

**Archaeological Evaluation
Bond Street Phase 2 Development
Chelmsford, Essex**



**ASE Report No: 2014006
ASE Project No: 8077
Site Code: CF77**

January 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment at Bond Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

The site is located to the rear of buildings fronting Chelmsford High Street in an area presently used as a car park. Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated. Undisturbed natural sandy gravels were recorded at 23.30m OD in the northwest of the site, 21.80m OD in the south. A number of alluvial deposits were observed relating to flooding events of the River Chelmer, particularly in the east.

The earliest datable feature was a north-south aligned Roman gully found in the north of the site, although a large number of pits, post-holes and gullies cut into the natural gravels remain undated and may be prehistoric in origin.

A large late medieval ditch was recorded in the central part of the site, running north – south and broadly parallel to the river, which may have acted as a flood defence measure and demarcated the eastern extent of activity extending back from the High Street until the Tudor period. Residual medieval pottery was also found to the north.

The site was more extensively occupied in the 15th and 16th centuries with evidence for cess and rubbish pits, metalled surfaces, a well and a foundation cut for a substantial timber structure recorded in trenches in the west of the site. A possible alluvial flood deposit was identified in all but the most westerly trenches. Late medieval/ early post-medieval remains were found both above and below this deposit.

In the post-medieval period site use was predominantly that of cultivation/agriculture, with a substantial dark soil forming across much of the site. The remains of two brick-built structures, possibly of 18th century date, were noted in the central part of the site. Nineteenth and early 20th century features were also recorded, including a pit containing a large quantity of 1914 'Princess Mary tins'. Two further brick structures were built in the 19th century, close to the River Chelmer, in that part of the site known as 'Mesopotamia Island'.

These archaeological remains were overlain by a considerable thickness of modern overburden and surfacing, and only modest truncation/disturbance from the site's use as a car park was identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment at Bond Street (Phase 2 Development), Chelmsford, Essex.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located in the centre of Chelmsford and principally comprises land to the rear (east) of properties fronting onto the High Street (Fig.1). It lies to the south of properties fronting on to Waterloo Lane to the north and behind No. 27-31 High Street (Debenhams department store) to the south. The River Chelmer forms the eastern boundary to the site.

1.0.1 The development site is a c.150m x 170m area, and is currently in use as a busy car park between the River Chelmer in the east and the High Street to the west. It is almost wholly covered in tarmac and 'type-1' hardcore used as surfacing (Fig.16). Two east-west aligned walls, 19th century in date, partition the car park to the north. A number of buildings that previously occupied the site have been demolished in recent years, notably the NatWest Bank offices, leaving areas of the site at the north under concrete slabs. The eastern side of the site, in the area known as Mesopotamia Island, is criss-crossed by services and houses an electricity sub-station. Bond Street enters the site from the south.

1.0.2 Most of the site lies at a height of c.25.0m AOD, sloping gently to the east at 24.0m AOD alongside the River Chelmer. The river was first canalised at this point in 1796 and has been further modified since, now running through a concrete embankment.

1.0.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BSG 2013) the site is lying on the eastern boundary of the first terrace river gravels, with more recent alluvial deposits of the River Chelmer to the east. The underlying bedrock is London Clay (BSG Geology of Britain Viewer; accessed 07/10/2013).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (Planning ref: 12/01058) was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in 2012 for the 'development of land rear of Chelmsford High Street west of the River Chelmer to provide a major retail store and unit shops/services in 2/3 storey blocks with an extended Bond Street: Shops/restaurants and cinema in 3 riverside block: basement car park, associated highway works, servicing and riverfront cycleway/footway; partial demolition and remodelling of 6-8 High Street, incorporating extension.'

1.3.2 As the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a phased archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. The archaeological condition that was recommended and subsequently attached to the grant of planning consent in May 2013 is based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012 and states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the

applicant and approved in writing by the planning authority. This is to ensure that reasonable archaeological records can be made in respect to the site in accordance with Policy DC21 of the Adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document.

- 1.3.3 In accordance with the planning condition a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared in order to set out the scope of work, methodology and research aims for the programme of archaeological evaluation trenching (ASE 2013). This was approved by ECC Place Services prior to commencement of the work.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. It is intended that the investigation results will enable an informed decision to be made as to the need for any further work to satisfy the archaeological condition.

- 1.4.2 Site specific research objectives/questions for the investigation comprised:

- Can archaeological work identify any evidence for prehistoric activity within the site, particularly in relation to the nearby River Chelmer.
- Can the results of the evaluation identify any evidence for Roman activity in the area, which is currently believed to lie away from the known focus of Roman activity during this period.
- Can the results of the evaluation identify any evidence for medieval or Post-medieval settlement/backyard activity to the rear of the High Street and/or relating to the River Chelmer.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation of the Bond Street Phase 2 Development area, Chelmsford, carried out between 14th and 30th October 2013 in advance of the redevelopment of the site as a major retail outlet and underground car park.
- 1.5.2 The report describes and interprets the results of the trial trenching evaluation, and assesses the significance of and potential for below-ground archaeological remains across the wider development site.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been carried out for the northern half of the site in May 2006 and an updated Heritage Statement undertaken in June 2012 (CgMs 2006 & 2012). The following background also draws upon the Chelmsford Historic Towns Assessment Report (Medlycott 1998).

2.2.1 Prehistoric

Three undiagnostic struck flint flakes are recorded from the site of Chelmsford's Dominican Priory (HER 5872; TL708065). 'Many' Prehistoric flints and potsherds, mostly Bronze Age, were recorded during an archaeological intervention at 63-66 High Street (HER 5894; TL70960664). However, the finds here appear to have been

residual, possibly associated with alluvial deposits. Further finds of Prehistoric date appear to have been recovered in association with the canalisation of the River Chelmer and residual flintwork was recovered from the site of Gray's Brewery at the junction of High Street and Springfield Road (HER 5923; TL71000665). Iron Age activity is recorded from 217-218 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford (HER 5906; TL7091 0647) and probable Iron Age activity is recorded from the site of Chelmsford's Dominican Priory (HER 5873; TL708065). Early Iron Age occupation is evidenced south of the River Can in the area of the later Roman Town.

2.2.2 Roman

Although Chelmsford was the location of a small Roman town (Caesaromagnus), this settlement lay south of the River Can at Moulsham, well to the south of the study site. The Roman town developed on the site of a mid 1st century farmstead, and a short lived post Boudiccan revolt fort. It developed along the London Colchester road with a mansion being added c.120-150 AD. The town grew to its maximum extent in the mid 2nd century, with new building plots being laid out along the roadside. Earthwork defences were constructed c.160/75 AD but these were abandoned by the mid 3rd century. Occupation of the town site probably continued into the early 5th century though there is clear evidence for the abandonment of building plots in the 3rd and 4th centuries implying a gradual decline. A number of finds of Roman material are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study site. These include a sherd of Roman pottery from the churchyard of St Mary's Cathedral (HER 16093; TL70820694). An archaeological investigation at 63-66 High Street in 1972-73 revealed a steep sided ditch, parallel to the River Can to the south. This ditch silted up from the 1st century onwards. An archaeological investigation at the junction of High Street and Springfield Road revealed a Roman ditch of 3rd century date at right angles to Springfield Road. The area of the study site appears to have been marginal to the Roman settlement, probably an area of agricultural land.

2.2.3 Anglo Saxon and Early Medieval

There is limited evidence for early Saxon occupation on the site of the Roman town south of the Can, and none in the immediate vicinity of the study site.

2.2.4 Late Medieval and Post Medieval

The late Medieval town of Chelmsford was founded at the end of the 12th century by the Bishop of London within his manorial lands north of the River Can. The town was centred around a central Market Place, now represented by Tindal Square, Tindal Street and High Street. New Bridges had been built over the Can and Chelmer in the early 12th century restoring the line of the old Roman road and the parish church of St Mary (now Chelmsford Cathedral) was established at the head of the market by at least the early 13th century. The High Street frontage of the site and the land immediately behind forming its western third, were probably fully developed by 1200, remaining in continuous occupation thereafter. Latterly this area was known as Crane Court. The remainder of the site comprised of gardens and orchards.

Walker's map of 1591 shows the site as part of an area called 'Backsydes' and illustrates 'meads' or water meadows in its east adjacent to the Chelmer. No structures or property boundaries are detailed, other than the High Street frontage buildings. The earliest accurate depiction of Chelmsford is Chapman and Andre's 1777 map of Essex. In this map the area of the study site is clearly identifiable. The Chelmsford Tithe Map of 1842/3 shows the site as unchanged from 1777 showing it occupied by a series of gardens and 'backlands' relating to properties on the High Street. The first detailed map of the study site is the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1874 (Figure 13). Here, a series of gardens and what appear to be orchards cover the study area.

There are a number of listed buildings along the east side of the High Street. Those that back onto the Phase 2 development area include (from north to south):

- No.3, Saracen's Head Hotel: 16th century building, enlarged in 18th century (LB 352508)
- No.11: 17th century with 16th century rear wing, brick and render on timber frame (LB 495068)
- Nos.13-14: 16th century, timber frame (LB 352509)
- No.15: Early 18th century, brick. Stable to rear (LB 352510-11)
- Nos.16-17: 19th century, brick (LB 352512)
- No.26: early 18th century, former 'Judges Lodging' (LB 352513)

Three, east-west aligned, single-brick width walls exist in the north of the study area. Those furthest north are 19th century in date and may reflect an earlier property boundary, particularly in relation to the Saracen's Head Hotel.

2.2.5 Modern

Cartographic evidence shows that the site changed little from its gardens and orchards until the 1960's, when it was comprehensively redeveloped to form the existing building complex and car parking areas. This redevelopment appears to have entailed the complete levelling, by means of terracing, of the natural slope of the site.

However, the Essex HER records the former presence of a WW2 spigot mortar emplacement, comprising two weapons pits, within the area of Mesopotamia Island (EHER 20954). This may have been demolished/infilled in the 1960s as part of car park construction.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.3.1 The closest archaeological work took place in May 2011 when two trial pits were excavated at the back of No.12 High Street (Fig.1; CF67). This revealed a fragment of clay (a floor?), a post-medieval pit, two post-medieval brick foundations with an associated compacted gravel surface, and a brick culvert whose function was probably to run water away from the property across the meadows towards the River Chelmer (Holloway and Brooks 2011).
- 2.3.2 Evaluation trenches at Waterloo Lane, immediately adjacent to the northern end of the study site, revealed 18th century dumped deposits and an alluvial sequence relating to flooding of the Chelmer in antiquity (Hawkins 2005) (Fig.1; EWLC05).
- 2.3.3 A watching brief during the construction of two new buildings at 15-18 High Street located post-medieval floodplain reclamation deposits to the rear of the property and a small brick lined culvert leading towards the river (Gibson 1999; EHER 18939) (Fig.1; CF39).
- 2.3.4 A watching brief to the rear of the Saracens Head Hotel recorded significant ground disturbance which would have removed any archaeological remains present (EHER 5927).
- 2.3.5 No archaeological investigation has previously been undertaken within the Phase 2 Development area itself.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 Thirteen evaluation trenches were excavated across the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of an archaeologist (Fig.2). The original layout of twelve trenches varying between 10m to 30m in length had to be repeatedly revised during works due to the existence of services, later intrusions and the daily problems of machining in a very busy, active car park. Only trenches 9, 10, 11 and 12 were excavated to their originally-planned extent. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 were extended to twice their original width to facilitate stepping them centrally to a depth of up to 2.40m below present ground surface. Trench 3 was split into two (trenches 3A and 3B) both measuring c.10m by 1.8m to excavate specific areas of interest and trench 7 was reduced in size to 7.3m by 3.6m after it was discovered that it blocked access to shops on the High Street. All of these changes were made following consultation with CgMs Consulting and ECC Place Services.

3.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with regional standards in field archaeology (Gurney 2003), and the by-laws and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

3.1.3 The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket observed at all times by an experienced archaeologist. Exposed deposits were observed and inspected for archaeological remains. Where appropriate, archaeological remains were manually excavated. The minimum excavation sample sizes were a 1m wide section for gullies and ditches and 50% for self-contained features (e.g. pits or post-holes). Overburden was initially removed down to the top of archaeological deposits. These were investigated and recorded before a deeper trench was excavated through them, where necessary, to reveal deeper remains.

3.1.4 All identified archaeological remains were recorded using standard ASE methodologies. Written records comprising individual trench and context recording sheets were created. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A GPS with map-based software was used to locate site boundaries and archaeological features and relate them to the Ordnance Survey. Colour digital photographs were taken of the trenches, of significant archaeological features within them, and of work in progress.

3.1.5 All pre-modern finds were retrieved from all investigated deposits and retained for study and reporting. Bulk soil samples were collected from selected deposits for the recovery of finds and environmental material.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Chelmsford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below.

Number of Contexts	209
No. of files/paper record	257
Context sheets	209
Trench matrices	13
Trench sheets	13
Bulk environmental sheets	11
Register sheets	11

Plan and sections sheets	18
Photographs	119 digital images / prints
Bulk finds	614 fragments / 28,589g
Registered finds	14
Environmental flots/residue	9

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Summary descriptions of the recorded features and deposits are presented by trench, below. Descriptions are accompanied by tabulated context lists (Tables 2-14). Figures are included at the back of the report. It is worth noting that, in general, the site sloped gently from the west (High Street) to the east (River Chelmer) and that cited heights above ordnance datum (AOD) are detailed, below, at their *highest* point.

4.1.2 In general, feature legibility was poor. A number of cut features, particularly in trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9, had fills which were very similar to the natural gravel bed. Fills which were apparent on machining often became near invisible once the soil had been exposed. Feature locations were preserved by scoring visible edges on machining, although in some cases potential features proved to be ephemeral or inconclusive on further investigation. Additionally, general site conditions were poor and the logistics of running the evaluation in a busy car park were problematic. The water table was fairly consistent at c.1.50 metres below present ground surface, so deeper trenches quickly became flooded and deeper features were accessible for only a short period before being inundated by groundwater (e.g. Figs.17 and 28).

4.1.3 Horizontal truncation of archaeological deposits varied from c.0.50m to 1.10m across the site, caused by modern levelling of the area to facilitate its use as a surface car park. Vertical truncation was localised to a number of electricity cables and drainage gullies, predominantly in the east.

4.1.4 The stratigraphy of the archaeological remains proved to be relatively simple due in the large part to the existence of two layers [16] and [49], which were found in the majority of the trenches. Layer [16] was a garden or cultivation soil of 18th century date and [49] a flood horizon dating to the late medieval/ early post-medieval period. Archaeological features were found either cutting into, or sealed by one of these layers. Complexity was low, with few intercutting features encountered.

4.1.5 Archaeological remains were found in all trenches apart from 3A and 3B and mostly consisted of drainage ditches/gullies, pits and post-holes. In all, 48 cut features were recorded as well as three brick-built structures and a number of occupation layers. These were mainly concentrated towards the north and west of the site.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located to the north of the site. Originally intended to be 20m by 1.80m in extent, it was extended to double this width to facilitate the excavation of a central, deeper slot. Excavated to a maximum depth of 1.48m, natural gravels were reached at 23.06m AOD at its the east, rising to 23.31m AOD at its west. All archaeological cut features are shown in plan and the deposit sequence shown in section on Figure 3.

- 4.2.2 Current car park surfacing [178] and a substantial layer of 20th century demolition material [179], 0.51m thick, sealed a layer of loose, brown sandy clay [180] at 24.13m AOD, which has been interpreted as a buried cultivation soil. This layer was also recorded in trenches 2, 3A, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12, dates to the eighteenth century, and denotes the use of the site for agricultural or horticultural purposes in this period. In trench 1 this layer was 0.48m thick at its deepest point. The thickness and size of this deposit - which varies from between 0.19m to c.1.0m across the site – suggests that its primary function was to raise the ground surface in the 18th century or earlier, presumably to combat flooding.
- 4.2.3 Layer [180] was seen to be cut by shallow (0.08m) north-south aligned gully [67]; a probable horticultural feature of 19th century date.
- 4.2.4 In turn, layer [180] sealed a yellow/brown, silty clay alluvium [181], 0.63m in thickness. This deposit represents a flood event of the River Chelmer in antiquity and was also observed in trenches 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12. This layer contained flecks of charcoal and small fragments of ceramic building material and, although no datable material was retrieved from it, [181] both *seals and is cut by* features of late Medieval/ early Post-medieval date, suggesting that it represents a flood event of 15th or 16th century origin. This layer directly overlies the natural gravel. No vestige of buried, earlier soil horizons survive.
- 4.2.5 Beneath [181] and cut into the natural gravel bed [68] were six discreet features, including a 0.48m deep, timber-lined square cess pit [176] (Fig.18) dated to the late 16th century (although also containing some residual 14th century wares). Similarly, in this area was a 0.25m deep, north-south aligned gully [172] of Roman date. Gully [172] was the only *datable* Roman feature discovered during the evaluation and was recorded at 23.32m AOD.
- 4.2.6 Three small pits [130], [132], [135] and a post-hole [168] all cut into the natural gravel, contained no finds and remain undated. These were fairly shallow, having a maximum depth of 0.18m (Fig.17).

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
1	[178]	Layer	Tarmac	24.79m	Modern
1	[179]	Layer	Demolition		
1	[180]	Layer	Plough soil	24.13m	18th cent
1	[66]	Fill	Fill of [67]	24.09m	18th cent
1	[67]	Cut	Gulley		
1	[181]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	23.68m	Late Med/ E Post-med
1	[173]	Fill	Fill of [176]	23.30m	16th cent
1	[174]	Fill	Fill of [176]		
1	[175]	Fill	Fill of [176]		
1	[176]	Cut	Cess Pit		
1	[134]	Fill	Fill of [135]		
1	[135]	Cut	Pit	23.27m	Undated
1	[168]	Fill	Fill of [169]	23.68m	Undated
1	[169]	Cut	Post hole		
1	[170]	Fill	Fill of [172]	23.32m	Roman
1	[171]	Fill	Fill of [172]		
1	[177]	Fill	Fill of [172]		
1	[172]	Cut	Gully		
1	[131]	Fill	Fill of [130]	23.11m	Undated
1	[130]	Cut	Gulley	23.12m	Undated
1	[133]	Fill	Fill of [132]		
1	[132]	Cut	Pit		

1	[50]	Layer	Natural gravels	23.31m	-
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Table 2: Trench 1, list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located towards the north of the site. It was originally designed to be 20.0m east-west by 1.80m wide, but was extended to 3.60m width to facilitate a central, deeper slot. Modern intrusions and services resulted in further changes in the shape and position of the trench (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m, with natural gravel recorded at 23.27m AOD to the east, rising to 23.36m AOD to the west. All cut archaeological features can be seen in plan in Figure 4. A general view of the trench is given in Figure 19.

4.3.2 Considerable modern build-up and surfacing for the present day car park consisted of a sequence of nine distinct layers of tarmac, concrete, rubble bedding and sandy gravel make-ups, [77 to 85], collectively 0.73m thick in the west to 1.30m thick in the east. This build-up and the unexplained difference in thickness resulted in a central, north-south aligned, ridge visible on the current ground surface. Beneath these layers the 18th century plough soil [86] previously recorded in trench 1 was again observed here, with a maximum thickness of 0.40m.

4.3.3 Similarly, the alluvial flood deposit [87] recorded in trench 1 was also observed in trench 2 at 23.47m AOD. It had a maximum thickness of 0.26m. Three north-south aligned ditches or gullies, [54], [71] and [73], were cut into the top of this deposit and were recorded in section (Figure 12). Ditch [73], stratigraphically the latest, was the largest of these features with a width of 0.83m and a depth of 0.39m). A fragment of medieval coarseware from ditch [71] dates to the 14th century and may be considered residual in this context.

4.3.4 Beneath, and sealed by, flood deposit [87] three more north-south aligned gullies [75] (Fig.4), [58], and [69] and a shallow (0.18m) pit [56] were recorded cut into the natural gravel bed (Fig.12). No datable evidence was retrieved from their silty fills. However, stratigraphically, they must be Late Medieval/ early Post-medieval or earlier. No functions can be accurately ascribed to these features, but the ditches were relatively substantial at c.0.25m in depth and can probably be assumed to have been dug for drainage purposes. The fact that these features are intercutting, and on differing alignments hints at multiphase activity below the flood deposit [87].

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
2	[77]	Layer	Tarmac	24.54m	Modern
2	[78]	Layer	Type 1		
2	[79]	Layer	Concrete		
2	[80]	Layer	Surface		
2	[81]	Layer	Make-up for [80]		
2	[82]	Layer	Tarmac		
2	[83]	Layer	Make-up		
2	[84]	Layer	Demolition		
2	[85]	Layer	Make-up		
2	[86]	Layer	Plough soil	23.48m	18th cent
2	[55]	Fill	Fill of [54]	23.43m	Post Med
2	[54]	Cut	Gully	23.47m	Post Med
2	[74]	Fill	Fill of [73]		
2	[73]	Cut	Ditch		
2	[72]	Fill	Fill of [71]	23.47m	Post Med
2	[71]	Cut	Ditch	23.47m	Late Med/ E Post-med
2	[87]	Layer	Flood/alluvium		

2	[76]	Fill	Fill of [75]	23.47m	Undated
2	[75]	Cut	Ditch		
2	[59]	Fill	Fill of [58]	23.11m	Undated
2	[58]	Cut	Gully		
2	[57]	Fill	Fill of [56]	23.15m	Undated
2	[56]	Cut	Pit		
2	[70]	Fill	Fill of [69]	23.13m	Undated
2	[69]	Cut	Gully		
2	[68]	Layer	Natural gravels	23.36m	-

Table 3: Trench 2, list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 3A

4.4.1 Trench 3A was located in the northeast of the site. Trench 3 was originally planned to be 30m north-south, but this proved to be logistically impossible and it was subsequently considered advantageous to split the trench into two. This would allow further investigation of the north-south ridge observed at the east of trench 2. Trench 3A measured 12.4m north-south by 3.7m east-west. A 1.80m internal step was dug centrally to investigate deeper deposits. Natural gravel was not reached in this trench which was excavated to 2.20m below current ground surface or 21.72m AOD.

4.4.2 Beneath two layers of car park surfacing [01] and [02] (up to 0.50m thickness) were two distinct layers of garden soil [165] and [166]. The latter of these, recorded at 23.22m AOD was similar to the cultivation soil observed in trench 1 [180] and trench 2 [86]. In this trench it was observed to be 0.45m thick. This layer was above a green/grey alluvial clay deposit (the same as [3] in trench 10) which represents flooding of the River Chelmer, presumably repeatedly, in antiquity. Layer [03]/[167] was only recorded in trenches 3A, 3B and 10, which were the furthest to the east and closest to the river. 121 sherds of Tudor red earthenware, many of which appear to be from the same vessel – a slip-painted cistern with an upright neck and flat-topped rim – were retrieved from the top of [167] at 22.77m AOD (Fig.20).

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
3A	[01]	Layer	Tarmac	23.92m	Modern
3A	[02]	Layer	Type 1		
3A	[165]	Layer	Plough soil	23.42m	18th cent
3A	[166]	Layer	Plough soil	23.22m	18th cent
3A	[167]	Layer	Alluvium	22.77m	-

Table 4: Trench 3A, list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 3B

4.5.1 Trench 3B was located some 15m to the west of trench 3A and south of trench 2, adjacent to the slab of the (now demolished) NatWest Bank offices. It measured 8.2m north-south by 2.10m east-west. This trench was truncated by electricity conduits to the north and a large sewer pipe running across the central area under a manhole. The trench also filled with rainwater almost immediately on excavation making recording almost impossible. Natural gravel was reached at c.2 metres below present ground surface or at c.22.43m AOD.

4.5.2 The flood/alluvial deposit [167] recorded in trench 3A was observed at 23.03m AOD, beneath a 1.06m thickness of modern surfacing layers and demolition/construction debris [001] and [002]. It was possible to observe that [167] was roughly 0.40m in depth. The trench was excavated to natural gravels in the south.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
3B	[01]	Layer	Tarmac	24.43m	Modern
3B	[02]	Layer	Type 1		
3B	[167]	Layer	Alluvium	23.03m	-
3B	[068]	Layer	Natural Gravels	22.43m	-

Table 5: Trench 3B, list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 4

- 4.6.1 Trench 4 was located in the northwest of the site close to the rear of the Saracen's Head Public House. Its originally-designed width was doubled to facilitate a central, deeper slot and it was truncated to the north by services. Natural gravel survived at 23.31m AOD to the west and 23.61m AOD to the east. All archaeological features are shown in plan on Figure 5.
- 4.6.2 Beneath the modern tarmac [89] and a 1m-thick, clay, levelling deposit were two horizontally-truncated layers, mixed gravelly clay [91] and silty clay [92], which represent likely occupation/surfaces (24.18m AOD), only the very bottom (0.06m maximum) of which survived. These layers are undated but [92] sealed a number of cut features including rubbish pit [96], filled with wine bottles of a diagnostically 19th century type.
- 4.6.3 Six further features were recorded to cut into the natural gravel. Roughly circular feature [102] was 1.40 m in diameter and interpreted as a likely well (Figs.12 and 21). Its top fill [191] contained a large quantity of animal bones and pottery dating to the late 16th century. Well [102] was in excess of 0.80m deep and was not fully excavated due to safety concerns.
- 4.6.4 Three further pits [205], [185] (Fig.22), [187], post-hole [182] and a NNW-SSE aligned gully [203] were also recorded in this trench. None of these features were datable. Pit [205] was observed in section at the west end of the trench and appears to have been a cess pit at least 0.65m in depth. The fills of pit [185] were similarly 'cess-like'. Another pit or gully [201] was filled with a reddish-brown peat deposit [202]. These features could not be fully excavated due to the depth of the trench.
- 4.6.5 It is worth noting that the features cut into the gravels in trench 4 are of a consistently more 'urban' occupation character, which is to be expected given its proximity to the High Street.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
4	[89]	Layer	Tarmac	25.38m	Modern
4	[90]	Layer	Type 1		
4	[91]	Layer	Occupation Layer	24.18m	18th cent
4	[92]	Layer	Metalled Surface	24.17m	
4	[95]	Fill	Fill of [96]	23.72m	18th cent
4	[96]	Cut	Pit		
4	[101]	Fill	Fill of [102]	23.61m	16th cent
4	[190]	Fill	Fill of [102]	23.43m	
4	[191]	Fill	Fill of [102]	23.07m	
4	[102]	Cut	Well	23.61m	
4	[208]	Fill	Fill of [205]	23.42m	Undated
4	[207]	Fill	Fill of [205]		
4	[206]	Fill	Fill of [205]		
4	[205]	Cut	Pit		
4	[204]	Fill	Fill of [203]	23.42m	Undated

4	[203]	Cut	Gully		
4	[186]	Fill	Fill of [185]	23.56m	Undated
4	[184]	Fill	Fill of [185]		
4	[185]	Cut	Pit		
4	[183]	Fill	Fill of [182]	23.70m	Undated
4	[182]	Cut	Post hole		
4	[188]	Fill	Fill of [187]	23.47m	Undated
4	[187]	Cut	Pit		
4	[122]	Layer	Natural gravels	23.30m	-

Table 6: Trench 4, list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trench 5

4.7.1 Trench 5 was located roughly centrally in the site and measured 20m east-west by 3.60m wide. Natural gravels were recorded at 23.29m AOD in the west descending to 23.19m AOD in the east. All archaeological cut features are shown in Figure 6.

4.7.2 Beneath 1.10m of modern surfacing and make-up [116] and [117], the remains of a brick-built structure were exposed; encountered at a height of 23.88m AOD (Fig.23). Three courses of reddish/brown un-frogged bricks survived, showing two distinct phases of build, [126] and [127], occupying a construction cut that was dug through cultivation soil layer [118] at 23.60m AOD; a deposit observed in many other trenches and dated to the 18th century. As exposed in the trench, these wall remains defined the southern end of a c.5.5m-wide building that extended northwards beyond the trench. A partition wall, integral to the [126] build, subdivided the exposed part of the building interior. Brick samples collected from the structure date to 1550-1830AD, although a construction date later in this range seems more likely. Both internal 'rooms' contained apparent backfill deposits. The eastern room contained a 0.20m-thick light brown-yellow silty clay [124] which included finds with a 1760-1820 date range. Western room fill [125] was a 0.08m-thick black silty clay containing a range of post-medieval debris. The building evidently passed out of use in the Victorian period when it was cut by north-south aligned ditch [129], dating to 1820-1900.

4.7.3 The 0.41m-thick garden soil layer [118] sealed an alluvial/flood deposit [119], here recorded to be a maximum of 0.12m thick and which was observed in a number of the other trenches and dated to the late medieval period. Beneath [119] and cut into the natural gravel were two north-south aligned gully [110] and ditch [113]. Ditch [113] was a 1.40m wide and 0.23m deep containing two silty clay fills that did not yield any finds.

4.7.4 Also cut into the natural gravel in trench 5 were three post-holes [104], [106] (Fig.24) and [108]. [104] and [106] were similar in size and depth (0.23m and 0.28m) and contained similar dark, silty fills suggesting they may belong to the same structure. [108] was much more ephemeral in nature being only 0.08m deep. It was also cut into infilled gully [110]. These features remain undated. However, on stratigraphic grounds, they must be Late Medieval or earlier.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
5	[116]	Layer	Tarmac	24.89m	Modern
5	[117]	Layer	Type 1		
5	[118]	Layer	Plough soil	23.60m	18th cent
5	[128]	Fill	Fill of [129]	23.74m	19th cent
5	[129]	Cut	Gully		
5	[124]	Fill	Backfill of [126]	23.73m	18th cent

5	[125]	Fill	Backfill of [126]	23.75m	
5	[126]	Wall	Part of building	23.88m	
5	[127]	Wall	Part of building		
5	[128]	Cut	For [126 and [127]	23.60m	
5	[119]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	23.34m	Late Med
5	[103]	Fill	Fill of [104]	23.27m	Undated
5	[104]	Cut	Post-hole		
5	[105]	Fill	Fill of [106]	23.26m	Undated
5	[106]	Cut	Post-hole		
5	[107]	Fill	Fill of [108]	23.20m	Undated
5	[108]	Cut	Post-hole		
5	[109]	Fill	Fill of [110]	23.19m	Undated
5	[110]	Cut	Gully		
5	[112]	Fill	Fill of [113]	23.13m	Undated
5	[111]	Fill	Fill of [113]		
5	[113]	Cut	Ditch		
5	[121]	Layer	Natural gravels	23.29m	-

Table 7: Trench 5, list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trench 6

4.8.1 Trench 6 was located roughly toward the centre of the site and measured 30m east-west by 3.60m wide and was excavated to a depth of 2.12m. Natural gravels were recorded at 22.81m AOD in the west descending to 22.47m AOD in the east. All archaeological features are shown in plan in Figure 7 and a general view of the middle part of the trench is shown in Figure 25.

4.8.2 Beneath five recorded layers of tarmac and modern build-up, amounting to a 1.14m thickness, the remains of roughly north-south aligned brick wall [160] ran across the trench (Fig.26). Constructed with un-frogged red bricks within cut [161], this structure had been almost totally demolished and/or robbed during, or prior to, the construction of the car park and survived only to a height of 0.22m. The line of the wall was curiously 'S' shaped in plan and may denote the position of a bay window or similar architectural feature in an external wall of a more extensive building. This structure is presumed to have had an 18th century construction date as it cuts into the cultivation soil [158] dated to this period elsewhere on the site.

4.8.3 The wall construction cut [161] was dug through 0.50m thick cultivation soil [158] at 23.68m AOD which in turn sealed flood/alluvial deposit [159] at 23.23m AOD. These two layers were the same as those previously described. The flood deposit, up to 0.40m thick in this trench, sealed three shallow pits [141], [144] and [146], none exceeding 0.14m depth. Two north-south aligned shallow gullies or pits [137] and a pit [149] were also recorded to the west in trench 6 cutting the natural gravel. All of these features remain undated although the fill of gully [152] contained a substantial amount of fire-cracked flint and may reasonably be conjectured to be prehistoric.

4.8.4 A substantial north-south aligned ditch [163], at least 3.70m wide, was observed to cross the middle of this trench, the top of it encountered at 22.83m AOD. Pottery from its fill dates it to the 13th or early 14th century. Full excavation was not possible due to its depth and inundation of water. However, it was seen to cut another north-south aligned ditch [147] observed at 1.93m below ground level or 22.51m AOD. [147] contained two fills; [148] which appeared to be a natural silting and [164] which perhaps represented deliberate backfilling. The southward continuation of the ditch was recorded in trench 8 (cut [200]). Although no dating evidence was recovered from its fills, ditch [147] is also likely to be Medieval on stratigraphical grounds.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
6	[153]	Layer	Tarmac	24.75m	Modern
6	[154]	Layer	Type 1		
6	[155]	Layer	Make up		
6	[156]	Layer	Make up		
6	[157]	Layer	Make up		
6	[158]	Layer	Plough soil	23.68m	18th cent
6	[160]	Wall	Structure	23.57m	18th cent?
6	[161]	Cut	For [160]	23.35m	
6	[159]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	23.23m	Late Med
6	[138]	Fill	Fill of [137]	23.04m	Undated
6	[137]	Cut	Gully		
6	[143]	Fill	Fill of [144]	22.98m	Undated
6	[144]	Cut	Pit		
6	[145]	Fill	Fill of [146]	22.62m	Undated
6	[146]	Cut	Pit		
6	[151]	Fill	Fill of [152]	22.68m	Prehistoric
6	[152]	Cut	Gully		
6	[150]	Fill	Fill of [149]	22.96m	Undated
6	[149]	Cut	Gully		
6	[142]	Fill	Fill of [141]	22.98m	Undated
6	[141]	Cut	Pit		
6	[140]	Fill	Fill of [139]	23.04m	Undated
6	[139]	Cut	Gully		
6	[162]	Fill	Fill of [163]	22.83m	13 th / 14th cent?
6	[163]	Cut	Ditch		
6	[164]	Fill	Fill of [147]	22.51m	Undated
6	[148]	Fill	Fill of [147]		
6	[147]	Cut	Ditch		
6	[136]	Layer	Natural gravels		
6	[136]	Layer	Natural gravels	22.81m	-

Table 8: Trench 6, list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trench 7

4.9.1 Trench 7 was located in the west of the study area and measured 7.30m north-south. Its original length was shortened and its position changed due to access concerns for premises fronting the High Street. It was excavated to double width, in this case 3.70m, to facilitate the excavation of a central 'slot' so that deeper deposits could be reached. Natural gravel was not reached within the 1.8m excavated depth of this trench.

4.9.2 Beneath 1.15m of car park surfacing and make-up [01] and [02], a 1.16m-wide pit [115] was recorded cutting into an alluvial flood deposit [123] (Fig.27). Finds from the 0.66m-deep pit fill [114] date it to the late 19th century. Layer [123] was the same late medieval flood deposit as recorded elsewhere on the site and, in trench 7, was established to be at least 0.26m thick

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
7	[01]	Layer	Tarmac	25.50m	Modern
7	[02]	Layer	Type 1		
7	[114]	Fill	Fill of [115]	24.30m	19th cent
7	[115]	Cut	Pit		
7	[123]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	24.30m	Late Med

Table 9: Trench 7, list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 8

- 4.10.1 Trench 8 was located in the centre of the study area and measured 20m east-west by 3.6m north-south. It was excavated to double the original width to facilitate a central, deeper slot. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2.45m and natural gravel was recorded at 22.38m AOD at the west of the trench and at 22.18m to the east. Archaeological features are shown in plan and section in Figure 8. A general trench view is shown in Figure 28.
- 4.10.2 Beneath 0.95m of surfacing and make-up [194] for the present car park, an 18th century plough/garden soil horizon [195] was recorded at 23.68m AOD. This layer was 0.34m thick in this trench and sealed an alluvial flood deposit [196] at 23.29m AOD, further parts of which was also recorded in trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 12.
- 4.10.3 Sealed beneath the flood deposit [196], substantial north-south aligned ditch [200] ran across the western part of the trench. Some 2.45 m wide and in excess of 0.45 m deep, this was the southern continuation of ditch [147] in trench 6. Like [147], it contained two distinct fills, [198] and [199]. No dating evidence was retrieved from the ditch, which was impossible to hand excavate due to depth and water inundation (particularly severe in this trench). However, as it is cut by a 13th/early14th century ditch in trench 6 it must be of that date or earlier.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
8	[194]	Layer	Tarmac	24.58m	Modern
8	[195]	Layer	Plough soil	23.63m	18th cent
8	[196]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	23.29m	Late med/ E Post-med
8	[198]	Fill	Fill of [200]	22.38m	Undated
8	[199]	Fill	Fill of [200]		
8	[200]	Cut	Ditch		
8	[197]	Layer	Natural gravel	-	-

Table 10: Trench 8, list of recorded contexts

4.11 Trench 9

- 4.11.1 Trench 9 was located towards the south of the site and measured 17m east-west by 2.15m north-south. Despite being excavated to a depth of 2.20m, natural gravel was not reached in this trench. Archaeological features are shown in plan in Figure 9 and a general trench view is shown in Figure 29.
- 4.11.2 Beneath a 1.40m thickness of make-up and surfacing layers [21-27] for the present car park, a 0.19m-thick cultivation soil deposit [28] was recorded at 23.63m AOD. This layer was present in the majority of trenches and dates to the 18th century. In trench 9 finds were retrieved from this layer and included a fragment of English tin-glazed earthenware of 18th century date. It sealed a crushed brick and mortar deposit [33] recorded along the northern trench edge, interpreted as demolition debris, as well as a number of features dating to the late 15th to early 17th centuries.
- 4.11.3 The recorded remains below soil [28] include two discreet areas of metallised surface [29] and [30], a 0.19m deep refuse pit [31] (Fig.30), two ditches or gullies [38] and [40] and an east-west linear construction cut [34]. Foundation cut [34] was in excess of 9.29m in length and 0.36m wide, suggesting that it was part of a significant structure. It seems likely that the other cut features and metallised surfaces were associated with this structure. Fragments of a 16th century glass beaker from surface [30], belonging to the *façon de Venice* tradition and perhaps from Venice or the Low Countries, were retrieved. These features may suggest occupation activity in the central area of the site in the early post-medieval period, rather than simply deriving from rubbish disposal from properties fronting onto the High Street. They were all

encountered at c.23.40-23.44m AOD and were seen to be stratigraphically above a second, lower, buried cultivation soil [41] some 0.20m thick.

4.11.4 A sondage was excavated at the east end of this trench and revealed an alluvial flood deposit [42] at 22.90m AOD, below buried soil [41], 1.60 metres below present ground surface. North-south aligned ditch or gully [44] was cut into the alluvium and recorded to be in excess of 0.35m deep. Inundation of groundwater and the depth of the trench prevented its full excavation. However, it was observed to have two fills [39] and [43], the latter being a firm, reddish peat containing leather working off-cuts. Soles from footwear retrieved from [43] are diagnostic of 16th century forms. The quantity of leather off-cuts from this feature suggests that leather working or cobbling was taking place in the close vicinity.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
9	[21]	Layer	Tarmac	24.67m	Modern
9	[22]	Layer	Type 1		
9	[23]	Layer	Make up		
9	[24]	Layer	Make up		
9	[25]	Layer	Make up		
9	[26]	Layer	Make up		
9	[27]	Layer	Make up		
9	[28]	Layer	Plough soil	23.63m	18th cent
9	[33]	Layer	Surface/demo	23.44m	
9	[32]	Fill	Fill of [31]	23.46m	15th/16th cent
9	[31]	Cut	Pit		
9	[30]	Layer	Surface	23.44m	15th/16th cent
9	[37]	Fill	Fill of [38]	23.24m	16th cent
9	[38]	Cut	Gully		
9	[29]	Layer	Surface	23.46m	16th cent
9	[35]	Fill	Fill of [34]	23.40m	Undated
9	[34]	Cut	Foundation cut		
9	[41]	Layer	Plough soil	23.44m	15th/16th cent
9	[42]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	22.90m	Late Med
9	[39]	Fill	Fill of [44]	22.40m	15th/ 16th cent
9	[43]	Fill	Fill of [44]	22.20m	
9	[44]	Cut	Ditch	22.40m	

Table11: Trench 9, list of recorded contexts

4.12 Trench 10

4.12.1 Trench 10 was located to the east of the site, within in the area known as 'Mesopotamia Island'. This area was formerly canalised on three sides and bounded by the River Chelmer to the east (Figure 12). The trench measured 20m north-south by 1.8m east-west. Two deeper slots were excavated at the north and south ends to examine deeper deposits to a maximum depth of 2.30m, but natural gravels were not reached in this trench. Archaeological features in trench 10 are shown in plan and section in Figure 10. A general trench view is shown in Figure 31.

4.12.2 Beneath 0.50m of surfacing [01] and [02] for the present car park, part of a brick structure [209], within its construction cut [53], was found at 23.25m AOD. Almost the whole west wall and parts of the north and south walls were exposed, establishing it to have been 2.30m wide. The structure was constructed using poor-quality, late 19th century bricks and the occasional Victorian stock brick. No visible floor surface was observed for this structure. With walls of only one brick width, this was a fairly simple and relatively insubstantial building. It is likely that this is the easternmost structure depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 13).

4.12.3 To the north of the brick building remains, a 0.12m-deep pit or east-west gully [04] was filled with late Victorian building debris, quite possibly deriving from its demolition. Both building and ditch were cut into a substantial layer of dark brown silty clay [17] containing brick and glass fragments of 19th century date. This layer was 0.70m deep and probably constituted a make-up layer to raise the ground level in this very waterlogged area. It is possible that it was deposited specifically for the construction of building [53].

4.12.4 A green/blue, slightly silty, alluvial clay [03] was observed to underlie deposit [17], at 22.75m AOD. It was at least 1.60m deep, extending beyond the 2.70m excavated depth of the trench. This layer presumably represents repeated flooding of the River Chelmer in antiquity.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
10	[01]	Layer	Tarmac	23.85m	Modern
10	[02]	Layer	Type 1		
10	[209]	Wall	Footing	23.25m	19th cent
10	[53]	Cut	Cut for [209]		
10	[05]	Fill	Fill of [4]	23.45m	19th cent
10	[04]	Cut	Gully		
10	[17]	Layer	Make up	23.45m	19th cent
10	[03]	Layer	Alluvium	22.75m	-

Table 12: Trench 10, list of recorded contexts

4.13 Trench 11

4.13.1 Trench 11 was located to the south of the study area, some 20m north of the Debenhams department store. It measured 15.0m east-west by 2.20m north-south. Natural gravel was not exposed in this 2.10m-deep trench. A general trench view is shown in Figure 32.

4.13.2 A 0.64m-deep sequence of build-up/surfacing layers [12-15] for the existing car park were recorded above a buried cultivation soil layer [16]. Dating to the 18th century, this deposit was also observed in trenches 1, 2, 3A, 7, 9 and 12 and represents agricultural and/or horticultural activity. In trench 11, layer [16] was 0.59m thick.

4.13.3 A sondage was dug at the east end of trench 11, through soil layer [16], to expose earlier deposits. This revealed north-south ditch [20] at a depth of 1.30m below the present ground surface (23.18m AOD). This ditch had two fills [18] and [19] which contained animal bone, presumably residual imported German stonewares dating to the 16th century, and a single sherd from an 18th century stoneware tavern mug from the lower fill. It was cut into an alluvial flood deposit [49] which contained some ceramic building material and shell fragments. The sondage was excavated to 2.10m below present ground surface. Inundation from the water table effectively ceased digging at that depth.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
11	[12]	Layer	Tarmac	24.48m	Modern
11	[13]	Layer	Type 1		
11	[14]	Layer	Make-up		
11	[15]	Layer	Make up		
11	[16]	Layer	Plough soil	23.79m	18th cent
11	[18]	Fill	Fill of [20]	23.18m	18th cent
11	[19]	Fill	Fill of [20]		
11	[20]	Cut	Ditch		
11	[49]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	23.18m	Late Med/ E Post-med

Table 13: Trench 11, list of recorded contexts

4.14 Trench 12

- 4.14.1 Trench 12 was located to the south of the site, adjacent to the Debenhams building. It measured 13.0m east-west by 1.80m north-south. It's shortened length was to avoid a road surface to the west and potential services to the east. A sondage was dug at the east of the trench to inspect deeper deposits to a depth of 2.60m. Natural gravels were recorded at 21.80m AOD. All archaeological remains are shown in plan and section in Figure 11. A general trench view is shown in Figure 33.
- 4.14.2 Beneath 0.85m of crush and tarmac surfacing for the present car park a shallow pit [11] was found at the west end of the trench cut into a dark brown silty clay deposit [07]. Layer [07] was diagnostic of a cultivation/garden soil and contained clay pipe fragments and fragments of Post-medieval red earthenware of 17th century or later date. In this vicinity of the site it was up to 1.0m thick.
- 4.14.3 Oblong pit [11] was in excess of 0.5m wide and 1.0m long, continuing beyond the southwest corner of the trench. Although only 0.23m deep, it contained in excess of 100 Princess Mary Christmas Tins, dating to 1914 (Fig.34). Empty of their contents, the complete brass tins were neatly stacked upside-down within the pit to a height of six or seven tins and fragments of string discovered in association suggest they had been tied together when deposited. Further detached lids had been used to line the cut. Dark brown/black silty clay [009] overlay the tins, filling the upper portion of the pit. It is conjectured that the tins had perhaps been stolen sometime around the time of their issue, their contents removed (tobacco, confectionary, etc.) and the empty containers hidden to cover the crime.
- 4.14.3 In the south of trench 12, a deposit of light brown sandy clay [06] was observed above the plough soil [07]. Layer [06] was only 0.04 metres thick but was in excess of 12.20 metres in length and contained oyster shell and fragments of ceramic building material. Its function remains unclear but it may have been the remains of an external surface.
- 4.14.4 A sondage was excavated at the east end of trench 12 (Fig.35). Cultivation soil [07] was established to overlie a layer of silty clay [49] containing the occasional fragment of brick and charcoal. This 0.30m-deep alluvial deposit represents a flooding episode in antiquity and has been dated elsewhere within the site to the late medieval period. It was recorded at 22.70m AOD. Beneath [49] was a c.0.20m-thick layer of grey silty clay containing fragments of shell and charcoal [50] which in turned sealed a c.0.40m-thick disturbed natural gravel deposit [51] at 22.20m AOD. The natural gravel bed [52] was observed at a depth of 2.60m from ground surface at 21.80m AOD.

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Height AOD	Period
12	[01]	Layer	Tarmac	24.40m	Modern
12	[02]	Layer	Type 1		
12	[09]	Fill	Fill of 11	23.73m	c.1914
12	[10]	Fill	Fill of 11		
12	[11]	Cut	Pit		
12	[07]	Layer	Plough soil	23.73m	18th cent
12	[06]	Layer	Surface?	23.71m	Post-med
12	[49]	Layer	Flood/alluvium	22.70m	Late Med/ E Post-med
12	[50]	Layer	Alluvium	22.40m	-
12	[51]	Layer	Disturbed gravel	22.20m	-
12	[52]	Layer	Natural gravels	21.80m	-

Table 14: Trench 12, list of recorded contexts

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A medium-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. Finds, summarized below in Table 15, were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate and subsequently quantified by count and weight. They were bagged by material and by context and packaged and stored following IFA guidelines (2008). A number of finds were assigned unique registered finds numbers (RF <00>; Table 19). These were recorded individually on pro forma sheets for archive. RF <14> would benefit from x-radiography to aid identification. No further conservation work is required.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Bone		Shell		Cu alloy		Glass		CTP	
	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt	Ct	Wt
7	1	40	1	25									2	23
10									78	7118				
18	2	32			4	185								
37	7	210	5	784	3	156								
37			4	524										
43	2	66			2	47								
92	1	7	2	68										
95											8	1046		
101	5	146	4	760	11	1548								
124	1	2	1	166										
126			1	2768										
128	14	1544	1	38										
162	1	46												
167	119	1208												
170	82	140												
174	18	314	16	634	2	64	2	12						
191			2	432										
2/055	1	4	2	56										
2/072	1	69												
7/115	3	17	2	296										
9/028	3	56											1	5
9/029	5	118	21	1228	7	152	22	155			1	6		
9/030	1	11	11	324	13	97					2	2		
9/032	7	84	45	3704	24	255								
9/032			32	1651										
11/019	6	126	1	11										
T7 u/s	1	9												
Total	281	4249	151	13469	66	2504	24	167	78	7118	11	1054	3	28

Table 15: Quantification of the bulk finds (weights in grammes)

5.2 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

5.2.1 A total of 209 sherds weighing 8170g was excavated from 22 contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (1985a). Much of this total is accounted for by several complete stoneware bottles found unstratified. The stratified pottery was distributed sparsely and widely across

all trenches apart from trenches 8 and 10.

5.2.2 A very small amount of pottery was stratified in feature fills below the alluvium/flood layer [49]. Context [162], the fill of ditch [163], produced a medieval coarseware H1-type rim sherd from a large vessel, perhaps a bowl, a thickening of the rim suggests the vessel may have possessed a handle or spout. H1 rims are normally dated to the 13th century, but may have persisted into the 14th. Medieval pottery was also encountered in context [174], the second fill of cesspit [176], where finds comprise two sherds of Mill Green ware, including a thumbled jug base datable to the mid 13th to 14th centuries, and a sherd of slip-coated but unglazed sandy orange ware, dating between the 14th and 16th centuries. However, the most abundant find in the cesspit comprises sherds of Tudor red earthenware dating to the later 15th and 16th centuries. Vessel forms in this ware include thick-walled sherds probably from cisterns or large jugs and fragments from a flanged dish. Also present is the base of a glazed post-medieval red earthenware drinking vessel showing faceting around the edges. This was probably an attempt at copying German stoneware vessels, which were imported during the 16th century, although the latest vessel in this context is probably the flanged dish, a form which does not occur until the late 16th century. Two further sherds of Tudor red earthenware were excavated from context [43] the fill of ditch/pit [44], including the upper part of a jug, both sherds appear to have been burnt after breakage.

5.2.3 A single sherd of medieval pottery, which must be residual, was found above the alluvium/flood layer in context [72], the fill of ditch [71], and comprises a fragment of medieval coarseware base, which like that from context [162], appears to be from a large vessel, perhaps another bowl. However, the majority of the assemblage dates to the 16th and into the 17th centuries and comprises mainly Tudor red earthenware, as encountered below the alluvium/flood layer, with the addition of small amounts of other wares including German stoneware. Context [55], the fill of gully [54], produced a single sherd of Frechen stoneware, this was imported from Rhineland Germany from the later 16th to 17th centuries, but the lack of a mottled or 'tiger ware' salt glaze suggests a 16th century date is more likely. In trench 3, alluvium layer [167] produced a relatively large assemblage of Tudor red earthenware, most of which comprises fragments belonging to a slip-painted cistern. Part of a second slip-painted cistern was excavated from trench 4, context [101], the top fill of well [102]. It has an upright bevelled rim and can be paralleled by an example from Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, from a deposit dated to the late 16th century (Cunningham 1985b, fig.44.20). Also from fill [101] were fragments from glazed post-medieval red earthenware drinking vessels, probably dating to the 16th century. In trench 11, the fills of ditch 20 ([18] and [19]) produced a sherd of late medieval sandy orange ware, examples of Tudor red earthenware, including a possible cistern handle, and a sherd of another type of German stoneware, Cologne stoneware, the sherd is from a rounded jug showing a moulded rose plant design, datable to the first half of the 16th century. However, lower fill [19] also produced a fragment from an English stoneware tavern mug dating to the 18th century, which may be a contaminant from higher levels. Tavern mugs occur in domestic contexts and do not necessarily indicate there was a drinking establishment here. The fragment is interesting in that it shows traces of incised lettering which may possibly be the name of the licensee if the mug is from an inn or tavern. Above ditch [20], layer [7], the equivalent of garden soil/plough soil [16], produced a flared, internally glazed bowl in post-medieval red earthenware, showing a grooved beaded rim most likely dating to the 17th century, but could be later.

In trench 9, layer [28], also the equivalent of garden soil/plough soil layer [16], produced a small sherd of German stoneware showing the remains of moulded

decoration; it is either Cologne or Frechen stoneware and is likely to date to the 16th century. However, also from this layer is a fragment of undecorated English tin-glazed earthenware chamber pot which, like the tavern mug in trench 11, dates to the 18th century. Trench 9 is unique in that it produced 16th to 17th century pottery from contexts stratified above a garden soil/ploughsoil layer (although this is not the same deposit as layer [16]), namely from gully [38], surfaces [29] and [30] and pit [31]. Featured sherds from these contexts include the rim of a Tudor red earthenware costrel showing pierced lugs for suspension and a reshaped sherd in this ware, where a broken sherd has been reused as a tool. Other finds comprise a sherd of Frechen stoneware of 16th century type, the base of a possible tripod pipkin, in post-medieval red earthenware, dating to the late 16th to 17th centuries and the base of a black-glazed ware vessel, probably a jug. Black-glazed ware usually belongs to the 17th century, but as it has a dark brown, rather than a true black glaze, a late 16th century date is possible. At the top of this sequence, context [32], the fill of pit [31], produced a single sherd of Surrey white ware, which dates to the later 16th to 17th centuries, but is more likely to be 17th century when this ware was widely traded.

5.2.4 Later pottery was excavated from trenches 5 and 7. That from trench 7 came from layer [115] stratified directly above the alluvium/flood layer and comprises fragments from creamware plates and a pearlware handle with blue-painted decoration, the two types most likely dating to c.1800. A group of mid-19th century or later pottery was excavated from ditch [129] which cut building [127] in trench 5 (context [128]), stratified between the alluvium and garden soil layers. As well as producing the usual kitchen wares and blue transfer-printed china, there are fragments from cylindrical stoneware ware bottles, one of which has an impressed stamp just above the base which reads 'VITREOUS STONE BOTTLES WARRANTED NOT TO ABSORB J. BOURNE PATENTEE DENBY & CODNOR PARK POTTERIES NEAR DERBY'. The Codnor Park Works were acquired in 1833 and this mark was used until about 1850. Stratified above, context [124] produced a small fragment of creamware plate, which is probably residual. Further examples of complete or virtually complete stoneware bottles were found unstratified in trench 7. Small-find 3 comprised a group of five salt-glazed ginger beer bottles, three have the same mark as the bottle described above, and two have a similar mark, but are stamped 'J. Bourne & Son', rather than just 'J. Bourne'. As this mark was used from about 1850, a mid-19th century or later date is indicated for deposition. Small-find 2 comprises two lead-glazed bottles, both impressed 'THO^S MAKEHAM CHELMSFORD' below the shoulder, and 'STEPHEN GREEN IMPERIAL POTTERIES LAMBETH' in a circular cartouche just above the base of the bottles. Thomas Makeham would have been the retailer and investigation of the local trade directories by Elissa Menzel shows that he was active during the 1850s. Small-find 1 comprises two further lead-glazed bottles, one, a ?beer bottle, is impressed 'DOULTON LAMBETH', the other, a ginger beer, is impressed 'DOULTON & Co. LAMBETH LONDON' in a cartouche. Neither mark is closely datable, but this pottery started in around 1854. Lead glaze was sometimes preferred as raw salt from salt-glazed stoneware could contaminate the contents.

5.2.5 The few sherds of medieval pottery recovered, mainly from below the alluvium/flood layer indicate there was at least some activity here during the 13th to 14th centuries. There is rather more evidence of activity and settlement during the 16th and the earlier 17th centuries. During this period, the assemblage comprises drinking vessels in German stoneware and glazed post-medieval red earthenware and a range of vessels in Tudor red earthenware and post-medieval red earthenware comprising cisterns, a bowl, a costrel (a type of portable flask), possible jugs, a possible pipkin (a portable cooking vessel) and the reshaped sherd, indicating specialised activity. Cisterns are a common find in 16th century deposits and were

used for the brewing of beer on a domestic basis. Little can be said about status except to note that unlike the assemblages from Moulsham Street, very few imported wares were found to indicate high status. Only two 18th century pieces were found; the fragment of tavern mug and tin-glazed earthenware chamber pot. A few sherds of creamware and pearlware indicate some activity around 1800. There is evidence for domestic activity during the mid-19th century or later (the group from context [128]), and evidence for the retailing of ginger beer at this time, with ginger beer bottles sourced from manufacturers in The Midlands and London. The flooding indicated by the alluvium layer does not seem to have curtailed occupation, with pottery of a similar type and date occurring both above and below this layer.

5.3 Ceramic Building Materials by Susan Pringle

5.3.1 A total of 118 fragments of ceramic building materials weighing 19.016 kg were examined from fifteen contexts. The identifiable material consisted of Roman tile, medieval and/or post-medieval roofing tile and post-medieval brick. The total weight and number of fragments in each category is set out in Table 16.

Material	No. of items	Weight (kg)
Medieval/post-medieval roof tile	93	6.038
Post-medieval brick	22	12.584
Roman brick and tile	2	0.310
Post-medieval roof tile (pan tile)	1	0.084
Total	118	19.016

Table 16: Summary of building materials

5.3.2 All the ceramic building material has been recorded on a standard recording form. Tile has been quantified by form, weight and fragment count only and the information has been entered onto an Excel database. Reference has been made to the Museum of London (MoL) tile fabric type series where relevant. Examples of the fabrics and items of interest were retained; the remainder of the material was discarded. The broad date range of each context is summarised below in Table 17.

Context	Area	Context date (approx. range)	Types present
7	12	1200-1800	roof tile, ?peg, vitrified
37	9	1500-1700	brick, peg tile
92	4	1300-1800	peg tile
101	4	1500-1700	brick, peg tile
126	5	1550-1830	Brick <1>
128	5	1300-1800	peg tile
160	6	1600-1850	brick <6>
174	1	1300-1800	peg tile
191	4	1500-1700	brick, peg tile
2/055	-	1300-1800	peg tile
7/115	-	1630-1850	pan tile, brick
9/029	-	1300-1800	peg tile
9/030	-	1300-1800	peg and ridge tile
9/032	-	?1550-1800, residual 50-160, ?intrusive 20th c	20th C brick, roof tile, Roman brick and tegula
11/019	-	1300-1800	peg tile

Table 17: CBM dating table with context date (approximate) and contents

5.3.3 Two pieces of Roman tile came from [032], the fill of a 16th century pit. The tegula

was in a fairly clean orange fabric near MoL 3006; the brick had a slightly granular orange matrix streaked with lighter yellow clay and coarse red iron-rich inclusions (fabric R1). The brick fragment, which was 37mm thick, was worn on the upper surface with mortar on the sides and base suggesting use or re-use in a floor.

- 5.3.4 Most contexts contained a quantity of abraded roof tile. Four fabrics were noted. Approximately 70% of the roof tile, including peg and ridge tiles, had an orange fabric containing abundant very fine quartz, with moderate inclusions of fine-grained dark iron-rich and white calcareous material and sparse medium quartz (fabric T1). Smaller quantities of tile, probably peg tile, in three other fabrics were present. Fabric T2 was similar to fabric T1 but contained moderate amounts of medium to coarse quartz (18 fragments of peg tile). Fabric T3 was also orange with abundant very fine quartz but contained streaks of cream clay, moderate amounts of medium quartz and poorly sorted black iron-rich material (one peg tile). Fabric T4 was similar to fabrics T1 and T2 but had a finer matrix with silt-sized background quartz and blocky inclusions of siltstone and sparse to moderate medium quartz (ten tiles including peg tile). No complete peg tiles were present, but context [032] contained two fragments with complete widths of 162 mm (fabric T4) and 166 mm (vitrified). Nail-holes where present were either circular or polygonal. Two fragmentary ridge tiles were noted in fabric T1. The peg and ridge tiles could not be closely dated but were likely to date from the later medieval or early post-medieval periods.
- 5.3.5 Two brick samples were examined. Sample <1>, from wall [126] in Trench 5, had an orange-red fabric with a fine sandy texture containing moderate to common amounts of medium to coarse quartz and flint and some red iron-rich material (fabric B1). Brick <1> was unfrogged with flat faces and sharp arrises, though vitrified and somewhat distorted; dimensions are set out in Table 3. Bricks with similar fabrics came also from areas 4, 9 and 9/032; the examples from trench 4 [101] and [191] were thinner than <1> and had slightly indented margins, suggesting that they pre-dated c.1700 AD. Brick sample <6>, trench 6 [160], consisted of four bricks, all in a similar silty orange fabric mixed with paler orange and red clays and with sparse inclusions of medium quartz and very coarse flints. They were all unfrogged with flat faces and sharp arrises. Bricks in a similar fabric came also from context [032]. Their date range is likely to be c.1600-1800 AD. One flake of compressed 20th century brick was noted from [032], considered to be intrusive.

Sample no.	Context	Length mm	Breadth mm	Thickness mm
<1>	126	235	100	64
<6>	160	160+	109	68
<6>	160	147+	109	68
<6>	160	138+	109	63
<6>	160	150+	110	69

Table 18: Dimensions of brick samples

- 5.3.6 The assemblage consists almost entirely of post-medieval bricks and late medieval or early post-medieval roof tile, of which the only identifiable types were peg and ridge tile. Although not closely datable, the more identifiable material appears to date from the 16th to 18th century AD. The flake of modern brick may have been intrusive in a very mixed context.

5.4 Glass by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Only eleven glass fragments (weight 1054g) were recovered from three different contexts. The earliest pieces (metalled surface [30]) comprise two fragments from a colourless cylindrical vessel, probably a beaker, dated to the mid 16th to mid 17th century. Fragments are decorated in *vetro a fili* using opaque white canes which were marvered flat. They belong to the *façon de Venice* tradition and may derive from Venice or the Low Countries amongst other centres. The only fragment of window glass, recovered from metalled surface [29], appears to be of colourless cast plate and dates to the 17th to 18th century. In addition, eight green glass wine bottle necks were recovered from rubbish pits [96] (fill [95]). As only neck fragments are present, they can only be broadly dated to the 19th century.

5.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Three clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered (weight 30g) from two individually numbered contexts. These comprise two unmarked bowls and a plain stem fragment. Bowls follow the London Bowl Typology by Atkinson and Oswald (1969). Plough soil [7] contained a complete type AO20 bowl (dated c.1680-1710) as well as a type AO22 bowl fragment of the same date. The stem fragment from plough soil [28] dates c.1660-1710.

5.6 Registered Finds

5.6.1 A total of 14 artefacts were assigned registered finds numbers. Pottery has been discussed above and the remainder are considered below. Finds were registered and packed individually. None require further conservation, however, RF <14> would benefit from x-radiography to aid identification.

RF no.	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)	Description
1	T7 u/s	VESS	Stoneware	1858- modern	339 & 430	x2 stoneware bottles. Makers mark: 1. DOULTON LAMBETH 2. DOULTON & CO LAMBETH LONDON
2	T7 u/s	VESS	Stoneware	1820- modern	470 & 461	x2 stoneware bottles. Makers mark: STEPHEN GREEN IMPERIAL POTTERIES LAMBETH, THOS MAKEHAM CHELMSFORD
3	T7 u/s	VESS	Stoneware	1850- modern		x5 stoneware bottles. Makers mark: VITRIOUS STONE BOTTLE, WARRANTED NOT TO ABSORB, J. BOURNE & SON, PATENTEES, DENBY & CODNOR PARK POTTERIES, NEAR DERBY
4	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		L foot? Nearly whole sole of leather shoe (missing a bit off toe end)
5	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		strap
6	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		Heel fragment
7	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		fragment
8	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		rand
9	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		fragment
10	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		Heel of leather shoe
11	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		Sole L foot, nearly whole sole, missing toe end
12	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		Sole right foot, nearly whole sole, missing toe end
13	43	SHOE	LEAT	PMED		Heel ?attaches to sole of SF12

14	92	?HAND	IRON	PMED	113	rectangular-sectioned rod fragment, possible handle (curving)
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Table 19: Summary of the Registered Finds

5.7 **Waterlogged Leather** by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A group of ten well-preserved waterlogged leather objects were recovered from ditch fill [43]. The objects include three soles, three heel pieces and a length of leather strap. All fragments have been recorded on pro forma sheets and drawn for the site archive. The condition of the assemblage indicates good potential for the retrieval of further well preserved organic deposits on site.

5.7.2 RF<4> is a probable right treadsole measuring 214mm in length with a squared-off toe typical of the first half of the 16th century. The flesh side shows the imprint of an inner sole; flesh/grain stitch marks are evident around the edge. Possible tunnel stitching is evident on the grain side around the heel and the surface of the sole is scuffed on this side. Two further soles are of less diagnostic shape having lost their toes. RF<11> has edge/flesh stitching around the entire edge suggesting it originates from a left shoe of turnshoe or turnwelt construction. RF<12> is a probable right treadsole with an extra row of stitch marks around the perimeter of the heel and the impression of a mid or inner sole on the flesh side. Further investigation of the stichmarks may shed more light on the construction of these shoes although at present there is no reason to assume a date later than the 16th century.

5.7.3 RFs <6>, <10> and <13> are heel pieces of varying form. The most complete is RF<10> which is large (L 92mm) with a possible repair or lift; it probably derives from a man's boot. A rand fragment measuring 110mm with a single line of stitching, RF<8>, was also recovered.

5.7.4 A fragment of leather strap, RF<5>, measuring 133mm x 20mm was recovered with the shoe fragments. The strap has two perforations set 15mm apart at one end. It is fairly thick (3.5mm) and may derive from a belt or horse harness. It is not inherently datable. Two other thick and irregularly shaped leather fragments were also recovered RFs<7> and <9>. It is not clear whether these are offcuts or if they derive from part of an object such as a shoe heel or patten; neither is diagnostic of date.

5.8 **The Ironwork** by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 RF <14>, recovered from possible metallised surface [92], comprises a curving iron rod, possibly a handle, with rectangular section (9 by 10mm; L144mm+). It is unclear whether one end is broken or represents an actual terminal. The fragment is post-Roman. However, it cannot be closely dated.

5.9 **Princess Mary's Gift Tins** by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A total of 78 fragments (wt 7118g) of copper-alloy tins were recovered from pit [11] (fill [10]). Together, they represent 50 Princess Mary gift tins, issued in 1914 as a gift to every man wearing the King's uniform on Christmas Day 1914, including those on the home front. Next of kin of those killed also received a gift box. They were manufactured by several firms, including British and American companies. Due to brass shortages, production fell below target and gift boxes were distributed as late as June 1916, when troops within the British Isles received their gift boxes. In 1919, the War Office found that considerable stocks were still held by various authorities, which were all recalled, totalling a quarter of a million boxes. These were then redistributed up to 1920, after claims by soldiers following a newspaper advertising

campaign (Williamson 2003, 351-356). Contents varied, with smokers and non-smokers versions, as well different versions for different troops and nationalities, depending on supplies (see Williamson 2003, 355-358 for a complete list).

- 5.9.2 The tins, measuring approximately 129 by 85mm and 30mm deep, appear to have been neatly stacked in piles of eight at the bottom of pit [11] (fill [10]). As yet, no other finds were recovered from the feature, suggesting the pit was purpose-dug to dispose of the tins. Remains and imprints of string to some of the lids indicate they were tied together. Tins have all been emptied of their contents. It has been suggested that this is surplus stock, perhaps disposed of after missing the recall date. Another hypothesis is that they were stolen and their contents sold on the black market. It seems curious though that criminals would take the time to neatly stack the tins, and contents were of fairly low value. Further research may establish if any military depots or distribution offices were in the vicinity, explaining surplus stock or enabling such a theft.
- 5.9.3 Further examination of the feature in forthcoming archaeological work on the site might allow us to establish the deposition process. It is also conceivable that, if saleable goods were taken from the tins, unprofitable goods (for example the bullet pencil case) may have been disposed of in bulk, possibly in the same pit.
- 5.9.4 The 1914 gift tins are in themselves mass-produced and ubiquitous objects of this era. However, to recover a large, purposely discarded group such as this is as yet unprecedented. Although they signify a single, and perhaps unique, event, they provide an important insight into home front events, dating to probably shortly after the war. Not only has the upcoming centenary hugely increased both public and academic interest in the Great War, the home front is relatively understudied and there is a wide range of historians, military archaeologists and students to which this group will be of interest. As such, it is recommended that even if no further work takes place, feature [11] is published in full with its contents.

5.10 Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.10.1 Twenty-four oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valve fragments were recovered from two different contexts. Metalled surface [29] contained 22 fragments, representing 11 individual oysters. Some of these display minor parasitic activity and valves from immature oysters are also included. Overall relatively small oysters seem to have been harvested. One left and one right valve from a single immature oyster were recovered from cess pit [176] (fill [174]). Distortion suggests the oyster was raised in overcrowded conditions.

5.11 Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.11.1 The archaeological evaluation produced a small animal bone assemblage containing 67 specimens retrieved through hand-collection and from environmental soil samples. Spot dates suggest that the bones derive from 16th-17th century contexts including ditches, a well and a rubbish pit.
- 5.11.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and identified as large, medium or small mammal. Metrical data has been taken in accordance with von den Driesch (1976) and the state of fusion has been noted. Each fragment has then been

studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology. The assemblage does not contain any recordable mandibles.

- 5.11.3 The assemblage is in a moderate state of preservation and of the 66 fragments recovered, 38 were identifiable to taxa (Table 20). Only domestic taxa are represented including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

Taxa	NISP
Cattle	11
Sheep/Goat	8
Pig	1
Horse	3
Large Mammal	11
Medium Mammal	5

Table 20: NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count

- 5.11.4 Both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing bones are represented and butchery marks have been noted on large and medium-mammal sized ribs and vertebrae. The majority of bones were fused with the exception of a cattle metatarsal which was unfused, fragile and porous and derived from a very young/neo-natal animal. There was no evidence of burning, gnawing or pathology on the bones. Just one specimen, a horse metatarsal, was measurable (Table 21).

Context	Period	Feature	Taxa	Bone	GL	Bp	Bd	GLI	LI
101	C16th	Well	Horse	Metatarsal	267	54	48	258	252

Table 21: Measurements of a horse metatarsal, in mm, taken in accordance with von den Driesch (1976) Using the conversion factors given by Kiesewalter (1888), the horse would have had a shoulder height of c.134cm.

- 5.11.5 Due to the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

5.12 Waterlogged wood by Dawn Elise Mooney

- 5.12.1 Three wooden artefacts were recovered from the site. Two were recovered from the fill [101] of well feature [102], while a third was found in the lower fill [174] of cess pit [176]. The dimensions, preservation and conversion of these artefacts were recorded, and are given in Table 22. The wood species used to produce the artefacts were also recorded. Samples taken from each artefact were sectioned along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000), and examined under a transmitted light microscope at 50x to 300x magnification in order to determine the woody taxa used at timber at the site. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

- 5.12.2 The top fill of well [102] ([101]) produced two broken pieces of radially converted oak (*Quercus* sp.) planking, the primary use of which is unknown. One fragment measured 73mm wide by 47mm long and 11mm in thickness, while the second was thinner at only 8mm thick, measuring 179mm long and 50 mm wide. These are likely

to represent fragments of floorboards or interior panelling. Also present in this context were numerous other small fragments of both timber and roundwood, most likely representing the deposition of woodworking debris.

5.12.3 The basal fill [174] of cess pit [176] produced a single oak stake or peg, made from a halved branch, which was then shaped with long sweeping cuts of a knife or bladed tool to form a tapering wedge. The peg measured 277mm in length, and at its widest point was 41mm wide by 24mm thick. The wood of this object, particularly the wider end, was very spongy and poorly preserved. Pegs such as this with undifferentiated heads are common on archaeological sites where wood is preserved, and amongst other things are used in construction to secure timbers and brushwood (Morris 2000).

5.12.4 All three wooden artefacts recovered from the site were made from oak, which is commonly used as timber due to its strength and durability (Taylor 1981). From the 12th century onwards, most woodlands in Britain were managed to control the availability of timber and firewood (Rackham 1990), and so the wood used for these artefacts is likely to have originated from local managed woodland.

5.12.5 The artefacts recovered from the site were sufficiently well-preserved to allow for both taxonomic identification and interpretation of the function of the objects. Conditions which allow for this level of preservation are relatively rare, and so care should be taken to maximise recovery of wooden artefacts and timbers during any further work at the site.

Context	Parent context	Context Type	Artefact type	Description	Conversion	Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Taxonomic Identification	Preservation
101	102	W	Plank	Broken section of end of plank, with one sawn edge	Radially cleft	47	73	11	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	++
101	102	W	Plank	Fragment of thin plank with diagonally cut edge	Radially cleft	179	50	8	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	++
174	176	PC	Peg	Halved branch split on long edges to form wedge or peg	Halved	277	41	24	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	+

Table 22: Description of wooden artefacts and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

5.13 Summary

5.13.1 When considered together, the assemblage is very diverse given its small size, providing an insight into urban activities in Chelmsford, with glass and pottery giving an indication of the living standards and status of the inhabitants. Wealthy residents in the mid 16th to early 17th century are suggested by the high status *façon de Venice* beaker remains. Quantities of ceramic building material and clay tobacco pipe are too small to draw any conclusions beyond dating. The small amount of residual Roman tile, representing the only Roman material on site, is of little consequence as the Roman settlement in Chelmsford, located in the nearby Moulsham suburb, has already been well documented (Allen 2013, 51-2). Preservation of finds is good

overall, although the animal bone assemblage was in poor condition and this, as well as the marine shell assemblage, was too small to provide any contributions to the current site narrative.

- 5.13.2 Several contexts of 16th century date were waterlogged, resulting in the recovery of well-preserved organic artefacts such as shoes and wood. Such conditions are comparatively rare and their presence indicates a good potential to recover important organic assemblages of 16th century and earlier date.
- 5.13.3 Further work should also include investigation of the remainder of pit [11]. This will establish the scale of the deposit as well as possibly the dispositional process of the 1914 gift tins.
- 5.13.4 Considering the small size of the assemblage, artefacts suggest a high potential for significant finds during further work.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS by Karine Le Hégarat & Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of nine samples were collected during archaeological work for the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains such as wood, macroplants, bones and shells as well as artefact remains. Sample <05> came from the fill [172] of ditch [170]. It was very small, measuring only 0.1L and was directly associated with the remains of a Roman vessel. Two samples originated from deposits currently dated to the 16th century; sample <07> came from the upper fill [101] of well [102] and sample <08> was extracted from alluvium [03], fill [167]. The remaining six samples came from deposits which are currently undated. Samples <03>, <04> and <10> came from ditch fill contexts (147) [146], (151) [152] and (202) [201] respectively. Samples <09> and <11> came the fills (175) and (208) of cess pits [176] and [205], and sample <02> was collected from the fill (145) of pit [146].
- 6.1.2 Notes made in the field indicated that the majority of the sampled deposits were waterlogged (samples <02, 03, 04, 08, 10 and 11>). After examination of the sediment, samples <02, 03, 04 and 08> did not appear to contain remains preserved by waterlogging (or in anoxic conditions). On the other hand, the humic appearance and presence of organic material in samples <07 and 09>, suggested that some plant and faunal remains may be preserved by waterlogging (or in anoxic conditions) in these samples. Where waterlogging was evident soil samples were processed using wet sieving. This was the case for samples <07, 09, 10 and 11>). Sub-samples of 2L were washed through a stack of geological sieves ranging from 4mm to 250µm, and each fraction was retained wet. The bulk of the remaining samples were processed using a standard flotation method. The flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes, respectively. All the residues were dried prior to sorting for artefacts and environmental remains. Both the dry flots and wet sieved fraction were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. Preliminary identifications of the macrobotanical remains have been made with reference to modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006 and NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997). Abundance, diversity and preservation state of the macrobotanicals have been recorded to establish their potential for further analysis.
- 6.1.3 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of the samples were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom

microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Waterlogged wood fragments were sectioned along the same three planes, and examined under a transmitted light microscope at 50x to 300x magnification. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Where identifications were uncertain due to poor preservation or limited size of charcoal specimens the identification is preceded by *cf.*, denoting 'compares with'. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2 Results

- 6.2.1 Sample <02>, from pit fill [146], produced a small flot which contained a large concentration of modern rootlets. They suggest the possibility of post-depositional movement within the deposit and therefore the potential for modern contamination through root action. Environmental indicators were uncommon in sample <02>. A single large seeded vetch / bean / pea (*Vicia / Pisum* sp.) and a small assemblage of charred wood fragments were present. The assemblage of charcoal comprised mostly small pieces <2mm in size and flecks, although infrequent larger fragments >4mm were also recorded. The residue produced a small amount of glass and FCF.
- 6.2.2 Sample <05> associated with a Roman vessel within ditch [201] produced only three small-sized fragments of charcoal. Charcoal was also infrequent in ditch samples <10> and <04> and slightly more abundant in sample <03>. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal was present in both samples. A single softwood fragment (currently unidentified) was noted in sample <4>, a small gully in trench 6 presumed to be prehistoric, which also contained fragments with distorted wood anatomy suggesting some decomposition prior to charring. In addition to the oak in sample <4> hazel/alder sp. (*Corylus avellana/Alnus cf. glutinosa*) fragments were also recorded. Many of the fragments displayed evidence for sediment infiltration which has led to poor preservation. Charred cereal remains were only recorded in sample <04>. The small assemblage comprised two grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), two grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and two unidentified grains (Cerealia). In addition, two large grass (Poaceae) or cereal (Cerealia) culm nodes were evident. Uncharred macroplants were found in low to moderate concentration in two samples. While sample <10>, from a peaty fill in trench 4, produced a small amount of weed seeds (fewer than ten items) including meadow / creeping / bulbous buttercups (*Ranunculus acris / repens / bulbosus*), knotgrass / dock (*Polygonum / Rumex*), possible stinking chamomile (*cf. Anthemis cotula*) as well as seeds from pink (Caryophyllaceae) and goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) families, uncharred seeds were more abundant but less varied in sample <04>. The range of taxa was small, with elderberry seeds dominating the assemblage. Sample <04> also produced a small amount of burnt and unburnt bone fragments and LSS. FCF were present in all three samples, but they were more numerous in sample <03>. With the exception of a small amount of glass and magnetised material in sample <04>, no other artefacts were recorded in the samples.
- 6.2.3 The upper fill of well [102], sample <07>, produced a fairly large amount of uncharred plant remains. The assemblage consists of a small amount of unidentified buds and uncharred weed seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) as well as a moderate quantity of uncharred wood fragments. In addition, an uncharred hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment was hand collected on site. This sample contained a

significant quantity of waterlogged wood fragments, including both mature timber offcuts and roundwood fragments, which have been identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.). A single oyster shell (*Mytilus edulis*) and a cattle tooth fragment were also present. In addition a few beetle fragments (mostly wings) were noted.

6.2.4 While sample <09> from cess pit [176] produced mostly uncharred roots, sample <11> from cess pit [205] contained a richer assemblage of plant remains, mostly preserved through charring. The sample from the basal fill of cess pit [205] produced a few fragments of uncharred stems, rootlets or rhizomes measuring up to 2mm in diameter. Charred plant remains present in the assessed sub-sample consisted of both charred wood and charred macroplants. The assemblage comprised a moderate amount of charred cereal remains (between 30-35 items) including grains of oat (*Avena* sp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Overall the remains were well preserved. Oat appears to dominate the assemblage with wheat and barley represented by single specimens. The grain of wheat displays a rounded appearance typical of free-threshing wheat (bread or rivet wheat). The grain of barley had sprouted prior to charring. One of the oat grains exhibited remnants of adhering lemma and palea, and awns fragments were also present. A large-seeded vetch / bean / pea (*Vicia* / *Pisum* sp.) >3mm was recorded. Infrequent unidentified buds and charred weed seeds including field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), seeds from the pink (Caryophyllaceae) family and grass (Poaceae) seeds were also noted. The sample also contained a mixture of charred and uncharred wood fragments, of both roundwood and mature timber.

6.2.5 Sample <08> originated from an alluvial flood deposit taken in trench 3A and produced a large flot (100ml) which consisted almost entirely of modern rootlets. A small quantity of robust uncharred seeds were present including seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and blackberry / raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg./*idaeus*). In addition, a small quantity of small charred wood fragments along with a small amount of mammal bones, marine and land snail shells were recorded. The charcoal was well preserved but scarce and no identifications were warranted. The residue contained a few pieces of coal, slate and CBM.

6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 The samples have revealed interesting but limited evidence for domestic activities. The presence of charred plant remains, shells as well as mammal bones indicate human activities in the vicinity of the features and deposit; nonetheless, the overall low concentration of remains is surprising given the presence of a well and two cess pits. When feasible, it may be more productive to sample the basal fills of the features, for instance well [202]. Charred crop remains were only recorded in three samples. They were found in low concentration in samples <02> (pit [146]) and <04> (ditch [152]) and were more numerous in sample <11> (cess pit [205]). The presence of oat, hulled barley, wheat and pulses indicate that the crops were used and possibly cultivated locally. As no floret bases were recovered, it is currently impossible to determine whether the grains of oat represent wild or cultivated varieties. Nonetheless, the material in cess pit [205] was well preserved, and more remains could be found in this sample. The assemblage of weed seeds is too small to reveal information in regards to cultivation practice. Furthermore, the origin of the seeds is uncertain, and some may represent the local vegetation around the site. The range of uncharred macroplant remains was limited. Nonetheless, the seeds of elderberry and blackberry / raspberry could provide evidence for the use of wild food. Much of the macroplant remains from the site are likely to represent re-deposited material from domestic activities. However, it is not possible, given the small size of the assemblages to comment on the types of activities they relate to. More work on site should target richer deposits.

- 6.3.2 The small assemblage of charred wood provides limited evidence for the acquisition of fuel. Taxa recorded are found in a variety of woodland and hedgerow environments. Much of the charcoal has been subject to sediment infiltration, resulting in damage to anatomical features and overall poor preservation. Such infiltration is common in low-lying, waterlogged sites or where fluctuations in ground water have occurred. Given that the charcoal is from ditches it is likely that these remains represent an amalgam of fuel waste from activities undertaken in the near vicinity and they do not therefore provide an indication of fuel selection associated with specific fuel using tasks. Similarly, the uncharred timber offcuts and roundwood present in the well may derive from wood working debris associated with construction of timber structures in the vicinity; however, the assemblage is too limited to explore the evidence for woodland management practices associated with timber procurement.
- 6.3.3 Sampling has highlighted varying potential for the recovery of wood and macroplant remains. It has also revealed limited potential for artefacts and ecofact recovery. The remains provide a restricted view of the agricultural economy of the site, fuel use and the diet of the inhabitants. It is therefore recommended that a programme of bulk soil sampling of notably rich deposits, targeting primary deposits in particular where possible, is included in any future archaeological work at the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The excavated trenches have provided useful insight into the nature and date of below ground deposits and archaeological remains across the Phase 2 Development area. From the information retrieved it is possible to provide both a broad deposit model and an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site as a whole.
- 7.1.2 In summary, significant archaeological remains were discovered in trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 – in the north, west and southern parts of the site (Fig.14). In the east frequent flooding and riverine action had removed all evidence of archaeological activity, if ever present (trenches 3A, 3B and 10). A probable Roman ditch, undated pits and gullies were concentrated in the north and centre of the study area. Late medieval/ early Post-medieval features appeared to be concentrated in the centre and the northwest of the site. No archaeological remains prior to the 19th century were discovered in the east of the site, which seems to have always been prone to substantial flood events.

7.2 Deposit Model

- 7.1.1 A broad deposit model can be offered for the site as a whole, based upon the recorded stratigraphic sequences within the various trenches. A graphic representation of the major units is presented as Figure 15.
- 7.2.2 It is presumed that the topography of the site has always sloped to the south and, more importantly, to the east down to the river Chelmer. Where the undisturbed surface of the natural gravels was encountered, a gentle slope down to the east was evident, except in Trench 4 where they fell to the west. These gravels underlie as much as the western two-thirds of the site, giving way to alluvial clays in Trenches 3A 3B and 10. The interface between the two was not encountered in any of the trenches, but is conjectured to be located in the vicinity of where Bond Street crosses the site, perhaps with the clays protruding further west at Trench 3B. This would

broadly concur with the flood-prone area shown on Figure 14 proposed by Medlycott (1998). With the exception of Trench 9, archaeological remains appear confined to the gravels and, where sealed by overlying deposits, would seem to be predominantly of late Medieval/ early Post-medieval date, with only a very small number of seemingly securely dated earlier feature.

- 7.2.3 The clean, artefact-free, layer tentatively identified as an alluvial flood deposit extends over almost all of the natural gravel, directly overlaying it. It is only absent in Trench 4, close to the High Street, where it has presumably been removed or reworked by subsequent and more intensive occupation activity in this vicinity. Tentatively dated as being of 16th century date due to the occurrence of features of this date both above and below it, it is perhaps plausible that such a flooding episode could have occurred before the post-medieval improvement and canalisation of the Chelmer. However, it remains possible that it is instead simply a subsoil. Above this deposit, later remains suggest an intensification of occupation activity to the rear of the High Street properties, perhaps coinciding with the 18th century expansion of some of the frontage buildings.
- 7.2.4 The alluvial flood deposit is overlain by a relatively thick layer of dark soil, presumed to be the product of cultivation and perhaps importation. This extends across more-or-less the whole site and could be the product of an intensification of the horticultural use of this location, from the 18th century onwards, once the land drainage was improved – perhaps coinciding with the improvement of the river Chelmer. Archaeological features such as timber and brick buildings, perhaps associated with the cultivation, seem to be constructed further east during this later post-medieval period. 19th century features, including further buildings, occupy and cut the cultivation soil, implying a degree of continuity of land use.
- 7.2.5 Modern overburden deposits appear to directly overlie the former cultivation soil and the remains of the demolished brick-built structures. Collectively, they vary in thickness from 0.5m to 1.4m, though averaging at approximately 1.2m across much of the site. Only in the east, and on the southern periphery, does overburden thickness seem to be significantly less, at 0.5-0.85m thick.

7.3 Archaeological significance and potential

- 7.3.1 Evidence for occupation or exploitation of this location during the prehistoric period is very limited. The single gully in trench 6 containing a quantity of fire-cracked flint, an artefact type particularly found in Bronze Age contexts in Essex, is potentially prehistoric in date. However, the lack of prehistoric pottery and worked flints, even occurring residually in later deposits, suggests that the potential for remains of this date within the site area is low.
- 7.3.2 A north-south aligned gully in trench 1 appears to be of Roman date. This was the only datable Roman feature discovered. Only two fragments of residual Roman tile were recovered, in a later pit. It is well demonstrated that the Roman settlement of *Caesaromagus* was located to the south of the River Can, itself some 170m south of the site. No significant Roman period remains have been found in the surrounding vicinity to date. It is likely that this vicinity would have been cultivated, exploited or otherwise managed as part of the hinterland of the town. The presence of this recorded gully presumably denotes such agrarian land-use. As such, the incidence and significance of further Roman period remains within the site is likely to be low.
- 7.3.3 The recorded remains of another ten fragments of gullies, nine pits and five post-holes were undated, save that they were stratigraphically earlier than the late

medieval/ early post-medieval flood deposit [49]. It is therefore likely at least some of these are prehistoric or Roman in origin.

- 7.3.4 No Saxon period remains were identified by the evaluation, which is consistent with the lack of such remains in the wider vicinity. The potential for Saxon remains being present elsewhere in the site is consequently low to negligible.
- 7.3.5 Medieval land-use activity is evidenced by a single large ditch [163], of late 13th/early 14th century date, encountered in trenches 6 and 8. This north-south aligned boundary may have been dug primarily as a flood defence measure and therefore also possibly marked the eastern limit of the High Street properties until the Tudor period, when further expansion to the east appears to have occurred. Very small amounts of residual 14th century pottery were also recovered from Trenches 1 and 2. This is likely to denote small-scale disposal activity within the rear of properties fronting onto the High Street and marketplace, relatively early in the medieval town's development. These backlands were evidently marginal land, prone to flooding, so a similarly low density of medieval remains can probably be expected elsewhere across the site. Where they are present, they are likely to be overlain by the alluvial flood deposit.
- 7.3.6 The incidence of archaeological remains of late medieval to early post-medieval date was significantly greater in the evaluation trenches. In the 15th and 16th centuries a number of cess pits, wells and other features were dug in the northwest of the site, again relating to activities undertaken in the rear of the High Street properties and perhaps reflecting the growth of the town. It is possible that land drainage was improved in this period, so facilitating increased use of these backlands. The increased incidence of ditches, notably [20] and [44], may support this. Remains of a more occupational nature in trench 9, such as fragmentary metal surfaces, a rubbish pit and an east-west foundation trench for a substantial structure may hint at more concerted use of his part of the site. Finds from this area include fragments of a 16th century imported glass beaker, possibly indicating the high status occupation of the plot. Equally, the presence of leather off-cuts in ditch [44], in the same trench, suggest the proximity of leather working or cobbling.
- 7.3.7 The widespread nature of the apparently post-medieval horticultural or garden soils across Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 suggest that the backlands in which the site is located were actively cultivated during the 18th century. This may have included the redistribution or importation of material, although the primary purpose of this may have been to raise the ground surface and combat flooding. Fragments of two brick structures were observed in trenches 5 and 6, cut into this deposit and located in the approximate centre of the development area. These are not depicted on available historic mapping and no obvious function can be discerned for them. They seem to have been relatively insubstantial structures and to have passed out of use and been demolished by the mid 19th century.
- 7.3.8 The site appears to have continued to be primarily used for cultivation/agriculture throughout the 19th century as evidenced by the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map, which clearly shows orchards and gardens and east-east aligned fence or wall lines (Fig.13). These may still be extant at the north of the site where at least one 19th century wall still remains. At some point in the mid-19th century two seemingly rudimentary structures were built in brick in the eastern part of the site known as Mesopotamia Island. These presumably relate to the use of the 'island', though their function could not be determined by the evaluation.

7.3.9 In the late 19th and early 20th buildings have encroached westwards from the High Street into the area of the site, particularly in the area around nos.6-8 and the NatWest Bank offices. There appears to have been little significant encroachment into the study area before this date. The date at which Mesopotamia Island ceased to be a distinct entity in the river floodplain was not determined by this evaluation, but it was seemingly deliberately infilled when Bond Street is created in the 1960s. Modern deposition of a significant depth of overburden deposits, at least some associated with the creation of car park areas, has obviously raised ground surface levels and modified the general topography across much of the site. Modern truncation and disturbance appears to be modest, with significant damage to underlying archaeological remains only being found in the area around trench 3B where all remains had been impacted by the construction of the NatWest offices.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The demonstrated presence of significant below-ground archaeological remains across the majority of the site indicates that development will have an impact upon the heritage resource relating to the historic origins and development of the town of Chelmsford.

7.4.2 This evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological remains, predominantly of late medieval/ early post-medieval and later date, survive across much of the site area. Some of these recorded remains are extensive soil deposits relating to general episodes of land-use while others are discrete cut features which evidence the nature, date and intensity of occupation activity at this location. These discrete features, comprising boundary and drainage ditches/gullies, remains of timber and brick buildings, surfacing and rubbish pits appear to be of relatively low to moderate density and complexity and are probably mostly present within the western half of the site.

7.4.3 While the potential to recover information relating to pre-medieval land-use is relatively low, the further investigation of this site is likely to provide an increased understanding of the medieval and later development and use of this part of Chelmsford town. It is possible that features and artefacts will be encountered that reflect the dual commercial and domestic nature of the properties that fronted the historic High Street and that, with some supporting detailed documentary and cartographic research, evidence of specific trades, lifestyle and prosperity, might therefore be related to specific properties. The improved drainage and modification of this backland area between High Street and river may also be evidenced and better understood.

7.4.4 Modern truncation and disturbance of the site has clearly taken place, though this has been fairly modest in areas that have only been utilised as car parking. Indeed, the deposition of c.0.5-1.3m of overburden deposits has to some extent seemingly protected the surviving below-ground remains. Despite this, the proposed development includes ground reduction that exceeds the recorded depths at which archaeological remains are present. As such, its impact will be severe and it is highly likely that the local planning authority will require mitigation works in advance of, and/or during, construction works.

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APPENDIX 1: Pottery Quantification

Con-text	Feature	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
11/007	layer	1	42	Post-medieval red earthenware: fragment from flared bowl showing grooved, beaded rim , internally glazed, Harlow type	17 th C or later
11/018	20	1	8	Tudor red earthenware: unfeatured body sherd	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
		1	23	Cologne stoneware: body sherd from rounded jug showing moulded rose plant decoration cf. Gaimster 1997 pl. 30	c.1520-45
11/019	20	1	9	Sandy orange ware: sherd showing partial slip-coating on both surfaces and a partial external glaze	15 th to 16 th C
		3	88	Tudor red earthenware: includes sherds from a bifid handle, perhaps from a cistern	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
		2	29	English stoneware: joining sherds, probably from a tavern mug, shows traces of incised lettering	18 th C
9/028	Layer	1	10	German stoneware, perhaps Cologne showing remains of moulded decoration and kiln adhesion scar	? first half of 16 th C
		3	46	English tin-glazed earthenware: joining sherds from chamber pot with everted rim and upright neck, all over tin glaze, undecorated	18 th C
9/029	Layer	3	65	Tudor red earthenware: unfeatured body sherds	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
		2	53	Post-medieval red earthenware: internally glazed flat base with evidence for the attachment of a foot, probably the tripod base of a pipkin or cauldron, burnt after breakage, plus a glazed body sherd showing incised zigzag decoration	Late 16 th to 17 th centuries
9/030	Layer	1	11	Tudor red earthenware, body sherd showing reduced surfaces	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
9/032	31	1	9	Surrey-Hampshire white ware, base sherd showing internal yellow glaze	Later 16 th to 17 th centuries
		5	74	Post-medieval red earthenware, most with an internal glaze	Later 16 th to 17 th C
9/037	38	4	133	Tudor red earthenware: includes a reshaped sherd with a straight edge, abraded on the internal edge, which may have been used as a tool of some kind, also the rim of a costrel showing a pierced lug attaching at the rim, partial glaze	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
		1	37	Frechen-type stoneware: sherd from rounded jug, showing speckled but not 'tiger ware' salt glaze	Mid to later 16 th
		2	40	Black-glazed ware: joining sherds from pad base, perhaps from a jug, dark brown rather than black glaze, underside of base abraded	Late 16 th to 17 th C
9/043	44	2	66	Tudor red earthenware: burnt sherds, includes a large sherd from the upper part of a jug	Later 15 th to 16 th centuries
2/055	54	1	4	Frechen stoneware, small sherd	Later 16 th to 17 th C
2/072	71	1	69	Medieval coarseware: thick-walled base sherd from a large vessel, perhaps a bowl, may be an example of Mill Green coarseware	13 th to 14 th C
4/101	102	3	89	Tudor red earthenware: joining sherds from a cistern showing an upright bevelled rim and a band of slip-painting around the neck, similar in a Moulsham Street pit dated to the late 16 th C (Cunningham 1985b, fig.44.20)	16 th C, perhaps later 16 th C
		2	58	Post-medieval red earthenware: base and body sherd from small glazed drinking jugs or cups	16 th C
7/115	Layer	2	9	Creamware: fragments from plate(s)	Mid 18 th to 1820s
		1	7	Pearlware: handle from? jug with blue floral design, burnt	c.1800
5/124	127	1	3	Creamware, rim sherd from plate	Mid 18 th to

5/128	129	7	533	Ironstone china: fragments from willow pattern plates/flanged rim dishes, plate with blue transfer-printed Grecian landscape with lady, chamber pot rim with blue transfer-printed floral and foliage design on rim flange and on exterior, the recessed base from a small bowl, undecorated	1820s From 1820s onwards
		1	294	Ironstone marmalade jar with groove below rim	19 th to 20 th C
		1	207	Slipped kitchen earthenware: large fragment from base of slightly flared bowl	19 th to earlier 20 th C
		5	509	Modern stoneware cylindrical bottles, remains of five vessels represented, diagnostic sherds comprise the rim of a lead-glazed ginger beer bottle and a bottle with an impressed stamp above the base, which reads 'VITREOUS STONE BOTTLES WARRANTED NOT TO ABSORB J. BOURNE PATENTEE DENBY & CODNOR PARK POTTERIES NEAR DERBY'	From 1833 to c.1850
6/162	163	1	47	Medieval coarseware: H1 rim from large vessel perhaps from a bowl, a thickening of the rim suggests the bowl may have possessed a handle or spout	13 th C, perhaps as late as 14 th
3A/167	Layer	121	1210	Tudor red earthenware: many sherds appear to be from the same vessel - a slip-painted cistern with an upright neck and flat-topped slightly everted rim	16 th C
1/174	176	2	32	Mill Green ware including thumbled jug base	Mid 13 th to 14 th C
		1	6	Sandy orange ware: slip-coated unglazed body sherd	14 th to 16 th C
		14	189	Tudor red earthenware: including thick-walled sherds, some slip-painted, probably from large jugs or cisterns; the rim of a small jug and the remains of a flanged dish	Late 16 th C
		1	88	Post-medieval red earthenware: faceted base from glazed drinking vessel	16 th C
T7/US	-	1	8	Modern stoneware: fragment from cylindrical bottle	19 th to early 20 th C
T7/US small find 1	-	2	768	Modern stoneware: two complete lead-glazed cylindrical bottles, one, a beer bottle is impressed 'DOULTON LAMBETH', the other, a ginger beer, is impressed 'DOULTON & Co. LAMBETH LONDON' in a cartouche	19 th to early 20 th C
T7/US small find 2	-	2	929	Modern stoneware: two complete lead-glazed cylindrical bottles, both impressed 'THO ^S MAKEHAM CHELMSFORD' below the shoulder, and 'STEPHEN GREEN IMPERIAL POTTERIES LAMBETH' in a circular cartouche just above the base of the bottles	1850s
T7/US small find 3	-	5	2368	Modern stoneware: five salt-glazed stoneware ginger beer bottles, all are complete although two have holes in the base, all have the same impressed mark as that on the bottle in context 128 - 'VITREOUS STONE BOTTLES WARRANTED NOT TO ABSORB J. BOURNE PATENTEE DENBY & CODNOR PARK POTTERIES NEAR DERBY' although three say J. Bourne & Son, rather than just J. Bourne	1850s
		209	8170		

Table 23: Pottery quantification

APPENDIX 2: Environmental Residues Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
2	145	P	10	10	*	<2	**	<2		*<2											Glass */<2g - FCF */2g
3	147	D	10	10	***	24	***	8	<i>Quercus sp.</i> & softwood frags												FCF ***/1288g
4	151	D	10	10	**	4	***	2	<i>Quercus sp.</i> , <i>Corylus avellana/Alnus cf. glutinosa sp.</i>	**<2	**	2		*	<2			*	<2		Magnetised material ***/2g- Uncharred seeds **/<2g - Glass */<2g - FCF */2g
5	170	D	0.1	0.1			*	<2													
8	167	NC	20	20	*	<2	*	<2			**	90					*	<2	***	4	Coal */<2g - Slate */2g - CBM */12g

Table 24: Dry residues quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams, Presence (denoted as 'P') of remains where recorded but not yet weighed or quantified.

APPENDIX 3: Environmental Flots Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Land Snail Shells
2	145	<2	8	8	60	2	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (1)			***	
3	147	<2	4	4	98	1				**	
4	151	2	10	10	80	15	*** <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (***), <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> (*)		*	**	*
5	170	<2	<2	<2	100	-					
8	167	10	100	100	96	2	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (**), <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. / <i>idaeus</i> (*)		*	*	**

Table 25: Quantification of dry flots (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Deposit	Sample Volume	Sub-sample processed	Sieves used	Fraction volume (ml)	Sub-sample scanned (ml)	Macrobotanical Remains	Identification and preservation notes	Wood	Notes on Preservation of Wood	Identification and preservation notes	Faunal remains	Notes on faunal remains	Insects and Fly pupae	Notes on insect remains	Other finds	Notes on finds
7	101	W	10	2	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	700	70	P	Uncharred: buds (**, ++); unid. seed (10; <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. (* <5, ++)	P	Uncharred: >4mm (***, ++) includes rw, 2-4mm (***, ++) fragments	<i>Quercus</i> sp. roundwood and timber fragments	P	Oyster shell (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) (*, +); tooth X 1 (cattle)	P	beetle frags *	P	CBM * >4mm
9	175	PC	10	2	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	1800	200	P	Roots	A			A		A		A	

Sample Number	Context	Deposit	Sample Volume	Sub-sample processed	Sieves used	Fraction volume (ml)	Sub-sample scanned (ml)	Macrobotanical Remains	Identification and preservation notes	Wood	Notes on Preservation of Wood	Identification and preservation notes	Faunal remains	Notes on faunal remains	Insects and Fly pupae	Notes on insect remains	Other finds	Notes on finds
10	202	D	8	2	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	1420	20	P	Uncharred: broken down plant matter; small frags of stems, rootlets, rhizomes, up to 2mm diameter (* , ++); <i>Ranunculus acris</i> <i>/ repens /</i> <i>bulbosus</i> (3), <i>Polygonum /</i> <i>Rumex</i> sp. (1),, cf. <i>Anthemis</i> <i>cotula</i> (1), Caryophyllaceae (1), Chenopodiaceae (1), unid. seed (1)	P	Charred: * small-sized		A		P	fly puparia *	P	FCF **

Sample Number	Context	Deposit	Sample Volume	Sub-sample processed	Sieves used	Fraction volume (ml)	Sub-sample scanned (ml)	Macrobotanical Remains	Identification and preservation notes	Wood	Notes on Preservation of Wood	Identification and preservation notes	Faunal remains	Notes on faunal remains	Insects and Fly pupae	Notes on insect remains	Other finds	Notes on finds
11	208	PC	8	2	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	510	50	P	Uncharred: small frags of stems, rootlets, rhizomes, up to 2mm diameter (**, ++); Charred: <i>Vicia / Pisum</i> sp. (1) 3mm diameter, <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (1) germinated, buds unident. (3), <i>Lithospermum arvense</i> (1), <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum</i> (1), <i>Avena</i> sp. (**, ++) some lemma/palea noted, Poaceae (*), Caryophyllaceae (3)	P	Charred: >4mm (***, ++) rw present; 2-4mm (**); <2mm (**); Uncharred: >4mm (**, ++)		A		A		A	

Table 26: Wet sieved samples quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good), Presence (denoted as 'P') of remains where recorded but not yet weighed or quantified.

APPENDIX 4: HER Summary Form

Site name and address: Bond Street, Phase II Development, Chelmsford, Essex		
County: Essex	District: Chelmsford	
Village/Town: Chelmsford	Parish: Chelmsford	
Planning application reference: CHE/12/01058		
HER Enquiry reference: N/A		
Funding source: CgMs Consulting		
Nature of application: Shopping development and underground car park		
Present land use: Car park		
Size of application area: 21,914m ²	Size of area investigated: 661m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 55140327		
Site code (if applicable): CF 77		
Site director/Organization: Steve Chew, Archaeology South-East		
Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 13 October 2013	Finish: 27 October 2013
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Chelmsford Museum		
Related HER Nos: N/A	Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, post-medieval	
Previous summaries/reports: N/A	OASIS ref: 167009	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site is located to the rear of buildings on the east side of Chelmsford High Street and bounded to the east by the River Chelmer. Most recently used as car parking, historic mapping depicts its former use as gardens. Twelve evaluation trenches were excavated across the site area. Undisturbed natural sandy gravels were recorded at 23.30m OD in the northwest of the site, 21.80m OD in the south. Alluvial clays, associated with the river, were encountered in the most easterly of the trenches.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest datable feature was a north-south aligned Roman gully found to the north of the site, although a large number of pits, post-holes and gullies cut into the natural gravels remain undated and may be prehistoric in origin.</i></p> <p><i>A large late medieval ditch was recorded in the central part of the site, running north – south and broadly parallel to the river, which may have acted as a flood defence measure and demarcated the eastern extent of activity extending back from the High Street until the Tudor period. Residual medieval pottery was also found to the north.</i></p> <p><i>The site was more extensively occupied in the 15th and 16th centuries with evidence for cess and rubbish pits, metalled surfaces, a well and a foundation cut for a substantial timber structure recorded in trenches in the west of the site. A possible alluvial flood deposit was identified in all but the most westerly trenches. Late medieval/ early post-medieval remains were found both above and below this deposit.</i></p> <p><i>In the later post-medieval period the site use was predominantly that of cultivation/agriculture, with a substantial dark soil forming across much of the site. The remains of two brick-built structures, possibly of 18th century date, were noted in the central part of the site.</i></p> <p><i>19th and early 20th century features were recorded, including a pit containing a large quantity of 1914 'Princess Mary tins'. Two further brick structures were built in the 19th century, close to the River Chelmer, in that part of the site known as 'Mesopotamia Island'.</i></p> <p><i>These archaeological deposits were overlain by a significant thickness of modern</i></p>		

overburden and surfacing, and only modest truncation/disturbance from the site's use as a car park was identified.

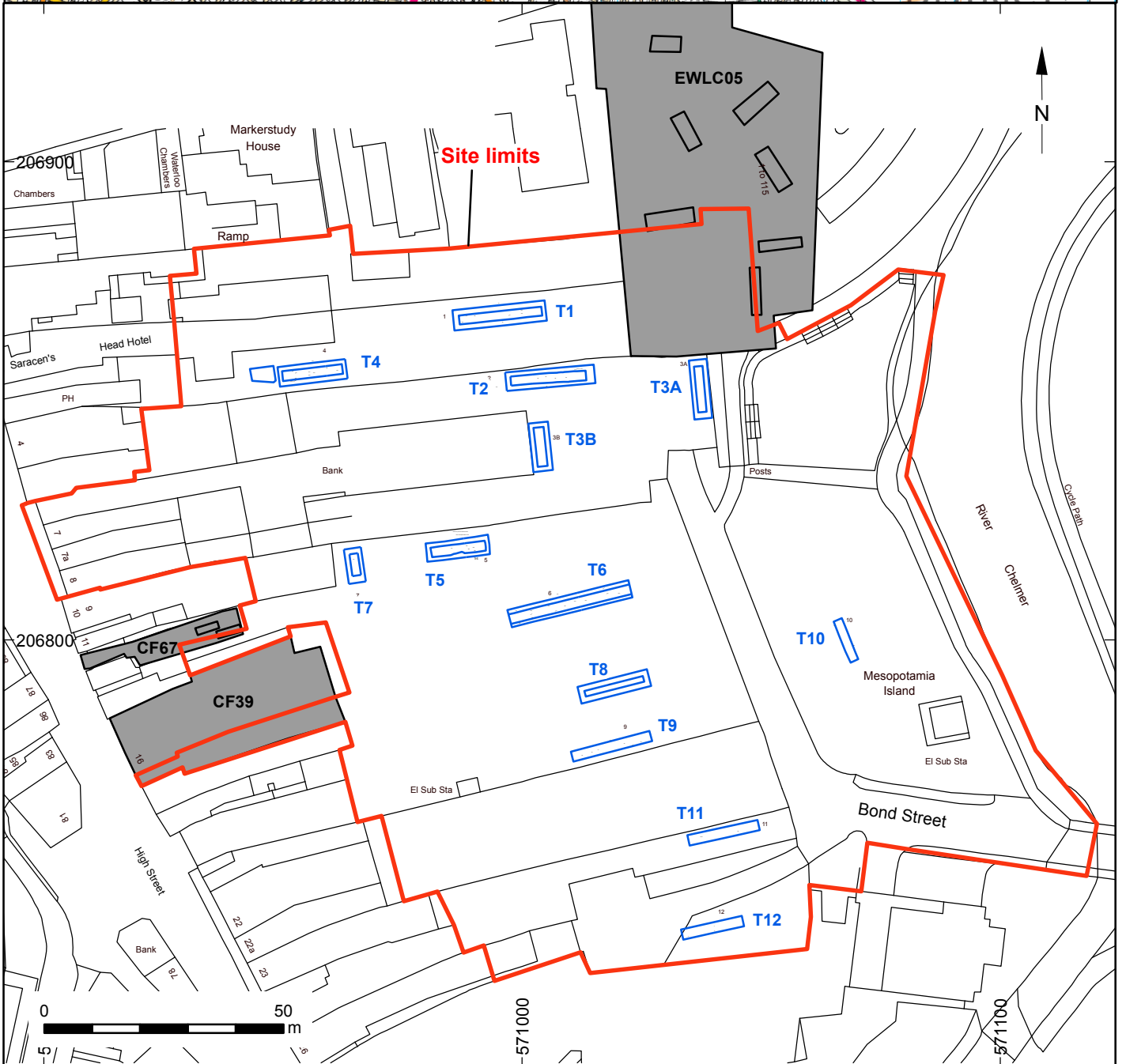
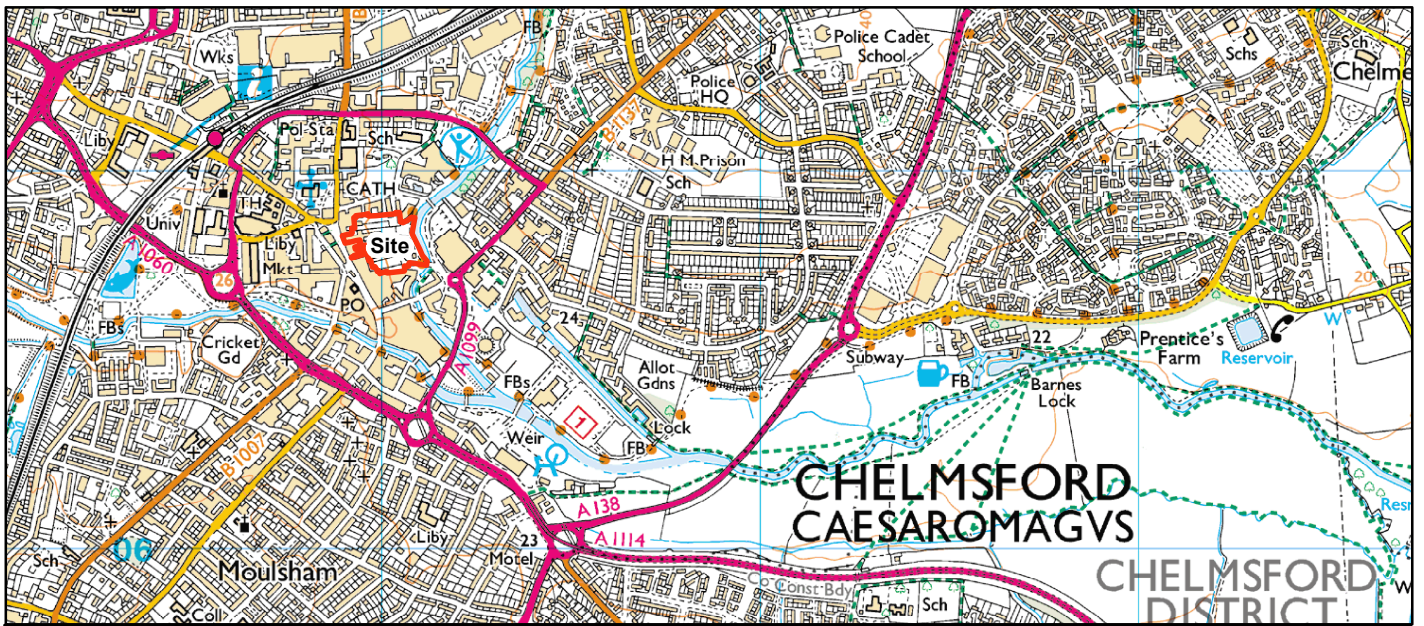
Author of summary: Steve Chew

Date of summary: December 2013

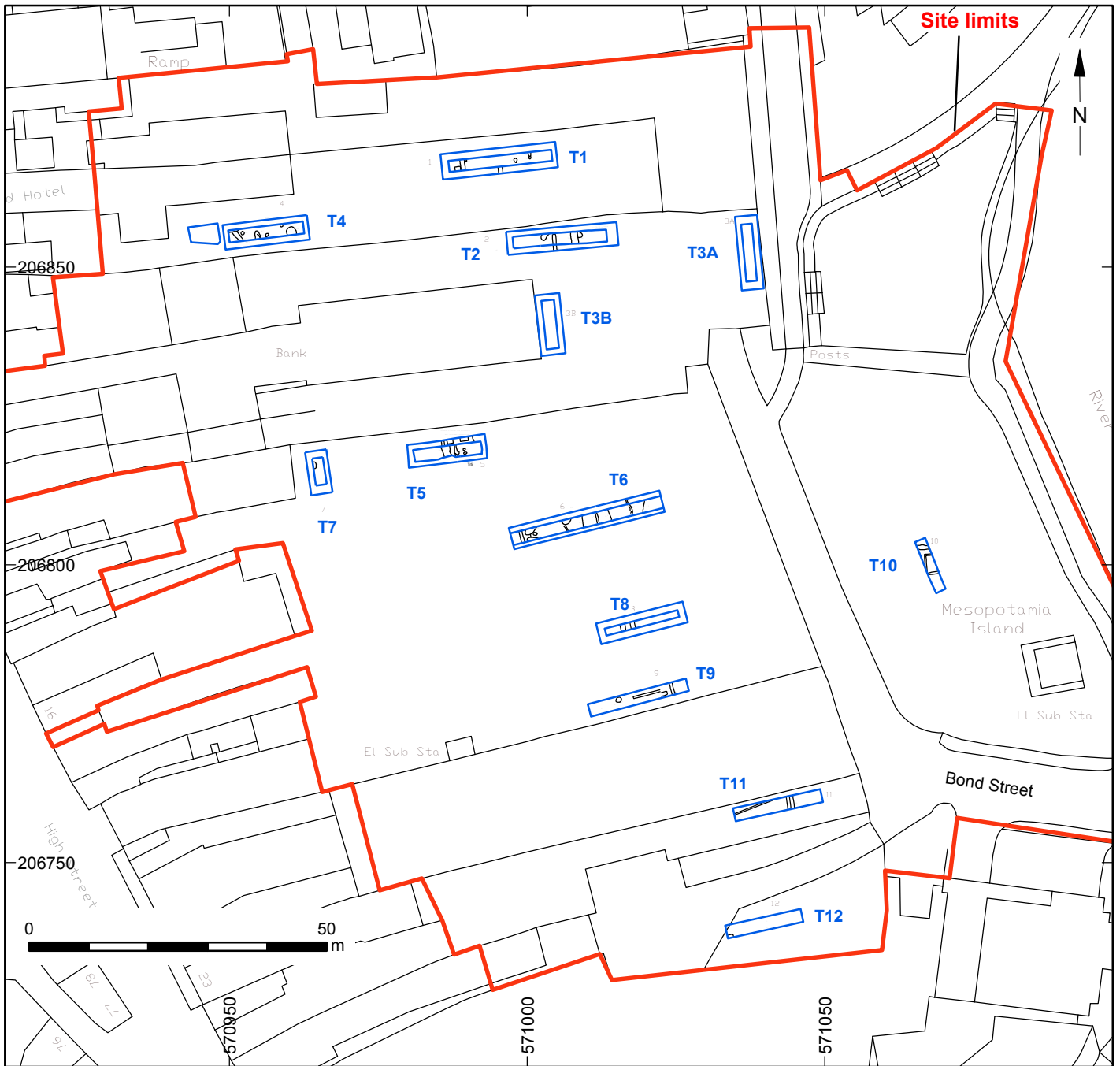
APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-167009	
Project details	
Project name	Bond Street, Phase II
Short description of the project	The site was located to the rear of buildings fronting Chelmsford High Street in an area presently used as a surface car park west of the River Chelmer. Archaeological investigations have previously been carried out to the north and west of the site. The earliest datable feature was a north-south aligned Roman gully found to the north of the site, although a large number of pits, post holes and ditches remain undated and may be prehistoric in origin. A large late medieval ditch was recorded in the central part of the site, running north – south and broadly parallel to the river, which may have acted as a flood defence measure and demarcated the eastern extent of activity extending back from the High Street until the Tudor period. Residual medieval pottery was also found to the north. The site was extensively occupied in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with evidence for cess and rubbish pits, metalled surfaces, a well and a foundation cut for a substantial structure. The site was flooded during this period but occupation activity took place before and after this event. In the Post-medieval period the site was given over predominantly to cultivation/agriculture although two brick-built structures were erected in the central part of the study area. Two further structures were built in the east in the nineteenth century, close to the River Chelmer.
Project dates	Start: 14-10-2013 End: 30-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CF77 - Sitecode 12/01058 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCH Roman DITCH Medieval SURFACES Post Medieval PITS Post Medieval WELL Post Medieval BUILDINGS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEATHER Post Medieval GLASS Post Medieval METALWORK Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Car park (flat)
Development type	underground car park
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX, CHELMSFORD, Bond Street, Phase II

Study area	25550.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 57100 26800 51 0 51 55 01 N 000 17 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.80m Max: 23.30m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Steve Chew
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Aquilla Homes
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Archive ID	CF77
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Leather","Metal","Wood"
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CF77
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Leather","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Wood"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CF77
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Leather","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Wood"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Entered by	Steve Chew (steven.chew@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	18 December 2013

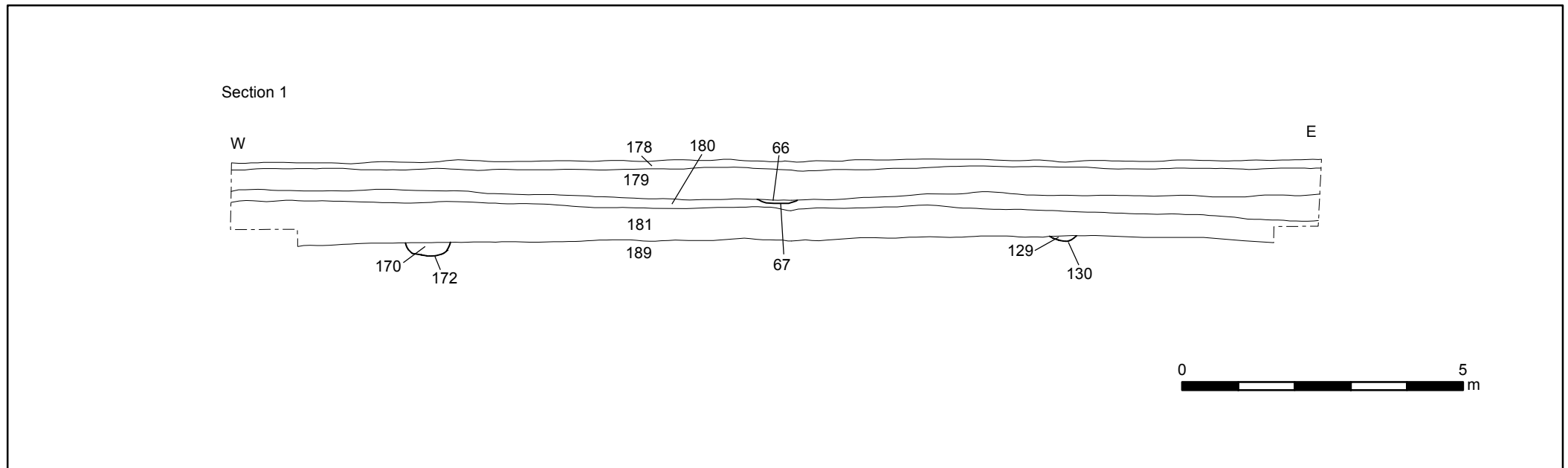
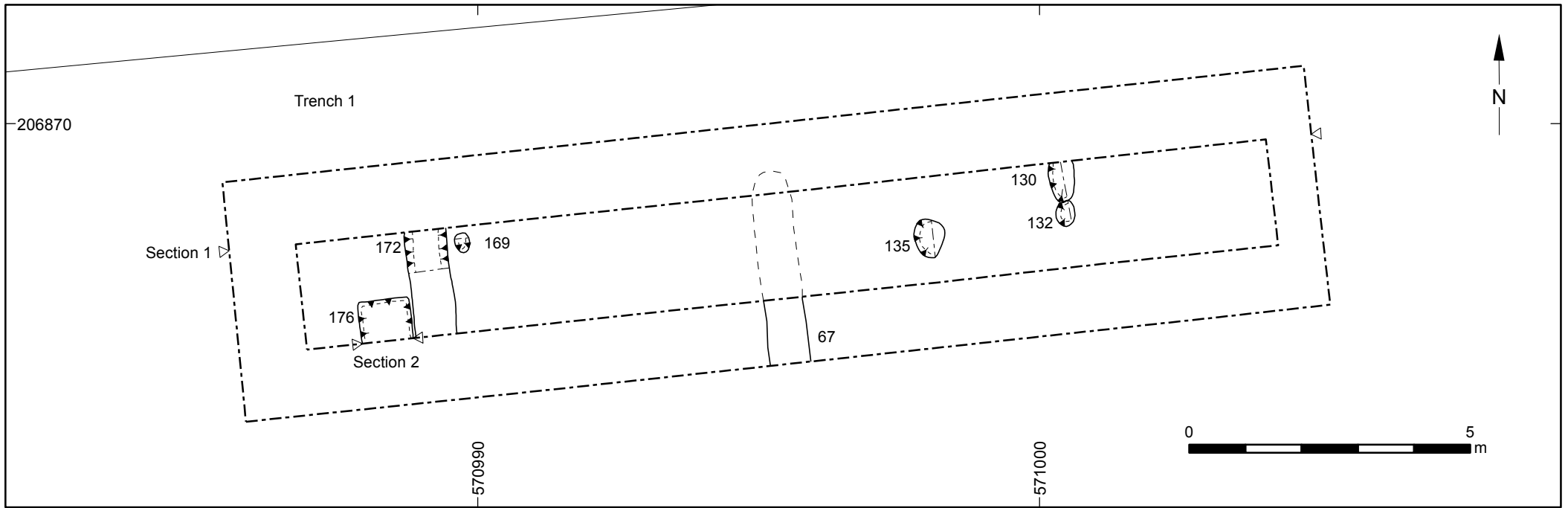


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Report Ref: 2014006	Drawn by: APL			

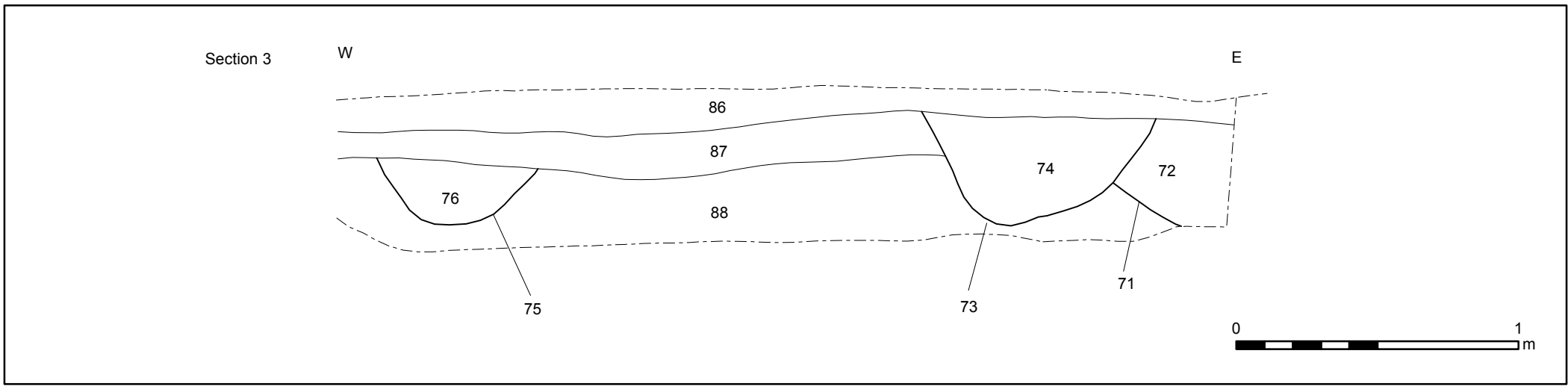
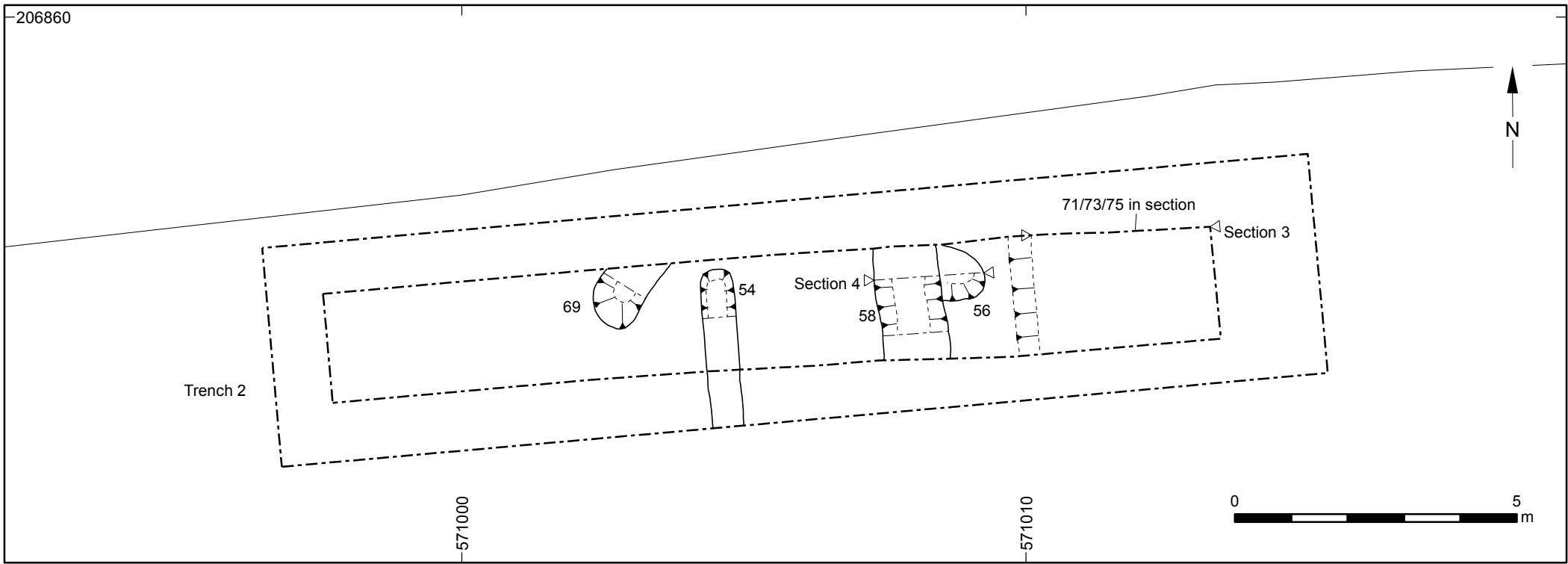


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Report Ref: 2014006	Drawn by: APL		

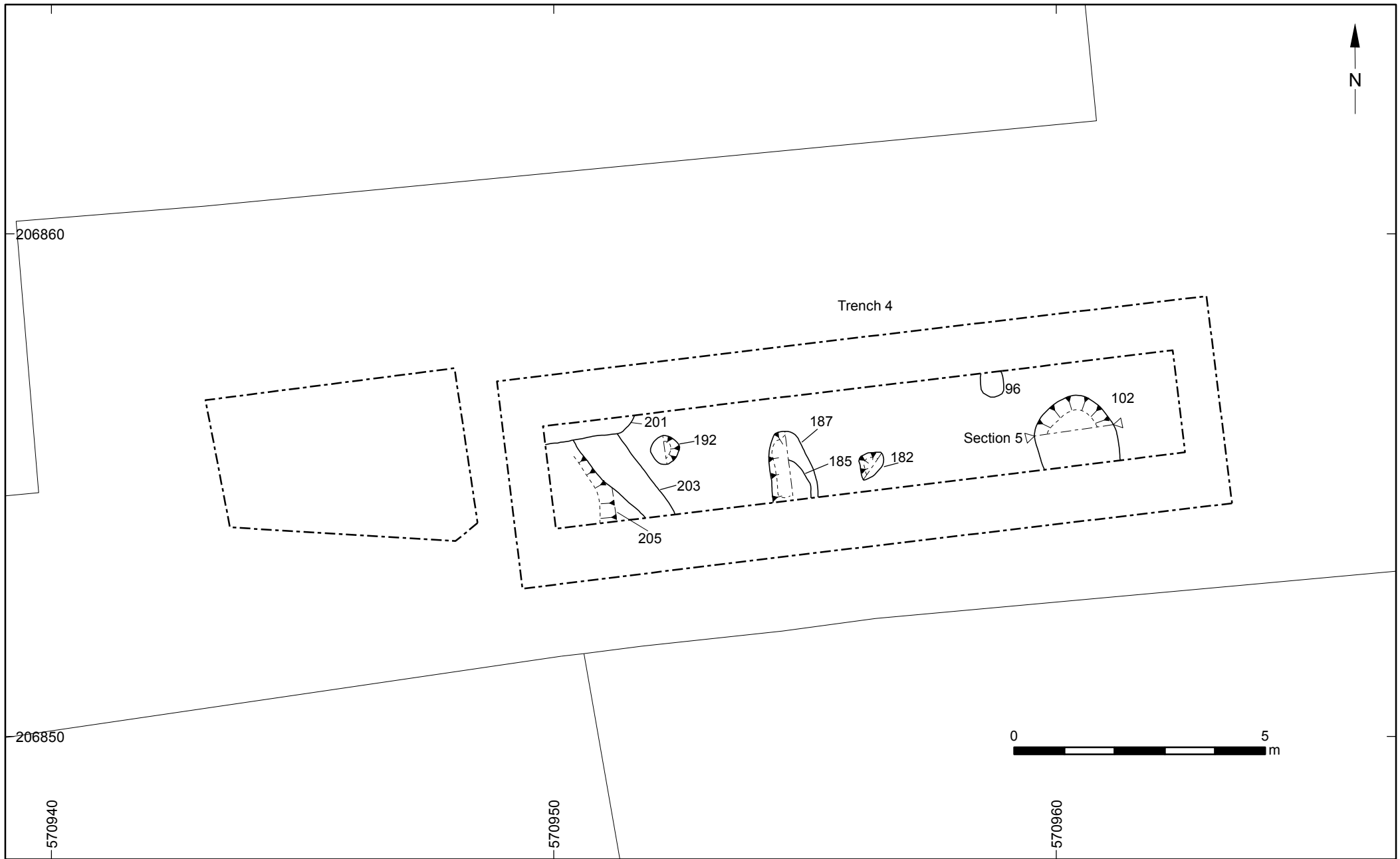
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Project Ref: 8077	Dec 2013	Archaeological features in trench 2	
Report Ref: 2014006	Drawn by: APL		



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Bond Street, Chelmsford

Project Ref: 8077

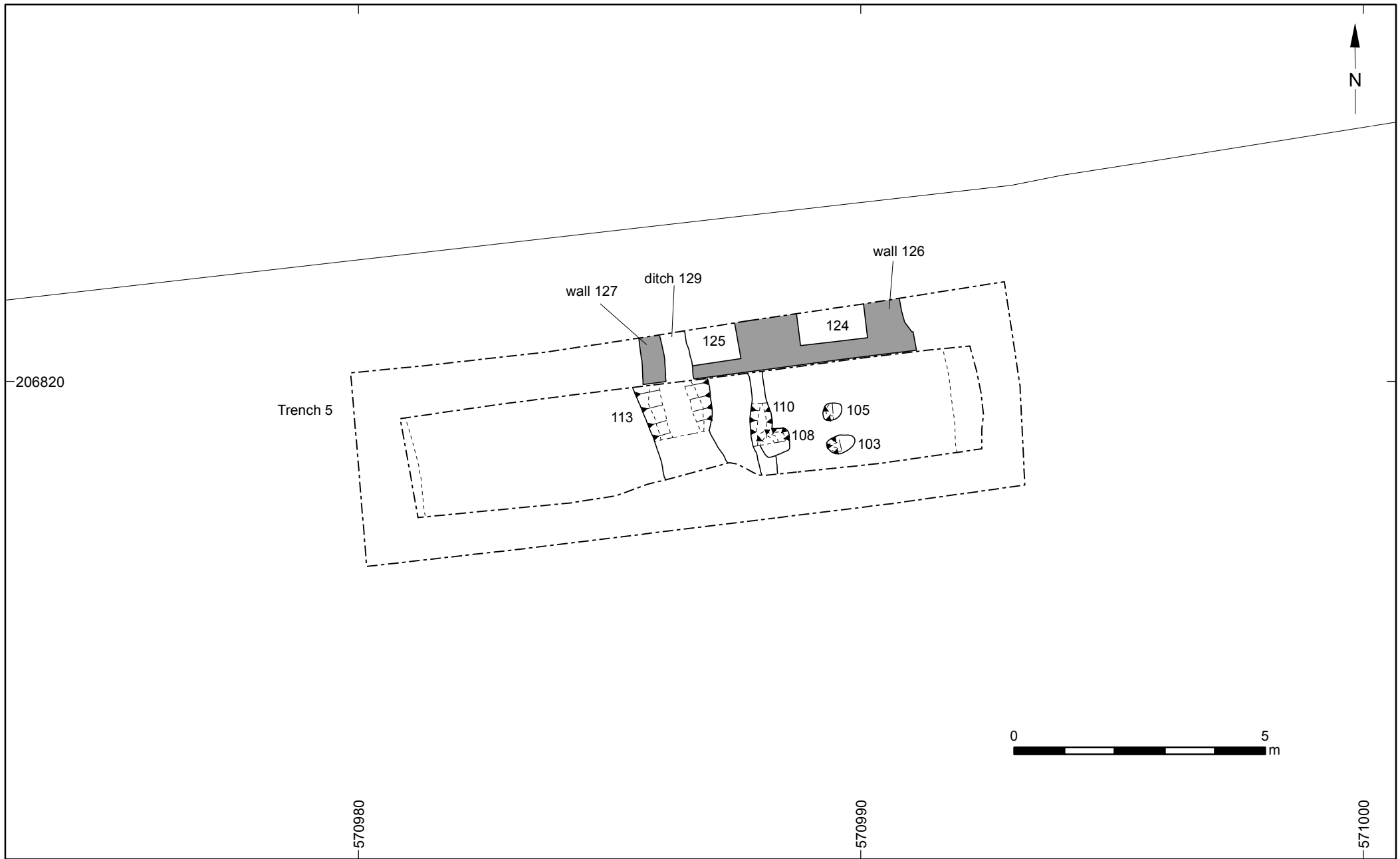
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Report Ref: 2014006

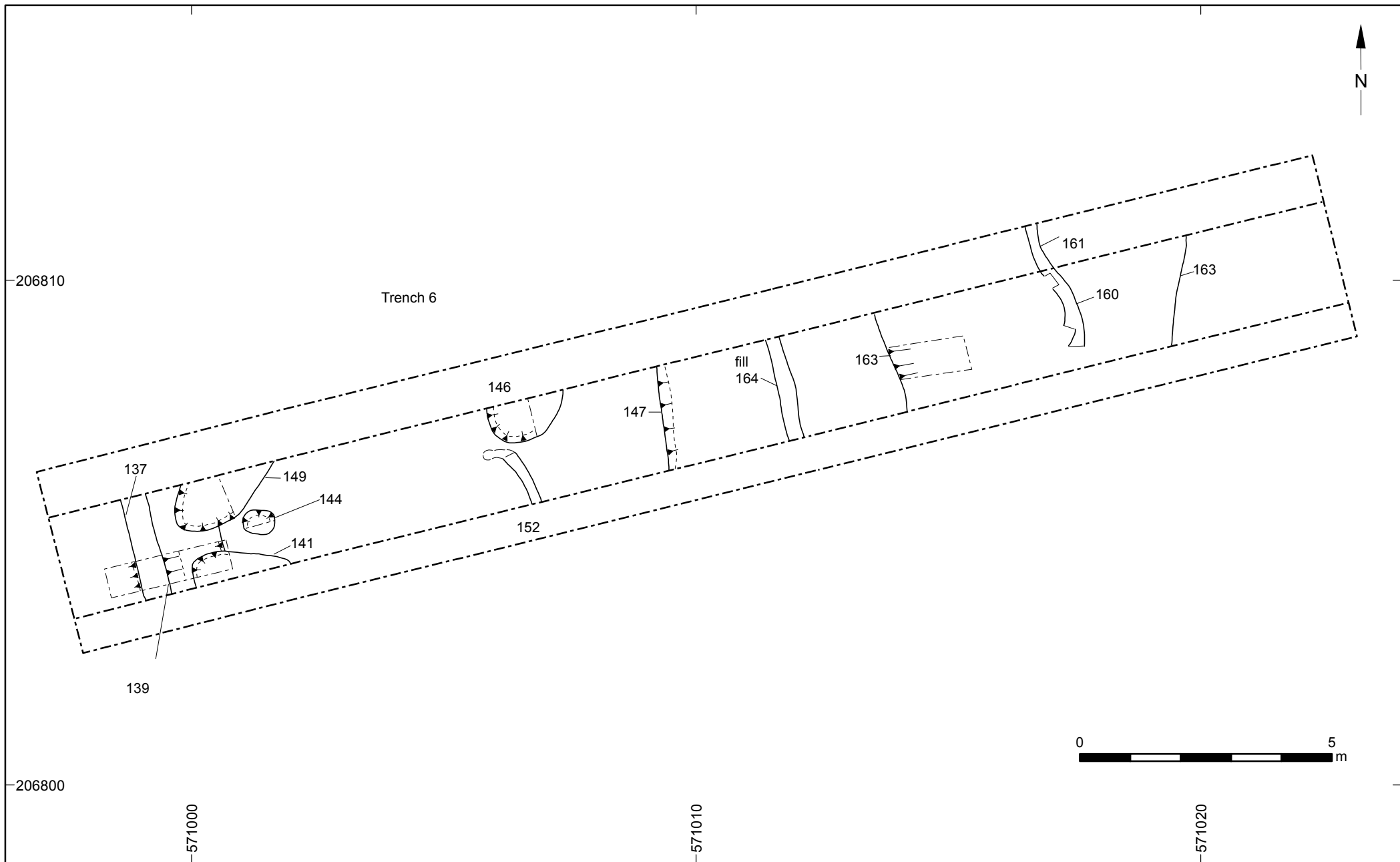
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Archaeological features in trench 4

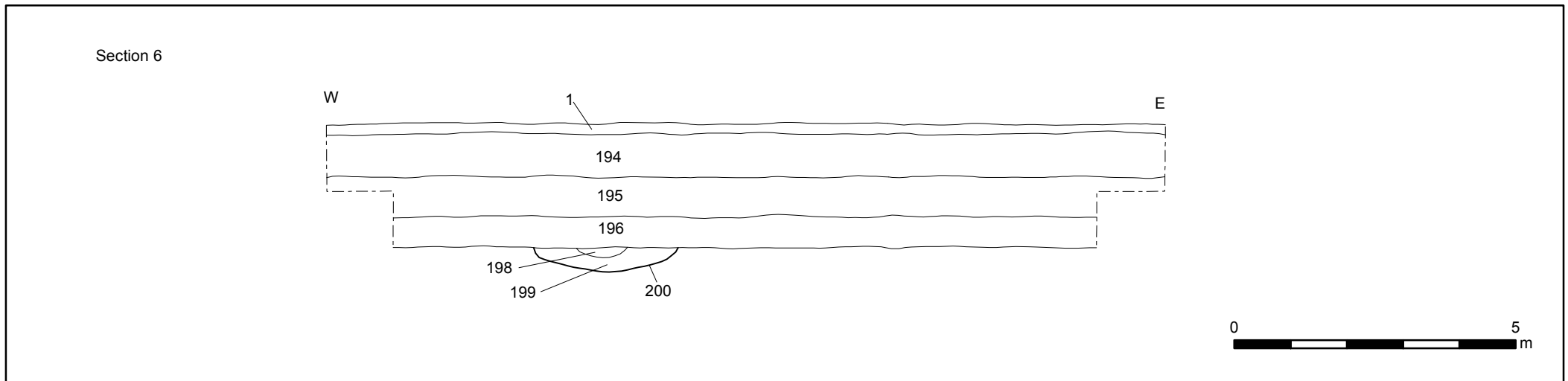
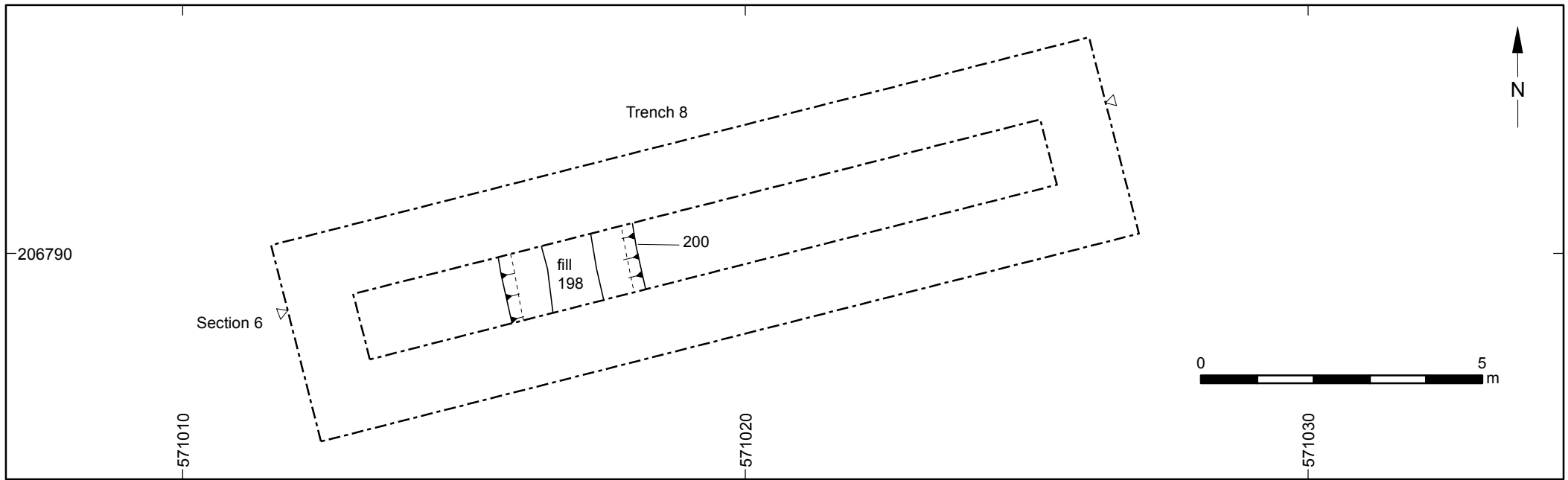
Fig. 5



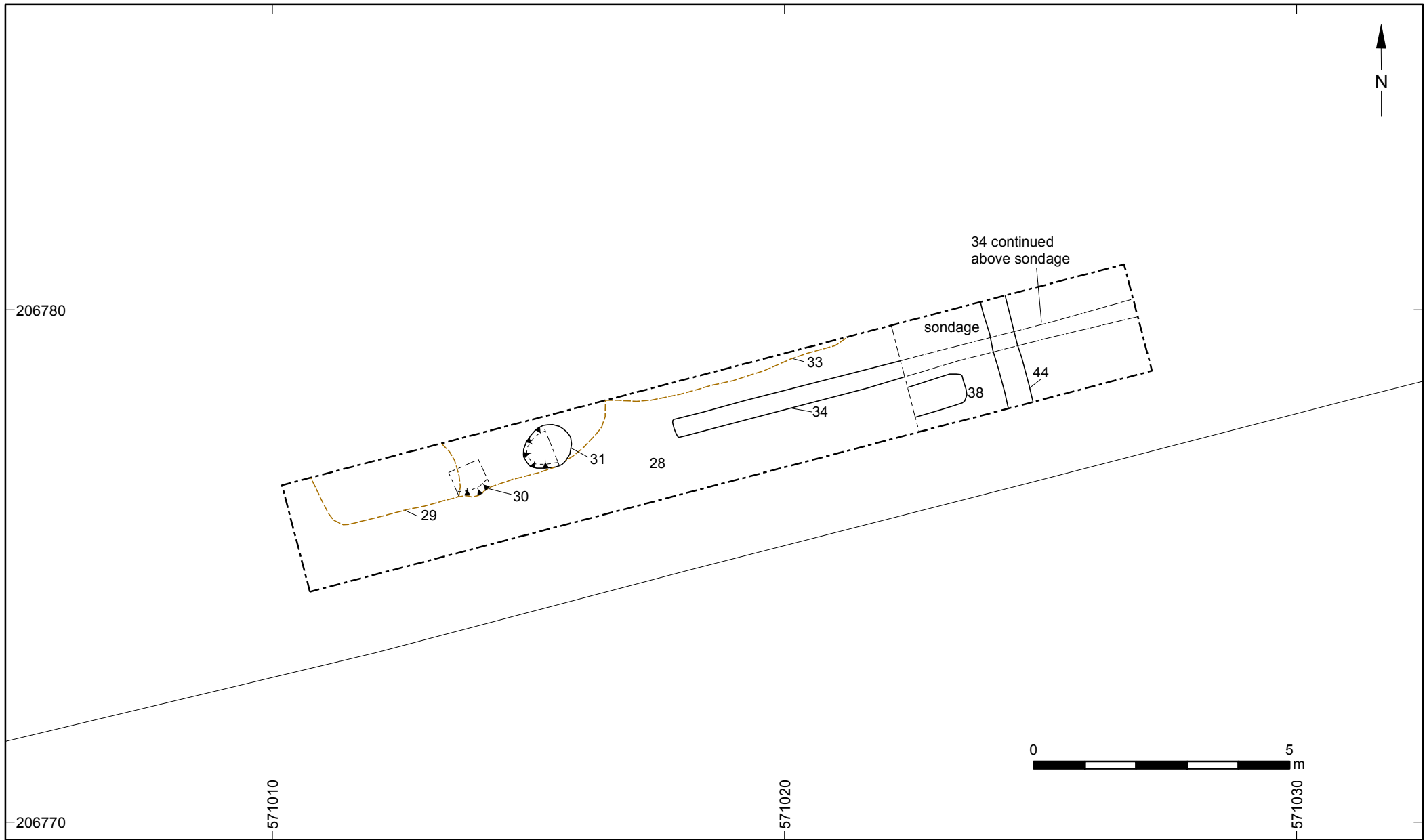
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Report Ref: 2014006	Drawn by: APL		



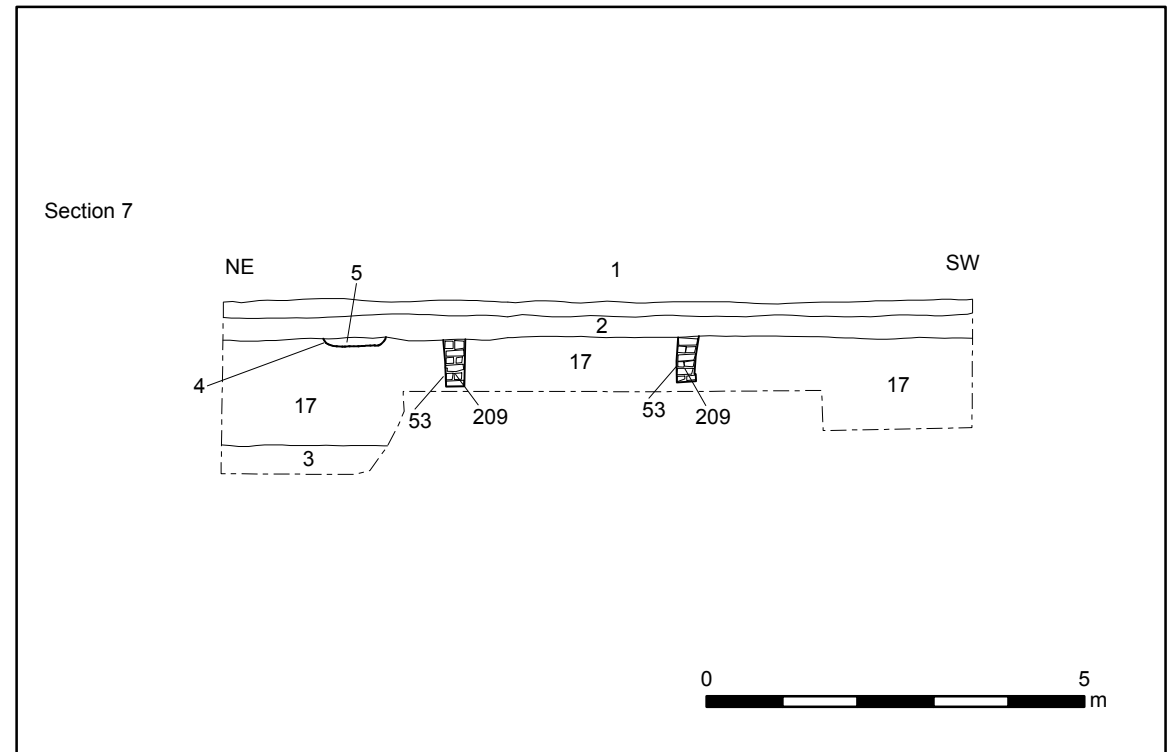
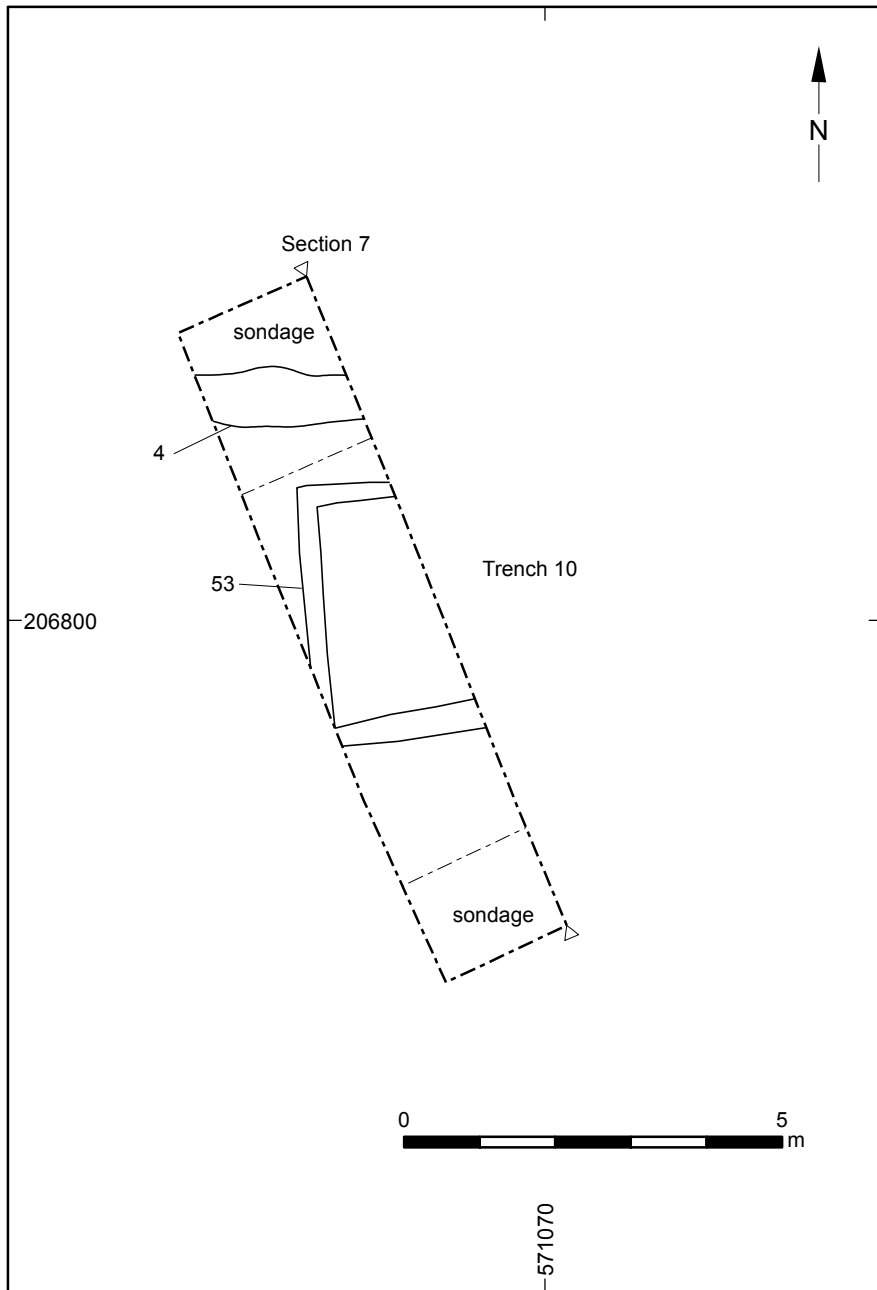
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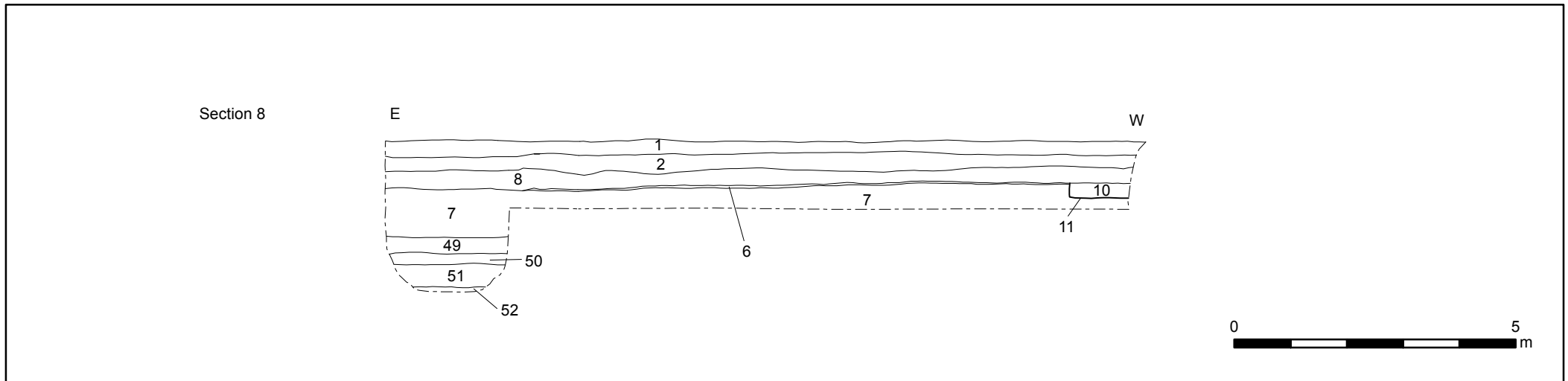
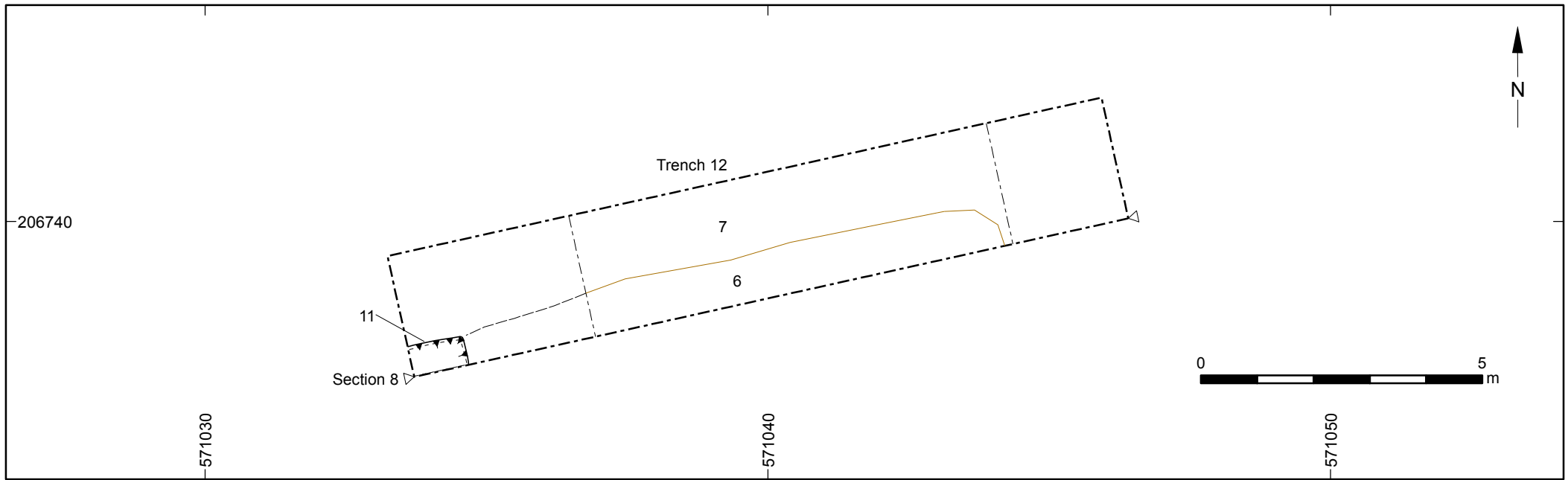
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Report Ref: 2014006	Drawn by: APL		

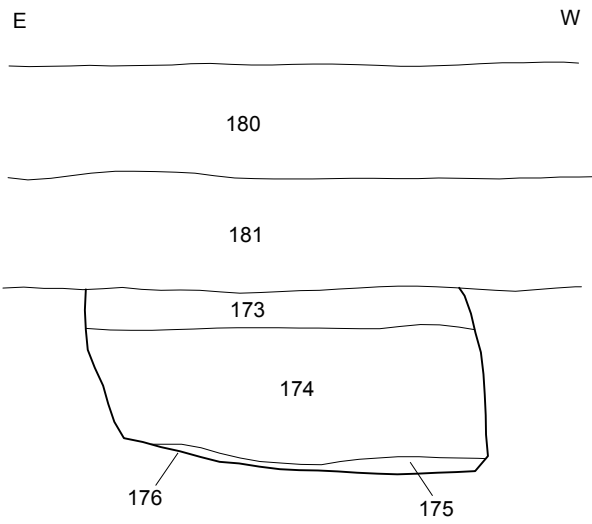


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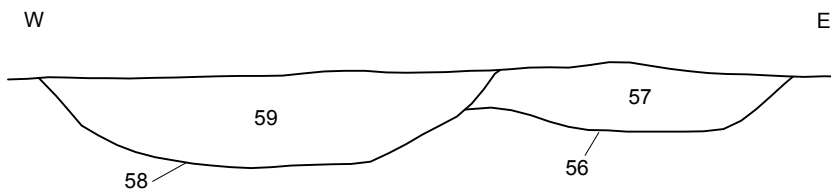


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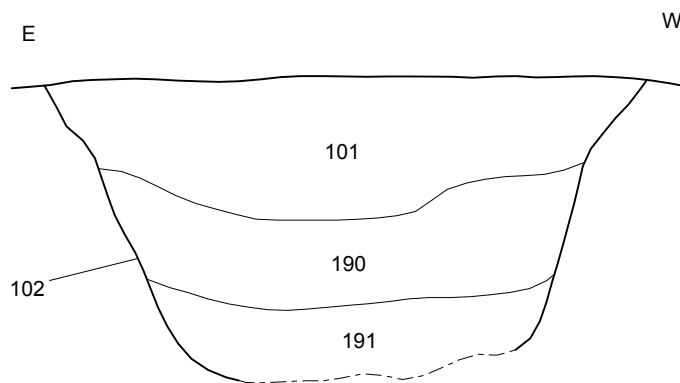
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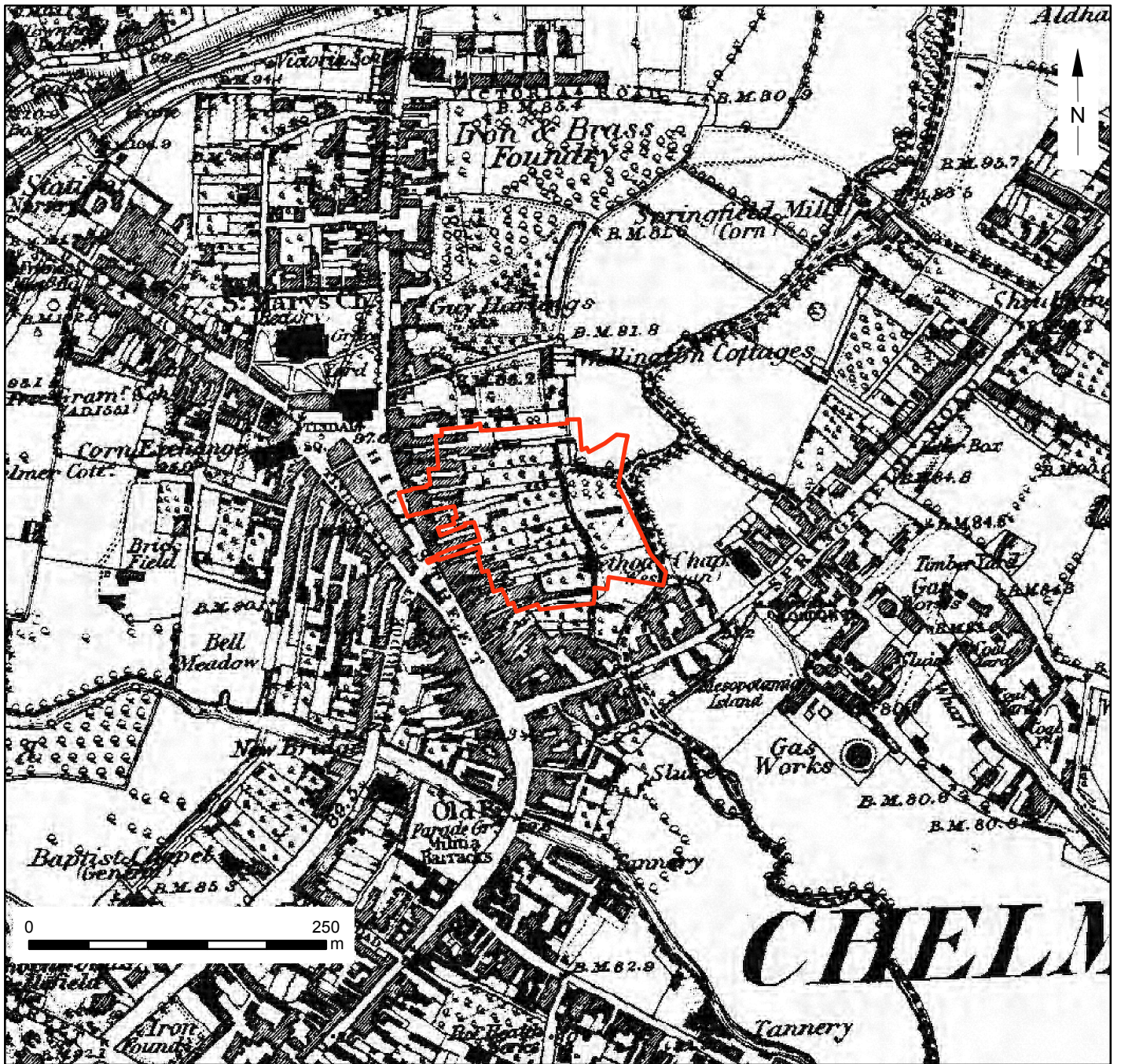
Section 4



Section 5

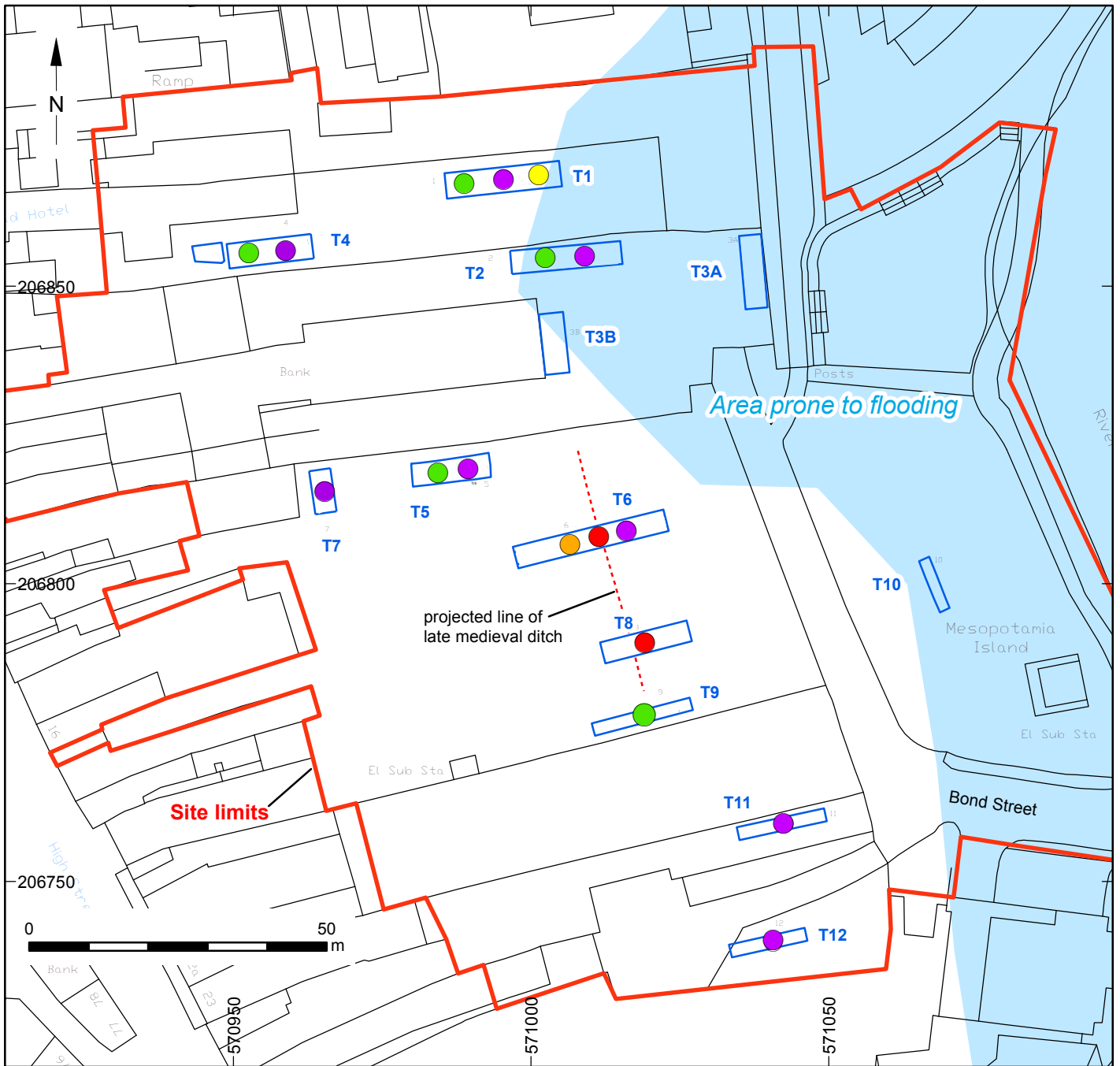


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Legend		● Prehistoric?	● Roman?	● Late Medieval	● Tudor	● Post-Medieval
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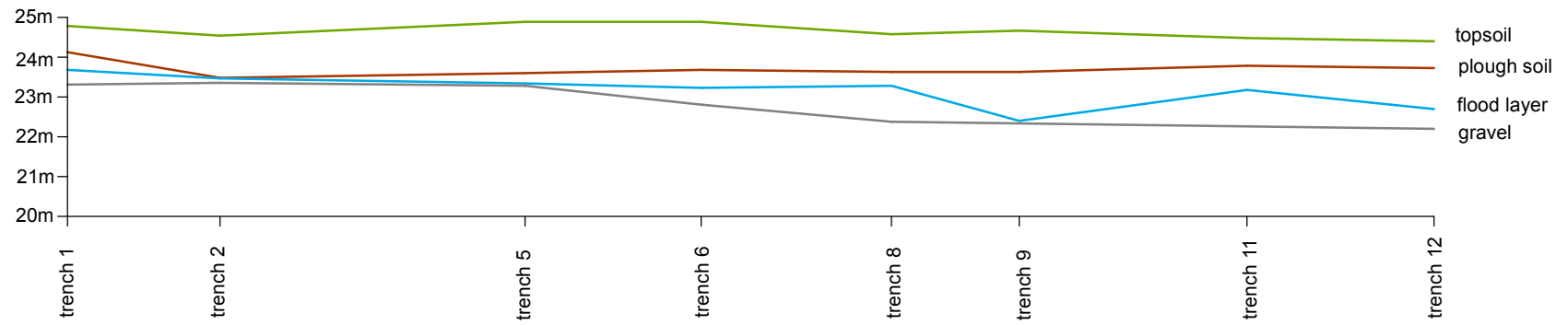




Figure 16. General pre-works view of site, looking south



Figure 17. East end of trench 1, looking east, showing water inundation and post-holes [130] and [132] in foreground (1m scale)



Figure 18. Cess pit [176], trench 1, showing remains of wooden lining [175] *in situ* (1m scale)



Figure 19. View of Trench 2, looking west (1m scale)



Figure 20. Excavation of Tudor pottery from alluvium [167], Trench 3A



Figure 21. Well [102], Trench 4, looking south (1m scale)



Figure 22. West facing section across pits [185] and [187], Trench 4 (1m scale)



Figure 23. Building [126], Trench 5, looking east (1m scale)



Figure 24. East facing section across post-holes [104] and [106] looking west (1m scale)



Figure 25: Trench 6, looking west (1m scale)



Figure 26. Wall [160], Trench 6, from the west (1m scale)



Figure 27. Trench 7 from the east showing pit [115] (1m scale)



Figure 28. Trench 8 looking west (1m scale)



Figure 29. Trench 9, looking west (1m scale)



Figure 30. Surfaces [29] and [30] and pit [31] in trench 9, looking north (1m scale)



Figure 31. Trench 10, looking south (1m scale)



Figure 32. Trench 11, looking east (1m scale)



Figure 33. Trench 12, looking east. Pit [11] in foreground with Princess Mary tins.



Figure 34. Detail across pit [11] showing Princess Mary tins *in situ*. Looking west



Figure 35. Sondage in trench 12, looking south, showing alluvial layers over gravel bed