

**THE ONGAR ACADEMY,  
FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR,  
ESSEX, CM5 0GA  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: EFRO16  
REPORT NO: R12512**

**JUNE 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**THE ONGAR ACADEMY, FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX, CM5 0GA**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** EFRO 16  
**Local Planning Authority:** Epping Forest District Council  
**Central NGR:** TL 5530 0434  
**Commissioning Client:** Kier Construction  
**Written and Researched by:** Poppy Alexander  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2016  
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**June 2016**

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

THE ONGAR ACADEMY, FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX, CM5 0GA

**Type of project**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**Quality Control**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. prior to the proposed redevelopment of The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0GA.
- 1.2 The fieldwork was carried out between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of fourteen evaluation trenches to encompass areas of the site proposed for redevelopment.
- 1.3 The evaluation observed that natural clay gravels underlying the site exhibited a notable declination from south-west to north-east. Truncating the natural were three cut features, two of which were of possible Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age date and the other was of possible medieval to post-medieval date. These features comprised three linear cuts, located in Trenches 10 and 14.
- 1.4 Minor modern activity was identified across the site, namely with recent field drainage pipes truncating the natural. The site lay predominately under grass and topsoil as playing fields.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) prior to the proposed redevelopment of land at The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0GA.
- 2.2 The site was centred at National Grid Reference TL 5530 0434 and occupied a sub-rectangular plot of land. The site was bounded to the west by Fyfield Road. It was bounded to the north and east by playing fields and by a leisure centre to the south.
- 2.3 PCA was commissioned for the evaluation by Kier Construction. No Scheduled Ancient Monuments are adjacent to or are contained within the bounds of the site.
- 2.4 The project was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2016).
- 2.5 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety at the Epping Museum, identified by the unique code EFRO 16.
- 2.6 The evaluation was conducted between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Consultant for Essex County Council, and project-managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins. The evaluation was supervised by Poppy Alexander of PCA.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27 March 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012).

3.1.2 Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

3.1.3 Additionally:

141. Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

3.1.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF.

3.1.5 The NPPF also states that:

214. For 12 months from the day of publication, decision-takers may continue to give full weight to relevant policies adopted since 2004 even if there is a limited degree of conflict with this Framework.

215. In other cases and following this 12-month period, due weight should be given to relevant policies in existing plans according to their degree of consistency with this framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).

3.1.6 As such the Local Planning Authority will continue to also be guided by the existent Development Plan policy and by other material considerations

#### **3.2 Epping Forest District Council: Local Planning Policy**

3.2.1 Epping Forest District Council's original Local Plan was adopted in 1998. In 2006 the Council adopted the Local Plan Alterations, which replaced parts of the 1998 Local Plan. A new Local Plan is currently being developed but the Local Plan altered and saved in 2006 is currently still applicable (Epping Forest District Council, 2006).

3.2.2 The policy statements which apply today and concern the city's heritage are as follows:

## **POLICY HC1- SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

On sites of known or potential archaeological interest, planning permission will only be granted for development which would not adversely affect nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, or their settings. The Council will also require:

- (i) the results of an archaeological evaluation to be submitted as part of any application;
- (ii) the preservation in situ, and provision for appropriate management, of those remains and their settings considered to be of particular importance;
- (iii) provision for recording and/or excavation by a competent archaeological organisation prior to the commencement of development, where in situ preservation is not justified.

## **POLICY HC2- ANCIENT LANDSCAPES**

The Council will not grant planning permission for development which could adversely affect the nature and physical appearance of ancient landscapes (identified as such on the Proposals Map).

### **3.3 Site Specific**

- 3.3.1 In February 2016, a planning application (planning reference EPF/0144/16) for the development of the site (as outlined in section '3.2: The Proposed Scheme') was submitted by Kier Construction to Epping Forest District Council. The following condition was placed on the application due to the potential impact on archaeological deposits known to survive in the area. It follows the policies within the National Planning Policy Framework:-

#### **Recommendation: Full condition**

**'No development or preliminary groundwork's of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority'.**



## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (Geology Viewer online) shows that the bedrock geology of the site is London Clay Formation. Formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period, this formation comprises deposits of clay, silt and sand and is indicative of a local environment previously dominated by deep seas (BGS 2016).
- 4.1.2 Superficial deposits on the site are recorded as Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton). These natural deposits of chalk, sands, gravels, silts and clays would have been deposited up to 2 million years ago by the action of ice during glacial periods (Ibid).

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site lies predominately under grass as playing fields, on level ground which sits at the height of 57m OD (Ordnance Datum). The site lies just to the east of Fyfield Road and is situated with a predominately agricultural area, albeit with heavy housing development to the west,
- 4.2.2 Two temporary benchmarks were established during the course of the evaluation. These were positioned in the central (TBM1) and south-eastern (TBM2) areas of the site, with the respective values 61.42m OD and 60.43m OD. TBM1 and TBM2 were established with use of GPS.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

5.1 A site specific archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared (Buczak 2016), from which the following is summarised. This also included a review of archaeological find spots within a 1km radius held on the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) along with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the site.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

5.2.1 Evidence for early prehistoric evidence is relatively minimal within the study area; it also comprises finds of an exclusively residual nature. This evidence includes surface finds of prehistoric worked flint. Although no early prehistoric in-situ features have thus been found within the study area, these finds do provide evidence of some prehistoric activity in the area or close vicinity.

5.2.2 Despite the clear potential for Neolithic activity and indeed settlement, there is as yet no evidence recorded within the EHER for Neolithic activity within the study area.

5.2.3 Evidence for Bronze Age activity within the study area comes in the form of a number of round barrows, a typical type of Bronze Age funerary monument. One group of probable round barrows has been identified on Shelley Common, 900m north-west of the site. Surviving as much denuded mounds, they range in size and shape but are all 5m or over in diameter and survive to heights of between 0.25m and 0.60m.

5.2.4 It is clear from these monuments that the local landscape was certainly one of ritual importance during the Bronze Age, in which a number of prestigious burials took place. The construction of these impressive monuments would also suggest that a well-organised and relatively numerous population inhabited the local area. There is thus a moderate potential for Bronze Age activity, funerary or otherwise, upon the study site itself.

5.2.5 In contrast to the Bronze Age remains, all the evidence from the Iron Age within the study area comprises artefacts of a residual nature. Quantities of residual Iron Age pottery were discovered on the site of a later Roman building at Boarded Barns Farm, about 500m north of the study site.

5.2.6 Whilst these finds do not include any in situ remains, they do again at least point to Iron Age activity in the general vicinity. Although the discoveries come from a limited number of places, they are also concentrated relatively close to the site, to the north and east. This is thus some potential for Iron Age activity on the study site itself.

### **5.3 Roman**

5.3.1 Within Ongar itself, the possible use of Roman bricks in the later castle gateway and church are highly suggestive of an earlier Roman presence, and perhaps settlement, in or near the town. Definite (albeit residual) Roman brick/tile was also discovered during an archaeological excavation at Banson's Yard off the high street of the main town.

5.3.2 In situ evidence again appears to be concentrated within the northern sector of the study area rather than the main settlement of Ongar itself, although this may be due to preservation bias with far more subsequent development within the town having removed or obscured earlier Roman remains.

5.3.3 At Boarded Barns Farm 650m north-east of the study site, there lie the remains of two Roman buildings that have been interpreted as a villa. Although both buildings had walls made of roughly coursed mortared flint, they appeared to have different status and function. The pottery assemblage associated with the structures covered the first to fourth centuries; although some curation of older pottery may have occurred, this would seem to suggest the villa was occupied for a considerable length of time.

5.3.4 As well as settlement evidence, the study area has also produced evidence of Roman industrial activity. Just c. 200m to the west of the study site a Roman occupation layer was discovered during the construction of a housing estate in 1953.

### **5.4 Saxon**

5.4.1 If a settlement at Ongar had not existed before, it was definitely established by the late Saxon/early medieval period. Indeed, a Saxon origin is thought likely, given both the probably Saxon provenance of the name 'Ongar' and the fact that the town gave its name to the hundred, a Saxon unit of administration.

- 5.4.2 Unfortunately there is only one piece of Saxon evidence recorded within the EHER record, this being a boundary ditch encountered during archaeological monitoring of a pipeline. The ditch, probably a field boundary, contained a single Saxon pot sherd from its lowest fill.
- 5.4.3 Whether the town and parish of Ongar were established in the late Saxon or early medieval period, what is important is that the development site appears to have lain within it from the beginning, the late Saxon/early medieval parish boundary of Ongar being known to form part of the site's boundary. Situated as it was on the very edge of the parish it is most likely that the site was used only minimally, most probably for agricultural purposes.

## **5.5 Medieval**

- 5.5.1 It was during the medieval period that the settlement of Ongar became an important town, with a castle constructed on a spur of land between the Roding and Cripsey Brook, the earliest surviving components of which probably date from the 11th or 12th centuries.
- 5.5.2 Despite the historically attested importance of the settlement, no other building remains preceding the 16th century (excluding the castle and church) were for a long time known to survive within the town.
- 5.5.3 This was indeed proven true in 2015 when an archaeological excavation was carried out in Banson's Yard, off the High Street of the modern town of Chipping Ongar, which revealed a considerable amount of evidence for medieval settlement and other activity. Although the site was believed to have been outside the projected extent of the medieval town enclosure, the excavation uncovered relatively extensive and complex remains related to the occupation of the site in the 12th-14th centuries.
- 5.5.4 Medieval settlement evidence has also been recorded clustered in and around what is now the village of Shelley.
- 5.5.5 The modern settlement of High Ongar is a designated historic settlement within a 1km radius of the study site which has similarly produced a range of evidence which points to considerable activity during the medieval period. It is of considerable interest to the study as the medieval parish of High Ongar – much larger than it is in the present day – included Chipping Ongar parish until the 12th century, when the latter was made a parish of its own.
- 5.5.6 The area surrounding the settlements of High Ongar, Ongar and Shelley is believed to have always been sparsely occupied from the medieval period onwards, with only scattered manor and smaller farms, largely let out to tenant farmers, dotting the landscape. The development site itself, distant from the three medieval settlements within the area, is thus most likely to have remained as agricultural land belonging to one of these farmsteads.

## **5.6 Post-Medieval & Modern**

- 5.6.1 The post-medieval landscape of the general area is believed to have changed little from that thought to have been in existence by the later medieval period, the principal elements (such as the main farms and manors) being already well established features of the landscape.
- 5.6.2 Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 reveals the extent of the post-medieval settlement and presumably, given the constancy witnessed across these centuries, the rough extent of the late medieval one also. The map shows that the built-up area extended down the High Street from the north end of the town enclosure (roughly level with the castle) as far south as Ongar Bridge. One can deduct that the development site would thus have been situated far to the north of the settlement's boundary, even as late as the 18th century.
- 5.6.3 The 19th century saw the town witness a more substantial, but still relatively steady, population expansion and development, with the population increasing from 595 in 1801 to 967 in 1901, and a number of buildings being improved, rebuilt or built anew.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2016), an archaeological evaluation was undertaken. The evaluation consisted of the machine excavation of fourteen trenches across the extents of the proposed redevelopment area. The machine excavation was monitored by the attendant archaeologist until archaeological deposits or features, or natural stratigraphy was encountered. The trenches were located with a Leica GPS. These trenches comprised twelve 25m trenches, one 20m trench, and one 15m trench, all 1.8m wide, all of which were excavated to a maximum of 0.80m below ground level.
- 6.2 The trenches and exposed sections were cleaned by hand, recorded and photographed. Recording of the deposits was accomplished using the Single Context Recording Method on proforma context and planning sheets, as presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009), which is fully compatible with other archaeological archives produced in Essex. Contexts were numbered and are shown in this report within squared brackets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 as appropriate and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 6.3 The completed archive, comprising all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Epping Museum under the unique Site Code EFRO16.

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 Deposits of natural silty clay gravels [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20] were recorded in all fourteen trenches (Table 1). These were consistent with the projected underlying geology of the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton). The clay was recorded between elevations of 61.70m OD and 59.58m OD, taken respectively from the south-western limits of the subject site within Trench 1, and from the north-eastern limits of the site within Trench 14. These elevations suggest a general downwards slope from south-west to north-east.

Context Number	Trench	Highest Level
7	1	61.70m OD
8	2	61.55m OD
9	3	61.49m OD
10	4	61.30m OD
11	5	61.21m OD
12	6	61.00m OD
13	7	59.68m OD
14	8	59.61m OD
15	9	60.87m OD
16	10	60.55m OD
17	11	60.32m OD
18	12	60.34m OD
19	13	60.00m OD
20	14	59.58m OD

Table 1: Context numbers and heights of natural

### 7.2 Phase 2: Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age

7.2.1 A cut feature, tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age, was identified in Trench [14]. Cut [6] was cut into natural deposits and was dated primarily due to sixteen sherds from a thick walled shouldered and handled vessel that were recovered from within the fill (Appendix 4). A single struck flint of possible Mesolithic date was also present in this feature.

7.2.2 Linear cut [6] was located at the south-western end of Trench 14 at a depth of 59.37m OD. The feature truncated natural clay gravels to a maximum depth of 0.15m, and extended beyond the north-west and south-east limits of excavation, with an approximate width of 0.40m. A potentially natural accumulation of soft, greyish brown silty clay [5] filled the feature and contained frequent large flint gravels and flecks of charcoal.

7.2.3 A shallow linear cut [4] was also identified in Trench 10, cutting the natural clay gravels from 60.24m OD. Linear cut [4] reached a maximum depth of 0.15m, and was approximately 0.40m wide. A greyish yellow silt clay [3] had accumulated within the feature. Seventeen pieces of burnt flint were recovered from the feature, but no other finds were identified, and therefore the feature has been tentatively assigned to the prehistoric period.

### **7.3 Phase 3: Medieval to Post-Medieval**

- 7.3.1 One medieval to post-medieval cut feature [2] was identified within Trench 10, cut into natural clay gravels. This was dated to the medieval or post-medieval period primarily due to the small fragments of ceramic building material found within the fill, which dated from 1450-1600. A notable lack of other dating material within the backfill, however, means that this feature difficult to date more accurately.
- 7.3.2 Linear cut [2] stretched for almost the entire length of Trench 10, and extended beyond the limits of excavation to the east and west. From 60.66m OD, cut [2] truncated the natural clay gravels to a maximum depth of 0.36m, and had an approximate width of 0.50m. A natural accumulation of soft, greyish brown silty clay [1] filled the feature and contained large flint gravels. The regular sides of this feature and flat base suggested a potential field boundary. The linear feature [2] was not visible in any of the other trenches, however, making its function unclear.

### **7.4 Phase 4: Modern**

- 7.4.1 All fourteen trenches were sealed by topsoil and grass. The topsoil lay at between 62.03m OD and 59.88m OD and was approximately 0.30m thick. The majority of the trenches were marginally impacted by modern gravel filled field drainage systems.

## 8 PLATES

Plate 1: North east facing shot of Trench 1



Plate 2: West facing shot of Trench 2



Plate 3: North east facing shot of Trench 3



Plate 4: North facing shot of Trench 4

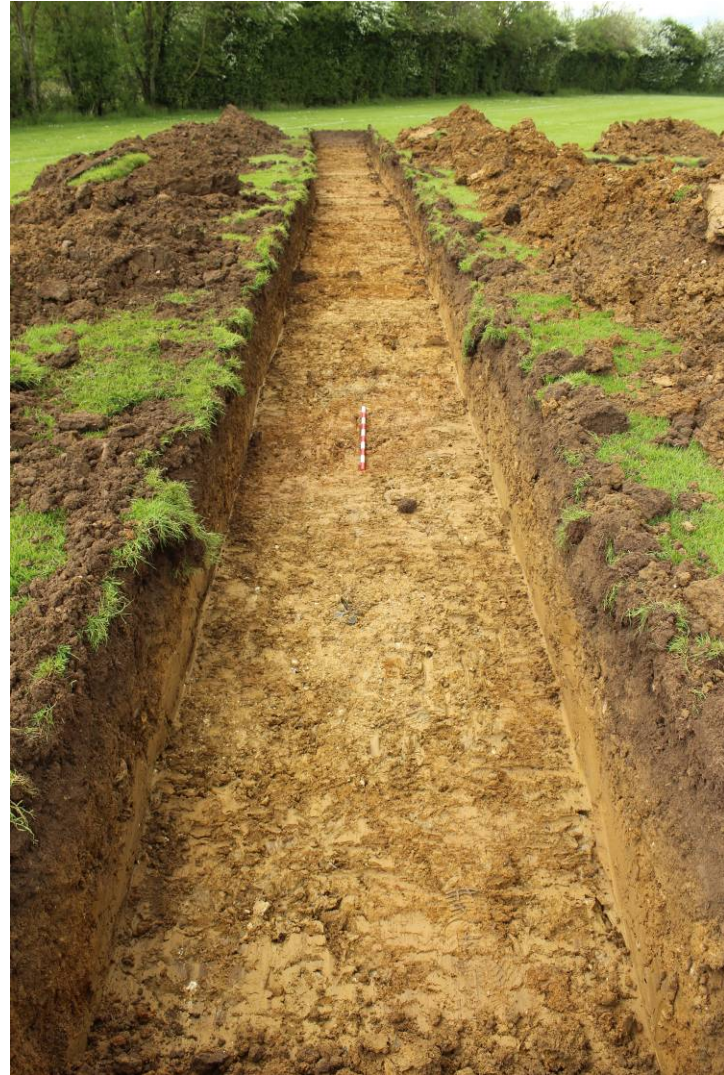




Plate 5: East facing shot of Trench 5



Plate 6: South facing shot of Trench 6



Plate 7:  
West  
facing  
shot of  
Trench 7

Plate 8: South facing shot of Trench 8



Plate 9: North facing shot of Trench 9



Plate 10: West facing shot of Trench 10



Plate 11: North facing shot of Trench 11



Plate 12: North facing shot of Trench 12

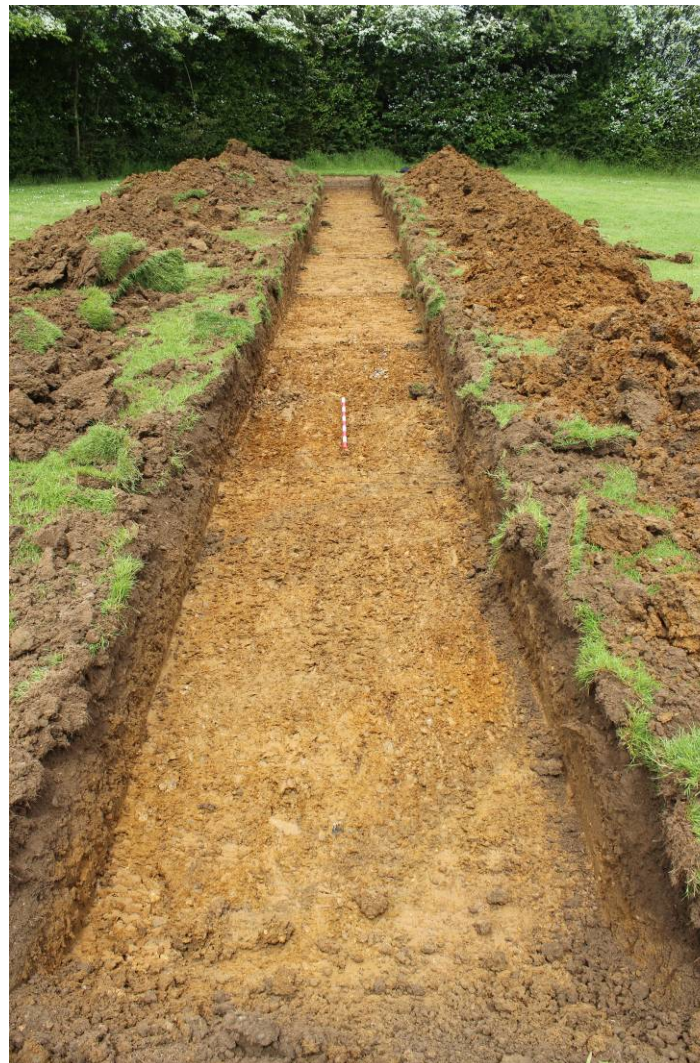


Plate 13: South facing shot of Trench 13



Plate 14: North east facing shot of Trench 14



Plate 15: West facing shot of cut feature [2] within Trench 10



Plate 16: North facing shot of cut feature [4] within Trench 10



Plate 17: North west facing shot of cut feature [6] within Trench



## **9 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 A natural deposit of Lowestoft Formation clay gravel, was observed across the entirety of the site, and exhibited a notable slope downwards from south-west to north-east.
- 9.2 Truncating the underlying gravels were three cut features, tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age and medieval to post-medieval periods on the basis of finds recovered. These comprised three linear features, possibly early field drainage or field boundaries, suggesting that the wider area was consistently used as farmland.
- 9.3 The majority of the site appeared to have undergone only limited impacts during the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries, mainly by modern field drainage pipes. The depositional sequence of the site was completed by topsoil and turf over all of the trenches.



## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

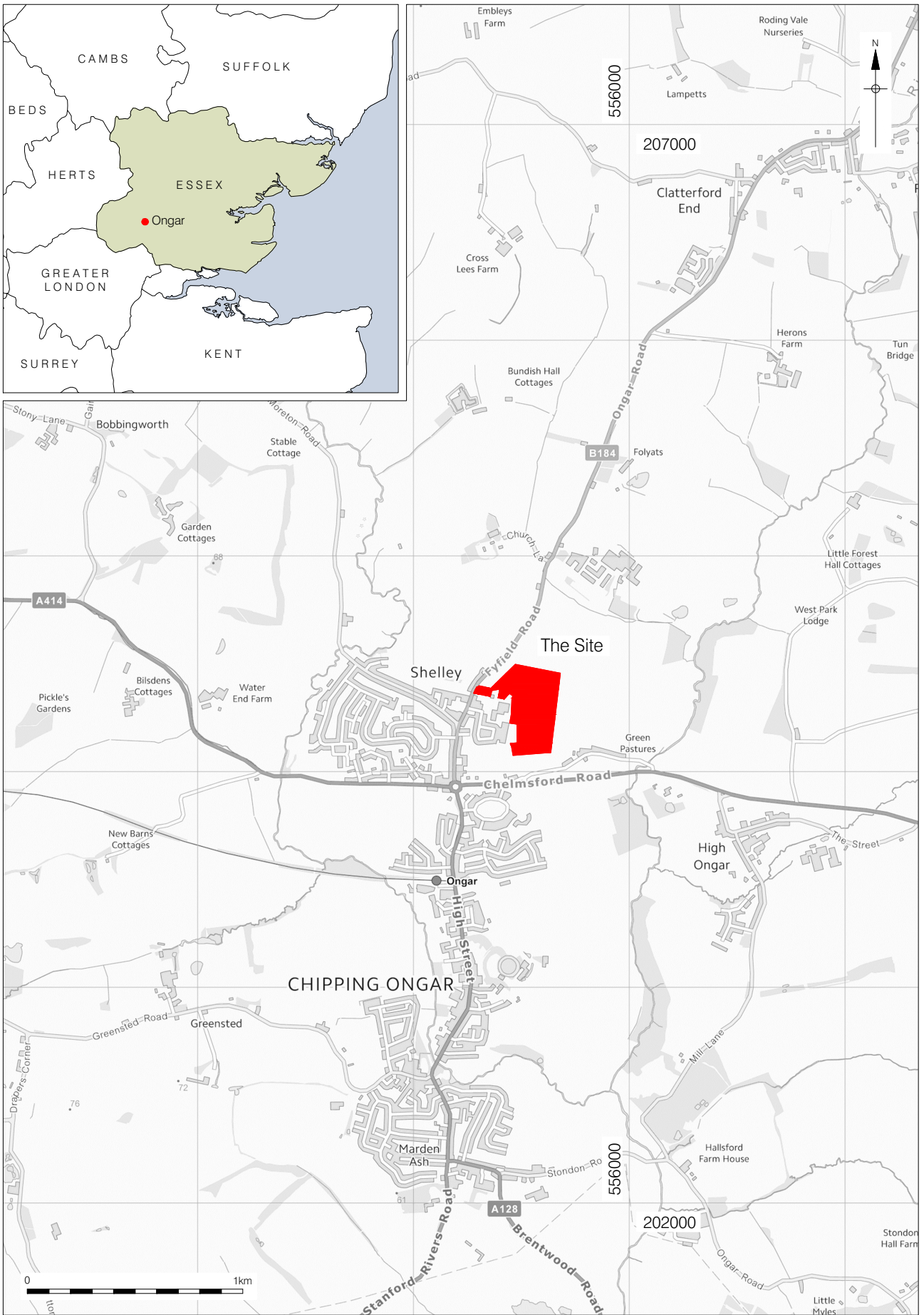
- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Kier Construction for commissioning the fieldwork. Thanks also go to Maria Medlycott for monitoring the work on behalf of Essex County Council.
- 10.2 The authors would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project management and editing, Leonardo Penades for his work on site, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

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 09/06/16 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

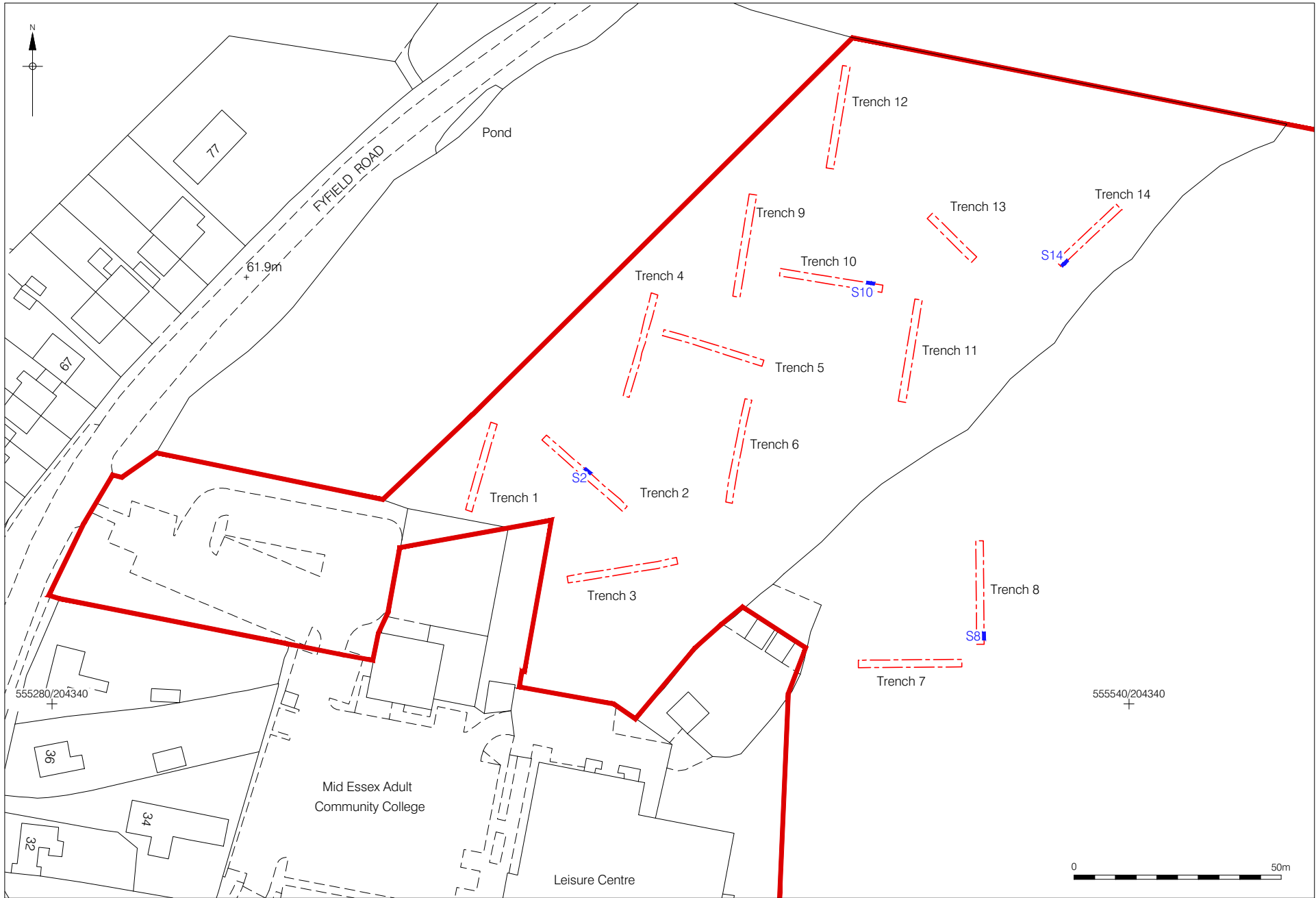


Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:1,250 at A4

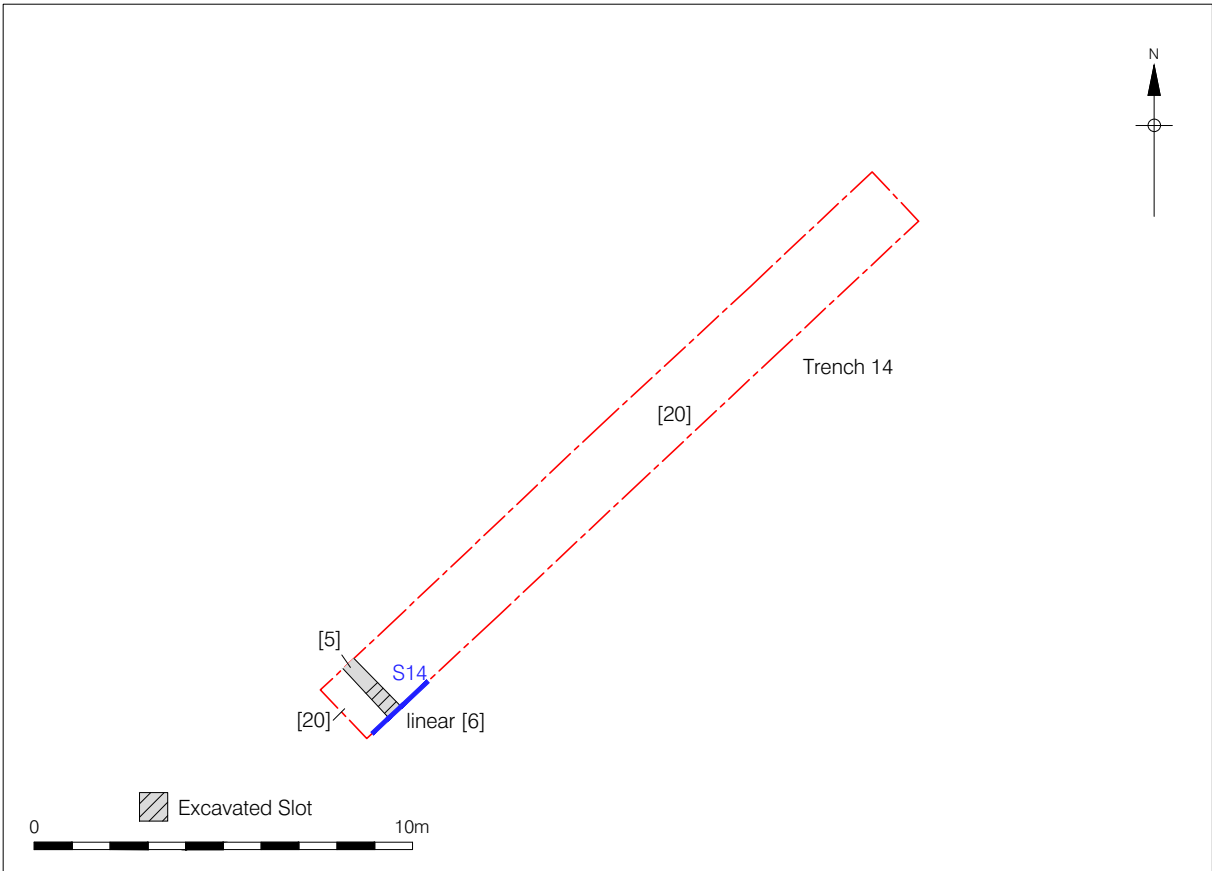
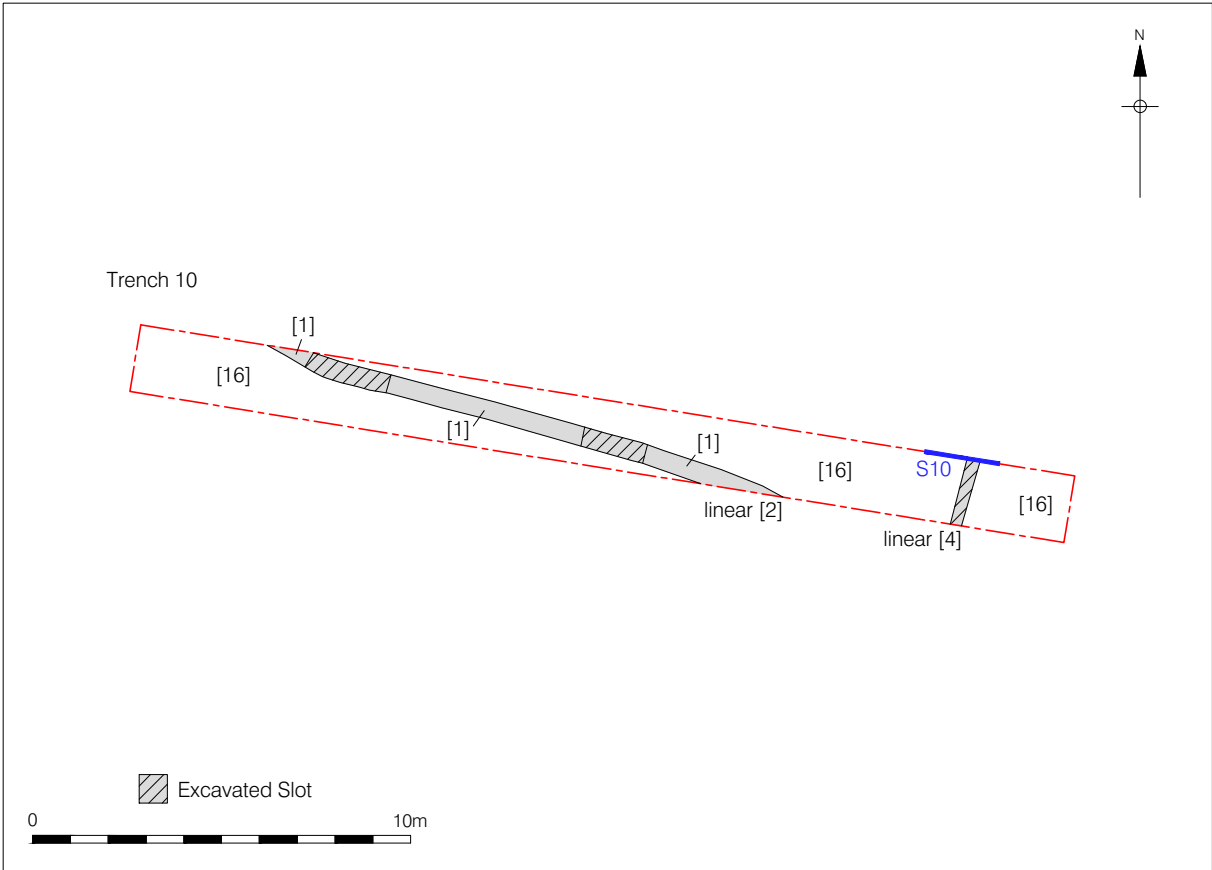
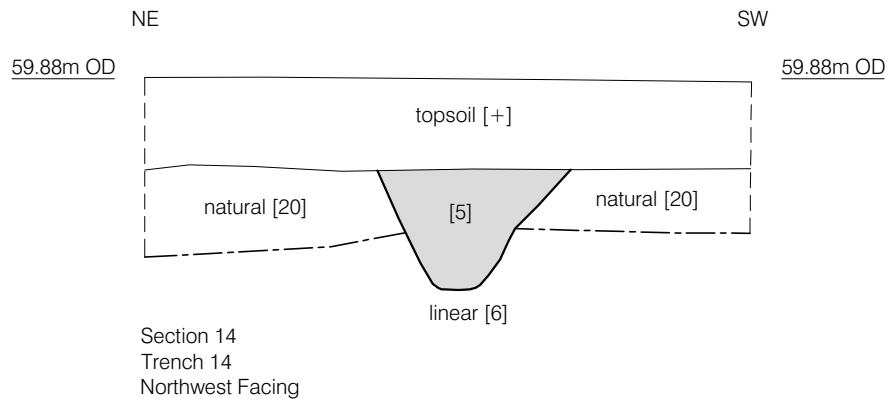
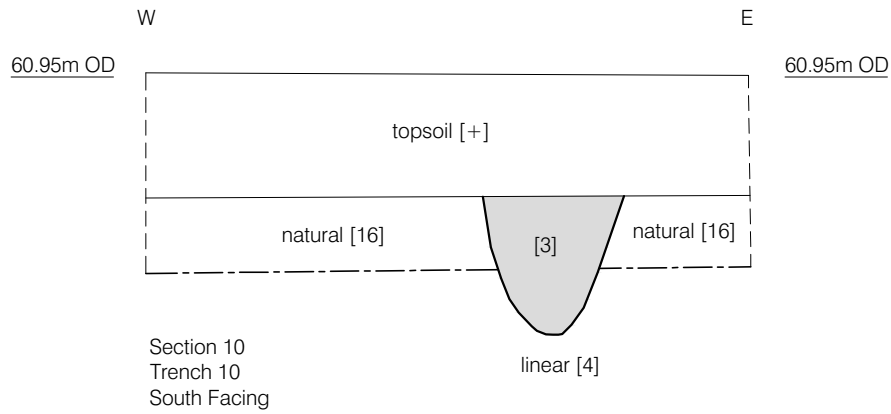
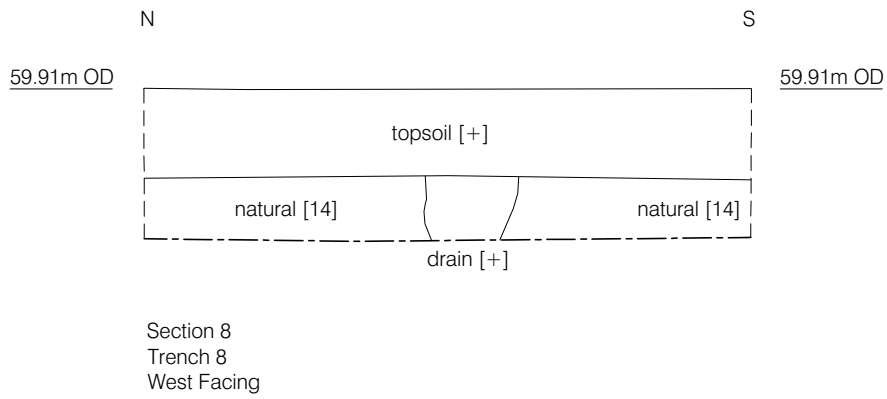
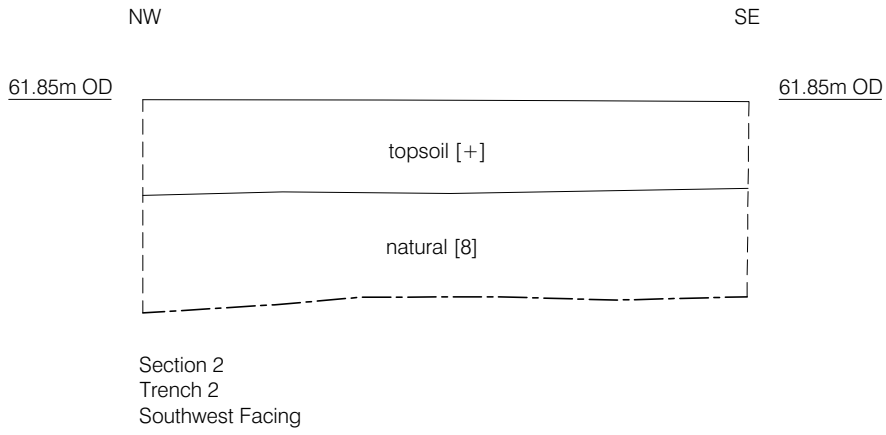
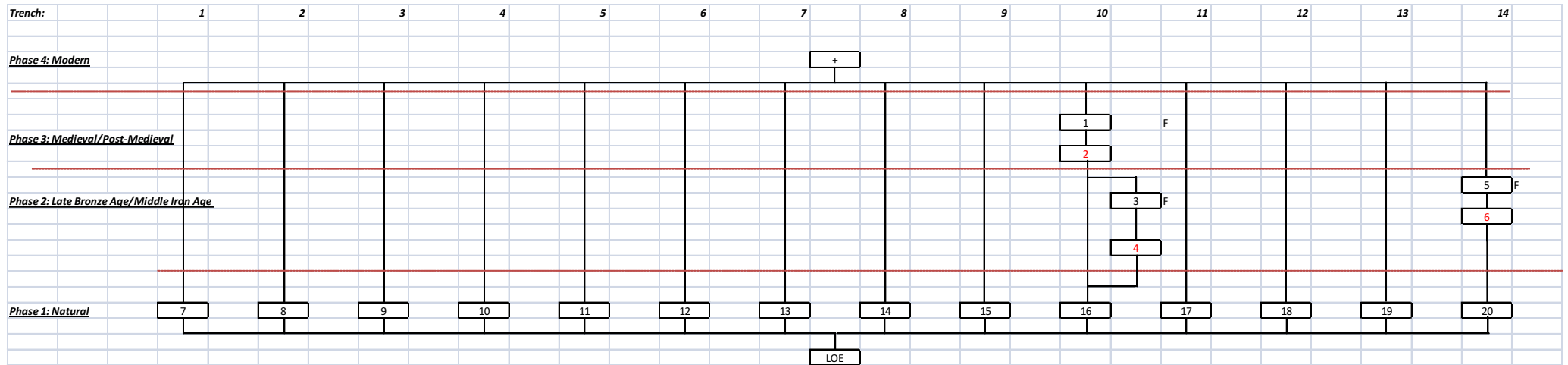


Figure 3  
Plan of Trenches 10 and 14  
1:200 at A4



## APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
EFRO 16	1	Trench 10	n/a	Fill	Soft, greyish brown, silty clay with flint; fill of [2].			D1 (30-35)
EFRO 16	2	Trench 10	n/a	Cut	N-S aligned linear cut with concave sides and flat base; field boundary?			D1 (30-35)
EFRO 16	3	Trench 10	10	Fill	Soft, greyish yellow, silty clay with flint; fill of [4].			D2 (3)
EFRO 16	4	Trench 10	10	Cut	E-W aligned linear cut with concave sides and flat base; early field drainage?			D2 (3)
EFRO 16	5	Trench 14	14	Fill	Soft, greyish brown, silty clay with flint; fill of [6].			D1 (36); D2 (1)
EFRO 16	6	Trench 14	14	Cut	E-W aligned linear cut with concave sides and a flat base; early field drainage?			D1 (36); D2 (1)
EFRO 16	7	Trench 1	1	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (1-2)
EFRO 16	8	Trench 2	2	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (4-5)
EFRO 16	9	Trench 3	3	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (6-7)
EFRO 16	10	Trench 4	4	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (8-9)
EFRO 16	11	Trench 5	5	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (10-11)
EFRO 16	12	Trench 6	6	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (12-13)
EFRO 16	13	Trench 7	7	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (16-17)
EFRO 16	14	Trench 8	8	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (14-15)
EFRO 16	15	Trench 9	9	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (18-19)

Site Code	Cont ext No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
EFRO 16	16	Trench 10	10	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (22-23)
EFRO 16	17	Trench 11	11	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (24-25)
EFRO 16	18	Trench 12	12	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (20-21)
EFRO 16	19	Trench 13	13	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (28-29)
EFRO 16	20	Trench 14	14	Layer	Firm, brownish yellow, silty sandy clay, with flint gravels and chalk; Lowestoft Formation.	Natural		D1 (26-27)



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## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-254120

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### Project details

Project name	THE ONGAR ACADEMY, FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX, CM5 0GA AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. prior to the proposed redevelopment of The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0GA. The fieldwork was carried out between 23rd and 27th May 2016. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of fourteen evaluation trenches to encompass the areas of the site proposed for redevelopment. The evaluation observed that natural clay gravels underlying the site exhibited a notable declination from south-west to north-east. Truncating the natural were three cut features, two of which tentatively are of possible Late Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age date, the other is of possible medieval to post-medieval date. These features comprised three linear cuts, located in Trenches 10 and 14.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2016 End: 27-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EFRO16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST ONGAR Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar
Postcode	CM5 0GA

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Study area 1 Hectares  
Site coordinates TL 5530 0434 51.715769210204 0.248324432385 51 42 56 N 000 14 53 E Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 59.58m Max: 61.7m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Project brief originator Maria Medlycott  
Project design originator Helen Hawkins  
Project director/manager Helen Hawkins  
Project supervisor Poppy Alexander  
Type of sponsor/funding body School  
Name of sponsor/funding body Kier Construction

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Epping Forest Museum  
Physical Archive ID EFRO16  
Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient Epping Forest Museum  
Digital Archive ID EFRO16  
Digital Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Media available "Database","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Epping Forest Museum  
Paper Archive ID EFRO16  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title THE ONGAR ACADEMY, FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX, CM5 0GA AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s) Alexander, P

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher PCA

Place of issue or  
publication London

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Entered by archive (archive@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 9 June 2016

## APPENDIX 4: POTTERY

Prehistoric pottery

Berni Sudds

The 17 sherds of pottery recovered from site probably derive from the same thick-walled shouldered and handled vessel. The body is tempered with a moderate quantity of ill-sorted, fine to coarse calcined flint and is low-fired with a black core, dark greyish brown internal surface and partially oxidised dark greyish brown to orange-buff external surface. The range of inclusions, wall thickness and firing are most indicative of a Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. Handled vessels are uncommon finds during this period and consequently of some significance. Any further work should seek to find a parallel for the vessel form.

Context	Description	Sherd count	Weight	Spot date
Unstratified Trench 14	Calcined flint tempered ware rim sherd, simple slightly thickened.	1	4	Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age
5	Calcined flint tempered ware body and handle sherds from a shouldered vessel.	16	224g	Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age

Table 1: The prehistoric pottery

## APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

### Amparo Valcarcel

Central National Grid Reference: TL 5530 0434

### BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material	Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
1	Local silty fabric	Silty peg tiles	4	1450 1600	1450	1600	1450-1600	No mortar

### Review

The small assemblage (four fragments) consists mainly of small pieces of fragmentary post medieval ceramic building material and is limited to peg tile. The moulding sand is medium to coarse and they are dated probably from 1450 to 1600.

The building material assemblage reflects the post medieval development of this site and none of the material is of intrinsic interest. No further work recommended.

## **APPENDIX 6: FLINT**

Dr FM Meddens

Trench 14 Context + struck flint

1 Retouched flake - cortex & burnt – later prehistoric?

1 Burnt flint, white

Context 1

1 Possible microlith opaque white, trapezoidal retouch at distal end, possible burin – Mesolithic

Context 3

17 Burnt flints, white to red brown, cracked

Context 5

1 Struck flake, with platform, prominent platform, and bulb of percussion and some evidence of trimming – Mesolithic

A small collection of material suggesting transient prehistoric human activity, some going back to the Mesolithic.

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