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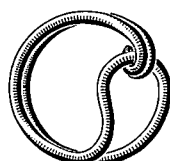
**Martell's Quarry, Ardleigh, Essex: Areas A, B, D, E and F
Initial Results and Post-Excavation Assessment**

TM 0535 2770

Project Nos. 1392 & 1440

by
Fiona Griffin BA AIFA

October 2002



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST

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ABSTRACT

Small-scale excavations were carried out following the topsoil removal on three 60m x 60m areas in advance of sand quarrying. Archaeological features, including ditches, pits, postholes, a possible hearth and a single cremation were recorded. Undiagnostic prehistoric, Bronze Age and Roman material was recovered from most of the features.

Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London, one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and Archaeology South-East were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, FAU/ Archaeology South-East retain a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and as such is required to meet IFA standards.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by Environomics Ltd, on behalf of Bucbricks Co. Ltd., to undertake archaeological works on land immediately adjacent to Martell's Quarry, Park Farm, just to the south of Ardleigh in Essex (NGR TM 0525 2770, Figs 1 and 2). The site originally lay within an area of open farmland, comprising formally ploughed land which had been left to revert to grass. Martell's Quarry, an open sand-pit, lies immediately to the west. The area has a topographically flat aspect and varies between 36 and 37m AOD.
- 1.2 The site is to be worked for sand extraction (ES/56/96/TEN), however, due to the potential archaeological sensitivity of the area a condition had been placed on the planning consent to ensure a phased scheme of archaeological works be undertaken before extraction commenced.
- 1.3 The initial element of the scheme of works was a staged evaluation of the site. Initially a geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1996¹. This suggested the presence of some archaeological features within the detailed survey areas (numbered A - G) of the proposed quarry. However, at least two of these areas (A and D) did not exhibit any geophysical anomalies. Subsequently an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the two most westerly areas (A and E) in 1997.² The eleven trial trenches revealed nothing of archaeological interest and no further work was undertaken prior to extraction in these areas.
- 1.4 The next phase of archaeological work involved the evaluation of Area F.³ This work, consisting of three trial trenches, revealed a number of archaeological features, most of which were of Bronze Age date. Following these findings Area F was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision and the exposed features excavated during June and July 2001 by a small team from Archaeology South-East (ASE Project No. 1392). Subsequently, two further areas to the north were stripped under archaeological supervision (Areas B and D) and the exposed features subjected to excavation during October 2001 (ASE Project No. 1440).
- 1.5 Specifications for the Stage 2 archaeological works for both Areas F and B/D were provided by the Heritage Advice, Management and Promotion Group of Essex County Council. Some of the information used in this report is derived from these Specifications, with due acknowledgement. In accordance with these documents Method Statements were produced for the works by

¹ Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1996. *Martell's Quarry, Ardleigh*. Unpublished client Report No. 96113.

² James, R. 1997. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Martell's Quarry, Ardleigh, Essex*. Archaeology South-East unpublished client report No. 632.

³ James, R. 2000. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Martell's Quarry, Ardleigh, Essex*. Archaeology South-East unpublished client report No. 1211.

Archaeology South-East and duly approved by ECC prior to the onset of site work.

- 1.6 The current document relates to the Stage 2 excavations carried out on Areas B, D and F. For convenience and completeness the results of the Stage 1 evaluation for Area F have been included with the current report. This report gives an outline of the results of the investigations together with a rapid assessment of the potential of the data and finds for further analysis. This assessment cannot yet be seen as definitive until the remaining areas (particularly G, Fig. 2) have been investigated. Results from these areas may increase or decrease the importance of the current findings. As such no resource allocations for analysis work or detailed publication proposals have been put forward at this stage.
- 1.5 The fieldwork for Areas F, B and D was supervised by Fiona Griffin (Assistant Field Officer) and Richard James (Field Officer). The project was managed by Ian Greig (Project Manager) and Luke Barber (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 Archaeological Background

2.1 As part of the overall scheme of archaeological works a search was made of the County Sites and Monuments Record, held by Essex County Council in Chelmsford and the results were included in the 1997 evaluation report. A total of 20 sites or artefact find-spots were recorded in the immediate vicinity of the excavation sites, with many others recorded in the surrounding area. The nearest sites discovered in the 1997 search have been included below for completeness:

Site No.	OS Grid Reference	Description	References
2479	TM 0525 2757	Remains of LCP (Large Cooking Pot?), indeterminate date, found in 1957.	Some notes held by ECC.
3342	TM 055 282	Prehistoric pit found in gravel pit, containing 5 sherds of coarse, flint-gritted, hand-made pottery, of "general Iron Age type." Excavated 1975.	
3343	TM 050 279	The Twenty-Two Acres Field. Hollowed-out tree-trunk, 3' diameter, placed in pit, packed inside and out with clay containing Roman pottery. Interpreted as ritual shaft. Found during gravel extraction 1965.	F.H.Erith, Colchester Arch. Group Ann. Bull., vol.8 (1965), pp.30-9. A.Ross, Studies in Ancient Europe (1968), p.258.
3346	TM 0539 2834	Roman pot (Cam 268), dated to before 250AD. Excavated 1972.	Colchester Arch. Bull., vol.15 (1972), p.15. Hull, Rep. Soc. Ant., vol.21 (1963), p.183.
3347	TM 055 282	Butt end of modern field ditch. Excavated 1975.	
3348	TM 055 282	Shallow gullies and pits, indeterminate date. Excavated 1976.	
3472	TM 0560 2842	Late Bronze Age (c.1400-700BC) cemetery, comprising barrows and urnfield. Originally discovered by F.H.Erith during deep ploughing in 1955. By 1960, 101 urned cremations found, distributed in 8 spatial groupings, later extended to 106 urned cremations and "20 or so not in urns".. 1974-ECC watching-brief revealed several cremations, bringing total to 170. Further excavations in 1979-80 revealed barrows and trackway forming eastern boundary of cemetery.	Colchester Arch. Group Ann. Bull., vols.1-6 & 9 (1958-66). Erith & Longworth, <i>Proc. Prehistoric Soc.</i> , vol.26 (1960).

3474	TM 0554 2839	Iron Age pottery found in upper silts of Bronze Age ring ditch. Excavated 1961.	Erith, Colch. Arch. Group Ann Bull. vol.4 (1961), p.34. Lawson <i>et al.</i> , East Anglian Arch., vol.12 (1981), p.98.
3475	TM 0556 2840	Sherd of coarse Iron Age pottery "with double curve", from top of undisturbed ring-ditch. Excavated 1960.	
3478	TM 057 283	Iron Age pottery and Yorkshire sandstone pestle (prob. glacial erratic). Observed 1960.	Essex Arch. & Hist., vol.7 (1975), pp.24-7.
3480	TM 057 283	3 Belgic cremations, each accomp. by 2 pedestal urns and other accessory vessels. Observed 1960.	
3485	TM 056 283	Belgic material found in plough scatter, 1960.	
3489	TM 057 284	Roman grave groups, 2-3 century date. Found 1977?	
3491	TM 051 280	Roman grey-ware sherd, found at plough-depth, on inside edge of Bronze Age ring-ditch. Excavated 1963.	Col. Arch. Group Ann. Bull. vol.6 (1963), p.41.
3493	TM 0555 2840	Sherd of "thin grey ware, iron age C [<i>sic.</i>] or Roman", in upper silts of Bronze Age ring-ditch. Excavated 1960.	Col. Arch. Group Ann. Bull. vol.3 (1960), p.38.
3494	TM 0556 2840	Sherd of Roman grey ware, from top silts of Bronze Age ring-ditch. Excavated 1960.	
3495	TM 0554 2839	Roman pottery in upper silts of Bronze Age ring-ditch. Excavated 1961.	
3496	TM 0560 2841	Roman pits, cropmark.	
3499	TM 0562 2828	Roman pottery kiln, pear-shaped, 7' x 3' internally. Associated coarse-ware pottery. Excavated 1956.	Victoria County History, Essex, p.38.
3502	TM 059 287	Cropmarks, indeterminate nature.	

2.2 The site lies within an area of great archaeological interest.⁴ A series of cropmarks are located to the north, which include an important Bronze Age urn cemetery (the Ardleigh Group, a sub-type of the Deverel-Rimbury cultural tradition⁵), important for several reasons, including, according to Couchman⁶, the only known association of metalwork and pottery of this period in the county (although further work since 1980 may have uncovered further examples). The area has also produced evidence for Early to Middle Iron Age

⁴ D.G.Buckley (ed.), *Archaeology in Essex to AD 1500*, CBA Research Report No. 34 (1980).

⁵ F.H.Erith & I.H.Longworth, "A Bronze Age Urnfield on Vincens Farm, Ardleigh, Essex", *Proc. of the Prehistoric Society* 26 (1960), pp.178-192.

⁶ C.R.Couchman, "The Bronze Age in Essex" in Buckley, *Ibid.*, p.42.

(c.700-150BC) settlement and a Late Iron Age (c.150BC-43AD) urned cremation cemetery, the latter posing interesting questions regarding possible continuity of use over two millennia. Sparser evidence for Roman activity exists with a number of isolated finds of pottery, together with a pottery kiln.⁷ The minor road that runs to the south of the site (Park Road) roughly follows the line of a Roman road which linked Colchester (CAMVLQDVNVM) with, perhaps, a minor port on the Stour in the vicinity of modern Manningtree and Mistley. No later artefacts or features have been recovered from the site, although the names Park Road and Ardleigh Park might suggest the previous existence of a medieval deer-park, perhaps associated with Martell's Hall.

2.3 An opportunity was also taken in 1997 to consult air-photographs held by the County Council, although time constraints meant that only a small selection could be examined. It appeared from this small sample that most aerial activity had concentrated on the areas to the north of the present site, with the excavation field appearing, if at all, in the background, distorted and out of focus. No cropmarks were observed.

2.4 The natural geology of the site comprises sands and gravels of the Kesgrave Formation.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 A machine strip was undertaken under archaeological supervision using a toothless ditching bucket on Areas B, D and F, which were located in the field using a total station.

3.2 All archaeological excavation and recording work was carried out in accordance with the Method Statement. Archaeological features and deposits were described on individual context sheets. All features were planned and their sections drawn on plastic drafting film at an appropriate scale. A full photographic record was maintained during the work. All archaeological features were levelled in relation to Ordnance Datum.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Excavation was carried out to a depth of 5-600mm. The stratigraphy comprised of 150-200mm of topsoil (Context 1- mid grey brown slightly sandy silt with less than 10% occasional -common flint gravel) sitting on top of 200-300mm of ploughsoil (Context 2- mid orange grey brown sandy silt with c.10% occasional -common flint gravel). These overlay the natural sand and gravel (Context 3- mottled mid brown orange silty sand with silt patches and frequent discrete patches of flint gravel with manganese flecking).

⁷ Map of Roman Britain, South Sheet, Ordnance Survey (1978).

Area B (Fig. 3)

- 4.2 A curvilinear ditch (Context 1014) was observed cut in to the natural running across the area. This shallow ditch contained a mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional sub rounded flint gravel (Context 1013). This ditch produced no finds but clearly cut Context 1016, a ditch which has been dated to the Roman period.
- 4.3 Two pits in close proximity to one another were present in the centre of the site (Contexts 1017 & 1020). Pit 1017 formed an irregular oval in plan with a flat base. Two fills were present within the pit, the primary fill (Context 1018) was a mid greyish orange silty sand with occasional flint gravel and manganese pieces which produced no finds. The secondary fill (Context 1019) a light grey brown sandy silt produced a sherd of 19th- century pottery. To the south of the pit lay an irregular cut possibly a pit (Context 1020). This was not excavated as it appeared to be very modern in date. A fragment of iron was found from the surface of the fill (Context 1021).
- 4.4 Both pits cut an extremely shallow linear ditch (Context 1016) which ran across the area. It contained a single fill (Context 1015) a mid orange grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and sub round flint gravel. Thirty sherds of Roman amphora were recovered from the two slots excavated through this ditch.

Area D (Fig. 3)

- 4.5 A shallow narrow U-shaped linear gully (Context 1003) was observed cut in to the natural running NE-SW across the area. No artefacts were found within the fill (Context 1004- light grey brown sandy clay silt containing occasional flint gravel) though it is probably prehistoric as it is cut by 1005 which is of a prehistoric date. Cutting this at its SW end was a regular U-shaped linear ditch (Context 1009) running E-W which contained a mid grey brown clay silt (Context 1010) with occasional flint gravels and one small sherd of Roman pottery.
- 4.6 A further feature was observed cutting gully 1003, an oval flat based pit (Context 1005) possessing a single fill (Context 1006) a light cream brown sandy clay silt containing occasional flint gravel, manganese pieces and charcoal flecks, as well as three sherds of prehistoric pottery. To the north of this pit lay a second smaller cut (Context 1007). This feature was U-shaped in profile and contained a dark black grey silt with occasional sub rounded flint and very frequent charcoal and burnt bone fragments (Context 1008). A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was also present. This feature, which was totally excavated, may represent a cremation or deposition of pyre debris.

- 4.7 The final cut observed within the area was a small U-Shaped post-hole containing light yellow brown slightly clay silt with occasional sub angular flint gravel and charcoal flecks (Context 1011). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Area F (Fig. 4. NB. Contexts prefixed by E were excavated during evaluation)

- 4.8 A track and a bund had been created running north-south across the western part of the area with another haul road running north-east to south-west at the south eastern extent of the area. The presence of the latter road had obviously disturbed any archaeological features that remained in this vicinity and therefore resulted in the shortening of the area's extent.
- 4.9 Two features of (probably Early) Bronze Age date within close proximity of each other were excavated within evaluation Trench 3. An oval spread of burnt silt aligned N-S (Context E5) was the easternmost. The southern 45% of this feature was burnt to a dark brown or black colour, with the remaining 55% being grey- brown. The feature stood out strikingly against the red natural subsoil. Several pieces of pottery of probable Early Bronze Age date, an unfinished barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, and pieces of burnt clay were recovered from the upper surface of the feature during an initial hand clean. Excavation of the feature indicated that it was effectively an *in situ* burning episode affecting the natural subsoil, rather than a cut feature of any sort. As such it may represent a camp fire or hearth.
- 4.10 Approximately 1m west lay a large oval spread of grey-brown silty clay (Context E6), 2.5-3m in diameter. An east-west section cut through the feature revealed a deep, bowl-shaped cut (Context E7). The western side was steeper than the eastern. No layering was visible in the fill, although some sand lensing was interleaved near the base. Several sherds of pottery were recovered. The majority were of flint-tempered Early Bronze Age date though some small, possibly Iron Age sand-tempered and Romano-British sherds were also present.
- 4.11 A short section of Bronze Age ditch (Context 18) was exposed in the north-east corner of the area. It contained two fills; the secondary fill (Context 19) of mottled mid grey brown slightly sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded flint gravel c. 10-35mm in size, with a maximum depth of 240mm. Fire-cracked flint, worked flint and two pieces of Bronze age pottery were recovered from the two slots excavated across this feature. The primary fill (Context 26) was of mid grey brown slightly sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded flint gravel 10-30mm in size and rare manganese flecks. No finds were made from this fill. Although the meagre dating evidence suggests a Bronze Age date it is possible the pottery in Context 19 is residual.
- 4.12 A few metres to the south-west were two shallow pits and a post hole. A small kidney shaped pit with an undulating base (Context 24) was filled by (Context

25) mid brown grey slightly sandy silt with common charcoal flecks c.10% and rare sub rounded flint gravel 10-30mm in size. This contained 11 sherds of Bronze Age pottery and one worked flint. To the north lay a shallow oval pit with an undulating uneven cut (Context 29), the fill of which was a mid brown grey slightly sandy silt with occasional sub rounded flint gravel 10-25mm in size and very rare charcoal flecks (Context 30). The fill produced 27 sherds of pottery dated to the Bronze Age. A shallow U-shaped post-hole (Context 31) was also half sectioned. This contained a mid-light grey brown slightly silty sand fill (Context 32) with rare flint gravel and rare charcoal flecks.

- 4.13 In the centre of the stripped area two pits were observed cut into the natural. Context 16 was an irregular oval pit 4.63m in length, 3.2m in width with a maximum depth of 0.69m. Its base undulated with gently sloping sides becoming steeper to the south-east. Within the cut were two distinctly deeper areas with steeper sides; these did not appear to be the result of a separate cut, but part of the original undulations. The pit contained three fills. Context 27 was the primary fill of mid orange grey sandy silt with occasional sub angular and sub rounded flint gravel. Above context 27 lay a mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional sub rounded and rounded flint gravel and common manganese pieces (Context 28). The final fill of the pit (Context 17) comprised mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional sub rounded flint gravel, occasional manganese pieces and rare charcoal flecks. This fill produced worked flint and fire-cracked flint as well as five small prehistoric pottery sherds and one grog-tempered sherd of Late Iron Age to Romano-British date. To the north-west lay a smaller oval pit (Context 10) with a shallow undulating cut 3.3m in length and 1.7m wide, with a maximum depth of 290mm in the centre. The pit contained two fills, the primary fill (Context 37) a light grey brown cream sandy silt containing occasional manganese flecks, occasional flint gravel 10-30mm and occasional charcoal flecks. Context 11, the secondary fill comprised of mid brown grey silt with occasional- common burnt clay pieces and common charcoal flecks. Though the fill contained a high concentration of burnt clay and charcoal there was no evidence of *in situ* burning or datable artefacts. It is possible this feature related to the prehistoric hearth (E5) to the north.
- 4.14 Two almost parallel linear ditches were observed (Contexts 12 & 22) cut into the natural running NW to SE. Context 12 contained a single fill of mid-light cream grey brown slightly sandy silt with occasional flint gravel 10-35mm, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional manganese flecks (Context 13). Two sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were recovered as well as two grog-tempered and two fine sand-tempered Romano British sherds. Context 22 contained a mid-light cream grey brown slightly sandy silt with occasional flint gravel 10-30mm in size and rare manganese flecks (Context 23). Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this ditch.
- 4.15 Cutting both of these ditches running NE to SW across the southern part of the site was a flat based linear ditch (Context 4). This contained two fills, the primary silting (Context 8) a mid orange brown sandy silt with rare rounded

flint gravel. Above this fill Context 5 was a mid-light orange grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and rare manganese flecks. One piece of Roman pottery, worked flints, fired-cracked flint and a piece of ceramic building material was recovered from the ditch. This ditch was noted within evaluation Trench 1 (Context E10, E11, E14 & E15) in which a third fill was seen. Although the evaluation located some prehistoric sherds in the upper fill of this ditch (E10) a single sherd of post-medieval earthenware was also located suggesting the earlier material to be residual.

- 4.16 Within the south east corner of the area a slightly curving ditch (Context 14) was observed. The southernmost extent of the ditch was highly truncated and disturbed by the modern haul road. To the north the ditch could be seen as a U-shaped ditch filled by mid-light mottled yellow brown grey sandy silt with occasional sub rounded-rounded flint gravel 15-30mm in size, with rare manganese patches (Context 15). No artefacts were recovered from this fill. This ditch was also sectioned within the evaluation (Context E13).
- 4.17 A cluster of three postholes (Contexts 20, 33 & 35) were noted close to the north-west corner of the area. Context 33 and Context 35 were both U-shaped, with Context 20 a very shallow flat based cut filled by a charcoal-rich fill (Context 21. Context 35, filled by Context 36, contained a flint flake and a fire-cracked flint. Context 33 contained no artefacts.
- 4.18 At the north westerly corner of the stripped area a small circular pit was seen cut within the natural (Context 6). This feature contained two fills Context 9 the primary fill, a light-mid cream brown grey sandy silt with occasional-rare burnt clay fragments. Above this fill Context 7 was a mid-light grey brown slightly sandy silt with very common charcoal flecks and a charcoal lens at the base of the fill. This secondary fill was clearly associated with a episode of burning but there was no evidence for *in situ* burning. No artefacts were recovered.
- 4.19 One curvilinear feature was noted cut into the natural within Trench 3 of the evaluation. The cut (Context E4) was irregular, measuring 1.75m in width and 500mm in depth where it ran beneath the eastern baulk. It curved round to the south for a distance of 7m, before petering out in an irregular trilobate butt-end. The fill was one homogenous unit (Context E3- light grey-brown friable silt with some fine sand). The fill was natural and sterile in appearance, and contained some manganese nodules. However, it also produced two sherds of possibly medieval pottery.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Finds

5.1 A number of artefacts were recovered during the fieldwork. These have been quantified (by number and weight) and presented in the table below. Artefactual material from the residues of the environmental samples has been combined in the tabulated figures.

Context	Historic Pottery	Prehistoric Pottery	Worked Flint	F.C.F	Other
Area F - Evaluation					
E3/4	2/2g				
E5		28/168g	19/112g	6/27g	b.clay 16/182g charcoal x9
E6	2/3g	7/25g	13/97g	26/456g	b.clay 1/16g coarse white sst pebble fragment 1/9g
E10	1/3g	2/3g	1/1g	1/2g	
E14			1/10g		
E15			1/2g		
Area F - Excavation					
2			5/32g		
5	1/12g		3/37g	7/43g	CBM 1/113g
7			3/7g		
11					Slag 3/10g B.Clay 5/41g
13	5/10g	1/3g			
17		6/17g	7/35g	2/13g	
19		2/8g	8/73g	1/27g	
23	3/2g				
25	1/1g	10/55g	1/1g		
30		27/118g			
36			1/18g	1/7g	
Areas B and D - Excavation					
1004			1/0.5g		
1006		3/4g			
1008		1/2g			crem bone frags 10g
1010	1/1g				
1015	30/612g				
1016	11/13g				
1019	1/3g				charcoal frag 1
1020					Fe object

5.2 The prehistoric pottery from the evaluation was briefly examined by Dr Sue Hamilton (Institute of Archaeology, University College London) in order to try to establish a date for the material. Her comments are given below. Pottery from the later phases of fieldwork was provisionally dated by staff within Archaeology South-East.

Context E 3/4- probably medieval.

Context E5- includes 11 grog-tempered sherds from a very small undecorated vessel, similar to a pygmy cup. Flint-tempered wares are also present. Some of the latter have impressed decoration forming grooves, possibly made by bird bones. In general an Early Bronze Age date is suggested and as such would agree with the flint work. The form of the small grog-tempered vessel is also known of in the Later Bronze Age.

Context E6- includes flint-tempered (abundant and sparse) (Early Bronze Age) and sand-tempered (?Iron Age) sherds. Also two very small and probably intrusive Romano-British sherds are present.

Context E10/11- two flint-tempered prehistoric sherds and one Post-Medieval high-fired earthenware sherd.

The prehistoric pottery recovered during the excavation of Areas B, D and F is generally all in small undiagnostic sherds of various grog and sparse flint tempered fabrics. Without more detailed fabric analysis it impossible to be certain of which exact period they belong though a Bronze Age date would not be out of place. The later pottery consists of grog and sand tempered Late Iron Age and Roman material. No large assemblages are present.

- 5.3 The worked flint from the evaluation was briefly examined by Mr C. Butler MIFA and comments are noted below.

Context E5- one unfinished Early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. The remainder are waste flakes and shattered pieces (often with cortex).

Context E6- waste flakes and shattered pieces, many with cortex.

Context E14- waste flake.

Context E15- 'thumbnail' scraper. Probably Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The material from the excavations consists predominantly of waste flakes though a further thumbnail scraper was recovered from Context 2.

- 5.4 A fragment of water-rounded white sandstone pebble from Context E6 is possibly a rubber/ polishing stone of some form. Other material is present in only very small quantities and is not considered to be of interest.

Environmental Samples

5.5 Environmental samples were taken from the following contexts:

Evaluation

Context E5 - 16 litres
Context E6 - 30 litres
Context E10 - 30 litres
Context E14/15 - 30 litres

Excavations

Context	BS Number	Litres taken	Litres Processed
5	1001	28	28
7	1002	28	21
11	1011	28	14
13	1010	28	28
15	1005	28	14
17	1003	28	28
19	1006	28	28
23	1009	28	14
25	1007	14	14
1008	-	24	24

5.6 All evaluation samples were processed in their entirety using bucket flotation. Those from the following excavations were sub-sampled, with only the remainder of each sample being processed if the results from the sub-sample merited it (actual litres processed is given in the above table). Flots were retained on 250 micron sieves while residue was retained on 1mm mesh. After drying the flots were rapidly scanned using a binocular microscope (x20) in order to assess their content. The dried residues were sorted by eye to extract bone, shell, artefacts and organic material which failed to float. This material was bagged accordingly, with the remainder of the residue being discarded. The results from each context is summarised below. The lack of bone in the residues is almost certainly the result of the acidic ground conditions.

5.7 Results

Context and date	Modern Roots	Charcoal	Seeds	Residue (material incorporated into finds table)
E5 (BA)	*/**	*** to 20mm	- Cereal - Wild	-
E6 (BA)	***	*/** to 10mm	- Cereal * Wild	-
E10 (PM)	**/**	** to 14mm	- Cereal ***/** Wild	-
E14/15 (PM)	*	*/** to 12mm	- Cereal **/** Wild	-
5 (PM)	**	* to 3mm	- Cereal */** Wild	-
7 (undated)	*	***/** to 8mm	- Cereal - Wild	-
11 (undated)	*/**	*** to 7mm	- Cereal - Wild	-
13 (RB)	*/**	*/** to 3mm	- Cereal - Wild	-
15 (undated)	***	* to 3mm	- Cereal */** Wild	-
17 (RB)	*	** to 4mm	- Cereal - Wild	-
19 (BA?)	*	*/** to 3mm	- Cereal **/** Wild	-
23 (RB)	*/**	*/** to 5mm	- Cereal */** Wild	-
25 (BA)	**	***/** to 6mm	- Cereal * Wild	-
1008 (prehist)	**	**/** to 5mm	- Cereal * Wild	-

Key: - : None * : Very Low ** : Low *** : Moderate **** : High (frequency)
(Wild - non-cultivated plants)

Results of Environmental Samples from Excavations : Flots and Residues

It can be seen from the above table that the environmental samples did not produce large quantities of charred seeds for secure prehistoric contexts. The majority of seeds appear to be from probable post-medieval ditches. This tends to suggest that the pottery in Ditch 18 may indeed be residual.

6.0 DISCUSSION

Prehistoric

- 6.1 A Bronze Age date has been ascribed to six features; Ditch 18 (though this may be residual and the ditch be of post-medieval date), a burnt area (Context E5), Pits E7, 24 and 29 and cremation/pyre pit 1007.
- 6.2 The burnt feature E5 contains apparently only Early Bronze Age material. It appears to have been a fire set upon the ground surface, perhaps a single- or minimal-use cooking fire. The unfinished arrowhead recovered from the burnt silts may have fallen in during manufacture, or been thrown in. No evidence was visible around the burnt area to suggest associated structures, such as stake-holes for windbreaks *etc.*
- 6.3 The large pit (Context E7) was more ambiguous, as it contained flint-tempered pottery suggestive of a Bronze Age date, but also sand-tempered wares of possibly Iron Age date. Two sherds likely to be of Roman date were also recovered. No stratification was visible in the fill, which contained a degree of mottling throughout. More dating evidence would be needed to finalise the date of this feature as, from the current assemblage, it is uncertain whether the prehistoric material is residual or the Roman material is intrusive. The small pit (Context 24) contained 11 sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery and a single flint flake, this feature is clearly prehistoric in date although its function cannot be ascertained. The adjacent small pit 29 also contained a Bronze Age pottery assemblage, 27 sherds in all, including a number of decorated sherds and part of a carination of a vessel. Similarly this pit is prehistoric in date though the available evidence shows little indication of function.
- 6.4 All in all, with the exception of Ditch 19, which is of uncertain date, the prehistoric activity in the investigated area of the site appears to be of a marginal nature suggesting temporary exploitation rather than settled occupation.

Roman

- 6.5 The two linear ditches running NW-SE across the site were of probable Roman date. These ditches may have formed part of a Roman field system together with Ditches 1009 and 1016 to the north. It is always possible that Ditches 14 and 18 also relate to this field system. The low quantities of Roman finds within these features suggest the home farm relating to these ditches lies some distance from the investigated area.
- 6.6 A further ditch (Context E11/4) running NE-SW across the site produced ambiguous data. E11/ Context 4 appeared to cut Ditches 12 and 22 though was set at right angles to them. As such it is possible that this ditch was either a

later Roman modification to the field system with residual prehistoric and intrusive post-medieval material or was simply a post-medieval field boundary taking on the orientation dictated by the earlier 'fossilised' ditch system.

Medieval

- 6.7 Linear feature Context E4 is also difficult to interpret. The fill was very sterile and the cut was irregular and petered out towards the south. This may be a feature of natural origin (i.e. from frost or root action). The two sherds of medieval pottery from its surface are likely to be intrusive from later ploughing activity.

Undated Features

- 6.8 Seven features in all produced little dateable or no artefacts these include a group of three postholes (Contexts 20, 33 & 35), a single post-hole (Context 31) in close proximity to two Bronze Age pits (Contexts 24 & 29), a small pit with a high charcoal content (Context 6) and a large shallow pit (Context 10) adjacent to the prehistoric hearth (Context E5).
- 6.9 Within Area B the curvilinear ditch (1014) and pit (1020) contained little dateable artefacts though both are post-Roman. The post hole 1011 in Area D produced no artefacts.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 In conclusion, therefore, the excavation produced evidence of archaeological activity within Area B, D & F. The date of this, in combination with the finds to the north suggest that some traces of Bronze Age activity, both early and late, survive in the area as well as the remains of a Romano-British field system. Some truncation appears to have taken place to the features, presumably as a result of past cultivation, but preservation appears generally good. Although bone does not appear to have survived well from the site the burnt bone from the cremation survives well and the worked flint and pottery from the site is generally in fair to good condition.
- 7.2 The site consists mainly of evidence for field systems with a more concentrated area of prehistoric activity within the northern half of Area F. The site is bereft of any clear evidence of structures, domestic or agricultural, and the relatively small assemblage of pottery and other artefacts recovered from the series of pits, postholes, ditches and gullies, of no coherent pattern, makes interpretation of the site difficult.
- 7.3 The single cremation/pyre deposit found show funerary activity extending into this part of the site albeit as an apparent outlying deposit.
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8.0 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

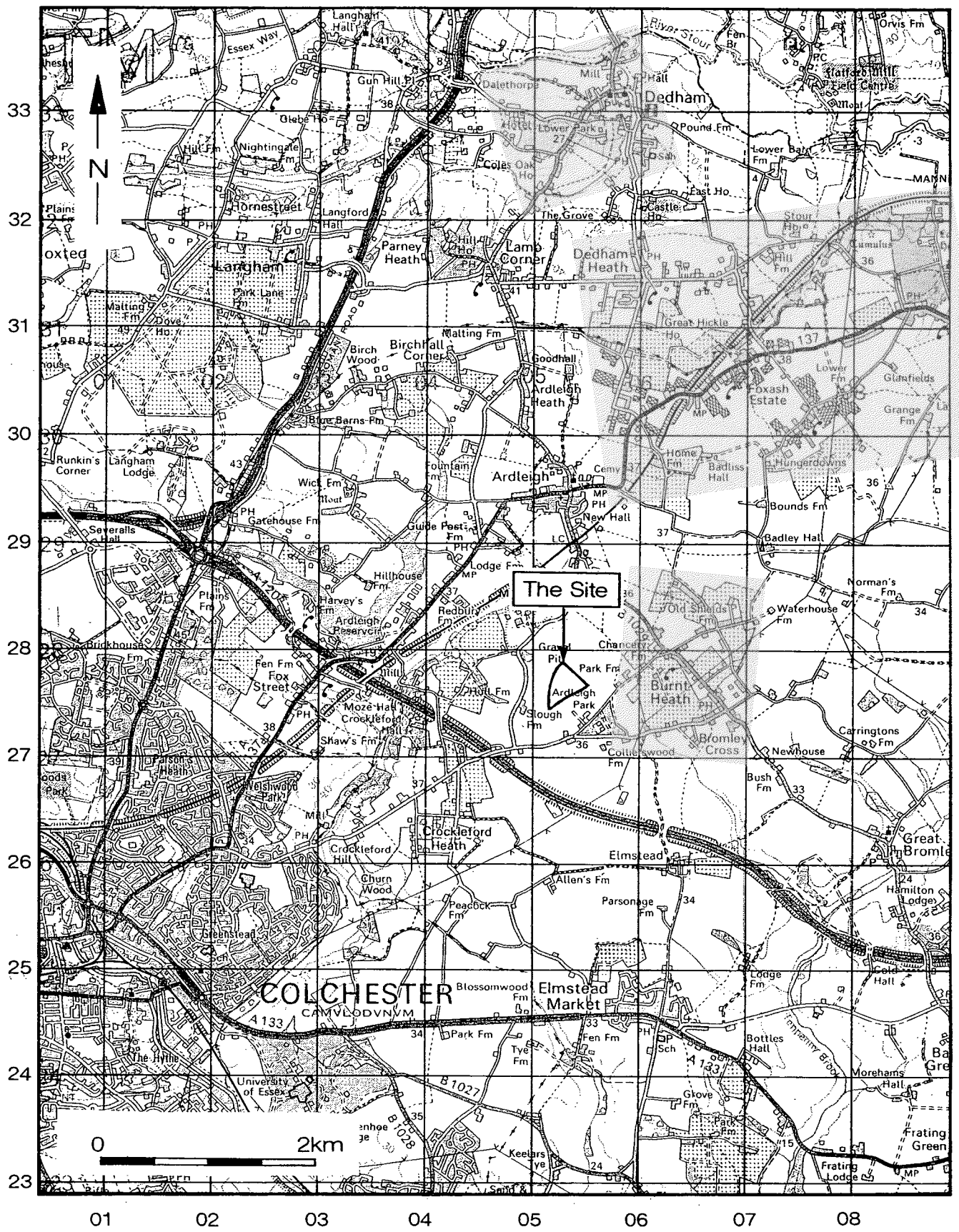
- 8.1** The findings for the current site to date are considered to be of low regional importance but moderate local importance. As such it is felt the results deserve to be published as a short note in the county journal.
- 8.2** No further analysis is needed on the stratigraphic relationships and further work will be limited to the preparation of a short text (outlining the topography, background of the site and main finding of the archaeological work), with accordingly amended plans, for publication in the local journal. The majority of the text will be extracted from this and the evaluation report.
- 8.3** Some further limited analysis is warranted on the prehistoric pottery and worked flint in order to try to refine the dating of the features and help characterise the nature of the prehistoric activity. Some limited work on the flots from prehistoric contexts may be warranted if further sealed prehistoric contexts are recovered from future work at the quarry. The cremated bone will need analysis to characterise the nature of this deposit.
- 8.4** It is not considered appropriate to produce a detailed resource allocation for the limited post-excavation analysis outlined above until the remaining fieldwork (ie Areas C and G) has been undertaken. The results of these works may alter the emphasis of post-excavation analysis and as such it is proposed to update this document when such works are complete and only then give a detailed resource allocation, costing and publication synopsis for the site.
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9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

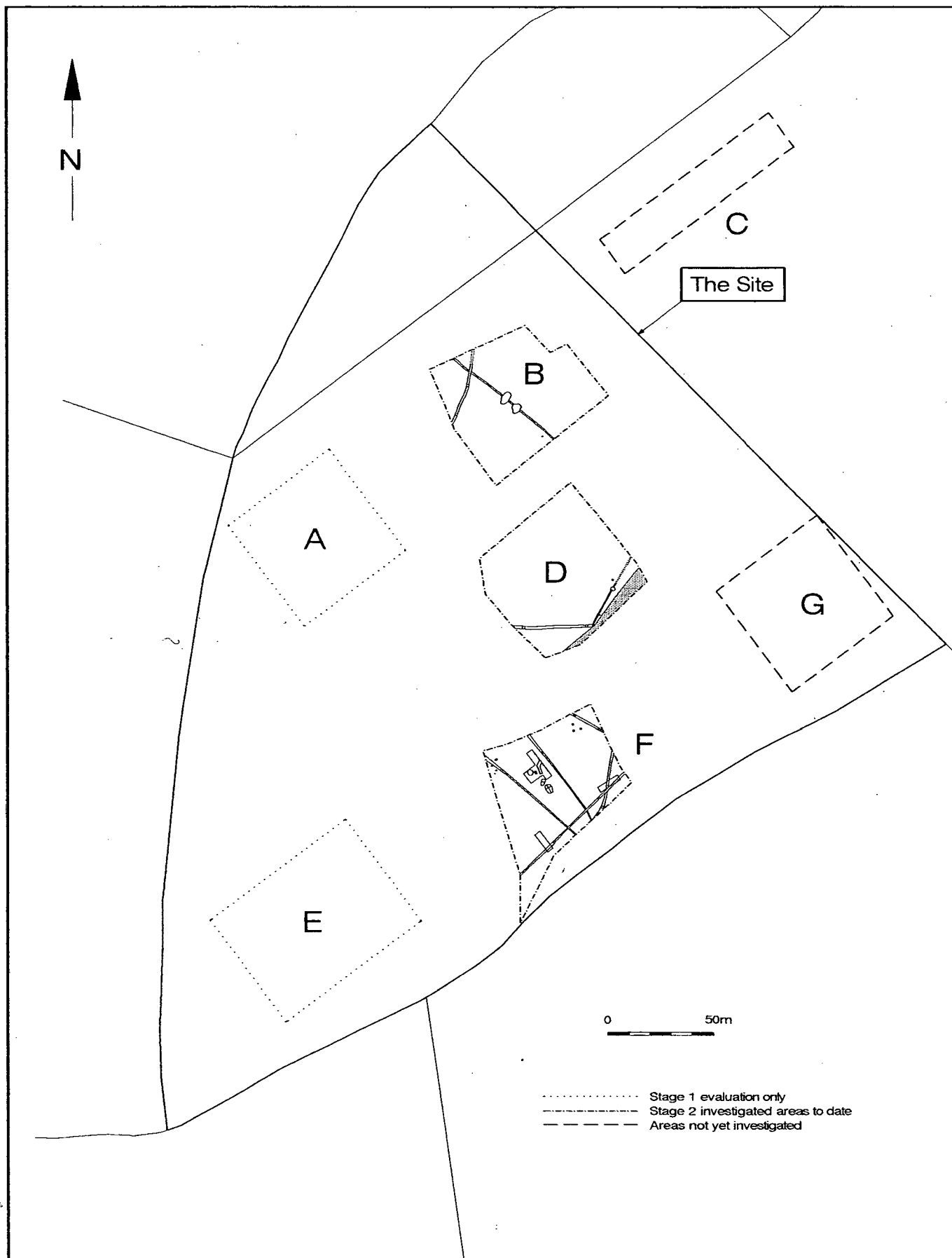
- 9.1** The use of information supplied by Essex County Council is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance provided by Bucbricks Ltd.

SMR Summary Form

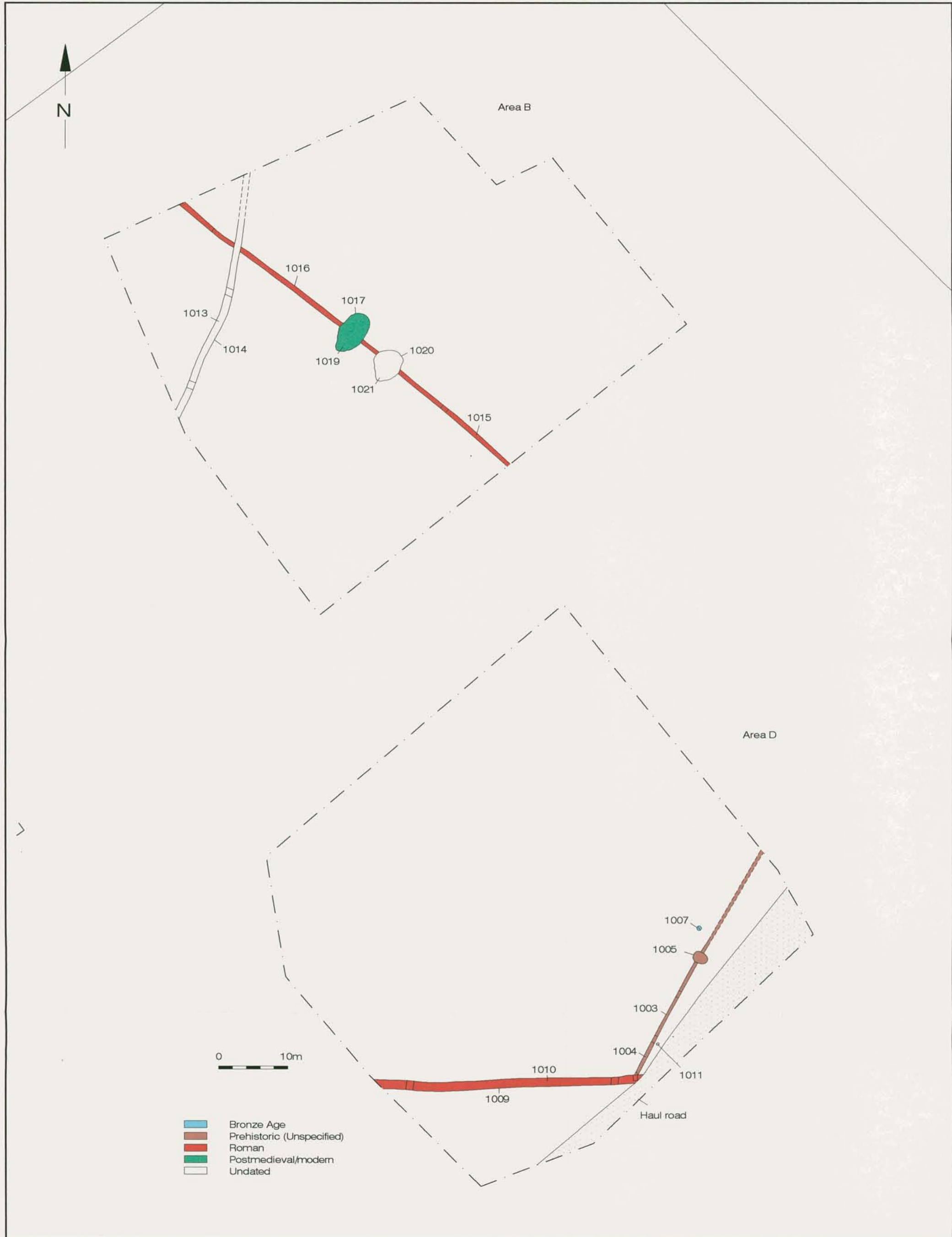
Site Code	ARMQ 01					
Identification Name and Address	Martell's Quarry, Park Farm, Slough Lane, Ardleigh, Essex					
County, District &/or Borough	Tendring District					
OS Grid Refs.	TM 0525 2757					
Geology	Kesgrove Formation (sands and gravels)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	1392 and 1440					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. ✓	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 26/6-27/01	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Size of investigated area	three areas, each approx. 60m x 60m					
Sponsor/Client	Environomics Ltd on behalf of Bucbricks Ltd					
Project Manager	Ian Greig/ Luke Barber (Archaeology South-East)					
Project Supervisor	Fiona Griffin/ Richard James					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA ✓	IA	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other n/a		
Location of Finds/suggested recipient museum	Archaeology South-East store/ Colchester Museum					
<p>100 Word Summary. Excavations were carried out on three 60m x 60m areas in advance of sand quarrying. Archaeological features, including ditches, pits, postholes, a possible hearth and a cremation/ pyre deposit, were recorded. Bronze Age (?Early) material was recovered from some of the features and suggests temporary exploitation of the area. Traces of a Roman field system were located together with some (Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval) later features. Fiona Griffin 22/9/02</p>						



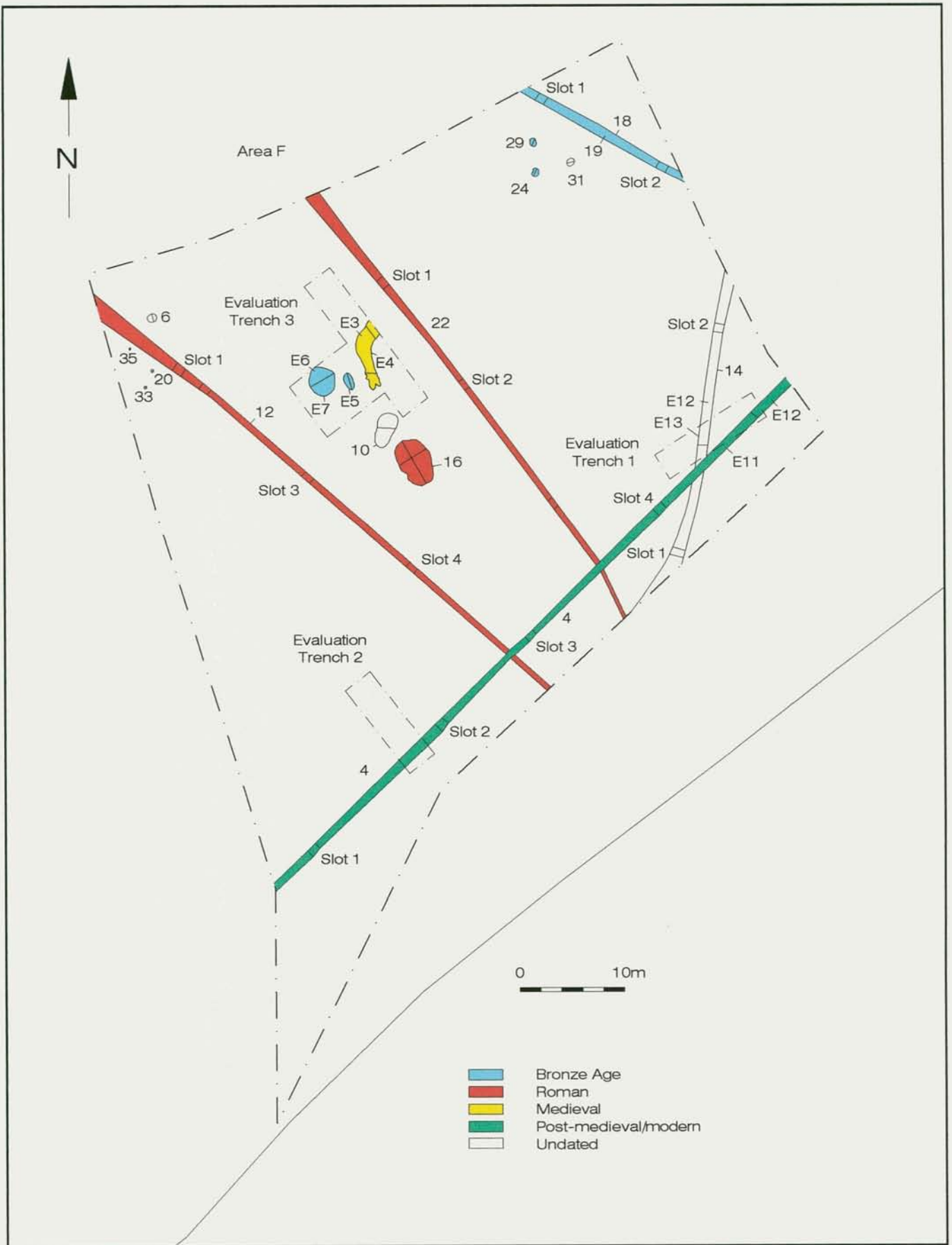
ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE	Ardleigh		
	TITLE	Site Location Plan		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE	October 2002	REF.	1392 & 1440
			DRAWING NO.	Fig. 1



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Ardleigh		
	TITLE Plan of Site		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE October 2002	REF. 1392 & 1440	DRAWING NO. Fig. 2



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Ardleigh		
	TITLE Plan of Areas B and D		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE October 2002	REF. 1392 & 1440	DRAWING NO. Fig. 3



ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	SITE Ardleigh		
	TITLE Plan of Area F		
1 WEST STREET DITCHLING EAST SUSSEX BN6 8TS	DATE October 2002	REF. 1392 & 1440	DRAWING NO. Fig. 4