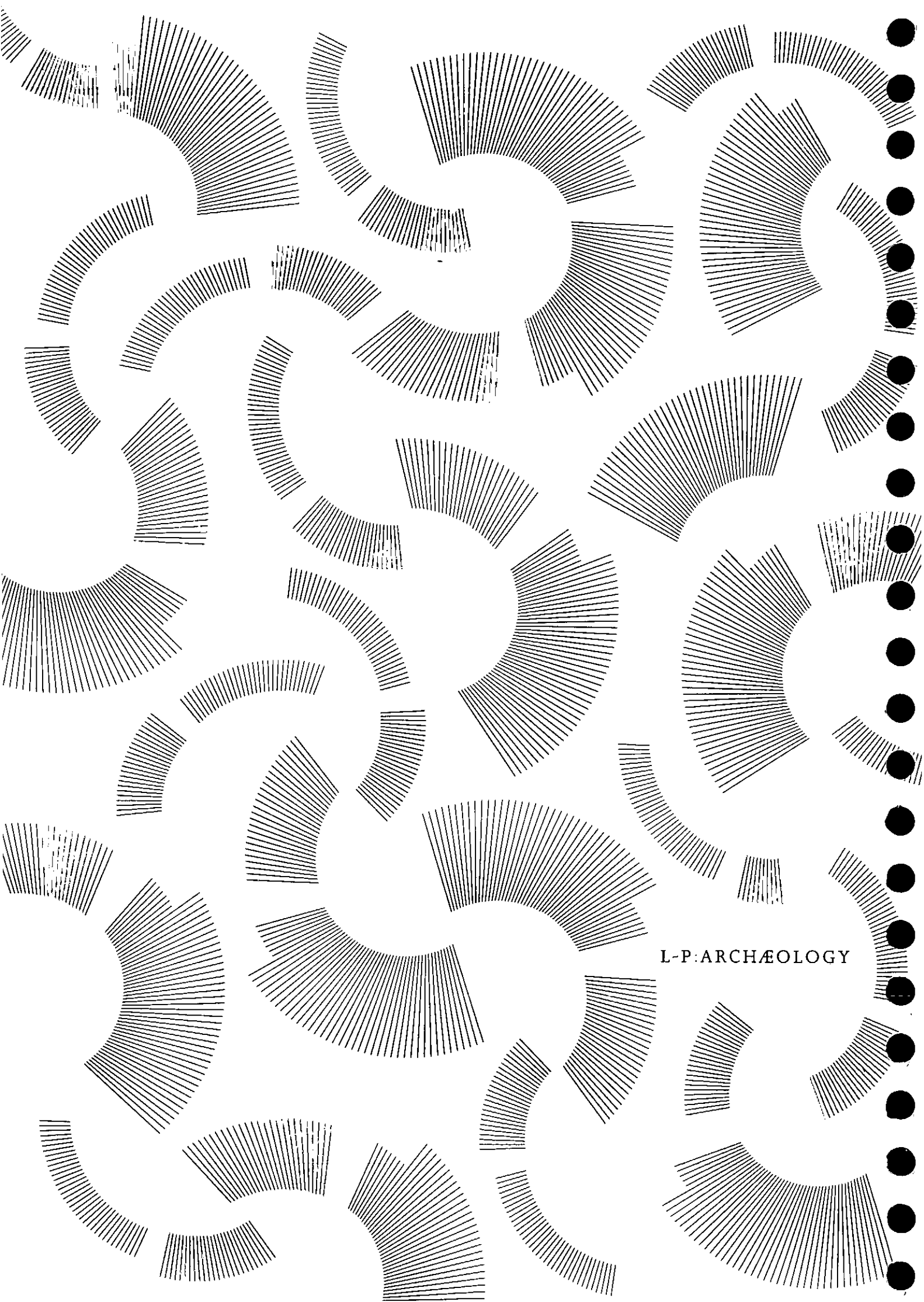
Archaeological Evaluation Report for

LAND TO THE NORTH OF HARLOW VOLUME I

For Ropemaker Properties Ltd

Diccon Hart | Janine Young

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY


L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report for

LAND TO THE NORTH OF HARLOW VOLUME I

Client:	Ropemaker Properties Ltd.
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Figure 2 // Site Location Detailed

evaluation trenches

alluvium

head

head gravel

glacial sand and gravel

boulder clay

made ground

worked out area

no drift

OS data

LBA

LIA - Roman RG

PM

other

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the detailed site location, drift geology, and evaluation trench layou

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on this site from 16th June-16th September 2005 by L-P: Archaeology. A total of 212 trenches were excavated across the 20 hectares that the site occupies. All trenches measured 30.00 m by 1.90 m, bar a single stratigraphic sondage that measured 3.00 m by 1.90 m.

The earliest concrete evidence for occupation within the study area dates to the late Bronze Age. Earlier activity is suggested by the occurrence of small residual assemblages of Mesolithic/Neolithic and middle Bronze Age material but within the scope of the project it did not prove possible to categorically establish the presence or absence of any occupation prior to the late Bronze Age. A total of 12 trenches were seen to contain archaeological remains of late Bronze Age date and show an apparent concentration of settlement towards the western half of the site. Ritual activity is represented by a variety of cremations and placed deposits clustered in the far west and east of the study area and the occurrence of late Bronze Age pottery within field boundaries towards the eastern half of the site suggests the survival of field system in this area.

No evidence of early Iron Age activity within the study area was forthcoming during the investigation and a small residual assemblage of possible middle Iron Age pottery indicates very limited activity during this period. The advent of the late Iron Age, however, saw a resumption of activity within the study area with renewed vigour. Some 19 trenches contained archaeology of this date and relate to the delineation of at least three agricultural settlements, set within an extensive field system. Ritual activity was

uncommon and limited to just two cremations located towards the eastern end of the study site. Much of this activity is considered to fall within the hinterland of the late Iron Age shrine and possible settlement centred on Harlow.

The character of early Roman activity within the study area appears to be very much a continuation of that of the late Iron Age. Occupation continued on all three settlement sites established during the preceding period and the comparative scarcity of agricultural features dated to this period is considered to represent the continuance of the Iron Age field system. The period saw the creation of at least one new settlement site, located towards the eastern end of the study area. Quantities of Roman building material retrieved from this area attest to the presence of a masonry building here and suggests a difference in the character of the site in comparison to its counterparts to the west.

Very little late Roman archaeology was encountered during the fieldwork; abandonment is evident on at least two of the four settlements occupied during the preceding period and activity on the remaining two settlements appears to be greatly restricted.

No definitive evidence of Saxon/early medieval activity was forthcoming during the fieldwork. A bone comb retrieved from a feature within one of the enclosure ditches associated with a previous Roman settlement may be of early Saxon date and attest to limited activity in the east of the study area but given that the find could easily be a late Roman type this evidence is far from conclusive.

Medieval activity within the study area is limited to just one small pit. This and the bulk of the Medieval pottery, which occurred as a residual element within later deposits, occurred in close proximity to known or postulated medieval settlements at Gilston and Eastwick and probably relates to the continuing agricultural usage of the study site.

Post-Medieval archaeology within the study area largely relates to the formation and subsequent remodelling of the park and estate associated with Gilston Park House and its predecessor New Place. This includes evidence for the landscaping of the park during the 17th century and the construction of later Post-Medieval buildings of 18th and 19th century date that relate to subsequent remodelling of the estate.

Undated features occurred in some 49 trenches. These largely comprise isolated agricultural features of which little may be said. Some, however, occurred in close proximity to known Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman settlements and may be considered to be associated with them.

1. Introduction and Scope of Study

1.1. An archaeological evaluation of this site was undertaken by L – P : Archaeology from 16th June-16th September 2005. The site is centred upon National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 0900 3410 and its location is shown in FIGURE 1.

1.2. The Local Authority is East Hertfordshire District Council.

1.3. The fieldwork was commissioned by Ropemaker Properties.

1.4. A trench plan and methodology was agreed in consultation with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works (YOUNG 2005). The location of these trenches is shown in FIGURE 2.

1.5. The layout of the trenches was based on two drivers. Firstly the results of all desktop studies and the creation of a sensitivity model led to the creation of archaeological areas of high potential, these were primarily based on the archaeological area polygons produced by HCC but additional site specific areas were also added.

1.6. The trenching plan specifically targeted some of these areas in order to clarify the exact nature of the potential of these areas. In addition the masterplan for the development was considered, it was decided that the bulk of the trenches would be placed along the proposed road network in order to gain a good linear sample of the site.

1.7. The aims of the evaluation were documented in the WSI, they are also reproduced below. It is envisaged that research objectives for the site as a whole can be created in conjunction with HCC as a result of these works and will be contained within the overall Historic Environment Management Plan if development proposals progress.

- To characterise the level of archaeology and its survival across the site, in order to provide enough information for the relevant parties to make an informed planning decision on the suitability of the site as a whole for a development such as the one proposed.
- To provide information for the ES, which is to be carried out based on the current masterplan to assess the potential impact of the proposed road network on the buried archaeology of the site.

- The evaluation aims to enable an overview of the site to be created by taking a linear sample across the archaeology in order to create a more detailed interpretation of the archaeology of the site area.
- To provide information to inform later, more detailed planning applications and the strategy for any further evaluation and mitigation required.

2. Planning Background

2.1. In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued PPG 16, "Archaeology and Planning". This document provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

2.2. In considering any planning application for development the local authority is guided by the policy framework set out by local government and their own development plan. The relevant guidance in this instance is provided by Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, (PPG 16), "Archaeology and Planning" (November 1990); and PPG 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (September 1994). Most of the site is covered by the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. The plan currently used is the Deposit version adopted in December 2000.

2.3. Details of the policies, which concern archaeology and built heritage, can be found in Chapter 9 of the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. The specific polices regarding archaeology are reproduced below:

BH1

(I) Development will not be permitted where the Council considers that it will adversely affect archaeological sites of national importance, whether scheduled or unscheduled and their setting.
(II) Permission or consent may be refused where development proposals do not satisfactorily protect archaeological remains of more local importance.

BH2

Where applications are submitted on sites which may have archaeological interest, the District Council will expect to be provided with the results of an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of an application.

BH3

Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of results.

2.4. This report is prepared in accordance with the above policies and best practice.

3. Geology and Topography

GEOLOGY

3.1. The description of the Geology has primarily been taken from the preliminary environmental assessment of the site produced by M J Carter Associates. More detailed information can be found by referring to the report directly (CARTER 1996).

3.2. The whole site is underlain by drift deposits, which overlie bedrock. In general the drift deposits comprise boulder clay resting on sand and gravel but the relationship is complex and there may be inter layering of the different types of deposits.

3.3. Beneath the drift deposits the site is underlain by three stratigraphic units of Tertiary age. The London Clay, compromising predominantly clay and silt clay underlies much of the site. The London Clay is underlain by Woolwich and Reading beds, which consist of fine sands, clayey sands, and clays.

3.4. These beds are underlain by the Thanet Beds, which at Overhall Farm consist of 7.4m of mostly clayey fine sand.

3.5. The Upper Chalk of Cretaceous age underlies the Tertiary Strata.

3.6. The Cretaceous and Tertiary strata dip gently to the southeast. The London Clay is thickest in the southeast and thins towards the north and west. The London Clay is absent around Widford and Hunsdon and in parts of the River Stort valley, which is to the south where the Woolwich and Reading Beds immediately underlie the drift.

TOPOGRAPHY

3.7. The site is located immediately to the north of the town of Harlow. The study site covers three parishes, Gilston, Eastwick and Hunsdon.

3.8. The southern edge of the study site is defined by the valley of the river Stort the A414 and the town of Harlow. To the north the site reaches almost far as Widford.

3.9. To the west the site is bounded by the B160 and the village of Hunsdon, to the east the site boundary skirts the edge of the village of High Wych.

3.10. The county boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex follows roughly the line of the river Stort, most of the site lies within Hertfordshire.

3.11. The site is mostly a gently sloping plateau, the highest point being Widford Rise +85 m above Ordnance Datum, the lowest point is in the south at +40m OD.

3.12. There are two streams flowing north – south through the site, Golden Brook and Fiddlers Brook.

3.13. The landscape is gently undulating across most of the site, with good clear views from most places across the whole area.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

4.1. The Desk Based Assessment and Historic Landscape Assessment together set out in detail the archaeological and historical background to the site (YOUNG 2004A AND TUCK 2005). The sensitivity model and integrated GIS for the project have already made an attempt at characterising the archaeology of the site area and predicting the nature of the archaeological resource of the site.

4.2. Both documents look at the broad picture of the site as an archaeological landscape and it is against this backdrop that the evaluation is set. The evaluation is not designed as a stand alone piece of work, it is part of the wider approach to the project as a whole and it is hoped that the results of the evaluation will add to the further detail our understanding of the archaeological landscape of the site as a whole.

4.3. Therefore for the purposes of this report, it is not considered necessary to go into detail here on the archaeological and historical background of the site. This information is all contained within the GIS and the two reports mentioned above. It is essential that the reader consult these documents in order to gain an overview of the known and expected archaeology on the site.

4.4. Suffice to say, due to the size of the site there was predicted a high potential for the presence of archaeological deposits relating to each of the periods above on the site. Certain areas of the site have been identified as having higher potential for remains than others and these areas were pinpointed within the sensitivity model. The location of archaeological sites, their relationship to one another and presence within the landscape as a whole is of essential importance to this project.

4.5. Initial research has shown that the site has been inhabited and the land used and settled almost continually from the Neolithic period onwards and it is highly likely that evidence for earlier activity will be present, particularly within the Stort Valley. The pattern of shifting settlement across the site and the different ways in which the landscape has been used and managed throughout the periods is of particular interest.

5. Methodology

5.1.EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

5.1.1. Following consultation between L – P : Archaeology, Hertfordshire County Council and the client, a Written Scheme of Investigation was designed by L-P; Archaeology and approved by HCC.

5.1.2. The work was carried out by L – P : Archaeology and involved the excavation of a total of 212 trenches, designed to achieve a 5 percent sample of the proposed road network of the site. Some trenches were also positioned to target areas where the sensitivity model indicated that the archaeological potential was likely to be high as discussed above. The location of these trenches is shown in FIGURE 2.

5.1.3. All but one of the trenches were 1.90 m wide and 30.00 m long. The remaining trench comprised a stratigraphic test pit measuring 3.00 m by 1.90m.

5.1.4. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden was removed in successive spits down to the top significant archaeological deposits. This was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist

5.1.5. Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

5.1.6. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was by hand using appropriate hand tools.

5.1.7. A minimum number of features, within each significant archaeological horizon, was hand excavated to meet the research requirements of the evaluation.

5.1.8. All recorded deposits were related to Ordnance Datum.

5.1.9. Environmental samples were taken as appropriate.

5.1.10.All finds, artefacts, industrial remains and faunal remains were collected.

5.1.11.The site code (NH1 05) was allocated by L – P : Archaeology. This code was

used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs and all other elements of the documentary archive.

5.1.12. The recording system used followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (EDITED BY CHRIS SPENCE, 3RD EDITION 1994).

5.1.13. Context sheets included all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram was employed.

5.1.14. A full photographic record was maintained.

5.1.15. Any archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section.

5.2. POST EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

5.2.1. All written records were checked and entered onto the Environmental Sensitivity Model database during fieldwork. Drawn records were also checked and digitised during the course of the fieldwork.

5.2.2. Initial analysis of the stratigraphic sequence was undertaken on a trench specific basis. Features within each trench were assigned a code to indicate their type and function and phased where the available dating allowed. These codes and their descriptions may be found in

5.2.3. These results were then tabulated by period (Appendix 4 Table 1) and a Land Use descriptor assigned to each trench where possible, in order to permit a higher level of interpretation on a site wide-basis. In practice, these descriptors included Settlement, Ritual, Park/Garden, Industrial and Agricultural activity.

5.2.4. Specific land use categories were subsequently assigned a Site Group number (Appendix 4 Table 2). This was undertaken primarily as an aid to interpretation and should not be considered to be definitive. Agricultural activity comprised the bulk of the land use within the study area but such activity proved difficult both to date and define and thus Site Group numbers were not assigned to agricultural activity.

6. Technical Results

6.1. Numbers within [square brackets] refer to cut features, those within (round brackets) to deposits and fills and underlined numbers denote masonry. All trenches were 1.90 m in width. In the interests of clarity and brevity, dimensions have not, as a rule been included in this summary. A full list of recorded contexts appears in Appendix 3.

TRENCH 1

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.2. Natural deposit of light yellowish brown silty clay (002) encountered at a maximum height of 68.80 m OD at the far western end of the trench, falling away to 68.04 m OD to the east. A shallow and discontinuous east-west aligned linear feature [004], filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (003) was cut into the surface of the natural clay and probably represents plough-scarring. The sequence was capped by a layer of mid brown clayey silt plough soil (001).

TRENCHES 2-4

6.3. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 5 (FIGURE 3)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.4. Mid brownish yellow natural clay (073) encountered at 66.75 m OD at the southern end of the trench falling away to 65.82 m OD to the north.

6.5. A single large ditch was observed at the far southern end of the trench and comprised a steep sided ditch cut with a broadly V-shaped profile (072). A primary fill of light grey clay (071) on the northern edge of the ditch may have been derived from a postulated bank on this side of the ditch. A secondary fill of mid greenish grey silty clay (070) was seen to contain 19th century pottery and ironwork and may be considered to indicate a 19th century date for the feature. A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (069) sealed the sequence.

TRENCH 6 (FIGURE 3) HER 13352

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.6. The natural geology, a mid reddish brown slightly silty clay was encountered at 63.63 m OD at the southern end falling away to 62.88 m at the northern end. Two features were observed within the trench: a ditch [077] and a posthole [079].

6.7. Cut into the natural was an east-west orientated ditch [077]. In profile ditch [077] had concave sides and base and was filled by single deposit (078); a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate medium to large flint and frequent medium chalk inclusions. Posthole [079] was circular in plan with straight, almost vertical sides terminating abruptly in a slightly concave base and filled by a single deposit of mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks (080). A single residual flake of Mesolithic date was retrieved from fill (078).

6.8. A layer of light greenish brown slightly silty clay subsoil (075) overlay both features and in turn was overlain by a mid greyish brown clay topsoil incorporating occasional medium gravel (074).

TRENCH 7 (FIGURE 4)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.9. The natural geology comprised stiff, light greenish brown clay with frequent medium chalk flecks (082), encountered at a depth of 63.20 m OD at the western end of the trench and 63.03 m at the eastern end.

6.10. A single ditch [083] orientated northeast-southwest, as shown on the 1834 Tithe map was revealed within the trench. Cut into the natural geology (082), the profile of the ditch had straight sloping sides to a narrow rounded base. Three deposits were recorded within the ditch: primary fill (086), a stiff mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with moderate flecks of medium chalk and occasional flecks of CBM; deposit (085) a stiff light greenish brown clay with frequent flecks of medium chalk, slumping in from the NW side of the ditch and deposit (084), a stiff mid greyish brown slightly silty clay with moderate medium chalk and CBM flecks and occasional medium flints.

6.11.The sequence was overlain by a deposit of ploughsoil, mid greyish brown clay with occasional gravels and chalk (081).

TRENCH 8 (FIGURE 5) HER 13323

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.12.The natural geology within this trench was seen to vary from mid brownish red clayey silt (061) at the southern end of the trench to mottled light greyish brown/yellowish grey silt at the northern end (058). This was encountered at a maximum height of 61.26 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down to 60.80 m OD to the south.

6.13.Much of the activity represented in this trench comprised pitting. Indeed, some seven such features were investigated, many of which were heavily truncated by subsequent pits. The earliest of these comprised a sub-rectangular pit [062] filled with mid brown clayey silt (063) and two sub-circular pits [067] and [045], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (068) and mid brown silt (046) respectively. The homogeneous nature of these fills suggests that the pits were backfilled relatively quickly and were subsequently truncated by further pitting. This comprised a large sub-circular pit [064] with a fill of light yellowish brown clayey silt (066), overlain by a fill of mid grey silty clay (065) and a poorly defined irregular pit [047] with a fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Pit [047], it seems was also relatively short lived for it was soon replaced by a further two pits; a sub-ovoid example [051] filled with mid reddish brown silt (052) and an extensive but shallow pit [049] with a fill of grey clayey silt (050).

6.14.A general paucity of cultural material within these features makes it difficult to determine their function. Certainly, the presence of flecks of charcoal and shell within the fills of most of these features suggest that they were used primarily as rubbish pits. The irregular pit [045], on the other hand, may well be better viewed as representative of small scale quarrying.

6.15.This sequence of pits was eventually truncated by a sequence of two substantial ditches on a northwest-southeast orientation. The earlier of the two consisted of a wide (c. 1.70m) but shallow cut with irregular sides [055] and a fill of light brown silt with occasional fleck of charcoal (056). This was soon replaced with a narrower

but deeper ditch [053] filled with mid reddish brown clayey silt (054), also with flecks of charcoal. Pottery retrieved from fills (048), (050), (052), (0570 and (062) indicates that much, if not all this sequence may be dated to the late Bronze Age.

6.16. A layer of mid brownish grey silt subsoil (059) sealed much of the archaeological sequence described above and was in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil.

TRENCH 9

6.17. No archaeological deposits

TRENCH 10 (FIGURE 6) HER 13323

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.18. Natural boulder clay (121) was encountered at a maximum height of 66.21 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 65.66 m OD to the east.

6.19. Archaeological activity recorded within this trench solely comprised postholes or small pits, of which 16 such features were recorded. Generally speaking, there is little to distinguish many of these features from one another, the majority being of similar size, shape and profile and with very similar fills. Three features, however, are conspicuous in that they are noticeably larger than any other features in the trench (i.e. over 0.50m in width). Two of these, [088] and [098], comprised steep sided sub-circular cuts with relatively flat bases and very similar fills of mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal (089) and (099) respectively, whereas the third, [096] though filled with a similar deposit to those described above (097) displayed a different tapered blunt profile.

6.20. Of the remaining 13 features in this trench some nine were closely comparable in shape and size, comprising steep sided postholes with rounded bases. These include [090], [092], [094], [100], [102], [110], [112], [116] and [118] and were filled with very similar fills of mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal (091), (093), (095), (101), (103), (109), (111), (115) and (117) respectively. The other features in this trench included two small postholes with tapered profiles [104] and [108], with similar fills of mid brownish grey clayey silt (105) and (107) respectively and two shallow irregular features that are probably

natural in origin [114] and [120]. Pottery retrieved from various features within this trench is exclusively of late Bronze Age date.

6.21.The entire sequence was sealed by a layer of dark brown clayey silt ploughsoil (087).

TRENCHES 11-14

6.22.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 15 (FIGURE 4)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.23.The natural geology, encountered at a depth of 54.78 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench and 53.07 m at the northeastern end, comprised mid reddish-yellow brown silty clay with frequent medium to large flint and chalk inclusions (123).

6.24.Cut into the natural was a single ditch [125] orientated southeast-northwest. The ditch profile had concave sides to a slightly concave base, filled by a single deposit (124) of firm mid greenish brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks, moderate flint and occasional flecks of CBM.

6.25.The sequence was overlain by a mid brown clayey ploughsoil (122).

TRENCH 16

6.26.Not excavated.

TRENCH 17 (FIGURE 7)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.27.The natural geology (489), a very compact mid yellow brown silty clay with abundant chalk flecks and fragments was encountered at a depth of 61.29 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench and 60.70 m at the southwestern end.

6.28.Cut into the natural were the bases of two probable postholes: [491] and [493], both oval in plan, and irregular in profile. The single fill of [491] comprised a firm mid brown silty clay (490) with frequent chalk flecks, rare CBM and charcoal. The

fill of [493] was medium compact dark brown silty clay with occasional small flint and rare chalk fragments and flecks (492); a single fragment of an iron object was recovered from the deposit.

6.29.The sequence was sealed by a layer of ploughsoil comprising medium compact dark brown silty clay, with frequent small flint and chalk flecks (488).

TRENCHES 18-20

6.30.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 21 (FIGURE 8) HER 13324

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.31.The natural geology (513) was encountered at 60.70 m OD at the southeastern end of the trench dropping away to 59.41 m to the northwest.

6.32.A ditch and a posthole were cut into the natural geology. The ditch cut [510], orientated north - south was broadly V-shaped in profile, containing two fills: deposit (509) at the base of the feature was a firm yellowish brown silty clay with frequent flint and chalk, occasional charcoal and late Bronze Age pottery. The upper part of this deposit comprised a band of well-packed stones acting as an interface with deposit (508) above. The upper fill (508) was firm dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate chalk, occasional flint and charcoal and occasional fragments of late Bronze Age pottery. Posthole [512] was semi-circular in plan with sloping sides and a poorly defined base. The fill (511) of the posthole was a firm, sticky greyish yellow brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments and occasional burnt clay and gravels.

6.33.The uppermost deposit in the sequence sealed both features and comprised a ploughsoil of friable mid brown silty clay with frequent gravels and small stones (507).

TRENCH 22

6.34.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 23 (FIGURE 9) HER 13325

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.35.Natural geology, comprising light brownish yellow clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 59.08 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 58.72 m OD to the southwest.

6.36.Two archaeological features were recorded within this trench; a substantial ditch and a possible beam slot (i.e. the slot made to receive the sill beam of a building or the void created by the removal of such a beam). The ditch lay towards the northeastern end of the trench and consisted of a wide straights-sided and flat-bottomed cut [537] some 2.00 m in width and on a northwest-southeast alignment. The primary fill of this ditch comprised dark yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles (538). This was deposited against the northeastern edge of the ditch and may represent the slumping of a postulated bank into the freshly cut ditch. This was in turn overlain by a deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay (539) containing significant quantities of domestic refuse such as pottery, animal bone and charcoal and is likely to have been intentionally dumped into the ditch, again from the northeastern side of the feature. Pottery retrieved from these fills dates to the late Iron Age. The latter two fills of this ditch comprised dark yellowish brown silty clay (540), overlain by mid yellowish brown silty clay (541). Both contained occasional pebbles and charcoal and seemingly represent the disuse and silting up of the ditch.

6.37.Immediately to the south of this ditch lay a possible beam slot. This comprised a shallow steep sided and flat-bottomed cut [542], filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (543). This feature was seen to extend west with a return to the south to create a rectilinear structural footprint at least 2.00 m x 1.65 m in size but extending further to the east and south.

6.38.Both these features were sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (536), in turn sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (535).

TRENCHES 24-26

6.39.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 27 (FIGURE 10) HER 13325

LENGTH: 29.50 M **ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST**

6.40. The natural geology (251) was mid greenish brown chalky clay situated at 60.75 m OD at the southeastern end of the trench and 60.45 m at the northwestern end.

6.41. Cut into the natural was north-south orientated gully [250]. In profile the gully had shallow sloping sides to a slightly concave base and was filled by (249) firm mid brown silty clay with moderate gravels. Situated parallel to the gully at approximately 10.00 m to the east, were two substantial ditches [252] and [253].

6.42. Ditch [253] also orientated north-south, measured 2.15 m wide and had steeply sloping, slightly concave sides. The base was not seen. The primary fill of the ditch (258) was firm light greenish brown silty clay overlain by deposit (257): firm very dark brown/black silty clay with occasional clay lenses similar in character to deposit (258). Deposit (256) overlay (257) and comprised firm mottled mid grey and greenish brown silty clay. The uppermost fill in the sequence was deposit (246), comprising firm dark grey silty clay. All four deposits contained frequent fragments of small chalk, becoming slightly larger towards the base deposit (258).

6.43. Ditch [253] was truncated on its eastern side by ditch [252]: In profile ditch [252] was 2.85 m wide and slightly concave to the west side but straight with a slight step to the east, the base was pointed. There were three fills observed within the excavated section: Deposit (255) appeared to slump in from the east side and comprised firm light greenish brown silty clay with frequent small chalk. An initial silting deposit of soft mid grey silty clay (254) overlay deposit (255), this in turn was overlain by (247), mid grey silty clay. Both (255) and (247) included moderate small chalk flecks and occasional CBM flecks; potsherds, were recovered from both deposits, bone and an iron nail were also recovered from (247). Pottery retrieved from the fills of both ditches included Roman wares dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with a significant residual component of late Iron Age material.

6.44. The trench sequence was capped by deposit (245), a ploughsoil comprising firm light brown silty clay with frequent gravels.

TRENCH 28-32

6.45.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 33 (FIGURE 7)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.45.1.The natural geology (133), light brown silty clay with abundant chalk was encountered at depths of 58.18 m OD at the western end and 56.85 m to the eastern limit of excavation.

6.45.2.A single north-south orientated ditch [132] was cut into the natural; in profile it had steeply sloping sides to a flat base. The single fill (131) was firm light brown sandy silty clay containing frequent chalk fragments and occasional sherds of late Iron Age pottery.

6.45.3.A deposit of ploughsoil (130) overlay the feature.

TRENCH 34

6.46.No archaeological deposits

TRENCH 35 (FIGURE 11) HER 13330

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.47.Natural clay (154) was encountered at a maximum height of 53.32 m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 52.25 m OD to the north.

6.48.A single ditch was recorded within this trench. This comprised a steep sided ditch cut with rounded base [151]. Initial silting of the ditch was represented by a primary fill of light yellowish brown clayey silt (152), whereas a far more substantial fill of mid brown clayey silt (153) represented the backfilling of the ditch. No finds were recovered from the feature.

6.49.A layer of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil (150) sealed the trench.

TRENCH 36 (FIGURE 11) HER 13331

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.50.Natural geology, comprising mid brownish red fine sand, was encountered at a

maximum height of 53.19 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away sharply to 51.34 m OD to the southwest.

6.51. Two ditches on a north-south orientation were situated towards the northeastern end of the trench. Both were immediately adjacent to one another, though no direct relationship could be discerned. The easternmost of the two comprised a steep V-shaped cut [566] with a primary accumulative fill of mid brownish red silty sand (565) and a secondary backfill of dark greyish brown sandy silt containing a great deal of domestic refuse, including pottery, animal bone, charcoal and burnt clay or daub.

6.52. The western ditch displayed a closely comparable profile and sequence, also constituting a V-shaped cut [569] with a primary fill of mid brownish red silty sand (568) and a backfill of dark greyish brown silty sand (567) with considerable quantities of domestic rubbish. Pottery retrieved from the fills of both ditches indicates that they are of late Iron Age date.

6.53. A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (563) sealed these features.

TRENCHES 37–41

6.54. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 42 (FIGURE 12) HER 13325

LENGTH: 30.00 M **ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST**

6.55. Natural geology (940) comprising firm greenish grey chalky clay was encountered at depths of 62.17 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench and 61.72 m OD at the southeastern end. A number of features were seen to be cut into this underlying natural geology, including ditches a possible beam slot, a gully and a posthole.

6.56. Ditch cut [939] was orientated northeast-southwest and had steep sides to a narrow concave base. The fill (938), was firm brownish grey clay with frequent chalk, late Iron Age pottery and CBM. Ditch [932], also orientated northeast – southwest, had an irregular profile, the fill comprised a single deposit (931) firm mid reddish-yellow brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, flint, chalk, bone. Ditch [937] was east-west orientated and 2.50 m wide with slightly convex slope to the north edge, sloping south edge and a concave base. There were several fills: the primary deposit

(936) was a moderate mid reddish yellow brown silty clay with occasional pot and bone. (936) was overlain by (935), a medium soft mottled mid grey brown and reddish yellow brown silty clay with frequent pot and bone, moderate chalk and occasional charcoal. Both fills contained late Iron Age pottery. Deposit (934) was a moderate mid greyish brown organic silty clay. The inclusions were frequent bone, pot and occasional charcoal. Deposit (933) was the uppermost in the ditch fill sequence, comprising moderate light grey brown clay silt with moderate flint and bone, occasional pottery and charcoal. Pottery retrieved from these upper two fills dates to the early Roman period.

6.57. Possible beam slot [929] was orientated northeast – southwest and had steep sides to a flat base. The fill was firm greenish grey clay with frequent chalk and bone. The beam slot was possibly truncated by gully [923], however the relationship does not appear to have been firmly established. Gully [923] was northwest – southeast orientated and c. 0.50 m or so was visible. The terminus of the feature was presumably sealed by the remains of surface (920) as no further traces emerged beyond the limits of the surface. In profile, gully [923] was almost vertical at the northern edge, sloping to the south; the base was flat. It is possible that this gully represented a further beam slot in association with feature [929]. The fills of [923] comprised deposit (922) a firm dark greenish grey silty clay with frequent chalk, pebbles and moderate charcoal, overlain by (921), a firm very dark greyish brown organic silty sandy clay with frequent charcoal, bone and Roman pottery.

6.58. Posthole [925] was also cut into the natural geology. In plan, the posthole was ovoid with almost vertical sides to a concave base. The posthole fill was a firm mid brownish clay with frequent gravel.

6.59. The remaining features investigated within trench 42 comprised two possible buried soils, separated by a clear interface. The lower buried soil (930), situated above the natural geology (940) was firm dark brownish clay with occasional pebbles, pot and bone. The interface (927) was very shallow and flat overlain by deposit (926) The upper buried soil was a hard mid grey silty clay with abundant pot, bone, and daub, frequent chalk, pebbles and charcoal. Much of the pottery recovered from this deposit was Roman in date.

6.60.Posthole [925], possible gully [923] and the buried soil sequence were overlain by (920); a surface of rammed gravel in a matrix of dark brown clay containing charcoal and chalk flecks, bone pottery and burnt clay that was interpreted by the excavator as a yard surface. The pottery recovered from this surface comprised residual late Iron Age material. A Roman date for the deposit is clear, given that the surface sealed Roman features.

6.61.The remaining features and the yard surface were overlain by subsoil deposit (919), was a firm dark reddish yellow brown clay with frequent gravels, in turn overlain by current ploughsoil (918) a firm dark brown silty clay.

TRENCHES 43-46

6.62.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 47 (FIGURE 13) HER 13325

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.63.The natural geology in this trench comprised a mix of heavily soliflucted chalk and mid yellowish brown silty clay (339) and was encountered at a maximum height of 60.73 m OD at the western end of the trench, sloping down to the east to 60.49 m OD.

6.64.A total of three features were recorded within this trench. The easternmost of these consisted of an irregular cut [343] and fill of iron panned mid greyish brown clayey silt (342) containing early Roman pottery. Further to the west, however, was a possible north-south aligned ditch terminus or large pit [333] that extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south. Three distinct fills were recorded within this feature; a primary slump of mid greenish brown silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk (334) overlain by a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (335), in turn sealed by a deposit of mid greenish brown silty clay, again with frequent flecks of chalk (336). These fills were in turn truncated by a smaller cut [337], filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of CBM (338). This feature was interpreted by the excavator as a potential re-cut of the possible ditch terminus [333].

6.65.A further small ditch on a north-south orientation was observed immediately to the

west of the possible termini described above, consisting of a shallow straight sided cut [341] with a single fill of light greyish brown clayey silt (340).

6.66.All three of these features were sealed by a layer of dark grey silty clay ploughsoil (332).

TRENCH 48

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.67.Machine stripping occurred to a depth of 58.17 m OD at the north and 58.34 m at the south ends of the trench. The natural geology for the first 11.50 m from the northern end of the trench was firm dark brown slightly silty clay (284). The natural in the first 17.50 m from the southern end of the trench was firm yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk and moderate flint (285).

6.68.A number of features were recorded within this trench, including [277], [279], [281], and [283] but all were deemed to be natural in origin by the excavator. The deposits encountered within these features comprised dark to medium brown slightly silty to silty clay (276), (278), (280) and (282). Some charcoal and manganese staining was observed within fills (280) and (282), moderate gravels in (276), (278), (280) and (282).

6.69.A deposit of topsoil (275) capped the sequence and comprised firm dark grey brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional CBM, charcoal and chalk flecks.

TRENCHES 49--51

6.70.No archaeological deposits

TRENCH 52 (FIGURE 13) HER 13346

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.71.Natural geology (404) was encountered at 49.14 m OD at the northern end of the trench and 47.84 m at the southern end. The natural was overlain by a light brown sandy silt subsoil (400) with lenses of angular to sub-angular flint and frequent brick flecks and fragments.

6.72.Feature [405], cut into the subsoil and underlying natural geology, had in plan, straight parallel sides some 10.00 to 10.50 m apart. In profile, the cut had irregular straight sides leading to an irregular flat base. The primary deposit (403) within the cut was friable greyish black ash with frequent charcoal, deposited when hot as indicated by discolouration of surrounding subsoil and natural. A layer of friable yellowish red heavily fragmented Post-Medieval CBM (402) was situated above the dark ashy deposit (403). In plan the CBM layer was seen to comprise several discrete linear concentrations, poorly defined in section (after machining). A further deposit (401) of greyish white crushed/fragmented CBM overlay part of deposit (402). The sequence is believed to represent either the rake-out from a nearby kiln or the basal remains of a clamp kiln itself. An adjacent trench (Trench 77) was machined perpendicular to the south end of trench 52 in order to establish extent of the remains associated with a kiln site. No further concentrations of ash or charcoal were picked up, only the edge of a cut and deposit of fragmented CBM (also less concentrated than in this trench).

6.73.The entire sequence was capped by a layer of light brown sandy silt plough soil (399)

TRENCHES 53--55

6.74.Not excavated

TRENCHES 56--68

6.75.No archaeological deposits

TRENCH 69 (FIGURE 14) HER 13332

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.76.Natural geology comprising mid yellowish brown silty clay (595) was encountered at a maximum height of 53.01 m OID at the northeastern end of the trench, sloping down to 52.83 m OD to the southwest.

6.77.A series of five parallel linear features lay within the trench, recorded as [597], [599], [602], [604] and [611]. All lay on a similar east-west orientation, all displayed similar steep sided and flat-bottomed profiles and all possessed similar fills

of mid yellowish brown slightly sandy silty clay, recorded as (596), (598), (603), (605), and (612) respectively. A single sherd of late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from fill (612).

6.78. Two small pits were seen to truncate the fills of ditches [602] and [604]. These comprised irregular ovoid cuts [600] and [606] filled with the same mid yellowish brown slightly sandy silty clay (601) and (607) respectively. In addition, posthole was excavated adjacent to ditch [611]. This consisted of a sub-circular cut [608] with a packing of chalk fragments in a matrix of yellowish brown silty clay (610) and a post pipe (i.e. the void created through the removal or rotting of a timber post) filled with greyish black silty clay with frequent charcoal (609).

6.79. A layer of mid brown silty clay topsoil (594) sealed the trench.

TRENCH 70

6.80. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCHES 71-76

6.81. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 77 (FIGURE 14)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.82. Natural mid yellowish brown silty clay (899) was encountered at a maximum height of 47.90 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 46.22 m OD to the east. A single large feature was cut into this natural geology towards the southern side of the trench. This comprised a probable rectilinear cut [901] with steep sides and flat base, filled with a deposit of heavily fragmented brick and burnt clay (900). A layer of mid greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (898) sealed the feature.

TRENCH 78 (FIGURE 15)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.83. Natural firm light brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint (411) geology was encountered at 53.05 m OD at the west end of the trench and 53.19 m at the east

end. Three ditches were cut into the natural: [413] was orientated northwest - southeast, [415], and [417] were orientated northeast-southwest. Ditch [413] had a V-shaped profile, cut [415] had steep sloping side to the southeast and more gradual slope to the northwest, and the base was concave. Gully [417] was broadly U-shaped in profile.

6.84. Deposits (412), (414) and (416), single fills of [413], [415] and [417] all comprised mid reddish yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk, flint and rare charcoal. No finds were recovered from the deposits with the exception of two possible flakes in (414). No dating evidence was retrieved from any of these features.

6.85. The overlying ploughsoil (410) was firm brown silty clay with frequent gravels.

TRENCHES 79-80

6.86. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 81 (FIGURE 15)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.87. Natural geology (616) was encountered at depths of 61.69 m OD at the northern end of the trench and 60.79 m at the southern end. The geology was firm very light brown to light yellowish brown silty clay with moderate to frequent chalk and occasional flint (616). Two possible features were observed but both appeared to be natural in origin, comprising a probable tree throw [618], and a shallow feature interpreted as a depression in the underlying natural geology [620]. The deposits filling features (617) and (619), comprised firm brown silty clay with moderate gravel and small stones. The fill (617) of tree throw [618] included moderate charcoal. No finds were observed in each feature.

6.88. The trench had a layer of ploughsoil, firm grey brown silty clay with moderate gravels (615), overlying the sequence.

TRENCHES 82-83

6.89. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 84 (FIGURE 16) HER 9018

LENGTH: 32.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.89.1. Two distinct bands of natural geology were observed in trench 84: deposit (523), a firm light yellow brown silty clay with frequent chalk and occasional flint encountered at 64.97 m OD towards the eastern end of the trench and 65.24 m OD at the western end of the trench. Deposit (524), comprising reddish yellow silt was noted as cut by ditch [522] and probably represents natural variation in the underlying geology.

6.89.2. Several features were cut into the natural: a broad (c. 3.20 m wide) northwest-southeast orientated ditch [522], with roughly V-shaped profile. The primary fill of the ditch (521) was firm mid grey silty clay with frequent chalk, occasional pottery, bone and flint. The upper fill was mid grey clay silt with moderate chalk, pottery and occasional charcoal and bone. Pottery recovered from these fills was of early Roman date.

6.89.3. Ditch [517] measured 2.30m in width, was northeast-southwest orientated and had straight steeply sloping sides to a flat, stepped base. The primary silting (516) of the ditch was a hard mid greenish grey silty clay with frequent chalk, flint, CBM and bone. The upper fill of the ditch (515), thought to represent dumped domestic debris, comprised hard blackish grey silty clay, with a high organic content, frequent chalk, flint, charcoal, pot, bone and CBM.

6.89.4. Feature [519], orientated north-south had steep sides to a narrow flat base and appeared to terminate within the trench, adjacent to the northern limit of excavation. The single fill (518) was firm light grey brown silty clay with moderate gravel and small stones, occasional pot, CBM and bone. This feature has been interpreted as a possible drip gully.

6.89.5. Two further features were present: a gully [526] and a pit or posthole [528] the relationship between the two was not established, and it is possible that feature [528] was a result of bioturbation rather than one of anthropogenic origin. Gully [526] had steep sides to a flattish base and was orientated northwest-southeast. The single fill (525) was firm light greyish brown silty

clay with moderate charcoal and small stones, occasional pot and bone and rare charcoal.

6.89.6. Possible pit or posthole [528] was sub-circular in plan with very steep sides to a flattish base. The single fill (527) was firm grey brown silty clay with moderate gravel and chalk, occasional pot and bone, rare charcoal and CBM. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of [517], [519], [526] and [528].

6.89.7. A layer (514) of firm dark brown silty clay ploughsoil with frequent pebbles overlay the sequence in trench 84.

TRENCHES 85-87

6.90. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 88 (FIGURE 17)

LENGTH: 30.00 M **ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST**

6.91. Natural yellowish brown silty clay (529) was encountered at a maximum height of 57.33 m OD at the western end of the trench, gradually sloping down to the east to a height of 57.08 m OD. Two probable ditches on a north-south alignment were recorded towards the western end of the trench. The westernmost of these comprised an irregular cut with straight sides and rounded base [532]. The water lain character of the mid brown silty clay fill of this cut (531) lead the excavator to interpret the feature as an essentially natural feature such as a stream or rivulet. It is equally possible however, to view the feature as a cultural feature such as a drainage ditch.

6.92. Ditch [534] lay immediately to the east of [532] and comprised a comparable straight-sided cut with rounded base and fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay (533). Given these similarities it is tempting to assign a similar interpretation to both ditches. No dating evidence was retrieved from either feature.

6.93. A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (529) sealed both features.

TRENCH 89 (FIGURE 17)

LENGTH: 30.00 M **ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH**

6.94.Natural geology, consisting of a mix of yellowish brown silty clay (626) and reddish brown clay (627), was encountered at a maximum height of 59.94 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down gradually to the south to 59.28 m OD.

6.95.Two linear features on an east-west orientation were recorded within this trench. The northernmost consisted of the possible terminus of a small gully, comprising a shallow irregular cut [629], filled with greyish brown silty clay (628) with moderate small pebbles and frequent charcoal, whereas to the south lay a more substantial steep sided and flat bottomed ditch cut [631], filled with mid brown slightly silty clay with occasional pebbles (630). No finds were present within any of the features.

6.96.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (625) sealed both features.

TRENCHES 90-93

6.97.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 94 (FIGURE 18)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.98.Natural geology comprising very compact mid yellow brown clay with frequent chalk and lenses of flint was encountered at depths of 52.57 m OD at the northeast end of the trench and 52.07 m at the southwest end.

6.99.A single northwest-southeast orientated ditch [635] was investigated and found to have sloping sides to a rounded base. The single fill (634) was firm dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate stone content, moderate chalk fragments and occasional flint. No finds were observed.

6.100.A deposit of ploughsoil (632) capped the sequence in the trench, comprising compact mid brown slightly sandy silty clay with occasional small flint.

TRENCHES 95-96

6.101.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 97 (FIGURE 18) (HER 13332)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: SOUTHWEST-NORTHEAST

6.102.Very compact natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk (637) was encountered at 51.84 m OD at the northeast end of the trench and 52.49 m at the southwest end. A single pit [639] was cut into the natural. Sub-circular in plan, the cut had near vertical sides and a flattish base and was filled by deposit (638), friable brownish black silty clay with abundant charcoal and occasional burnt bone, irregular flint and chalk. This feature may represent an isolated cremation.

6.103.A further deposit of compact mid brown sandy silty clay (636) topped the sequence.

TRENCHES 98-102

6.104.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 103 (FIGURE 19)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.105.The lowest recorded deposit within this trench comprised river terrace gravels in a matrix of bluish grey clay (453) and was encountered at the base of a deep sondage at 38.40 m OD. This was overlain by an organically rich peat horizon (452), in turn sealed by a layer of bluish grey riverine silts (451). An interface of iron panning was noted between these silts and the overlying mid brown silty clay (449) that extended over the entirety of the trench.

6.106.No archaeological features were seen at this level and (449) was directly overlain by mid brown silty clay ploughsoil (446).

TRENCH 104

6.107.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 105 (FIGURE 20) HER 13347

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.108.Natural geology, comprising mid yellowish brown clayey silt (447) was encountered at a maximum height of 44.03 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 43.47 m OD to the east where it was truncated by the western edge

of a former stream channel [444] that lay on a roughly north-south orientation. Regrettably, the constraints of the investigation precluded an extensive exposure of the sequence within this channel and as a consequence the exact nature of the sequence remains poorly understood. Nevertheless, the basic sequence is clear and may be summarised as follows.

6.109.The lowest deposit recorded within this stream channel comprised very dark grey or black silt (442) with abundant organic material, including wood, bone, leather and charcoal and probably represents the bed of the active stream channel. This was soon overlain, however, by a layer of soft grey silt (441) that represents the silting up of the channel as the stream flow slowed and deposited the finer sediments previously held in suspension. Finds recovered from both these deposits suggest a 17th century date for their deposition. Eventually it seems the stream silted up to such an extent that concerted efforts were made to fill in what remained of the channel and landscape the site, presumably in advance of redevelopment of the area. This was achieved primarily through the deposition of dump layers (438) and (437), both of which contained significant amounts of domestic refuse (including animal bone, oyster, pottery, charcoal and building material and later demolition deposit (436) and levelling layers (434), (446), (439) and (446). It was into the top of these levelling layers that the foundation cut for the small brick wall 440 was excavated, probably as part of the redevelopment of the area in the 19th century.

6.110.Topsoil and turf (433) sealed the entire sequence.

TRENCH 106

6.111.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 107 (FIGURE 21)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: SOUTHEAST-NORTHWEST

6.112.Natural geology in the guise of light yellowish red silty clay with frequent chalk and flint (661) and variation (662), a mid reddish yellow silty clay with rare chalk and flint were encountered at depths of 61.39 m OD at the southeastern end of the trench and 61.41 m at the northwest end.

6.113.Three features were investigated within this trench. The earliest of these

comprised a large but ill-defined ovoid feature [668] that may, or may not constitute a ditch. This cut was filled by a deposit of mid brown silty clay with frequent flint, chalk and manganese (667) from which significant quantities of late Bronze Age pottery were recovered.

6.114.This feature was truncated to the north by ditch [670], a north-south orientated feature with a broadly U-shaped profile and a single fill of firm mid brown silty clay with abundant poorly sorted medium to large chalk and occasional medium flint (669). Pottery recovered from this ditch was of late Iron Age date.

6.115.A substantial north-south orientated boundary ditch [666] on the same alignment as [670] was situated towards the northwestern end of the trench, comprising a large cut (c. 1.90 m wide) with a V-shaped profile. Three deposits were identified within the ditch: primary fill (665); middle fill (664) and upper fill (663). All three fills were of firm mid brown silty clay with large chalk and flint, abundant towards base and primary fill, less frequent in the middle fill and only occasional in the uppermost deposit. Pottery retrieved from these fills indicates a late Iron Age date, though a considerable quantity of residual late Bronze Age material was also present.

6.116.The archaeological remains and natural geology were overlain by a deposit of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil (660) with frequent flint and chalk.

TRENCHES 108-110

6.117.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 111 (FIGURE 20) HER 7514

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.118.Natural light greyish brown silty clay was encountered at a maximum height of 71.31 m OD at the southeast end of the trench, falling away to 69.88 m OD to the northwest. A possible sub-rectangular pit [653] was recorded at the extreme southeast end of the trench. A primary fill of re-deposited natural clay (652) which had gradually accumulated in the base of the pit was overlain by a deposit of light greyish brown silty clay containing a great deal of domestic refuse which prompted the excavator to postulate that this feature may have originally constituted a quarry pit later reused as a rubbish pit. Pottery retrieved from these fills indicate an early

Roman date for the use of the feature.

6.119.The remaining archaeological features within this trench lay immediately to the south of pit [653] and appear to be exclusively structural in character, comprising two postholes and a stakehole. The postholes [655] and [656] were both sub-rectangular in form and slightly inter-cutting, though bioturbation had effectively homogenised their respective fills into a single deposit of light greyish brown clay (652) from which several sherds of late Roman pottery were retrieved. Immediately adjacent to these postholes was a single square stakehole [658], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (657).

6.120.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil sealed these features.

TRENCH 112 (FIGURE 22) HER 7514

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST - WEST

6.121.The natural geology at the eastern end of the trench, extending for some 10.00 m was firm mid reddish-yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk and flint (678), the deposit was encountered at 65.41 m OD. The remaining 20.00 m of the trench comprised firm light whitish brown clay with abundant chalk (679) at 65.14 m OD at the western end of the trench.

6.122.Three northwest-southeast orientated linear features were cut into the natural: Ditch [677] had steeply sloping sides, the base was concave, resulting in a broadly U-shaped profile. A ceramic field drain was evident at the base of this ditch, though the substantial nature of the feature suggests an earlier origin, perhaps re-used in recent years with the addition of the drainage pipe. The fill (676) of the ditch was moderate light whitish brown silty clay with moderate sorted medium chalk.

6.123.Gully [675] was concave in profile to the northeast, shallow slope to the southwest and had a flattish base. The single fill (674) was moderate mid reddish yellow brown silty clay with moderate poorly sorted chalk and flint.

6.124.Gully [673] had steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base; the fill (672) was a moderate mid reddish yellow brown silty clay with rare poorly sorted small flint and chalk. Some late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from this last feature.

6.125.Throughout the trench, the overlying ploughsoil (671) was a moderate mid

brown clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted flint.

TRENCH 113 (FIGURE 23) HER 7514

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.126.Natural geology (684), at a depth of 70.79 m OD in the northeast end of the trench and 70.95 m at the southwest end, comprised compact light yellow brown silty clay with frequent large chalk and occasional flint.

6.127.A single broad ditch [688] (1.60 m wide), orientated north-south, in plan curving towards the east was cut into the natural. In profile, the ditch had steeply sloping sides to an irregular base. There were two deposits within the ditch: primary silting (687) a very compact mid yellow brown silty clay with abundant chalk, occasional charcoal, flint and pebble, this contained sherds of late Ion Age pottery. The upper fill (686) was friable mid brown silty clay. Quantities of domestic refuse, including animal bone and pottery of early Roman date were present within this fill.

6.128.The ploughsoil (684), overlying the sequence within the trench was moderately compact mid brown clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted chalk and flint.

TRENCH 114

6.129.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 115 (FIGURE 22)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.130.Natural yellowish brown silty clay (905) was encountered at a maximum height of 42.96 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 42.52 m OD to the east.

6.131.A single large linear feature on a north-south orientation was seen to be cut into this natural clay at the eastern end of the trench, this consisted of a cut [908] with highly irregular sides (presumably the result of re-cutting) and a primary fill of mid brown silty clay (909), sealed by a secondary backfill of light whitish yellow clay with frequent flecks of chalk (910). The presence of such materials as concrete and ironwork within this deposit shows that the feature was backfilled relatively recently.

6.132.This feature was sealed by a layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (906), in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty ploughsoil (905).

TRENCHES 116-119

6.133.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 120

6.134.Not excavated.

TRENCH 121 (FIGURE 24) HER 13326

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.135.Mid yellowish brown natural clay (159) was encountered at a maximum height of 55.69 m OD in the west of the trench, falling away to 55.02 m OD to the east. Some variation in this clay was investigated and recorded as (158).

6.136.Only one possible archaeological feature was recorded towards the eastern end of the trench. This comprised a small ovoid [156] filled with mid brown clayey silt with poorly sorted pebbles (155) and containing several sherds of late Bronze Age pottery. This may constitute a small posthole, though the feature was considerable disturbed through rooting and may represent little more that a small tree throw.

6.137.The trench was sealed by a layer of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil (155).

TRENCH 122

6.138.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCHES 123-124

6.139.Not excavated.

TRENCH 125

6.140.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 126 (FIGURE 24) HER 13322

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.141.The natural geology (165) was stiff yellowish brown clays with chalk and flint

nodules, encountered at 62.33 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench and 61.74 m at the southwestern end.

6.142. Feature [166], a probable cremation, was cut into the natural: a circular pit with a U-shaped profile, filled by deposit (165), grey black silty clay with abundant charcoal flecks and staining. There were also frequent flecks of burnt bone and burnt flint fragments in addition to late Bronze Age pottery.

6.143. The uppermost deposit in the sequence was a firm mid brown silty clay ploughsoil (164) with frequent flints and chalk.

TRENCH 127

6.144. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 128 (FIGURE 25) HER 13322

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.145. Natural geology, comprising a mix of soliflucted chalk and mid yellowish brown silty clay (304) was encountered at a maximum height of 61.05 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 60.90 m OD to the south.

6.146.A total of five postholes were recorded within the confines of the trench. Four of these features were of a similar size and shape; comprising small ovoid cuts (i.e. under 0.35m in diameter) with rounded profiles [315], [317], [323] and [325] and similar fills of mid brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (316), (318), (324) and (326) respectively. Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from almost all these features.

6.147. In addition to these postholes, a further three features proved to contain burnt deposits and are considered to represent cremations or the placement of otherwise burnt remains. One such feature [311] was seen to contain the crushed remains of five pottery vessels containing burnt bone and charcoal (312) and (329), whereas the remaining two features [305] ands [307] contained only fills of burnt bone and charcoal, (306) and (308) respectively. Analysis of the pottery recovered from these cremations shows them to be late Bronze Age in date.

6.148. Other features within this trench include a large curving ditch [309] with

rounded profile and fill of light brownish yellow clayey silt (310). Roman pottery was noted within the fill of this feature. A large pit with irregular steep sides and flat base [313], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (314) was also recorded.

6.149.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (303) sealed the archaeological sequence.

TRENCHES 129-130

6.150.Not excavated.

TRENCH 131

6.151.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 132 (FIGURE 26) (HER 13343-4)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.152.Mid yellowish brown natural clay (223) was encountered at a maximum height of 71.11 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, gradually sloping down to 71.04 m OD to the east.

6.153.Two broad but shallow linear features on a roughly north-south orientation were recorded towards the western end of the trench; [224] to the west and [227] to the east. Both were filled with a similar dark brown clayey silt containing fragments of Post-Medieval CBM, (225) and (226) respectively. Other features noted within this trench included some 19th century land drains and plough scarring towards the eastern end of the trench.

6.154.A layer of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil (222) sealed the trench.

TRENCH 133 (FIGURE 27) HER 13333

LENGTH: 28.40 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.155.The natural geology a firm yellowish red silty clay with moderate chalk and rare flint (345) was encountered at 69.72 m OD at the northeastern limit of the trench and, 69.61m at the southwest end.

6.156.Two ditches and a gully were cut into the natural, ditch [347] orientated north-south was 2.40 m wide and in profile had convex sides to a flattish base. Narrow

gully [349], orientated northwest-southeast had a broadly U-shaped profile, while ditch [351], also north-south orientated was c. 1.60 m wide had shallow sloping sides to a concave base. The three cut features were filled by firm mid reddish yellow brown silty clay with rare chalk and flint (346), (348), and (350). Deposit (348) also contained frequent snail shell and occasional fragments of late Iron Age pottery.

6.157.The overlying ploughsoil deposit (344) was a moderately compact mid brown clay silt with moderate flint, chalk and rare CBM.

TRENCH 134 (FIGURE 26)

LENGTH: 28.30M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.158.The natural geology, comprising light yellowish brown clay (458) was encountered at a maximum height of 69.87 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 69.57 m OD to the southeast.

6.159.Two archaeological features were recorded within the trench. The northernmost of these comprised a shallow east-west aligned ditch [462] with a fill of light brownish yellow silty clay (461), whilst a small sub-circular pit [460] with a similar fill of light brownish yellow silty clay (459) lay some 10.00m to the southeast. No finds were present within either feature.

6.160.A layer of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil (457) sealed these features.

TRENCHES 135-9

6.161.No archaeological deposits

TRENCH 140 (FIGURE 28)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.162.Natural yellow brown silty clay (701) with moderate chalk and occasional flint was encountered at 62.75 m OD at the east end of the trench and 63.71 m at the west end.

6.163.Several possible features were investigated: A northwest-southeast orientated ditch [703], had straight steep sides and a flat base, as did ditch [705]. Ditch [705] was

orientated northeast-southwest. Both ditches were filled by firm mid yellow brown silty clay, becoming indurate towards the base (702) and (704). Two further features were investigated and recorded, but were interpreted as tree throws: [707], curvilinear with irregular sides and irregular rounded base; [709] was an irregular sub-circle in plan with concave sides and a rounded base. Deposit (706), within cut [707] was firm mid brownish yellow silty clay with occasional pebbles, (708) was the same but also included occasional charcoal. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

6.164.The overlying topsoil, present throughout the trench and sealing the sequence, was brown silty clay with moderate gravel and small stones (700).

TRENCHES 141-149

6.165.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 150 (FIGURE 28) HER 13335

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.166.Very compact mid reddish yellow brown clay with occasional chalk flecks and medium angular gravel (231) made up the natural geology, encountered at 58.28 m OD at the west end and 59.19 m at the east end.

6.167.Feature [230], a possible cremation, was cut into the natural, sub-circular in plan with steep sides to a flat base. A late Iron Age pottery vessel containing a fill of friable dark grey brown silty clay with frequent burnt bone, clay and charcoal (229).

6.168.The final deposit within the trench was the overlying ploughsoil (228), a firm mid brown silty clay with frequent flint and occasional CBM fragments.

TRENCH 151 (FIGURE 29)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.169.Natural yellowish brown clay was encountered at 58.98 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench and 57.02 m at the northeastern end.

6.170.A ditch on a northeast-southwest alignment lay towards the southern end of the trench. This comprised a shallow V-shaped cut [237], filled with mid brown silty

clay with occasional small pebbles (236) and containing sherds of late Iron Age pottery. To the south of this ditch, at the far southern end of trench a small ill-defined cut [234] was seen to contain the fragmented remains of a late Iron Age *Belgic* style pottery vessel (233). This was block lifted for excavation within controlled conditions.

6.171.Both these features were sealed by a layer of mid brown clay topsoil (232).

TRENCHES 152-153

6.172.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 154 (FIGURE 29) HER 13345

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.173.Natural geology, consisting of a mix of light greyish brown sandy silty clay (715) and yellowish brown clay (716) was encountered at a maximum height of 64.18 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 63.82 m OD to the southeast.

6.174.A single small ditch on a northeast-southwest alignment lay towards the northwestern end of the trench. This comprised a shallow cut with rounded profile [714], filled with yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles (713). Pottery dated c. AD 1500-1700 was recovered from this fill.

6.175.A layer of mid brown clayey silt ploughsoil sealed the feature.

TRENCH 155

6.176.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 156 (FIGURE 30)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.177.Yellow-brown silty clay natural with frequent chalk (697) was encountered at 62.66 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench dropping away to 61.82 m at the northeastern end.

6.178.Ditch/gully [699] was cut into the natural geology: in profile, the ditch had steeply sloping (slightly concave) sides narrowing towards the base (which was not

seen). The single fill (698) comprised firm dark yellowish brown slightly silty clay with frequent small stones and gravel and charcoal. No finds were observed.

6.179.This feature was sealed by a layer of brown silty clay ploughsoil with frequent gravel and small stones (696).

TRENCH 157 (FIGURE 30) HER 13349

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.180.Natural light yellowish brown silty clay was encountered at a maximum height of 63.49 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, gradually sloping down to the southeast to 63.17 m OD.

6.181.A total of three linear features were present within this trench. A small ditch or gully on a northeast-southwest orientation lay towards the southeastern end of the trench. This consisted of a shallow cut with rounded profile [723] and a fill of dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate small pebbles (722). This feature was truncated by a much larger ditch on a northwest-southeast orientation but seemingly curving round towards the west. This was composed of a deep very steep sided cut [721] with flattish base and primary accumulative fill of dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional late prehistoric pottery and moderate charcoal (720), overlain by a secondary backfill of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (719).

6.182.Immediately to the northwest of [721] lay a further ditch, on an orientation not dissimilar to that of [723]. This ditch cut displayed a steep sided and flat-bottomed profile [725], filled with dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (724).

6.183.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil sealed all these features.

TRENCH 158 (FIGURE 31) HER 13334

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.184.Natural clay encountered at a maximum height of 63.63 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 62.72 m OD to the southwest.

6.185.Towards the northeastern end of the trench lay a substantial ditch on a northwest-southeast orientation, comprising a steep sided round bottomed cut [736], filled

with mid brownish grey clay with occasional late Iron Age pottery and charcoal (735). Immediately to the south of this ditch lay a large irregular ovoid pit [739], with a primary fill of dark blackish grey clayey silt containing frequent domestic refuse (738) and late Iron Age pottery, overlain by an accumulative infilling of mid yellowish brown clay (737) containing early Roman pottery.

6.186. A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (734) sealed the trench.

TRENCH 159

6.187. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 160 (FIGURE 31)

LENGTH: 30.00 M **ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH**

6.188. Natural geology (750) was encountered at 51.85 m OD at the southern end of the trench and 50.77 m OD at the northern end.

6.189. Three cut features were investigated. Cut [744] was sub-oval in plan, although the full extent continued beyond the limit of excavation. Where visible, the sides were concave to a concave base. The single fill (754) was a medium firm, sticky mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stones, chalk and charcoal flecks. Some CBM was included in the deposit. Cut [746] was sub-oval in plan, in profile there was a concave side to the north and a stepped side to the south; the base was irregular. The single deposit (747) filling the feature was medium sticky p light yellowish grey-brown silty clay with rare flint fragments towards the base. Linear cut [748] had parallel, though slightly irregular sides in plan. In profile the sides were concave and the base irregular. The fill (749) was firm mid yellowish grey-brown silty clay with gravels towards the base. No finds were observed in any of these features.

6.190. A deposit of subsoil (743) sealed all three features, a friable dark yellow brown silty clay with frequent gravels and pebbles, flecks and fragments of CBM. The deposit became more reddish towards the southern end of the trench.

6.191. A layer of topsoil (742), friable mid brown slightly sandy silty clay with moderate stones and CBM was the final layer in the sequence.

TRENCH 161 (FIGURE 32) HER 13341, 13342

LENGTH: 24.00M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.192.The lowest recorded deposit in this trench comprised heavily panned river gravels (142), overlain by a thick layer of light greyish brown silty clay alluvium (141). This clay was encountered at a maximum height of 50.35 m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 49.40 m OD to the west, where it was seen to be truncated by the eastern edge of a wide palaeochannel, recorded as [138].

6.193.Mechanical excavation of this channel revealed a primary deposit of water lain bluish grey river silts (137), sealed by two layers of light-mid brown clayey silts (136) and (140) containing moderate amounts of Post-Medieval CBM, in turn overlain by a layer of light yellow clay (139). These latter three deposits probably represent attempts to level and consolidate the now silted up eastern bank of the palaeochannel described above.

6.194.To the east of this palaeochannel lay two archaeological features. The westernmost consisted of a small sub-rectangular posthole [143] with a possible post pipe (i.e. the void left after a timber post has rotted away – or in this case burnt) filled with charcoal and silty clay (145), and a packing deposit around the post of mid grey silty clay (144). To the east lay a sub-circular pit [146] filled with dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional pottery (147) that contained occasional fragments of pottery dated to the period c. AD1080-1200. A thick layer of made ground (135) represents a final attempt to level up and consolidate what remains a low lying and wet area to this day.

6.195.A layer of mid greyish brown topsoil (134) sealed the entire sequence.

TRENCH 162 (FIGURE 33) HER 13342

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.196.The lowest recorded deposit within this trench comprised light yellowish grey clay and gravel (775), overlain by a thick layer of mixed mid yellowish brown sand (774). These constituted the natural geology within the trench and was encountered at a maximum height of 52.24 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away sharply to 49.82 m OD to the east, whereupon it was seen to be truncated by the

western edge of a large palaeochannel [758] that may be equated to the eastern edge of a palaeochannel recorded as [138] in Trench 161 to the east.

6.197. Careful machine excavation of this channel revealed a line of three driven posts (T.763, T.764, T.765) at the base of the streambed, aligned roughly parallel with the edge of the channel (i.e. north-south). All three timbers were split rather than sawn, albeit in a variety of different ways and all showed evidence of trimming at one end to produce a tapered point. Unsurprisingly, the tops of the posts were heavily decayed and thus it is difficult to fully understand the purpose of such timbers.

6.198. These timbers were sealed by a sequence of riverine deposits that reflect the lifespan of the channel. The basal deposit of mid bluish grey clay (756), for instance, with its heavy fraction of gravel and sand represents the fairly fast stream flow of an active channel, whereas the sequence of similar mid greyish brown silty clays (762), (757), (755), (754) and (753) probably represent the slowing of the stream flow and the subsequent silting up of the channel. A single fragment of Roman *tegula* recovered from deposit (756) may suggest a Roman date for the underlying driven posts. The construction of a red brick culvert 760 in the top of this sequence attests to recent attempts to drain what remains to this day to be low lying wet ground.

6.199. Activity to the west of this channel comprised three small ditches or gullies and a small pit or posthole. Of the three linear features, two ran parallel to one another on a similar alignment to the western edge of the channel. These included [770] and [772], filled with greyish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal (771) and mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal (773) respectively. A further linear feature, [768] also filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (769) lay immediately to the west of [770], though on a slightly different orientation. The small ovoid pit [766], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal (767) formed the westernmost feature in the trench. No finds were observed in any of these features.

6.200.A thin layer of mid reddish brown gravel sealed much of the trench (752) and was in turn overlain by a layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (751).

TRENCHES 163-164

6.201.Not excavated.

TRENCH 165 (FIGURE 34) HER 9018

LENGTH: 30.00 M **ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH**

6.202.The lowest recorded deposit in this trench comprised greenish grey clay with frequent chalk pebbles (785), encountered at a depth of 65.91 m OD at the northern end of the trench 65.46 m OD at the southern end. This was interpreted by the excavator as the natural geology, though a significant quantity of early Roman pottery recovered from this deposit makes this interpretation highly unlikely. It is perhaps more probable that this layer constitutes a levelling or makeup deposit.

6.203.A small and shallow northwest-southeast orientated gully was seen to be cut into the underlying layer (785) and consisted of a cut, [794], with sloping sides to a flattish base, filled with firm grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk, occasional residual late Iron Age pottery and bone (793). This feature was sealed by a buried soil horizon (783/786), consisting of light greyish brown silty clay containing chalk fragments, charcoal, pottery and animal bone. The pottery retrieved from this deposit suggests an early Roman date for its formation.

6.204.A number of features were seen to be cut into this buried soil. The northernmost of these consisted of a substantial northwest-southeast orientated ditch [782] some 2.10 m in width with a steep northern edge, a shallower southern side and a rounded base. The primary fill of this ditch (784) comprised firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk, occasional stones and charcoal, pottery and bone. This was overlain by a fill of firm grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk, occasional stones, charcoal flecks, pot, bone and CBM (781), in turn sealed by light greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk, occasional stone, bone and CBM (780). Pottery recovered from these fills dated to the early Roman period.

6.205.Two further linear features were investigated within this trench. These comprised steep sided and flat-based cuts [790/796] and [788/795], both orientated broadly east west. Both these features were seen to contain very similar deposits comprising abundant cobbles and pebbles within a matrix of dark grey clay (792) and (791)

respectively. A primary fill of mid grey clay was noted in the base of [788/795] and may constitute a bedding layer for the overlying cobbles (791). In both cases, these cobbles were sealed by fills of mid brownish grey silty clay, (789) and (787), respectively, from which quantities of early Roman pottery were retrieved. It is difficult to adequately interpret these features; a range of suggestions have been put forth by the excavator, including stone lined drains, masonry footings and even a path.

6.206.A layer of light brownish yellow clayey silt ploughsoil (779) was seen to seal all archaeological features within this trench.

TRENCH 166 (FIGURE 35) HER 9018

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.207.Natural geology (805), reddish yellow grey clay with abundant chalk was encountered at 65.30 m at the south end, and 65.91 m at the northern end of the trench.

6.208.Three features were cut into the natural: [800], [802] and [804]. Ditch [800] was orientated northeast-southwest and measured some 4.00 m in width. Site constraints meant that this feature was only partially excavated, providing just half of the ditch profile. The northwestern edge of the ditch was steeply sloping (very slightly concave) with the possible addition of a shallow vertical cleaning slot in the base. Three deposits were observed: a heavy grey clay with chalk at the very base (un-numbered) overlain by deposit (806), soft mid reddish yellow grey silty clay with frequent medium chalk, rare charcoal and flint, pot and bone. The upper fill (799) was moderate light reddish yellow brown silty clay with moderate chalk and rare flint, pot and bone. Pottery from these fills was predominantly early Roman in date, with some residual late Iron Age material.

6.209.Cuts [802] and [804] were square in plan with rounded corners. The sides were steep and the base irregular [802], flat [804]. The fill of these pit/postholes (801) and (803) was very hard dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, charcoal and pot, and occasional bone. Pottery from these features dated to the late Iron Age.

6.210.The uppermost deposit in the trench sequence was ploughsoil/topsoil (798), a moderately compact mid brown clay silt with moderate chalk and flint.

TRENCHES 167-172

6.211.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 173 (FIGURE 32) HER 13348

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: SOUTHEAST-NORTHWEST

6.212.Natural geology, consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay (812) was encountered at a maximum height of 58.10 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, gradually sloping down to the southeast to 57.95 m OD.

6.213.A single late Post-Medieval brick built culvert on a north-south orientation was recorded within this trench. The culvert was built within a large construction cut [810] and formed of red unfrogged brick laid radially on their beds and bonded with a hard whitish lime mortar (809). Once construction was complete the cut was backfilled with mixed deposit of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent brick rubble (811).

6.214.A layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (808) sealed the feature and was in turn overlain with a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (807).

TRENCH 174 (FIGURE 36)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.215.Natural light yellowish brown clay (817) was encountered at a maximum height of 59.99 m OD at the western end of the trench, gradually sloping down to the east to 59.32 m OD.

6.216.A single small ditch or gully was recorded within this trench, comprising a V-shaped cut [816] on a roughly northwest-southeast orientation and filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (815). No finds were observed.

6.217. A layer of dark greyish brown ploughsoil (813) sealed the sequence.

TRENCH 175 (FIGURE 36)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.218.Natural gravel (819) was encountered at a maximum height of 51.27 m OD at the western end of the trench, falling away to 48.90 m OD to the east.

6.219.A large pit located towards the centre of the trench probably attests to small-scale gravel extraction. This consisted of an irregular sub-rectilinear cut [821], filled initially with domestic refuse (824) prior to backfilling with mid yellowish brown silty clay (822). Immediately adjacent to this quarry was a small pit or large posthole, comprising a sub-circular cut [823] filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of domestic waste including shell and animal bone (820).

6.220.A layer of dark brown silty clay topsoil (818) sealed the trench.

TRENCH 176 (FIGURE 37) HER 13340

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: EAST - WEST

6.221.Natural geology (825) was encountered at depths of 51.09 m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 48.80 m at the western end.

6.222.Three features were present within this trench. The westernmost comprised a small gully [828] on a northwest-southeast alignment and filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent stones and moderate chalk flecks (827). Pit [831] to the east, was oval in plan with sloping sides narrowing to a flat base. Two deposits were observed within the cut: (830) was compact mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint and stone, moderate bone, and occasional flecks of chalk. Deposit (829) overlay (830) and was friable dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint and stone, occasional CBM and chalk flecks.

6.223.The final feature consisted of a curving ditch [833/835] with sloping sides and a rounded base and was orientated northwest-southeast, with a return to the south at the western end. The fills (832) and (834) consisted of firm dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint, moderate, stone, chalk and bone, and occasional sherds of late Roman pottery.

6.224.A deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil (826) overlay the sequence in this trench, capped in turn by the mid grey brown silty clay with frequent chalk and gravel ploughsoil (825).

TRENCHES 177-179

6.225.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 180 (FIGURE 37) HER 13343-44

LENGTH: 26.40 M **ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST**

6.226.Natural geology (486) - firm mid yellow brown clay with moderate irregular chalk and flint and (487), soft mid brownish red silty clay with very rare chalk and flint, was encountered at depths of 70.85 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench, and 70.07 m OD c. 3.60 m southwest of the northeastern end of the trench

6.227.Quarry cut [485] was not visible in plan, but was recorded in section as sloping sided; the base was not seen. The backfill of the quarry pit comprised several layers: (481 - 484) of CBM, flint and chalk containing 19th century CBM and pottery. A probable levelling layer (477), comprising moderate mottled grey-brown silty sandy clay with abundant CBM, flint and chalk overlay these quarry deposits. This layer was truncated by the foundation cut [478] for a 19th century brick foundation 479

6.228.Feature [476] was cut into natural deposit (486). Curvilinear in plan, with broadly concave sides to an irregular (although predominantly flat) base, this feature was originally thought by the excavator to constitute a ditch but may in fact represent further small-scale quarrying. This feature was filled with two deposits of mid yellow brown silty clay (474) and (475), the latter of which contained pottery dating to the 16th century AD. Feature [473] was also cut into natural, rectilinear in plan with 'gradual' sides to a flat base, possibly representing further quarrying activity. The fill comprised firm light yellowish brown silty clay with moderate small chalk (472). A sequence of made ground recorded at the northeastern end of the trench (467) and (466), probably represents an attempt to level the ground prior to the construction of the 18th century brick wall 465 and the associated 19th century brick drain 469. Both were constructed of red unfrogged brick and were bonded with a sandy mortar.

6.229.All features were overlain by deposit (464), a layer of mid brown silty clay with frequent flint, chalk and CBM, this in turn was overlain by the ploughsoil (463), mid brown silty clay with frequent flint chalk and CBM.

TRENCH 181 (FIGURE 38)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.230.The natural geology was encountered at depths of 70.10 m OD at the southwestern end and 70.62 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench. The geology was a hard sticky greenish grey clay with chalk and flints (366), also recorded as (378) and (382).

6.231.A large quarry was cut into the natural at the southwestern end of the trench. The quarry cut [388] was recorded in section only and comprised vertical sides and a flat base. There were eight layers of infill within the quarry cut: (372) a firm mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate chalk formed the primary fill. (371), situated above, was very similar in character and was overlain by deposit (372) a more mottled mid to light greyish brown silty clay. Deposit (377) was firm mid grey silty clay with frequent chalk and lenses of mid greenish brown clay overlain by (376) and in turn (375), (358), (374) each layer comprised grey/brown silty clays; layer (375) incorporating lenses of greenish brown silty clay.

6.232.The entire backfilled quarry was subsequently levelled over through the deposition of two layers of made ground (357) and (356), presumably in advance of the construction of the brick building represented by foundation walls 383, 384 and 385. These walls were all constructed of similar red and yellow bricks bonded with light yellowish brown sandy mortar and are likely to be 18th or 19th century in date.

6.233.Other features associated with this brick building include two small brick built drains 389 and 393 aligned east-west and north-south respectively and a large Ha-Ha ditch [373] that apparently formed the eastern boundary to the property in which the above masonry was situated.

6.234.This Ha-Ha feature comprised a substantial north-south aligned ditch cut [373]. Three driven stakes on the western side of the ditch [361], [363] and [365] attest to efforts to consolidate the underlying natural clay prior to the construction of the brick Ha-Ha wall 367. This wall was built within a small construction cut [398] and was composed of red brick bonded with a sandy yellowish brown mortar. A primary fill of dark brown/black organic silty clay with occasional flint, moderate pot, CBM,

nails, coal and charcoal (359) represents initial silting of the ditch, presumably during its lifetime. The remaining dumped fills within this feature, (355), (354) and (353) represent the backfilling of the feature.

6.235.The backfilling of the Ha-Ha ditch may be considered to be broadly coetaneous with the demolition of the brick building described above. This demolition is represented by deposits such as (391/368), (386), (390) and (394), all of which contained quantities of building material. Subsequent robbing of the structure was represented by cut [387] and its backfill of lime mortar (379).

6.236.The entire sequence was sealed by a deposit of dark brown sandy silt ploughsoil (352).

TRENCHES 182-191

6.237.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 192 (FIGURE 39) HER 13350

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.238.Work in this trench principally comprised the excavation of deep sondages at each end of the trench in order to examine the riverine sequences contained therein. Though broad correlations may be found between the two sequences, important differences mean that they are best described separately within the context of this summary.

6.239.The lowest deposit recorded within the northern sondage comprised river gravels within a matrix of mid grey clay (876) and was encountered at a maximum height of 33.61 m OD. This deposit was sealed by a layer composed of inter-digitated lenses of waterlain silt and sand (875), in turn sealed by a thin layer of organically rich silts (874) that formed an interface between (875) and the overlying peat horizon (873) and its associated incipient peat deposit (872). This peat was in turn overlain by a thick layer of mid yellowish brown clay (870) and (869) with noticeable iron panning at its base (871). A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (868) sealed the entire sequence.

6.240.The lowest deposit recorded within the southern sondage comprised a substantial peat horizon (883), sealed by a layer of organically rich water lain silts (882),

overlain by a further deposit of water lain silts (881). A thin horizon of incipient peat (880) sealed these silts though this was in turn overlain by a further deposit of river silts (879).

6.241.A thick layer of mid yellowish brown clay (878) capped this riverine sequence and was in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown topsoil (877) sealed the entire sequence.

TRENCHES 193

6.242.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 194 (FIGURE 39) HER 13350

LENGTH: 3.0 M ORIENTATION: EAST-WEST

6.243.The lowest deposit recorded within this trench comprised a peat horizon (895), encountered at 33.60 m OD. This was overlain by a layer of incipient peat (894), itself sealed by a sequence of water lain silts (893), (892) and (891). A further thin horizon of incipient peat (890) overlay these river silts and was in turn sealed by a thick layer of mid yellowish brown clay (889). A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (888) capped the entire sequence.

TRENCHES 195-196

No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 197 (FIGURE 40) HER 13337

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.244.The natural geology, comprising light yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent fragments of chalk (945) was encountered at a maximum height of 61.64 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 61.47 m OD to the southwest.

6.245.A total of five linear features were recorded within this trench, four of which were broadly east-west aligned while the fifth (and northernmost) lay on a north-south orientation. Of the east-west aligned features, the two southernmost were closely comparable in profile, comprising very steep sided and flat-bottomed cuts [947] and [949], with fills of dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate

pebbles and occasional fragments of middle-late Bronze Age pottery (946) and mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles (948) respectively.

6.246.The remaining two east-west orientated features included a somewhat wider and shallower flat bottomed cut [951] filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and (950) and a steep sided cut with a slightly rounded base [953] filled with dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate pebbles (952). Pottery recovered from fill (950) was of late Iron Age date.

6.247.The final and northernmost of the features within this trench was of a quite different character to those already described. This was composed of a north-south aligned linear terminus with a straight sided and flat-bottomed profile [954] with a primary fill of tightly packed rounded pebbles and cobbles (955) sealed by a fill of dark yellowish brown silty clay (956). The exact function of this feature remains undetermined and may constitute either a foundation or drain.

6.248.A layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (944) sealed all the features described above and was in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (943).

TRENCH 198 (FIGURE 40)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.249.Natural light brown clay (958) was encountered at a maximum height of 62.58 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 61.52 m OD to the southeast. A single large ditch some 1.50 m in width was recorded within this trench. This comprised a large cut with a V-shaped profile [960], orientated roughly northwest-southeast and filled with an accumulative deposit of light yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (959). No finds were observed.

6.250.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil sealed the feature.

TRENCH 199 (FIGURE 41)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.251.Natural geology, comprising variable light brown-mid yellowish brown silty clay

(966) was observed at a maximum height of 61.91 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, gradually sloping down to 61.79 m OD to the southwest.

6.252.Two small north-south aligned linear features were recorded within this trench. The westernmost of these was composed of a steep-sided and flat-bottomed cut [968], filled with an accumulative deposit of light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (967). The eastern linear, though broadly similar in profile, with a steep-sided and flat-bottomed cut [970] was seen to possess a rounded terminus at its southern end and a fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (969). No finds were observed in either feature.

6.253.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (965) sealed both features.

TRENCH 200 (FIGURE 41)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.254.Natural geology, consisting of light yellow clay (962) was encountered at a maximum height of 63.00 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 62.61 m OD to the southeast.

6.255.A single large ditch, some 1.40m in width, was recorded within the trench. This comprised a relatively shallow cut on a roughly northwest-southeast orientation [964], filled with an accumulative deposit of light brown silty clay with moderate pebbles (963). No finds were observed.

6.256.A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (961) sealed the feature.

TRENCH 201 (FIGURE 42)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.257.Natural geology, consisting of light yellow silty clay (981) was observed at a maximum height of 64.44 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 63.64 m OD to the southwest.

6.258.A single ditch was investigated within this trench. This consisted of a broadly V-shaped cut [983], orientated roughly north-south and filled with light brown silty clay with moderate pebbles (982). No finds were observed.

6.259.A layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (980) sealed the feature.

TRENCH 202

6.260.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 203 (FIGURE 42) = HER 13327

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.261.Natural geology, consisting of a combination of soliflucted chalk and reddish brown silt clay (975) was encountered at a maximum height of 64.34 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, gradually sloping down to 64.32 m OD to the southwest.

6.262.Two linear features were recorded within this trench, both orientated northeast-southwest. The northeasternmost of these comprised a cut with V-shaped profile [979] and fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (978). To the southwest was a straight-sided and flat-bottomed ditch cut [977] filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (976) containing late Bronze Age pottery.

6.263.Both features were sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (974), in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay (973).

TRENCHES 204-206

6.264.No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 207 (FIGURE 43) HER 13328

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.265.Natural light yellowish brown silty clay and soliflucted chalk (1025) was encountered at a maximum height of 65.75 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 65.65 m OD to the southwest.

6.266.Two features were present within this trench; a small pit and a probable cremation. The pit comprised a shallow and irregular sub-circular cut [1027] with steep sides and a flat base, filled with dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk (1026). The feature showed some evidence of disturbance from animal burrowing. Immediately adjacent to this pit was a small, truncated sub-circular cut [1029], filled with very dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent

fragments of calcined and burnt bone (1028) that is likely to represent the remains of a cremation. No finds were observed in either feature.

6.267.Both these features were sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1024).

TRENCH 208 (FIGURE 43)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.268.Natural geology, comprising heavily soliflucted chalk and light yellow clay (986) was encountered at a maximum height of 65.05 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench, falling away to 64.78 m OD to the northeast.

6.269.Two linear features were observed within the confines of this trench, both of which were orientated roughly northwest-southeast. The southernmost of these features comprised a large, deep ditch with a seemingly rounded profile [990]. A primary accumulative fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay (989) was overlain by dumped deposits (988) and (987), which mark the disuse and subsequent backfilling of the feature. Some 10.00m to the northeast lay a further somewhat smaller linear feature, consisting again of a cut with a broadly rounded profile [993], with a primary accumulative fill of mid brownish yellow silty clay (992), sealed by a dumped backfilling of mid yellowish brown silty clay (991). No finds were recovered.

6.270.Both features were sealed by a layer of mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (985), in turn overlain by a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (984).

TRENCH 209 (FIGURE 44) HER 13328

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.271.Natural geology, which varied from light yellowish brown clay to mid reddish brown silty clay (1001), was encountered at a maximum height of 65.22 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 64.96 m OD to the southwest.

6.272.Three parallel ditches on a northwest-southeast orientation were observed at the far southwestern end of the trench. The southernmost consisted of a ditch cut with straight sides and a rounded base [1015] with a primary fill of light yellowish

brown clayey silt with frequent flecks of chalk and occasional pebbles (1014), overlain by a deposit of dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks, moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks and flint flakes (1013). Immediately to the northeast lay a further ditch, comprising a cut with straight sides, flat base and rounded terminus to the southeast [1018]. A primary fill of light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional pebbles (1017) was sealed by a secondary fill of dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional pebbles (1016). Directly adjacent to this feature lay the third ditch in this group, consisting of a ditch cut with rounded profile [1021], a primary fill of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk and moderate pebbles (1020) and a secondary fill of dark brown silty clay with moderate flecks of chalk and pebbles, and occasional flecks of charcoal (1019).

6.273.All three of these ditches were partially truncated by a large but shallow sub-rectangular pit cut of unknown extent and function [1012]. A primary fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent fragments of chalk, moderate pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal (1011) was overlain by a fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles, occasional flecks of charcoal and struck flint flakes (1010).

6.274.Some 6.00m to the northeast of this large pit lay a small posthole consisting of a cut with rounded profile [1023] with a fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and pebbles (1022). Further to the northeast lay a substantial ditch, orientated roughly east-west and comprising a ditch cut with a broadly rounded profile [1009]. A primary fill of dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal (1008) was overlain by a deposit of mid grey silty clay with frequent small fragments of chalk (1007), in turn sealed by a fill of dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and pebbles (1006). A thick deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate fragments of chalk and pebbles (1005) marked the final infilling of this feature. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

6.275.Perhaps one of the most interesting features of this trench, however, was the partial survival of a buried soil horizon within a shallow depression in the underlying natural geology at the far northeastern end of the trench and comprising

a deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate flecks of charcoal and pebbles (1004). That this deposit was truncated by a small but deep pit [1003], which contained a late Bronze Age human cremation deposit (1003) serves to demonstrate that this palaeosoil formed part of a late Bronze age soil horizon, providing important ecofactual information concerning the local environment at the time of the interment.

6.276.All the features described above were sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1000).

TRENCH 210 (FIGURE 45) HER 13339

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.277.Natural geology, consisting of reddish brown clay (1038) was encountered at a maximum height of 66.85 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 65.84 m OD to the southeast.

6.278.Two parallel ditches were observed at the far northwestern end of the trench, lying on a north-south orientation. Both were closely comparable not only in form but also in their respective sequences, consisting of broadly V-shaped cuts with flat bases [1043] and [1046] with primary fills of mid reddish yellow silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk, (1042) and (1045) respectively, sealed by fills of mid reddish brown silty clay (1041) and (1044) respectively. Indeed, so similar were these features that, though slightly intercutting no relationship could be discerned and it is possible that the two were to some extent coetaneous. Iron age pottery was retrieved from fill (1041).

6.279.A small posthole was encountered some 3.60m to the east of the ditches described above. This consisted of an ovoid cut with steep sides and flattish base [1040], filled with mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal (1039).

6.280.All these features were sealed by a layer of subsoil, composed of mid reddish brown silty clay (1037), in turn overlain by a layer of ploughsoil, comprising mid greyish brown silty clay (1036).

TRENCH 211 (FIGURE 45) HER 13327

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.281.The natural geology, consisting of light yellowish brown silty clay (1031) was observed at a maximum height 64.22 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 63.83 m OD to the southwest.

6.282.Two archaeological features were present within this trench; a small gully and large but somewhat shallow pit. The gully, orientated broadly northeast-southwest was composed of a shallow cut with rounded profile and terminus at the northeastern end [1035] and was filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent fragments of chalk (1034). A slight curve to this feature gives it a passing resemblance to the drip-gully of a roundhouse, though of course in the absence of any associated features typical to such structures such a premise should be treated with caution, to say the least.

6.283.The pit, situated to the northeast of gully [1035] consisted of a large but shallow and irregular cut [1033] with a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles (1032). Pottery of middle-late Bronze Age date was recovered from this feature.

6.284.Both features were sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (1030).

TRENCH 212 (FIGURE 46)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST.

6.285.Natural light yellowish brown silty clay (1048) was encountered at a maximum height of 63.35 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, sloping down to 62.99 m OD to the southeast.

6.286.Two parallel linear features, orientated northwest-southeast, were present within this trench. The southwestern of the two comprised a small gully with rounded profile [1054], and with a primary fill of light whitish yellow silty clay with abundant flecks of chalk (1053), sealed by a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk (1052). Immediately to the east lay a much large ditch, comprising a shallow cut, again with rounded profile [1051], and with a similar sequence to gully [1054], with a primary fill of whitish yellow silty clay (1050), overlain by a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay (1049). Regrettably, the exact relationship between these two features remains unknown due to truncation

by land drainage. No finds were recovered from either feature.

6.287.A layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil was seen to seal both the features described above.

TRENCH 213 (FIGURE 46)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.288.Natural mid brownish yellow silty clay occurred at a height of c. 64.27 m OD along the entirety of the trench. A total of four linear features were present within this trench. Three of these features lay on a northwest-southeast alignment and possessed similar rounded profiles. These include [1059] and [1062], which contained primary fills of mid brownish yellow silty clay with occasional pebbles (1058) and (1061) respectively and secondary fills of dark yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal (1057) and (1060) respectively. The third feature in this group, [1064], possessed a single fill of dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (1063).

6.289.The fourth and southernmost ditch within this trench lay on a roughly east-west orientation and consisted of a cut with rounded profile [1066] with a single fill of dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles. No finds were recovered from any of the features.

6.290.All the above features were sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (1055).

TRENCH 214 (FIGURE 47) HER 13338

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.291.Natural geology, consisting of light yellowish brown silty clay with abundant fragments of chalk (1068) was encountered at a maximum height of 61.67m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 60.57m OD to the southeast.

6.292.Two heavily intercutting ditches on a closely comparable northwest-southeast orientation were present within the trench. The earlier of the two comprised a cut with steep slightly concave sides and flattish base [1072], filled with mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent flecks of chalk (1071). This feature was heavily

truncated by ditch [1070], which displayed a similar steep-sided and flat-bottomed profile, filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (1069). Indeed, it is probable that this later ditch represents attempts to renew or maintain a boundary established with the excavation of the earlier ditch [1072]. Iron Age pottery was noted in fill (1069).

6.293.These features were sealed by la layer of mid greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1067).

TRENCH 215 (FIGURE 47) HER 13329

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTH-SOUTH

6.294.Natural reddish yellow clay (1074) was encountered at a maximum height of 53.39 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down considerable to the south, to a minimum height of 51.78 m OD.

6.295.A colluvial deposit, composed of light yellowish brown silty clay (1076), was encountered at the southern end of the trench, into which a small pit was excavated. This comprised a steep-sided and flat-bottomed cut [1077] with a fill of mid reddish brown clayey silt (1078). Abundant fragments of late Bronze Age pottery derived from at least five vessels were placed around the edges of this cut. This, in conjunction with the abundance of blade-like flakes within the fill, is highly suggestive of a placed deposit of some kind. Later disturbance, however, presumably the result of ploughing, leaves some doubt as to the exact nature of the deposit.

6.296.This feature was sealed by a layer of mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1074), in turn overlain by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1073).

TRENCH 216 (FIGURE 48) HER 11381

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.297.Natural geology, varying between mid yellowish brown clay and reddish brown fine sand (1111), was observed at a maximum height of 50.45 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, falling away to 48.27 m OD to the southeast.

6.298.A total of three archaeological features and one probable tree-throw were present within this trench. The archaeological features comprised a posthole and two linear

features. The posthole, which was situated at the far southeastern end of the trench, comprised a small sub-circular cut with rounded profile [1110], filled with dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles (1109). Some 2.20 m to the northwest of this posthole lay a small terminating gully, on a north-south orientation and composed of a cut with both rounded profile and terminus [1108], filled with mid brown silty sand with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (1107). The remaining linear feature was orientated northeast-southwest and comprised a cut with rounded profile [1104], filled with mid brown silty sand containing occasional pebbles and moderate fragments of Roman CBM (1103).

6.299. The probable tree throw consisted of a large sub-ovoid cut [1106], irregular both in plan and profile and filled with mid brown silty sand (1105). The presence of small fragments of Roman CBM within this deposit probably results from rooting action.

6.300. A layer of subsoil, comprising heavily rooted mid brown sand (1102), sealed all the features described above and was in turn overlain by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1101).

TRENCH 217

6.301. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 218 (FIGURE 48)

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.302. Natural light yellow clay (1080) was encountered at a maximum height of 65.79 m OD at the northwestern end of the trench, sloping down to 65.79 m OD to the southeast.

6.303. Three linear features were present within this trench, all on a similar northeast-southwest orientation. The largest of these ditches lay towards the southeastern end of the trench and comprised a ditch cut with rounded profile [1082], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal (1081). Some 2.40m to the northwest lay a smaller linear feature, consisting of a straight-sided cut with rounded base [1084], also filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (1083), with occasional pebbles. Further to the northwest

lay a small gully, composed of a steep and straight-sided, flat-bottomed cut [1086], filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (1085). No finds were recovered.

6.304. All three features were sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil (1079).

TRENCH 219

6.305. No archaeological deposits.

TRENCH 220 (FIGURE 49) HER 11381

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST

6.306. Natural geology, varying in colour and consistency from light grey clay to mid brownish yellow silty clay (1098) was encountered at a maximum height of 48.39 m OD at the southwestern end of the trench, falling away to 46.07 m OD to the northeast.

6.307.A shallow pit lay towards the northeastern end of the trench. This comprised an ovoid cut with rounded sides and flat base [1100], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (1099) and a single fragment of Roman tile. This pit was partially truncated by a substantial ditch, orientated roughly north-south and comprising a large cut with a broadly V-shaped profile [1096] measuring some 2.40 m in width. The earliest fills of this ditch were clearly derived from the surrounding natural geology and comprised a primary fill of mid brownish yellow clay (1095), overlain by a deposit of light yellowish grey clay (1094). Both may be considered to represent natural clay washed into the freshly cut ditch under natural processes such as water erosion of the eastern side of the feature.

6.308. In contrast the deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and charcoal flecks (1093) that overlay these earliest fills may be considered to have derived from either an occupation deposit or, perhaps more likely, a contemporary soil horizon. This deposit was overlain by two further fills that were again derived from natural clay, including a fill of mid brownish yellow clay with occasional pebbles (1092) and a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional CBM and pottery fragments (1091). The final infilling of the ditch comprised dark brownish

grey silty clay with moderate fragments of pottery and CBM (1090) and again, was probably derived from a coetaneous soil horizon. Pottery dated c. AD 150-400 was present throughout this sequence of fills.

6.309.A layer of subsoil, varying from light grey clay to mid brownish yellow silty clay (1098) sealed much of the trench and was in turn overlain by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1089).

TRENCH 221 (FIGURE 50) HER 11381

LENGTH: 30.00 M ORIENTATION: NORTHWEST-SOUTHEAST

6.310.Natural geology, comprising light yellowish brown silty clay (1120), was observed at a maximum height of 47.42 m OD at the northwest end of the trench, falling away to 46.38 m OD to the southeast.

6.311.Archaeological features within this trench solely comprised a large ditch on a broadly north-south orientation, measuring some 1.80 m in width. This feature may be considered to constitute a continuation of ditch [1096] in Trench 220 to the south - indeed, a section through this ditch revealed a cut, [1119], with a comparable V-shaped profile to ditch [1096]. Initial silting of the ditch also appears to be broadly consistent with the silting of ditch [1096], with a primary fill of mid brownish yellow silty clay with frequent pebbles (1118), clearly derived from the surrounding natural geology. Pottery retrieved from this fill dates to the late 1st-early 2nd century AD.

6.312.The later history of this section of ditch, on the other hand, is very different from that of its southern counterpart, for the construction of a substantial surface of rammed gravel (1117) over the top of the primary silting (1118) attests to a phase of later reuse of this portion of the ditch. Both the exact date and nature of this reuse are matter of some debate however; indeed the bone comb recovered from a layer of redeposited gravel that sealed the surface may date either to the late Roman or early Saxon period. Two interpretations for this surface seem likely; that the ditch was reused either as a holloway or during the construction of a Saxon structure such as a grubenhaus/ or sunken-featured building. The former interpretation seems unlikely, however, given the lack of any comparable surface within ditch section [1096], only some 25.00 m to the south. The latter interpretation, on the other hand must remain

unsubstantiated, given not only the vagaries of the available dating but also that despite every effort to maximise the exposure of the metalled surface, not only does its extent remain unknown but also no other features diagnostic to grubenhauser (i.e. postholes) could be defined. Further work is needed on this feature before any firm identification can be made.

6.313. Whatever the precise nature of this surface, the layer of redeposited gravel that sealed it (1116), shows that the surface fell into disrepair and subsequent disuse, whereupon the whole feature was left to gradually silt up with mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate fragments of late Roman pottery, flecks of charcoal and pebbles (1115). A small lens of ash and charcoal that overlay this silting (1114), shows that the ditch remained in use, if only as a convenient place in which to dump refuse.

6.314. The entirety of the ditch was subsequently sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (1113), which was in turn sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (1112).

7. Discussion

7.1. This programme of trenching has clearly demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains within the study area, ranging in date from Late Bronze Age to the Post-Medieval period. Assessment of the significance of the results of this investigation, must be considered against the somewhat limited nature of the investigation.

7.2. This investigation has been a first attempt to characteristic the date, nature and extent of activity on the site and as such has yielded an important corpus of data regarding an area that has previously been subject to very little archaeological excavation (YOUNG 2004B). As a consequence, the investigation constitutes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the archaeology of the region. However the actual area sampled during the works only amounts to 0.057 % of the study area, against more standard samples of 3 – 5% and thus it is difficult to model the archaeology with an appreciable degree of confidence.

PALAEOLITHIC (C. 450,000-12,000 BC)

7.3. The investigation did not encounter any direct evidence for cultural activity within the study area during the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic periods. Indeed, no evidence of Palaeolithic activity was present whatsoever. This is perhaps unsurprising, given the general scarcity of Palaeolithic material in the region, although could be due to the limited nature of the fieldwork. Much of the evidence for occupation in the region survives largely as a redeposited artefactual component within river terrace gravels (AUSTIN 1997:5) but in the case of the study site these important deposits have been largely sealed by the subsequent deposition of boulder clay and alluvium and thus their exposure and investigation was minimal.

MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC (C. 12,000-1,800 BC)

7.4. A handful of Mesolithic and Neolithic implements and debitage attests to possible activity within the vicinity of the study area (FIGURE 51). This material occurred exclusively as a residual component within later deposits, however, and as a consequence little may be said regarding the significance of these finds. Mesolithic and early Neolithic sites are not uncommon in the region, where they are seen to cluster in river valley bottoms, coastal intertidal zones and the Fens and Fen edge

(AUSTIN, 1997:7, BROWN AND MURPHY 1997:12). Indeed, recent work in the Lea Valley has shown the area to be a favoured one for settlement during the Mesolithic period (JACOBI IN AUSTIN 1997:9) and within this context, the occurrence of stray finds from both the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods within the study site are unsurprising. In fact, given the proximity of the site to the Lea valley and its rich Mesolithic heritage one might be forgiven for expecting more significant quantities of such material within the study area but that is to again, overlook the limitations of the fieldwork.

7.5. Any such settlements from these periods are likely to lie on the floor of the Stort river valley and may thus be sealed by the substantial deposits of alluvium that characterise this area. The considerable depth and highly unstable nature of these alluvial deposits severely limited the archaeological investigation of the underlying river terrace gravels and as a result, the full potential of Mesolithic and Neolithic (and indeed subsequent Bronze Age) activity within the river valley remains, regrettably, an unknown quantity. As stated above, however, the presence of residual material of these periods does suggest at least limited activity in the area and future work within the Stort river valley may well serve to refine the picture of Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement in the area.

BRONZE AGE (C. 1,800-600 BC)

EARLY BRONZE AGE (C. 1,800-1,500 BC)

7.6. The complete absence of any finds from the early Bronze Age may be significant, particularly given the presence of cultural material from the preceding periods. There appears to be a general dearth of early Bronze Age settlement evidence nationally, however, and thus the absence of data for the period from the study area is perhaps best seen as not inconsistent with this. Again, the importance of river valleys in the settlement patterns of this period has been stressed (BROWN AND MURPHY 1997:14) and given the limited fieldwork undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the Stort river, the possibility of a hitherto unknown early Bronze Age site in this area should not be discounted.

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (C. 1,500-1,000 BC)

7.7. The retrieval of a small assemblage of middle-late Bronze Age pottery from the site is suggestive of limited activity during this period. However the evidence is tenuous,

to say the least; the assemblage is comprised entirely of undiagnostic sherds (thus the broad date range) and largely occurs as a residual element within later Bronze Age deposits, implying that this pottery may just comprise a component of the late Bronze Age assemblage (THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY IN APPENDIX 2 BELOW).

LATE BRONZE AGE (C. 1,000-600 BC)

7.8. The advent of the late Bronze Age in the region was accompanied by a conspicuous expansion of settlement beyond the confines of the coastal zones and river valleys and onto the upland boulder clay plateau. Undoubtedly the reasons behind this expansion are complex but probably reflect agricultural intensification and associated population growth (BROWN 1996:32; KEMBLE 2001:65). It is against this backdrop of settlement expansion that we see the first concrete evidence of human activity within the study area, with a variety of settlement, agricultural and ritual activity present along the fringes of the upland plateau (FIGURE 52).

7.9. Some 12 trenches contained late Bronze Age archaeology and show an apparent concentration of settlement towards the western half of the site. One such settlement site (SG1) was centred on Trench 8 and comprised a complex sequence of pits including [045], [049], [062], [064], and [067]. Though it is not known whether this probable settlement was enclosed or unenclosed, the occurrence of ditches such as [055] and [053] suggests that attempts may have been made to enclose an otherwise open settlement towards the end of the late Bronze Age or the beginning of the early Iron Age. A further settlement dating to this period (SG2) was encountered to the north of SG1 in Trench 10. Here, structural evidence was present in the form of postholes and included [096], [098], [102], [104], [108], [1114], [118] and [120]. A further group of undated postholes ([088], [090], [092], [094], [096], [100], [110] and [116]) may also be considered to form part of this settlement by association. Though such features were comparatively plentiful within this trench, the limited exposure unfortunately frustrated any attempts to define coherent structures within this settlement or indeed, establish whether or not the site was enclosed.

7.10. Further occupation to the east of these two settlements may be represented by the relatively large ditch [510] observed in Trench 21, or the possible posthole in Trench 121 but it is difficult to place these isolated features in a meaningful context.

Analysis of environmental samples recovered from various deposits within these sites have yielded evidence for the processing of a fairly typical range of crops for the period including hulled wheat and barley and spelt wheat.

7.11. The survival of a late Bronze Age field system in the far east of the study area *may* be indicated by a group of small ditches on a similar northwest-southeast orientation ([953] in Trench 197, [977] and possibly [979] in trench 203). The parallel ditches [947] and [949] in Trench 197 may represent a drove way used for stock control. Dating for this group of ditches is far from secure, however, and the possibility of residuality cannot be overlooked.

7.12. A wide range of settlement evidence now exists for the region, including circular enclosed settlements such as Springfield Lyons (BUCKLEY AND HEDGES 1987) and Mucking North Ring (BOND 1988), rectilinear enclosed sites including Lofts Farm (BROWN 1988A) and Chelmsford Broomfield (ATKINSON 1995) and unenclosed sites such as that excavated at Broads Green (BROWN 1988B) or those recently excavated at Stanstead (HAVIS & BROOKS 2004). The limited exposure afforded by this investigation, makes it difficult to accurately characterise the nature of late Bronze Age settlement within the study area. Nevertheless, the existence of these settlements and associated agricultural features on the periphery of the boulder clay plateau serves in itself to confirm the general picture of settlement expansion beyond the fertile soils of the river valleys and the exploitation of the more marginal, heavier boulder clay (KEMBLE 2001:65).

7.13. Ritual or ceremonial activity is present in the far west (SG3; Trenches 126 and 128) and east of the study area (SG4; Trenches 207 and 209 and SG5; Trench 215) and comprises six probable cremations, including urned ([312] in Trench 128) and unurned examples ([166] in Trench 126, [305] and [307] in Trench 128, [1029] in Trench 207 and [1003] in Trench 209) and a placed deposit of flint debitage and broken pottery ([1077] in Trench 215). Burial evidence for the period is rare nationally (E.G. BROWN 1996:29, 1997:18; KEMBLE 2001:66) and the presence of such evidence within the study site is significant, inviting close parallels with the unenclosed site of Broads Green, where five unurned cremations were observed in association with a scatter of pits, postholes and a small rectangular structure (BROWN 1988). The placed deposit recorded in Trench 215 is also paralleled in similar

features excavated at Stanstead (HAVIS & BROOKS 2004:521).

IRON AGE (C. 600 BC-AD 43)

EARLY IRON AGE (C. 600-350 BC)

7.14.No clear evidence of early Iron Age activity was encountered during the course of the fieldwork - in fact there is a noticeable absence of pottery from this period within the study area. This is somewhat curious given that, nationally, the period is characterised by an increasing population and associated expansion and intensification of agriculture (KEMBLE 2001:67). However, there is some evidence in Essex for a local clustering of settlements in certain areas, with a corresponding absence of settlement in others (BRYANT 1997:25) and it is possible that the dearth of settlement evidence for this period reflects a similar zoning of occupation. Whatever the reasons for the absence of early Iron Age occupation in the study area, it is of interest to note a basic lack of continuity in settlement from the preceding late Bronze Age and a consequent hiatus during the early Iron Age.

MIDDLE-LATE IRON AGE (C. 350-50 BC)

7.15.A small assemblage of middle-late Iron Age pottery is suggestive of a resumption of activity within the study area during this period. It should be noted, however, that the evidence for this is far from conclusive as it is largely based upon residual wares that could quite easily be late Iron Age in date (SEE THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY IN APPENDIX 2). Nevertheless, there is a certain degree of correlation between the distribution of these ceramics and areas subsequently used for settlement in the late Iron Age and early Roman periods that implies at least limited occupation during this phase.

LATE IRON AGE (C. 50 BC-AD 43)

7.16.Although the origins of Iron Age occupation within the study area may be shrouded in uncertainty, concerted efforts to resettle the area were certainly underway by the 1st century BC, with some 18 trenches distributed over much of the study area denoting a significant expansion of activity across the upland boulder clay plateau (FIGURE 53).

7.17.The available evidence, limited though it is, suggests the presence of at least three

small, enclosed settlement sites within the confines of the study area; SG6, SG7 and SG8 (FIGURE 54). The dating of these settlements is slightly contentious as they all remained in use into the subsequent early Roman period. Nevertheless, significant quantities of late Iron Age pottery were recovered from all three settlement sites (most notably from the primary fills of the principal enclosure ditches) and suggest that, though their main phase of occupation may be early Roman in date, each was founded prior to the Roman conquest.

7.18. The largest of these sites (SG6) lay on high ground close to the edge of the river valley and was centred on Trenches 23, 27, 42 and 107. Here, large V-shaped ditches measuring between 2.00 m and 2.87 m in width served to delineate a large possibly sub-rectangular or ovoid enclosure with minimum dimensions of 145 m by 135 m ([537] in Trench 23, [252] in Trench 27, [937] in Trench 42 and [666] in Trench 107). Smaller ditches on the western and northern sides of the enclosure ([932] in Trench 42 and [670] in Trench 107) suggest the possibility either of additional defences in these areas or an earlier and less substantial enclosure.

7.19. Two smaller enclosed settlement sites (SG7 and SG8) were situated towards the northern limits of the study area. Both had been previously identified through aerial photography (PALMER 2005) and had been subsequently targeted during the fieldwork in an attempt to both date the enclosures and assess the validity of the existing aerial photographic data.

7.20. The southernmost of these two enclosures (SG7) was centred on Trenches 84, 165 and 166 and was shown by aerial photography to comprise a small rectangular enclosure orientated northwest/southeast and measuring some 45.00m by 60.00m. The excavated sequence has largely confirmed this, showing the northwestern and southeastern sides of the enclosure to be defined by large steep-sided and flat-bottomed ditches [517] and [800] that measured up to 4.00 m in width. The northeastern boundary of the enclosure, however, remains ill defined with little correlation between the excavated sequence and the available aerial photographic data.

7.21. Of the remaining enclosure SG8, little is known and its status as a settlement site is questionable. The available aerial photographic data suggests a small rectangular

enclosure, again orientated northeast/southwest and measuring some 40.00 m – 45.00 m square. Although the large curving ditch [668] revealed in Trench 113 corresponds well with this data, exposure within the enclosure was minimal and as a result, little can be said regarding the character of any activity that may be associated with the enclosure.

7.22. Few features associated with these enclosures may be dated to this phase of activity with any certainty. Significantly, however, structural evidence is present within enclosures SG6 and SG7, including postholes [802] and [804] within SG7 (Trench 166). Regrettably, the structural evidence within SG6 remains undated, though it is tempting to assign a late Iron Age date to the beam slots of a small rectangular structure that appeared to lie just to the south of the enclosure ditch in Trench 23 (cut [542]). Similar structures are known elsewhere in Essex and Hertfordshire, including Kelvedon (EDDY AND TURNER 1982:8-9) and Skeleton Green (BRYANT 1997:28) but such buildings leave only the most ephemeral traces and rarely survive (SEALEY 1996:60). If this building is indeed of late Iron Age date (which, in the absence of any dating, must remain questionable) then it constitutes a significant example of a poorly documented structural type. Other features that may be dated to this phase of activity includes a pit [528], apparently lying outside enclosure SG7 and a small ditch [939] that may have indicated sub-divisions within the enclosure.

7.23. Determining the function of these settlements is not easy, given the limitations of the fieldwork. However, an essentially agricultural usage may be suggested on the basis of the analysis of environmental samples and the limited animal bone assemblage recovered from dated deposits within the enclosures. Indeed, the available evidence suggests a mixed farming economy, comprising a fairly typical range both of domesticates (including sheep/goat, pig and cattle) and cereals such as spelt wheat and barley. More indirect evidence for the fundamentally agrarian function of these settlements may be gleaned from the presence of field boundaries in some nine trenches distributed across the study area (Trenches 33, 36, 69, 112, 157, 158, 197, 210 and 214), which are considered here to suggest an extensive field system. It is also possible that the parallel ditches [611] and [604] in Trench 69 and [673] and [675] in Trench 112 represented drove ways for stock management.

7.24. Defended enclosures are a common feature of the late Iron Age landscape of the

region and those that lie within the study area find numerous parallels elsewhere in Essex and Hertfordshire (HUNN 1996). It should be noted, however, that small agrarian enclosures such as those encountered during the investigation form just one component within the relatively complex settlement patterns that define the late Iron Age in the region. These settlement patterns remain poorly understood but may be generally considered to comprise a central settlement with administrative, economic and/or ritual significance (the so-called Oppidum), set within and supported by a developed rural hinterland that includes small individual farmsteads and larger more centralised farming complexes or hamlets (E.G. HUNN 1996:46; DRURY AND RODWELL 1980:70).

7.25. In the light of the complexity of settlement and society that typifies the period, it seems reasonable to assume that the small settlements encountered within the confines of the study area formed part of a similar system. Admittedly, our knowledge of the settlement pattern within the study area during this period is far from complete; indeed, given that late Iron Age settlements in the region are considered to average approximately one per square kilometre (E.G. KEMBLE 2001:78; DRURY AND RODWELL 1980:70), there are almost certainly a number of settlements within the study area that remain undetected. Nevertheless, it is possible to perceive a degree of differentiation between the three known sites of the study area, with the two small farmsteads SG7and SG8 functioning as ancillary settlements to a larger enclosure to the south (SG6) that may be equated to the hamlets or centralised farming complexes described above.

7.26. Defining the central focus of this settlement pattern, however, is similarly fraught with difficulty. Undoubtedly, the late Iron Age shrine at Harlow constitutes one of the more significant centres within the religious landscape of the period but its status as a settlement remains undetermined. Indeed, what has been interpreted by some as comprising a small town to the northeast of the Iron Age shrine (RODWELL 1975 IN KEMBLE 2001:79), has been reinterpreted by others as an additional religious centre (SEALEY 1996:60). Whilst the precise nature of activity at Harlow remains a matter for debate, its significance within late Iron Age society seems certain and is thus considered here to represent the best candidate for a central focus to the rural hinterland that lies within the study area to the north.

7.27.Considering of the religious significance of Harlow and its potential connection with the rural economy of the study area, the occurrence of two late Iron Age cremations on high ground overlooking the shrine is perhaps unsurprising (SG9). Both cremations are typical for the period and comprise so-called *belgic* style vessels in which cremated remains were placed. These cremations find innumerable parallels throughout the region (SEALEY 1996:57), yet it is difficult to place them within a meaningful context. Elsewhere in the region these features have been seen to occur in a variety of contexts, from formal funarary enclosures such as those observed at Maldon Hall Farm or Mucking to their usage to delineate boundaries such as those encountered at North Shoebury (SEALEY 1996:57) but here, the limitations of the fieldwork inhibits our understanding of the wider context of the cremations.

ROMAN (C. AD 43- AD 410)

EARLY ROMAN (C. AD 43-AD 250)

7.28.Some 15 trenches within the study area contained archaeological remains of early Roman date and can be seen to clearly demonstrate the continuation of the late Iron Age agricultural economy into the Roman period (FIGURE 55). All three settlement sites that were founded during the preceding period remained in use until the latter half of the 2nd century AD and the agricultural landscape in which these settlements were sited appears to continue in use with little alteration. Indeed, much of the Roman activity outside the known settlement sites seems to comprise isolated pits and ditches that may be best seen as indicative of the continuing usage of the agricultural resource.

7.29.Roman activity associated with the three settlement sites SG6, SG7 and SG8 is far more plentiful than that of the preceding late Iron Age. Activity within the largest of the settlement sites SG6 includes pits [343] and possibly [333] and two small ditches [939] and [341] that may represent attempts to sub-divide the enclosure. Of considerable interest, however, is the presence of an extensive cobbled surface (920) within the enclosure, situated immediately to the south of the main enclosure ditch [937]. Comparable surfaces have been observed elsewhere in the region, including Stanstead and Chignall St James, where a similar association with enclosure ditches was noted but also at Stebbing and Skeleton Green (HAVIS AND BROOKS 2004: 536).

These surfaces have been variously interpreted as yard surfaces, hard standing or structural platforms for timber buildings (HAVIS AND BROOKS 2004:534-536). The example observed at SG6 was originally interpreted by the excavator as a yard surface but given the limited exposure of the surface these other premises cannot be ruled out.

7.30. Activity of Roman date at the smaller enclosed site SG7 to the north was particularly intensive and may reflect the extent to which the site was used during the early Roman period. Several ditches were cut during this period, both within and without the enclosure; those within the enclosure, such as [782], [778] and [794] probably indicate the creation of sub-divisions within the site, whereas the large ditch [522] and smaller gully [528] to the east of the main enclosure may indicate expansion of the settlement to the east. The two rubble filled linear features [796] and [795] within the main enclosure, though of some interest, remain poorly understood principally due to their limited exposure. A range of interpretations for these features has been suggested, including stone filled drains, structural footings and even paths. Without further excavation, however, it is impossible to advance any one of these interpretations with any certainty.

7.31. Activity associated with enclosure SG8 is more difficult to define, again due to the limited exposure within the confines of the ditches. However, the presence of refuse pit [653] containing early Roman pottery, situated beyond the confines of the enclosure to the north may be taken to suggest the continuation of activity in the area.

7.32. In addition to the reuse of late Iron Age enclosures, this period saw the creation of at least one additional enclosed settlement site (SG9), located towards the far eastern end of the study area and centred on trenches 216, 220 and 221. Here, a large ditch, some 2.40m in width (recorded as [1096] in Trench 220 and [1119] in Trench 221) formed the eastern boundary of an otherwise ill-defined enclosure. Datable activity within this enclosure is difficult to define but includes a small ditch [1104] and a possible pit [1106]. Possible structural evidence is represented by a small gully [1108] and posthole [1110] but in this context the recovery of a significant quantity of Roman building material, including roofing tiles and bricks from various features is of particular interest as it suggests the presence of a substantial masonry building

within the enclosure.

7.33.The remaining activity on the study site that may be dated to the Roman period included pit [739] in Trench 158 and the possible ditch [309] in Trench 128. These isolated features are difficult to place in a meaningful context and are considered here to represent sporadic activity associated with the continuing usage of the agricultural resource of the site. Three timber piles (T.763), (T.764) and (T.765) driven into the stream bed of palaeochannel [758] in Trench 162 *may* also date to this period, though this dating is far from conclusive as it is based purely on the presence of a single fragment of *tegula* retrieved from the river gravels and silts that sealed the piles. Problems of dating aside, little may be said regarding these piles other than they represent the construction of some small installation on the banks of the aforementioned stream.

7.34.The evidence gained from this investigation clearly points to a significant degree of continuity from the late Iron Age into the early Roman period. This is evident not only in the settlement pattern within the study area but also in the agricultural landscape within which these settlements were situated, both of which remain basically unchanged. Further corroboration of this view may be seen in the environmental evidence recovered from the various settlements in the study area, which indicates a similar mixed farming economy to that of the preceding period.

7.35.Such continuity is a typical feature of the late Iron Age/early Roman transition in the region. Indeed, while our understanding of settlement patterns and types throughout the region may be limited (GOING 1997:38), the evidence gained from fieldwalking and excavation has shown that their basic structure remains virtually unaltered. The administrative and economic centres of the late Iron Age (the Oppida) are for the most part retained into the early Roman period, with centres such as Camulodunum becoming the Roman Colonia of the new province. Smaller settlements become villages or small towns, usually situated at nodal points in the communication network and farmsteads and field systems remain essentially unmodified (DRURY AND RODWELL 1980:71).

7.36.In this respect the preservation of the agricultural resource within the study area makes a fine case in point, particularly when viewed as part of a settlement pattern

related to the nearby Roman shrine and town centred on Harlow. The continuing significance of Harlow as a ritual centre is clearly shown by the construction of the Roman temple on the same site as its late Iron Age predecessor (FRANCE AND GOBEL 1985:23). Furthermore, the late Iron Age site to the east of the temple complex, though poorly understood, can be seen to develop into a sizeable town during this period. It is considered here that the continuity evident both in town and shrine is reflected in the agricultural hinterland represented by the study area.

LATE ROMAN (C. AD 250-AD 410)

7.37. The scarcity of late Roman archaeology within the confines of the study area is striking, particularly in contrast to the relatively extensive activity of the 1st and 2nd centuries. Limited amounts of late Roman pottery retrieved from the later fills of ditch [1096/1119] attest to some activity in the vicinity of site SG10, though the exact nature – and indeed the exact date – of this activity remains difficult to determine; whilst the pottery suggests a late Roman date for the gravel surface (1117) within ditch [1119], the bone comb retrieved from the sealing layer (1116) may date either to the late Roman or early Saxon period (SEELEY *PERS. COMM.*). Whatever the exact date of this surface (the implications of a Saxon date are dealt with below), its presence within a primarily defensive feature marks a significant change in usage. The limited exposure of the surface precludes a detailed assessment of its purpose, though within the context of late Roman activity it is possible that it fulfilled an essentially agricultural purpose as a Holloway or droveway for stock control.

7.38. More significant quantities of late Roman pottery were retrieved from the latest fill of pit [653] (Trench 111) and ditch [833/835] (Trench 176) and may indicate more substantial occupation in these areas. Once again, however, the limited trenching frustrates any attempts to define this activity.

7.39. The apparent reduction in activity during this period is difficult to understand. There is some evidence for the contraction of some towns in the region during the late Roman period (BURNHAM AND WACHER 1990:188) and it is *possible* that the settlement at Harlow suffered a similar fate. This is a difficult premise to prove, however; the Roman town centred on Harlow has been subject to cursory investigation at best and remains poorly understood. An alternative hypothesis may

be put forth in which the late Roman period witnessed a change in settlement patterns within the study area and settlements of this date remain to be found. Given the limited scope of the fieldwork, this premise is not wholly untenable but of course should be treated with extreme caution until firm evidence is forthcoming.

SAXON/EARLY MEDIEVAL (C. AD 410-AD 1066)

7.40. No definitive evidence of Saxon/early medieval activity within the study area was observed during the course of the investigation. A possible exception to this tenet may be found in the bone comb retrieved from the silting layer (1116) sealing the gravel surface (1117), which, as outlined above, *may* be of early Saxon date (FIGURE 56). Within the context of Saxon archaeology it is possible to interpret the presence of such a surface within ditch [1119] as evidence of a typically Saxon grubenhaus, though it is essential to note here that this evidence is far from conclusive.

7.41. Even if the later usage of ditch [1119] is of early Saxon date, it points to negligible exploitation of the landscape within the study area during this period. This is perhaps to be expected; the area of west Essex and Hertfordshire in which the study site is located (Wheeler's so-called 'sub Roman triangle') has yielded very little evidence of Saxon activity (E.G. BRYANT 1997:48). The reasons for this are poorly understood and the limited scope of the investigation can shed little new light on this interesting subject other than to confirm this general picture of limited and ephemeral activity in the area.

MEDIEVAL (C. AD 1066-1485)

7.42. Almost no Medieval archaeology was encountered during the course of the fieldwork (FIGURE 56). Indeed, only one feature - pit [146] in Trench 161 - could be positively dated to the period immediately following the Norman Conquest (c. 1080-1200 AD). This should not be taken to imply a general absence of activity across the study area, however; at least one of the current villages within the study area (Eastwick) is known to have Medieval antecedents and though the origins of the village of Gilston are less well known, the church of the parish has been shown to be of 13th century date and the presence of earthworks in the vicinity of the church have been interpreted as evidence of a Medieval settlement (TUCK 2005). A variety of Medieval landscape features have also been observed within the study area, including

moated sites, the remnants of field systems and possible holloways and parish boundaries (TUCK 2005).

7.43.Given this evidence for Medieval activity within the study area the failure of the investigation to produce any substantial archaeological evidence for such activity is somewhat puzzling. However, in this context it is important to note that little or no trenching was undertaken either within the footprints of the current settlements or in their immediate vicinity. Thus the absence of any definable Medieval activity outside these settlements may be taken as indirect evidence that the Medieval settlement pattern within the study area does not differ substantially to that of the present day. Existing earthworks in the vicinity of both Eastwick and Gilston attest to the contraction or partial desertion of these settlements but no trenching was undertaken in these areas.

7.44.Nevertheless, it is no coincidence that the majority of Medieval pottery retrieved as a residual component from topsoil or subsoil deposits largely occurred within the immediate vicinity of the known and conjectured Medieval settlements, presumably as a result of agricultural practices such as the manuring of fields.

POST-MEDIEVAL (AD 1485-PRESENT)

7.45.Some 12 trenches, distributed across much of the study area were seen to contain post-Medieval archaeological remains (FIGURE 57). For the most part, these trenches contained isolated field boundaries, usually dated by the finds retrieved during excavation, such as ditches [224] and [227] (Trench 132), [714] (Trench 154) and [908] (Trench 115) but occasionally by their appearance on 19th century tithe maps, such as ditches [072] (Trench 5), [083] Trench 7, and possibly [635] (Trench 94) and [990] (Trench 208).

7.46.Evidence for the creation of the enclosed park associated with New Place during the 17th century (the precursor to the 19th century Gilston House) was observed in Trenches 103 and 105 (SG12). Here, the gradual silting up of a former stream channel represented by deposits (441) and (451) is considered to result from damming works associated with the creation of the artificial lake upstream and deposits of made ground such as (438) that seal the silts attest to efforts to landscape the reclaimed land. The available dating suggests a 17th century date for their

deposition that correlates well with the known date for the enclosure of the park.

7.47.The remains of the rectory of Gilston Church which appears on the Tithe map of 1834 (?) was encountered in Trenches 180 and 181 (SG13) and includes walls 465 and 469 in Trench 180 and 383, 384, 385, 389 and 393 in Trench 18, as well as the associated Ha-Ha feature 367 that bounded the rectory property to the east. Brick samples retrieved from these walls suggest a late 18th – early 19th century date for construction of the rectory and this accords well with the cartographic evidence that shows the building on the 1834 Tithe map. It is probable that quarry features such as [388], [473] and [485] relate to the construction of this building.

7.48.The demolition of New Place during the latter half of the 19th century and the subsequent construction of Gilston House on a new site were accompanied by a substantial remodelling of both the associated park and surrounding estate and evidence for this work was apparent in Trenches 105, 180 and 181. The upper sequence revealed in Trench 105, for instance, was characterised by deposits of 19th century made ground that have been interpreted as attempts to level the site prior to the construction of Giffords Farm - one of several model farms that were established across the estate at this time. It is probably during this phase of redevelopment that the rectory building observed in Trenches 180 and 181 (SG13) was demolished, as represented by deposits such as (386), (390) and (394). Piecemeal robbing of the structural remains of this building is signified by features such as [387].

7.49.The remaining features that may be dated to this period comprise a brick culvert 810 in Trench 172 that presumably functioned as a drainage feature and a large and poorly understood cut feature [405/901] observed in Trenches 52 and 77 (SG11). Exposure of this last feature was minimal and thus it is difficult to fully fathom its function, though ashy deposits such as (403) and (900), both of which were clearly deposited while hot suggest that the feature represents some type of high temperature structure such as a kiln. The abundance of burnt brick fragments retrieved from the upper fills of the feature (402) and (401) support such a premise and suggests that the feature may have been associated with brick making.

UNDATED

7.50.Some 96 features distributed across 49 trenches contained no dating evidence

(FIGURE 58). For the most part these comprised agricultural features including field boundaries and drove ways, postholes or pits that, in isolation, are difficult to place in a meaningful context. Occasionally, features such as the large curvilinear ditch [347] within Trench 133, hint at the existence of enclosures but without further fieldwork it is difficult to be certain of such interpretations.

7.51. Other such features, however, occur in association with dated deposits or comprise features diagnostic of particular features and here it is possible to postulate a date and place the features within known site groupings, where applicable. Probable late Bronze Age features, for instance, include the undated postholes [088], [090], [092], [094], [096], [100], [110] and [116] in Trench 10 (SG2), posthole [512], Trench 21, pit [313] and postholes [321] and [323] in Trench 128 (SG3) and ditches [1009], [1015], [1018] and [1021] in Trench 209 (SG4). It is tempting also to ascribe a late Bronze Age date to the possible unurned cremation [639] recorded in Trench 97 (SG14). However, given both the lack of conclusive dating and the general dearth of burial; evidence from the period nationally such a premise should be advanced with caution.

7.52. Undated features associated with the late Iron Age and early Roman settlement SG6 include field boundary [512] (Trench 27), ditch [932] (Trench 42), ditches [333] and [341] (Trench 47) and the beam slot [542] in Trench 23, which conforms to a typical late Iron Age architectural type. Postholes [659] (Trench 111) and [1110] (Trench 216) may be considered to form parts of settlements SG8 and SG10 respectively and pit [831] and field boundary [828] in Trench 176 may be tentatively assigned a late Roman date on the basis of association with the dated ditch [833/835].

7.53. The remaining undated deposits do not constitute archaeological deposits in the strict sense of the word (i.e. deposits formed through cultural action). Rather, these deposits formed part of environmental sequences and include those recorded in Trenches 192, 193 and 194. These sequences, though not currently related to any specific archaeological periods or cultural activity may be considered to constitute valuable environmental resources and thus have the potential to greatly enhance our understanding of the local environment and economy through time, particularly in relation to the prehistoric periods.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1. Despite its limited scope, the results of this investigation have served to considerably augment our knowledge of the development of the historic landscape within the study area. The preparation of the Historic Environment sensitivity model, aerial photograph survey, historic landscape assessment and the archaeological desk-based assessment (YOUNG 2004A) were undoubtedly successful in providing a basic model of the archaeological resource within the study area.

8.2. Even limited excavation, however, can provide a level of detail that simply cannot be attained through an exclusively non-intrusive programme of work and this is particularly apparent in the case of the study area, where very little controlled fieldwork has been undertaken prior to this investigation. Nevertheless, it is perhaps inevitable that a limited fieldwork exercise such as this should raise more questions than it answers. The following paragraphs outline the general results of the investigation and seek to define some basic priorities for future research aims within the study area.

PALAEOLITHIC

8.3. No evidence of any Palaeolithic occupation was encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

Further investigation of river gravel deposits within the study area is required in order to firmly establish the presence or absence of Palaeolithic occupation.

MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC

8.4. A handful of residual Mesolithic and Neolithic finds suggests at least limited activity in the vicinity of the study area.

Any settlements of Mesolithic or Neolithic date are likely to lie within the Stort river valley and are thus likely to be sealed by substantial deposits of alluvium. Further structured fieldwork is required in this area to establish the presence or absence of any such occupation.

It is hoped that the Stort Valley will be considered as the next phase of the aggregates levy project, which should provide further useful data for this period.

BRONZE AGE

8.5. No evidence of any early Bronze Age settlement was encountered during the fieldwork. Settlement evidence for this period is rare nationally. However, any such settlements that may lie within the confines of the study area are likely to be situated within the Stort river valley and thus be sealed by recent alluvial deposits. Further fieldwork is required in this area in order to establish the presence or absence of any such occupation.

8.6. A small assemblage of residual middle Bronze Age pottery suggests limited activity during this period within the study area.

This assemblage of pottery is largely undiagnostic and of poor quality. Further fieldwork should not only focus on determining the presence or absence of any activity of this date but also generate additional assemblages of pottery that may help to address the current uncertainties surrounding the existing material.

8.7. Evidence of late Bronze Age settlement, agricultural and ritual activity was encountered during the investigation.

Further fieldwork is required in the vicinity of the known settlement sites centred on Trenches 8 and 10 (SG1 and SG2) in order to characterise their extent and character. Were these settlements enclosed or open? Does the apparent clustering of such sites towards the western half of the study area reflect the true settlement pattern within the study area or do other hitherto unknown settlements exist elsewhere in the study area? In this respect, further exposure of the possible enclosure ditch revealed in Trench 21 is required in order to establish the nature of activity in this area.

Further investigation of the possible field system located towards the eastern half of the study area is also required in order to determine the composition, extent and survival of any such system. Conclusive dating of any such field boundaries should be a priority.

Additional fieldwork should also concentrate on determining the exact nature and extent of the ritual sites centred on Trenches 126 and 128 (SG3), Trenches 207 and 209 (SG4) and Trench 215 (SG5) and their relationship to settlement sites in the study area. Given the scarcity of burial evidence for the period nationally, the presence of cremations on these various sites should be considered a priority in terms of any future fieldwork.

IRON AGE

8.8. No evidence of any early Iron Age activity was encountered during the investigation.

Further fieldwork is required to test the veracity of these findings. Is the absence of early Iron Age settlement real or apparent? Does the apparent absence of settlement in the study area reflect the clustering of occupation seen elsewhere in the region?

8.9.A small assemblage of residual middle Iron Age pottery implies limited activity in the study area during this period.

The current middle Iron Age assemblage is undiagnostic and of poor quality. Further fieldwork is required in order to both attempt to locate any settlements of this date and to generate larger assemblages of pottery that can be used to elucidate the current uncertainties regarding middle Iron Age activity within the study area.

8.10.A variety of late Iron Age activity was encountered during the investigation. A number of agricultural settlement sites were founded during this period and appear to be set within an extensive field system. Limited ritual activity was also encountered in the form of two cremations.

Only three settlement sites were located during the investigation. The current state of knowledge regarding settlement patterns in the region suggests that many more such settlements should be expected within the confines of the study area and thus any future fieldwork should attempt to locate and investigate such additional sites. Further work is also required on the known settlement sites SG6, SG7 and SG8 in order to fully characterise their date, extent and function; does the apparent differentiation between these settlements reflect a tiered settlement hierarchy and can such a settlement pattern be successfully related to the emerging importance of the shrine and possible settlement centred on Harlow? Dating the foundation of these settlements is currently based upon a largely residual assemblage of pottery; future fieldwork should attempt to provide firmer dating for the creation of these sites.

Further work is also required to establish the composition, extent and survival of the possible field system suggested by the results of this investigation, as well as the precise nature and extent of the ritual site centred on Trenches 150 and 151 (SG9) and its relationship to the shrine at Harlow.

ROMAN

8.11.The available evidence points to a significant degree of continuity in settlement and agriculture from the preceding late Iron Age into the early Roman period. All three settlements seemingly founded during the preceding period remained in use throughout the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and a further settlement that produced evidence for the presence of a masonry building was also founded during this period.

Given the continuity evident in the settlement pattern it is likely that a number of hitherto unknown agricultural settlements exist within the boundaries of the study area. An attempt should be made to locate and investigate any such settlements and relate them both to the known settlements recorded within the study area but also the urban and ritual centre at Harlow.

The evidence for a masonry building within site SG10 indicates that this site may differ in character and function to the essentially agricultural sites located elsewhere in the study area. Additional

fieldwork is needed to confirm this premise and further characterise the nature of the site.

8.12. Late Roman activity within the study area appears to be very limited in comparison with that of the preceding early Roman period. The possible reuse of the enclosure ditch at site SG10 suggests a change in the nature of activity here during this period.

Further fieldwork is required in order to fully understand the implications of these findings. Does the absence of late Roman activity at settlement sites SG6 and SG7 indicate a contraction in activity within the study area or merely a shift in settlement patterns? Does the presence of quantities of late Roman pottery in Trench 176 indicate the existence of a settlement here? The exact nature of activity at site SG10 should be further investigated; the character and date of the reuse of the enclosure ditch here are both contentious issues that should be resolved through additional fieldwork.

SAXON/EARLY MEDIEVAL

8.13. No definitive evidence of Saxon/early medieval activity was encountered during the fieldwork, though it is possible that the reuse of the enclosure ditch at site SG10 may be dated to this period.

Once again, further fieldwork should be undertaken in this area in order to fully characterise the date and nature of activity here. Does the surface observed in ditch [1119] comprise a Saxon Grubenhaus? If this surface is indeed Saxon in date, then it may constitute significant evidence for Saxon activity in an area that appears to have been largely underused during this period.

MEDIEVAL

8.14. Almost no Medieval archaeology was encountered during the course of the investigation. Indeed, only one small pit could be firmly dated to the period. This dearth of definable Medieval activity is considered to indicate that the Medieval settlement pattern did not differ greatly to that of the present day.

Further fieldwork is required to test this assumption. There is some evidence for the presence of a deserted Medieval village in the vicinity of Gilston Church; can the Medieval pit recorded in Trench 161 be related to this settlement or does it occur as an isolated feature?

POST-MEDIEVAL

8.15. Post-Medieval activity on the site largely comprised agricultural features, though the sequences established in some trenches serve to illuminate the development of the park and estate associated with New Place and its successor Gilston Park House. Two additional trenches revealed an extensive but poorly understood high temperature feature.

Further targeted fieldwork may help to document the development of the park and estate associated with Gilston Park House and its predecessor. Additional investigation is also required to clarify the nature and function of the potential industrial feature centred on Trenches 52 and 77.

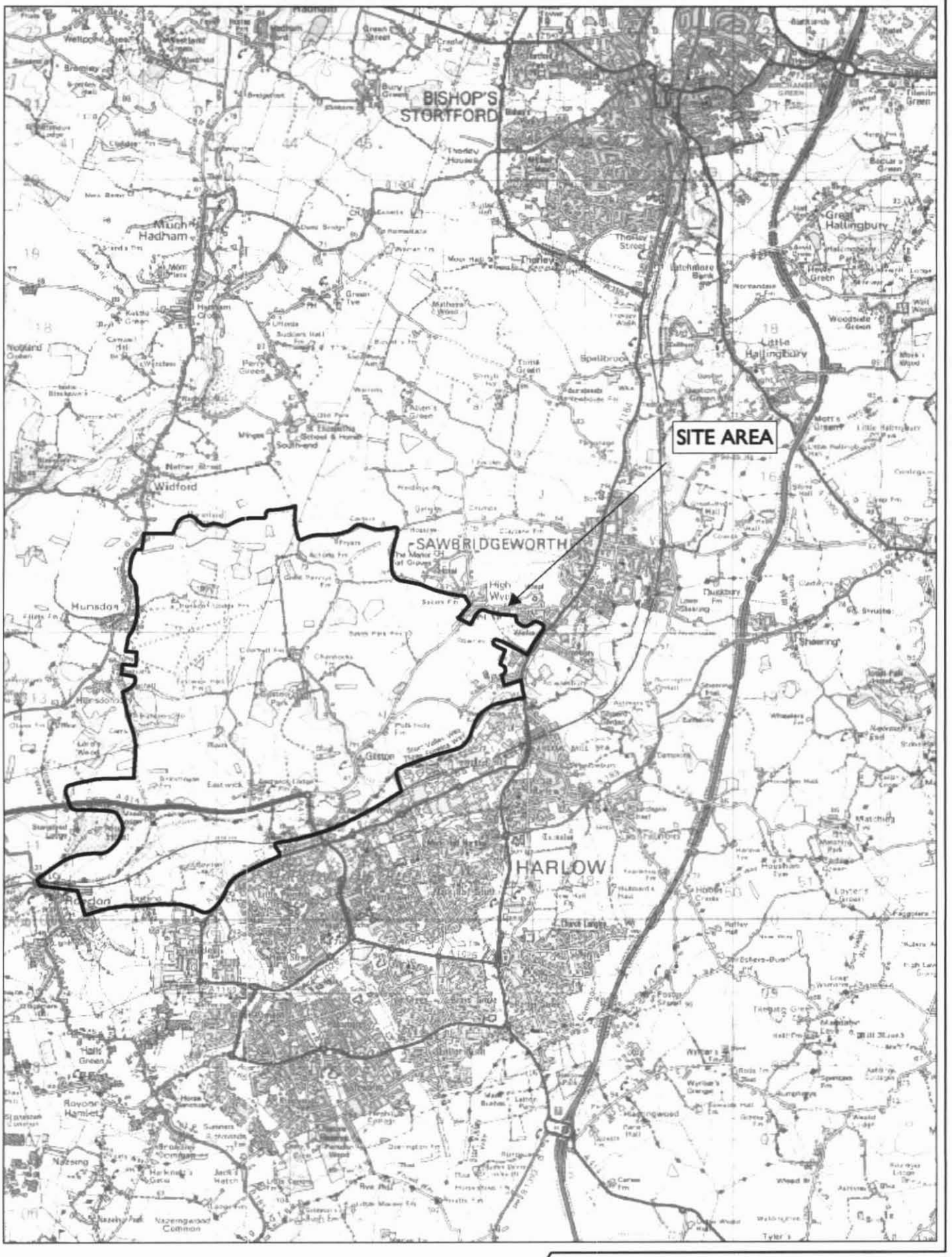
UNDATED

8.16. Undated features occurred across much of the study area and largely comprise isolated agricultural features, though some may be tentatively assigned a date on the basis of association with dated features. The limited trenching undertaken on the floor of the Stort river valley has demonstrated the existence of a valuable environmental sequence in this area.

Further fieldwork is required to place currently undated features within the phasing structure of the study area and relate them to known land use patterns. Such work should also attempt to confirm the tentative dating assigned to various features in association with dated deposits. Structured investigation of the environmental sequences recorded in Trenches 192 and 194 should be a priority. These sequences have the potential to provide valuable environmental data pertinent to all periods.

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

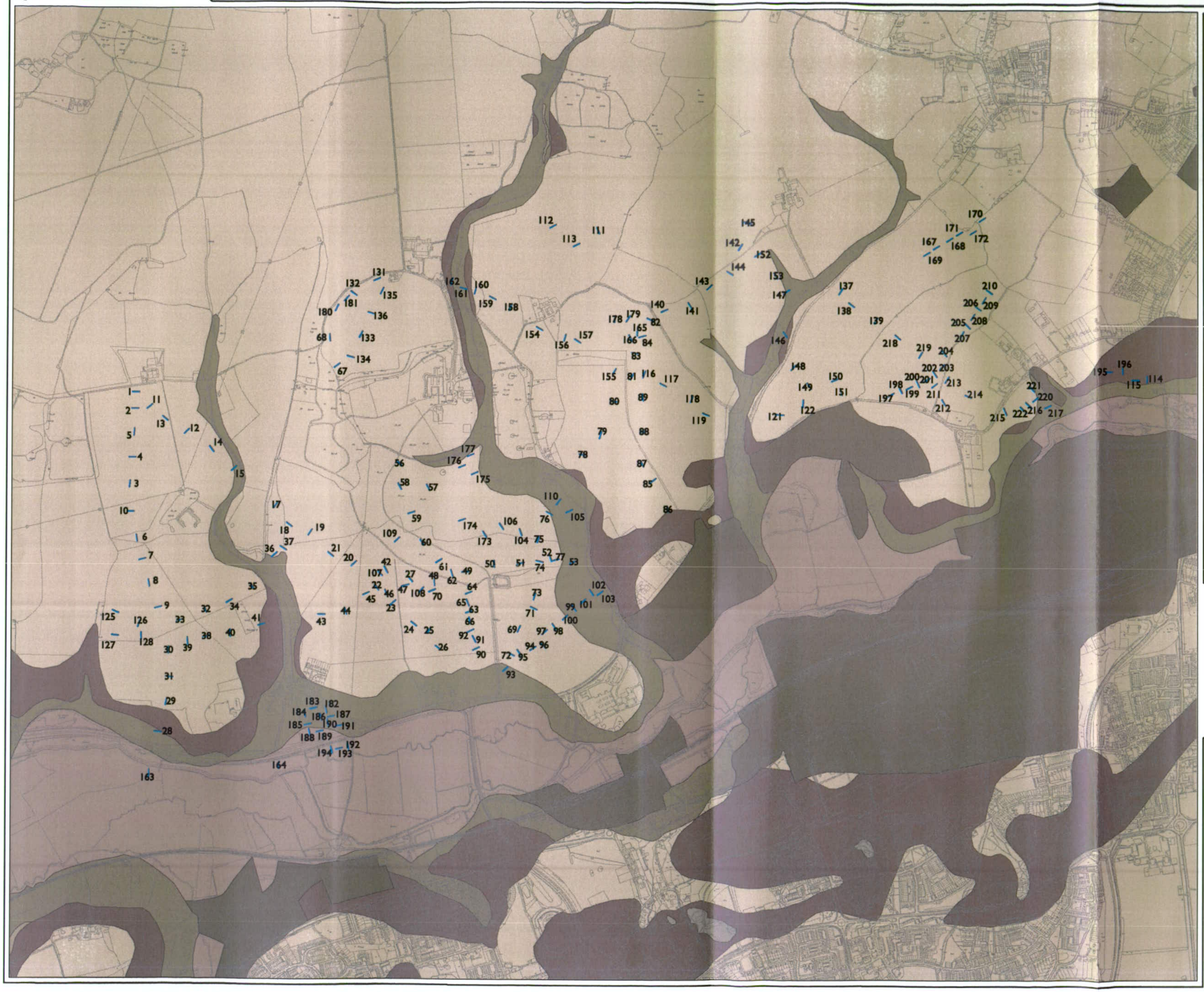
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map of general site location

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 2 // Site Location Detailed



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

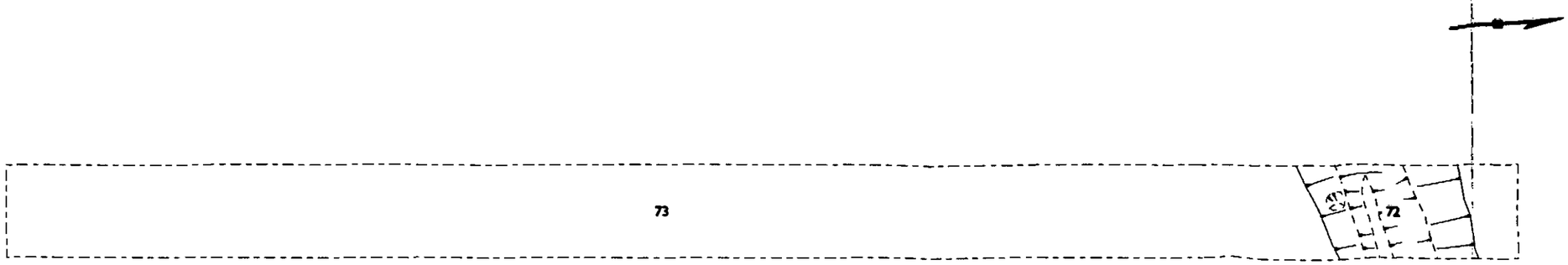
DESCRIPTION // Map showing the detailed site location, drift geology, and evaluation trench layout

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 3 // Plans of Trenches 5 (1), 6 (2)

1



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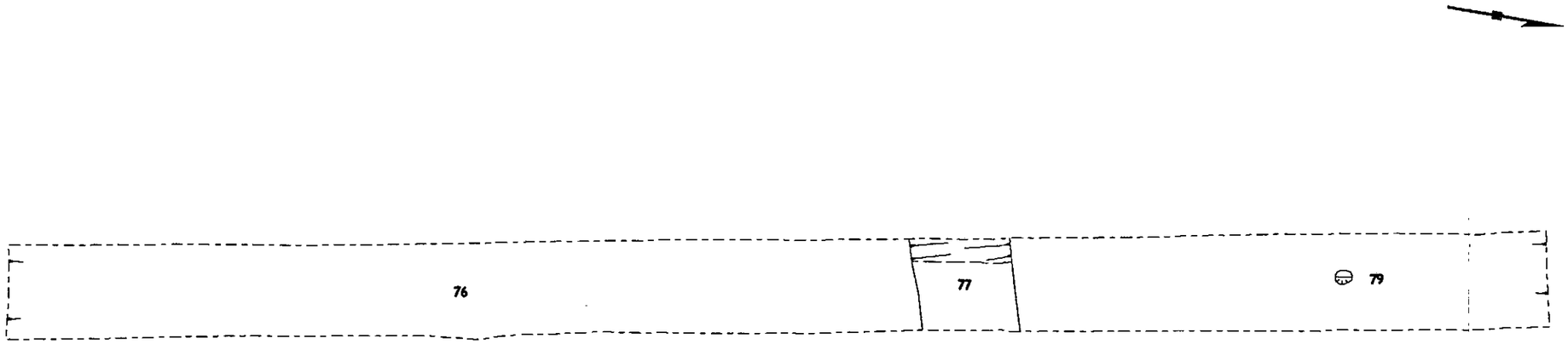


break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

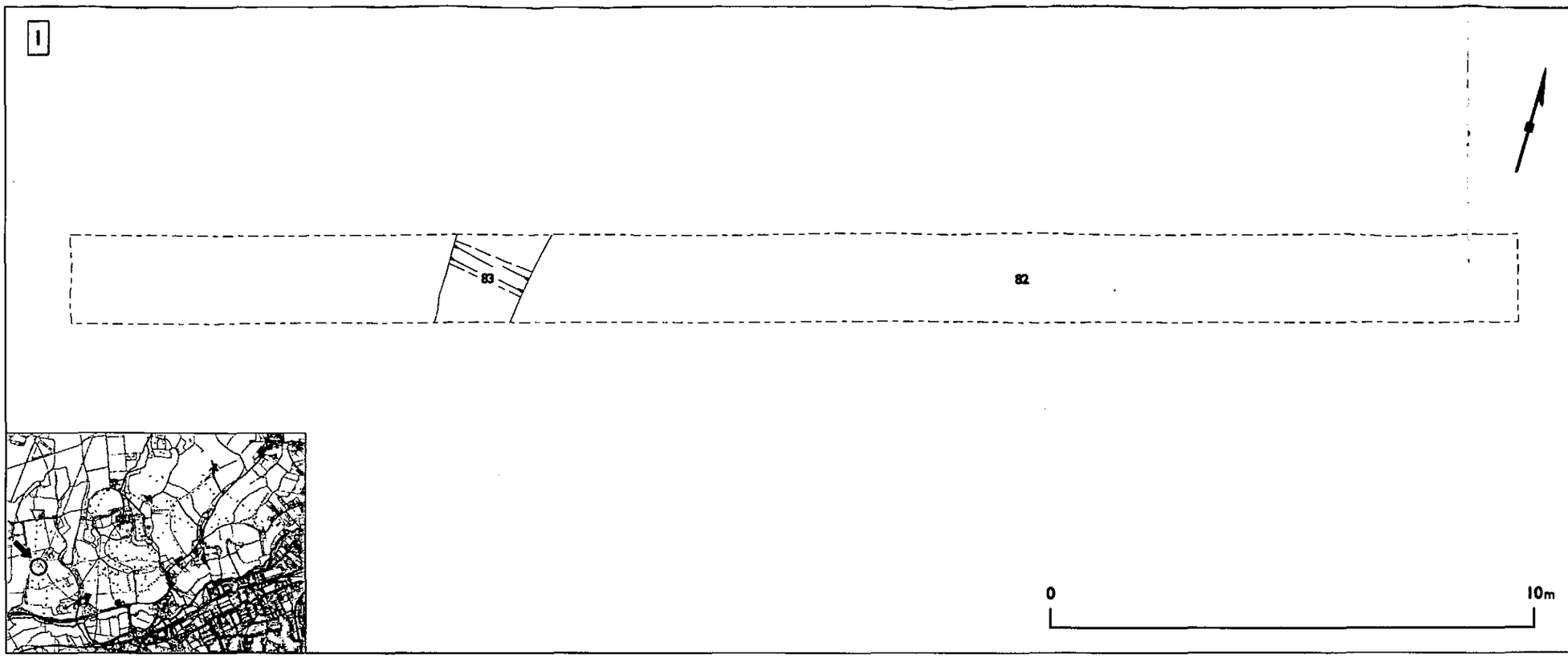
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches five (1) and six (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 4 // Plans of Trenches 7 (1), 15 (2)



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masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

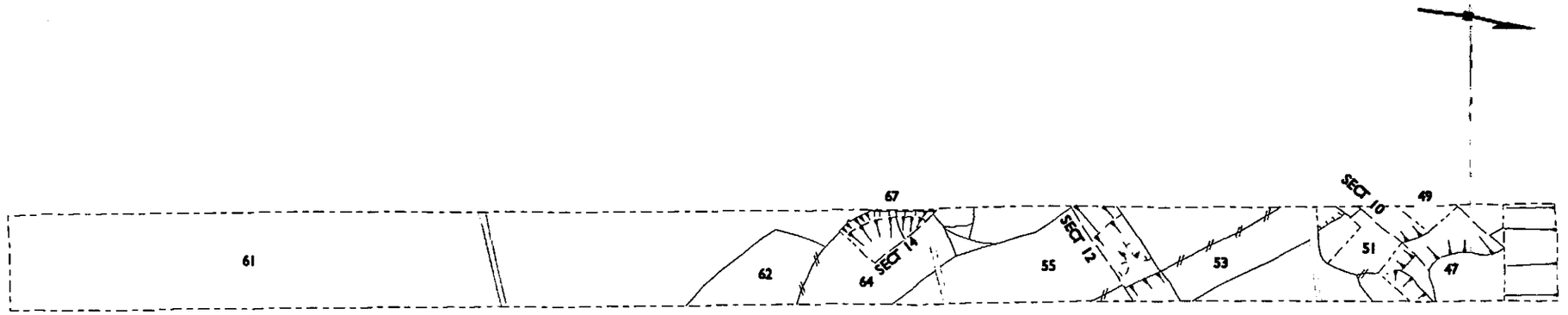
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches seven (1) and fifteen (2) and the location of these tranches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 5 // Plan and Sections of Trench 8

1



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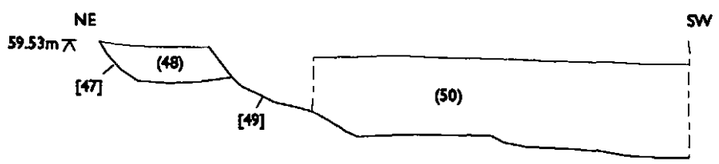
SECTION 10



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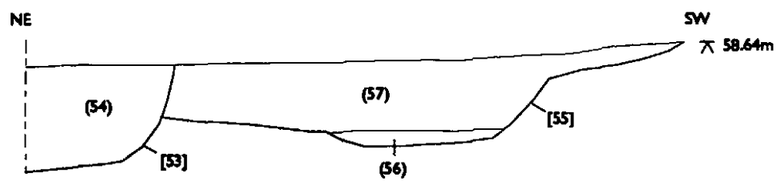

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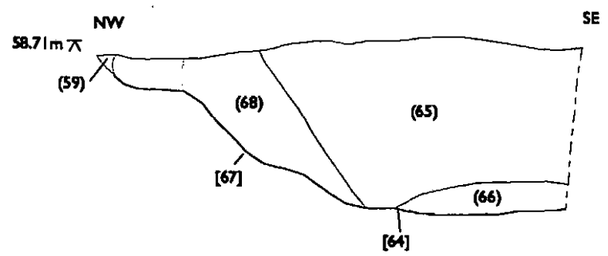


break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

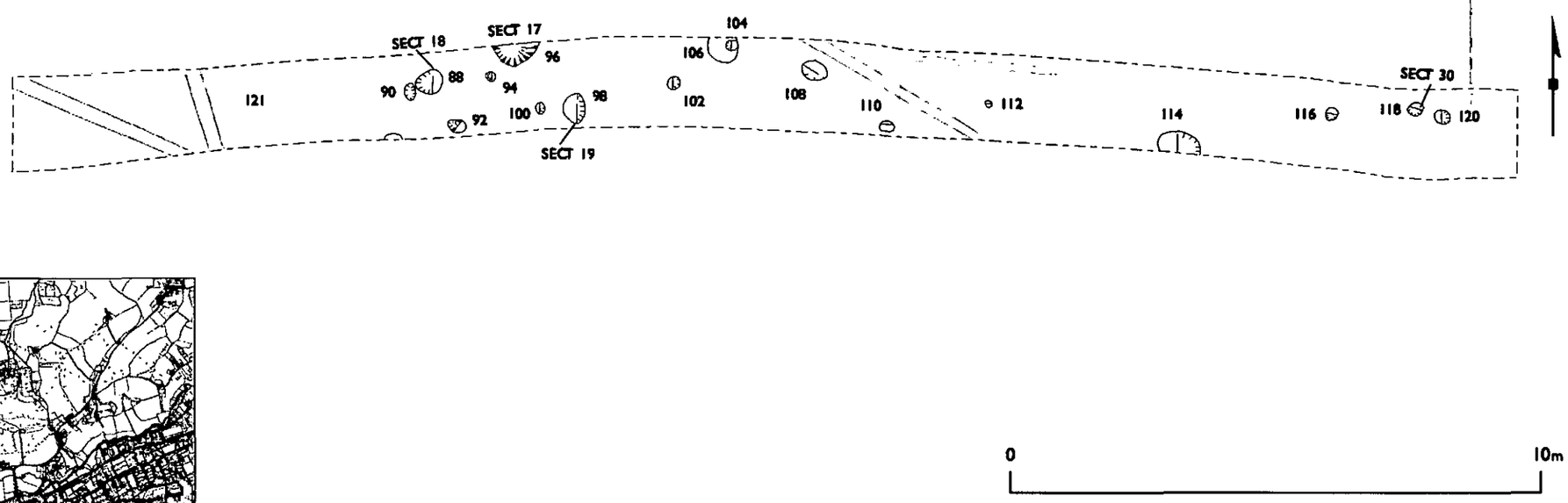
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 8 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 6 // Plan and Sections of Trench 10

1



break in slope
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expected feature
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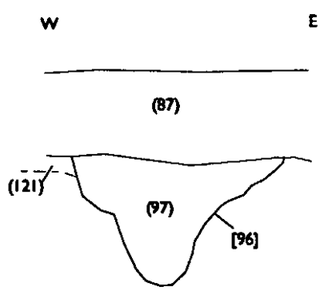
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 17



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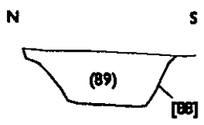

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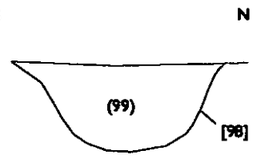

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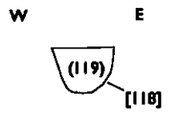
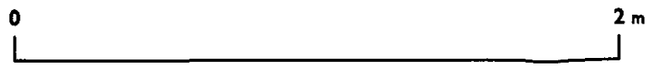




CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

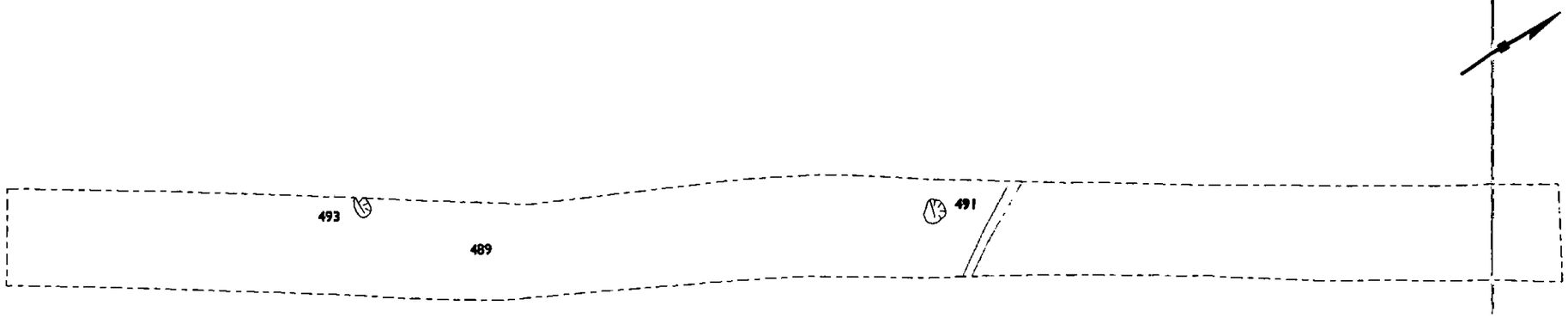
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 10 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 7 // Plans of Trenches 17 (1), 33 (2)

1



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2

0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

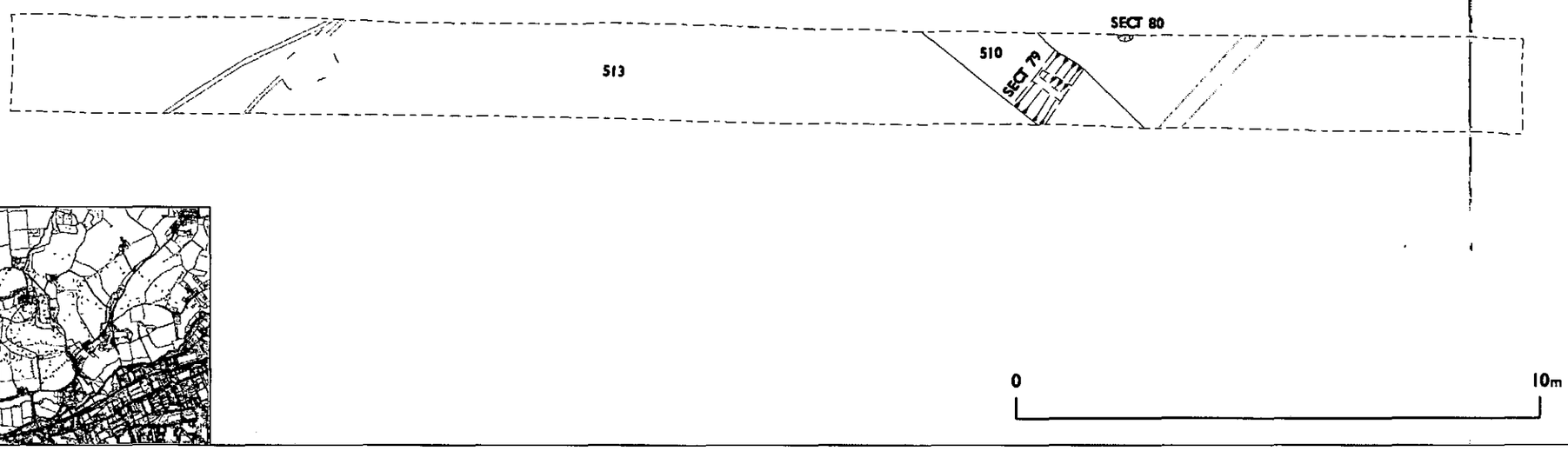
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 17 (1) and 33 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 8 // Plan and Sections of Trench 21

1



break in slope
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land drain
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ploughscar
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tree throw
truncation

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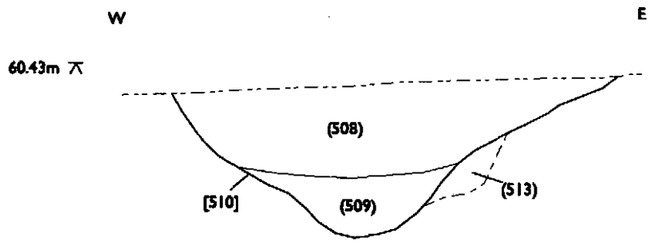
SECTION 79



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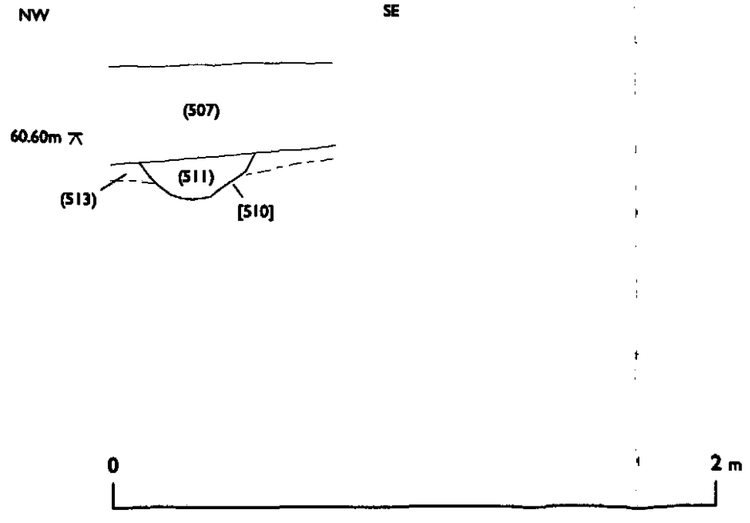


CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

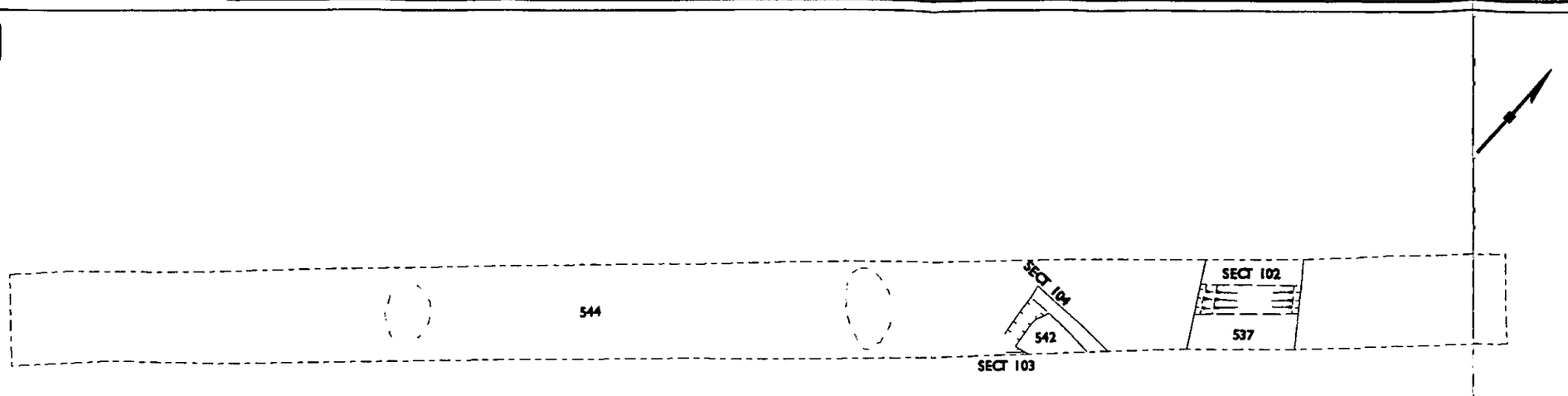
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 21 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 9 // Plan and Sections of Trench 23

1



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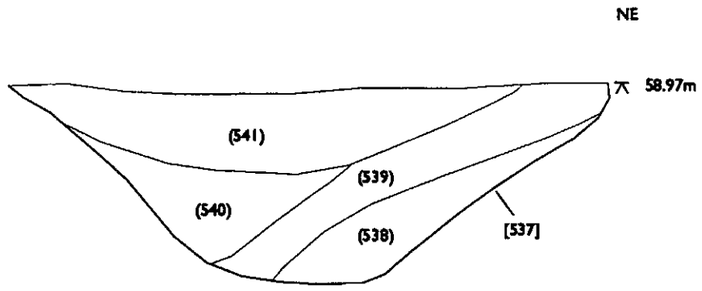
2

SECTION 102



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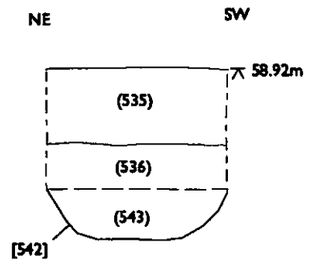

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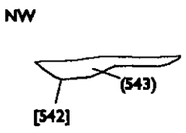


0 2 m

- break in slope
- cut feature edge
- expected feature
- hachure
- land drain
- limit of excavation
- limit uncertain
- line of section
- machine cut
- masonry
- ploughscar
- stone
- tree throw
- truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

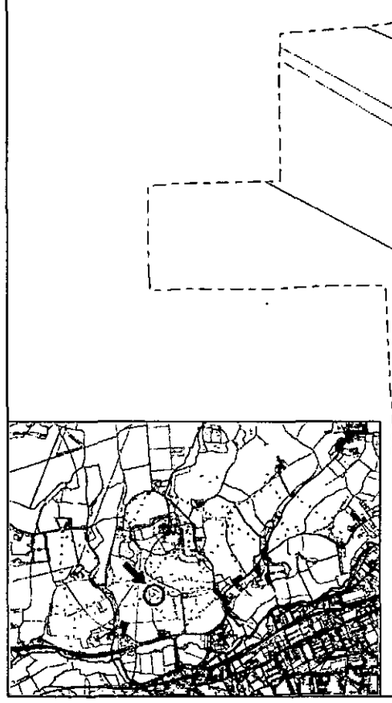
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 23 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

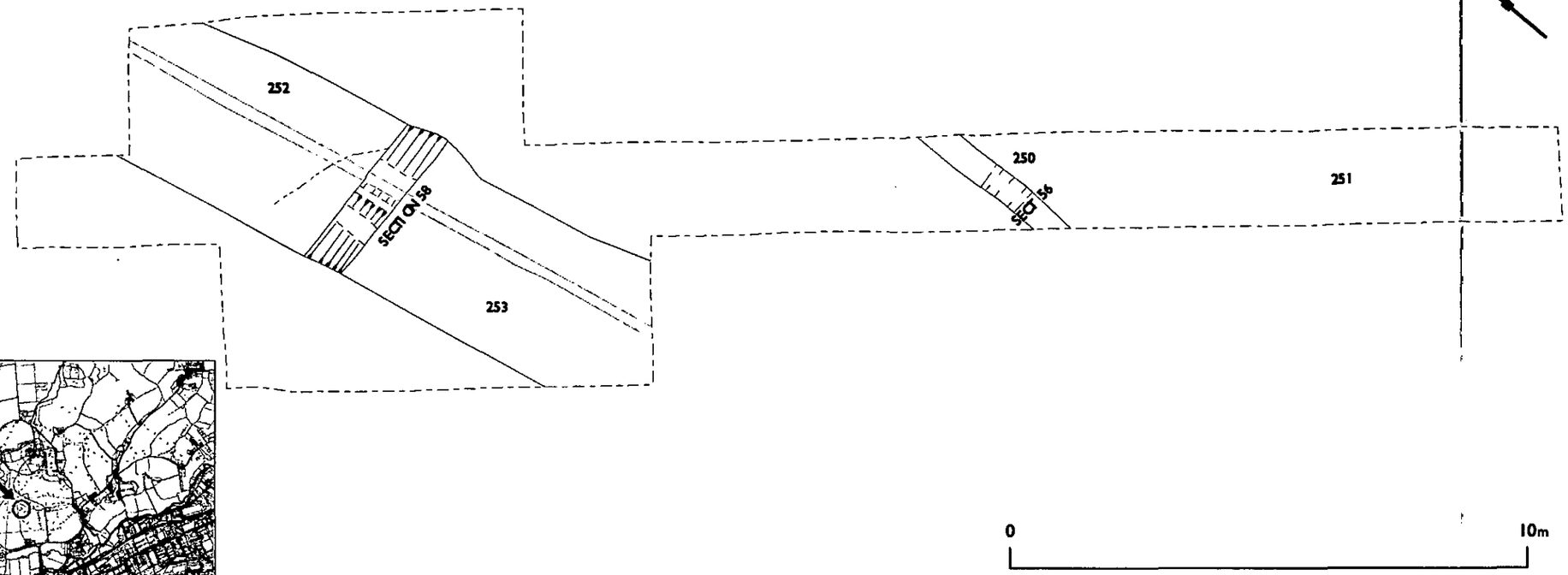
DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 10 // Plan and Sections of Trench 27

1





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expected feature
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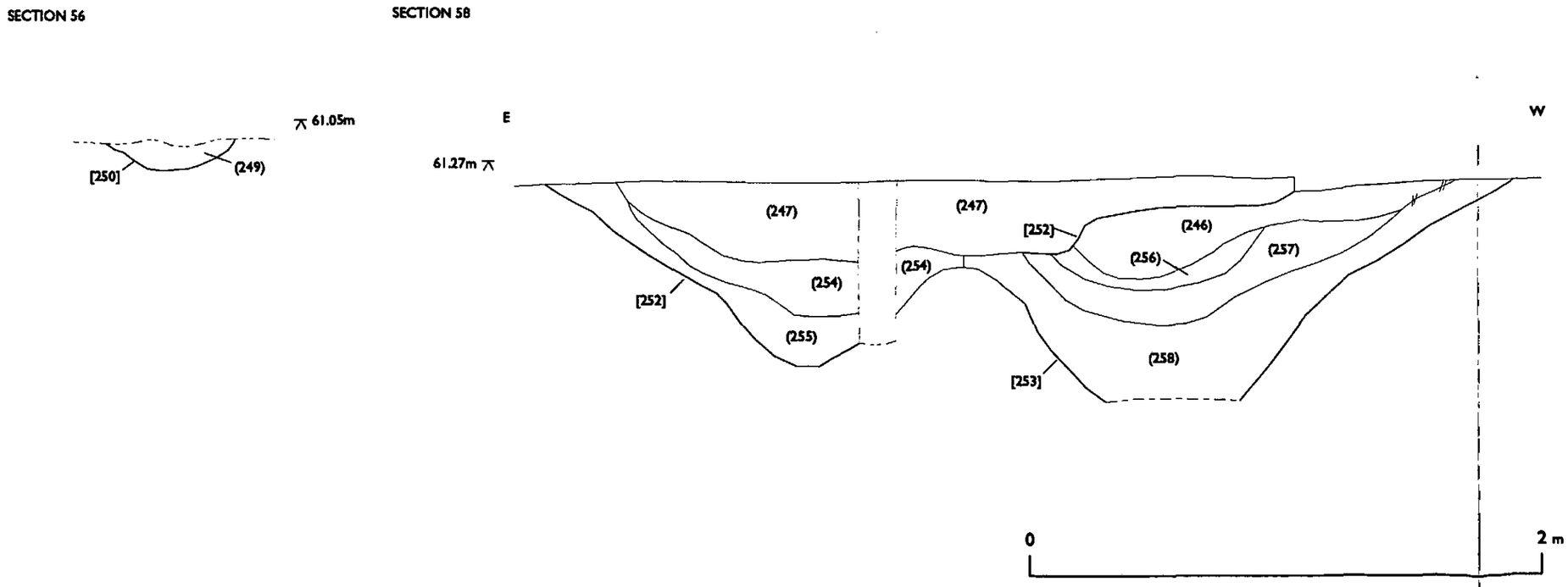
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

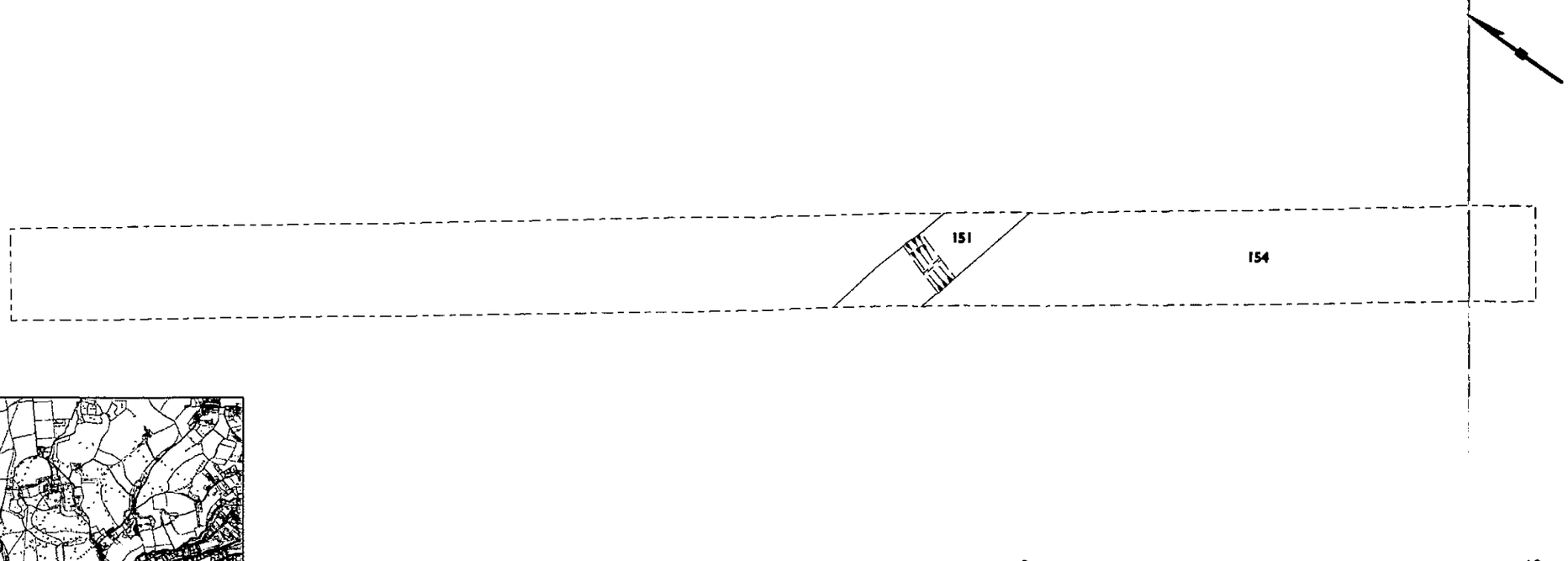
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 27 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

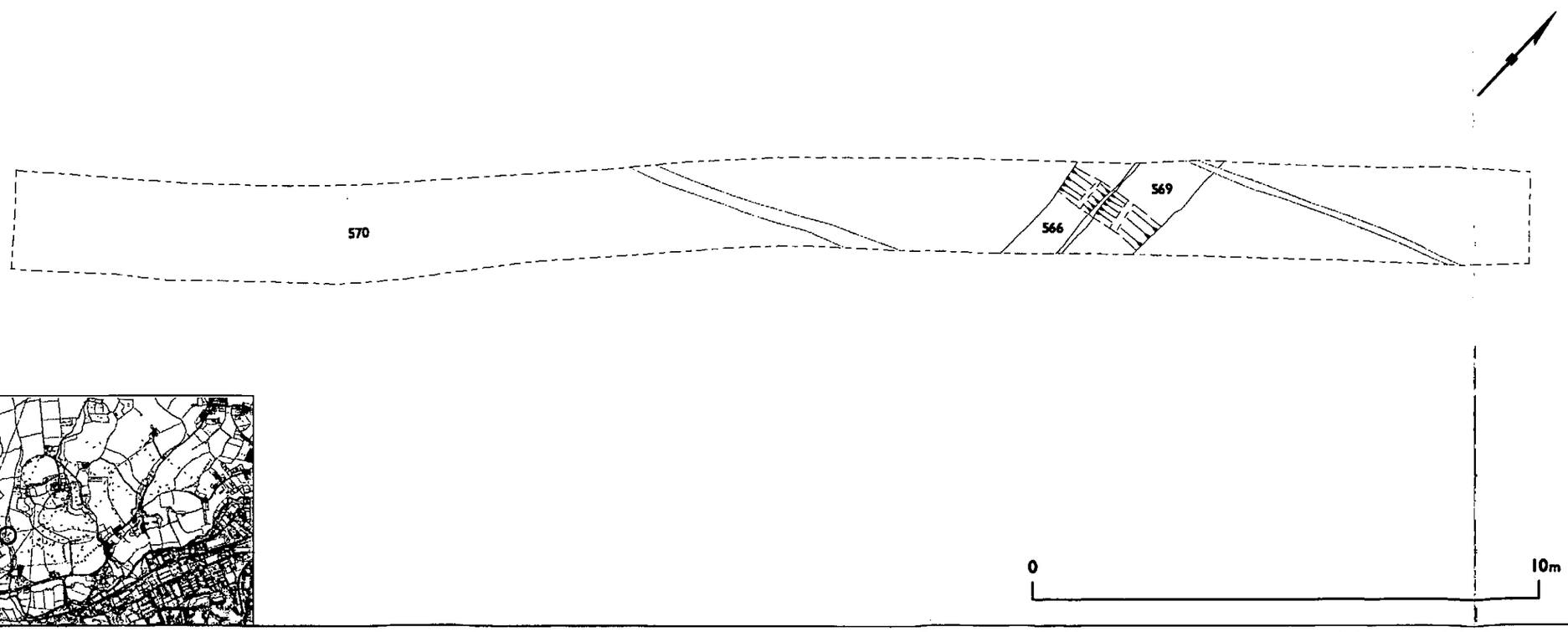
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 11 // Plans of Trenches 35 (1), 36 (2)

1



2



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

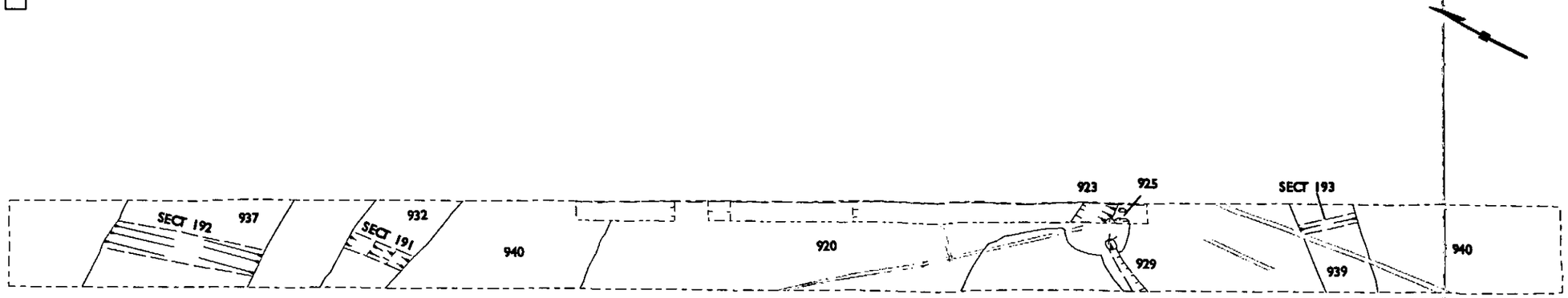
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 35 (1) and 36 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 12 // Plan and Sections of Trench 42

1

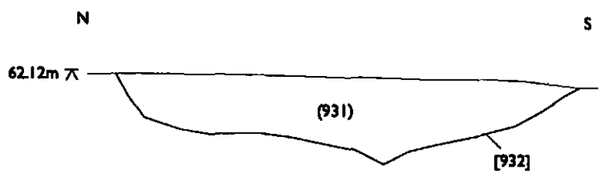


0 10m

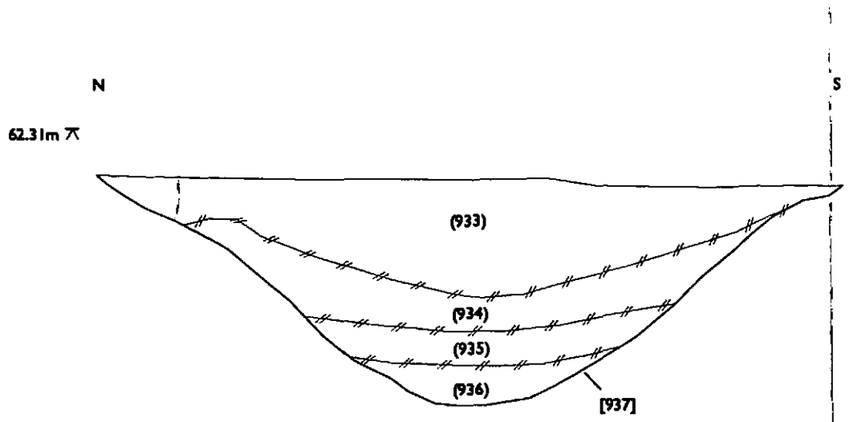
break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

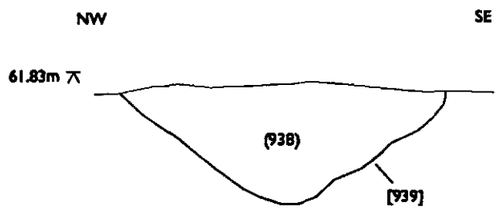
SECTION 191



SECTION 192



SECTION 193



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

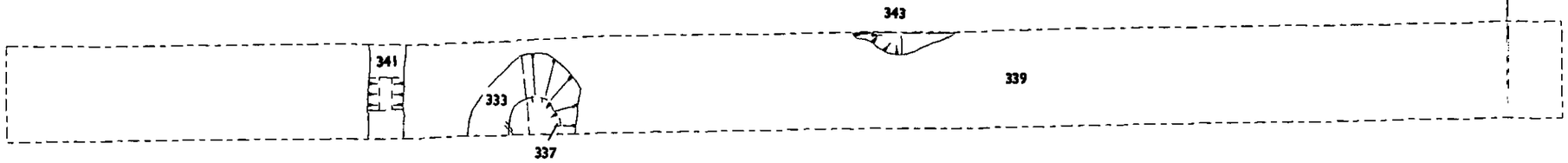
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 42 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

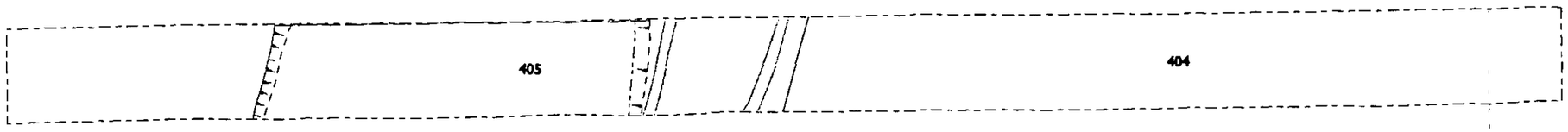
Figure 13 // Plans of Trenches 47 (1), 52 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

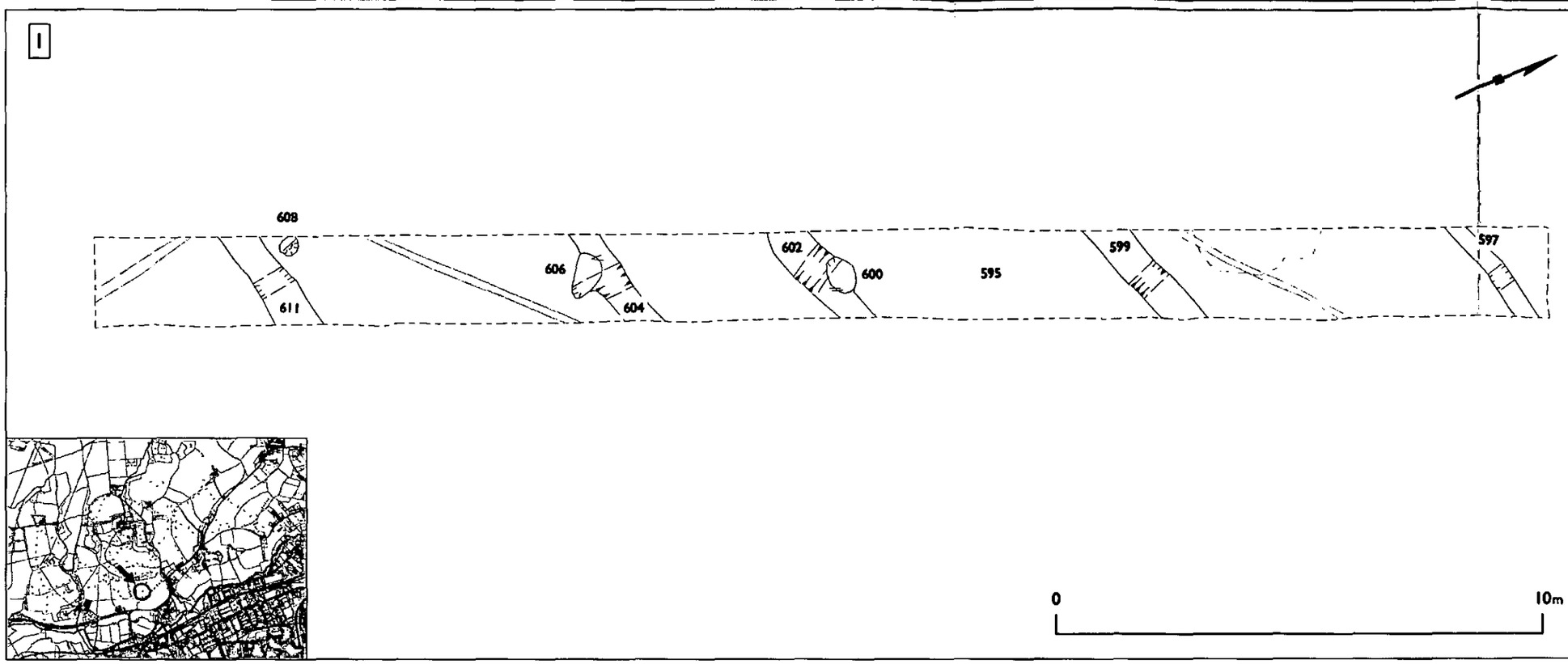
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 47 (1) and 52 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 14 // Plans of Trenches 69 (1), 77 (2)



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

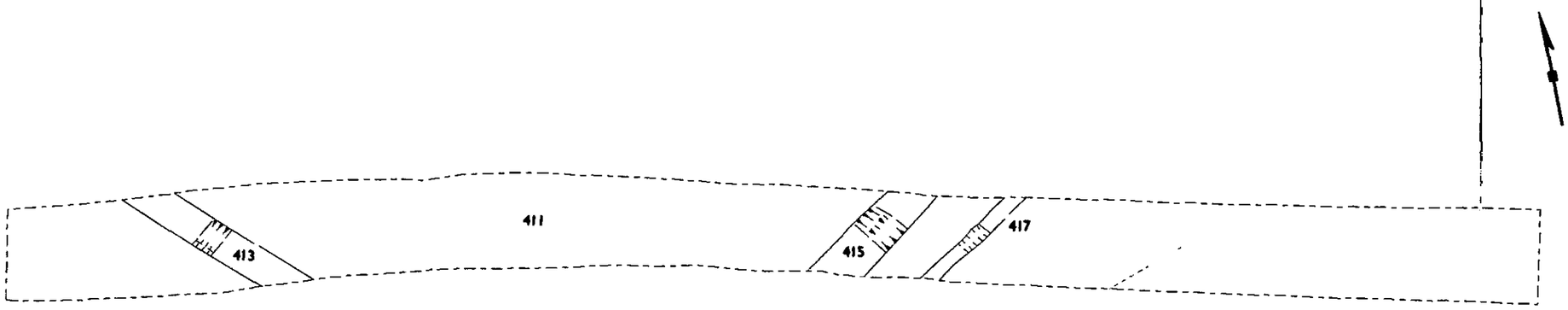
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 69 (1) and 77 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

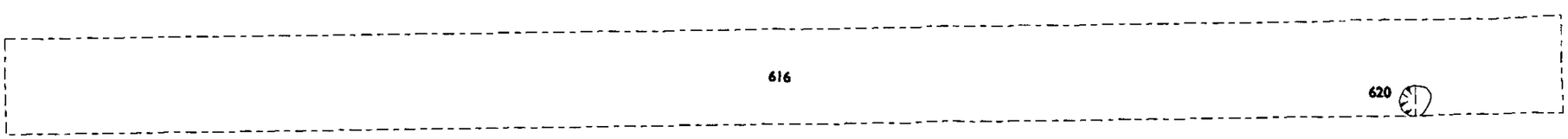
Figure 15 // Plans of Trenches 78 (1), 81 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

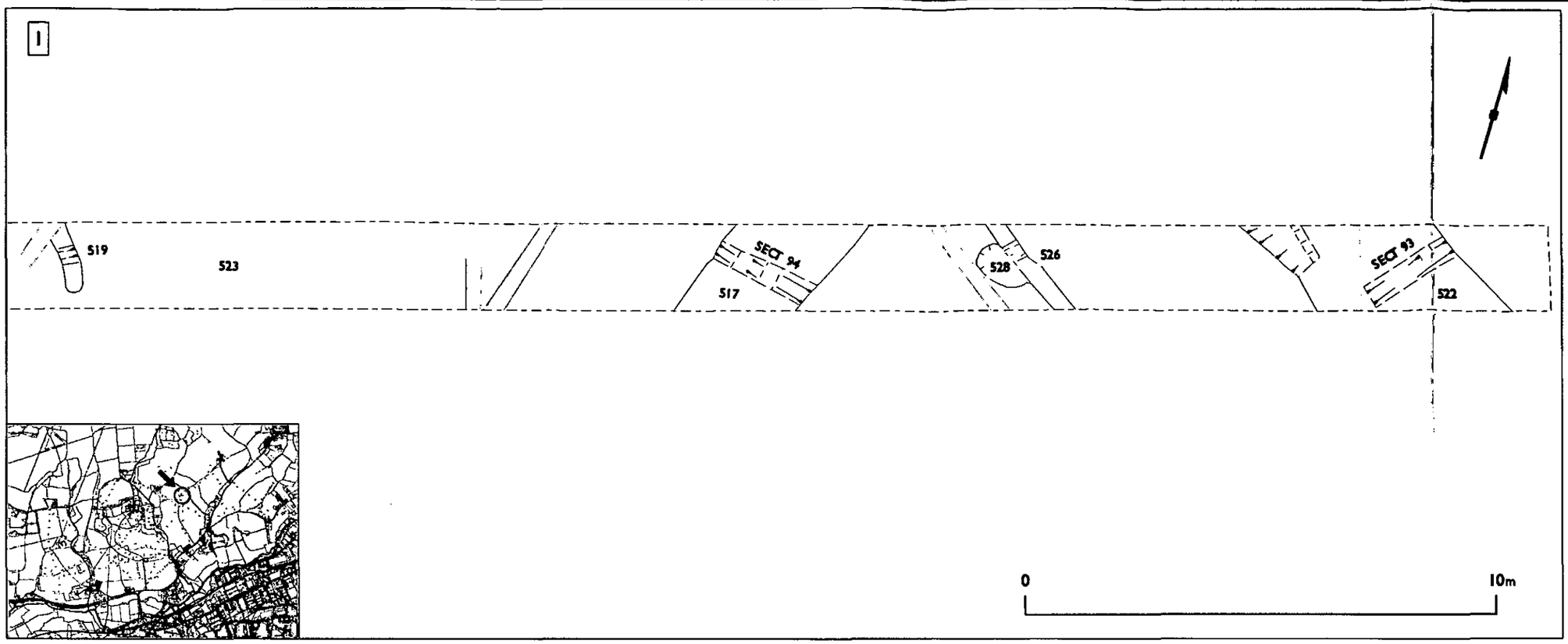
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 78 (1) and 81 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 16 // Plan and Sections of Trench 84

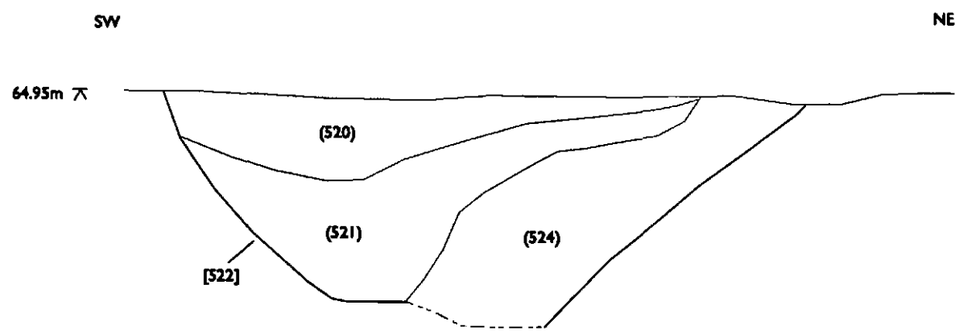
1



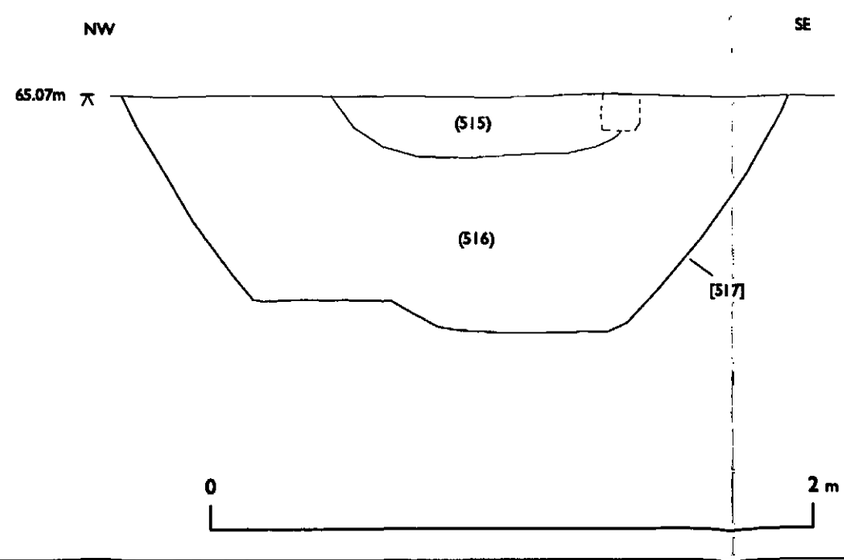
break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 93



SECTION 94



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

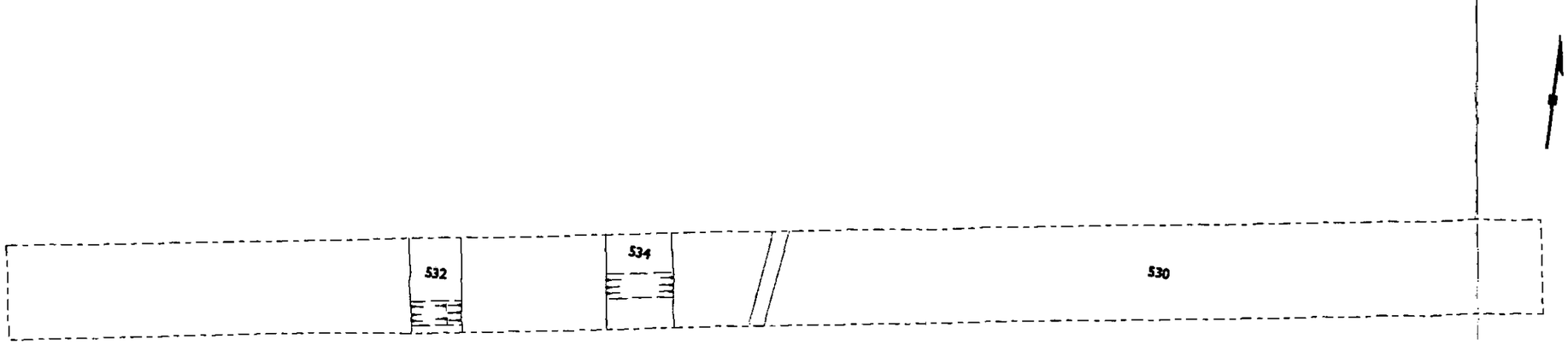
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 84 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

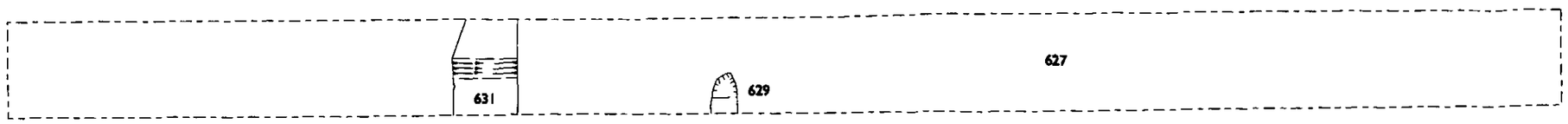
Figure 17 // Plans of Trenches 88 (1), 89 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 88 (1) and 89 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

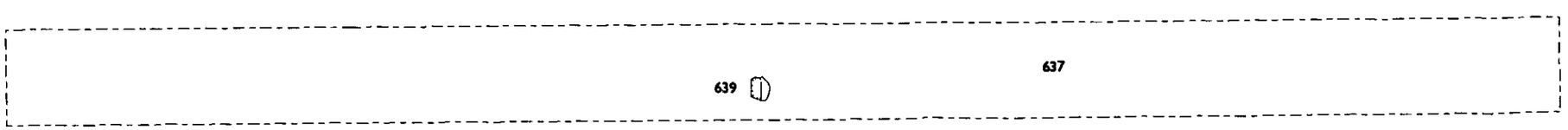
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 18 // Plans of Trenches 94 (1), 97 (2)

1

0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 94 (1) and 97 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

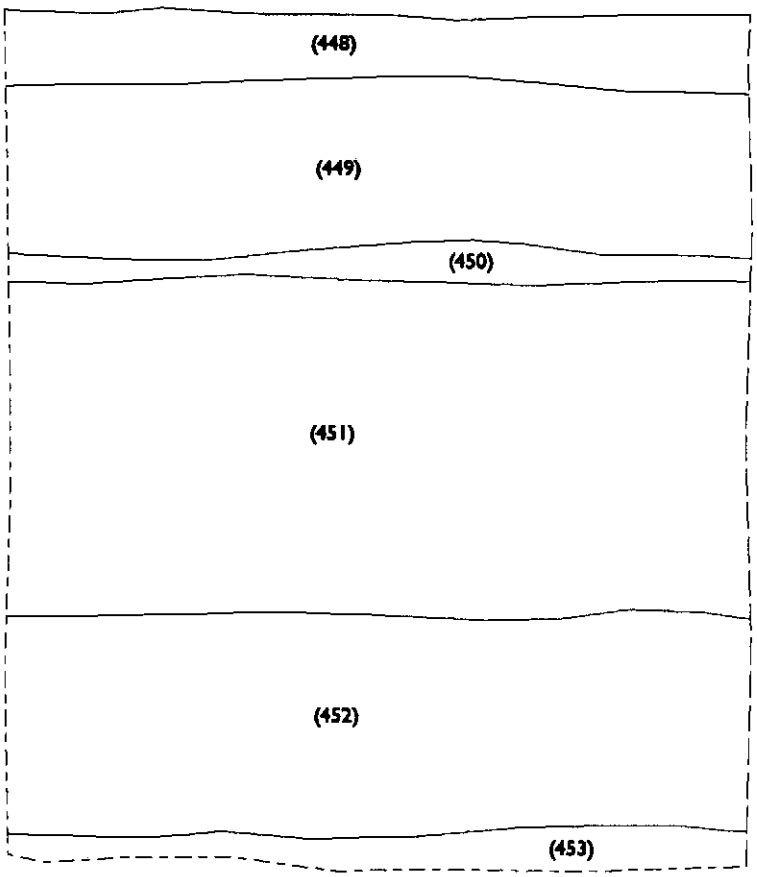
DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

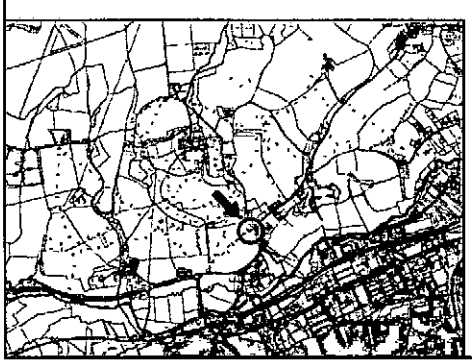
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 19 // Section of Trench 103

SECTION 129

NE SW





0 2 m

---- limit of excavation

—— — line of section

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

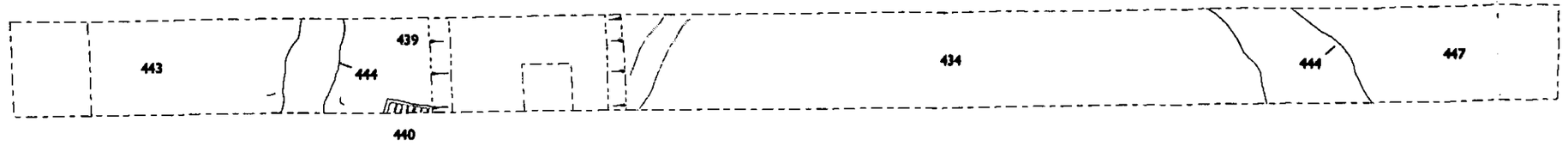
DESCRIPTION // Section and general location (inset) of trench 103

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

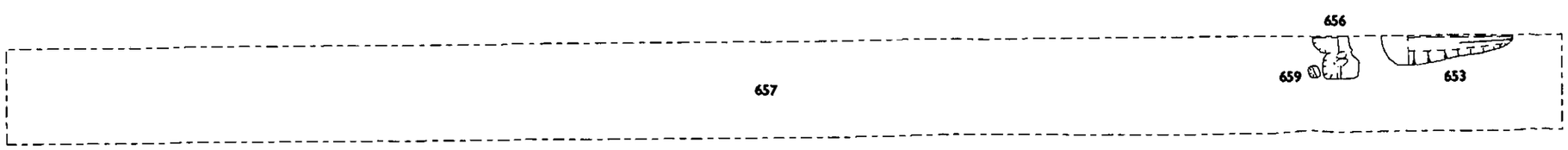
Figure 20 // Plans of Trenches 105 (1), 111 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

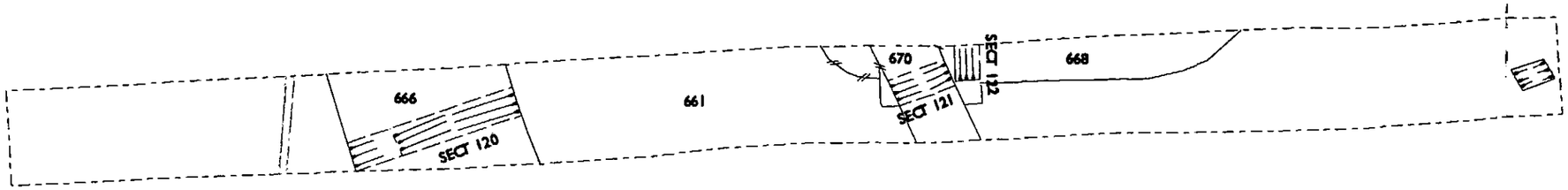
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 105 (1) and 111 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

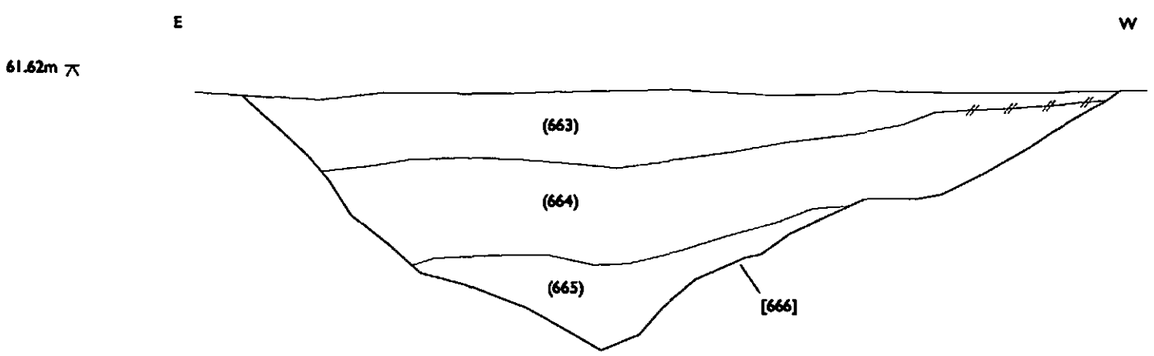
Figure 21 // Plan and Sections of Trench 107

1

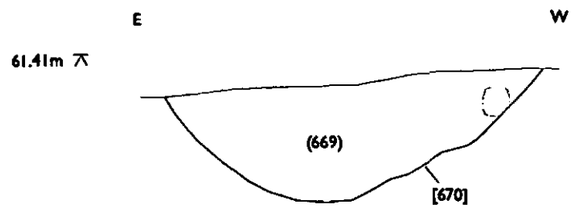


2

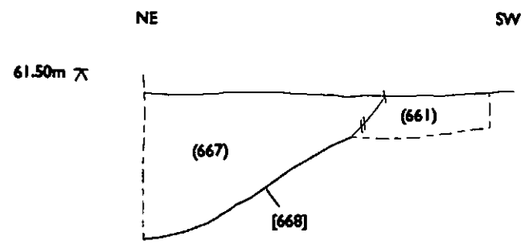
SECTION 120



SECTION 121



SECTION 122



0 2 m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

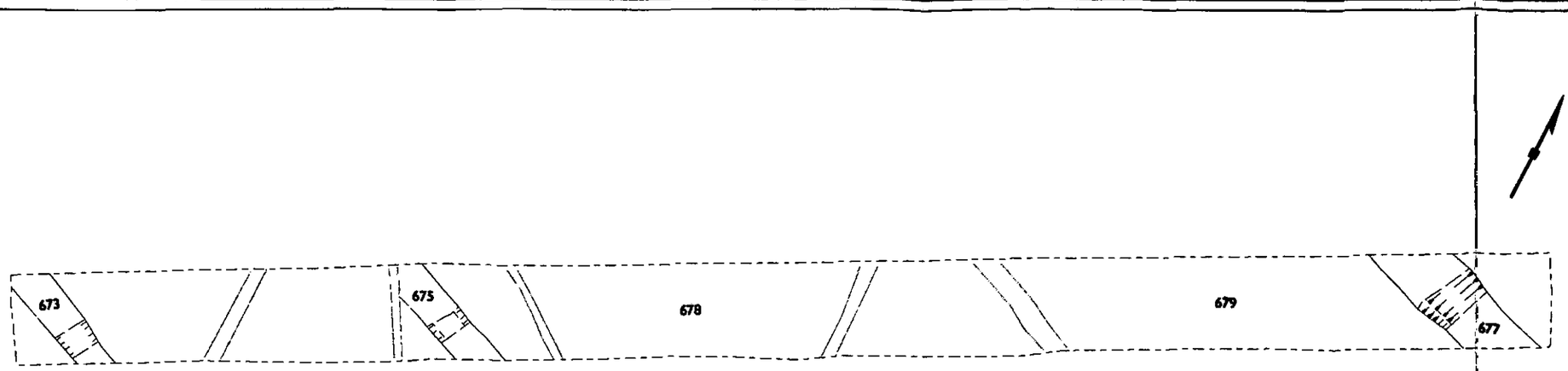
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 107 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

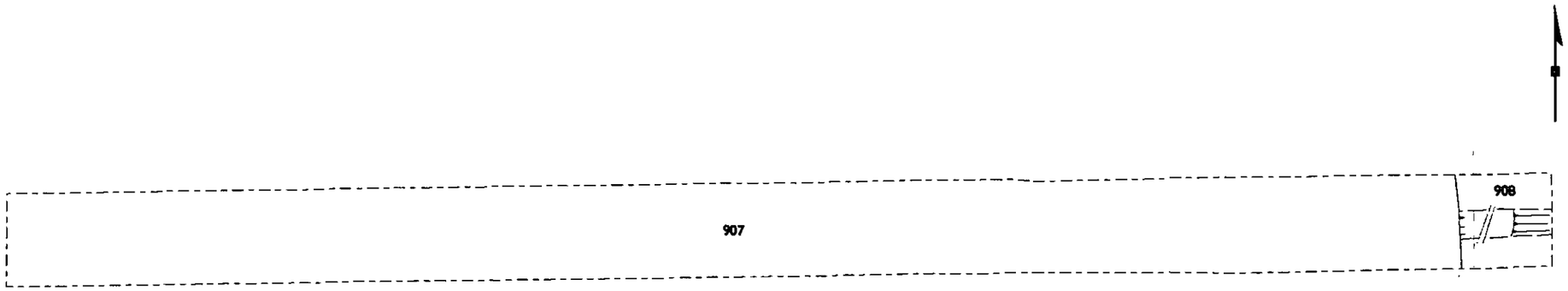
Figure 22 // Plans of Trenches 112 (1), 115 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

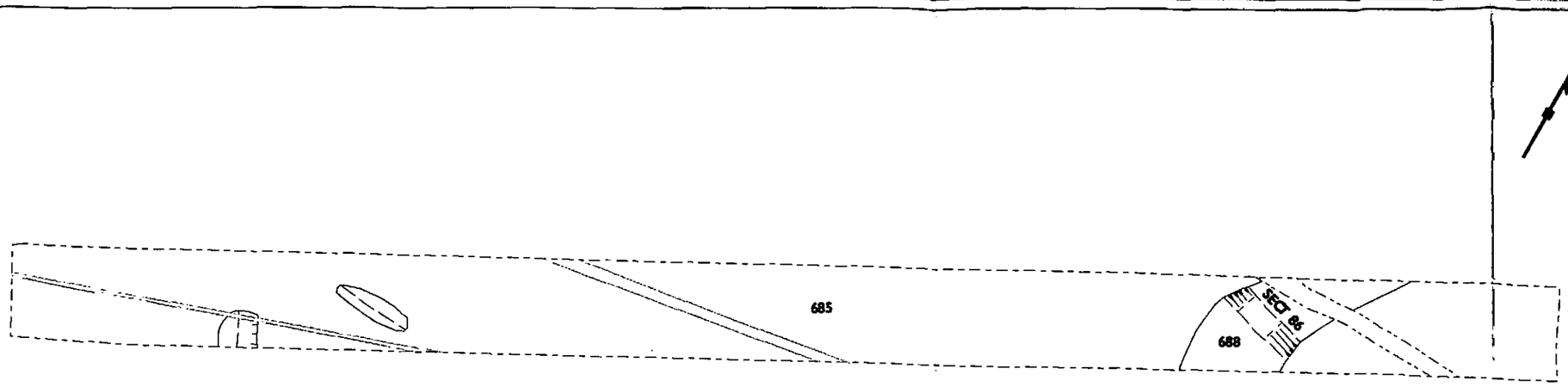
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 112 (1) and 115 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 23 // Plan and Section of Trench 113

1

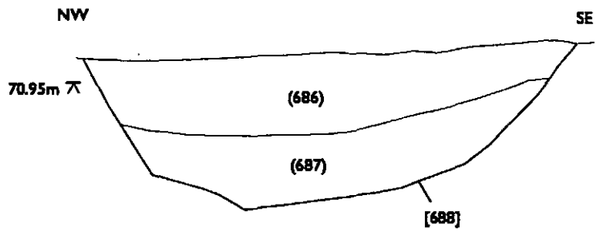


0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 86



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

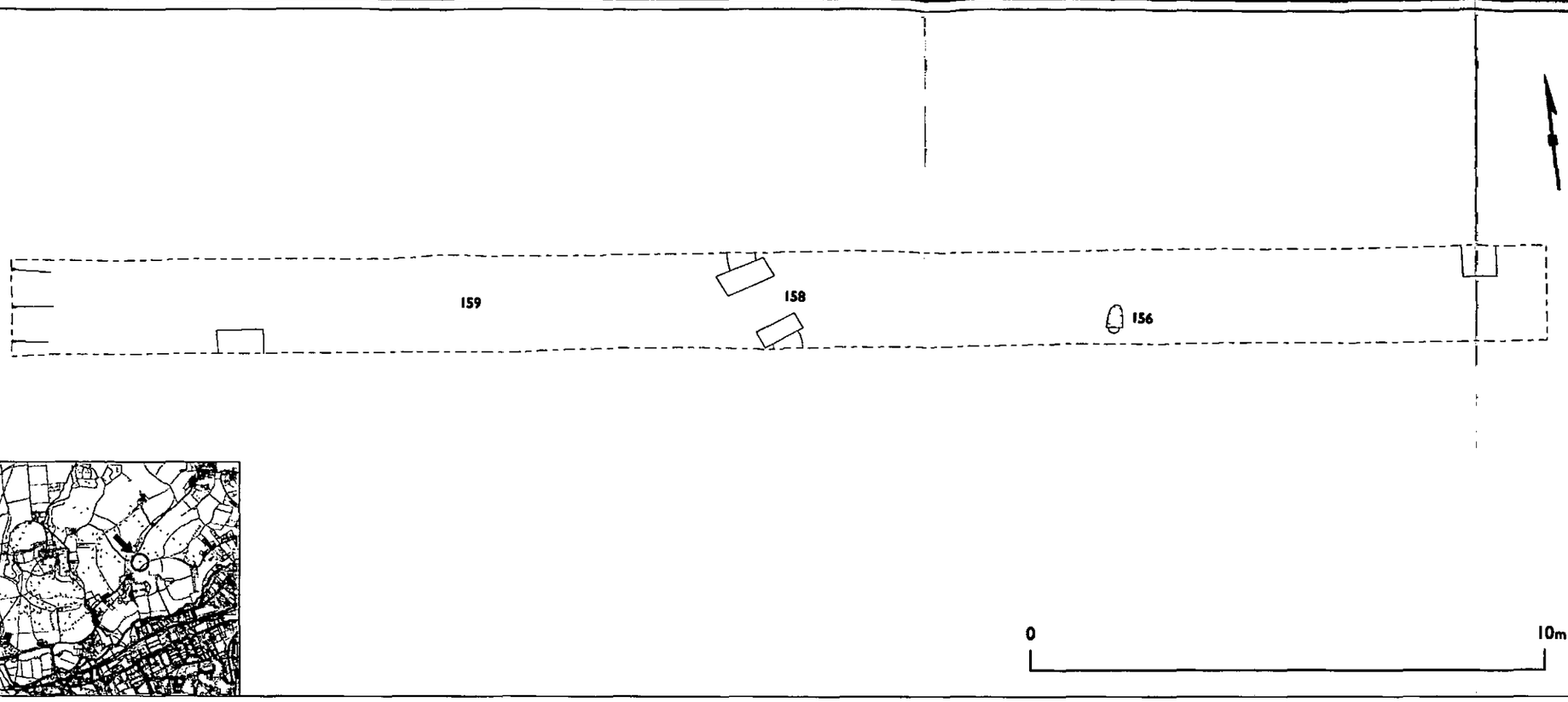
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and section (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 113 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

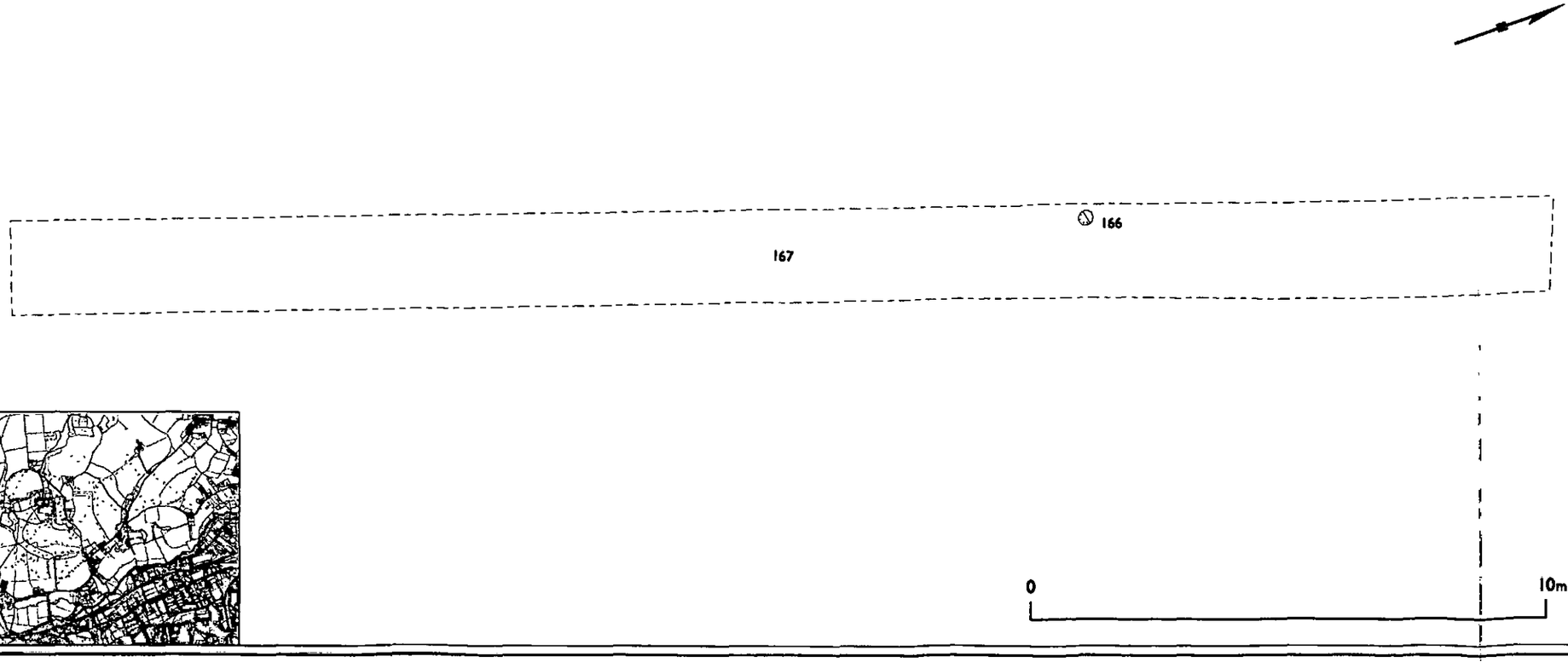
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 24 // Plans of Trenches 121 (1), 126 (2)

1



2



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

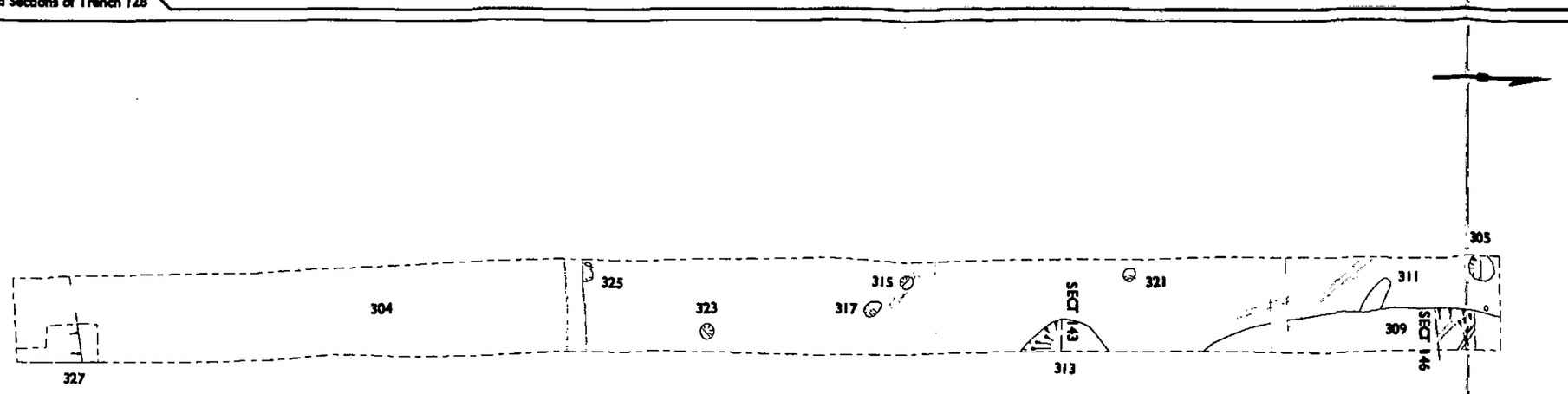
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 121 (1) and 126 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 25 // Plan and Sections of Trench 128

1

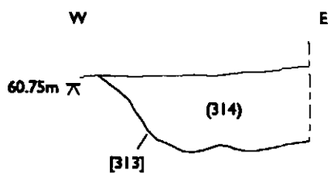


0 10m

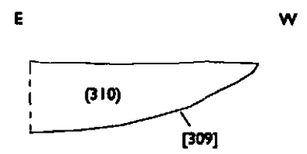
break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation
section_line

2

SECTION 143



SECTION 146



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

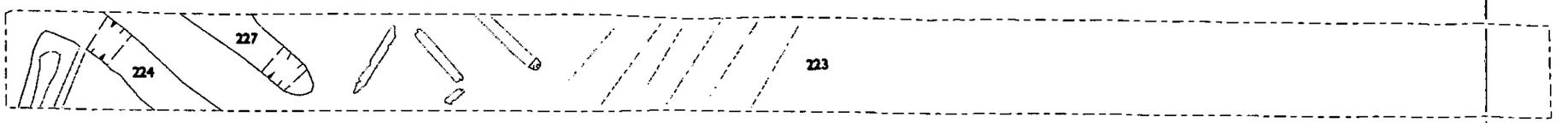
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 128 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

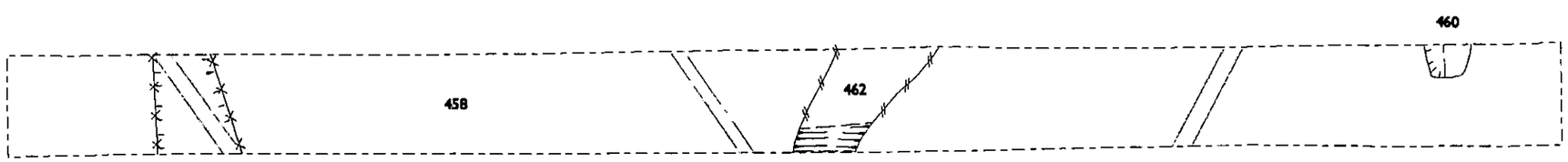
Figure 26 // Plans of Trenches 132 (1), 134 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

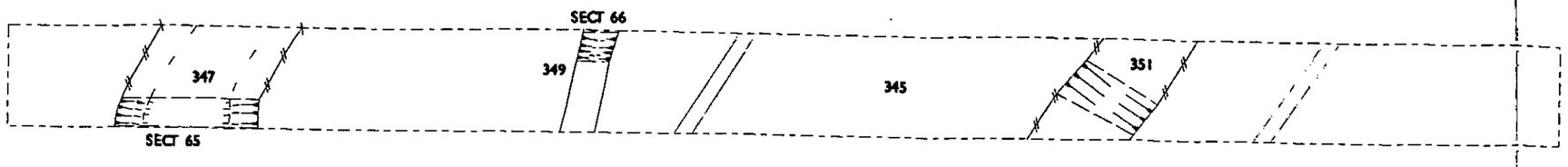
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 132 (1) and 134 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 27 // Plan and Sections of Trench 133

1

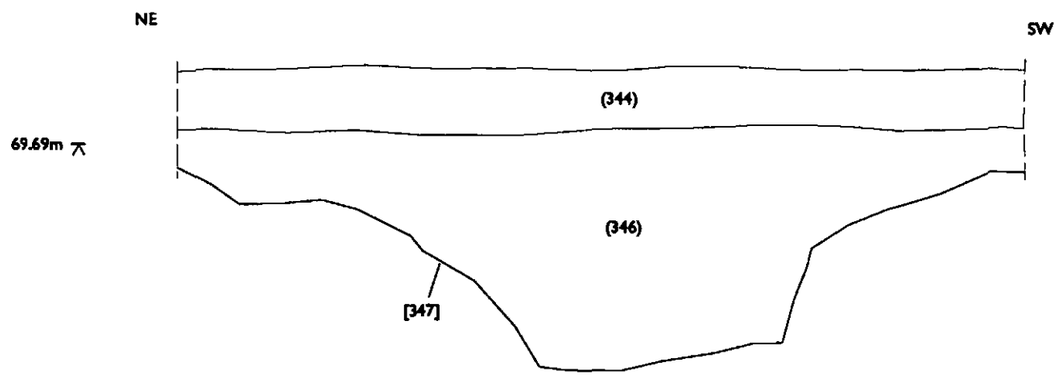


0 10m

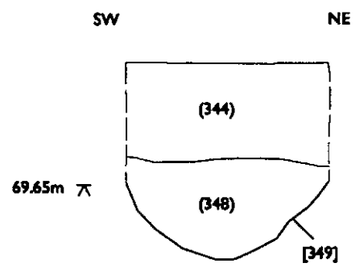
break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 65



SECTION 66



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

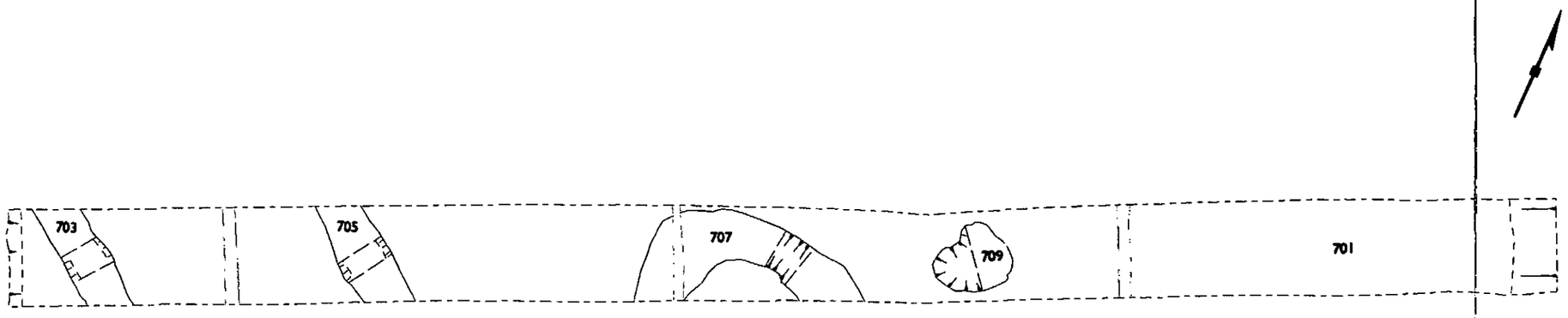
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 133 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

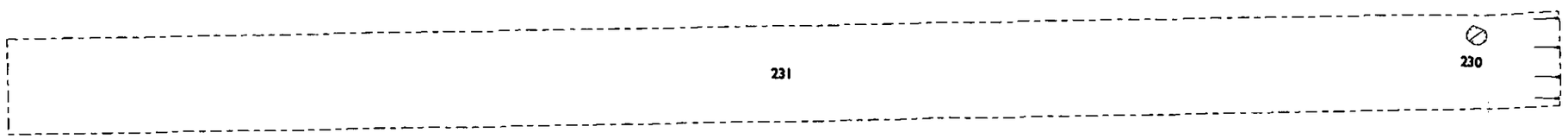
Figure 28 // Plans of Trenches 140 (1), 150 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

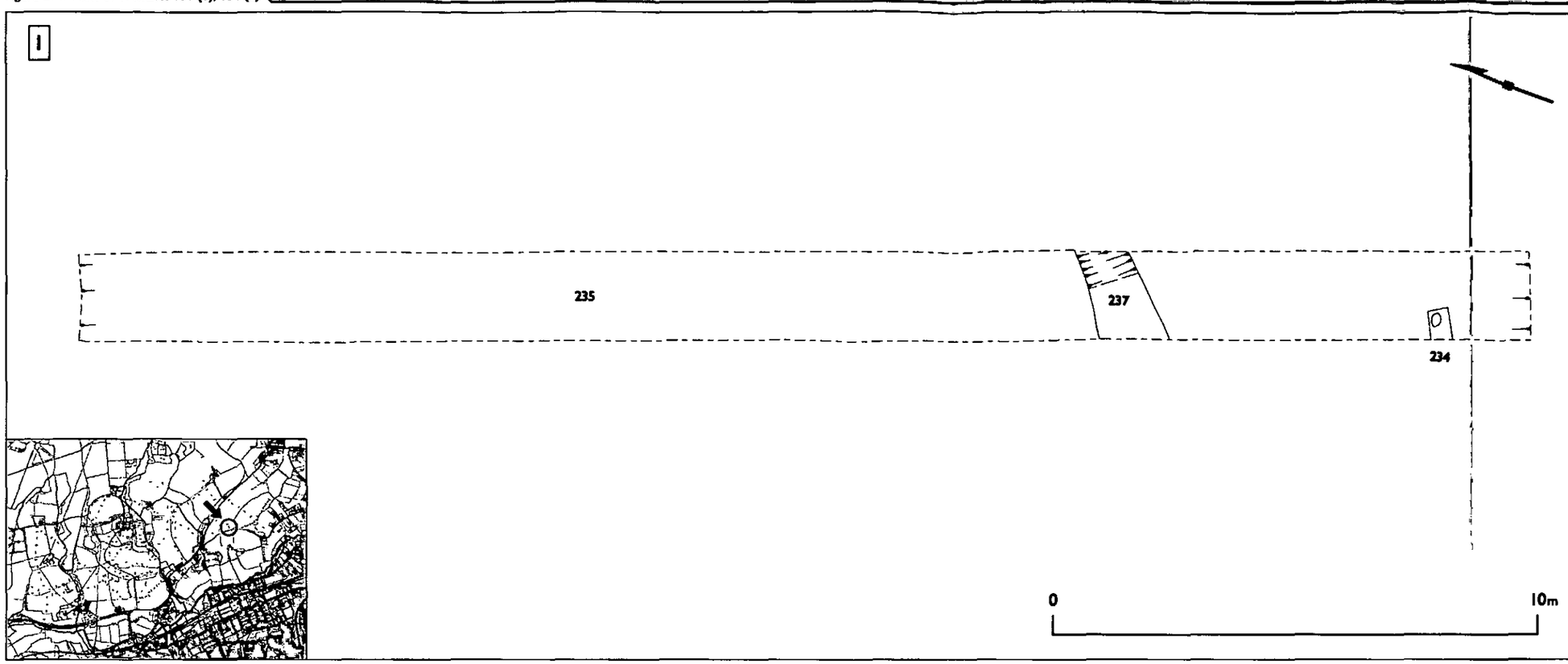
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 140 (1) and 150 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 29 // Plans of Trenches 151 (1), 154 (2)



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

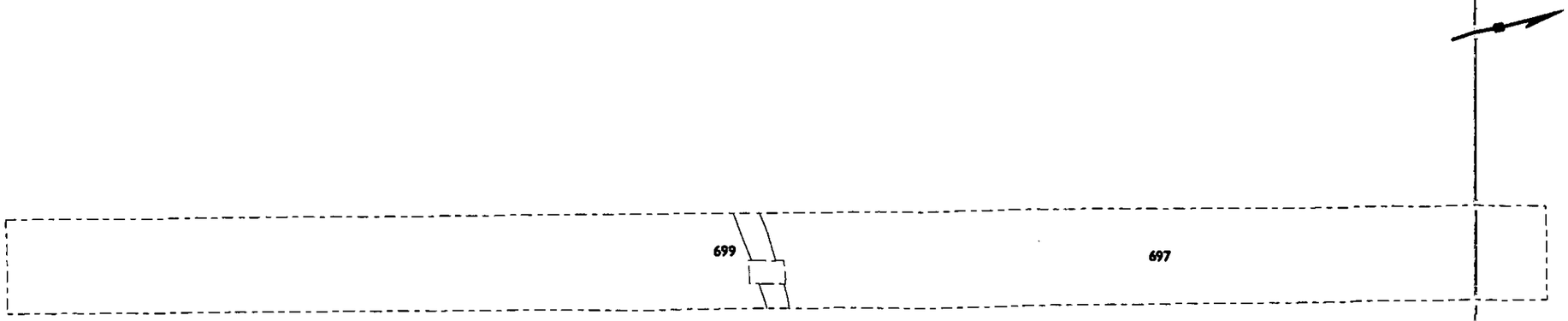
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 151 (1) and 154 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

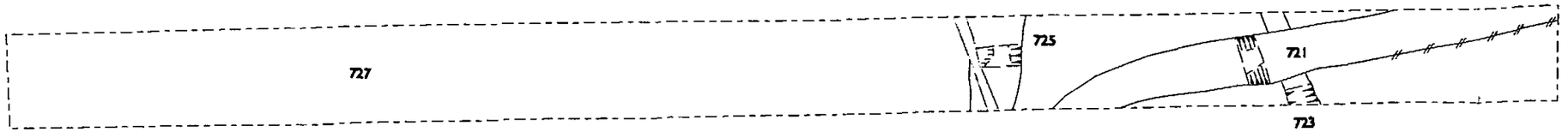
Figure 30 // Plans of Trenches 156 (1), 157 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 156 (1) and 157 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 31 // Plans of Trenches 158 (1), 160 (2)

1

740

739

736

0 10m

2

744

746

750

748

0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

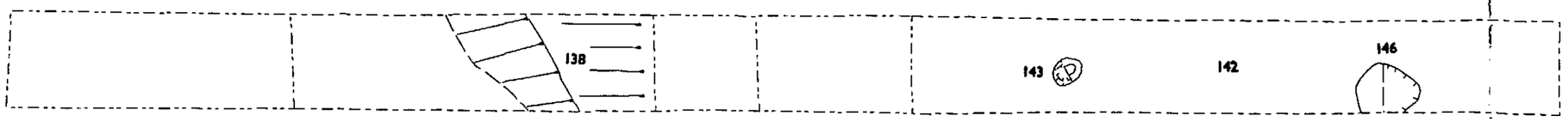
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 158 (1) and 160 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

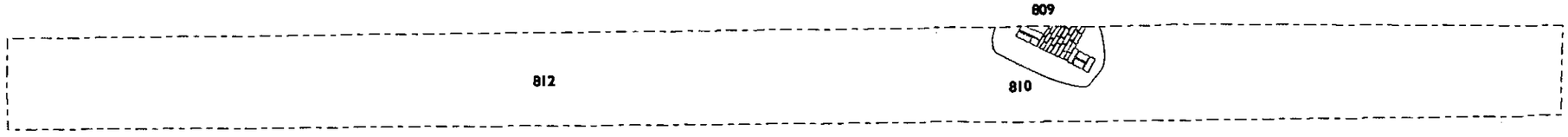
Figure 32 // Plans of Trenches 161 (1), 173 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

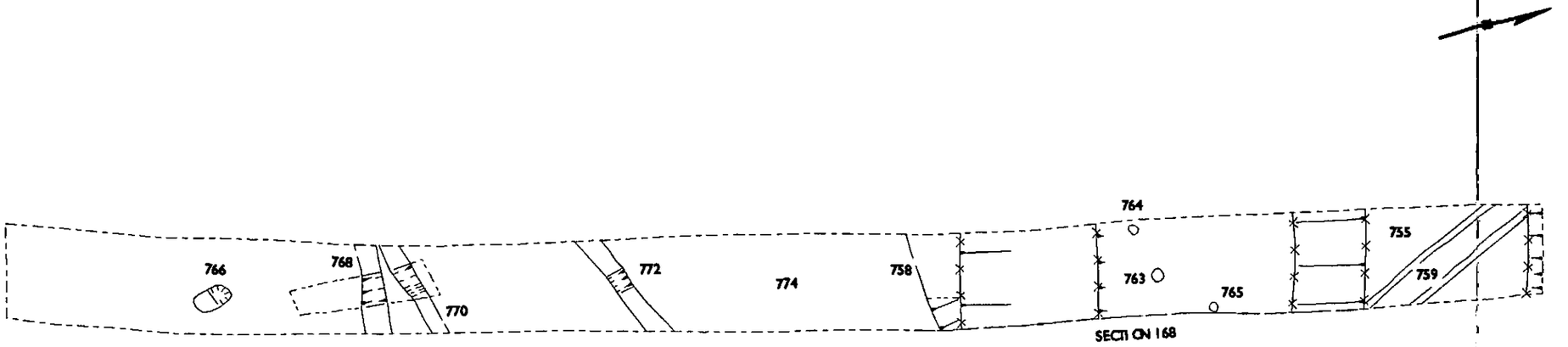
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 161 (1) and 173 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 33 // Plan and Section of Trench 162

1

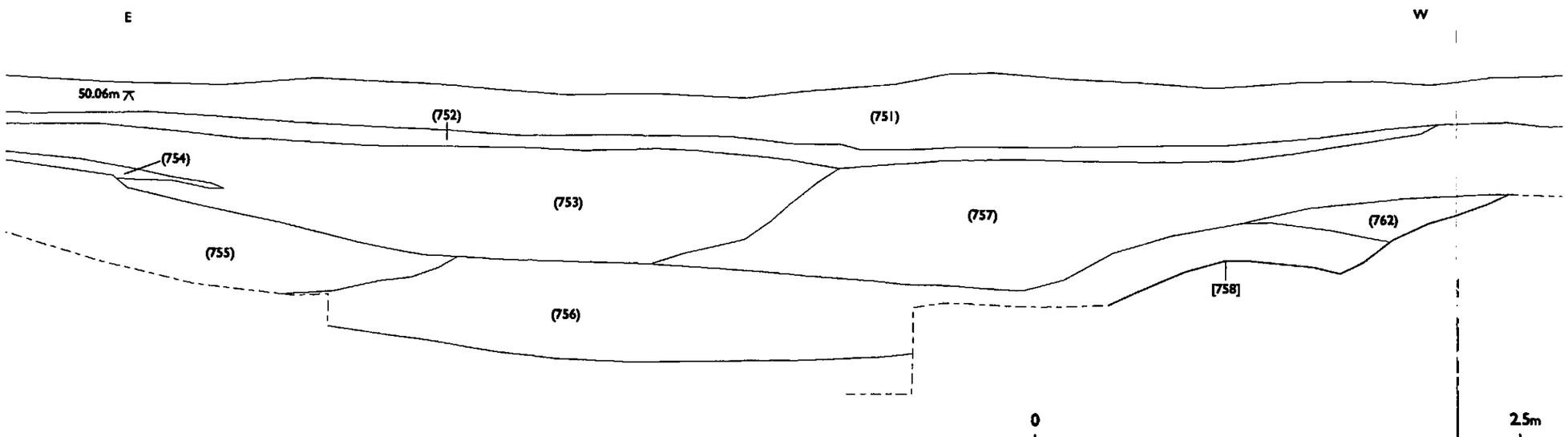


0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 168



0 2.5m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

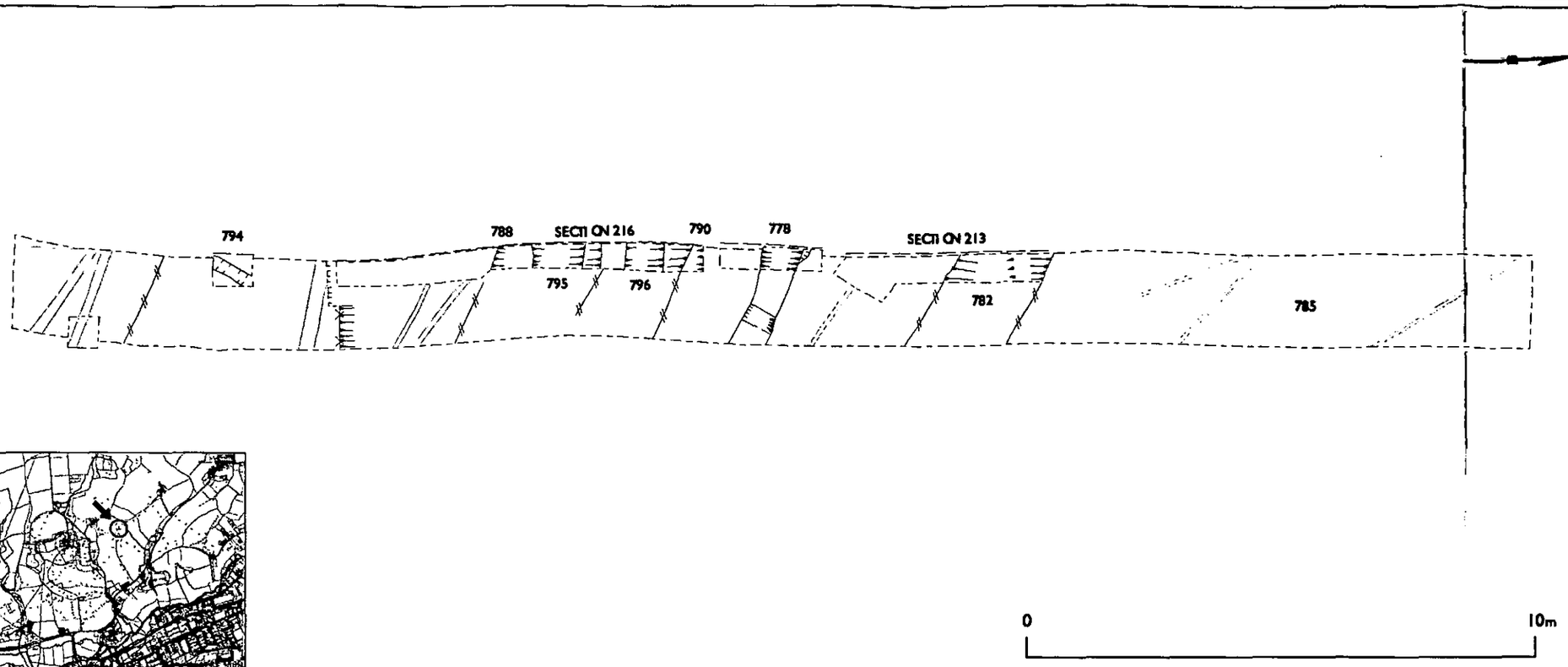
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and section (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 162 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 34 // Plan and Sections of Trench 165

1

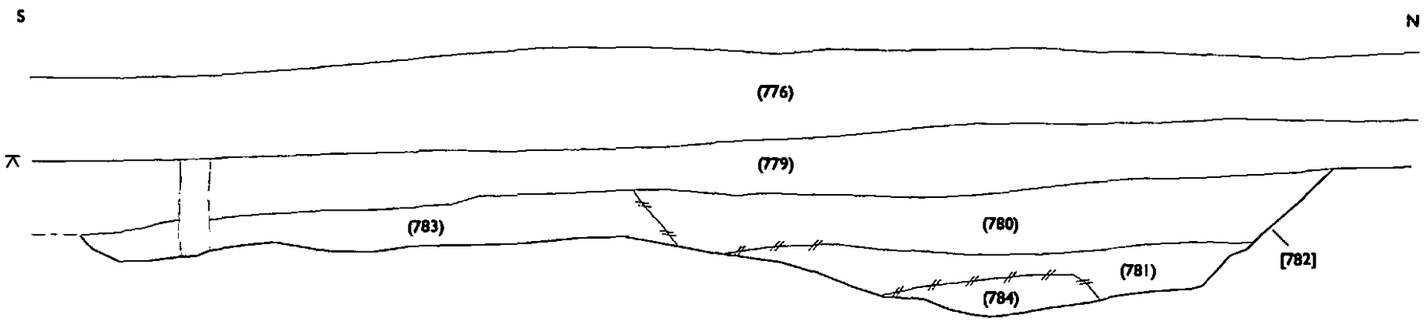


break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

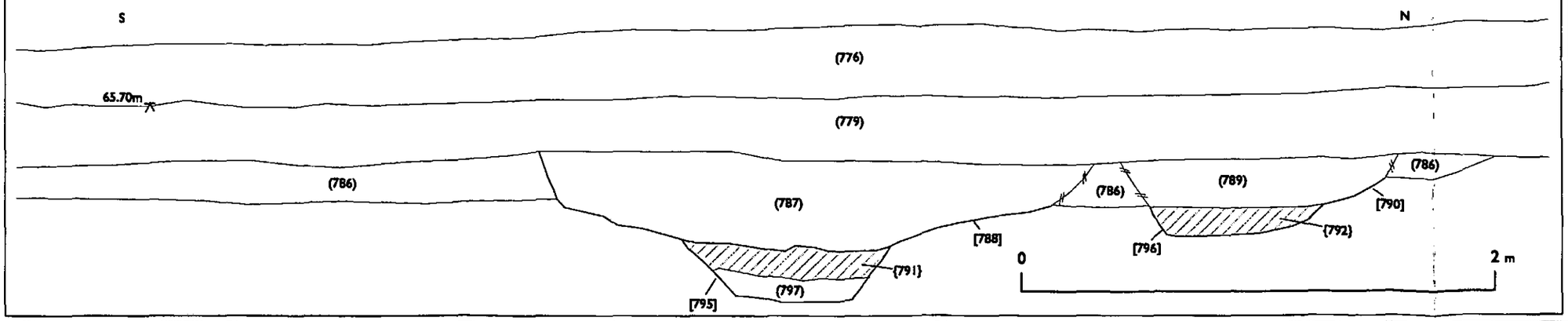
masonry

2

SECTION 213



SECTION 216



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

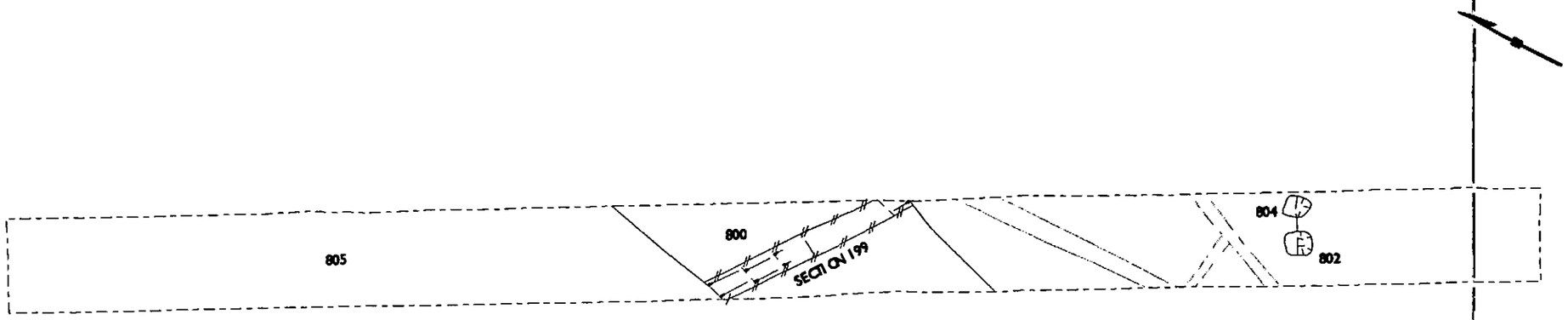
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 165 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 35 // Plan and Section of Trench 166

1

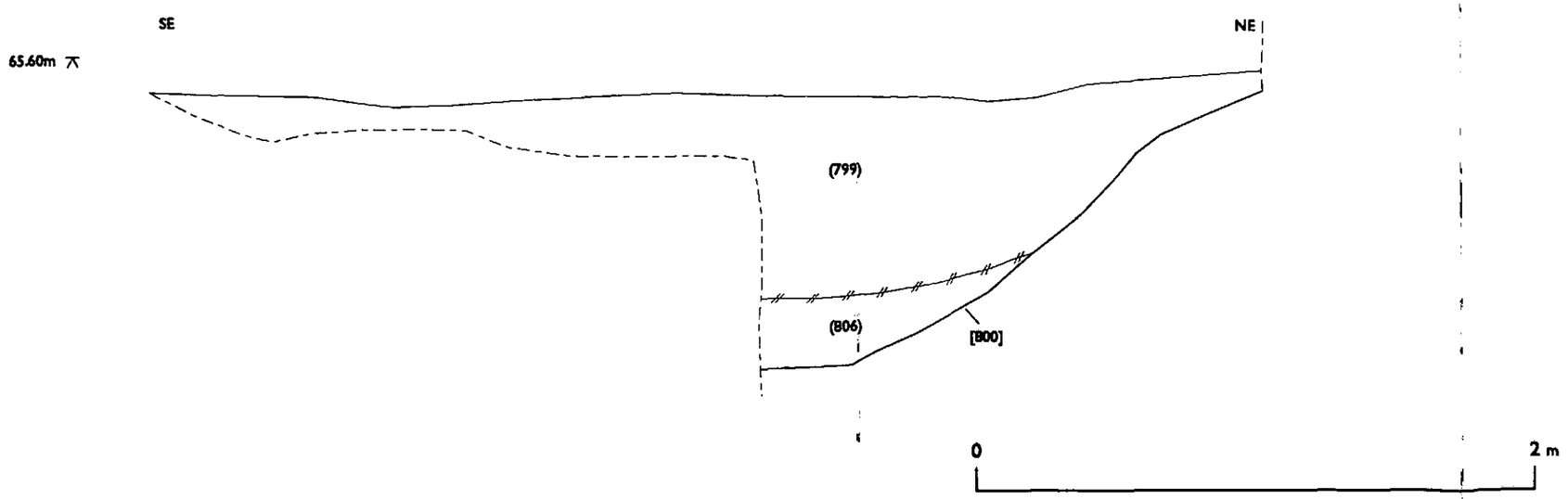


0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 199



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

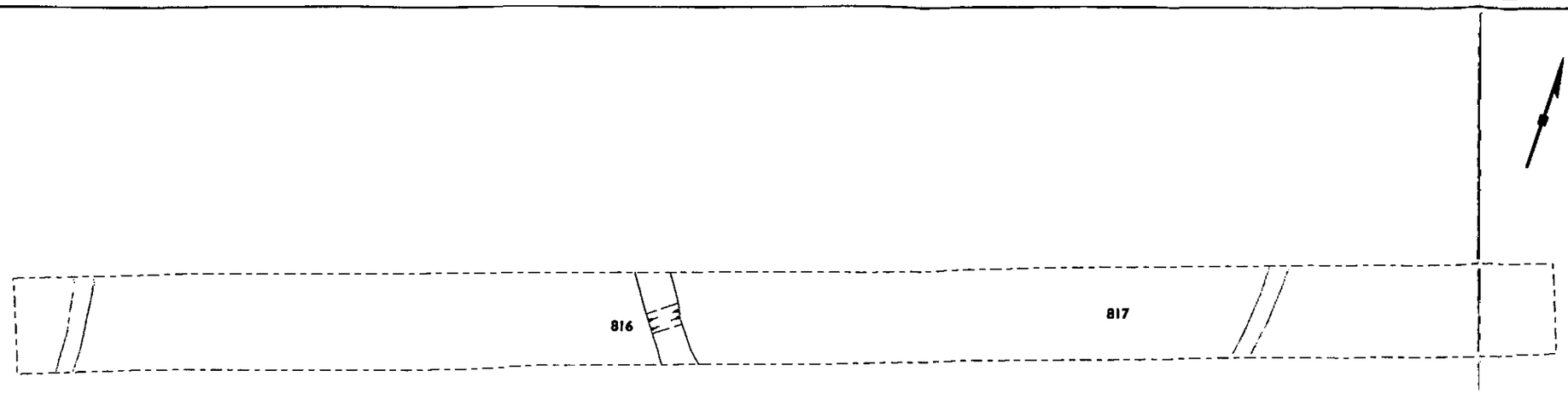
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and section (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 166 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

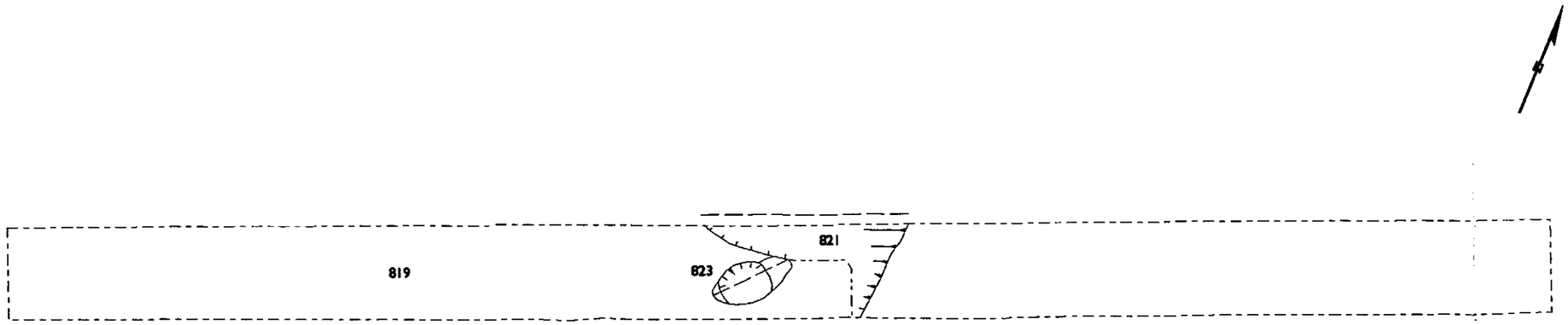
Figure 36 // Plans of Trenches 174 (1), 175 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

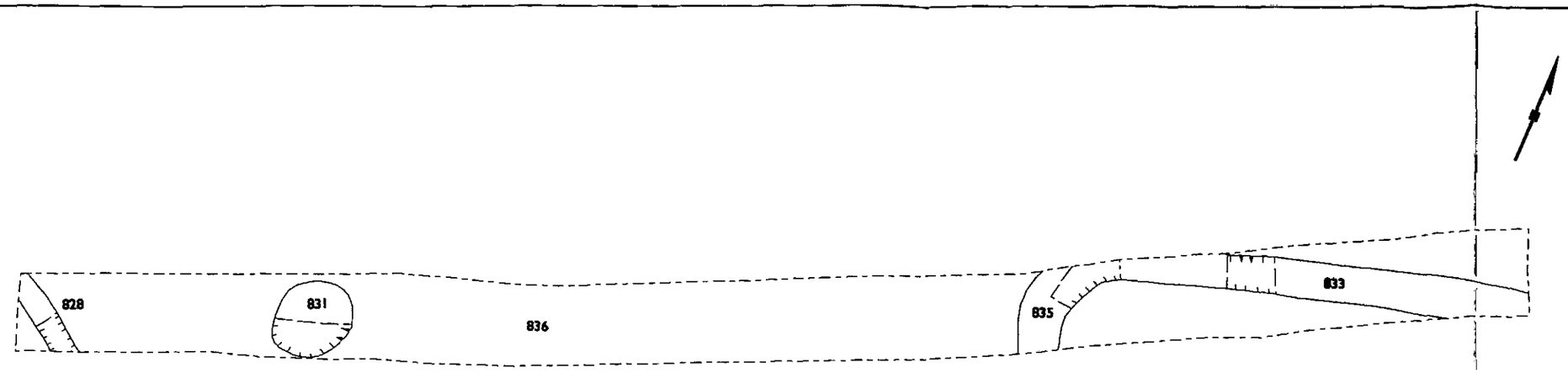
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 174 (1) and 175 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

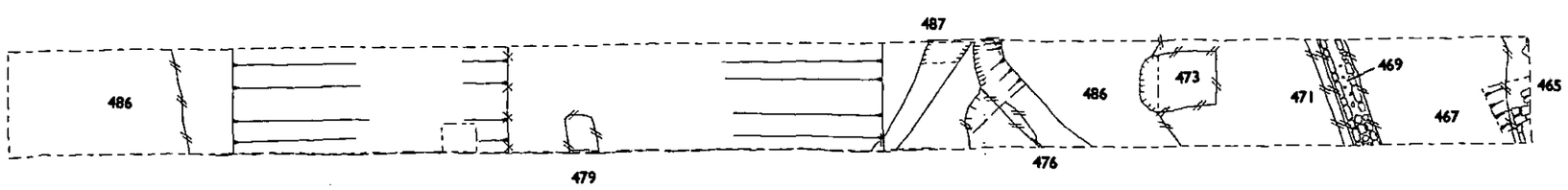
Figure 37 // Plans of Trenches 176 (1), 180 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

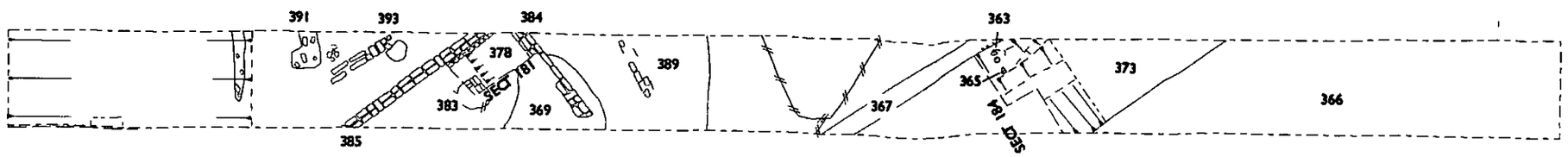
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 176 (1) and 180 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 38 // Plan and Sections of Trench 181

1



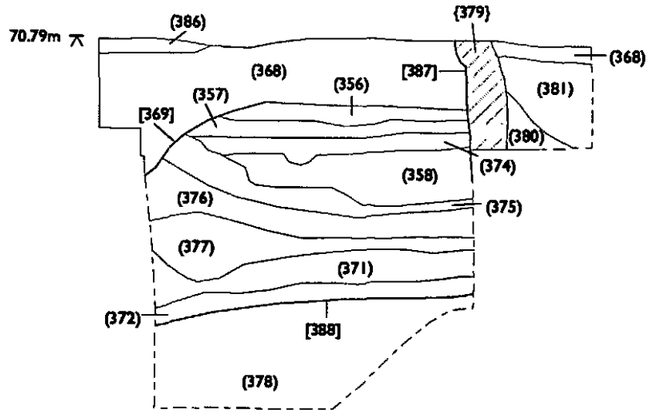
0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

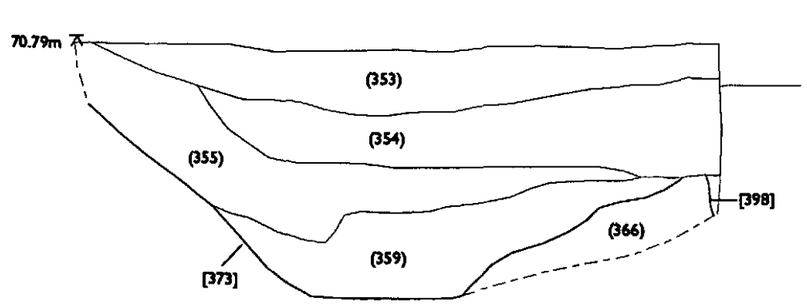
masonry

2

SECTION 181



SECTION 184



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 181 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

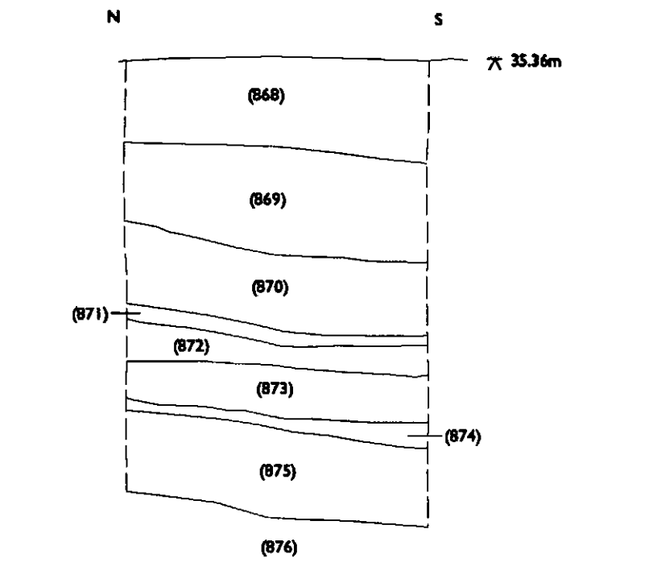
DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

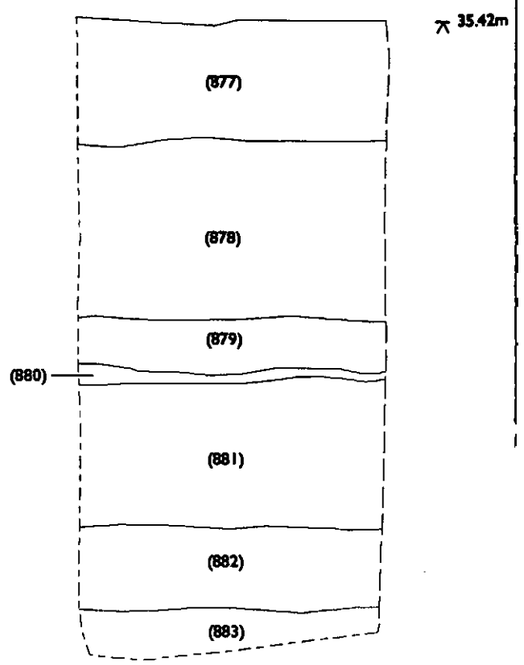
Figure 39 // Trenches 192 (1), 194 (2)

1

SECTION 135

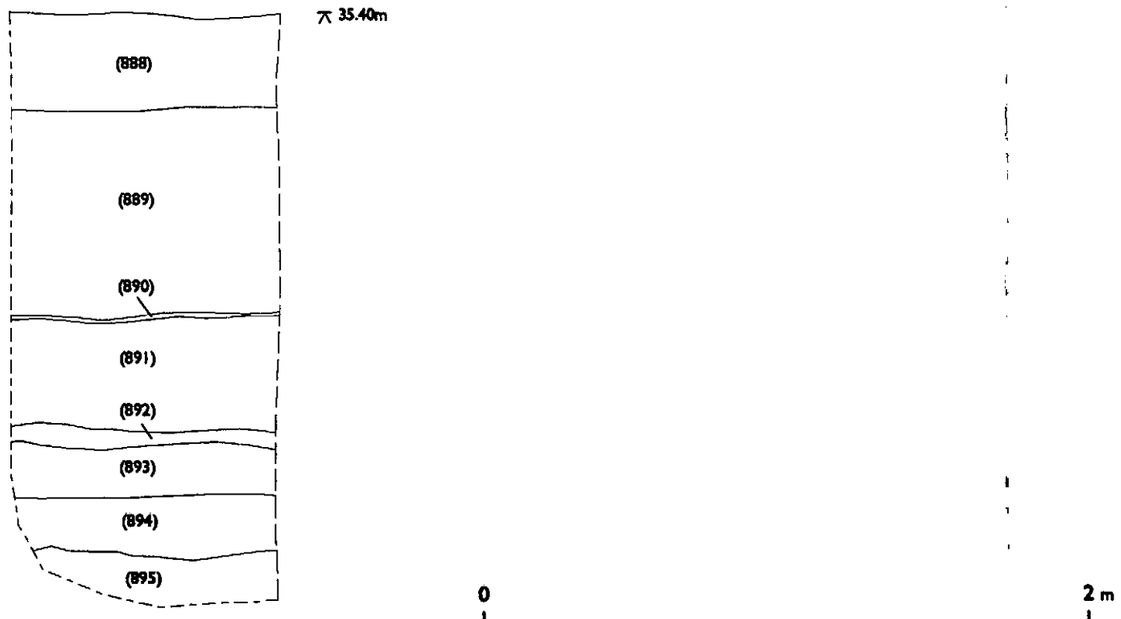


SECTION 136



2

SECTION 137



limit of excavation

line of section

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

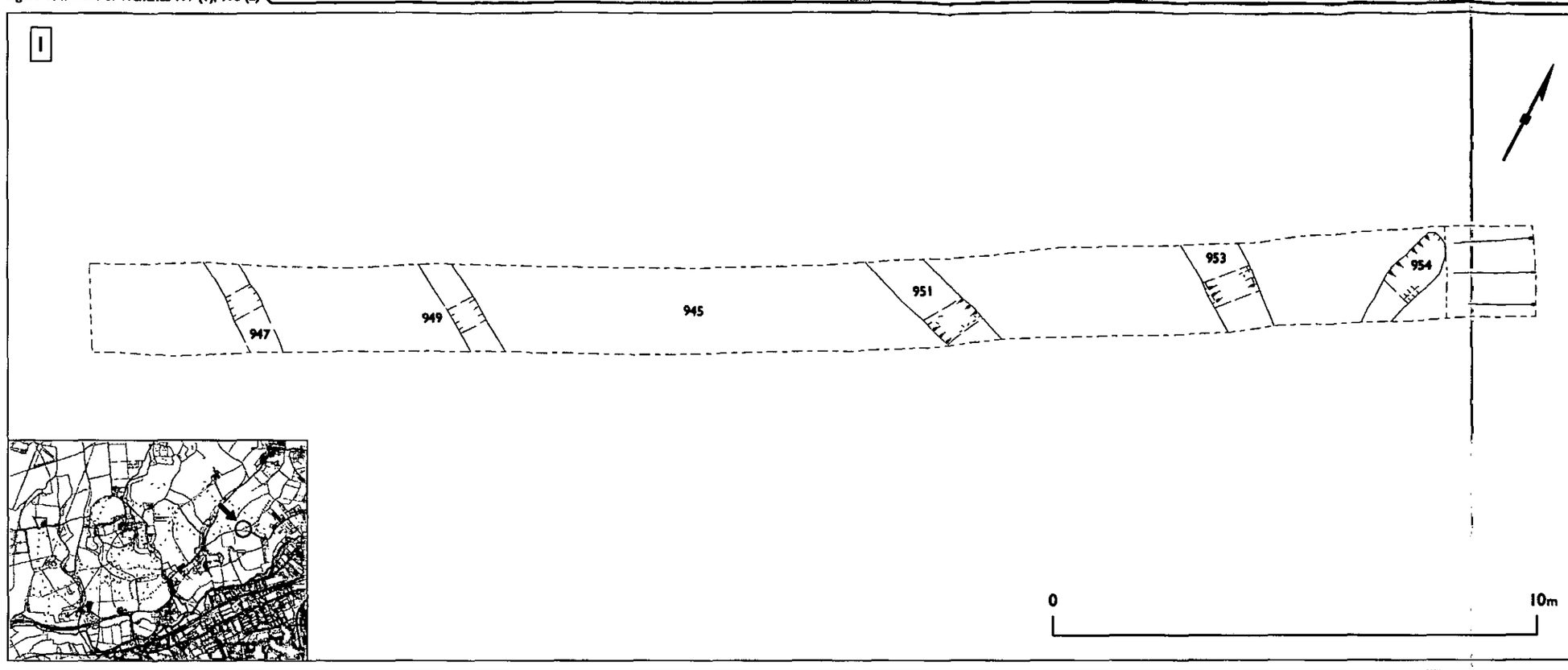
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench sections showing deposit sequences recorded in trenches 192 (1) and 194 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 40 // Plans of Trenches 197 (1), 198 (2)



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

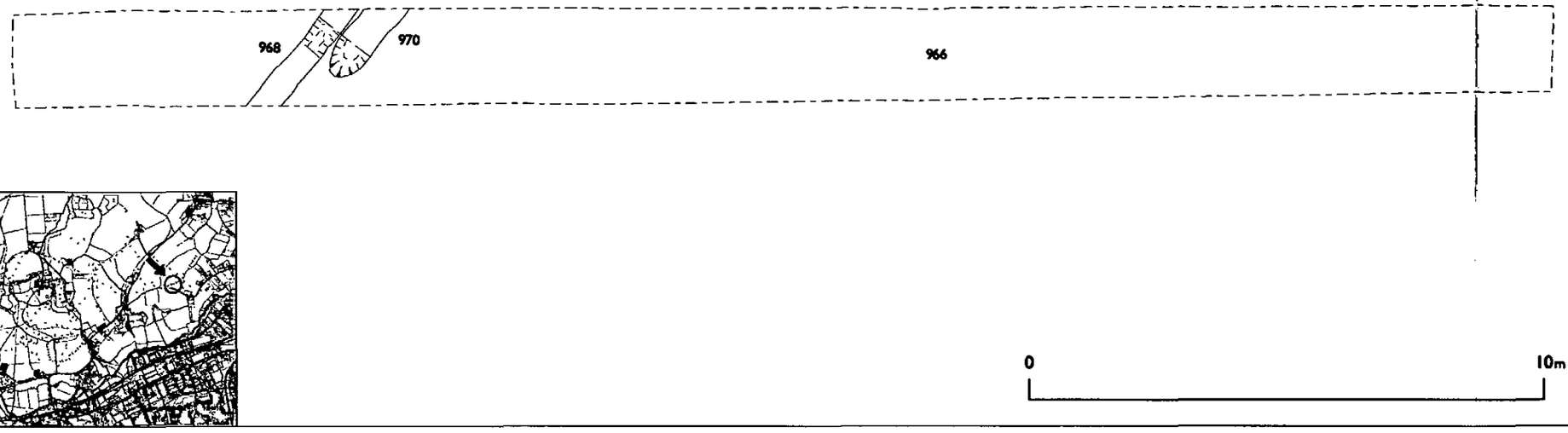
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 197 (1) and 198 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

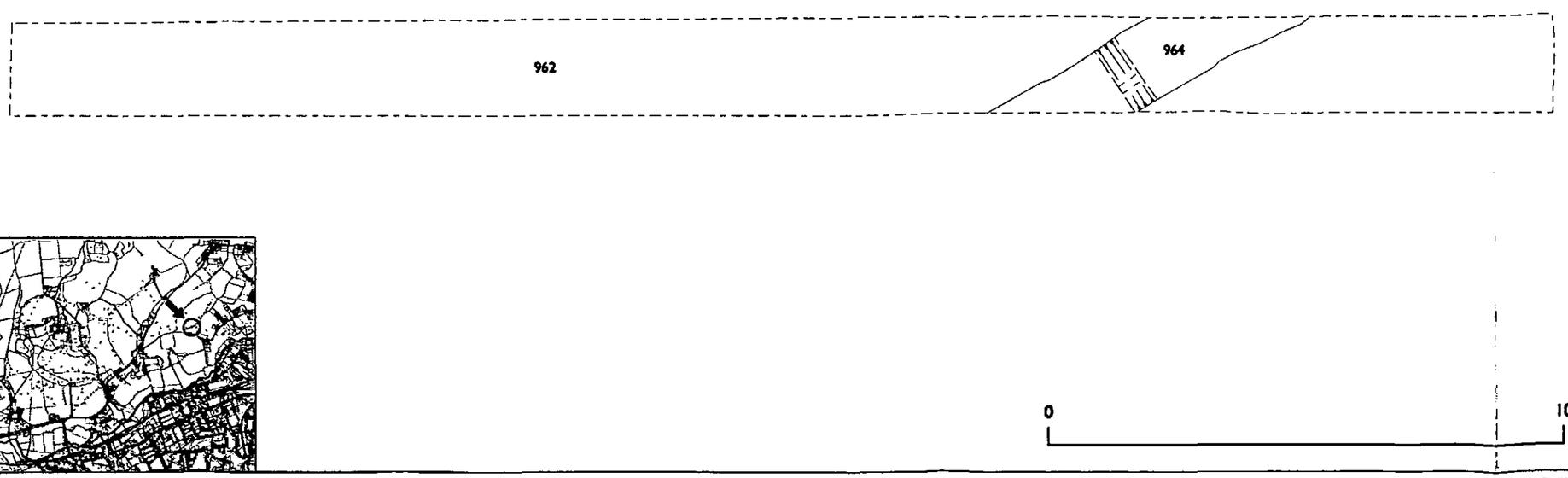
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 41 // Plans of Trenches 199 (1), 200 (2)

1



2



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

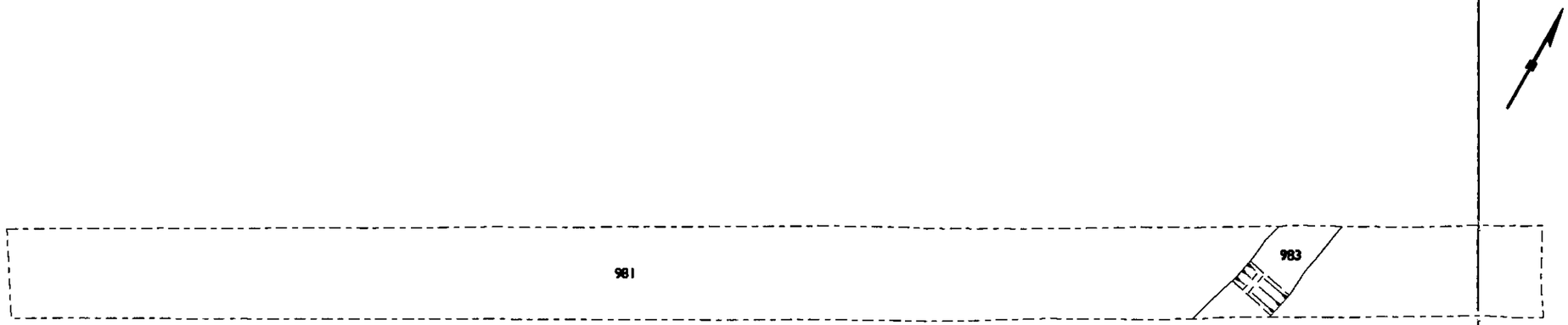
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 199 (1) and 200 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 42 // Plans of Trenches 201 (1), 203 (2)

1



0 10m

2

0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

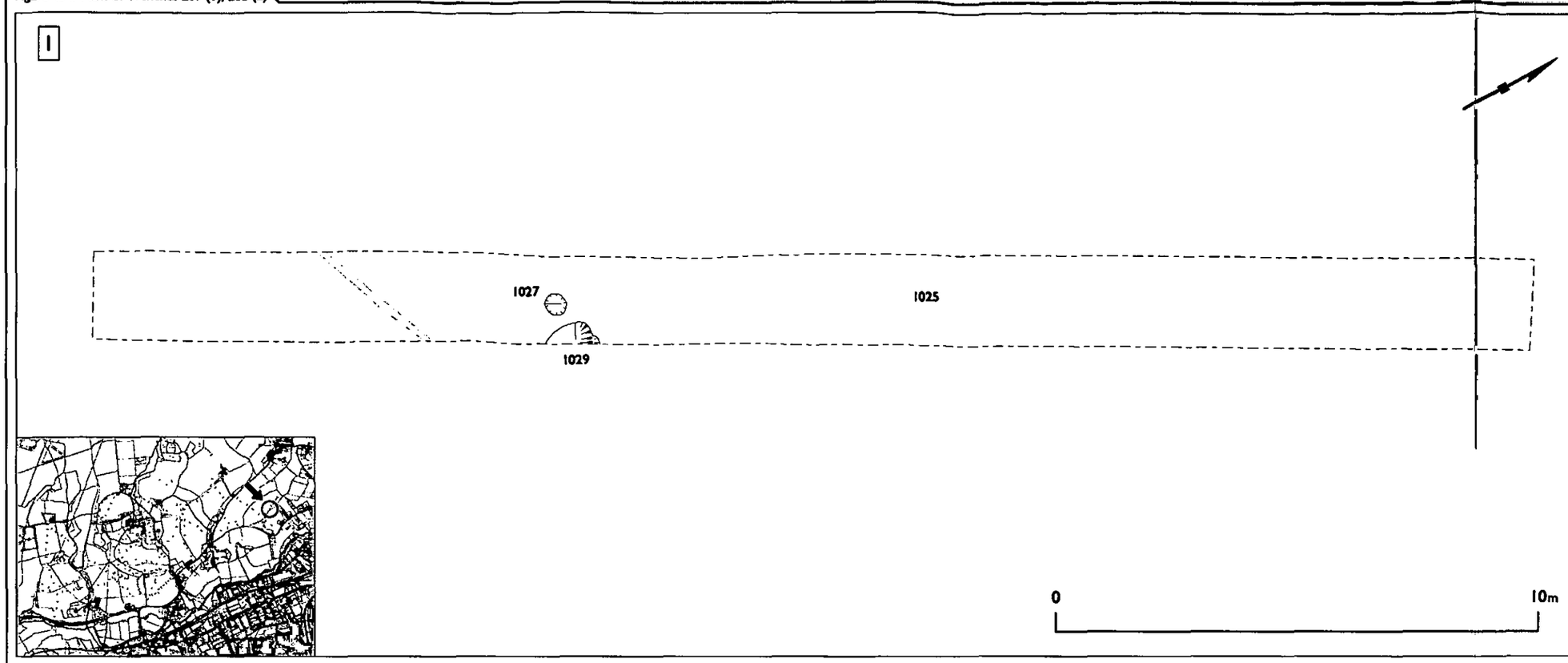
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 201 (1) and 203 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 43 // Plans of Trenches 207 (1), 208 (2)



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

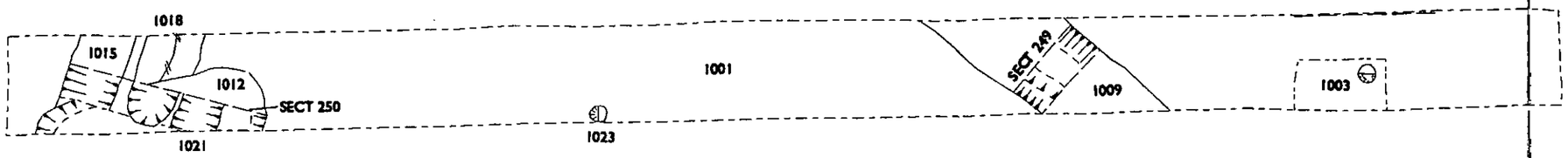
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 207 (1) and 208 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 44 // Plan and Sections of Trench 209

1

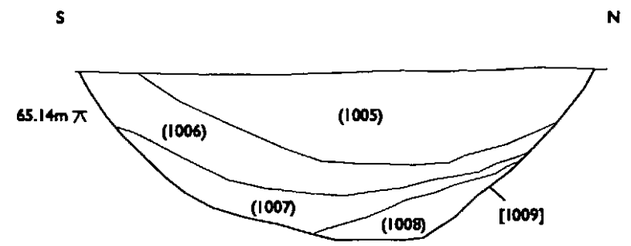


0 10m

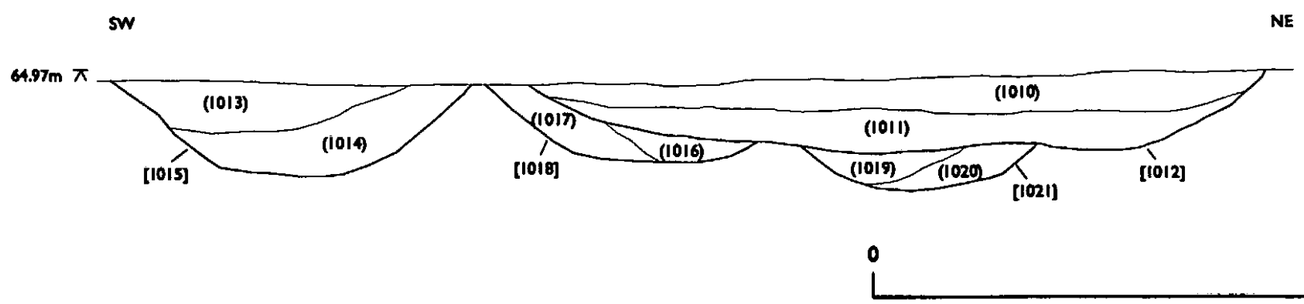
break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 249



SECTION 250



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

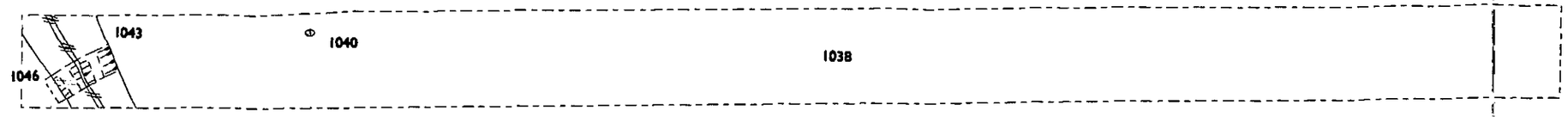
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and sections (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 209 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

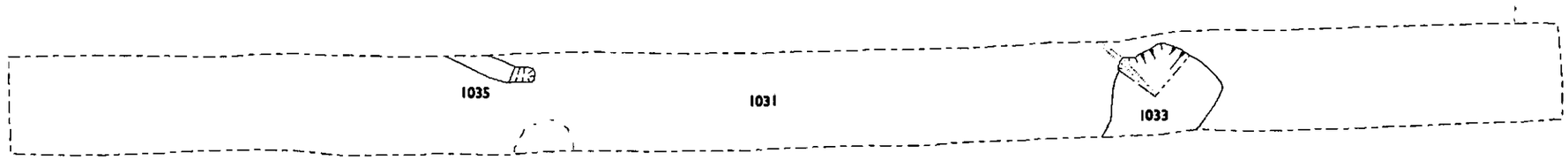
Figure 45 // Plans of Trenches 210 (1), 211 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

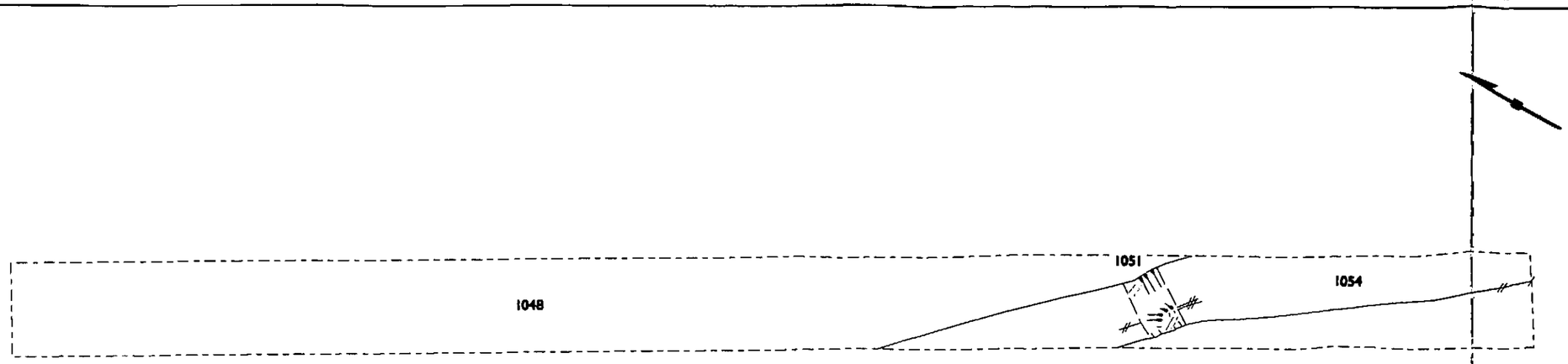
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 210 (1) and 211 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

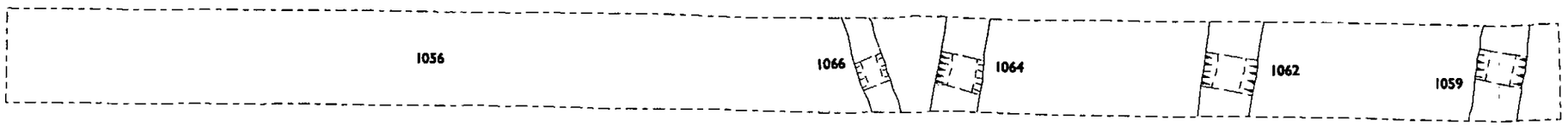
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 46 // Plans of Trenches 212 (1), 213 (2)

1



2



break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

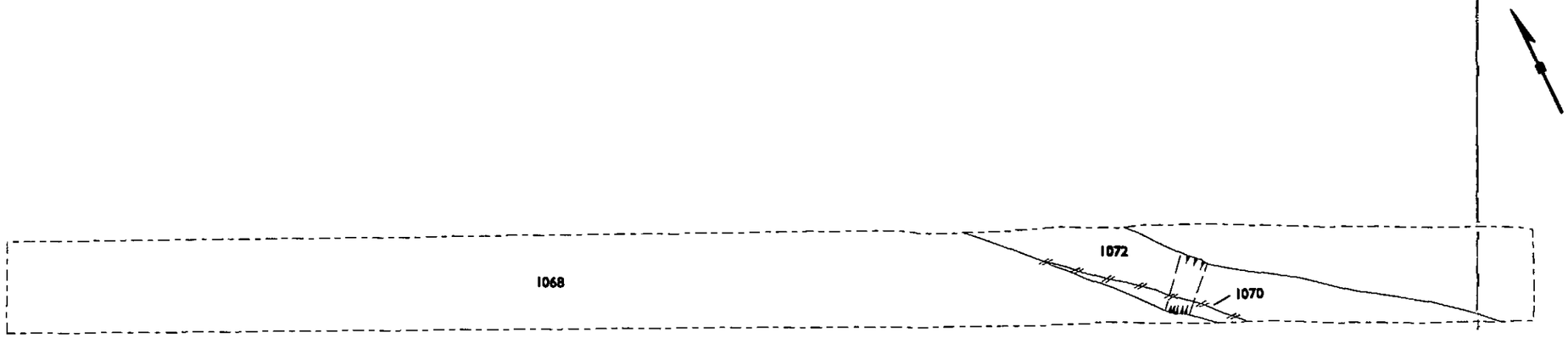
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 212 (1) and 213 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

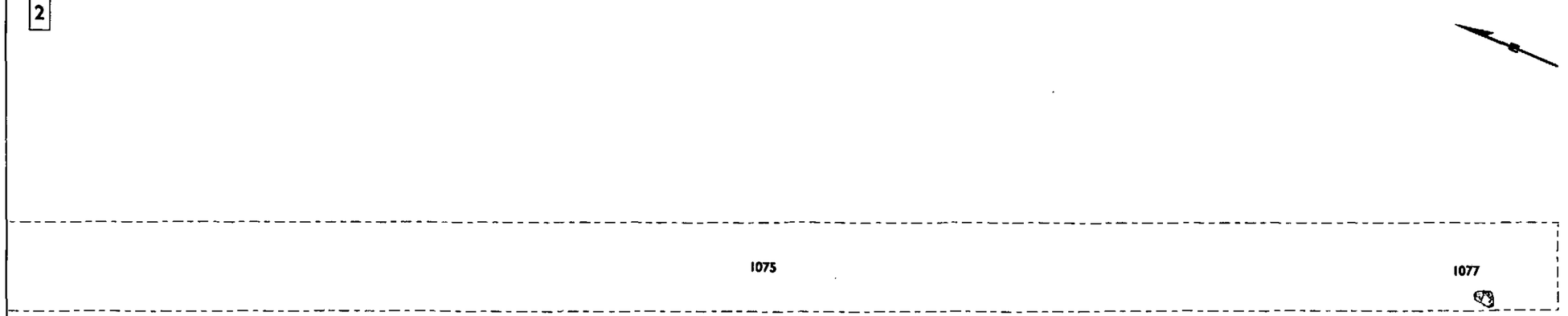
Figure 47 // Plans of Trenches 214 (1), 215 (2)

1



0 10m

2



0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

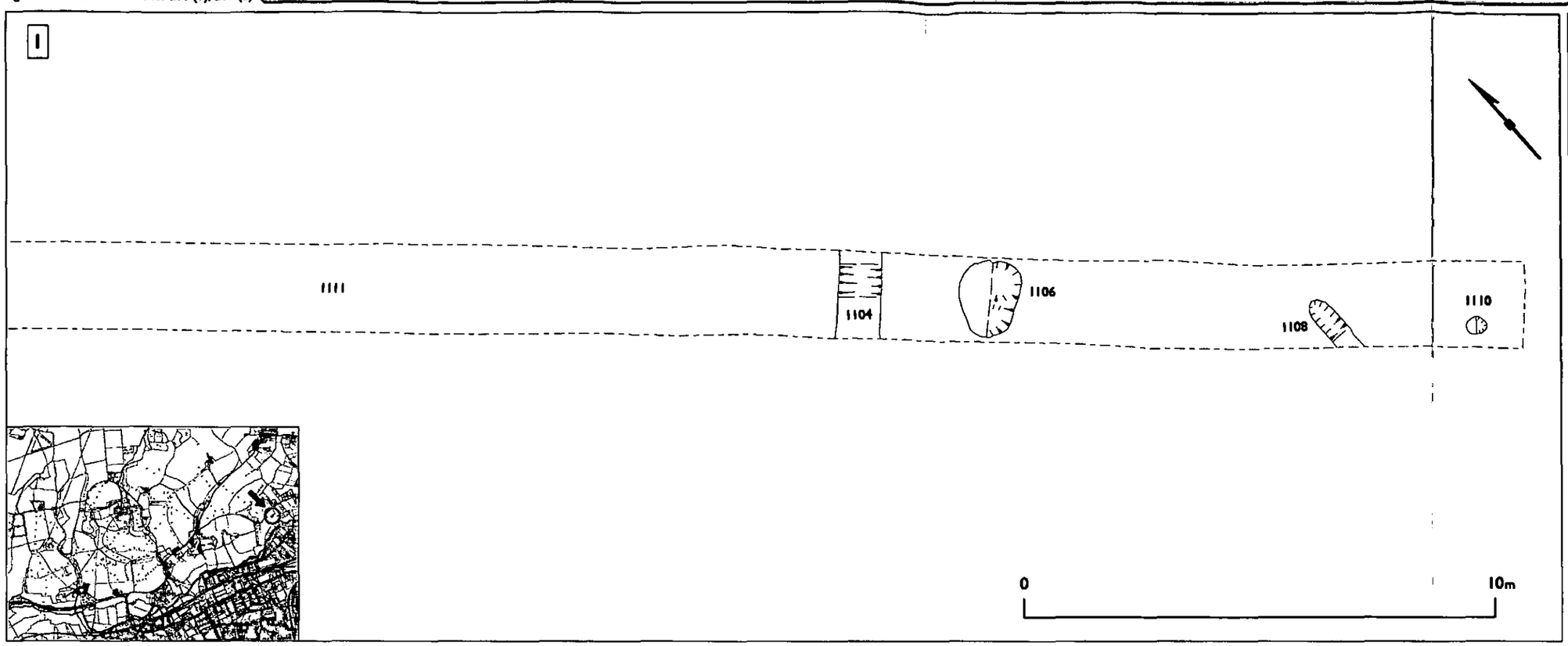
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 214 (1) and 215 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 48 // Plans of Trenches 216 (1), 218 (2)



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

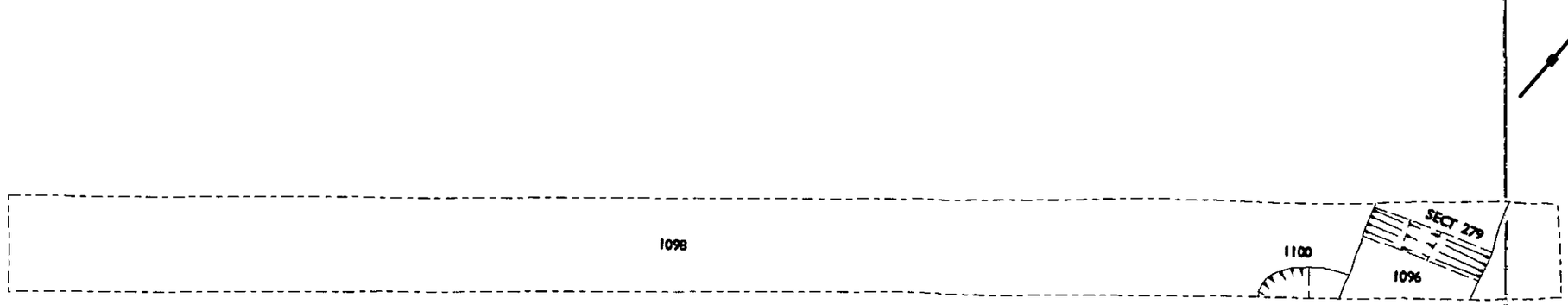
DESCRIPTION // Trench plans showing archaeological remains recorded in trenches 216 (1) and 218 (2) and the location of these trenches within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-vI

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 49 // Plan and Section of Trench 220

1

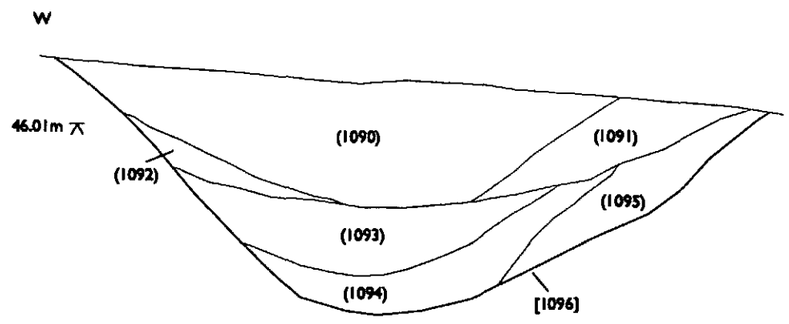


0 10m

break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

2

SECTION 279



0 2 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

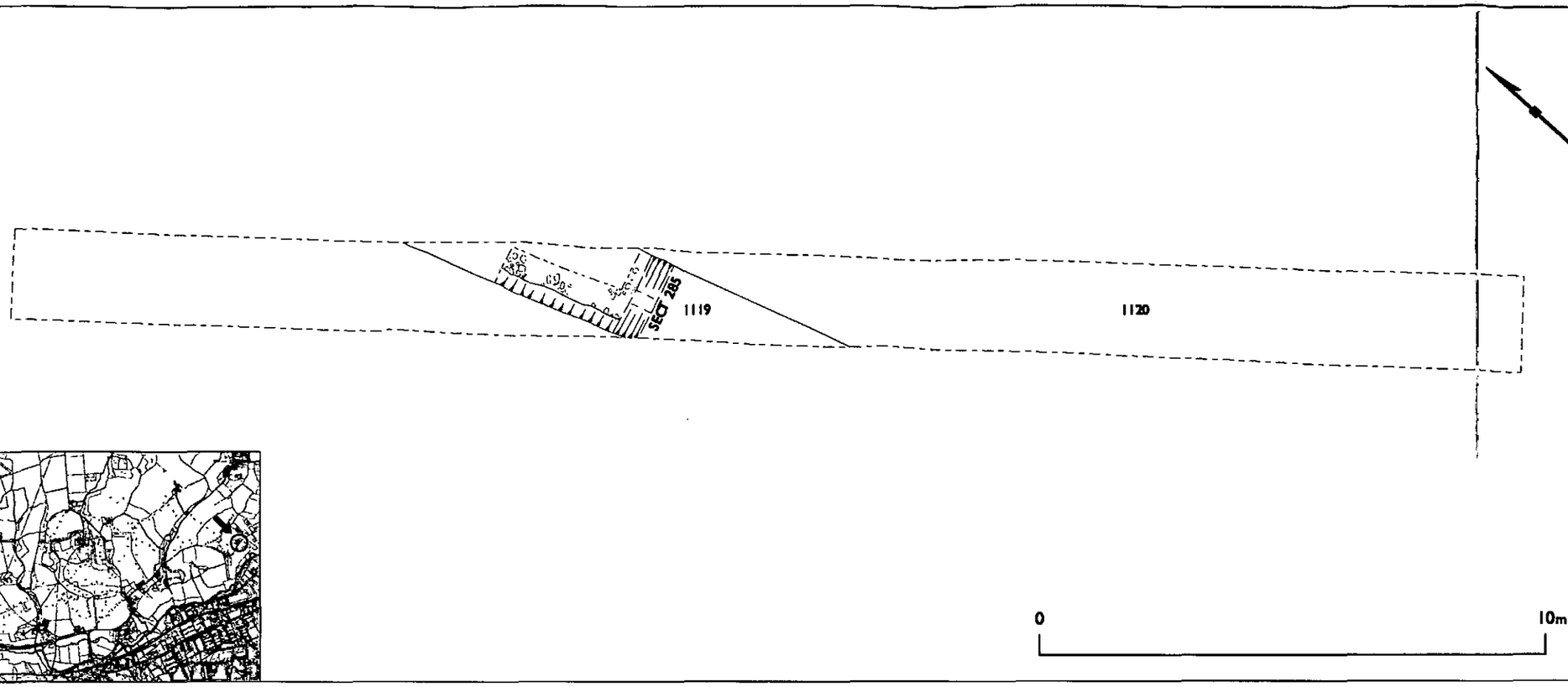
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and section (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 220 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 50 // Plan and Section of Trench 221

1

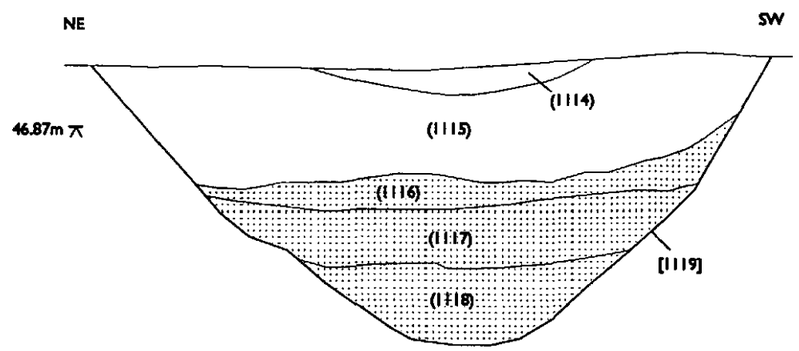


break in slope
cut feature edge
expected feature
hachure
land drain
limit of excavation
limit uncertain
line of section
machine cut
masonry
ploughscar
stone
tree throw
truncation

gravel

2

SECTION 285



CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Trench plan (1) and section (2) showing archaeological remains recorded in trench 221 and the location of this trench within the study area (inset)

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

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Figure 51 // Mesolithic and Neolithic Finds

Mesolithic

Mesolithic and Neolithic

Neolithic

OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Mesolithic and Neolithic finds within the evaluation area

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 52 // Late Bronze Age Features

settlement activity
ritual activity
agricultural activity
unknown
interpreted activity areas
OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Late Bronze Age features within the evaluation area and interpreted Late Bronze Age activity areas

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 53 // Late Iron Age Features

settlement activity
ritual activity
agricultural activity
interpreted activity areas
OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Late Iron Age features within the evaluation area and interpreted Late Iron Age activity areas

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 54 // Late Iron Age Enclosures

settlement activity
interpreted activity areas
observed cropmarks
OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

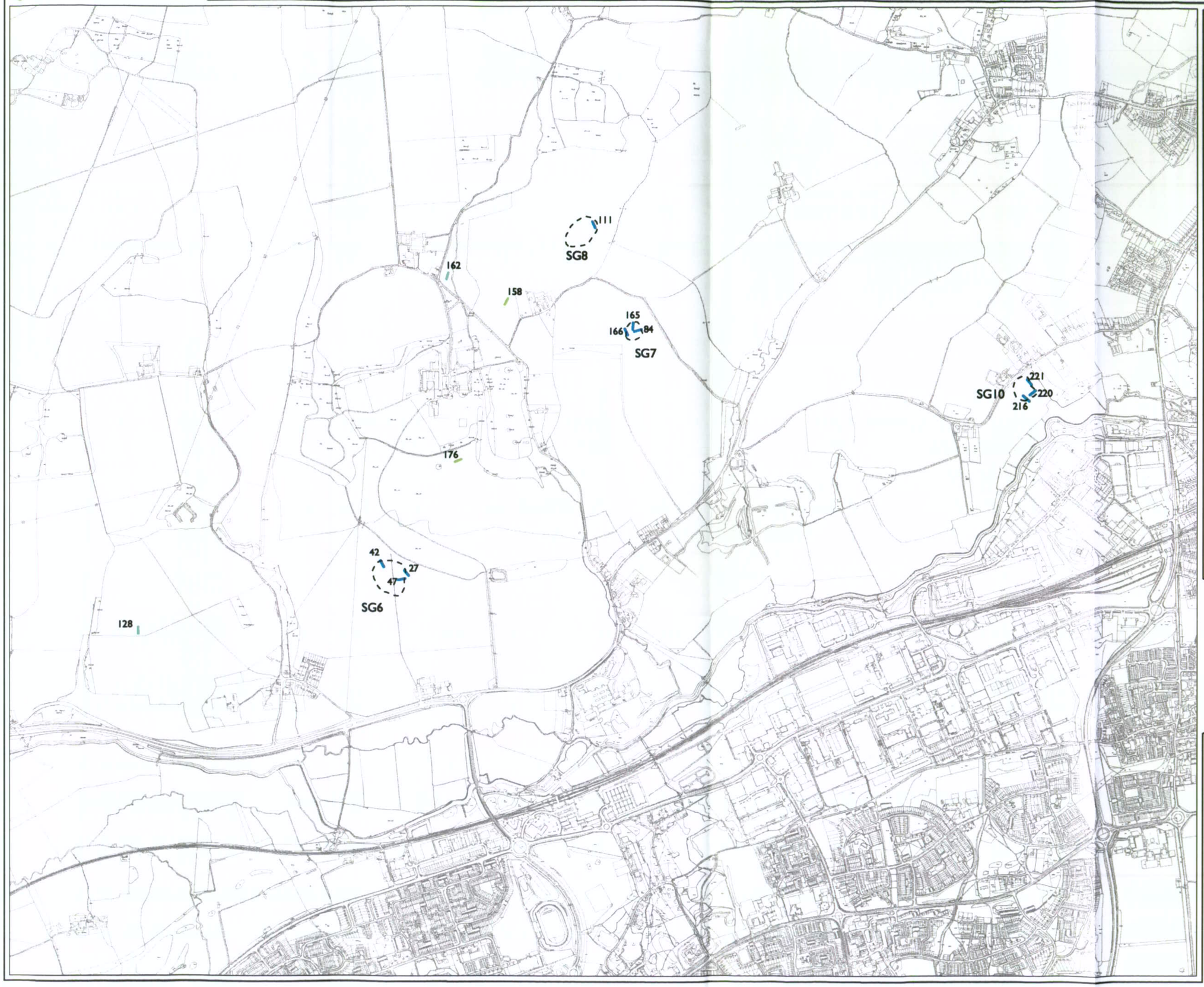
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing three Late Iron Age settlement enclosures in relation to observed cropmarks, with inset showing location of enclosures in relation to overall site area

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 55 // Roman Features



settlement activity
agricultural activity
unknown
interpreted activity areas
OS data

0 800 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Roman features within the evaluation area and interpreted Roman activity areas

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 56 // Medieval Finds and Features

possible Saxon feature

Saxo-Norman feature

unstratified finds

OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

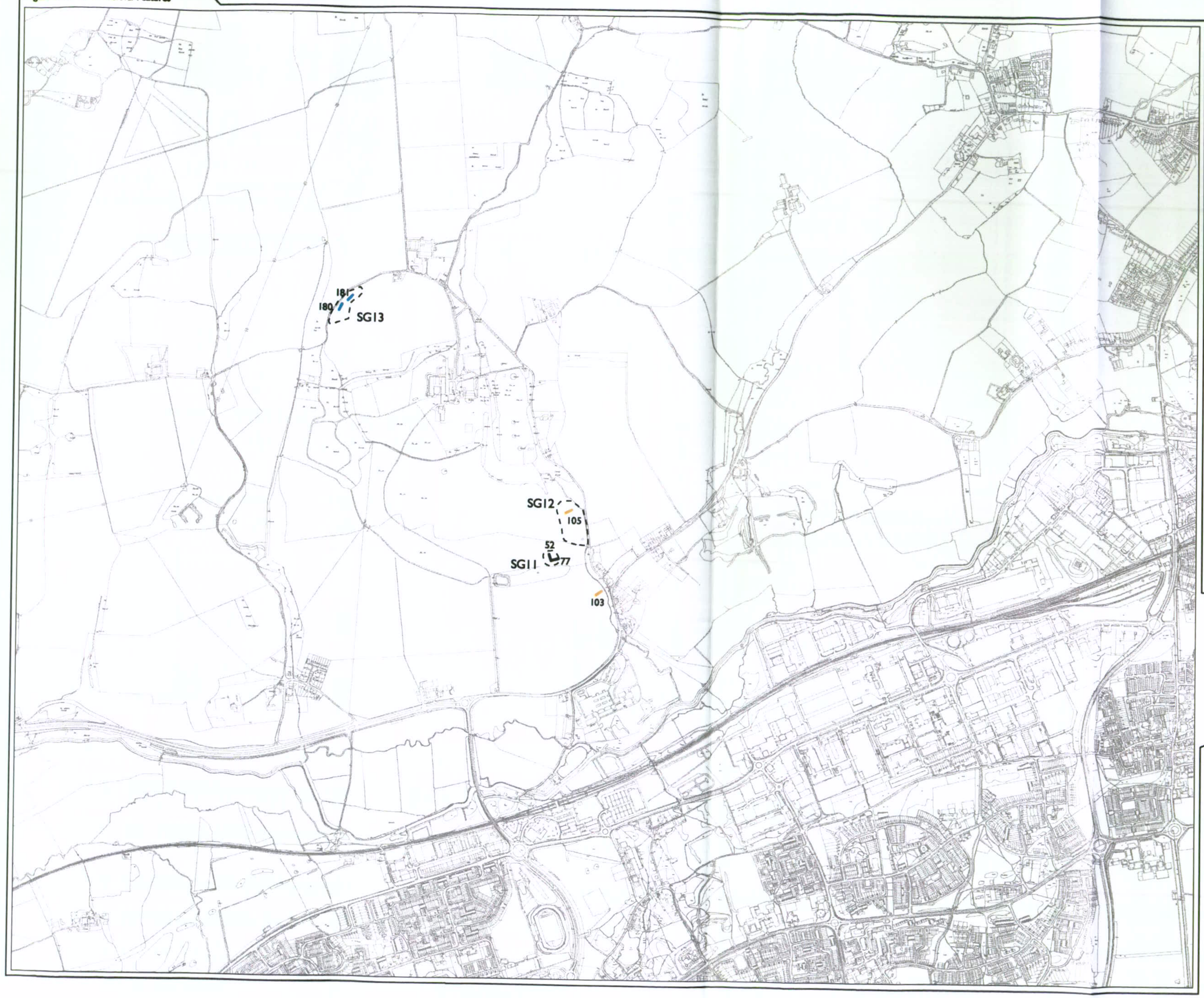
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Medieval finds and features within the evaluation area

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 57 // Post-Medieval Features



settlement activity
industrial activity
parkland/gardens
interpreted activity areas
OS data

0 800 m

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

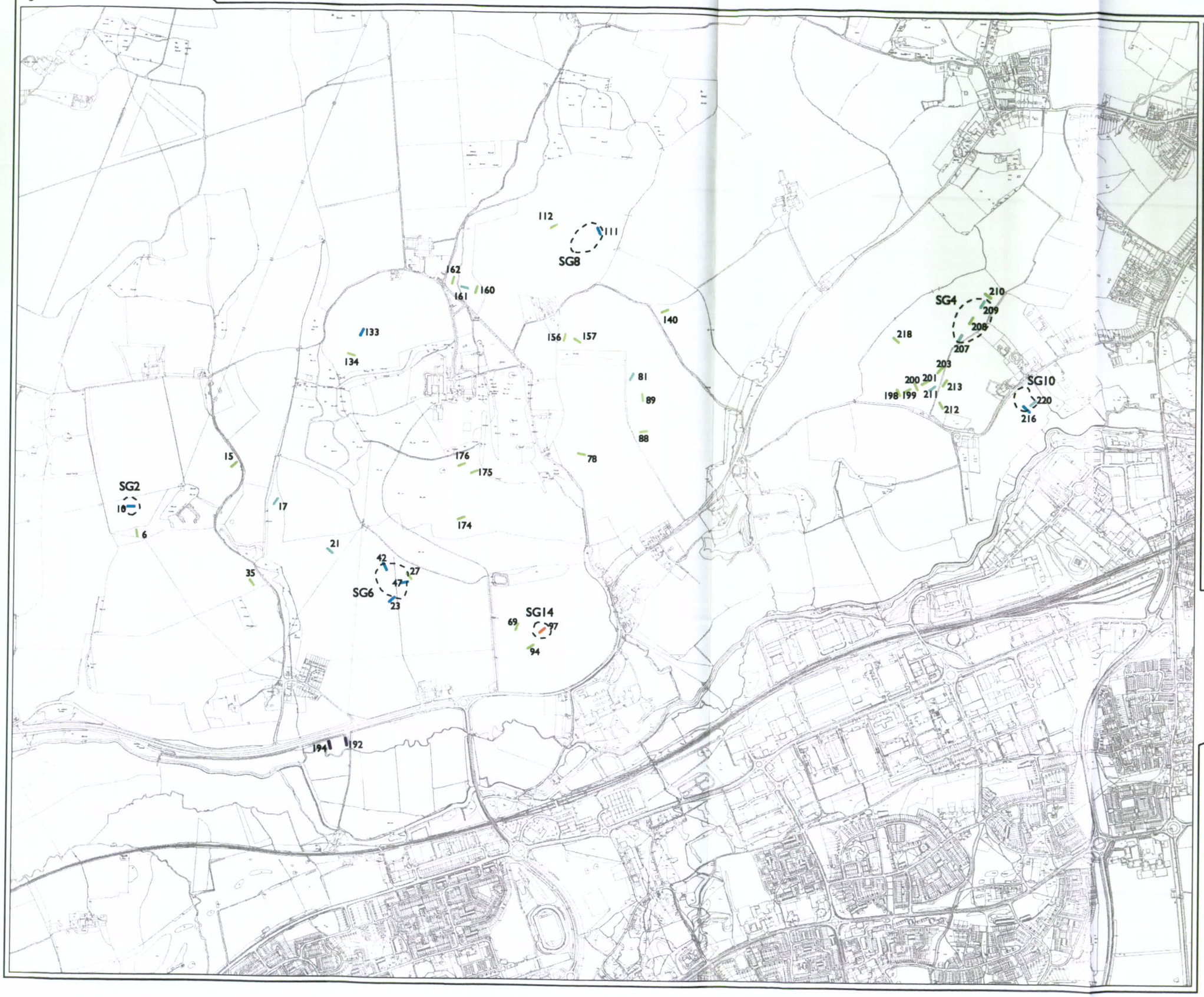
PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of Post-Medieval features within the evaluation area and interpreted Post-Medieval activity areas

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 58 // Undated Features



settlement activity
ritual activity
agricultural activity
environmental sequences
unknown
interpreted activity areas
OS data

0 800 m

N

CLIENT // Ropemaker Properties Ltd.

PROJECT // LP0293L- Harlow North

DESCRIPTION // Map showing the distribution of undated features within the evaluation area and associated interpreted activity areas

DOC REF: LP0293L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY