MARKS WARREN QUARRY, WHALEBONE LANE NORTH, ROMFORD, ESSEX AREA 9

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING INTERIM REPORT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

INTERIM REPORT

Author: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 4852 8964	Report No: 3199
District: LB Barking & Dagenham	Site Code: MWR 06
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 2750
Signed:	Date: October 2008

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The current archaeological investigation identified four phases of activity. Phase 1 comprised late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditches, possibly part of an enclosure, pits and postholes. Phase 2 was Roman and comprised cremation, pits and possibly a ditch as part of an enclosure. Phase 3 evidence comprised a single medieval posthole. Post-medieval and modern activity was assigned to Phase 4 and included ditches, pit, field drains and plough damage layer. Several undated features were identified across the site.								
Project dates (fieldwork)	20^{th} August – 5^{th}	September 2008						
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y					
P. number	2750	Site code	MWR 06					
Type of project	Archaeological I	Monitoring and Recording						
Site status	None							
Current land use	Pastureland							
Planned development	Quarrying							
Main features (+dates)	Late bronze Age	early Iron Age possibly encl	osure ditches					
Significant finds (+dates)	Late Bronze Age	Beaker vessel with finger-pi	nched rustication					
Project location								
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Barking and Dagenham	Romford					
SMR for area	Greater London	SMR						
Post code (if known)	RM6 5RB							
Area of site								
NGR	TQ 4852 8964							
Height AOD (max)	30-36 m AOD							
Project creators								
Brief issued by	EH GLAAS							
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozors	ki						
Funded by	Brett Lafarge A	ggregates						
Full title	Archaeological I	Juarry, Whalebone Lane Nor Monitoring and Recording.	th, Romford, Essex. Area 9.					
Authors	Zbigniew Pozors	ki						
Report no.	3199							
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SUMMARY

In August and September 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Marks Warren Quarry, Whalebone Lane North, Romford, Essex (NGR TQ 4852 8965). Previous archaeological investigation in the area identified prehistoric activity, including an Iron Age ditched enclosure, a Roman enclosure, the flint foundations of a Roman building and a late Iron Age/Roman field system. Previous archaeological investigation undertaken by AS revealed late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits, postholes and a Bronze Age barrow, late Iron Age cremations and pits, Saxon cremations and ditch, post-medieval drainage ditches, postholes and 20th century activity.

The current archaeological investigation identified four phases of activity. Phase 1 comprised late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditches, possibly part of an enclosure, pits and postholes. Phase 2 was Roman and comprised a cremation, pits and possibly a ditch which formed part of an enclosure. Phase 3 evidence consisted of a single medieval posthole. Post-medieval and modern activity was assigned to Phase 4 and included ditches, pit, field drains and a plough damage layer. Several undated features were identified across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August and September 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring and recording of Area 9 at Marks Warren Quarry, Whalebone Lane North, Romford, Essex (NGR TQ 4852 8965; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Andrew Josephs (Environmental Consultant) on behalf of Brett Lafarge Aggregates, and was undertaken prior to mineral extraction. It was conducted in response to a planning requirement of the local planning authority (LB Barking & Dagenham), based on advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in response to advice from EH GLAAS (a formal brief was not issued), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 16th July 2008), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The specific objectives of the projects were to examine

- the area of a potential early Iron Age enclosure represented by ditches identified in the previous Passmore Edwards assessment;
- the relationship with the later Iron Age/early Roman and Saxon enclosure ditches recorded by AS to the immediate north in Area 8; and

• the potential windmills identified by Passmore Edwards in the north western corner of Area 9.

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of quarry expanding with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Marks Warren Quarry lies on the eastern side of Whalebone Lane North, Romford (LB Barking & Dagenham), approximately 100m to the north of Chadwell Heath, 100m to the south-west of Collier Row and 200m to the north-west of Romford (Figs. 1-2). The 15th century moated site of Marks Manor House (GLSMR 060137) also lies on the western side of Whalebone Lane (Fig. 2), immediately west of the western site boundary. Directly to the north of the site are the remains of a WWII anti – aircraft battery station (MoLAS 2000).

2.2 The quarry has been subject to previous investigations in advance of mineral extraction. It lies on a spur of Black Park terrace gravels (BGS 1978), which have revealed cropmarks of multi-period activity. Remains dating from the later Mesolithic period through to the later medieval period have been identified in the vicinity. These finds have been detailed in a previous archaeological assessment of the site carried out by the Passmore Edwards Museum (Section 4). They include an early Iron Age fortified settlement (GLSMR 060110), and a rectilinear, multi-ditched enclosure of the Romano-British period (GLSMR 061279). Traces of a late Iron Age/early Roman field system were also identified in the vicinity by air photography (GLSMR 060276).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOIL

3.1 The site lies on a spur of Black Park terrace gravels (BGS 1978) and is located in an area dominated by soils of the Hucklesbrook and Windsor associations. Hucklesbrook soils occur of river terrace drift, while Windsor soils are usually found overlying tertiary clay (SSEW 1983). This reflects the natural deposits identified onsite (Section 8.1).

3.2 The site is situated between the 35m and 40m contours and is depicted on the current Ordnance Survey map sloping gently up to the north. The land was formerly agricultural pasture.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Two areas of archaeological significance are located immediately east of the site. The archaeology comprises an early Iron Age fortified settlement, and a late Iron Age to early Roman rectangular enclosure, flint foundations of Roman buildings adjacent and a contemporary trackway. A programme of archaeological works was carried out by the Passmore Edwards Museum in 1988 (Site Code RO-WF 88). This revealed prehistoric evidence (Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age features (GLSMR 060283, 60706), an Iron Age ditched enclosure (GLSMR 060110), a Roman rectangular enclosure (GLSMR 061279), the flint foundations of Roman buildings (GLSMR 06127901) and a contemporary trackway leading eastwards (GLSMR 06127902). It also examined a late Iron Age/early Roman field system (GLSMR 060276). The Passmore Edwards Museum recommended that the two areas of Archaeological Alert become a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Aerial photography of the area identified a ring-ditch cropmark in the north-western area of Area 8, while two ditches shown to cross each other were depicted running north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east in the eastern area of the site.

4.2 Medieval activity was also examined, in the form of a windmill and small area of occupation, probably comprising a single dwelling (GLSMR 060792). The 15th century moated site of Marks Manor House (GLSMR 060137) also lies on the western side of Whalebone Lane, to the west of the site. Modern WWII defences, including anti-tank traps and an anti-glider trench, were also examined (GLSMR 061702). Other listed features include two boundary marker stones, the Warren Stone and the Marks Stone, one of which lies within the site, and an 18th century barn beyond the site to the south-west.

4.3 The site lies within an area that is known to contain substantial evidence of archaeological remains. Areas were excluded from the overall extraction plan due to the presence of significant archaeological remains identified during previous archaeological investigations (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2000).

4.4 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AS in 2006 and 2007 during the topsoil stripping for Areas 5 & 7 at the quarry. These areas lay to the north-west of the current site. No significant archaeological remains were recorded during the monitoring of Area 5, and the site revealed evidence of areas of disturbance associated with 20th century activity (refuse pits, concrete blocks, drains etc). Area 7 revealed a pair of post-medieval parallel linear ditches, which extended across the site and were aligned east to west. Nine pits, three of which were identifiable as Iron Age, and three furrows, were recorded (Harris 2007).

4.5 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was also carried out by AS in 2008 during soil stripping for Area 8, to the immediate north of Area 9 (Fig. 2). This revealed archaeological features indicative of five phases of activity, and undated features. The north-eastern corner of Area 8 contained part of a ring ditch, presumed to be a barrow with Iron Age, Roman and Saxon insertions. This was considered by English Heritage to be of sufficient importance to warrant preservation *in situ*, and the area was carefully reinstated.

Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features were found widely scattered across the whole site. The dominant feature was the ring ditch. In the centre of the eastern half were two pits and a possible small rectangular posthole structure. Part of a possible round house was also revealed on the northern edge. The western half of the site contained a small cluster of pits, an alignment of postholes and two pits on the edge of what appears to have been a small Saxon cremation cemetery. Late Iron Age/early Roman features were confined to the eastern half of the site. These were dominated by a series of inter-cutting ditches, which are likely to represent different phases of enclosures. There were also three burials associated with the barrow, with an inhumation inserted into it and two cremations to the south. Saxon features were dominated by a cremation cemetery in the north-western corner. A pit containing a complete vessel was situated to the north-east of these cremations. A further cremation was found inserted into the ring ditch of the barrow. A further ditch was also tentatively dated to this phase. The windmill identified in the Passmore Edwards assessment was also revealed. It was a 'sunk post', or 'buried trestle', windmill. The buried cross timbers of the trestle base were well preserved but the diagonal braces were only fragmentary and the only part of the central post to remain was the tenon, where it was located in the mortise. An undated pit, surrounded by features possibly representing a windbreak and situated to the south, contained a large quantity of charred grain and could conceivably have been associated with the windmill. Two large pits, a gully, a large recut ditch running north to south bisecting the site, the terminus of a gully and two further pits were of post-medieval/modern date. An assessment of the Quaternary geology within Area 8 was also carried out by Dr Simon Lewis of the University of London. The Saxon features were poorly dated.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Topsoil and overburden were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Thereafter, all further excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand, recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Pits and postholes were half sectioned while linear features were excavated in slots of coverage as needed to determine archaeological significance. Segments were positioned for optimal determination of inter feature relationships. 100% of all discreet features were scanned by metal detector during stripping and excavation. Environmental samples were taken as appropriate, including 100% samples.

6 **DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Archaeological remains were present across almost the whole of the site, which yielded evidence of human activity dating to the late Bronze Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval to modern periods.

6.1.2 The excavated features have been phased according to finds evidence and stratigraphic relationships (Table 1).

Phase	Date	Characteristics
1	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Ditches (enclosure), pits and postholes
2	Roman (2 nd -3 rd century AD)	Cremation, pits and postholes
3	Medieval	Posthole
4	Post-medieval/modern	Field drains, ditch, pits.
-	Undated	Cremations, ditches, pits and postholes

Table 1: Phasing

6.1.3 Phase 1 features were concentrated in the central part of the site, close to its southern edge, and also scattered thinly across the site. Phase 2 features were concentrated in the eastern half of the site. The only Phase 3 feature was located in the north-western corner of the site. Phase 4 features were scattered across the entire site, similar to undated features.

6.2 Phase 1: Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (Figs 4 - 8)

6.2.1 Phase 1 activity comprised ditches on the southern edge of the site, possibly part of an enclosure, and pits and postholes scattered across the site.

6.2.2 Ditch F2031 (Grid Square M3-O3; 20m+ x 1.70m x 0.35m) was curvilinear, running from the southern edge of the site in a north-west direction and immediately turning to the west, having its terminus after c.20m. It had gradual sloping sides and slightly concave base. Its fill was L2032, a light brownish grey, firm sandy silt with frequent sub-angular flint ($\leq 0.06m$). Within Segment B it contained 8 sherds (9g) of prehistoric pottery dated to late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. The ditch could be continuous further to the west, as Ditch F2040, which had the same proximity, alignment and nature. However, the fill of F2040 did not produce any finds and the ditch remains undated. If they are part of the same feature, these ditches might be part of a rectangular/subcircular enclosure located to the south of the site. F2031 was cut by modern ditch/field drain F2029.

6.2.3 Ditch F2040 (Grid Square I3-K3; 13.00m+ x 0.91m x 0.23m; DP 18), as mentioned above, may be a continuation of Ditch F2031 to the west. The gap between these two features measured c.20m, however, the termini of both ditches were rounded and ditches were gently shallow within them, suggesting wide truncation in that area, probably caused by agricultural activity. F2040 was very similar in profile and in plan to F2031. Ditch F2040 had gradually sloping sides in shallow profile and a concave base. Its single fill, L2041, was a light yellowish grey, firm sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded flint ($\leq 0.07m$). Despite the lack of finds from this context and obvious truncation, Ditch F2040 could be recognized, together with F2031, as part of the same linear feature, possibly an enclosure south of the site.

6.2.4 Ditch F2031 (DP 11) seemed to be a recut of Ditch F2027 (DP 11). This feature ran along the southern edge of F2031, partially cut by it, gradually joining F2031 close to its western terminus turning to the south in the eastern part of the site. Ditch F2027 (Grid Square M3-O3; 15m+ x 0.75m x 0.34m) had gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, L2028, a light yellowish grey, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-angular and subrounded flint ($\leq 0.10m$). No finds were recovered, but due its stratigraphic relationship and similarity to Ditch F2031, it can be assigned to the same phase of activity at the site. F2027 was cut by modern Ditch F2029.

6.2.5 Pit F2022 was located c.15m to the north (Grid Square N5; DPs 7-10) of possible enclosure F2031/F2040. It was circular in plan and straight sided in profile with a flattish base (0.37m x 0.40m x 0.23m). Its fill, L2023 was a mid orange/brown, compacted clay with moderate large pebbles and sub-rounded flint ($\leq 0.07m$). The fill was very similar to the surrounding natural deposits but it also contained moderate charcoal ($\leq 0.03m$). Within the centre of the pit, a complete pottery vessel, 2026, was located. The vessel is a globular Beaker with finger-pinched rustication of the exterior, dating to the late Bronze Age period. The fill of the vessel, L2033 was similar to L2023, but less clayey and more silty. Despite the presence of charcoal within L2023, no evidence of a cremation was present.

6.2.6 Posthole F2044 (Grid Square R4; $0.51m \ge 0.42m \ge 0.16m$) was recorded to the east of F2022. It was sub-circular in plan, and with vertical sides and flat base. Its fill, L2045, was a mid orange/brown, firm sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular flint ($\le 0.06m$). It contained 9 sherds (40g) of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and 3 fragments of fired clay (94g), probably daub.

6.2.7 Pit F2014 (Grid Square J11; 2.30m x 1.10m x 0.13m) was located in the western part of the site. It was oval in plan, and shallow in profile with gentle sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill L2015, a light greyish brown, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint ($\leq 0.06m$) and charcoal flecks. Finds recovered from this fill comprise late Bronze Age/possibly early Iron Age pottery (36 sherds, 82g).

6.2.8 Feature F2066 (GS GG8; 0.24m x 0.20m x 0.17m; DP 20) was a posthole located in the north eastern corner of the site. It was circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with a concave base. Its fill, L2067, was a mid greyish brown, firm sandy silt with moderate subrounded and sub-angular flint and gravel (≤ 0.05 m). It contained a single sherd (1g) of prehistoric pottery, similar to that found in F2002 or F2044. About 1.5m to the south of F2066 another posthole, F2068 (DP 20), was found however no finds were recovered from its fill and it remained undated.

6.2.9 Posthole F2002 (GS A13; 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.21m; DP 5) was found in the northwestern corner of the site. It was circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with a concave base. Its fill, L2003, was a mid to dark brownish grey, firm sandy silt with moderate flint (≤ 0.03 m). Two fragments (1g) of prehistoric pottery, similar to other found in previously described features, were recovered from this context.

6.3 **Phase 2: Roman (2nd – 3rd century AD)** (Figs 4 - 8)

6.3.1 Phase 2 activity occurred only in the eastern half of the site and comprised two pits, a cremation and a possible ditch as part of larger enclosure located in Areas 8 and 9.

6.3.2 Pit 2064 (Grid Square HH8; 0.98m x 1.05m x 0.10m; DP19) was cub-circular in plan with a shallow south side and steeper north side; the base was slightly concave/irregular. It contained a single fill L2065, a mid greyish brown, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.03m). Five sherds (28g) of Roman pottery were recovered from Fill L2065.

6.3.3 F2070 (Grid Square HH9; 2.30m x 0.76m x 0.50m; DP 23) was located to the north of F2064. It was linear in plan with vertical steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2071, was a

mid greyish brown, very compacted clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded flint (≤ 0.05 m). L2071 contained 92 sherds (521g) of Roman pottery dated to the early 2nd - 3rd century AD; it also contained Roman tile fragments, Fe fragments, burnt flint (6, 160g), as well as animal bone. A single burnt bone of probable human origin (19g) was also recovered, though the feature does not appear to have been a cremation.

6.3.4 Small Pit F2078 (Grid Square FF4; 0.22m x 0.19m x 0.07m; DP 22) can be also assigned to the Roman phase of activity at the site. It was sub-circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with a concave/irregular base. Its single fill L2079 was a greyish brown, friable sandy silt with occasional gravel (\leq 0.07m), sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.04m) and charcoal (\leq 0.03m). It contained Cremation 7 but no urn; however, 10 sherds (70g) of pottery belonging to one small flagon and dated to 2nd century AD, were recovered from this fill.

6.3.5 A further feature which might be assigned to the same phase of settlement at the site was Ditch F2082 (DP 24). It ran from the eastern edge of the site in a NW direction before being truncated. Three excavated segments showed it to be shallow in profile with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Segment A: 0.67m x 0.12m; B: 0.85m x 0.26m; C: 0.70m x 0.14m). Its fill was L2083, a light greyish brown, loose sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular flint ($\leq 0.06m$). No finds were recovered from this context; however, despite the lack of dateable finds, this feature might be a part of an enclosure with Ditches F1184, F1173 and F1159 within Area 8, which were dated to the Roman period.

6.4 Phase 3: Medieval (Figs 4 - 8)

6.4.1 This phase was represented by one feature only. Posthole F2010 (Grid Square B11; 0.25m x 0.24m x 0.13m) was located in the north western corner of the site. It was circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with concave base. It contained a single fill of L2011, a mid brownish grey, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.03m). A single sherd (3g) of medieval pottery was recovered from this fill.

6.5 Phase 4: Post-medieval/modern (Figs 4 - 8)

6.5.1 This phase was represented by numerous field drains running across the site. One of them, F2008, was excavated as a sample. It was linear in plan and V-shaped in profile, with a flat base (15m+ x 0.36m x 0.57m), running on a NE-SW alignment between the northern and western edges of the site. It contained, L2009, a mixed greyish brown, firm clayey silt and mid bluish yellow, compact silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint (\leq 0.05m). The fill contained 19th century pottery, nail, clay pipe stem, glass and oyster shell fragments, as well as charcoal.

6.5.2 Ditch F2029 was also part of the field drain system. It traversed the site, orientated N-S, from the northern to southern edge of the site and turning 90° to the west. Its single fill was L2030, a dark greyish brown, firm to compact clayey silt. It contained ceramic drain pipe, glass, and iron parts of tools which could be dated to late $19^{\text{th}} - 20^{\text{th}}$ century.

6.5.3 Ditch F2050 ran to the east of F2029 on the same alignment as the southern part of F2029. A gap between the ditches measured c.5m. F2050 and its fill L2051 was similar to F2029 (L2030).

6.5.4 Pit F2004 (GS A12; 0.62m x 0.60m x 0.16m) was located in the north-western corner of the site and was truncated by plough mark F2006. It was sub-circular/oval in plan and U-shaped in profile with a concave base. Its single fill was L2005, a mid greyish brown, loose silty sand with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.04m). It contained modern CBM fragments.

6.6 Undated features (Figs 4 - 8)

6.6.1 Archaeological features which did not produce dateable finds or other evidence were present throughout the whole site. Some of them were located close to dated features and might be associated.

6.6.2 A group of undated cremations was found located mostly in the central part of the site, but also slightly extending to the east and west. Only one dated Cremation 7 (F2078) was located to the south-east of the others. None these cremations contained any finds except fragments of burnt human bone and a single fragment of burnt flint (Cremation 1).

Cremation (and grid location)	Feature	Context	Dimensions	Plan/Profile	Fill
1 (GS O11)	F2036 (DP 6)	L2037	0.77m x 0.65m x 0.19m	Sub-oval / U-shaped, concave/uneven base	Brownish dark grey with black patches, loose silty sand with sub-rounded flint (≤ 0.03 m) and gravel (≤ 0.05 m)
2 (GS T7/U7)	F2046 (DP 12)	L2047	1.12m x 0.84m x 0.27m	Sub-oval / Irregular – steep near vertical to the east and gradual slope at west, flat/uneven base	Dark blackish brown, firm silty sand with frequent flint $(\leq 0.05m)$ and gravel $(\leq 0.05m)$
3 (GS V8)	F2048 (DP 13)	L2049	0.72m x 0.52m x 0.20m	Oval / Vertical sides, flat base	Mid blackish brown, firm sandy silt with occasional sub- rounded flint (≤0.06m)
4 (GS X9)	F2052 (DP 14)	L2053	0.91m x 0.82m x 0.18m	Sub-circular / gently sloping sides, concave base	Mid orangey brown with black flecks, firm sandy silt with occasional sub- rounded flint $(\leq 0.06m)$

5 (GS U6/U7)	F2056 (DP15)	L2057	0.53m x 0.49m x 0.09m	Circular / U-shaped, concave base	Dark blackish brown, firm sandy silt
6 (GS CC10)	F2058	L2059	0.43m x 0.39m x 0.11m	Sub-circular / Nearly vertical sides, flat base	Mid orangey brown, loose sandy silt with occasional sub- rounded flint $(\leq 0.03m)$

 Table 2: Undated cremations

6.6.3 Pit F2012 (Grid Square D14; 0.37m x 0.37m x 0.13m) was found in the north-western corner of the site, close to its northern edge. It was circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with a flat base. It contained a single fill L2013, a dark blackish grey with manganese casts (≤ 0.03 m), loose sandy silt with moderate sub-rounded flint (≤ 0.04 m). Finds recovered from this context comprise 2 fragments of burnt flint.

6.6.4 Feature F2016 was a pit (Grid Square N10; 0.77m x 0.66m x 0.11m). It was subcircular in plan and with relatively steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill, L2017, was a mid greyish brown, loose sandy silt with moderate sub-angular flint (≤ 0.03 m). No finds were recovered.

6.6.5 Close to F2016, c.4m to the south, was Pit F2018 (Grid Square N10; 1.20m x 1.15m x 0.22m). It was oval in plan. It had relatively steep sides and a flat, slightly concave base. It contained fill L2019, a mixed mid greyish brown and black, firm sandy silt with orange/red burnt sand with moderate gravel, sub-rounded and sub-angular flint ($\leq 0.05m$) and charcoal ($\leq 0.02m$). No finds were recovered.

6.6.6 Pit F2020 (Grid Square M6; 0.61m x 0.57m x 0.11m) was sub-circular in plan and shallow. It had relatively steep sides and a flat base. It was located c.16m to the north-west of late Bronze Age Pit F2022. Its fill was L2021, a mid to dark grey/blackish brown, loose sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.06m). Four fragments of burnt flint were recovered.

6.6.7 Pit F2034 (Grid Square N4; 0.41m x 0.33m x 0.16m), located next to Ditch F2031, was sub-circular in plan. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill L2035, a dark greyish brown, firm silty sand with frequent charcoal ($\leq 0.03m$) and occasional gravel ($\leq 0.04m$). This feature was considered as a possible cremation pit, mainly because of the nature of its fill which contained large amounts of charcoal.

6.6.8 F2038 was a pit (Grid Square Q6/Q7; 1.50m x 1.49m x 0.21m), located in the central part of the site. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base, it was quite large but shallow, containing single fill L2039. The latter was a mid brownish grey, firm sandy silt with frequent charcoal (≤ 0.025 m), flint (≤ 0.03 m) and gravel (≤ 0.03 m). This fill contained burnt flint (17, 114g); some natural material also seemed to be burnt *in situ*.

6.6.9 Pit F2042 (Grid Square S4; 1.80m x 1.07m x 0.24m) was irregular in plan. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill L2043 was a mid brownish grey, firm sandy silt with moderate gravel (≤ 0.05 m). It contained 2 fragments (11g) of undated CBM.

6.6.10 Pit F2054 (Grid Square U7; 0.68m x 0.44m x 0.25m; DP 17) was located in very close proximity to pits F2046 (Cremation 2) and F2056 (Cremation 5) in the central part of the site. It was oval in plan with near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill L2055, a dark greyish brown, firm silty sand. No finds were recovered.

6.6.11 F2060 (Grid Square Z5; 0.88m x 0.68m x 0.08m) was probably a hearth, located in the central-eastern part of the site. The pit was semi-circular/irregular in plan and shallow with an irregular base. Its fill was L2061, a dark greyish brown, firm sandy silt with frequent charcoal (\leq 0.06m). It also contained fired clay (daub).

6.6.12 Pit F2062 (Grid Square GG8; 0.79m x 0.71m x 0.17m; DP 16) was found c.6m to the east of Cremation 6, Pit F2058. This feature was oval in plan with an irregular profile and a flat/uneven base. Its fill L2063 was a mid to dark greyish brown, loose sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (\leq 0.06m). It contained burnt material but could not be recognized as a cremation in view of a lack of other evidence – a sample taken from this feature (100% of L2063) did not produce any finds.

6.6.13 F2068 (GS CC10; 0.79m x 0.71m x 0.17m) was a posthole located next to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age posthole F2066. F2068 was sub-circular in plan and U-shaped in profile with a concave base. It contained single fill L2069, a mid greyish brown, firm sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (≤ 0.05 m).

6.6.14 Posthole F2072 (Grid Square BB5; 0.32m x 0.27m x 0.24m) was located in the central eastern part of the site and was not associated with any other features. It was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. It contained single fill L2073, a dark blackish brown, loose sandy silt. No finds were present.

6.6.15 Another single posthole F2074 (GS FF6; 0.40m x 0.37m x 0.20m) was found in the eastern part of the site. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill L2075 was a mid brown, friable sandy silt with gravel (≤ 0.08 m) and charcoal (≤ 0.03 m). The fill also contained burnt clay (2, 7g). No other finds were present.

6.6.16 Hearth F2076 (GS CC7; 0.54m x 0.47m x 0.23m; DP 21) was located in the eastern part of the site next to Ditch F2082. The pit was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2077, was a mid greyish brown, compacted silty clay with large amounts of fired clay and occasional charcoal flecks ($\leq 0.02m$). 44 fragments of fired clay were recovered, probably part of one object, possibly a brick.

6.6.17 F2080 (GS AA7; 0.32m x 0.30m x 0.14m) was a small pit or posthole, located 17m to the west of F2076. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2081, was a light brown, loose silty sand with moderate gravel (\leq 0.07m) and sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (\leq 0.05m).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the program of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 **DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was overlain by a dark mid greyish brown to black sandy silt topsoil to a depth of 0.55m (L2000). The topsoil lay directly over mid orange/brown sandy river gravels with patches of orange clay (L2001). The composition of the clays within the natural had a density on the central and western side of the site and along its southern limit.

9 **DISCUSSION**

9.1 Summary of the Archaeology

9.1.1 A total of 38 features were revealed across the site and represented four phases of archaeological activity. Twenty one features contained no dateable finds and could not be phased. Three ditches also did not contain any finds but because of their locations and similarities to other features, they could be potentially phased.

9.1.2 Phase 1 (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age) features were primarily found in the central southern part of the site but were also located elsewhere. The principal feature(s) was a possible Enclosure Ditch F2031/F2040 located in the southern part of the site. Ditch F2027 also could be a part of this structure. Other features assigned to this period were Pits F2014 and F2022 and Postholes F2002, F2044 and F2066. Pit F2022 contained a complete vessel 2026 of late Bronze Age date.

9.1.3 Phase 2 features (Roman) were confined to the eastern half of the site. This phase comprised Pits F2064 and F2070 and Cremation 7 (F2078). Burial F2078 contained fragments of a 2^{nd} century AD ceramic flagon. It is possible that Ditch F2082 could be also assigned to this phase.

9.1.4 Phase 3 (Medieval) was represented by single Posthole F2010, located in the north-western corner of the site.

9.1.5 Phase 4 (post-medieval/modern) was represented by Ditches F2029 and F2050, field drains, e.g. F2008, and Pit F2004. All of the features were likely to be associated with the extensive agricultural activity in this area.

9.1.6 Undated features, mostly pits, were scattered within the central and eastern parts of the site. Some of these features could be related to either Phase 2 or Phase 4.

9.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

9.2.1 The first phase of activity identified on site comprised the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch, pits and postholes. These remains of settlement represent the same activity recorded previously within Area 8. However the principal features found within Area 9, Ditches F2031 and F2040, were concentrated in the centre of the southern part of the site, and not clearly directly related to the features previously recorded in Area 8.

9.2.2 A possible enclosure comprising three ditches was recorded. It seemed to be ?rectangular/square in plan. Only the northern part/edge of this possible enclosure was found

and it measured c.130m+, extending beyond the site limits. Ditches F2031 and F2040 initially were likely to be one ditch, truncated in modern times during ploughing. Ditch F2027 was clearly re-cut by F2031, and represents an earlier phase of construction.

9.2.3 Pit F2022, located to the immediate north of Ditch F2031, contained a Beaker vessel. No traces of a cremation burial were found in association.

9.2.4 Roman activity, defined as Phase 2, was concentrated in the eastern part of the site, and may relate to Roman remains found within Area 8. Ditch F2082, despite a lack of finds, was possibly part of the boundary system revealed recently to the north of Area 9. Similar alignment, dimensions and other characteristics suggest that it could be related to ditches F1184, F1173 and F1159, indicating a rectangular enclosure.

9.2.5 Pit F2078, containing Cremation 7, was only one of this kind found during the investigation. It could relate to burials associated with the barrow found in Area 8, though pottery fragments recovered from the fill of F2078 and other Phase 2 features were dated to the 2^{nd} and early 3^{rd} century AD, while those from Area 8 mostly represented late 1^{st} century AD activity.

9.2.6 Phase 3 was modestly represented by single Posthole F2010. No evidence of any windmill, previously suggested as being present within this area from cropmark evidence, was identified.

9.2.7 Phase 4 comprised post-medieval and modern remains of extensive farming activity.

9.2.8 Undated features were present, in particular a group of cremations located in the central part of Area 9. They may relate to Saxon or Roman cremations from Area 8.

9.3 Interpretation of the site: topography and geology

9.3.1 The land at the site slopes gently to the south along the whole excavation area, and more sharply in its south-western corner. Ditches found within the site were aligned on a rough E-W alignment, suggesting that they correspond with the natural topography. Numerous field drains ran across the site, orientated north-east to south-west and north to south, to use the natural slope for drainage.

9.4 Preservation of the archaeology

9.4.1 Overall preservation of archaeological features was moderate to good. There was some evidence for plough damage causing truncation to features, probably including ditches F2031/F2040 and F2082.

9.4.2 Preservation of finds was less good. Pottery and CBM was all recovered in abraded and fragmentary condition.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited with the Museum of London (LAARC). The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2* and other relevant reference documents. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Brett Lafarge Aggregates for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological works. AS would also like to acknowledge the help and advice of the Consultant Mr Andy Josephs.

Archaeological solutions would also like to thank the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and especially Messrs David Divers and Robert Whytehead for advice and input.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	H.Bone (g)	Other
2000	CONTEXT	Jegment	Topsoil	Spot Date	Tottery	(9)	(9)	?Hammerstone (1), 592g
2002	2003		Posthole Fill	Prehistoric	(2), <1g			
2004	2005		Pit Fill		(_/, ·g	7		
2006	2007		Plough Damage Layer			460		
2008	2009		Field Drain Fill	19th Century +	(3), 5g	7		Fe Nail Fragments (2), 19g Charcoal (4), <1g Clay Pipe Stem Fragment (1), <1g Oyster Shell Fragment (1), <1g Glass Fragment (1), <1g Signet Ring Insert (1), <1g
2010	2011		Posthole Fill	Medieval	(1), 3g			
2012	2013		Pit Fill					Burnt Flint (2), 88g
2014	2015		Pit Fill	Prehistoric (?LBA)	(36), 82g			
2020	2021		Pit Fill					Burnt Flint (4), 5g
2022	2023		Pit Fill Pottery Vessel	Late Bronze Age	(140), 2754g			Struck Flint (1), 3g Charcoal (6), <1g
2031	2020	В	Ditch Fill		(8), 9g			
2036	2032	Б	Pit Fill - Cremation 1		(0), 9g		<1	
2038	2039		Pit Fill				~1	Burnt Flint (15), 204g
2000	2003		Pit Fill			11		
2044	2045		Posthole Fill	Prehistoric (?LBA)	(9), 40g			Fired Clay (3), 94g
2046	2047		Pit Fill - Cemation 2				<1	Burnt Flint (17), 114g
2048	2049		Pit Fill - Cremation 3				7	
2052	2053		Pit Fill - Cremation 4				1	

2060	2061	Pit Fill					Charcoal (30), 54g
							Fired Clay (28), 150g
2064	2065	Pit Fill	Roman	(5), 28g			
2066	2067	Posthole Fill	?Prehistoric	(1), <1g			
2070	2071	Pit Fill	Early 2nd-3rd C AD	(92), 521g	112	19	SF1: Fe Fragments (4), 34g Burnt Flint (6), 160g
2074	2075	Posthole Fill					Burnt Clay (2), 7g
2076	2077	Hearth Fill					Daub (44), 1427g
2078	2079	Pit Fill - Cremation 7	2nd C AD	(10), 70g		5	
U/S		Surface Finds Surface Finds - Close to [2034]		(7), 21g (20), 88g			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

POTTERY

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 334 sherds (3623g) of pottery, principally in prehistoric fabrics with a smaller element of Roman pottery and rare medieval and post-medieval sherds. The sherds from all periods are in a relatively poor and abraded condition, however the prehistoric pottery does include the bulk of a single vessel deposited complete in Pit F2022.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification (described below). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the archive.

Fabric Descriptions

Prehistoric

QF1: The fabric has pale brown surfaces, red-brown margins and a thick very dark grey to black core. Inclusions comprise sparse flint (0.5-2.5mm), sparse quartz (<0.25mm), sparse rock fragments (2-8mm) and sparse vegetable matter or voids (largely grass). The fabric has a soft to moderate hardness and a slightly abrasive to powdery feel.

FQ1: Flint and sand tempered ware. The fabric has oxidised red-brown surfaces and a darkbrown/black core. Inclusions comprise common flint (generally <3mm, occasionally larger) and sparse quartz (0.1-0.25mm). The fabric has a moderate to high hardness and has a slightly abrasive feel.

Roman

GRS: Sandy grey ware (Going 1987, 9: Fabric 47) BSW: Romanizing/Black-surfaced reduced ware (Going 1987, 9: Fabric 45)

Post-Roman

OXS: Medieval oxidised sandy ware. The fabric is oxidised red-orange throughout. Inclisions comprise common quartz and iron rich grains (0.1-0.25mm). The fabric is hard with a slightly abrasive to pimply feel.

TPW: Post-medieval transfer printed ware.

Commentary

The prehistoric pottery

The 223 sherds (2994g) of prehistoric pottery appear to be composed entirely of later Bronze Age fabrics, although the relative lack of diagnostic sherds limits this conclusion. The bulk of

the prehistoric pottery: 140 sherds (2754g) are accounted for by Vessel V2026, a later Bronze Age Beaker vessel contained in Pit F2022. The fabric of the vessel: SQ1 is of quite poor quality, a fact reflected by the relatively thick-walled and crude manufacture of the vessel. The vessel was observed as truncated (the rim is missing, possibly more) but partially intact during excavation, however the preservation conditions and friable nature of the fabric and prevented any attempts at reconstruction once the fragments of the vessel had been excavated. Vessel V2026 appears to have been a globular Beaker with finger-pinched rustication extended over the entirety of the exterior. Such extensive rustication is relatively uncommon on Bronze Age vessels in Essex although it is more common to the north in assemblages from Norfolk and Suffolk. Limited body sherds with comparable decoration have been recorded in the region at North Shoebury (Brown 1995, 85: fig.66.120) and Kelvedon (Rodwell 1988, 102: fig.78.4). Previously recorded examples of comparable rustication include decoration that has been pinched from the body of the vessel, as is the case here, and clay pellets applied to the vessel.

The remaining prehistoric sherds are in the better quality fabric FQ1 which is consistently harder and thinner walled. The inclusions and manufacture of the fabric still suggest a (late) Bronze Age date, but without complementary diagnostic sherds and date in the Iron Age cannot be completely ruled out. Small concentrations of body sherds in FQ1 were recovered from Pit F2014 (L2015) and as surface finds (close to F2034), while sparsely scattered sherds of the fabric were also recovered from Postholes F2002, F2044, F2066, Ditch F2031 Seg. B, Field Drain F2008 and a further surface finds.

The Roman pottery

A total of 108 sherds (624g) of Roman pottery were present in the assemblage. The bulk of the Roman pottery: 92 sherds (521g) are present as a group of BSW sherds in Pit F2070 (L2071), which include substantially abraded fragments from at least two vessels. These include a jar with a splayed, everted plain rim (Going 1987: type G9) that is probably a copy of a black-burnished ware 1 type and dates from the early 2^{nd} to the 3^{rd} centuries AD. A bead rim dish is also present but the fragments too insubstantial to provide further information.

Further diagnostic Roman pottery was present in Pit F2078 (L2079) in the form of basal, neck and handle sherds from a small flagon. The flagon would have had an everted (bead?) rim with a 2-rib strap handle and is comparable to 2nd century AD types recorded at Chelmsford (Going 1987: type J4) and Mucking (Jones and Rodwell 1973: type V124-5). The remaining Roman pottery comprises sparse BSW body sherds in Pit F2064 (L2065) and as surface finds.

The post-Roman pottery

A single small body sherd (3g) of medieval OXS was present in Posthole F2010 (L2011), while 2 very small sherds (2g) of post-medieval TPW were present in Field Drain F2008 (L2009), however none have any further diagnostic value.

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CBM, DAUB AND FIRED CLAY

Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 11 fragments (586g) of CBM and 77 fragments (1678g) of daub and fired clay. These materials were quantified by fragment count and weight (g), while observations on fabric and form were also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

Commentary

The Ceramic Building Materials

Pit F2070 (L2071) contained four cross-joining fragments (112g) of 20mm thick flat tile in a fine sand-tempered fabric with reduced surfaces that faded to an oxidised core. Although no diagnostic features were apparent these fragments probably formed part of a Roman tegula roof tile, a suggestion that is supported by the presence of Roman pottery also present in the same feature.

The remaining CBM is entirely of post-medieval date although diagnostic details are lacking. Plough Damage Layer F2006 (L2007) contained two fragments of peg tile (50g) and a single fragment of post-medieval brick (410g), all in an exceptionally highly abraded condition. Further very small fragment of CBM were present in Pit F2004 (L2005) and Field Drain F2008 (L2009) and on the basis of their fabric appear to be post-medieval but are too insubstantial for any further appraisal.

The Fired Clay and Daub

The only concentration of fired clay in the assemblage was present in Hearth F2076 (L2077) and comprises 44 fragments (1427g) that originally belonged to a single object. The fabric of the object is of silty clay with incidental flint and vegetable inclusions, baked or fired at a relatively low temperature. The fabric is soft and friable and the original shape of the object remains unclear, however it was at least 80mm thick and had rounded edges. The object was probably a rudimentary brick or support used in the hearth.

The remaining fragments, in total 33 fragments (251g), were tempered with sand and vegetable matter and were probably used as daub. Posthole F2044 (L2045) contained three fragments (94g) including a single relatively substantial fragment with wattle impressions, while the remaining fragments in Pit F2060 (28 fragments, 150g) and Posthole F2074 (2 fragments, 7g) are limited to small, highly abraded, rounded fragments.

SHELL & CREMATED BONE

By Dr James Morris

Shell

Only one fragment of shell was recovered from the site. This consisted of a small 3cm long fragment of oyster shell from fill L2009 of the 19th century field drain F2008.

Cremated bone

An initial evaluation of the hand collected burnt bone was carried out to assess the composition of the assemblage. Burnt bone was recovered from six pit fills (see Table 1). Cremated human bone was identified in all six contexts. The majority of the assemblages are highly fragmented and small. The largest fragment, measuring 26mm, came from fill L2079, feature F2078. The colouration of the burnt material is an indication of the cremation temperature. The material from contexts L2047, L2049, L2053 and L2079 had a white oxidised colouration, this is indicative of temperature of 800°C or higher (Shipman *et al.* 1984). The coloration of the material from contexts L2037 and L2071 indicate lower temperatures for these cremations.

The remains from contexts L2049, L2053, L2071 and L2079 appear to be from adult individuals. However, this will be confirmed by later analysis. This initial scan only utilised the remains collected by hand during excavation, further analysis will include the remains recovered by environmental sampling.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Weight (g)	Colour	Mx.size (mm)	Age indicator
		Pit Fill -		(3)		· /	
2036	2037	Cremation 1		<1	white/cream	7	Unknown
		Pit Fill -					
2046	2047	Cremation 2		<1	white	15	Unknown
		Pit Fill -					
2048	2049	Cremation 3		7	white	20	Adult
		Pit Fill -					
2052	2053	Cremation 4		1	White	10	Adult?
			Early 2nd-				
2070	2071	Pit Fill	3rd C AD	19	White/black	22	Adult
		Pit Fill -					
2078	2079	Cremation 7	2nd C AD	5	White	26	Adult

Table 1. Summary of cremated bone. Colour indicates the most common colour. Mx.size indicates the length of the largest fragment.

Shipman, P., Foster, G. and Schoeninger, M. 1984 'Burnt bones and teeth, an experimental study of colour, morphology, crystal structure and shrinkage', *Journal of Archaeological Science* 11, 307-325.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Soil stripping. NE facing.



DP 3. General view – central and eastern part of the site. SE facing.



DP 5. F2002. E facing.



DP 2. General view – western part of the site. NW facing.



DP 4. Central part of the site. SSW facing.



DP 6. F2036, Cremation 1. S facing.



DP 7. F2022, pre-ex. E facing (from above).



DP 9. F2022, vessel 2026. N facing.



DP 11. F2027 and F2031B. E facing.



DP 8. F2022, vessel 2026. S facing (from above).



DP 10. Working shot. F2022, vessel 2026. NW facing.



DP 12. F2046, Cremation 2. S facing.



DP 19. F20048, Wrfaningon 3. S facing.



DP 23. F2054. Sufacing.



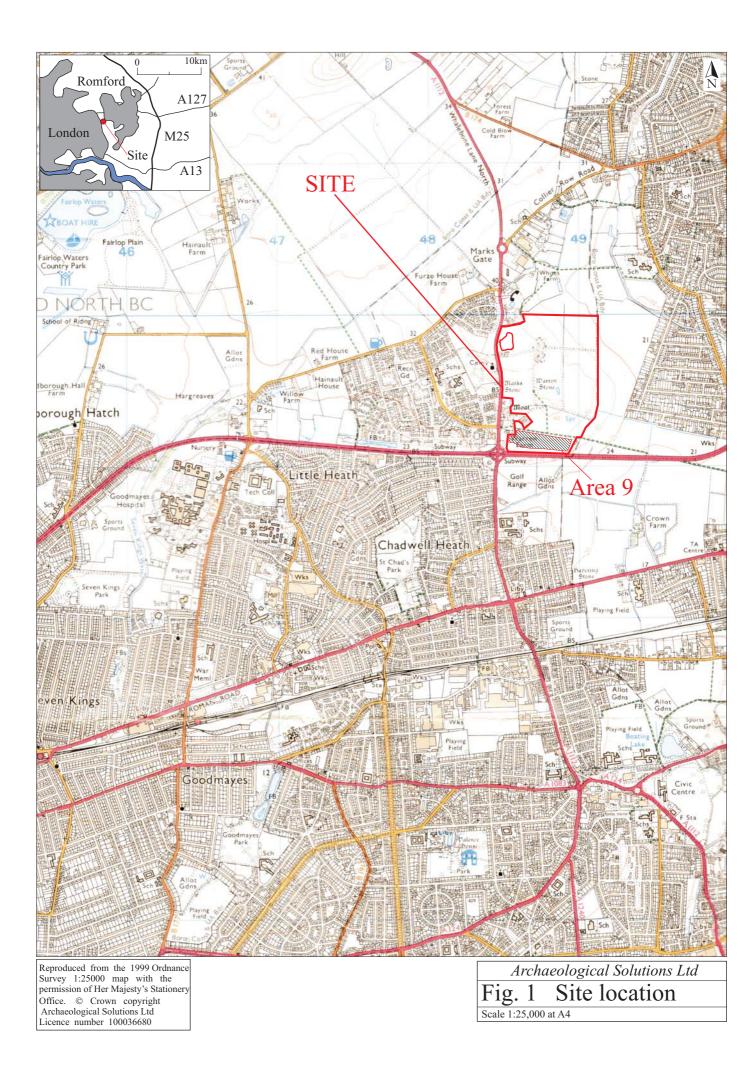
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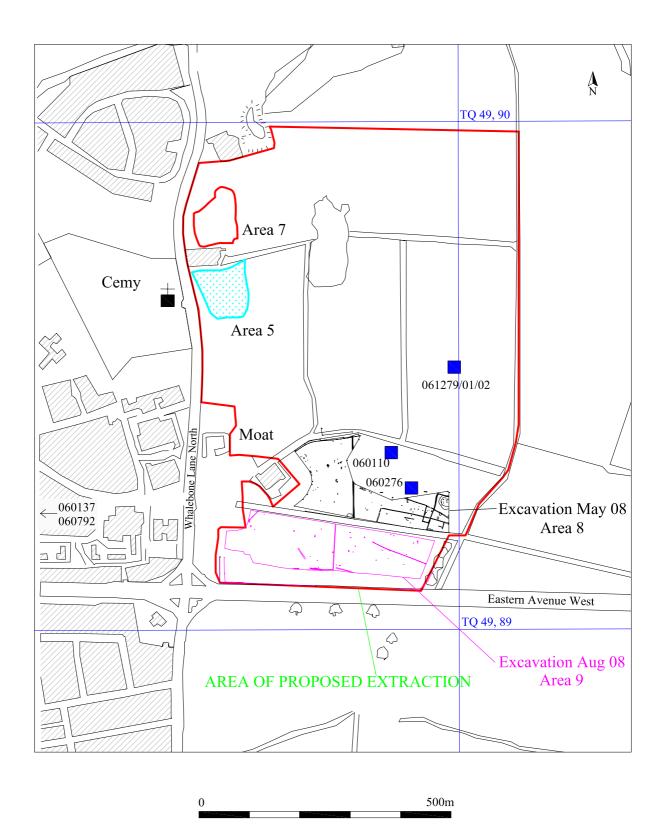


DP 22. F2078, Cremation 7. N facing.



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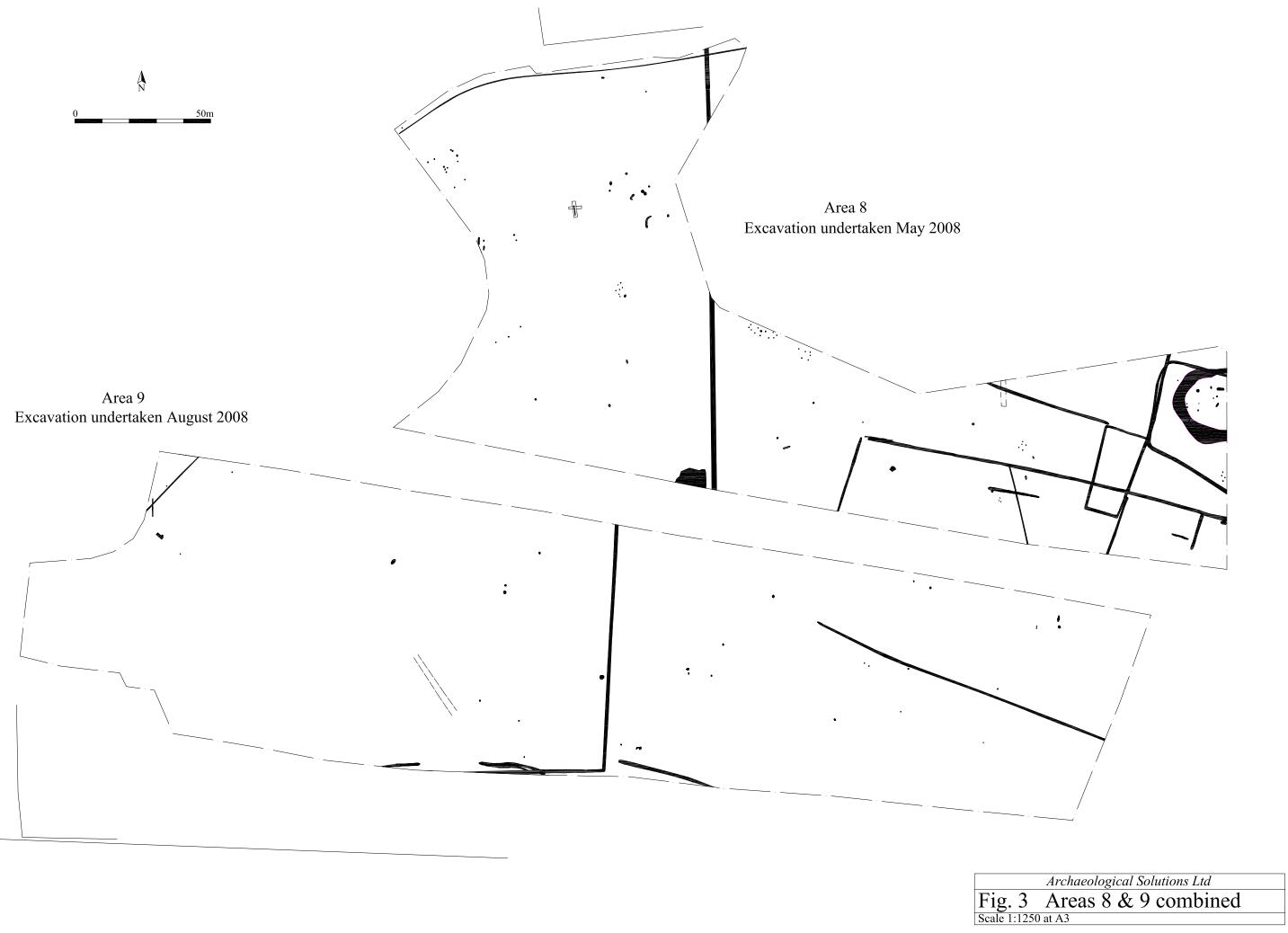


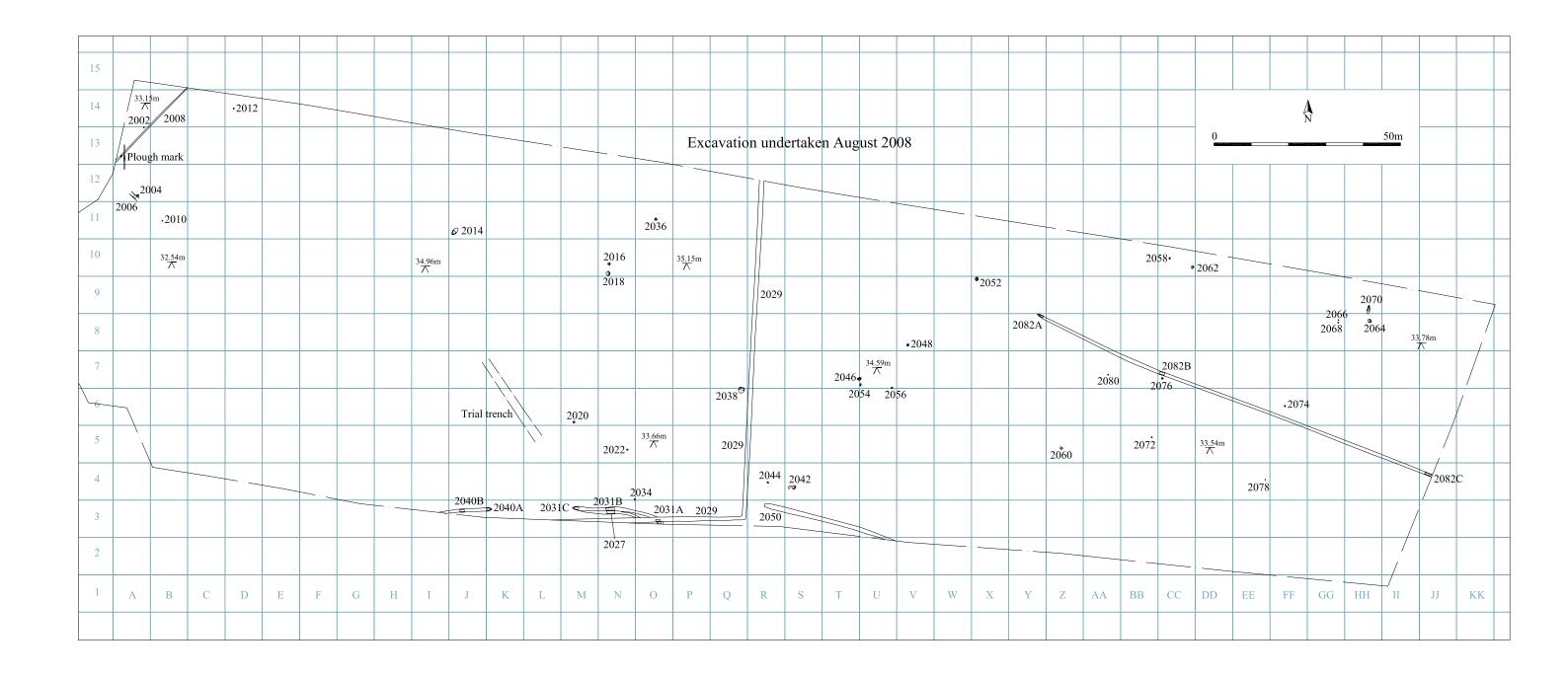


KEY

- 061279 Iron Age fortified settlement, 061279/01 Flint foundations of Roman buildings, 061279/02 Roman trackway 060110 Late Iron Age to early Roman rectangular enclosure
- 060276 Late Iron Age to early Roman field system
- 060792 Medieval windmill and occupation
- 060137 15th century moated site of Marks Manor House

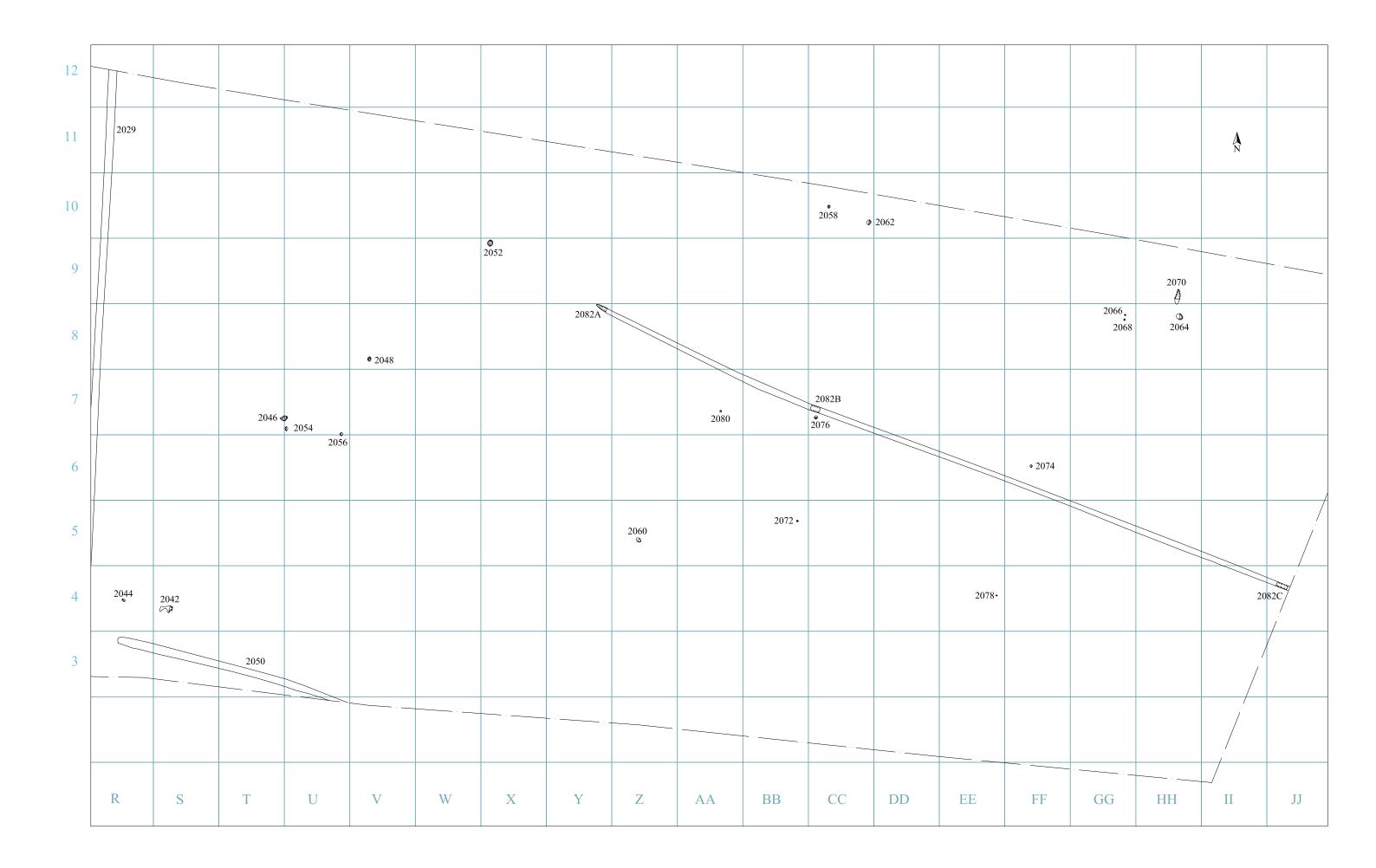
Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 2 Detailed site location Scale 1:7500 at A4





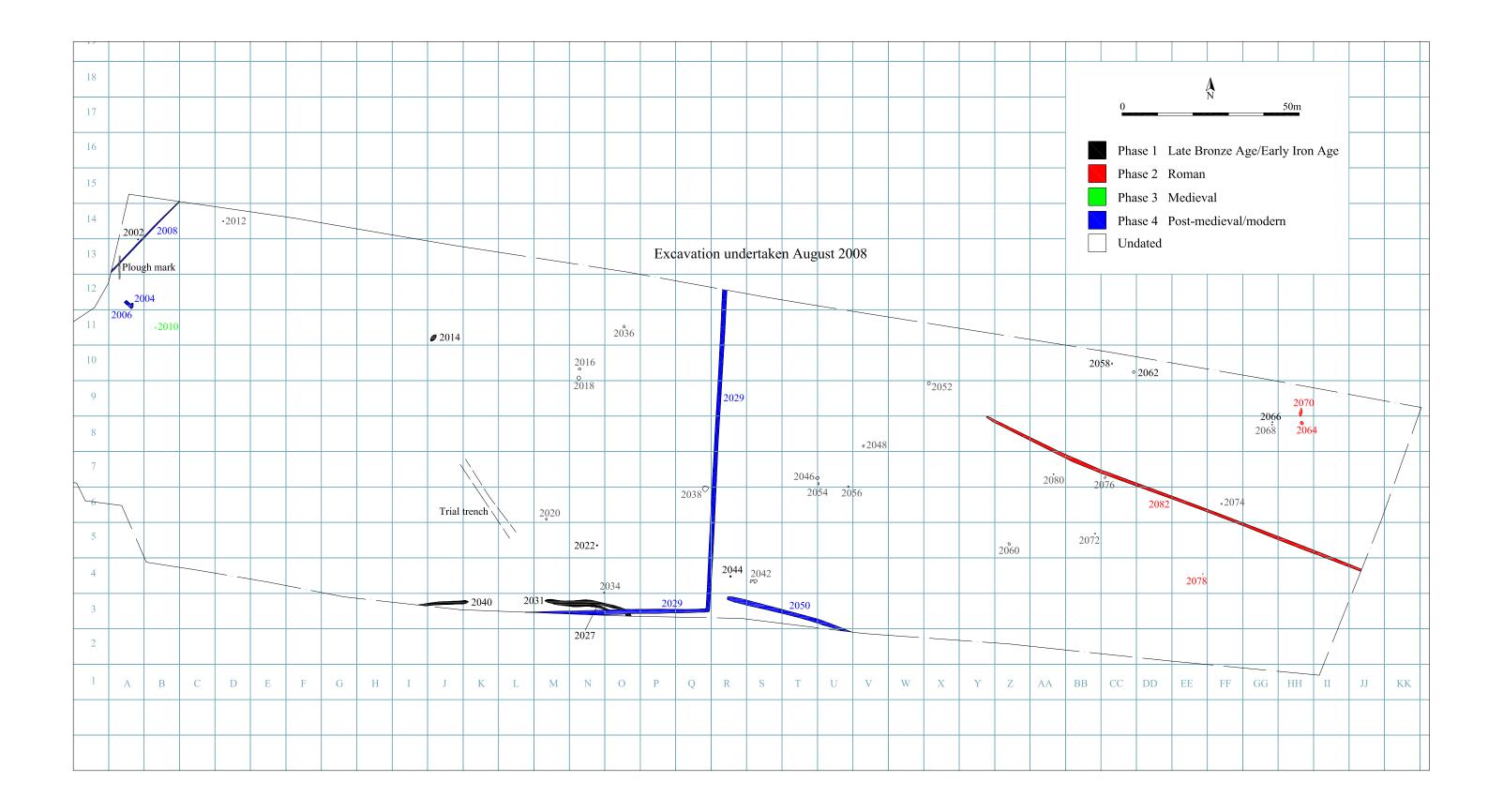


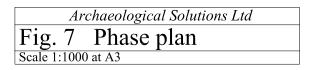
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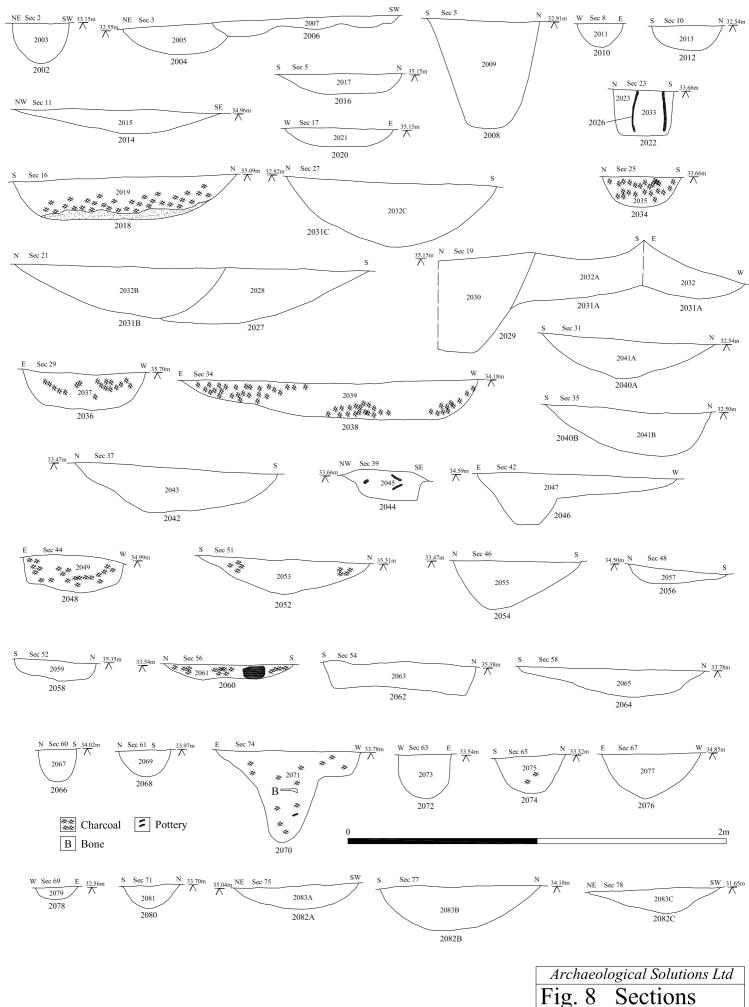


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