



Prentice Place (New play facility),  
Carter Mead, Harlow, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief







**PRENTICE PLACE (NEW PLAY FACILITY), CARTER MEAD,  
HARLOW, ESSEX**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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# LAND AT PICKERING STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## PRENTICE PLACE (NEW PLAY FACILITY), CARTER MEAD, HARLOW, ESSEX

### Archaeological Watching Brief

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Blakedowns, to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during topsoil stripping and ground reduction in advance of a new play facility at Prentice Place, Carter Mead, Harlow, Essex located on National Grid Reference (NGR) 547149 208661.

An area covering approximately 504m<sup>2</sup> was stripped using a mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. All excavation works were monitored under constant archaeological supervision.

The first phase of the watching brief was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The second phase of monitoring and excavation work was undertaken between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

During the second phase of works a rectangular structure [115] extending out from the baulk on the western side of the Site was uncovered. This structure comprised of an external wall (111), constructed of Roman tile and brick, and four internal walls (112; 113; 116 and 117) all aligned east-west and each formed from one large Roman brick. The north-east corner of the external wall (111) appeared more substantial in plan (at the depth the ground was reduced to) than the southern end of the wall. Roman pottery, CBM, animal bone and burnt flint were retrieved from the fills within the wall make-up and from inside the structure (106 and 110). The pottery ranges in date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from fill (106), at the northern end of the structure, but this is most likely of an intrusive nature. Due to development plans and time restrictions it was deemed necessary to only record the structure in plan with the aim of preserving the structure *in situ* and moving the development impact accordingly..

Located along the eastern and southern edges of this structure and extending eastwards was a large spread consisting of a mixture of heavily concentrated tile and CBM deposits (103 and 118) and highly concentrated pottery and charcoal deposits (104, 107 and 119). A slot was excavated through deposit (107); at its base a linear [109] aligned north-east/south-west was recorded. The base and sides of [109] were lined with tiles suggesting a possible drain. The pottery and CBM retrieved from these deposits were all dated to the Romano-British period. The pottery from these deposits also dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, with two pieces of mortaria from (107) dated within the range of AD 240-300. A second sherd of post-medieval pottery was recorded from deposit (103); again this is likely to be intrusive.

The large quantities of overfired and underfired CBM suggest that the structure [115] could have functioned as a tile kiln. The structure itself was formed from layers of tiles which may also suggest a kiln. However, the assessment of the CBM suggests that the varying fabric types present and the several styles of combing on the box flue tiles are not typical of a single point of manufacture. It could be possible that the structure may have functioned as a bath house instead; box flue tiles and possible hypocaust bricks can all be associated with a bath house. The nature of the spreads outside the structure could be associated with either a kiln or a bath house.

**PRENTICE PLACE (NEW PLAY FACILITY), CARTER MEAD, HARLOW, ESSEX**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex (who also edited this report). The fieldwork was directed by Sarah Mounce with the assistance of Steven Price. The preparations of the report were carried out by Sarah Mounce and the illustrations were prepared by Kitty Brandon. The environmental samples were processed by Nicola Mulhall and were assessed by Dr Ruth Pelling. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram.

# PRENTICE PLACE (NEW PLAY FACILITY), CARTER MEAD, HARLOW, ESSEX

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Blakedown (hereafter 'The Client') to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Prentice Place, Carter Mead, Harlow, Essex (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 547149 208661 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The works were carried out during topsoil stripping and ground reduction in advance of a new play facility. Development proposals include the construction of a child friendly play surface and associated drainage works.
- 1.1.3 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with *Prentice Place (New play facility), Carter Mead, Harlow, Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief (WSI)* (Wessex Archaeology 2010), this was prepared in advance of the fieldwork. The *WSI* specified the strategy, techniques and methods to be employed by Wessex Archaeology's archaeologists during the watching brief. It was submitted for approval to Essex County Council prior to commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 The initial watching brief was conducted on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 and continued from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### 1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular shaped area of land with a separate oval shaped area in the north-east corner of the Site (**Figure 1**). The Site covers an area of approximately 504m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the south by Southern Way; to the east by Carters Mead, a residential block of flats to the west and to the north by Larksford Primary School. Running along the northern perimeter of the Site is a public footpath.
- 1.2.3 Located just over 200m to the east of the Site is Potter Street.

#### 1.3 Geology, Topography and Land-use

- 1.3.1 The underlying geology on the Site is London Clay, which was laid down during the Eocene period (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000; Sheet 240 - Epping 1981).
- 1.3.2 The Site is situated on relatively flat ground with an average height of 81.22m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### *Prehistoric (500,00BC – AD43)*

- 2.1.1 The earliest evidence for large scale occupation in the vicinity of the Site dates to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period. Excavations in advance



of development at Perry Springs Wood approximately 1km north of the Site recorded a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ring ditch and evidence of associated settlement activity in the form of rubbish pits.

- 2.1.2 Stanegrove Hill, which rises from the Stort plain 800m north-west of Harlow old town, was a religious/ritual centre serving a wide area from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Coin burials dating from the Iron Age period have been recorded on the hill.

***Roman (AD43 – 410)***

- 2.1.3 The site at Stanegrove Hill was succeeded by a small temple, built c. AD 70 and twice rebuilt and extended before being abandoned in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- 2.1.4 Near the temple was a settlement of the same period, probably covering 12 ha or more, with signs of quarrying. Occupational remains from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries were found in the 1970s at Chalk Lane, Harlow Tye and other sites between the temple and the river in 1980 (VCH 1982: 131-149).
- 2.1.5 During excavation of the Tesco's site at Perry Springs Wood, two clusters of features were revealed, resembling the truncated bases of seven small post holes. Only one feature contained datable evidence which comprised of five small sherds of Roman shell ware. Other pottery sherds of Romano-British date were interpreted as being largely residual or intrusive in nature.

***Saxon (AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (AD1066 – 1499)***

- 2.1.6 There is no evidence of Saxon activity within or in the near vicinity of the Site.
- 2.1.7 Old Harlow is first referenced in the Domesday Book dating from 1086. The Site lies close to an area known as 'Potter Street', a hamlet lying within Harlow Parish approximately 2 or 3 miles south of the town. The name Potter Street derives from the local pottery industry.
- 2.1.8 'Cok the Potter' of Pottereshull is referenced in a document of 1251, and there were many references in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries to potters and to the digging of clay pits on Harlow common south-east of the Site. During the medieval period, it is likely that much of the area around Potter Street was heavily wooded. Red London Clay proved ideal for firing and was widely excavated in the locality particularly at Harlow Common. Some of the pits and hollows were still visible on the common in 1977 (VCH 1982: 131-149). The clay was used for making a range of storage vessels while the woodland provided kindling for pottery kilns. The medieval potters lived in the area north of the common and the Site along Foster Street, Potter Street and Latton Street.

***Post-medieval and Modern (AD1500 – to date)***

- 2.1.9 The industry reached its peak in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when Potter Street was supplying London, as well as local markets, with Metropolitan ware. In addition, the kilns produced a range of coarsewares, blackwares and Metropolitan slipwares.
- 2.1.10 A large number of kilns have been excavated in the area. Two kilns associated with coarse pottery of c. 1600 were found on the route of the

M11 motorway near Harlow common, another, with similar coarseware and Metropolitan pottery of a later date, was excavated north of Potter Street.

- 2.1.11 Excavations off Carter Mead north of the Site and at Brenthall Park also identified 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery kilns (ADS Record No. TL 40 NE 35).
- 2.1.12 References to a pottery industry peter out after the 17<sup>th</sup> century suggesting a decline in production. This was likely provoked by competition from the Midland potteries in the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.1.13 Excavations at Perry Springs Wood also record a post-medieval kiln and ditch (ADS Depositors ID 929294). A pit recorded at the Tesco's site contained post-medieval waste pottery and kiln furniture.

## **2.2 Archaeological potential**

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential for all periods is generally considered as low or of low significance.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief, as specified in the *WSI* (Wessex Archaeology 2010), were to determine or confirm the presence or absence and the general nature of any archaeological remains present.
- 3.1.2 In the event of uncovering archaeological remains the watching brief also aimed to:
  - ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on The Site;
  - establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.
  - inform the design of a strategy to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains where present through preservation by record.

### **3.2 Specific**

- 3.2.1 To determine if the Site can enhance the understanding of the landscape and environmental history of the area.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the *WSI* (Wessex Archaeology 2010) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

## **4.2 Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 All topsoil stripping and ground reduction was monitored under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.2.2 An area measuring 504m<sup>2</sup> was stripped using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The Site was reduced and levelled to a depth of 0.3m below the ground surface.
- 4.2.3 The machine excavated arisings were stored to the north of The Site and spoil heaps were routinely inspected for artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

## **4.3 Recording**

- 4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.3.2 A complete drawn record of the Site comprises both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.
- 4.3.3 Photographs were taken as appropriate, providing a record of the archaeological features and deposits to illustrate their location and context, and images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises black and white, colour images and digital photography.
- 4.3.4 All interventions were surveyed using a GPS tied into the Ordnance Survey.

## **4.4 Health and Safety**

- 4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.4.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2010), which was read and understood by all staff attending The Site before groundwork commenced.

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 This section presents the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief. Detailed descriptions of the contexts recorded are included in **Appendix 2**.

### **5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence**

- 5.2.1 The general soil stratigraphy across the Site revealed dark brown silty clay topsoil (**101**) overlying a thin layer of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (**102**).
- 5.2.2 Patches of the natural clay (**114**) appeared towards the south end of the Site.

### 5.3 Archaeological Results

- 5.3.1 A large, light, yellow brown silt/clay spread with grey brown mottles (**103**) and containing abundant tile, pottery, CBM and moderate charcoal patches was revealed across the south-western area of the Site (**Plates 1 and 2, Figure 5**). This deposit was recorded at 0.20m below the ground surface and measured c. 15m by 10m.
- 5.3.2 Encompassed within the extent of the spread **103** were heavy concentrations of charcoal, (deposits **107** and **119**), both of which, also contained abundant quantities of pottery, tile and CBM. A slot measuring 2.92m x 0.8m was excavated through part of deposit (**107**, see **Figure 3**); this revealed very dark grey black slightly silty clay with abundant charcoal, tile and brick, common pottery and moderate bone and burnt flint. Situated at the bottom of the deposit (**107**) was a north-east/south-west aligned linear [**109**] which contained Roman tiles lining the edges and base; this linear was most likely a drain. In section the charcoal deposit (**107**) overlies deposit (**103**), with re-deposited natural (**108**) also situated below **107** (see **Figure 3**). The slot was not excavated down to natural (to avoid unnecessarily disturbing features it had already been proposed to preserve *in situ*) and as a result the relationships between layers/fills **107**, **108** and **114**, and cut **109** were not fully established.
- 5.3.3 Extending out from the west facing baulk of the stripped area within the south-east corner of the Site was a possible curvilinear [**105**], (see **Figure 2**). The curvilinear was aligned north-west/south-east and then continued north, measuring c. 10m x 1.5m. It contained a mid brown grey silty clay fill (**104**) with abundant charcoal, pottery, CBM and tile; similar to charcoal deposits (**107**) and (**119**). At the northern end of [**105**], the curvilinear appears to extend further to the north but contains a completely different fill to (**104**). The fill was mid brown yellow slightly silty clay and contained a high concentration of tile and CBM with only occasional charcoal flecks (**118**). This fill had similarities with (**103**).
- 5.3.4 Recorded in plan only were three possible walls forming an external wall (**111**) to a rectangular structure [**115**], located along the baulk at the very western end of the Site. The external wall (**111**) is aligned north-north-east/south-south-west along its longest axis (6.62m) and orientates west at both its northern and southern ends (maximum of 2m exposed). The wall was constructed of Roman brick and tile, including *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles and box flue tiles. Part of the wall revealed three layers of *tegula* roof tiles. The external wall appeared more substantial at its north-east corner due to a higher concentration of *in situ* brick and tile (see **Figure 4**). It is possible that the wall may have only extended as far as 2m along its north-north-east/south-south-west axis or that the southern section of the wall lies deeper beneath the excavated surface. The cut [**115**] for the external wall (**111**) was unclear in plan due to the charcoal deposit (**107**) running right up to the edge of the tile and bricks which formed the wall. The large amount of scattered tile and CBM across the structure, especially at the southern end, also caused difficulty in identifying its exact extent.
- 5.3.5 Within the northern section of the rectangular structure were four large Roman bricks (**112**; **113**; **116** and **117**) (**Figure 4**) all aligned roughly east-west. Only the upper surfaces of these bricks were exposed and as a result their function remains unclear..



5.3.6 Within the wall make-up and situated inside the structure were two distinctly different fills (**106** and **110**). Located in the northern half of the structure was light brown grey silty clay (**106**) containing moderate amounts of pottery, tile, charcoal and occasional animal bone, with occasional small sub-angular flints. Within the southern section of the structure was a light brown grey silty clay deposit with dark red/orange mottling (**110**) and containing abundant CBM fragments, moderate charcoal fleck inclusions, common chalk flecks and occasional small to medium sub-angular flints. The relationship between these two fills was not substantiated, however it seems likely that fill (**106**) overlies fill (**110**) and the entire structure [**115**], as it is similar to the subsoil (**102**).

## 5.4 Dating

5.4.1 All the pottery and CBM fragments retrieved from the archaeological deposits are of Romano-British date, except for two sherds of post-medieval pottery. The Romano-British sherds range in date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

5.4.2 No dating evidence was gained from the environmental samples.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Finds were recovered from four contexts during the watching brief, and these are nearly all of Romano-British date. Most of the finds are ceramic, and include possible waste from a Romano-British tile kiln. Soil samples taken from all four contexts produced significant quantities of kiln waste, generally in very small fragments; selected fragments only were extracted from these, to provide representative samples.

6.1.2 All finds (including the selected sample finds) have been quantified by material type within each context, and these results are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
103		33/4738	31/365	3 mortar; 1 op sig
104		13/1947		
106	17/37	20/1553	6/105	2 flint; 2 burnt flint
107	1/16	53/9176	29/378	3 fired clay; 7 burnt flint
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18/53</b>	<b>119/17414</b>	<b>66/848</b>	

Key: CBM = ceramic building material; op sig = opus signinum

### 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 All but two sherds of the pottery assemblage are Romano-British. Coarse greywares predominate, and these may represent the products of more than one source. Identifiable vessel forms are limited to everted rim jars, and two dropped flange bowls; the latter forms date to the later 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (spread **103**; fill **106** within possible kiln structure **115**). Also present are a few sherds of coarse oxidised ware, while finewares are represented by three whiteware mortaria from the Oxfordshire production centre, and colour coated wares either from Oxfordshire or the Nene Valley. These finewares are also of late Roman date (spread **103**; deposit **107**) –

the two mortaria from (107) are both of Young's type M17, dated AD 240-300 (Young 1977: 72, fig. 21).

- 6.2.2 The remaining two sherds are post-medieval glazed redwares, which came from spread (103), and deposit (106) within the possible kiln structure [115]; in the latter case the sherd may be intrusive.

### 6.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.3.1 The CBM is all of Romano-British date, and includes identifiable fragments of *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tile, and box flue tile. Other fragments are not attributable to specific type, but include flat fragments of less than 30mm thickness, which could represent further *tegulae*, *imbrices* or box flue tiles; also fragments of more than 30mm thickness, which could derive from hypocaust bricks. Thirteen fragments from deposit (107) make up most of a single *tegula*, with a full surviving width of 270mm and an almost complete length of 380mm; there is a single nail hole placed centrally at one end, and both upper and lower cut-aways on one side.

- 6.3.2 Much of the CBM appears to be overfired (some pieces are completely distorted), and a few pieces are underfired. In other words, this small assemblage has the appearance of including waste from tile manufacture. This may not apply to the whole assemblage, however. While many of the fragments are in a similar, sandy fabric, there are other fabrics present, including one white-firing piece in a much finer fabric, and other pieces with a much lower sand content. The box flue tiles display several different styles of combing, which might not be expected from a single point of manufacture.

### 6.4 Other Finds

- 6.4.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of animal bone (very poor condition and unidentifiable to species); other Romano-British building materials (mortar and *opus signinum*); undiagnostic fired clay (possibly abraded ceramic building material); burnt, unworked burnt flint of unknown date and origin; and two small flint waste flakes.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL

### 7.1 Introduction

#### *Environmental samples taken*

- 7.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken from Roman features for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. Samples were taken from within the curvilinear feature [105], possible kiln [115] (contexts 106 and 110) and the large spreads (103) and (107). Context (107) filled a possible drain [109]. It was hoped that the charred plant remains might shed light on the nature of the spreads and function of the structures.

### 7.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood Charcoal

- 7.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under an x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (Table 2) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and

wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

**Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot								Residue	
Feature	Context	Sample	Litres	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds	Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Charcoal >4mm	Analysis
105	104	201	27	250	20	-	-	-	-	10/35	-	-	-
	103	202	36	175/60		-	-	-	-	5/8	-	-	-
	107	203	35	250	60	-	-	-	-	18/30	-	-	-
115	110	204	20	125	80	-	-	-	-	2/2	-	-	-
115	106	205	20	125	90	-	-	-	-	4/1	-	-	-

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

7.2.2 The flots were of moderate size although they contained large quantities of recent rootlets. Fragments of CBM were present in all the samples examined. Charred material consisted of small quantities of charcoal only. Charcoal was identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.) in context (103). In all other samples the charcoal is of mixed taxa. Small quantities of burnt bone fragments were present in spread (107) and context (110). There was no evidence for waterlogged preservation in the possible drain fill (107). The general uniformity of the flots is such that much of the material is likely to have experienced some mixing or may be derived from a single deposit which has spread across a wide area of the site. There is no evidence for the function of the kiln or curvilinear feature or the nature of the burning events which lead to the formation of the deposits.

### 7.3 Dating

7.3.1 While the non-oak wood charcoal noted in the samples would be suitable for dating it is unlikely to provide a sufficiently refined date to be of significant use. The range of species present is not indicative of any particular period.

### 7.4 Potential

7.4.1 The samples have no further potential; for analysis. The uniformity of the deposits is such that it is likely that they have experienced significant mixing and reworking. It is unlikely that charcoal can be tied in to particular burning or firing events. There is therefore no potential for further work on the charcoal.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The spreads (103, 104, 107, 118 and 119) uncovered across the south-western area of the Site comprised of high concentrations of Romano-British pottery, CBM and charcoal. The CBM is mostly overfired with a few underfired fragments, and include *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles and box flue tiles.

8.1.2 The function of the shallow curvilinear [105] is unclear, but it is apparent that it was backfilled with the same deposits located across the rest of the Site.

- 8.1.3 The linear lined with tiles [109] is suggestive of a drain which appears to run towards the south-east corner of the structure. It is possible that a number of drains could be buried below the rest of the large spreads of CBM, pottery and charcoal.
- 8.1.4 The rectangular structure [115] consists of an external wall constructed of Roman roof tiles and bricks (111) and four internal walls (112, 113, 116 and 117) each aligned east-west and formed from a single large Roman brick. The north-east corner of the structure is more substantial in plan than the southern section (Figure 4), the reason for this is unclear. Part of the north-east corner of the external wall revealed three layers of *tegula* roof tiles.
- 8.1.5 The quantity of CBM, the nature of the spreads and the construction of the external wall (111) with layers of tiles, suggest that the structure may have functioned as a Roman tile kiln. This area of Harlow is known for its pottery industry from the medieval period through to the post-medieval period, reaching its peak during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence for a possible Roman tile kiln on the Site suggests that the industry may have had much earlier antecedents in the area (such early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) than has previously been recorded.
- 8.1.6 The assessment of the CBM, however, may undermine this interpretation. Whilst the quantity of overfired and underfired CBM does appear to be waste material from a tile kiln, the number and of variety of fabrics present in the assemblage and the number of box flue tiles which display several different styles of combing, are not indicative of a single/immediate point of manufacture.
- 8.1.7 There is the possibility that the structure may have simply served as a bath house. Evidence of box flue tiles and possible hypocaust bricks within the structure are all indicative of a bath house. The burnt spreads could also be associated with the waste from or subsequent destruction of a bath house.
- 8.1.8 The significance of these archaeological remains revealed during the watching brief has affected the proposed development plans for the Site. As a result the former western boundary of the Site will be moved 7m eastwards in order to avoid impacting on the identified archaeological remains.
- 8.1.9 The topsoil strip across the rest of the Site revealed an absence of significant archaeological remains suggesting a low potential for archaeological remains to be affected by the proposed development towards the east and north-east of the Site.

## 9 PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1.1 It is considered likely that in view of the nature of the significance of the findings contained within this report that the Archaeological Officer for Essex County Council will require that a short note be prepared for publication in the Essex Proceedings. In order to ensure the appropriate dissemination of the reports findings, costs will be agreed with the client.



## **10 CONFIDENCE RATING**

- 10.1.1 This report posits a **moderate to high degree of confidence** that archaeological features or significant deposits within the stripped area were recognised and recorded where present.

## **11 ARCHIVE**

### **11.1 Preparation and Deposition**

- 11.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and in accordance with *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (Walker 1990) and following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the County Museum Service or similar repository to be agreed with the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor.

### **11.2 Archive**

- 11.2.1 Following the fieldwork the archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to Wessex Archaeology's Maidstone office where they were processed and assessed for this report. The accompanying documentary records from the watching brief have been compiled into a stable fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

- 11.2.2 The contents of the project archive, comprises an A4 ring-bound file containing the following (as further detailed in **Appendix 1**):

- 19 Context Record Sheets and 1 Context Register
- 1 A1, 1 A3 and 2 A4 Drawings, including 1 Graphics Register
- 5 Photographic Records
- Day Book
- Survey Book
- A copy of the WSI

- 11.2.3 The project archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Maidstone office under the site code **73720**. The project archive will be deposited with The Museum of Harlow in Essex. Deposition of the finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **11.3 Copyright**

- 11.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive license for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## 11.4 Security Copy

- 11.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at The Museum of Harlow, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## 12 REFERENCES

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London, English Heritage

Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000; Sheet 240 – Epping 1981

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists

Stace C. 1997 *New flora of the British Isles* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*. UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology (2010) *Larksford Primary School Play Park, Harlow, Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation For an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Ref T13443

Wessex Archaeology 2010 *Prentice Place (New play facility), Carter Mead, Harlow, Essex. Project Health and Safety Risk Assessment*. Ref T13443.02

Young C.J. 1977 *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*. Oxford: British Archaeological Report 43

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[www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk)

[www.eaareports.org.uk](http://www.eaareports.org.uk)

[www.thamesweb.com](http://www.thamesweb.com)

[www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE INDEX

File No.	NAR Cat.	Details	Format	No. Sheets
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	A	Client Report	A4	
1	-	Project Specification	A4	11
1	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	19
1	B	Context records	A4	19
1	B	Survey Data Index	A4	1
1	B	Survey Data Print-out	A4	
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	2
1	B	Site Graphics	A3	1
1	B	Site Graphics	A1	1
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	5
1	D	CD-Rom – digital photo's	-	
1	E	Environmental Sample Register	A4	1
1	E	Environmental Sample Records	A4	5
2	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	1
2	-	Colour slides	35mm	1
<b>FINDS</b>		66 Pottery; 119 CBM; 18 Animal Bone; 18 other		

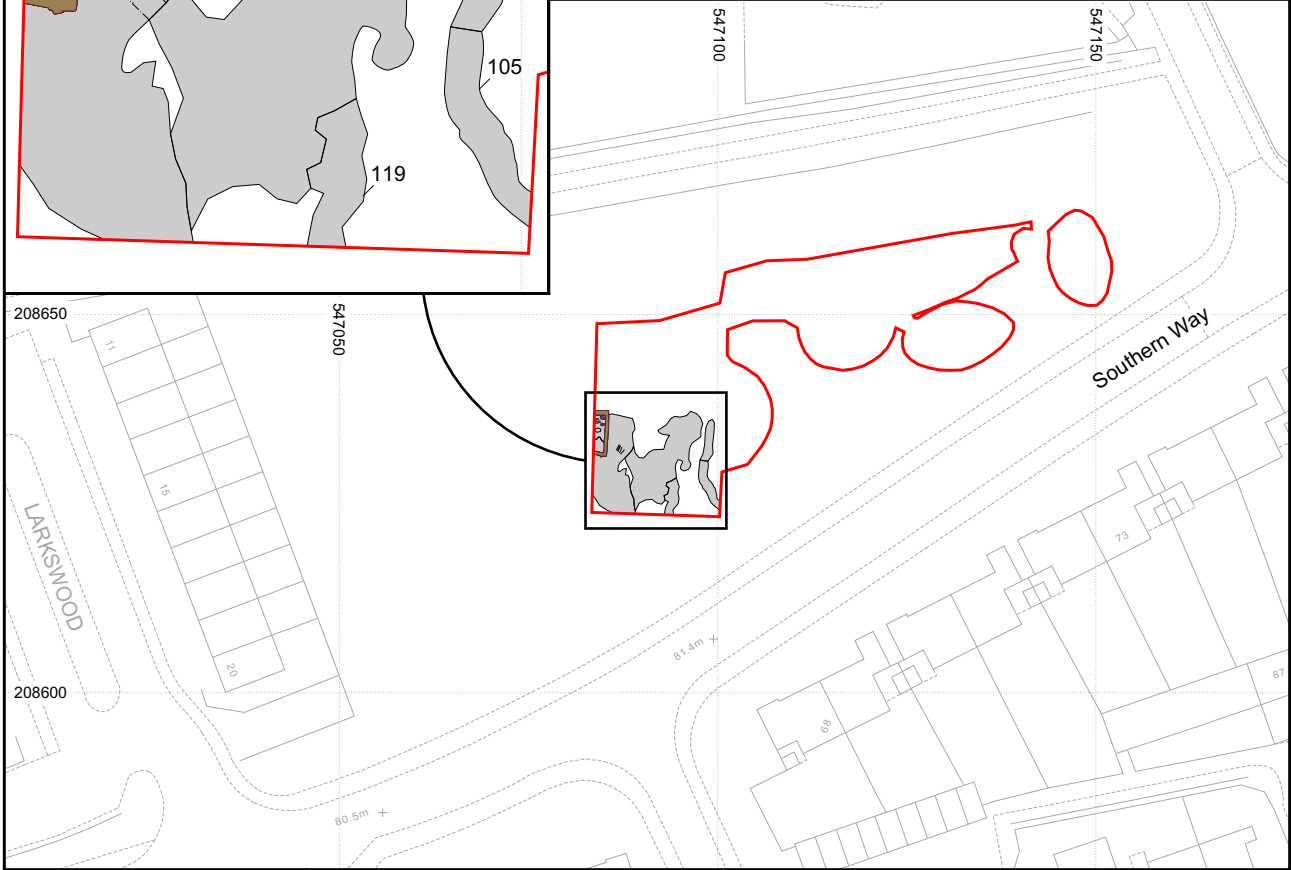
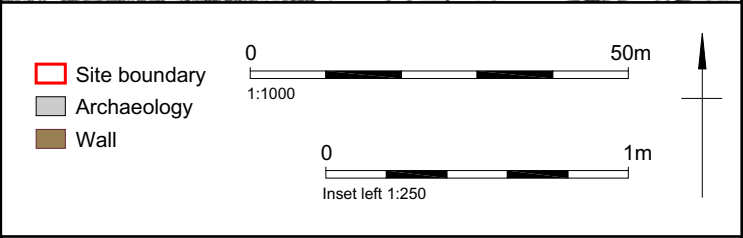
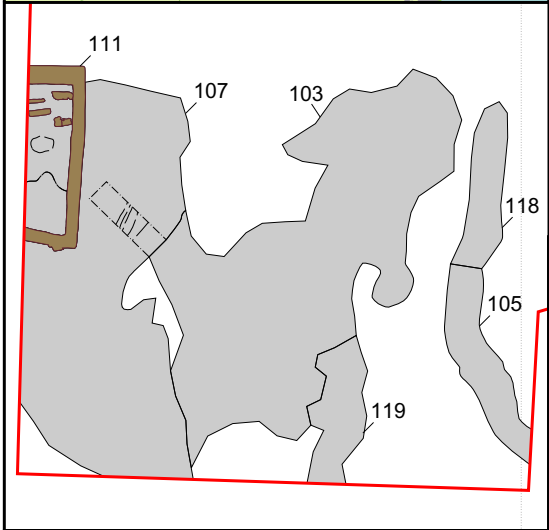
## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**  
 All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated

Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Dimensions
101	Dark brown silty clay containing occasional CBM and brick fragments and occasional small sub-round/sub-angular stones including flint	Topsoil	0.20m deep
102	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Subsoil	0.10m deep
<b>103</b>	Light yellow brown stiff silty clay with grey brown mottles containing abundant tile, pottery and CBM, moderate charcoal patches and occasional flint nodules	<b>Deposit</b> – Tile and pottery spread	15m x 10m (depth unknown)
<b>104</b>	Mid brown grey silty clay containing abundant charcoal, CBM and tile, with occasional small sub-rounded stones	<b>Fill of Cut 105</b> – charcoal, pottery and tile fill (similar to <b>107</b> )	0.11m deep
<b>105</b>	Curvilinear in plan with shallow concave sides and an undulating base.	<b>Cut</b> – possible curvilinear containing abundant charcoal, pottery and tile <b>105</b>	1m x 1.5m x 0.11m
<b>106</b>	Light brown grey silty clay containing moderate pottery, tile, charcoal and occasional bone, with occasional small sub-angular flints	<b>Fill</b> – covering and within walls of structure <b>115</b> (situated at its northern end)	2.23m x 1.4m (depth unknown)
<b>107</b>	Very dark grey black slightly silty clay containing abundant tile, brick and charcoal; common pottery; moderate bone and burnt flint. With occasional large sub-rounded flint nodules and small flint pebbles	<b>Deposit</b> – charcoal deposit similar to <b>104</b> and separate from, but contemporary with, <b>103</b>	2.92m x 0.8m x 0.52m
108	Very light brown yellow slightly silty clay containing common charcoal flecks and CBM fragments, with moderate small rounded pebbles	Redeposited natural – possibly lining upper edges of <b>109</b> ?	Not excavated
<b>109</b>	NE/SW aligned linear with steep straight sides and rounded base.	<b>Cut</b> – tile-lined drain deliberately back-filled in one episode with <b>107</b>	0.8m x 0.45m x 0.17m
<b>110</b>	Light brown grey silty clay with dark red orange mottles containing abundant CBM fragments and moderate charcoal flecks, with common chalk flecks and occasional small - medium sub-angular flints	<b>Fill</b> – covering and within walls of structure <b>115</b> (situated at its southern end)	2.74m x 1.36m (depth unknown)
<b>111</b>	NNE/SSW aligned wall turning west at its northern and southern ends. Wall is a mixture of red brick and tile, including roofing tiles and box flume tiles.	<b>Wall</b> – external wall forming structure <b>115</b> . (NE corner of wall more substantial)	6.62m x <2m exposed (height unknown)
<b>112</b>	E/W aligned wall, made up of one large brick	<b>Wall</b> – internal wall of structure <b>115</b>	0.65m x 0.25m (height not known)
<b>113</b>	E/W aligned wall, made up of one large brick	<b>Wall</b> – internal wall of structure <b>115</b>	0.6m x 0.25m x 0.12m exposed
114	Light brown yellow clay with occasional outcrops of small rounded pebbles	Natural clay	n/a



<b>115</b>	Rectangular in plan containing external brick and tile wall	<b>Structure</b> – possible Roman kiln	6.62m x <2m exposed (height unknown)
<b>116</b>	E/W aligned wall, made up of one large brick	<b>Wall</b> – internal wall of structure <b>115</b>	0.65m x 0.32m (height unknown)
<b>117</b>	E/W aligned wall, made up of one large brick	<b>Wall</b> – internal wall of structure <b>115</b>	0.55m x 0.14m x 0.05m exposed
<b>118</b>	Mid brown yellow slightly silty clay containing abundant tile and CBM fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and small – medium sub-angular flints	<b>Deposit</b> – tile and CBM deposit, similar to <b>103</b> . Possibly forming continuation of <b>105</b>	6m x 1m (depth unknown)
<b>119</b>	Mid grey brown slightly silty clay containing abundant charcoal, common pottery and wasters with occasional small sub-angular flints	<b>Deposit</b> – charcoal deposit, similar to <b>104</b> and <b>107</b> .	5m x 2m (depth unknown)



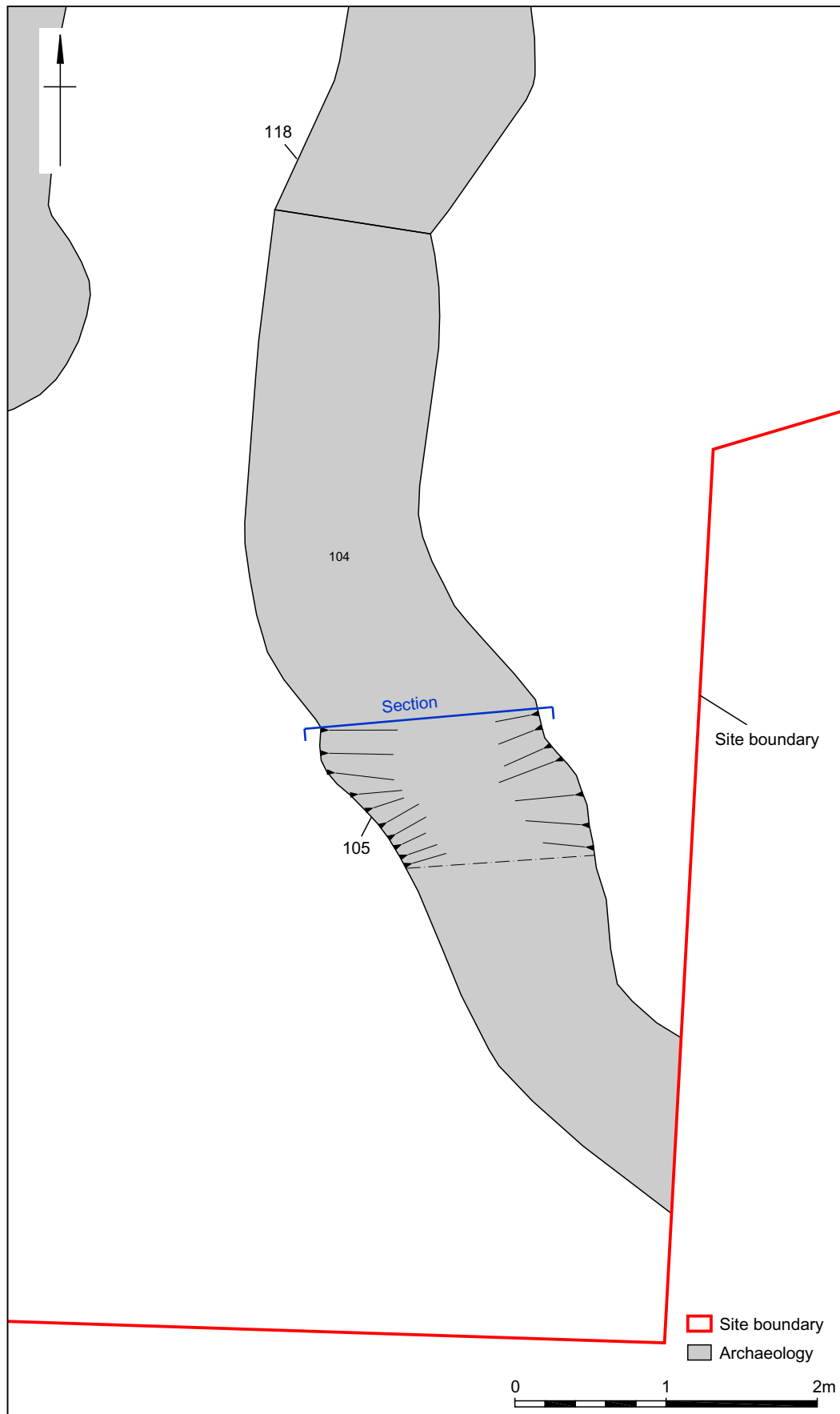
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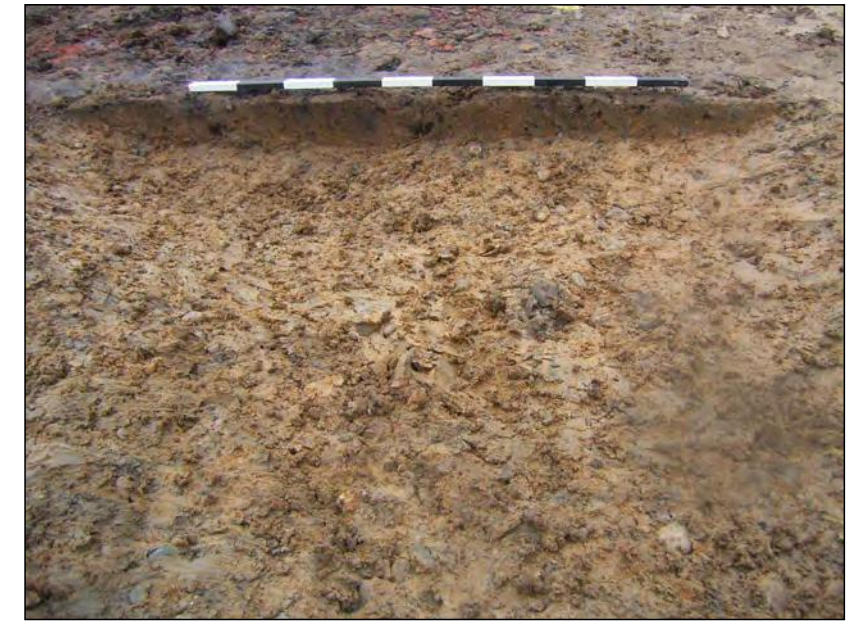


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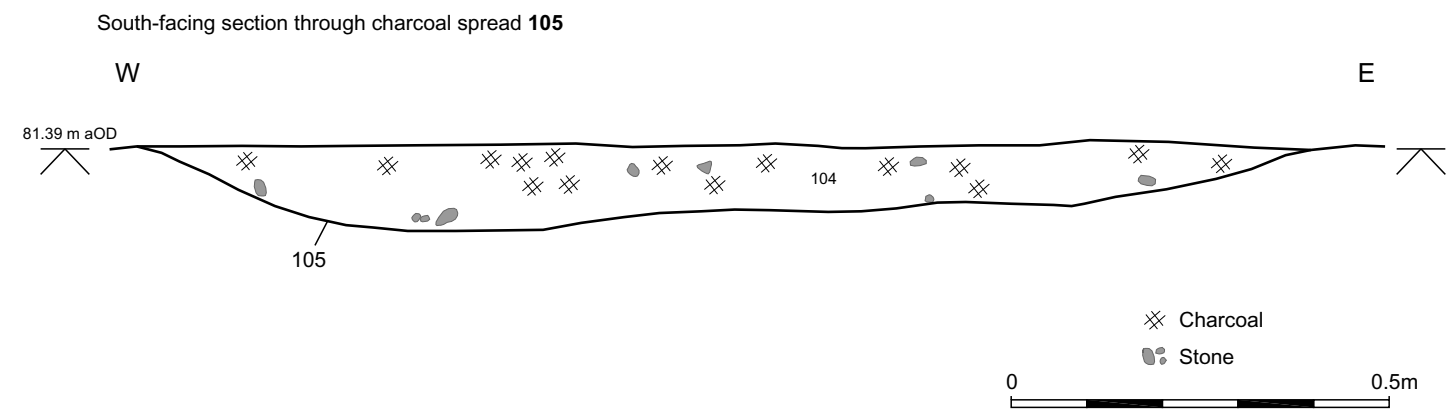
Figure 1



Pre-excitation view of 105 from the west



104 and 105 from the south



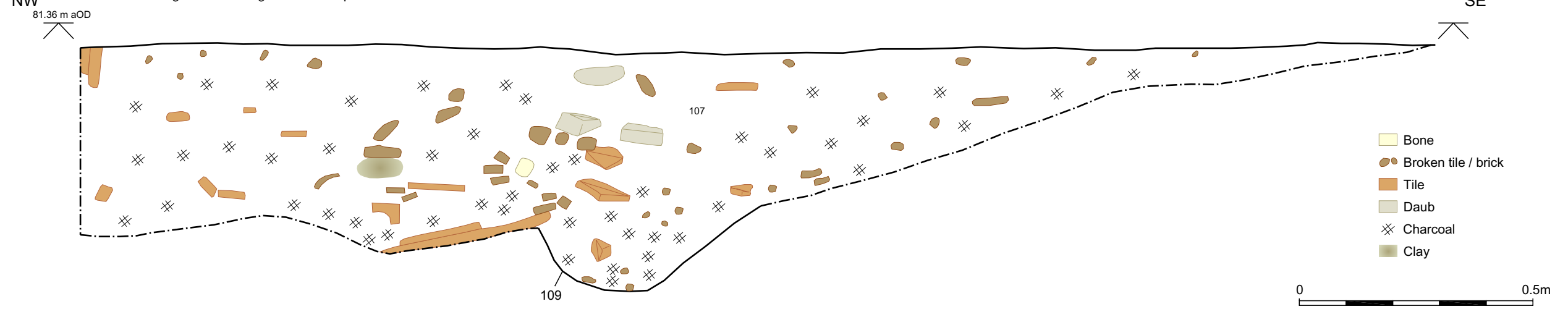
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109 and 107 from the south-west

South-west facing section through charcoal deposit 107







Plan of wall 111



Wall 111 from the north



Wall 111 from the east



Detail of wall 111 from the east

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Plate 1: 103 from the south



Plate 2: The Site from the north

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