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PELHAM STRUCTURES

LAND NORTH OF STEWARTS WAY, MANUDEN, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

APRIL 2022





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by the client Pelham Structures to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex CM23 1DP (NGR: TL 48612 27012). The evaluation was required as a as a condition of planning consent. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to a brief prepared by Katie-Lee Smith, Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA). The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity.

The archaeological work was undertaken over 6 days between the 22nd and the 29^{th of} March 2022 and comprised the excavation of twenty-nine trenches. The survival of the archaeological features was good, and survival does not appear to have been influenced by past ploughing or later phases of development. Archaeological remains were found in just five of the trenches. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating to the post-medieval period. Three post-medieval ditches, associated with limited quantities of ceramic building material and pottery, and an undated pit were encountered. The post-medieval archaeological features, and the associated palaeoenvironmental remains, allude to the rural and agricultural character of the site.



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Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks the client, Pelham Structures, for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank Katie-Lee Smith, Historic Environment Advisor, at Essex County Council for their assistance.

The evaluation was supervised by Rebecca Randall and the report written by Peter Clarke and Liam Podbury. The figures were produced by Kathren Henry. Processing of the archaeological finds was managed by Luke Harris. The finds assessment was undertaken by Andrew Peachey, Peter Thompson, and Julie Curl. The palaeoenvironmental assessment was completed by John Summers. The project was managed by John Craven and the report edited by post-excavation manager, Andrew Peachey.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Circumstances and Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 In March 2022, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land north of Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex (NGR: TL 48612 27012). The work was commissioned by the Client who has submitted a planning application for the erection of 22 new dwellings, including 40% affordable units; the provision for a children's nursery (Class D), with associated parking; the creation of vehicular and pedestrian access from The Street; the provision of public open spaces, play area, landscaping and Resource Centre; and the provision of balancing pond and associated drainage infrastructure. The work was carried out part of a planning condition requirement by Uttlesford District Council (planning reference: UTT/19/0022/OP).
- 1.1.2 The pertinent planning condition stated that:
 - 1. No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority prior to reserved matters applications being submitted.
 - 2. A mitigation strategy detailing the excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following completion of this work.
 - 3. No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, and which has been signed off by the local planning authority through its historic environment advisors.
 - 4. The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post-excavation assessment (to be submitted within three months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post-excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publications report.

1.2 **Project Documentation**

1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief prepared by Katie-Lee Smith, Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (*Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation at Land North of Stewarts Way, Manuden,* dated 27th May 2021).



- 1.2.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation (WA 2021). This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).
- 1.2.3 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and Guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2020a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2020). The project also adhered to the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* (Gurney 2003).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIFA 2020a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIFA 2020b).

2.2 The Field Evaluation

- 2.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-nine trenches, which measured 30.00m in length and 1.80m in width, across the proposed development area. The trenches were placed on using a random grid array. The trenches were, however, located with due regard to the location of services and taking into consideration ecological/arboricultural constraints. The trenches and features were surveyed using an RTK GPS (Leica GS14/CS15) with an accuracy/error of <1cm. The trial-trenches represent a 3% sample of the overall site. The general aims of these investigations were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

And specifically, to investigate:

- the potential palaeo-environmental alluvial deposits surviving within the Stort Valley
- features and Deposits relating to the origins and development of Manuden.
- 2.2.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. All possible



features were inspected and excavated by hand. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2020). On completion the evaluation trenches were to be reinstated by replacing the excavated material. This was done.

2.3 The Finds Assessment

- 2.3.1 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Bury St Edmunds office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention

2.4 The Site Archive

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). It has also been compiled in adherence with *A Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (Perrin *et al* 2014). The archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Essex HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier: site code SWMA21.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-506374.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site was located at (NGR: TL 48612 27012; Fig.1). The site lies on the northern edge of the village of Manuden, which itself lies around 6.00km north of Bishop's Stortford (Fig.1-2). The site is approximately 39,150m² in size and is irregularly shaped. The site's environs predominately comprise arable farmland and it encompasses the eastern element of a larger agricultural plot. To the immediate east of the site runs the curvilinear road of The Street, whilst the southern edge of the site is bounded by residential houses along Stewarts Way.
- 3.1.2 The area of investigation lies at a height of *c*.80 aOD (above Ordnance Datum) with the ground sloping down moderately to the south and to the east.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2021). This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt, sands, and gravels overlay bedrock and formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The natural substrate **(1002)** observed during the current phase of works comprised a mixture of pale greyish yellow silty clay and mid reddish-brown gravels, which is consistent with the mapped geologies above. The overlying soils recorded in the area comprise freely draining, slightly acidic but base rich, deposits (Soilscapes 2021).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within a landscape that has been occupied from the prehistoric period onwards. There has, however, been little systematic archaeological research undertaken in the parish; as such, there is relatively little definite evidence for prehistoric activity in the local area. Metal detecting at Sands Field, Saucmeres, 1.25km to the west found several sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age and late Iron Age pottery, and a late Iron Age coin of Addedomanus of the Trinovantes (HER 47348). The cropmark of a possible ring ditch is located in a field 800m west of the site (HER 19566).
- 3.2.2 To the north of Manuden, in the fields around Brixton Lane, the Portable Antiquities scheme record a copper alloy artefact of Roman or Anglo-Saxon date (HER 53950) and other metalwork of medieval date including a buckle (HER 52190; 53349). Around a



dozen other undescribed finds have been recovered from not closely disclosed locations within the search area, which cover all periods from the earlier prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman periods to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

- 3.2.3 There are a number of possible cropmark sites in the area, but most are a considerable distance from the site. Cropmarks of undetermined field boundaries are located within fields centred on 550m south-west of the site (HER 3871). To the south-west of these are cropmarks of two possible enclosures and two shallow parallel but dispersed ditches which potentially could be prehistoric or medieval in date (HER 3876). There are cropmarks of sub-rectangular enclosures, including a possible ditched house platform, near Battle Manor House centred on 950m north-west of the site (HER 3857). On the east side of Manuden are cropmarks of field boundaries that appear on the First Edition OS map (HER 19564), and approximately 900m east of the site are cropmarks of possible sub-circular features (HER 19564). One kilometre south-east of the site are lynchets from medieval cultivation terraces (HER 3858). Undated earthworks are located south of The Hall and some 650m south-east of the site (HER 16778). The remaining cropmarks in the area are of field boundaries visible on early OS maps.
- 3.2.4 At Maggots End, approximately 300m north-west of the site is the location of a demolished post-medieval smock mill (HER 47409). There are sixty listed buildings in and around the village including the 12th century Grade II* parish church of St Mary the Virgin which was fully renovated in the Victorian period (HER 36311), and the Grade II listed 16th century manor house 'Pinchpool' situated 600m north-east of the site (HER 36273). The closest listed buildings to the site lie along The Street and include Number 99 (HER 36306), Chapel Cottage (HER 36307) and Oakdale (HER 36305), which are all Grade II listed post-medieval buildings.

3.3 Nearby Archaeological Investigations

3.3.1 No previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area. Outside the immediate study area, the nearest archaeological works that have occurred was an evaluation approximately 100.00m to east of the present site – beyond The Street (Egan and Thompson 2013; SMR 48233). The evaluation revealed colluvial deposits which contained prehistoric and early Roman pottery and elements of struck flint. The uppermost colluvial deposit contained four sherds of mid 1st to mid 2nd century pottery and three struck flint pieces, while the stratigraphically earliest colluvial



deposit contained a sherd of pottery probably of Bronze Age origin. Two undated features, a ditch and a stakehole, were also identified.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in March 2022, with twenty-nine trenches excavated across the proposed development site (Plate 1; Fig.3). The trenches were placed on using a random grid array. The trenches were, however, located with due regard to the location of services and taking into consideration ecological/arboricultural constraints. Trench 1 was moved from its original location, in the north-eastern corner of the site, to avoid the badger setts identified in the area.
- 4.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence across the site was relatively homogenous. The natural geology (1002) largely comprised a firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate inclusions of medium sub-rounded flints. Elsewhere principally in the south it comprised a firm, mid reddish brown gravel with frequent medium sub-rounded flints. Exclusively within the southern portion of the site (Trenches 1-6), the natural substrate (1002) was overlain by a subsoil (1001) deposit of friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints. Overlying the subsoil (1001) deposit and sealing the natural substrate (1002) elsewhere was the topsoil (1000); a friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. Despite the potential for palaeoenvironmental alluvium associated with the River Stort, and the potential for colluvium due to the topographical character of the site, no such deposits were encountered.
- 4.1.3 Due to the relatively large number of trenches excavated during the evaluation, and the notably paucity of archaeological deposits encountered, the detailed descriptions of trenches below will be limited to those that were found to contain pre-modern archaeological remains. Tabulation of the contexts within each of the trenches is provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 5 (Fig.4)** was situated towards the north-western corner of the site, and was orientated on a north to south alignment. It measured 30.00m in length and 1.80m in width. The natural geology **(1002)** observed within the trench comprised a firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate inclusions of medium sub-rounded flints. This was overlain by a 0.14m to 0.19m thick deposit of subsoil **(1001)**. The trench was sealed by a 0.22m to 0.32m thick deposit of topsoil **(1000)**.



- 4.2.2 A single sub-oval pit [1012] was located at the northern end of the trench (Plate 2). It measured 1.50m in length and 1.00m in width, cutting into the underlying geology to a depth of 0.40m. It contained a single fill (1013) of firm, pale yellowish grey brown silty clay. The deposit was devoid of datable material evidence.
- 4.2.3 **Trench 12 (Fig.5)** was situated near the centre of the site, and was orientated north to south. It measured 30.00m in length and 1.800m in width. The natural geology (1002) observed within the trench comprised a firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate inclusions of medium sub-rounded flints. The trench was sealed by a 0.31m to 0.32m thick deposit of topsoil (1000). A pair of ditches [1005] [1008] were encountered at the northern end of the trench, both of which were aligned on an east to west orientation. Probably the earliest of the two ditches was northernmost ditch [1005] (Plate 3). The feature was partially overcut due to the similarity of its fill compared to the natural substrate in this area. The ditch measured 2.10m in width and cut into the underlying natural geology to a depth of 0.70m. It contained two fills (1006) (1007). The 0.70m thick basal deposit (1006) comprised a friable, mid yellowish brown clayey silt. It yielded a single sherd (2g) of Post-medieval Red Earthenware consistent with an 18th to 19th century date, a small assemblage (1350g) of soft red brick and peg tile also likely of 18th to mid 19th century origin, and an iron door bolt (81g). The 0.28m thick uppermost deposit (1007) within the ditch comprised a friable, mid bluish grey silty clay. It contained a single sherd (13g) of imported Raeren stoneware of late 15th to early 17th century date. Less than a metre to the south of the aforementioned ditch [1005], was a comparably shallow and flat-based linear feature [1008] (Plate 4). Ditch [1008] measured 1.60m in width and had a depth of 0.21m. It contained a single deposit (1009) of firm, mid greyish brown silty clay. The deposit yielded and a small assemblage (271g) of soft red brick and peg tile also likely of 18th to mid 19th century origin and an iron billhook (422g).
- 4.2.4 Trench 25 (Fig.6) was situated towards the south-western corner of the site, and was orientated broadly east to west. It measured 30.00m in length and 1.80m in width. The natural geology (1002) within the trench comprised a firm, mid reddish brown gravel with frequent medium sub-rounded flints. The trench was sealed by a 0.31 to 0.32m thick deposit of topsoil (1000). A single north-east to south-west aligned ditch [1003] was located near the centre end of the trench (Plate 5). The ditch measured 1.15m in width and cut into the natural substrate to a depth of 0.24m. Its single fill (1004) consisted of friable, mid reddish brown clayey silt. The deposit yielded and a small assemblage (806g) of soft red brick and peg tile, in addition to a single residual



debitage flake consistent with technology prevalent in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. Ditch **[1003]** was likely a continuation of similarly aligned ditches **[1014]** (Trench 27) and ditch **[1010]** (Trench 29).

- 4.2.5 Trench 27 (Fig.7) was situated in the southern portion of the site and was orientated on an east to west alignment. It measured 30.00m in length and 1.80m in width. The natural geology (1002) recorded within the trench was comprised of firm, mid reddish brown gravel with frequent medium sub-rounded flints. The trench was sealed by a 0.28m thick deposit of topsoil (1000). A single north-east to south-west aligned ditch [1014] was located at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 6). Ditch [1014], which cut into the underlying natural substrate to a depth of 0.32m, measured 1.40m in width. It contained a single fill (1015) of firm, pale yellow grey brown clayey silt. The deposit was devoid of artefactual material. Ditch [1014] was likely a continuation of similarly aligned ditches [1003] (Trench 25) and ditch [1010] (Trench 29).
- 4.2.6 **Trench 29 (Fig.8)** was the southernmost trench investigated during the evaluation. It was orientated on a north to south alignment. The trench measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width. The natural geology (1002) recorded within the trench was comprised of firm, mid reddish brown gravel with frequent medium sub-rounded flints. It was sealed by a 0.30m thick deposit of topsoil (1000). A single north-east to south-west aligned ditch [1010] was exposed near the centre of the trench (Plate 7). The linear feature, which measured 1.58m in width, cut into the natural geology to a depth of 0.30m. It contained a single fill (1013); a friable, mid reddish brown clayey silt. The deposit was devoid of datable material remains. Ditch [1010] was likely a continuation of similarly aligned ditches [1003] (Trench 25) and ditch [1014] (Trench 27).



5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A notable paucity of artefacts were recovered during the evaluation. The material was recovered from three contexts (1004) (1006) (1007) (1009).
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson and Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011). The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and for its potential to contribute to the relevant research frameworks. The finds assessment was compiled by Luke Harris. Quantification of finds by context is provided in Table 1.

Feature	Context	Tr.	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pot (g)	CBM (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1003	1004	25	Fill of Ditch				806	S.Flint	1	15
1005	1006	12	Fill of Ditch	18 th - 19 th C	1	2	1350			
1005	1007	12	Fill of Ditch	Late 15 th - early 17 th C	1	13		Fe Frag	1	81
1008	1009	12	Fill of Ditch				271	Fe Frag	1	422

Table 1: Concordance of Finds

5.2 **The Struck Flint** *by Andrew Peachey*

5.2.1 A single debitage flake of mid to dark grey flint (15g) was contained in ditch [1003] in an un-patinated but rolled condition. The un-corticated flake has a slightly irregular, broad-squat profile, a pronounced bulb-of-percussion on a broad platform, and multidirectional dorsal flake scars; traits that suggest it was removed by hard-hammer percussion from an unsystematic flake core that was rotated to exploit and expedient striking platform, a method of core reduction most common in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

5.3 **The Pottery** by Pete Thompson

5.3.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered two post-medieval sherds weighing 16g from two contexts (Table 2). The sherd from ditch **[1005] (1007)** was an upper shoulder fragment from a Raeren stoneware jug (13g) of late 15th to 16th century date. The tiny sherd from ditch **[1005] (1006)** was a glazed red earthenware (2g), it was factory made with a glossy glaze and was probably 19th century. The sherds were recorded according



to the Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay *et al* 2016; MPRG 1998), and the fabric codes (in brackets) are from the Essex pottery type series (Cotter 2000).

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)
1005	1006	Ditch	12	1x2g GRE	18 th -19 th	1	2
1005	1007	Ditch	12	1x13g RAER	Late 15 th -early 17 th	1	13

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by context (KEY: GRE - (glazed) Post-medieval Red

 Earthenware (40): late 16th+; RAER – Raeren stoneware (45C): late 15th-early 17th)

5.4 **The Ceramic Building Materials** by Andrew Peachey

- 5.4.1 Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of 18 pieces (2427g) of late post-medieval CBM (Table 3) in a highly fragmented and abraded condition; commensurate with 18th to 19th century building rubble that had been re-deposited in ditches to improve drainage or through agricultural processes. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with technological traits also characterised, and entered into an MS Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.
- 5.4.2 The CBM was entirely manufactured in a red-orange fabric with inclusions of common quartz (<0.25mm) sparse black iron rich grains (<1mm) and occasional flint (<3mm); typical of those common in Essex throughout the post-medieval period. The soft red brick has partial dimensions of ?x110x60mm with a smooth base, and regular slightly rounded arises; traits characteristic of bricks produced on an industrial scale in the 18th and 19th centuries, probably declining from the mid 19th century onwards as they were superseded. The peg tile is very regular and 12mm thick with a sanded base and circular peg holes. Low quantities of both soft red brick and peg tile were present in each of ditches **[1003] [1005] [1008]**.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Soft red brick	3	1723
Peg tile	15	704
Total	18	2427

Table 3: Quantification of ceramic building material by context

5.5 **The Small Finds** by Julie Curl

5.5.1 Objects were identified using a variety of comparative material. Iron was recovered from two ditch fills in Trench 12 and the iron assemblage is heavily corded, which is quite typical of this metal.



- 5.5.2 Two iron objects, amounting to 503g, were recovered from this excavation, which are quantified in Appendix 3.1.
- 5.5.3 *Iron Door bolt?, Ditch fill (1007). Medieval to Post-medieval? Long* piece of iron weighing 81g with curve 40mm from one end. Heavily corroded.
- 5.5.4 *Iron Billhook, Ditch fill (1009).* Curved end of billhook, broken at handle end. Remaining piece has a length of 210mm, with the curved end flattening and tapering to a blunt point; more rounded in section at handle end. Corroded, more so at handle end. Similar seen in Rees (1979) of a Roman date, but may be medieval or later as design has changed little over time.
- 5.5.5 The assemblage consists of object fragments that suggest home and perhaps smallscale agriculture. The door bolt may be used in a home or agricultural building. The billhook might be used by an individual for tree and shrub management and for chopping smaller firewood.
- 5.5.6 The iron assemblage is heavily corroded, and no x-rays were taken at this stage; therefore, interpretation is difficult. There is possibly potential for further identification with x-rays. If further work goes ahead, then these finds could be re-examined with x-rays. Otherwise, this is a small assemblage and in isolation, sufficient recording has been made and no further work is required on these finds.



6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the archaeological evaluation of land north of Stewarts Way, Manuden, four bulk samples were taken for environmental archaeological assessment. The samples were taken to assess the nature of preservation and distribution of ecofactual macrofossil remains across the site.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Samples were processed at the WA facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500μm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was available as necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Appendix 3.2. Preservation of plant macrofossil remains was by carbonisation only, with no evidence for anaerobic waterlogging or mineralisation. A small range of terrestrial mollusc shells were identified but provided little useful ecological information.
- 6.3.2 Of the four samples, <1> and <3> of pit [1012] fill (1013) and ditch [1003] fill (1004) were devoid of carbonised plant macrofossils, while Sample <4> of ditch [1010] fill (1011) contained only a single indeterminate cereal grain.
- 6.3.3 Sample <2> of ditch [1006] fill (1007) was considerably richer and contained numerous carbonised plant macrofossils. Cereals were represented by occasional grains of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) and hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.). However, non-cereal taxa were dominant, predominantly represented by a large number of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) seeds. These were accompanied by dock (*Rumex* sp.), barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*) and small-seeded grasses (small Poaceae). Other carbonised remains included herbaceous plant stem/ root fragments and a small rhizome. This indicates the remnants of burnt vegetation from disturbed/ waste ground and rough grassland habitats. The large number of cleavers seeds suggests that



the fire was partly used to destroyed cleared vegetation, perhaps to prevent further spread of this vigorous weed.

- 6.3.4 The sample also contained abundant charcoal fragments. A sub-sample of these were fractured to produce a transverse section, all of which displayed a diffuse-porous vessel pattern, and many were from small diameter roundwood (twigs/ small branches). A small number of leaf buds, likely associated with burned wood, were also recorded.
- 6.3.5 The bulk samples from Stewarts Way indicate predominantly low concentrations of carbonised plant remains within the archaeological deposits at the site. A large number of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) seeds, accompanied by other remains, were identified in ditch **[1005]** fill **(1007)**, perhaps being burned as part of vegetation clearance activities. It is probable that this deposit is of relatively modern origin.



7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological evaluation on land north of Stewarts Way, twenty-nine trenches were excavated over the proposed 39,150m² development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity. The survival of the archaeological features was good, and survival does not appear to have been influenced by past ploughing or later phases of development.
- 7.1.2 Archaeological remains were found in just five of the trenches. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating to the post-medieval period. Three post-medieval ditches, associated with limited quantities of ceramic building material and pottery, and an undated pit were encountered. The post-medieval archaeological features, and the associated palaeoenvironmental remains, allude to the rural and agricultural character of the site.
- 7.1.3 Ditch **[1005]**, and its possible re-cut or associated drainage channel **[1008]**, clearly correlate with a boundary ditch depicted on the 1840 Tithe Map of Manuden (Fig.9) and later Ordnance Survey Map of 1897 (Fig.10). Ditch **[1003]=[1010]=[1014]**, however, is not depicted on the historic cartographic evidence. The ditch is broadly aligned with the plot of the 17th or 18th century Chapel Cottage (NHLE 1276524), which appears to have latterly functioned as a Methodist chapel; and although somewhat conjectural, the ditch may have been related to the structure, the enclosure it is contained within, if not a previous arcing field boundary of pre-Tithe map origin, potentially inherited from the medieval landscape that was subsequently encroached upon by the enlargement of adjacent fields.

7.2 Significance

7.2.1 Given the notable paucity of archaeological remains encountered during the trialtrench evaluation, the site is judged to be of limited significance.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Maximum Depth: 0.53m

Trench 1

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.44m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.24-0.33m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.20m	_
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.44-0.53m+	-

Trench 2

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.44m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.26m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.18-0.26m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.44-0.52m+	-

Trench 3

Length: 30mWidth: 1.8mOrientation: East to WestMaximum Depth: 0.46mMinimum Depth: 0.44m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with	0.25-0.27m	-



		occasional small subangular flints.		
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.19m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.44-0.46m+	-

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.27-0.30m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.14-0.22m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.51-0.52m+	-

Trench 5

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.46m

Width: 1.8m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.41m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.22-0.32m	_
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.14-0.19m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.41-0.46m+	-
[1012]	Cut of pit	Sub-oval shaped pit that measured 1.5m in length	0.40m	Cut of pit with single fill (1013), date unknown.



		and 1.0m in width, with near vertical sides and a concave base.		
(1013)	Fill of pit	Firm, pale yellowish grey brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.40m	Single fill of pit [1012], no finds.

Length: 30m W

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.42m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.28-0.29m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.13-0.24m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.42-0.52m+	-

Trench 7

Length: 30mWidth: 1.8mOrientation: East to WestMaximum Depth: 0.32mMinimum Depth: 0.28m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.28-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.28-0.32m+	-

Trench 8

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Maximum Depth: 0.42m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.44m

Context	Context	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
Number	Туре	Description		



(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.24-0.30m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.12-0.20m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.42-0.44m+	-

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to South

Minimum Depth: 0.29m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.29-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.29-0.32m+	-

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to West Maximum Depth: 0.30m Minimum Depth: 0.28m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.28-0.30m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.28-0.30m+	-

Trench 11

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Maximum Depth: 0.41m

Context	Context	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
Number	Туре	Description		



(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.30-0.32m	-
(1001)	Subsoil	Friable, mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium subangular flints.	0.09m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.30-0.41m+	-

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.33m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.32m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.32-0.33m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.32-0.33m+	-
[1005]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned ditch that measured 2.0m+ in length and 2.10m in width, with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	0.70m	Cut of ditch with two fills (1006) (1007), post- medieval date.
(1006)	Fill of ditch	Friable, mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium subangular flints	0.70m	Basal fill of ditch [1005], contained post-medieval pottery and CBM.
(1007)	Fill of ditch	Friable, mid bluish grey silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.28m	Upper fill of ditch [1005], contained post-medieval pottery and an iron object.
[1008]	Cut of ditch	E-W aligned ditch that measured 2.0m+ in length and 1.6m in width, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	0.21m	Cut of ditch with single fill (1009), post-medieval date.
(1009)	Fill of ditch	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.21m	Single fill of ditch [1008], contained post-medieval CBM and an iron object.

Trench 13

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.28m

Maximum Depth: 0.30m



Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.28-0.30m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints throughout.	0.28-0.30m +	-

Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m	Orientation: North to South
Maximum Depth: 0.32m		Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.30-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.30-0.32m+	-

Trench 15

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.31m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.30-0.31m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.30-0.31m+	-

Trench 16

Maximum Dept	h: 0.30m	Minimur	n Depth: 0.26m
Context Co	ntext	Height/Denth	Discussion

	Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-					

Maximum Depth: 0.32m



(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.26-0.30m	-
		Firm, pale greyish yellow	0.26-0.30m+	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.		

Trench 17

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m

Width: 1.0h

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.26m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.26-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.26-0.32m+	-

Trench 18

Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m	Orientation: East to West
Maximum Depth: 0.33m		Minimum Depth: 0.32m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.32-0.33m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.32-0.33m+	-

Trench 19

Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m
Maximum Depth: 0.31m	

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.25m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.25-0.31m	-



(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.25-0.31m+	-
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Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m	Orientation: East to West
Maximum Depth: 0.31m		Minimum Depth: 0.27m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.27-0.31m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.27-0.31m+	-

Trench 21

Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m	Orientation: North to South
Maximum Depth: 0.29m		Minimum Depth: 0.28m

Width: 1.8m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.28-0.29m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.28-0.29m+	-

Trench 22

Maximum Depth: 0.28m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.27m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.27-0.28m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.27-0.28m+	-



Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.26m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.26-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.26-0.32m+	-

Trench 24

Length: 30m	Width: 1.8m	Orientation: North to South
Maximum Depth: 0.29m		Minimum Depth: 0.27m

Width: 1.8m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints.	0.27-0.29m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Firm, pale greyish yellow silty clay with moderate medium subrounded flints.	0.27-0.29m+	-

Trench 25

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.31m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.31-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Friable, mid reddish brown gravels with frequent medium subrounded flints	0.31-0.32m+	-
[1003]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch that measured 2.0m+ in length and 1.15m in width, with	0.24m	Cut of ditch with single fill (1004) - post-medieval date. Possibly same as [1010] and [1014].



		moderately sloping sides and a concave base.		
(1004)	Fill of ditch	Friable, mid reddish brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium subangular flints	0.24m	Single fill of ditch [1003], contained post-medieval CBM and stuck flint.

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.22m

Maximum Depth: 0.28m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.22-0.28m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Friable mid reddish brown gravels with frequent medium subrounded flints	0.22-0.28m+	-

Trench 27

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.28m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.28m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.28m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Friable mid reddish brown gravels with frequent medium subrounded flints	0.28m+	-
[1014]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch that measured 2.0m+ in length and 1.40m in width, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	0.32m	Cut of ditch with single fill (1015), date unknown. Possibly same as [1003] and [1010].
(1015)	Fill of ditch	Firm, pale yellow grey brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium subangular flints	0.32m	Single fill of ditch [1014], no finds.

Trench 28

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Maximum Depth: 0.29m

Orientation: North to South Minimum Depth: 0.35m



Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.29-0.35m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Friable mid reddish brown gravels with frequent medium subrounded flints	0.29-0.35m+	-

Width: 1.8m

Trench 29

Length: 30m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Orientation: East to West Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small subangular flints	0.30-0.32m	-
(1002)	Natural substrate	Friable mid reddish brown gravels with frequent medium subrounded flints	0.30-0.32m+	-
[1010]	Cut of ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch that measured 2.0m+ in length and 1.58m in width, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	0.30m	Cut of ditch with single fill (1011), date unknown. Possibly same as [1003] and [1014].
(1011)	Fill of ditch	Friable, mid reddish brown clayey silty with moderate small and medium subangular flints	0.30m	Single fill of ditch [1010], no finds.



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Pre-excavation of the site, looking towards the south.



Plate 2; Pit [1012], within Trench 5, looking towards the north





Plate 3; Ditch [1005], within Trench 12, looking towards the east.



Plate 4; Ditch [1008], within Trench 12, looking towards the east.





Plate 5; Ditch **[1003]**, within Trench 25, looking towards the south-west.









Plate 7; Ditch [1010], within Trench 29, looking towards the north-east.



APPENDIX 3: THE SPECIALIST CATALOGUES

Appendix 3.1: Catalogue of the Iron Finds

Context	Type	Trench	Ctxt Qty	Weight	Material	Description	Length	Width	Thickness	Diameter	Condition	Comments
1007	Ditch fill	12	1	81g	Iron	Door bolt?	180				corroded	length of 180mm with short curved end. Heavily corroded.
1009	Ditch fill	12	1	422g	Iron	Iron Billhook	210	35	10		corroded	Curved point of billhook, flat at curved tip, more rounded to the handle end. Probably Medieval, possibly Roman as there is similar in Rees, 1979.

Appendix 3.2: Catalogue of the Bulk Sample Light Fractions

Abbreviations: hulled barley (Hordeum sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (Triticum aestivum/ turgidum); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain); RW = small diameter roundwood.

									c	arboni	sed cereals		onised non- real taxa	Carbor	c	harcoal		Molluscs		Con	tamina	ints		
Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Flot (g)	Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	nised hazelnut shell	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm	Other remains
SWMA21	1	1013	1012	Fill of Pit	5	-	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	х	-	х	Pupilla muscorum	XX	-	х	-	-	-
SWMA21	2	1007	1005	Fill of Ditch	12	-	40	19	x	-	HB (1), FTW (2), NFI (1)	XXX	Rumex sp. (3), Galium aparine (151), Anisantha sterilis (1), Small	-	XXX	Diffuse porous incl. RW	-	-	XXX	-	XXX	-	-	Carbonised: Buds (3), Rhizome (1), Monocot. Culm (XX), Dicot. Stem/ root (XX)

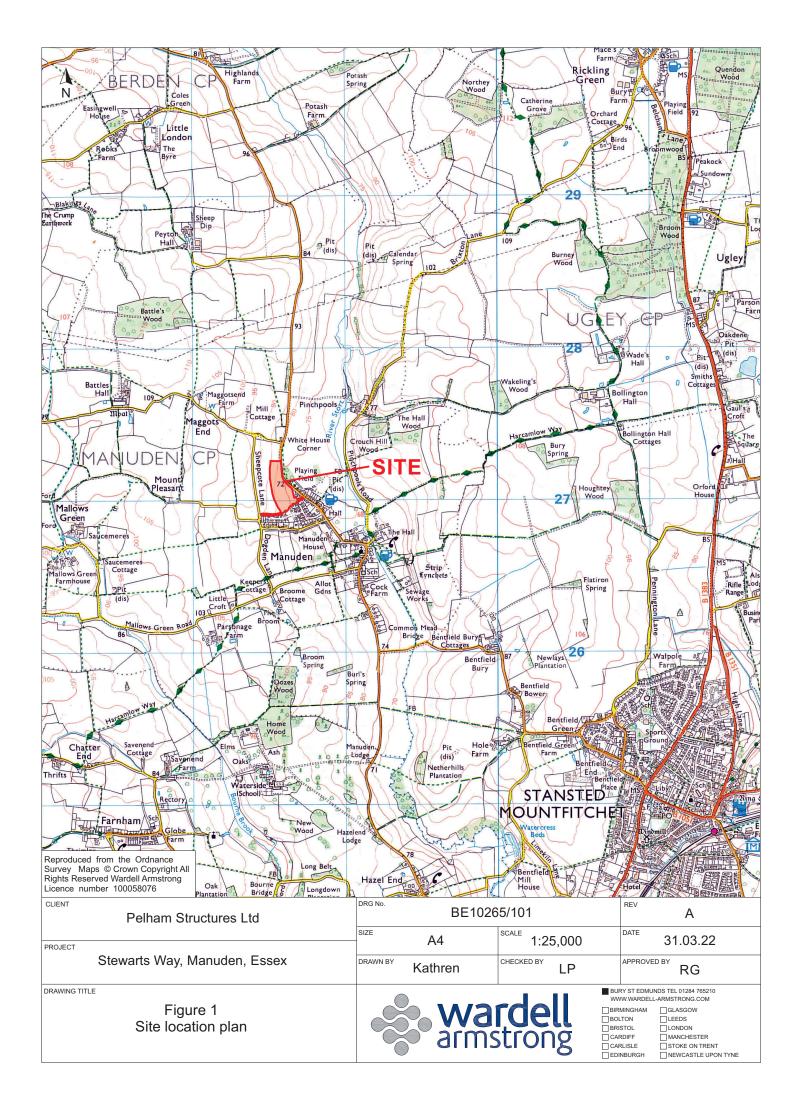
Pelham Structures Land North of Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex Archaeological Evaluation Report

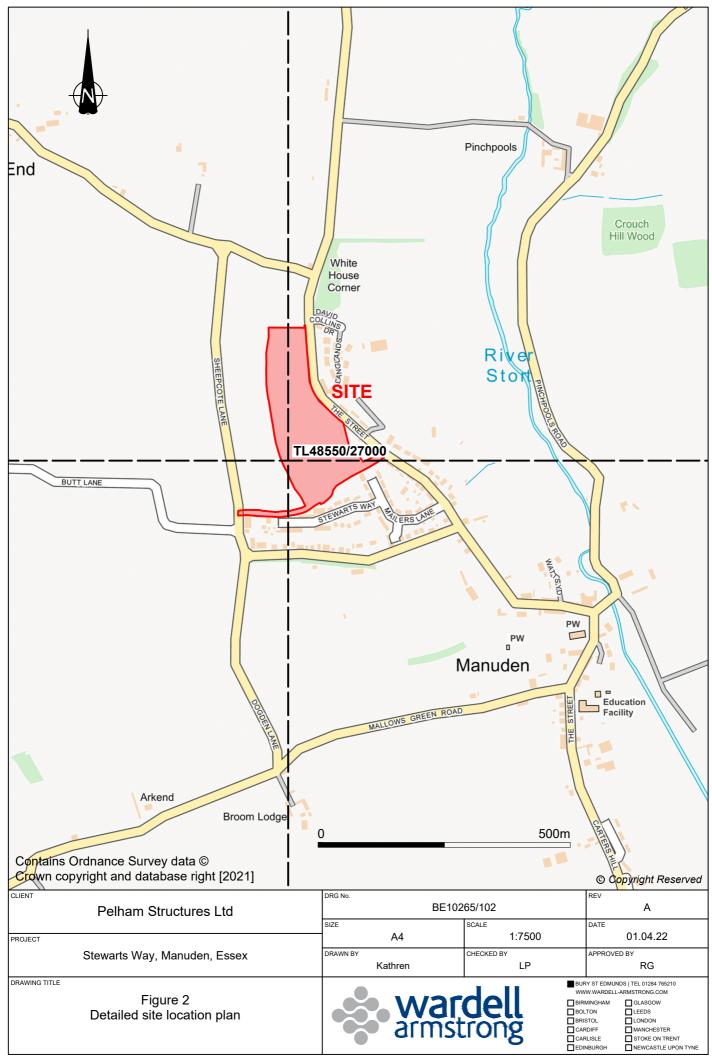


													Poaceae (5)											
SWMA21	3	1004	1003	Fill of Ditch	25	-	40	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	XX	Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia sp., Vertigo sp.	XXX	-	XX	-	XX	-
SWMA21	4	1011	1010	Fill of Ditch	29	-	40	5	х	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	х	-	х	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	ХХ	х	-	-	-

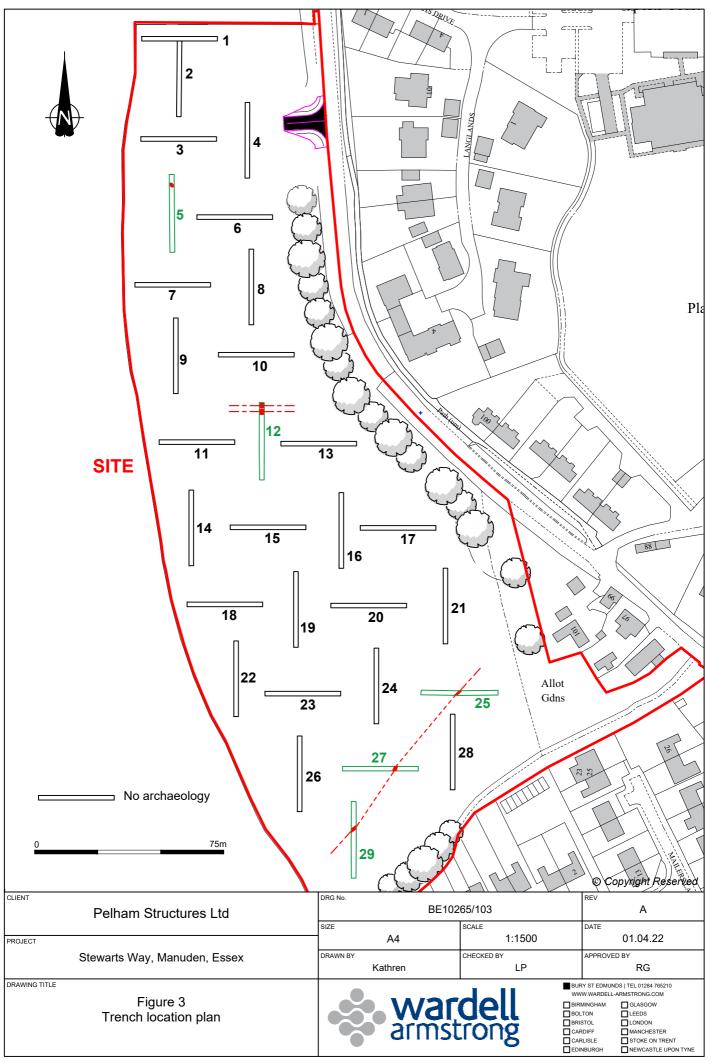


APPENDIX 4: FIGURES

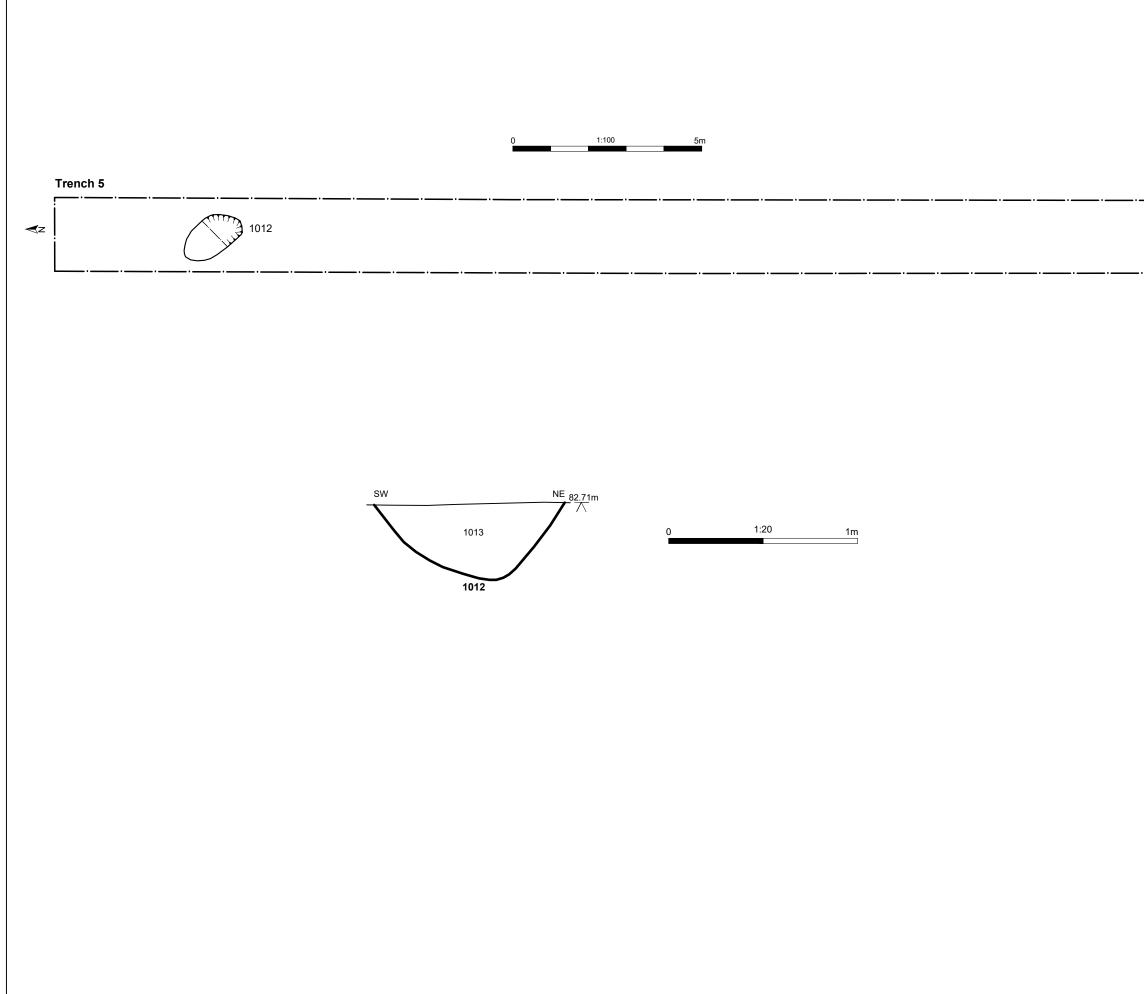




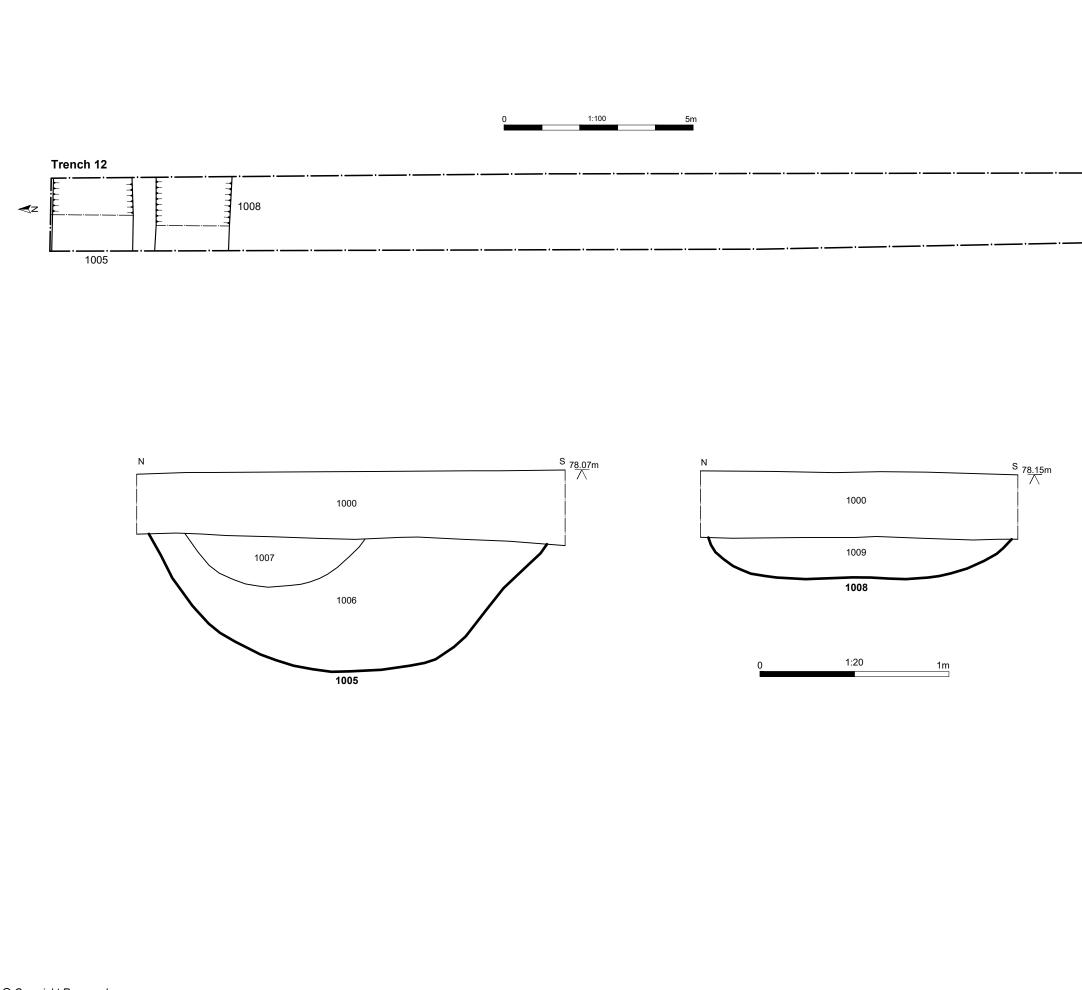
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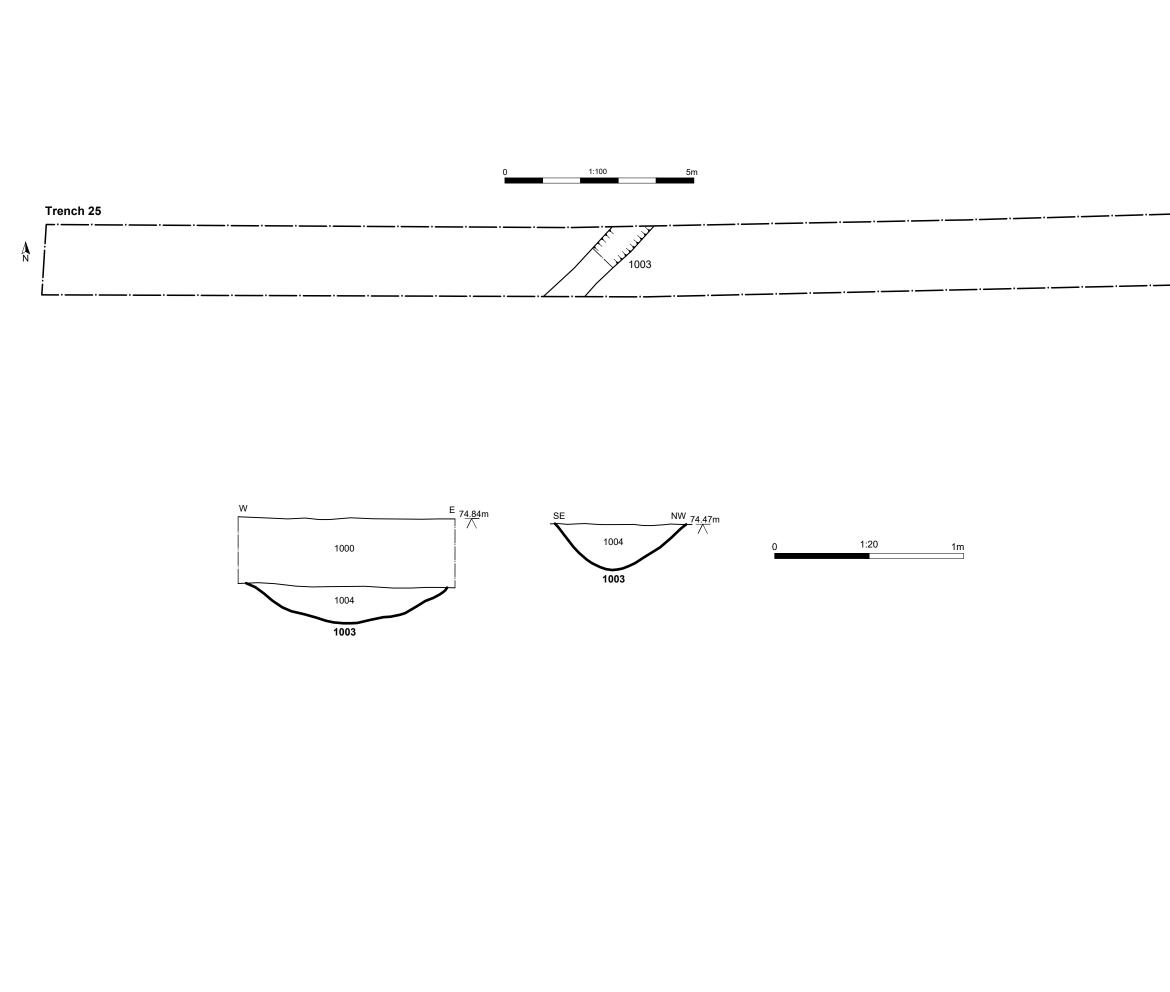
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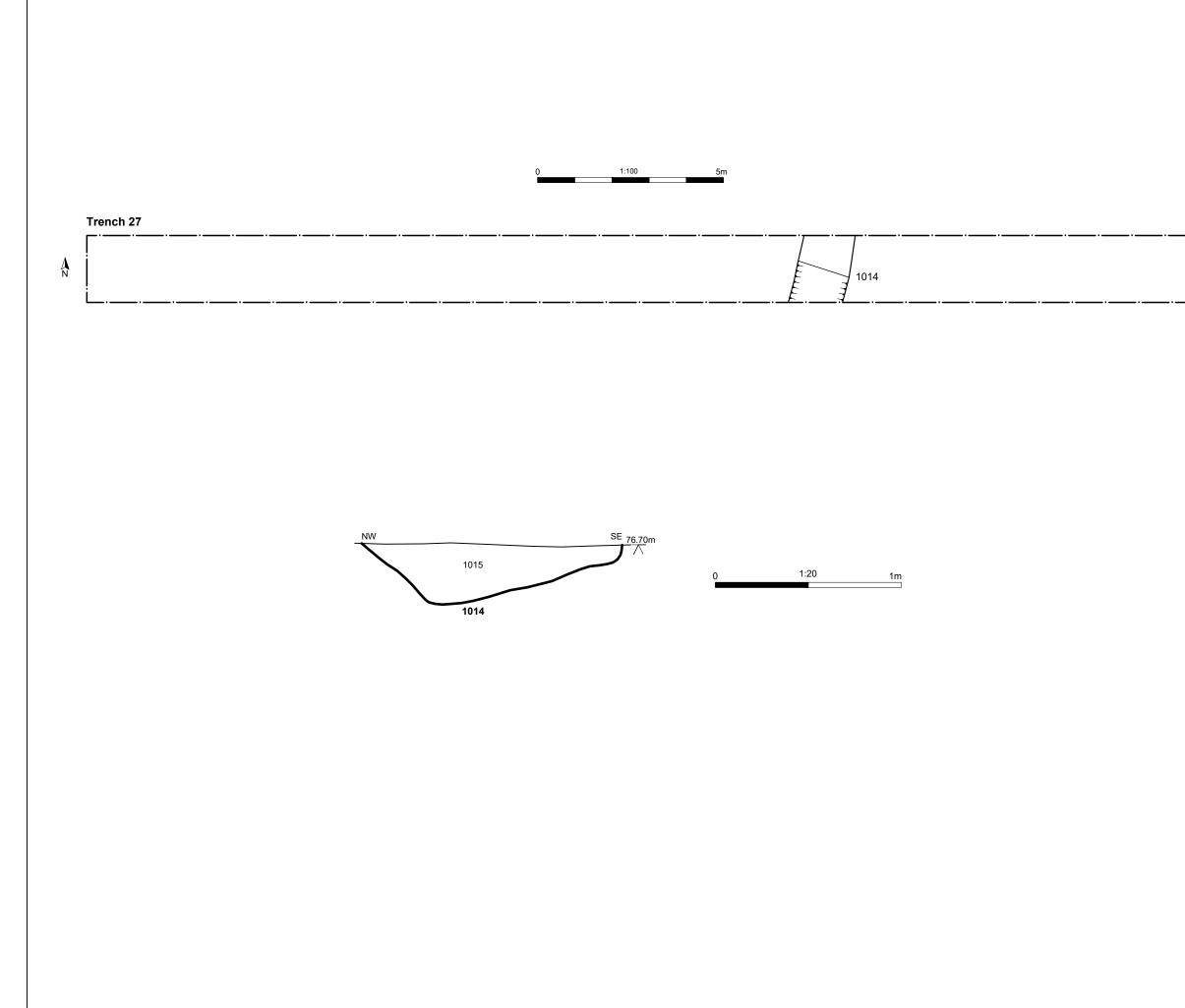
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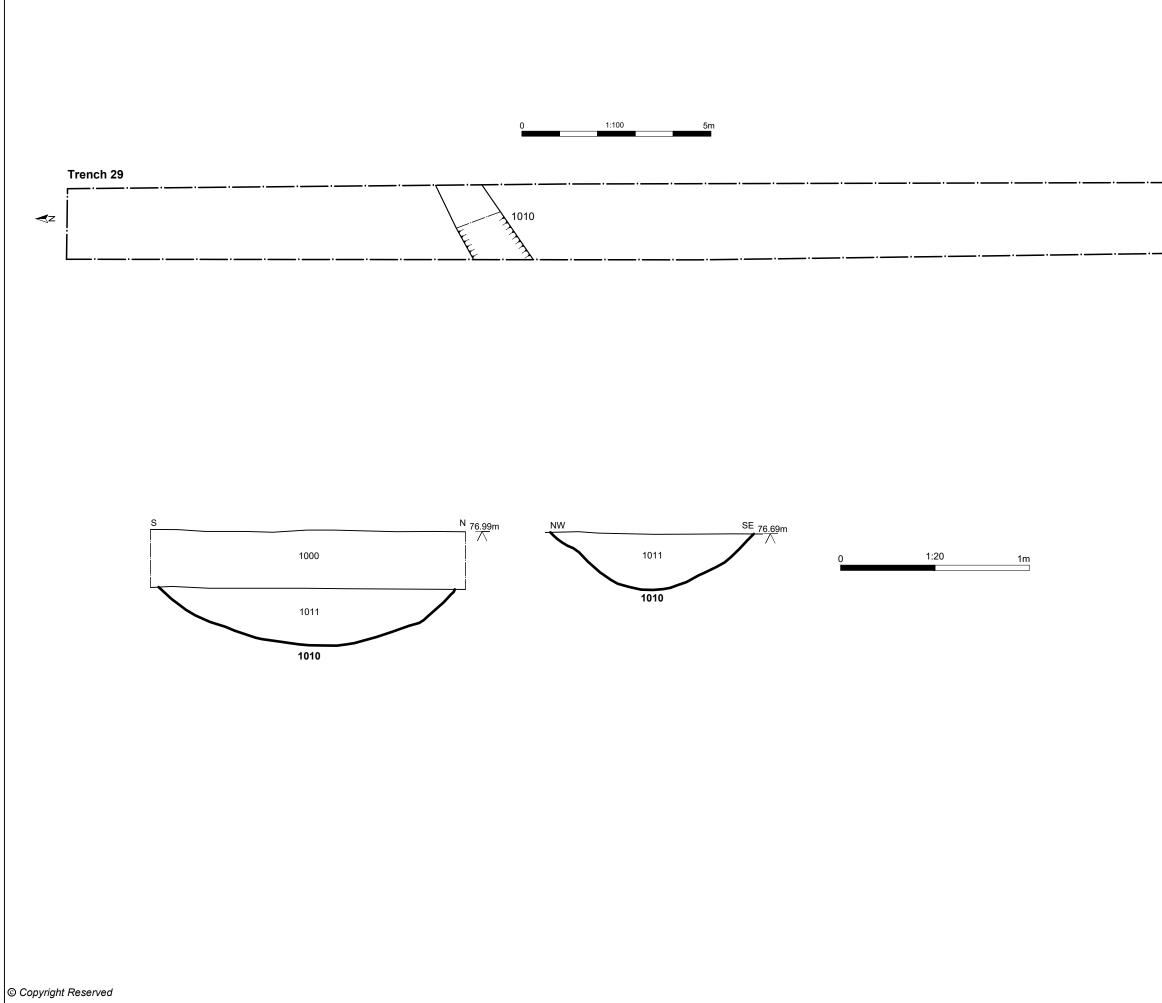
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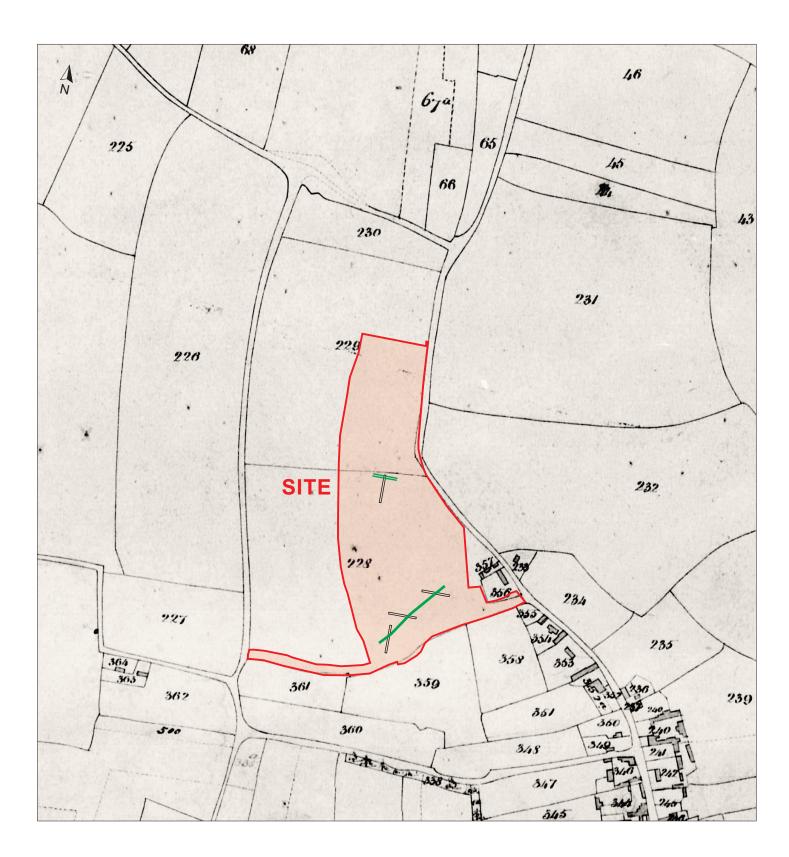
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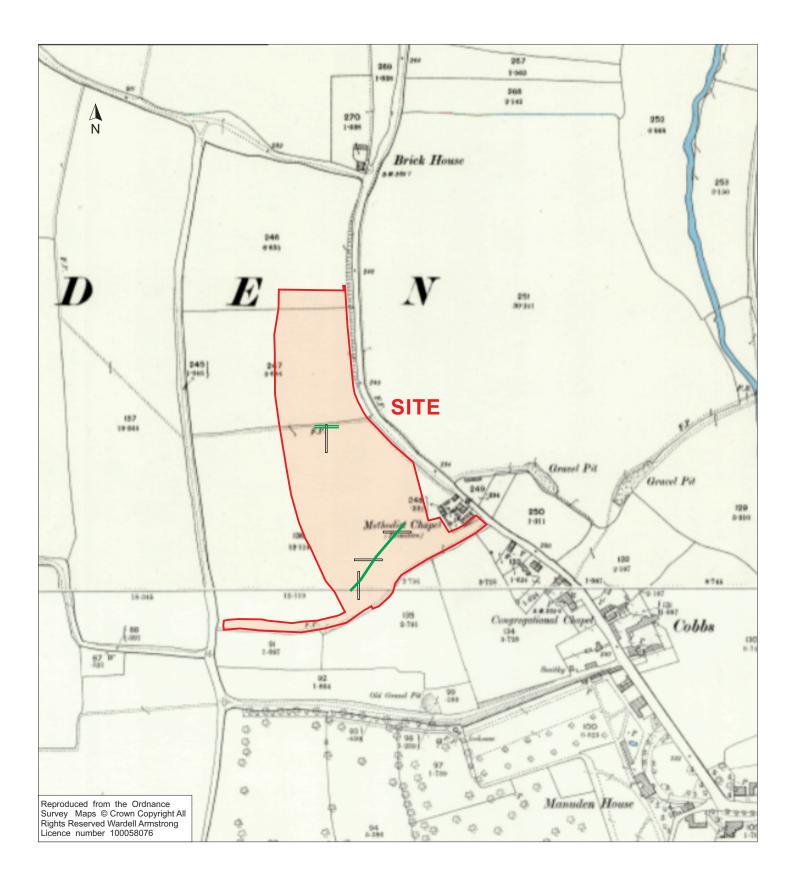
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Figure 9 Tithe map of Manuden, 1840	wa arms		RY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWWARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM MINGHAM GLASGOW ITON LEEDS ISTOL LONDON RDIFF MANCHESTER RLISLE STOKE ON TRENT INBURGH NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



CLIENT Pelham Structures Ltd	DRG No. BE1026	65/110	REV A
PROJECT	SIZE A4	Not to scale	DATE 28.04.22
Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex	DRAWN BY Kathren	CHECKED BY LP	APPROVED BY RG
Figure 10 OS map, 1897	wa arms	strong	RY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWWARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM RMINGHAM GLASGOW LITON LEEDS ISTOL LONDON RDIFF MANCHESTER RUISLE STOKE ON TRENT INBURGH NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



APPENDIX 5: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Summary for wardella2-506374

OASIS ID (UID)	wardella2-506374
Project Name	Trial Trench at Land North of Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex
Sitename	
Activity type	Trial Trench
Project Identifier(s)	BE10265
Planning Id	UTT/19/0022/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
Project Dates	22-Mar-2022 - 29-Mar-2022
Location	Land North of Stewarts Way, Manuden, Essex
	NGR : TL 48612 27012
	LL: 51.921801485461, 0.159648069432712
	12 Fig : 548612,227012
Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County : Essex
	District : Uttlesford
	Parish : Manuden
Project Methodology	The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-nine trenches, which measured 30.00m in length and 1.80m in width, across the proposed development area. The trenches were placed on using a random grid array. The trenches were, however, located with due regard to the location of services and taking into consideration ecological/arboricultural constraints. The trenches and features were surveyed using an RTK GPS (Leica GS14/CS15) with an accuracy/error of <1cm. The trial-trenches represent a 3% sample of the overall site. The general aims of these investigations were: •to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed; •to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces; •to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes; •to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
	 And specifically, to investigate: •the potential palaeo-environmental alluvial deposits surviving within the Stort Valley •features and Deposits relating to the origins and development of Manuden. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. All possible features were inspected and excavated by hand. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2020). On completion the evaluation trenches were to be reinstated by replacing the excavated material. This was done.

Project Results	The archaeological work was undertaken over 6 days between the 22nd and the 29th of March 2022 and comprised the excavation of twenty- nine trenches. The survival of the archaeological features was good, and survival does not appear to have been influenced by past ploughing or later phases of development. Archaeological remains were found in just five of the trenches. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating to the post-medieval period. Three post-medieval ditches, associated with limited quantities of ceramic building material and pottery, and an undated pit were encountered. The post-medieval archaeological features, and the associated palaeoenvironmental remains, allude to the rural and agricultural character of the site.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Peter, Clarke, Liam, Podbury
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum

wardell-armstrong.com

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