

BRFL15

Archaeological Evaluation

Land off Braintree Road, Felsted, Essex

Client: Catesby Estates Ltd

Client: Catesby Estates Ltd
Grid Reference: TL 684 205
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Parish: Felsted
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Schedule
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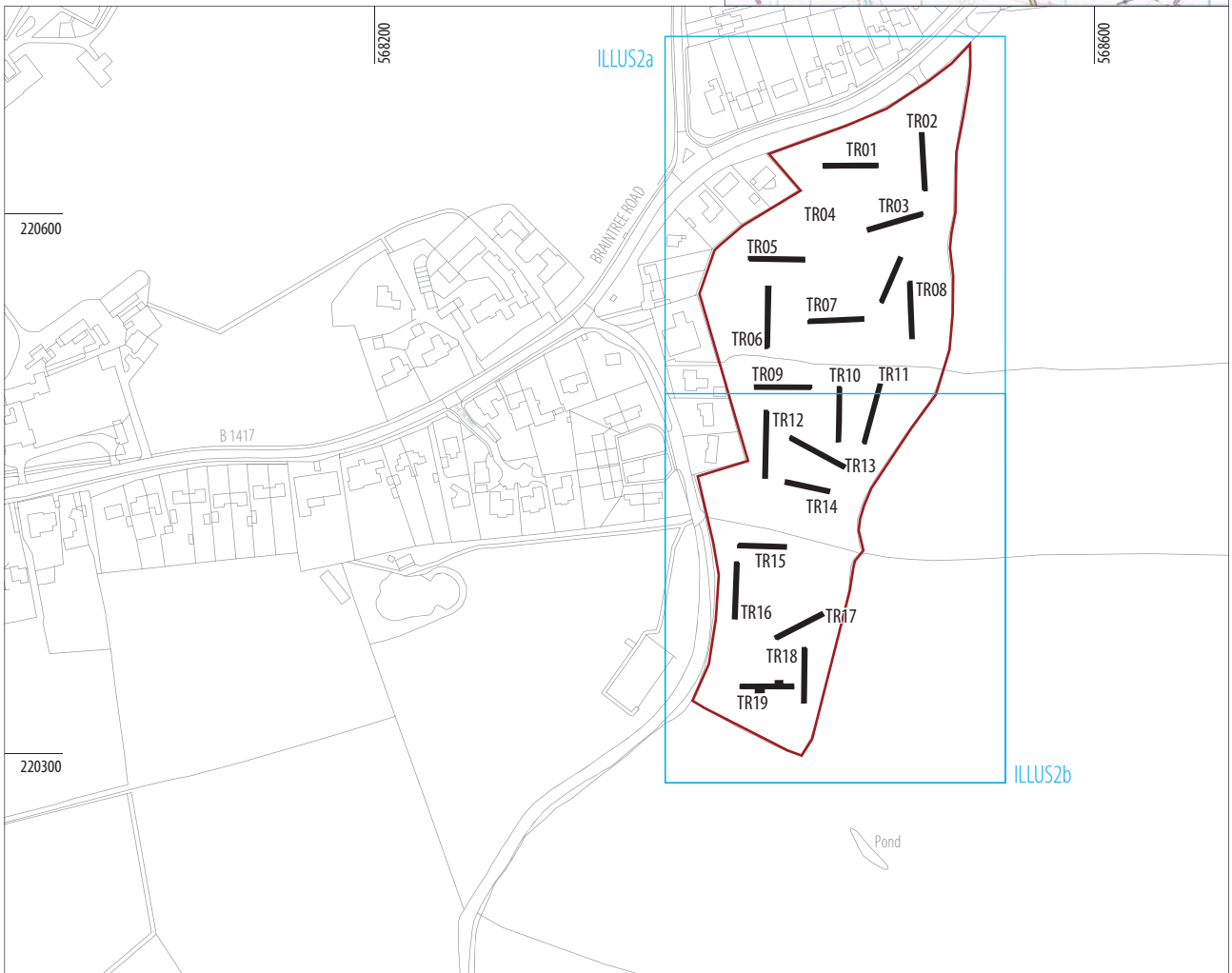
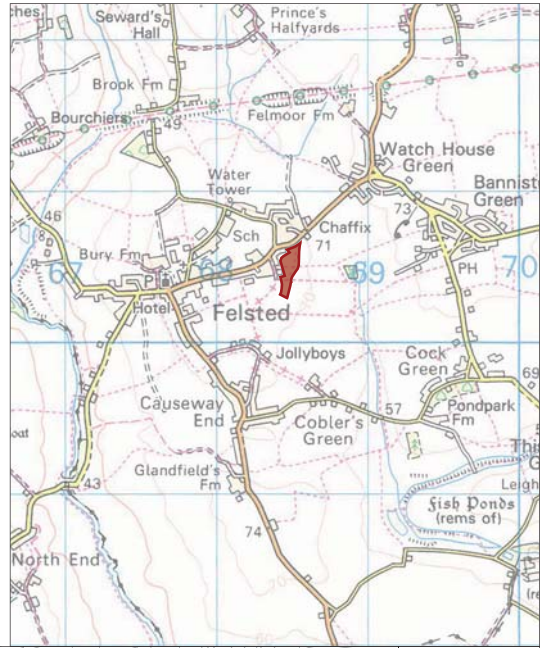
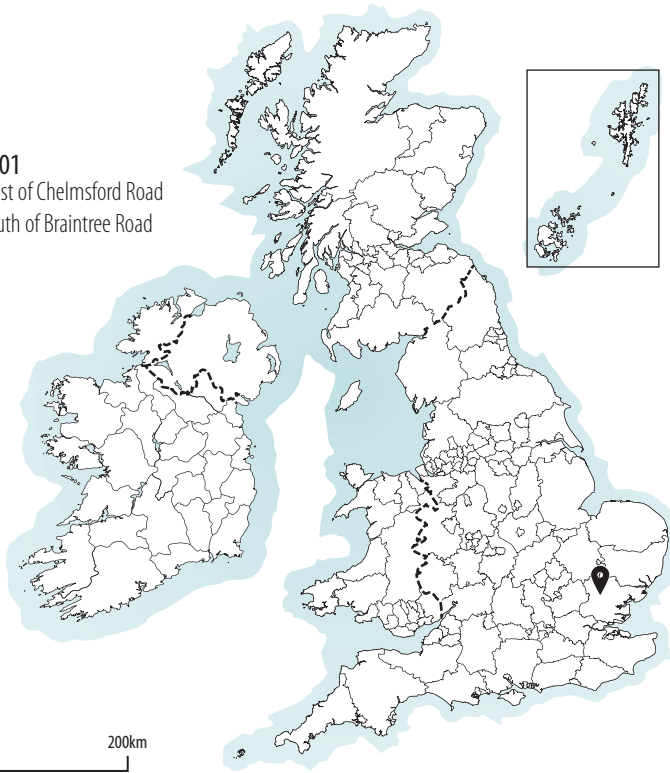
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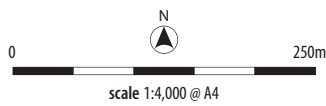
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BRFL/01
 land east of Chelmsford Road
 and south of Braintree Road
 Felsted
 Essex



KEY
 development boundary
 trench location

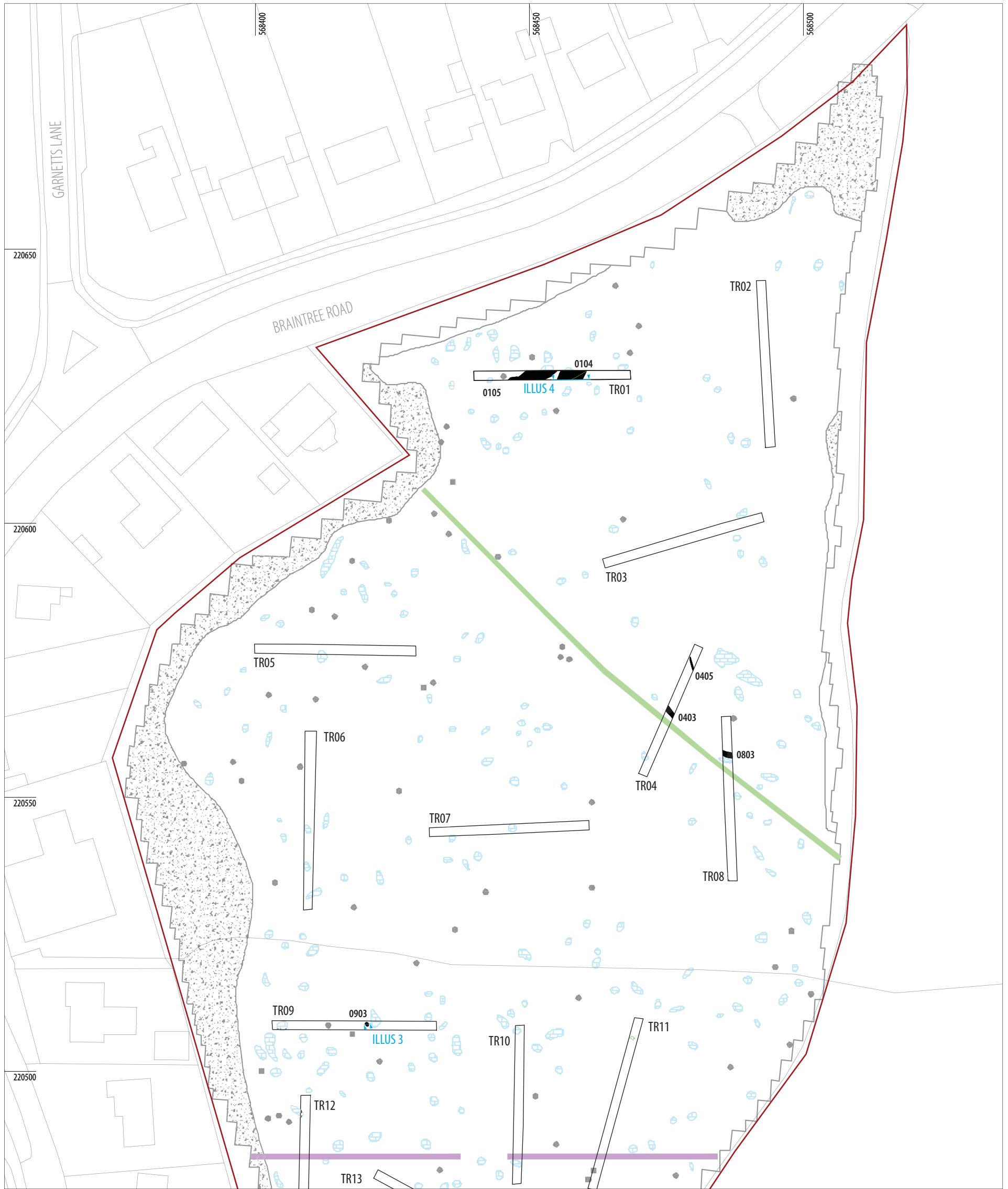


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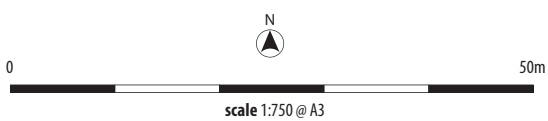
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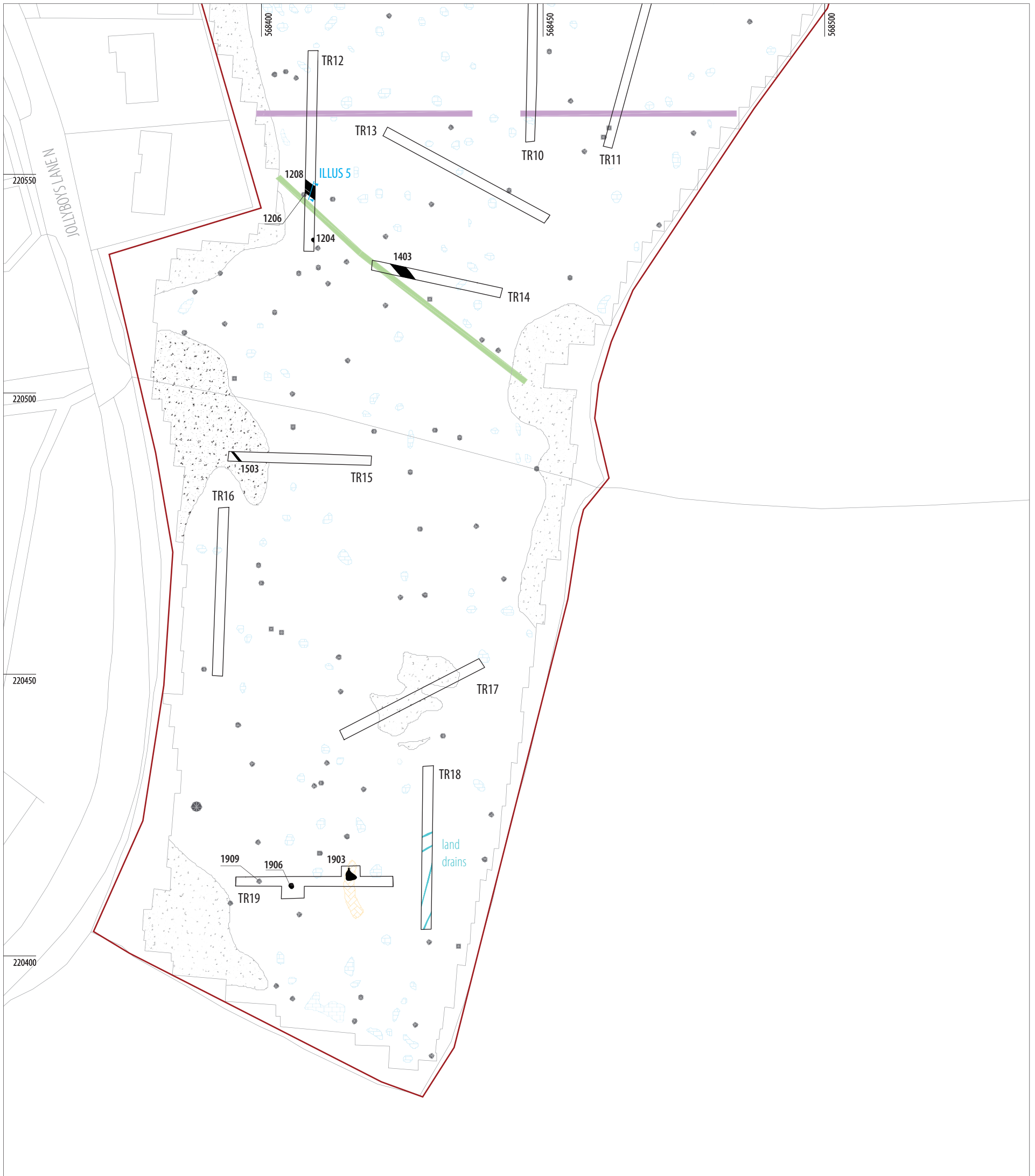
ILLUS 1
 Site location



- KEY**
- development boundary
 - trench location
 - archaeological features

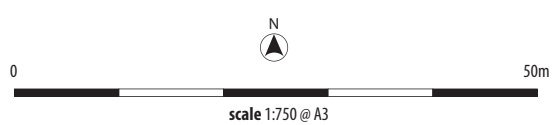
TYPE OF ANOMALY	INTERPRETATION
• dipolar isolated	ferrous material
⊗ magnetic disturbance	ferrous material
— linear trend	former field boundary
⊕ magnetic enhancement	geology
⊙ magnetic enhancement	archaeology?





- KEY
- development boundary
 - trench location
 - archaeological features

TYPE OF ANOMALY	INTERPRETATION
• dipolar isolated	ferrous material
⊗ magnetic disturbance	ferrous material
— linear trend	former field boundary
⊕ magnetic enhancement	geology
⊗ magnetic enhancement	archaeology?



LAND OFF BRAINTREE ROAD, FELSTED, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation for Catesby Estates Ltd of land off Jolyboys Lane/Braintree Road, Felsted in Essex. Between 24th of November and 1st of December 2015 19 trenches were excavated in the proposed Development Area, 8 of which contained archaeological remains. 4 Heritage Assets were identified: these consisted of a Bronze Age/ early Iron Age pit and ditch; post-medieval or modern boundaries; post-medieval or modern quarrying, and isolated undated pits.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Catesby Estates Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in connection with an application for the residential development of Land off Jolyboys Lane/Braintree Road, Felsted, Essex.

As part of the planning application a number of requirements have been set, including several relating to archaeological works. These included the production of a Cultural Heritage Assessment (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015a), the undertaking of a geophysical survey (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015b), and the undertaking of an archaeological trial trench evaluation. This document forms the report for the latter.

Headland Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) ((UK) Ltd 2015c) on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd; setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation in the form of the trial trench evaluation. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with the Historic Environment Team (HET) who advise Essex County Council on archaeological matters. This report details the results of the work.

1.2 Site Description

The development area (DA) comprises a parcel of land to the south of the village of Felsted, Essex, centred at TL 684 205 (Illus 1). It is irregularly-shaped, consisting of one arable field approximately 3.4ha in size; bounded to the west by residential properties fronting onto Jollyboys Lane North and to the north by Braintree Road. The area is defined by mature field boundaries on all other sides.

The site lies at approximately 72m-75m AOD, rising to the north-west.

The underlying bedrock comprises of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand). This is overlain by Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2015).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background of the DA is discussed in detail in the Cultural Heritage Assessment (Headland Archaeology 2015a). This section provides a summary of these results.

There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Felsted. There are only two records for prehistoric activity in a 1km radius from the DA on the Historic Environment Record (accessed via Heritage Gateway). These are twenty waste flakes, thought to be Neolithic in date, recovered in 1895 (HER1373); and four hand-axes and two miscellaneous fragments recovered in the vicinity of Felsted Church (HER1302).

There are no records on the Historic Environment Record for any Roman activity in the vicinity of the DA, although the A120, approximately 2.5km to the north of the DA, was a Roman road connecting Bishops Stortford and Colchester.

The village of Felsted is recorded in the Domesday Book as “Felesteda”, “Felstede”, and “Phensteda”, in the Hundred of Hinckford. It was held by Earl Elfgar, and comprised five hides of land, supporting 19 ploughs. Following the conquest four hides were given by Queen Matilda to La Trinity of Caen, and the

remainder held by individuals, including Roger God-save-the-ladies. The manors were valued at £20 at the time of King Edward, and had risen to £32 by 1086. This demonstrates that there was a thriving settlement at Felsted in the early medieval period, although no archaeological evidence has yet been found to support this.

There is far greater evidence for medieval activity within Felsted. The present Church is mainly 14th century in date (with a Norman tower), and archaeological work around the Church has uncovered the remains of the probable 12th century structure (HER18609; HER18610). A possible medieval homestead moat is recorded at Chaffix Farm (MEX4645). Numerous buildings within Felsted are medieval in date, such as the 14th / 15th century Farnold Croft on Bakers Lane (MEX1012470); the 16th century Garnett House and 16th century or earlier Stubbings and Garnetts Cottage, to the west of the DA (MEX1012420; MEX1012439); and the early 16th century Buckcroft to the east of the DA (MEX1012440).

From the 16th century, Felsted School dominated the village. This was founded as a grammar school in 1563 by Lord Richard Rich, who acquired most of the manors around Felsted and amalgamated them into one large estate (Martin 2008). Many of the buildings within Felsted, and much of the land around it, belongs to the school and is in use as playing fields and various school buildings.

Historic maps provide a picture of the post-medieval development of the area. The earliest available map, the 1837 Tithe Map, shows the DA as within open fields on the outskirts of Felsted village – the layout of the DA has remained broadly the same (teardrop-shaped and comprising three separate fields). This remained the same throughout the later 19th – 20th century OS maps. Felsted itself has expanded in size over this time.

The recent geophysical survey (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015b) identified two NW-SE aligned former field boundaries in the DA. No other archaeological remains were identified.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General

The methodology followed was outlined in the WSI (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015c).

Generally, the archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- Assess the extent, structure and date of any archaeological features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- Place, where possible, the archaeological features within their local and regional context;
- Establish any constraints to further fieldwork (e.g. services) and factors concerning the survival of archaeological remains (e.g. natural and human disturbance);
- Place the findings of the investigation within the context of previous work undertaken within the vicinity of the site.

2.2 Specific

The local and regional research contexts are provided by *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, M. 2011, ed.); and *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

More specifically, the Research Framework includes the following research questions and topics that were incorporated into the WSI:

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the Saffron Walden Museum Store (2015.50) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (ClfA 2014a). An online OASIS form has been completed and will be ultimately submitted with the approved version of the report (OASIS ID: headland4-219212, Appendix 6).

Source	Research aim	Page number and paragraph number	Potential of Project to Address Research Aim
Medlycott 2011	Is there any evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity (presumably agricultural), on the periphery of the village at Felsted? The <i>'Revised Framework for the East of England'</i> states that "The development of Anglo-Saxon fieldscapes needs further investigation" (Medlycott 2011, 58)	Page 58	Low
Medlycott 2011	Is there any evidence for Medieval agricultural activity, on the periphery of Felsted village and in relation to the church and other medieval buildings? The <i>'Revised Framework for the East of England'</i> asks "How far can the size and shape of fields be related to agricultural regimes" (Medlycott 2011, 70)	Page 70	Medium

Table 1: Summary of the relevant research questions highlighted in the WSI

3. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out between the 24th November and 1st December 2015. In total 19 trenches were excavated within the DA. Trenches 01 to 11 and 16 to 19 were 30m in length, Trenches 12 and 13 were 35m in length, and Trenches 14 and 15 were 25 m long. All were 1.8m wide (Illus. 1).

The trenches were set out in accordance with the agreed trench layout plan in the WSI using a Trimble survey grade GNSS device.

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden under direct archaeological supervision. Potential archaeological features were excavated by hand.

Investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken through hand excavation. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified archaeological or potentially archaeological remains were investigated and recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

3.1 Recording

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015c). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A plan of the trenches and features across the entire site was recorded digitally using a GNSS device.

A full photographic record was taken using digital photography and incorporating black and white print photographs where appropriate. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Full context descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in the Appendices I. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (i.e. Trench 01: (0101), Trench 02: (0201)) with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating we have completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects our adherence to the ClfA guidance on report production, which states that “*descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements*” (ClfA 2014b, 14, Section 5). Drawing upon the same document, we feel it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence we gather to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) we encounter:

“If archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (ClfA 2014b, 14, Section 5).

We always utilise multiple data-sources when phasing and interpreting remains. This includes feature morphology (recognisable and datable feature types), datable artefactual material, stratigraphic position of feature (in heavily ploughed areas the presence of an intact subsoil sealing remains is given particular emphasis), the relative stratigraphic position of features (cutting or cut by). A range of other considerations also come into play. The limitation of datable artefactual material is recognised and we reflect on the possibility of intrusive material and the presence of residual material. We also recognise that most archaeological features are ‘filled’ by disuse fills and disused artefacts.

4.2 Trench Results

Archaeological or potentially archaeological remains were found in 8 of the 19 trenches (Illus. 2). These were generally focused in the former boundary ditches oriented approximately NW-SE splitting the site roughly into thirds. The earliest features on site were pit [903] in trench 9 and a ditch [1503] in trench 15, which contained prehistoric pottery. The majority of the features in the other trenches were dated to the post-medieval period, and represent the remains of the agricultural field systems, other features comprised the isolated remains of possible pitting and represent refuse disposal activity in the area.

Table 2 shows a summary of the results from each trench. Specific features or groups thereof are discussed below.

Trench	Orientation	Description	Length	Minimum depth to Archaeology
01	E-W	Topsoil (0101), over natural substrate (0102). Contained 1 possible pit and 1 natural depression.	30m	0.4m
02	N-S	Topsoil (0201), over natural substrate (0202). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
03	E-W	Topsoil (0301), over natural substrate (0302). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
04	N-S	Topsoil (0401), over natural substrate (0402). Contained 1 ditch and 1 gully.	30m	0.35m
05	E-W	Topsoil (0501), over natural substrate (0502). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
06	N-S	Topsoil (0601), over natural substrate (0602). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
07	E-W	Topsoil (0701), over natural substrate (0702). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.35m
08	N-S	Topsoil (801), over natural substrate (802). Contained 1 ditch.	30m	0.35m

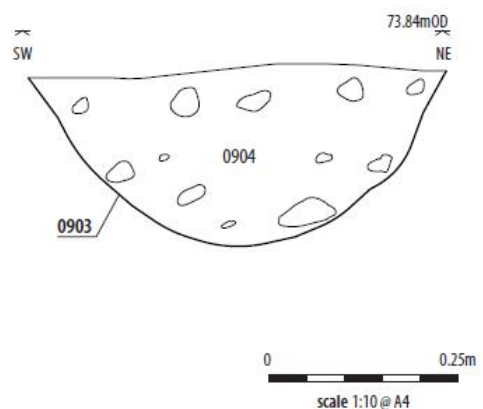
Trench	Orientation	Description	Length	Minimum depth to Archaeology
09	E-W	Topsoil (901), over natural substrate (902). Contained 1 pit.	30m	0.4m
10	N-S	Topsoil (1001), over natural substrate (1002). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.35m
11	N-S	Topsoil (1101), over natural substrate (1102). Contained no archaeology.	30m	
12	N-S	Topsoil (1201), over natural substrate (1202). Contained 1 pit and 2 ditches/gullies.	35m	0.3m
13	NW-SE	Topsoil (1301), over natural substrate (1302). Contained no archaeology.	35m	0.35m
14	E-W	Topsoil (1401), over natural substrate (1402). Contained no archaeology.	25m	0.3m
15	E-W	Topsoil (1501), over natural substrate (1502). Contained 1 ditch.	25m	0.3m
16	N-S	Topsoil (1601), over natural substrate (1602). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
17	NE-SW	Topsoil (1701), over natural substrate (1702). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.4m
18	N-S	Topsoil (1801), over natural substrate (1802). Contained no archaeology.	30m	0.3m
19	E-W	Topsoil (1901), over natural substrate (1902). Contained 2 tree throws.	30m	0.35m

Table 2: Summary of the results of each trench

4.2.1 Prehistoric Pit and Ditch

Trenches 09 and 15 (Appendix 1, Illus 2) contained a pit and a ditch which were dated by pottery and lithics to the prehistoric period (Bronze Age/ Iron Age).

Pit [0903] was located close to the middle of trench 9 and was sub-oval in plan. It had steep sides, and a concave base. and was 1m long, 0.55m wide, and 0.23m deep (ILLUS 3). It was filled by a dark grey silty clay (0904) which contained frequent flecks of charcoal. The finds recovered from the fill included 3 (16g) sherds of flint tempered pottery of mid/late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date and 27 lithics, including two flakes, an edge retouched fragment, a chip and 18g of burnt fragments. The pit was interpreted as a rubbish pit for domestic waste.



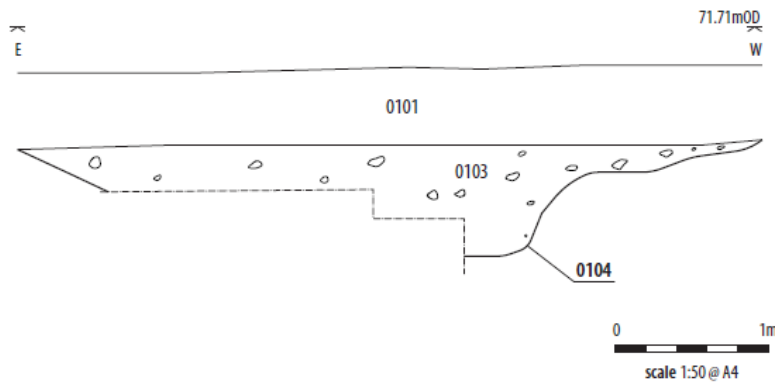
ILLUS 3 SE facing section through pit [0903]

Ditch [1503] was located in the western end of trench 15 and oriented northwest-southeast. It had gently sloped sides and a concave base and was visible 2.25m long within the trench, 0.52m wide, and 0.12m deep. The fill (1504) mid brown grey sandy clay contained 2 sherds (4g) of prehistoric pottery. No later material was present and the feature. It was probably an early boundary ditch which has been substantially truncated by later agricultural activity.

4.2.2 Post-Medieval/Modern

Trenches 01, 04, 08, 12 and 14 (Appendix 1, Illus 2) contained remains dating to the post-medieval/Modern periods. These comprised discrete pits and ditches; two of the ditches were present in more than one trench.

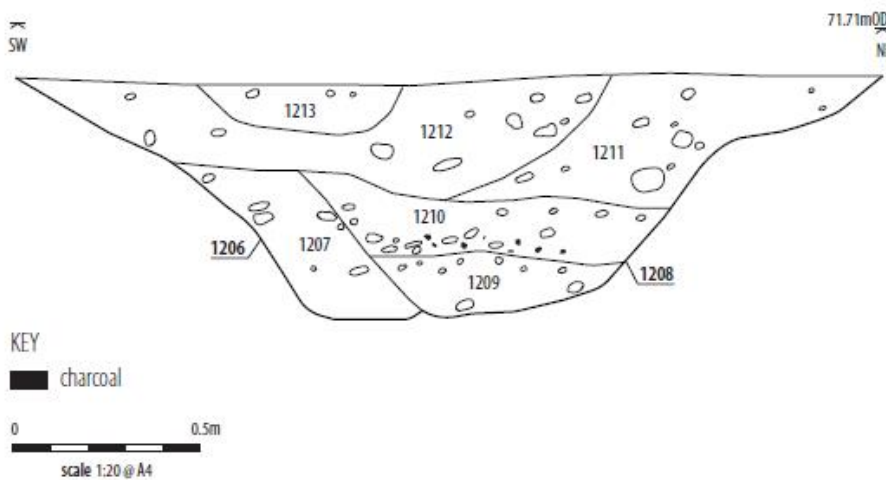
Pit [0104] was located close to the centre of trench 1 and extended beyond the sides of the trench, (see ILLUS 4). It had variable stepped sides with a concave base and was, 4.5m wide, and 0.7m deep. It was filled by a mid brown grey silty clay (0103) which contained occasional flecks of charcoal, marine shell, and single sherds of red earthenware and blue-white Chinese Porcelain. It has been interpreted as a possible quarry pit, located close to the road and easily accessible.



ILLUS 4 N facing section through pit [0104]

A boundary ditch was located close to the centre of trench 4 [0403] and to the northern end of trench 8 [803]. In both trenches it had steep sides, a concave base, and gradual breaks of slope. It was 0.7m to 0.8m wide, and 0.35m to 0.5m deep. It was filled by (0404) and (0804) dark grey brown silty clay which contained bottle glass. This was probably a boundary ditch associated with the post-medieval agricultural use of the land (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2015a).

Boundary ditch [1208] was located close to the southern end of trench 12 and was also present to the western end of trench 14 [1403]. Where excavated, it had steep sides and a concave base. It measured 2.25m to 2.6m long within each trench, 1.65m to 1.8m wide, and 0.57m deep. [1208] was a recut of earlier ditch [1206] which, based on the extant profile, was similar in size and shape (see ILLUS 5). [1206] contained 5 fills, which were consistently yellow/grey brown sandy clays but with varying inclusions. The lower 2 fills, (1209) and (1210), were products of gradual silting and contained occasional flecks of charcoal and iron fragments. The upper 3 fills, (1211), (1212), and (1213), were backfill deposits, probably representing a single event, and contained glass, CBM, and pottery dated to the medieval, 18th and 19th centuries. The three sherds of prehistoric pottery from (1211) are clearly residual, indicative of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.



ILLUS 5 SE facing section through ditches [1206] and [1208]

4.2.3 Undated/natural

Hollow [0105] was located close to the centre of trench 1 and appeared linear in plan. It had gently sloped sides, an uneven base, and no perceptible breaks of slope. It measured 2m long within the trench, 6m wide, and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a yellow brown silty clay (0106) which contained 6 sherds (61g) of medieval pottery ranging from the 12th to 16th century, tile and nails and a single cattle metacarpal. It was probably a natural hollow, accumulating material over a long period of time.

Ditch [0405] was located close to the northern end of trench 4. It had steep sides and a rounded base, and was heavily truncated. The fill (0406) dark grey silty clay, contained no dating material, but [0405] was orientated parallel to ditch [1503], which suggests it may be a boundary ditch relating to the same system of fields.

Pit [1204] was located close to the southern end of trench 12, continuing beyond the limit of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan with gently sloped sides and a flat base. It measured 0.5m long within the trench, 0.78m wide, and 0.12m deep. It was filled by (1205) a dark brown grey sandy clay which contained occasional flecks of charcoal but no finds. It was probably utilised as a rubbish pit, although given its regularity of shape, this may not have been its original use.

Features [1903] and [1906] were two tree throws located in the east and west of trench 19. [1903] was 2.4m long, 2.2m wide and 0.12m deep, [1906] was 1.4m long, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. They were filled by a mixture of mid brown sandy clay and red orange clayey sand which contained

occasional flecks of charcoal but no finds. These features were interpreted as tree boles but may have been used as convenient rubbish pits or “dumps” which have been truncated or altered by modern ploughing.

An irregular possible feature [1909] was investigated in the western part of trench 19. This may have been another tree-throw. A sample of the fill (1910) contained burnt flint and daub and magnetic residue. This may be rubbish disposal into a natural hollow, or a pit disturbed by later activity.

4.3 Finds

by Julie Franklin, Paul Blinkhorn, Julie Lochrie

The finds assemblage numbered 18 sherds (111g) of pottery, 71 sherds (1.676kg) of ceramic building material, 31 lithic finds, 38g of industrial waste, five sherds of glass and two finds of plastic. Some finds may be as early as the Bronze Age, others are medieval or modern. The finds are summarised by trench in Table 3, a complete catalogue is given in the appendix.

Trench	Pottery (PH)	Pottery (PH)	Pottery (Medi)	Pottery (Medi)	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Pottery (PM-Mod)	Glass	Plastic	Lithics	CBM	CBM	Ind Waste	Dating
	Count	Wgt	Count	Wgt	Count	Wgt	Count	Count	Count	Count	Wgt	Wgt	
1			7	65g	2	19g				23	1324g		Medi, Mod
4							4			4	126g		Mod
9	3	16g							27			31g	BA/IA
12	3	6g			1	1g	1	2		1	8g		BA/IA, Mod
15	2	4g											BA/IA
19									4	43	218g	7g	?
Total	8	26g	7	65g	3	20g	5	2	31	71	1676g	38g	

Table 3 – Summary of finds assemblage

4.3.1 Prehistoric pottery

The eight sherds (26g) of prehistoric pottery were small and all flint-tempered (Fabric FC). The flint-tempered fabric, Essex Prehistoric fabric C, is typical of the mid/late Bronze Age to early Iron Age tradition of the region (eg Benfield 2007). All the wares are types which are well-known in the region. Most of the sherds are small but in good condition. Sherds found in pit [903] (904) appeared to be reliably stratified, associated as they are with a collection of lithics. The two sherds found in ditch [1503] (1504) may be in situ as no later material was found in this feature, but two small pottery sherds should not be taken as reliable dating evidence for this feature. Sherds found in ditch [1208] (1211) are apparently residual as they were associated with modern finds.

4.3.2 Medieval to modern pottery

There were ten sherds (85g) of later pottery (Table 4). It was recorded using the coding system and chronology of the Essex type-series (Cunningham 1985; Cotter 2000).

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Dating	Sherds	Wgt
F21	Sandy Orange Ware	12 th – 14 th century	6	46g
F21A	Late Medieval Colchester Ware	1400 – 1550	1	19g
F40	Red Earthenware	late 15 th – 18 th century	1	18g
F48A	Chinese Porcelain	18 th century	1	1g
F48C	Creamware	mid 18 th – 19 th century	1	1g
Total			10	85g

Table 4 – Medieval to modern pottery type series

The medieval wares were all found in Trench 1, most found in the fill of depression [105] (106). The make-up of finds within this feature suggest it was backfilled after the 15th century.

4.3.3 Glass

Four sherds of modern bottle glass were found in boundary ditch [403] (404). They were most likely deposited in the 19th century. A single sherd of modern window glass was found in ditch [1208] (1211) associated with other modern finds.

4.3.4 Plastic

Two golf-balls were found in ditch [1208] (1209). Both are solid, made of a natural rubber-plastic type substance known as gutta-percha. Both are scored all over with a regular moulded pattern. They date to the period c1880-1910.

4.3.5 Lithics

The lithics comprise two flakes, an edge retouched fragment, a chip and 18g of burnt fragments. The flakes, retouched piece and chip were retrieved from pit [0903] (0904). They are not closely datable but are certainly prehistoric. Their association with possible Bronze Age pottery implies they are contemporary with the fill of this pit.

The burnt flint from [1909] (1909) is not identifiable as having been knapped and may be entirely natural. It has been retained due to its discovery alongside fired clay and evidence for in situ burning.

4.3.6 Ceramic building material

A small assemblage (43 fragments, 218g) of fired clay was found, all in Trench 19. It was of a fine, slightly sandy fabric with rare flint up to 5mm (DB1). All the fragments were fairly small and rounded, with no obvious structural features. The majority was recovered from [1909] (1909) associated with a collection of burnt flint and evidence for in situ burning and may therefore represent the remains of a hearth or kiln structure.

A small assemblage of roof-tile (28 sherds, 1458g) was also found. All were of a similar fabric to the daub, fine, sandy with rare flint up to 5mm (TF1). The sherds were concentrated in Trench 1 (23 sherds, 1324g), within depression [105] (106) and the topsoil above it (101) and include ten fragments from a single plain ridge-tile. The rest were flat tiles. All were unglazed. All were between 12 and 18mm thick. These appear to be of medieval date and are associated with 15th century pottery.

A single roof tile sherd found in ditch [1208] (1211) appears to be of similar type. However, four sherds found in boundary ditch [403] (404) are harder-fired than the rest of the assemblage, and appear to be post-medieval. Both are associated with modern finds.

4.3.7 Industrial Waste

A small quantity of slag and magnetic residues were retrieved from two contexts [1909] (1909) and [0903] (0904). The magnetic residue all appears to be magnetised gravel but may indicate association with high temperatures. The slag comprises small vitrified lumps with lots of gravel concretions attached. It is unclear what kind of high-temperature activity produced the slag.

4.3.8 Discussion

The earliest phase of activity evidence on site most likely dates to the middle to late Bronze Age and is characterised by fragments of pottery and lithics. Pit [903] is likely to date to this period and finds of slag within this pit might also suggest burning of some sort. Ditch [1503] may also belong to this period.

Feature [1910] is of unknown date but contains fired clay, burnt flint and magnetic residues which again suggest burning.

The medieval period is represented by pottery and roof tiles. These date the levelling fill of depression [105] to around the 15th century or later.

An 18th century date is suggested for the backfilling of quarry pit [104] and 19th century dates for the backfilling of ditches [403] and [1208].

4.4 Environmental report

By Laura Bailey and Tim Holden

Introduction

Two bulk samples, with volumes of 10 and 30 litres, hand collected shell and animal bone recovered during archaeological works at Braintree Road, Felsted, Essex were received for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The site contained pits and ditches of probable medieval and post-medieval date. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of the remains and to characterize the assemblage as far as possible.

Methodology

Bulk samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006).

Identifiable animal bone fragments were recorded, together with the preservation and any signs of modification of the bone in order to assess the quality, quantity and potential of the assemblage. Where possible fragments were identified to species level using Schmid (1972).

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Tables 1 (Retent samples), 2 (Flot samples) and 3 (Animal bone). Material suitable for AMS (Accelerated Mass Spectrometry) radiocarbon dating is shown in the tables.

Wood charcoal

Wood charcoal was common to abundant in both samples, and up to 10mm in size (Table 1 and Table 2).

The charcoal was heavily fragmented but unabraded and that from the fill (0904) of pit [0903] was in good condition and of a suitable size for AMS dating. Where preservation allowed, the charcoal in the flots was categorized as either oak or non-oak. Oak was the only taxon present.

Hazel nutshell

A single, tiny fragment (<0.1g) of hazel nutshell was recovered from the fill (0904) of pit [0903].

Molluscs

Oyster shells were hand-collected from 2 contexts; two from the fill (0103) of pit [0104] and three from the fill (0106) of feature [0105].

A small number of terrestrial molluscs were present in the fill (0904) of pit [0903]. It is likely that the molluscs are modern, given the excellent condition of the shells and abundance of modern roots.

Animal bone

Animal bone was hand-collected from 1 context (106) (Table 3).

The bone was fragmented with old and modern breaks noted. The surface condition of the bone was fair.

Shaft fragments from a cattle metacarpal and cattle ilium fragments were present in the fill (0106) of feature [0105].

Context	Condition	Weight (g)	Description
0106	Fair	112	Cattle metacarpal shaft fragments. Cattle ilium fragment.

Table 3 Hand collected bone

Other finds

Finds recovered from the retents will be discussed in the finds report.

Discussion

The palaeoenvironmental assemblage offers limited insight into site economy. Oyster shells are commonly found in Medieval features but the presence of oyster shell in Felsted is interesting given the inland location of the site and suggests that there must have been trading links with the coast during the Medieval period. The Essex coast is famous for its oysters (Benham 1993). The River Blackwater and the town of Maldon are especially renowned for their oyster production and trade (Winder 2000).

The condition of the animal bone was fair suggesting that the conditions on site are conducive for bone survival.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Quality of preservation

Plough truncation was apparent at this site, which is typical for the area. The depth of overburden was fairly consistent throughout the site, varying from 0.3m to 0.4m. The prehistoric features were truncated by ploughing to a greater extent than the post-medieval/modern features, probably indicating that the visible truncation is an effect of the long term land use rather than a sudden recent change.

5.2 Efficacy of other investigative methods used at the site

Geophysical survey preceded the trial trenching stage of works and the results are underlain on our Trench results (Illus. 2). The anomalies identified via Geophysical Survey were targeted via our trenches. The trenches picked up the 2 linear anomalies, interpreted as 19th century boundary ditches, as well as additional isolated discrete features and smaller, probably earlier, boundary ditches, which were not identified by the geophysical survey. This is probably due to the background magnetic signal and the relatively higher visibility of the post-medieval boundary ditch.

5.3 Prehistoric Activity

Ditch [1503] and 1 pit [903] probably date to the prehistoric period, mid/late Bronze Age to early Iron Age (with the possibility of ditch [405]). Residual sherds of early pottery were present in fill (1211). These probably represent an agricultural field system and an isolated dumping event. These remains have been designated Heritage Asset (HA) 1.

5.4 Post-medieval/modern Activity

A single pit [104] contained finds dated to the c.18th century. It may represent quarrying or other activity relating to the road, immediately to the north, or the village of Felsted. It has been designated HA 2.

Two boundary ditches, which appear on the 1837 Tithe and 1888 Ordinance Survey maps, were located within the site. The line of each ditch was confirmed across 2 trenches, [403] and [803] are the northern boundary ditch and [1206/8] and [1403] are the southern boundary ditch. These contained finds dating to the 19th century and later; and residual prehistoric pottery (1211). These are the field boundaries present in the 19th to 20th century (possibly dating earlier) and have been designated HA 3.

Undated Activity

Three, possibly four, tree pits/tree boles were located in the southern half of the site ([1204], [1903], and [1906]; [1909]). No dating evidence was recovered from these features but it is likely they are contemporaneous with other features on site, dating to the prehistoric period or later, and relate to farming activity. They have been designated HA 4.

5.5 Description of heritage assets and impact assessment

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench	Feature	Significance of heritage asset (Low, Medium, High) and of local, regional, national, international interest
HA1: Prehistoric: (Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) Activity	04, 09, 15	[0405], [0903], [1503]	Medium significance of local interest
HA2: Post-medieval/modern possible quarrying	01	[0104]	Low significance of local and regional interest
HA3: Post-medieval/modern field system	04, 08, 12, 14	[0403], [0803], [1206], [1208], [1403]	Low significance of local interest.
HA4: Undated pits	12, 19	[1204], [1903], [1906]	Low significance of local interest.

Table 4 Description of the Heritage Assets

6. CONCLUSION

The evaluation successfully characterised the archaeological potential of the development area.

Archaeological features were investigated and recorded in 8 of the 19 trial trenches. These consisted of a Bronze Age/ early Iron Age pit and ditch; post-medieval or modern boundaries; post-medieval or modern quarrying, and isolated undated pits. 4 Heritage Assets were identified as a result of the evaluation.

No evidence was found for Saxon activity on the periphery of the village and limited evidence was found for medieval agricultural activity, to address the questions suggested by the research framework. However, the truncation of earlier features and depths of overburden in the trenches was typical of the effects of long term ploughing and agriculture.

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Appendix I – Context Register

Context Number	Trench	Description	Relates to cut	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0101	01	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.4
0102	01	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0103	01	Mid brown grey silty clay fill of possible quarry pit [104], mostly sterile but occasional sherds of pottery and mollusc shell. Backfill deposit.	[0104]	2.2+	4.5	0.7
0104	01	Cut of pit filled by (103), irregular or linear in plan, steep to gently sloped sides, concave base and gradual breaks of slope. Possible a quarry pit for road/building material.		2.2+	4.5	0.7
0105	01	Cut of depression filled by (106), irregularly linear in plan, gently sloped sides, uneven base and not perceptible breaks of slope. Probable natural feature.		2+	6	0.2
0106	01	Mid grey brown silty clay fill of natural depression [105], similar to topsoil. Probably a levelling deposit.	[0105]	2+	6	0.2
0107	01	Mid yellow brown clay. Very clean.				
0201	02	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.4
0202	02	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0301	03	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
0302	03	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0401	04	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
0402	04	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0403	04	Cut of ditch filled by (404), steep, slightly irregular sides, concave, gradual breaks of slope. Boundary ditch matching up with anomaly on geophysical survey.		2m+	0.7	0.35
0404	04	Dark brown silty clay fill of boundary ditch [403], highly rooted.	[0403]	2m+	0.7	0.35
0405	04	Cut of ditch filled by (406), steep sides, rounded base, gradual breaks of slope. Possibly a substantially truncated boundary ditch.		2.5+	0.24	0.04
0406	04	Dark grey silty clay fill of ditch [405], no finds, highly truncated.	[0405]	2.5+	0.24	0.04
0501	05	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.4
0502	05	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0601	06	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.4

Context Number	Trench	Description	Relates to cut	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
0602	06	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0701	07	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
0702	07	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0801	08	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
0802	08	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
0803	08	Cut of ditch filled by (804), steep to near vertical sides, concave base, gradual breaks of slope. Boundary ditch matching up with anomaly on geophysical survey.		2m+	0.8	0.5
0804	08	Dark grey silty clay fill of ditch [803], area of rooting/burning at surface.	[0803]	2m+	0.8	0.5
0901	09	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.4
0902	09	Mid red brown natural stony silty clay.				
0903	09	Cut of pit filled by (904), sub-circular plan, steep sides, concave base, gradual breaks of slope. Indeterminate function.		1	0.55	0.23
0904	09	Dark grey silty clay fill of pit [903], occasional flecks of charcoal and sherds of pottery.	[0903]	1	0.55	0.23
1001	10	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
1002	10	Mid red brown natural stony silty clay.				
1101	11	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				
1102	11	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1201	12	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1202	12	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1203	12	Light brown silty clay subsoil.				
1204	12	Cut of pit filled by (1205), sub-circular in plan, gently sloped sides, flat base, gradual breaks of slope. Rubbish pit.		0.5+	0.78	0.12
1205	12	Dark brown grey sandy clay fill of pit [1204], occasional flecks of charcoal, no finds. Backfill deposit.	[1204]	0.5+	0.78	0.12
1206	12	Cut of ditch filled by (1207), gently sloped sides, concave base, not perceptible breaks of slope.		2.25+	0.95	0.58
1207	12	Light brown grey sandy clay fill of ditch [1206]. Backfill deposit.	[1206]	2.25+	0.95	0.58

Context Number	Trench	Description	Relates to cut	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1208	12	Cut of ditch filled by (1209), (1210), (1211), (1212), and (1213), steep sides; concave base; gradual breaks of slope. Cuts ditch [1206] and its fill; its lowest fill contained golf balls. Probably a post-medieval boundary ditch.		2.25+	1.65	0.57
1209	12	Light grey brown sandy clay fill of ditch [1208]. Accumulation deposit.	[1208]	1+	0.62	0.15
1210	12	Light grey brown sandy clay fill of ditch [1208], occasional flecks of charcoal and iron fragments. Accumulation deposit.	[1208]	1+	0.87	0.23
1211	12	Light yellow grey sandy clay fill of ditch [1208], contained pottery, including residual prehistoric pottery. Cut by ditch [1208]	[1208]	2.25+	1.03	0.32
1212	12	Light grey yellow sandy clay fill of ditch [1208], similar to natural. Probably redeposited natural backfill of ditch.	[1208]	2.25+	0.88	0.28
1213	12	Light brown grey sandy clay fill of ditch [1208], contained glass and CBM. Backfill of ditch.	[1208]	2.25+	0.48	0.13
1301	13	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
1302	13	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1401	14	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1402	14	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1403	14	Cut of ditch filled by (1404). Field boundary ditch		2.6	1.8	
1404	14	Fil of ditch [1403].	[1403]	2.6	1.8	
1501	15	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1502	15	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1503	15	Cut of ditch filled by (1504), gently sloped sides, concave base, gradual breaks of slope. Oriented NW-SE. Boundary ditch.		2.25	0.52	0.12
1504	15	Mid brown grey sandy clay fill of ditch [1503], minor rooting evident and contained EB/IA pottery.	[1503]	2.25	0.52	0.12
1601	16	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1602	16	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay.				
1701	17	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1702	17	Mid yellow brown natural stony silty clay, greater concentration of stones in some areas.				

Context Number	Trench	Description	Relates to cut	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1801	18	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.3
1802	18	Mid yellow/orange brown natural stony silty clay, greater concentration of stones in some areas.				
1901	19	Dark brown silty clay topsoil.				0.35
1902	19	Mid yellow/orange brown natural stony silty clay, greater concentration of stones in some areas.				
1903	19	Cut of tree bole filled by (1904), and (1905), irregular shape in plan and profile.			0.8+	0.12+
1904	19	Mid brown sandy clay fill of tree bole [1903], frequent flecks of charcoal.			0.8+	0.12+
1905	19	Mid red orange clayey sand fill of tree bole [1903], occasional flecks of charcoal.				
1906	19	Cut of tree bole filled by (1907), and (1908), irregular shape in plan and profile.			0.46+	0.3
1907	19	Mid brown sandy clay fill of tree bole [1906], frequent flecks of charcoal.			0.46+	0.3
1908	19	Mid red orange clayey sand fill of tree bole [1906], occasional flecks of charcoal.				
1909	19	Cut of tree bole filled by (1907), and (1908), irregular shape in plan and profile.				
1910	19	Mid red orange clayey sand fill of possible tree bole [1909], occasional flecks of charcoal. Burnt flint				

Appendix II – Photographic Register

Photo Number	FACING	DESCRIPTION
1		ID SHOT
2		Shot of site entrance
3		Shot of site entrance
4		Shot of site entrance
5		Shot of footpath
6		General site shot
7		General site shot
8		General site shot
9		General site shot
10		Shot of footpath
11	SW	Slot in tree throw [1906]
12	N	Slot in tree throw [1903]
13	E	W facing section through tree bole [1903]
14	W	Trench 19
15	N	Section of trench 19
16	N	Trench 18
17	W	Section of trench 18
18	SW	Trench 17
19	SE	Section of trench 17
20	S	Trench 16
21	W	Section of trench 16
22	NE	Slot in ditch [1503]
23	NW	SE facing section through ditch [1503]
24	E	Trench 15
25	S	Section of trench 15
26	E	Trench 13
27	N	Section of trench 13
28	NW	Trench 14
29	NE	Section of trench 14
30	N	Trench 10
31	W	Section of trench 10
32	E	Trench 9
33	N	Section of trench 9
34	S	Trench 11
35	E	Section of trench 11
36	N	Trench 8
37	W	Section of trench 8
38	NE	Trench 4
39	SW	Section of trench 4
40	W	Trench 7
41	S	Section of trench 7

42	N	Trench 6
43	W	Section of trench 6
44	E	Trench 5
45	N	Section of trench 5
46	S	General shot
47		ID SHOT
48	N	VOID
49	S	N facing section through pit [1906]
50	W	E facing section through pit [1204]
51	NW	SE facing section through ditches [1206], and [1208]
52	NW	Shot of ditches [1206], and [1208]
53	NE	Trench 12
54	N	Section of trench 12
55		VOID
56	S	Tree rooting in trench 11
57	N	S facing section of pit [0903]
58	E	Trench 1
59	W	Trench 1
60	N	Trench 2
61	W	Section of trench 2
62	W	Trench 3
63	S	Section of trench 3
64	NE	Trench 4
65	NW	Section of trench 4
66	S	Trench 8
67	E	Section of trench 8
68	NW	SE facing section through ditch [0403]
69	SE	Shot of gully [0405]
70	W	E facing section of ditch [0803]
71	S	Shot of ditch [0803]
72	S	N facing section of pit [0104]
73	S	N facing section of pit [0104]
74	S	N facing section of pit [104]
75	E	Shot of pit [104]
76	N	S facing section of depression [105]
77	N	S facing section of depression [105]
78	E	Shot of depression [105]

Appendix III – Drawing Register

Drawing Number	Type	Scale	Description
1	Section	1:10	SE facing section through ditches [1206] and [1208]
2	Section	1:20	S facing section through pit [0104]
3	Section	1:10	SE facing section through pit [0903]
4	Section	1:10	SE facing section through ditch [1503]
5	Section	1:10	SE facing section through ditch [0403]
6	Section	1:10	W facing section through ditch [0803]
7	Section	1:10	W facing section through pit [1206]

Appendix IV – Finds Catalogue

Trench	Context	Context Notes	Sample	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
1	101	Topsoil		16	1008	CBM	Tile TF1	Fine Sandy, including 10 sherds from same ridge tile	Medi?
1	101	Topsoil		1	4	Pottery (Medi)	F21	Sandy Orange Ware	12th-14th
1	103	Quarry pit 104		1	1	Pottery (Mod)	F48A	Chinese Porcelain	18th
1	103	Quarry pit 104		1	18	Pottery (PM)	F40	Red Earthenware	L15th-18th
1	106	Depression 105		7	316	CBM	Tile TF1	Fine Sandy	Medi?
1	106	Depression 105		5	42	Pottery (Medi)	F21	Sandy Orange Ware	12th-14th
1	106	Depression 105		1	19	Pottery (Medi)	F21A	Late Medieval Colchester-type Ware	15th-M16th
4	404	Boundary ditch 403		4	126	CBM	Tile TF1	Fine Sandy	PM/Mod?
4	404	Boundary ditch 403		4	71	Glass	Bottle	green bottle sherds including hand finished string rim, moulded natural bottle neck	19th
9	904	Pit 903	2		0	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	magnetised gravel	
9	904	Pit 903	2		31	Industrial Waste	Slag	small vitrified lumps	
9	904	Pit 903	2	27	19	Lithics	Tool & Debitage	two flakes, a patinated edge retouched distal fragment and a chip	
9	904	Pit 903		1	6	Pottery (PH)	FC	Flint-tempered	MBA-EIA
9	904	Pit 903		2	10	Pottery (PH)	FC	Flint-tempered	MBA-EIA
12	1209	Ditch 1208		2	67	Plastic	Golf Balls	complete gutta percha golf balls, with all over scored pattern, one dented, one abraded	c1880-1910
12	1211	Ditch 1208		1	8	CBM	Tile TF1	Fine Sandy	Medi?

Trench	Context	Context Notes	Sample	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
12	1211	Ditch 1208		1	7	Glass	Window	colourless sherd, good condition	Mod
12	1211	Ditch 1208		3	6	Pottery (PH)	FC	Flint-tempered	MBA-EIA
12	1213	Ditch 1208		1	1	Pottery (Mod)	F48C	Creamware	M18th-19th
15	1504	Ditch 1503		2	4	Pottery (PH)	FC	Flint-tempered	MBA-EIA
19	1910	Tree bole 1909	1	40	211	CBM	Daub DB1	Fine Sandy	?
19	1910	Tree bole 1909	1		7	Industrial Waste	Mag Res	magnetised gravel	
19	1910	Tree bole 1909	1	4	18	Lithics	Indeterminate	a quantity of burnt fragments. None clearly worked, retained due to burning	
19	1904	Tree bole 1909		2	5	CBM	Daub DB1	Fine Sandy	?
19	1908	Tree bole 1906		1	2	CBM	Daub DB1	Fine Sandy	?

Appendix V – Animal Bone Catalogue

Context	Condition	Weight (g)	Description
0106	Fair	112	Cattle metacarpal shaft fragments. Cattle Ilium fragment.

Appendix VI – OASIS Form**OASIS ID: headland4-219212****Project details**

Project name	Land off Braintree Road, Felsted, Essex
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation for Catesby Estates Ltd of land off Jolyboys Lane/Braintree Road, Felsted in Essex. Between 24th of November and 1st of December 2015 19 trenches were excavated in the proposed Development Area, 7 of which contained archaeological remains. 4 Heritage Assets were identified. These consisted of prehistoric (BA/IA) pit and ditch, post-medieval or modern boundaries, post-medieval or modern quarrying, and isolated undated pits/tree throws.
Project dates	Start: 24-11-2015 End: 01-12-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY, CBM, GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches"", ""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD FELSTED Braintree Road, Felsted
Postcode	CM6 3DX
Study area	3.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 684 205 51.857156503567 0.445641909046 51 51 25 N 000 26 44 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Antony Walsh
Project supervisor	Simon Mayes

Type of
sponsor/funding
body

Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding
body

Catesby Estates Ltd

Entered by

Antony Walsh (antony.walsh@headlandarchaeology.com)

Entered on

2 February 2016