered both trenches and the bank between them to a thickness of 0.1m or less. As it covered bank [104] the topsoil lay at 1.7mOD dipping to the general ground level height of 0.9mOD.

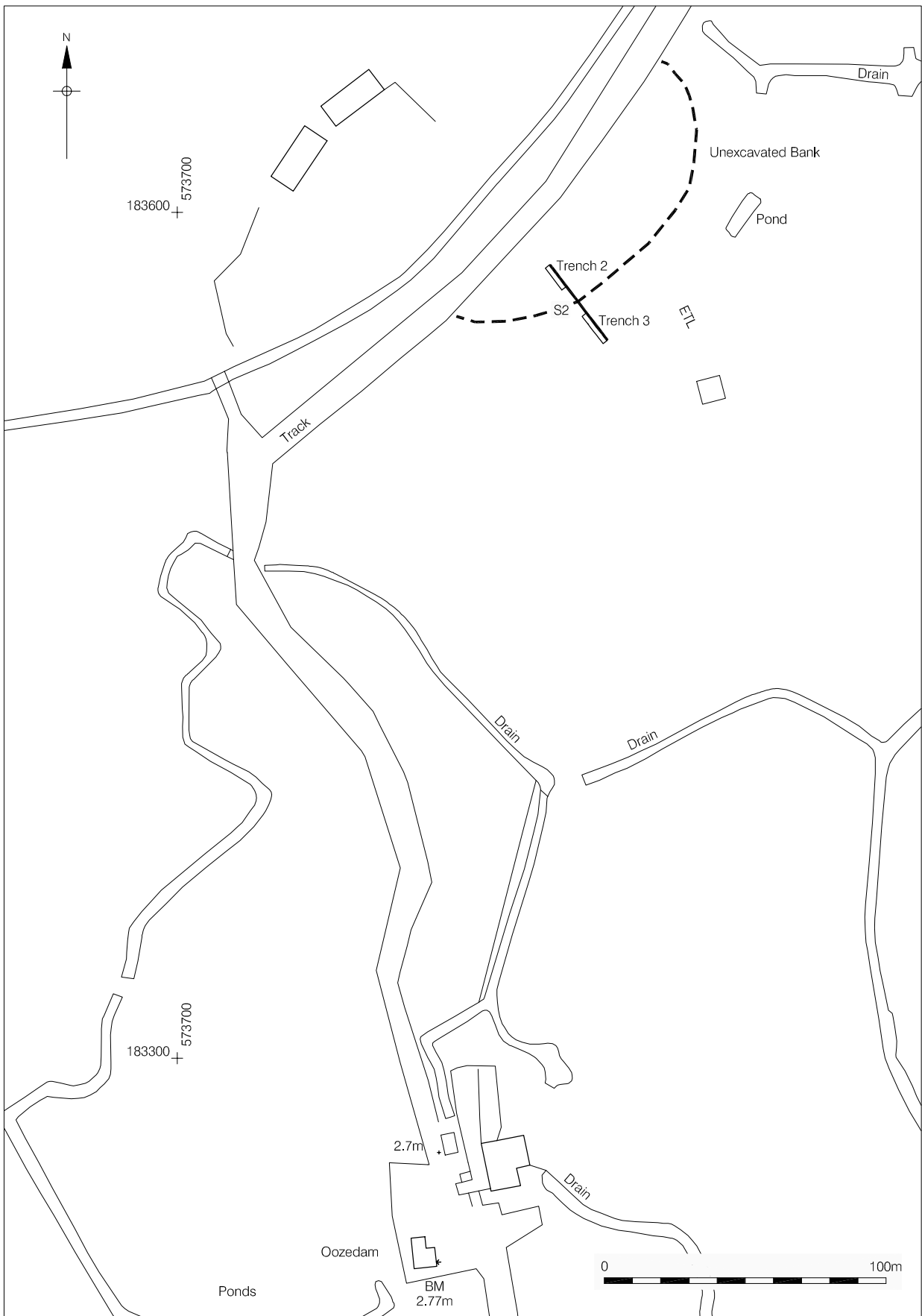
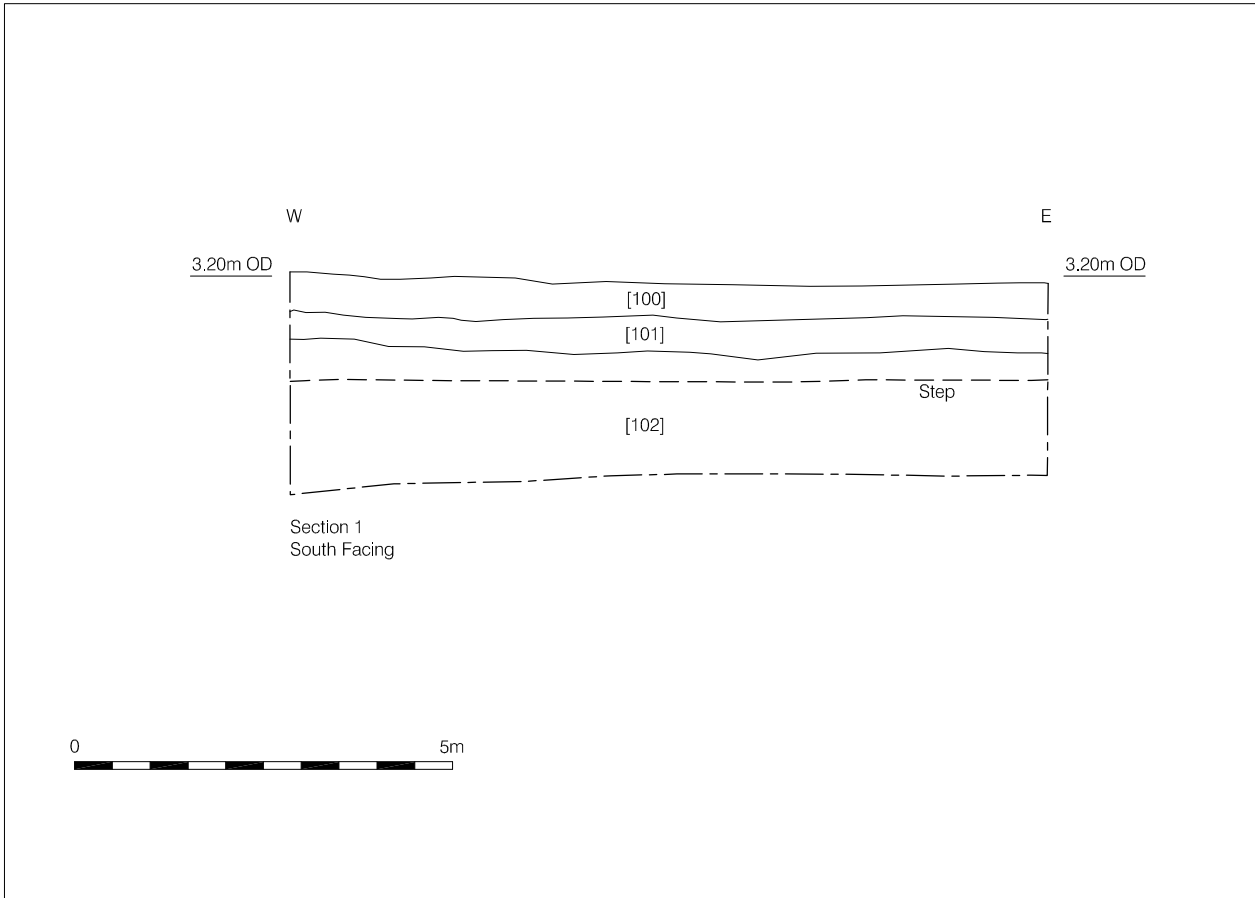
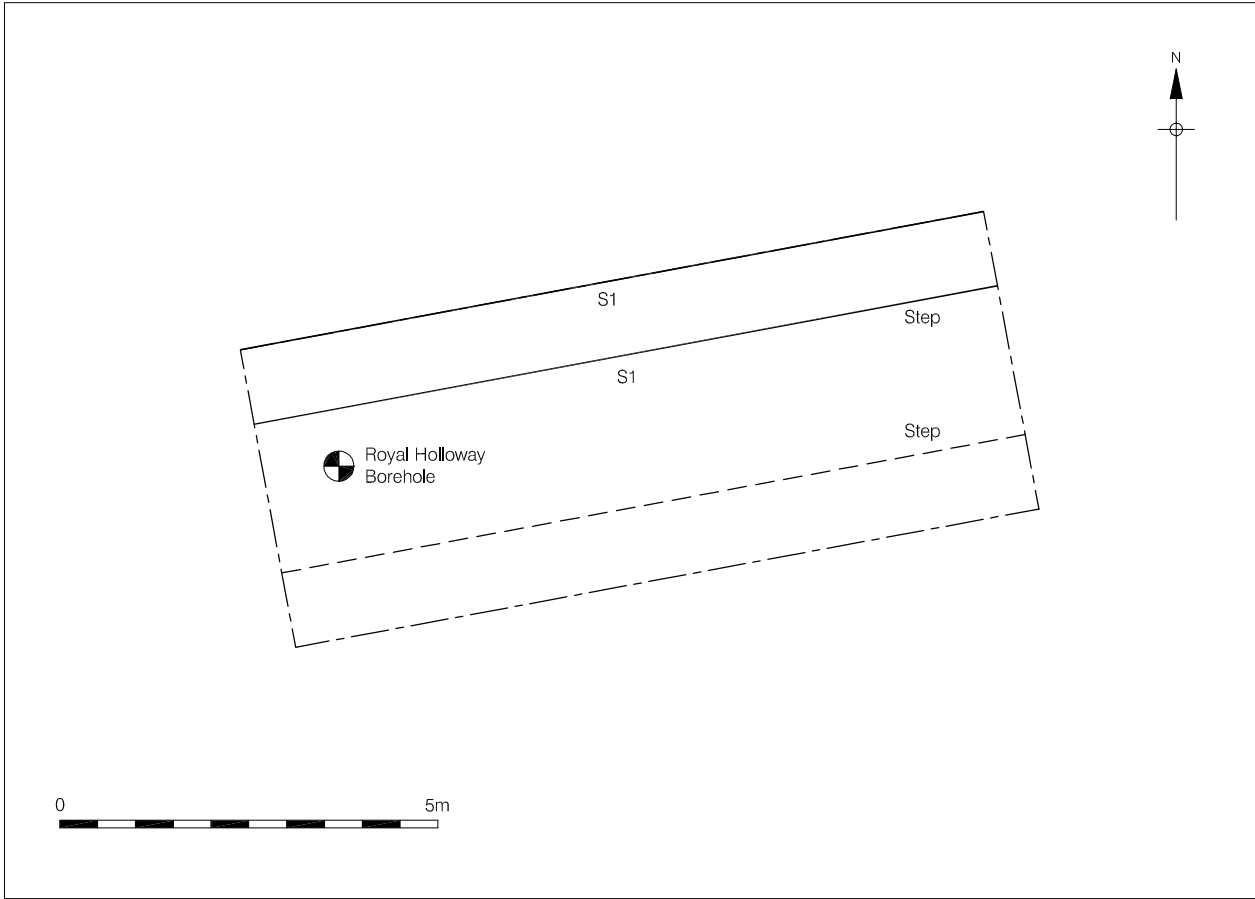


Figure 3
Location of Trenches 2 and 3
1:2000



Note: diameter of borehole is not to scale

Figure 4
Trench 1 Plan and Section
1:100

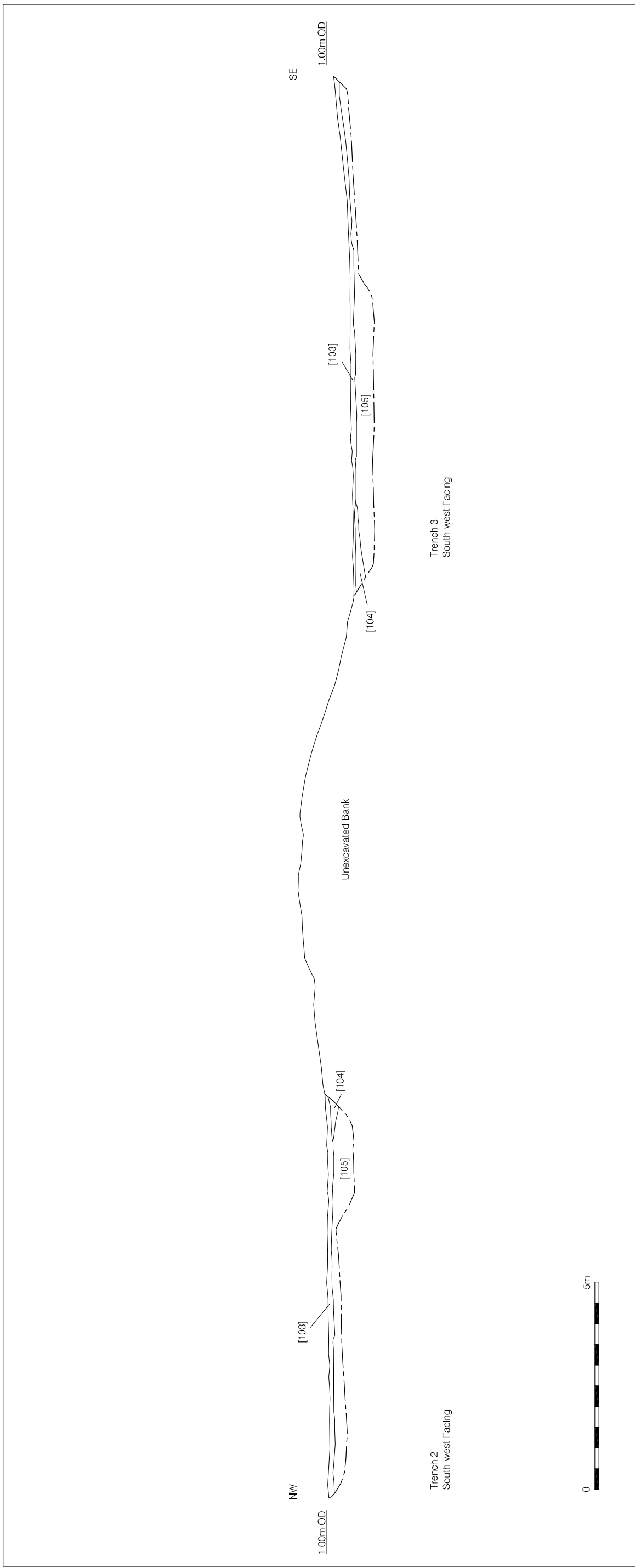


Figure 5
Section 2
1:100

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Discussion

- 8.1.1 The alluvial clay exposed in all three trenches helps provide a picture of the topography of the localities. The borehole transects sampled by Royal Holloway will provide more information along the rest of the proposed pipeline routes.
- 8.1.2 The area is known to have been reclaimed early in the seventeenth century when Dutch drainage engineers were brought in to build sea defences along the shorelines. No anthropogenic material was seen during this evaluation to suggest any earlier activity in the area of the three trenches.
- 8.1.3 The bank [104] seen in Trenches 2 and 3 was previously unrecorded, but its use within living memory and the lack of any associated features indicates a late Post-Medieval or Modern construction date for use as a cattle enclosure. This was the only layer encountered in the three trenches that was not naturally formed.

8.2 Conclusions

The evaluation effectively demonstrated several key factors about the sites along the proposed pipeline.

- 8.2.1 The natural sequence has been clarified, showing alluvial clays in all trenches with no evidence of the expected gravel shelf in Trench 1.
- 8.2.2 No archaeology was found to pre-date the Post-Medieval period.
- 8.2.3 Topsoil was seen to cover the extent of the three trenches although underlying subsoil existed only in Trench 1.
- 8.2.4 The only archaeological evidence was a bank between Trenches 2 and 3 that appeared to relate to pastoral activity in the Post-Medieval or modern period.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Calor Gas Limited for funding this project and Charles Le Quesne of RPS for commissioning and organising the work. The author would like to thank Guy Seddon for his work on site, Gemma Swindle for her environmental input and help. Also many thanks to the finds specialists, especially Berni Sudds; to Fiona Keith-Lucas and Adrian Nash for their respective survey and CAD illustrations; and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX

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103

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105

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Phase
100	Layer	1	Topsoil	3
101	Layer	1	Silty clay sub-soil	2
102	Layer	1	Clay	2
103	Layer	2 & 3	Topsoil	3
104	Layer	2 & 3	Earth Bank	2
105	Layer	2 & 3	Clay	1

APPENDIX 3: FINDS LIST

Peter Moore

Context	Number	Description	Comments
100	1	Bone fragment	Decayed
100	2	Post-Medieval Redware sherds	1600-1800
100	1	Clear glass vessel body sherd	
103	1	Post-Medieval peg tile sherd	
104	2	CBM fragments	

This very small collection of finds is unlikely to come from near a settlement and is more likely to represent domestic rubbish incorporated in the manuring of fields. It is not recommended that any further analysis is undertaken on these artefacts and that they are not retained for archiving.

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Phase
100	Layer	1	Topsoil	3
101	Layer	1	Sub-soil	2
102	Natural	1	Natural clay	1
103	Layer	2 and 3	Topsoil	3
104	Layer	2 and 3	Earth bank	2
105	Natural	2 and 3	Natural clay	1

APPENDIX 4: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-15230

? Project details

Project name	Canvey-Mucking Gas Pipeline
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on the Canvey-Mucking Gas Pipeline, Essex. The work was conducted in advance of the proposed pipeline by Calor Gas Ltd.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2006 End: 15-05-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECMG06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	Cattle pen Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Status Complete

? Project location

Site location	ESSEX THURROCK CORRINGHAM Canvey-Mucking Gas Pipeline
Postcode	SS17 8xx
Study area	12 Kilometres
National grid reference	TQ 771 829 Point
Height OD	Min: 0.8m Max: 3.25m

Status Complete

? Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Charles Le Quesne, RPS
Project design originator	Charles Le Quesne, RPS
Project	Peter Moore

director/manager

Project supervisor (other) Jude Westmacott

Sponsor or funding body (other) Calor Gas Ltd

Status Complete

 Project archives

Add or edit entries

Physical Archive recipient Local museum

Physical Contents Report, field records


Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Media available 'Text'

Status Incomplete

Missing Fields Digital Contents, Paper Archive recipient, Paper Contents

 Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1 

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