



## Land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



**Land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road,  
Purfleet, Essex**

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## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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# **Land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was originally commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Bellway Thames Gateway North, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 556300 178500. The watching brief formed part of a programme of work in connection with proposals for a housing development and followed on from the evaluation. The watching brief was carried out between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2008.

Areas were observed in the extreme north-west and south-east corners of the Site during the digging of foundation trenches, the excavation of two deep soak-away complexes was also observed. This confirmed the presence of the two boundary ditches revealed in the evaluation though no further dating evidence was obtained. The larger boundary ditch was seen to extend beyond the western limits of the Site. That the smaller boundary ditch was not visible in the north-west part of the Site suggesting it has been obscured by the larger boundary feature. The north-south course of the smaller boundary ditch was found to extend beyond what was identified in the evaluation. Two quarry pits, also identified in the evaluation were also observed as were a number of natural and modern features. The deep excavations also revealed considerable natural swallow or sinkhole activity. Past activity on the Site appears to have comprised of low intensity occupation, and where it has been identified, the recovery of indicative dating evidence has been minimal.

# **Land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the watching brief, on behalf of Bellway Thames Gateway North. The advice and assistance provided by Richard Havis (Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council), is duly acknowledged.

The watching brief was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex (Senior Project Manager). The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Hall.

The report was compiled by Naomi Hall and edited by Richard Greatorex. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James.

# Land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client, Bellway Thames Gateway North, to undertake a watching brief on land at the Esso Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex. Centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 556300 178500, hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008 during the early phase of construction. Monitoring of the groundworks ceased when it was felt that sufficient additional information about the archaeology had been acquired, and that little further information would be gained for the record in prolonging the monitoring.

#### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises c. 2.2 hectares of land, approximately triangular in shape. The northern edge of the Site is bounded by the east-west aligned North Road; the south is bounded by the Purfleet Bypass. Housing lies to the west of the Site and a public footpath to the east.

1.2.2 The topography of the Site is fairly flat but it does slope gently downwards to the north-west. The Site is located at a height of approximately 15m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The Site geology consists of sand with bands of gravel overlying chalk. This chalk rises up from the alluvial floodplain of the Thames, before sloping down towards the Mar Dyke. The depth and bedding of the sand and gravels is highly variable due to the reworking of deposits by the paleochannels of the Mar Dyke.

1.2.4 The Site is located on the Lynch Hill Terrace of the Thames and is underlain by the Corbets Tey Gravel, within which lie the Purfleet interglacial deposits. These fossil rich deposits represent a warm period during the Pleistocene and are of national and international importance. The Lynch Hill Terrace falls within the footprint of the Site and is of particular interest as it represents a former loop of the Thames, which at that time locally flowed westwards before crossing into Kent in the Dartford area, before crossing back into Essex. The Terrace overlies upper Corbets Tey Gravel, Purfleet interglacial

deposits and Lower Corbets Tey Gravel, underlying which are Combe Rock and Chalk Bedrock.

- 1.2.5 The Site has SSSI status because of the uniquely important geological deposits within its bounds and the potential of the deposits to contain Pleistocene faunal and floral remains, including those of early hominid populations with associated lithic assemblages.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The full archaeological and historical background can be found in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Report (CgMs 2007) and the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2007).

- 1.3.2 The evaluation primarily identified two boundary ditches running west-east and then turning south (**Figure 2**). The smaller ditch (group number **3001**) lay slightly to the north-east of the larger ditch (group number **3000**). A number of quarry pits were also identified as well as some smaller pits.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the groundworks for the foundation trenches and drainage system.
- 1.4.2 Specifically more information was sought on the boundary features encountered in the evaluation.

## **2 METHODS**

- 2.1.1 Five areas were observed numbered **31-35** in order to carry on the numbers ascribed by the evaluation. Two of these (**31** and **33**) were deep excavations for soak-away complexes. Two (**32** and **34**) were areas of foundation trenching for the houses. A final shallow strip (**35**) for the sales facilities was observed which included one deep sondage for drainage.

- 2.1.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. A full photographic record was compiled utilising black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20. Features were surveyed and located using a Leica GPS 1250 SmartNet utilising Ordnance Survey heights and co-ordinates.

- 2.1.3 A unique site code **65901** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

- 3.1.2 The location of the areas of watching brief in relation to the proposed development is indicated on **Figure 1**. The detailed results of the watching brief are shown in relation to the 2007 evaluation results on **Figure 2**.

#### **3.2 Area 31**

- 3.2.1 **Area 31** was situated in the eastern part of the Site and comprised excavations for a soak-away complex. The area was repeatedly expanded and the ground level reduced to allow safe excavation.

- 3.2.2 While most of the excavation was undertaken using a toothed bucket an area was reduced down to the top of the natural sand (**3103**) using a toothless ditching bucket. This exposed what was initially thought to be a sub-circular 'quarry pit' (**3105**). The same feature was identified in the 2007 evaluation as (**2209**). A sondage was excavated down to a depth of 0.6m into the south-eastern edge of this feature in order to understand and characterise it. The feature appeared to continue down to a depth of over 4m and the sides started to widen out, rather than tapering in (**Plate 1, Figure 3**). Further excavation identified sand and gravel banding within the lowest exposed portion of the feature. What had originally been interpreted as fills of a quarry pit in 2007, have now been identified as the upper fills of a swallow hole.

- 3.2.3 Further swallow holes have since subsequently been identified, including feature **3410**.

#### **3.3 Area 32**

- 3.3.1 **Area 32** was situated in the far south-eastern part of the Site. It was observed during some initial topsoil/subsoil stripping and during the subsequent excavation of the foundation trenches.

- 3.3.2 Initially a depth of around 0.33m was stripped from the area. In the south-eastern part this was into subsoil but in the north-western part only a shallow depth of topsoil was removed. This stripping revealed the course of the modern ditch which bounded the southern part of the Site and a modern posthole.



3.3.3 After the initial stripping, foundation trenches of just over 1m in depth were excavated. In the south-western corner a feature (**3204**) was seen in the north-east facing section. The profile and deposits within it suggested that this was a natural feature, probably a tree throw.

### **3.4 Area 33**

3.4.1 **Area 33** was situated in the eastern part of the Site and over-lapped with **Area 31**. The fieldwork here comprised the monitoring of deep excavations for a soak-away complex. The area was repeatedly expanded and the ground level reduced to allow safe excavation.

3.4.2 Feature (**3305**) was observed in section, though truncated by the excavation of Area 31, it is believed to be the smaller boundary ditch identified in the evaluation (**Section 1, Figure 2**). This extends the previously known course of the ditch a further 50m to the south.

3.4.3 The larger boundary ditch (**3309**) was also observed in the south-western part of the area (**Section 3, Figure 2; Plate 2, Figure 3**). It was observed twice as the area was expanded several times. The profile and characteristics were similar to those recorded in the evaluation but no further dating evidence was observed or recovered.

### **3.5 Area 34**

3.5.1 **Area 34** was situated in the far north-western part of the Site. It was observed during its initial stripping and during the excavation of the foundation trenches.

3.5.2 Initially a depth of around 0.20m was stripped from the area into subsoil layer (**3402**). Some modern features as well as the old evaluation trenches were visible at this depth.

3.5.3 After the initial topsoil stripping, foundation trenches of just over 1m in depth were excavated. In the north-western corner, a feature (**3404**) was identified. The profile and deposits within it suggested that this was a tree throw. Another similar feature (**3418**) was observed in the south-facing section of the northern-most foundation trench, some 31m from the north-west corner.

3.5.4 In the far south-east corner a feature (**3420**) was seen in section, the results from the evaluation suggest that this is the north-eastern edge of the quarry pit (**603**).

3.5.5 Three intercutting features (**3407**), (**3409**) and (**3412**) were seen in the south-facing section of the northern-most foundation trench (**Figure 2**). While (**3407**) was undoubtedly modern and could be seen cutting the subsoil, (**3409**) and (**3412**) were undated. However the dark bands of topsoil-like deposit within (**3412**) would appear to suggest that both of these are also likely to have been modern.

3.5.6 The west-east part of the larger boundary ditch **3414** identified in the evaluation was also seen in section in each of the north-south foundation trenches (see photograph on front cover). Its profile and characteristics were as seen in the evaluation and it displayed a strong degree of uniformity along its length. No further dating evidence was obtained. The ditch was shown to continue beyond the western extent of the Site. The smaller boundary ditch was not seen in these sections lending credence to the idea that this is an earlier feature that has been destroyed by the excavation of **3414**.

### 3.6 Area 35

3.6.1 **Area 35** was situated in the south-eastern part of the Site where marketing facilities were being erected. Most of the excavation was a shallow stripping to form the access road but a deeper sondage for drainage was also observed. No new features were identified.

## 4 FINDS

4.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the watching brief, consisting largely of burnt, unworked flint. Six worked flint were also found. The only pottery recovered was from the subsoil in **Area 32**, the three fragments were originally one piece. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Burnt Flint</b>	<b>Struck flint</b>	<b>Pottery</b>
<b>3101</b>		1/20	
<b>3109</b>	14/420	3/14	
<b>3110</b>	2/126		
<b>3202</b>	3/59		3/2
<b>3310</b>	2/140		
<b>3311</b>	2/34		
<b>3401</b>		2/7	
<b>3415</b>	1/16		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24/795</b>	<b>6/41</b>	<b>3/2</b>

4.1.2 Burnt flint is intrinsically undatable but is often suggestive of prehistoric activity. There were no formal tools amongst the pieces of worked flint, though one of the pieces from topsoil **3401** may be a fragment of broken blade. The worked flint assemblage cannot therefore be dated more closely than the Neolithic to Bronze Age period (400-700 BC). The pottery is of a fabric consistent with the late Bronze Age (1000-700BC)

4.1.3 The small size and type of assemblage means that no further analysis of the assemblage is necessary.

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 5.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1.1 The watching brief confirmed the presence of the two boundary ditches revealed in the evaluation though it was not possible to obtain any further dating evidence. The evaluation identified one piece of Roman coarseware pottery within the larger ditch but thought the feature could have originally been Iron Age. That the smaller boundary ditch was not visible in the north-west part of the Site suggests that it had been obscured by the larger boundary feature. The watching brief was able to show that the western extent of the larger boundary ditch lay beyond the edge of the Site. The north-south course of the smaller boundary ditch was found to extend beyond what was identified in the evaluation.
- 6.1.2 One of the two quarry pits identified in the evaluation has since turned out to be a swallow hole. No further dating evidence associated with these features was obtained. Other features encountered were either natural or of modern date.
- 6.1.3 The scarcity of artefacts both within the features and in the overlying topsoil and subsoil suggests that the activity in this area in the past was of low intensity. Some residual Bronze Age flint was recovered from the subsoil, but only a very small amount. The lack of any definite occupation activity within the Site apart from the apparent quarrying, suggests that the boundary ditches are formed agricultural land divisions in a sparsely inhabited landscape.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1.1 No further work is recommended. The submission of this report to the SMR and the completion of an OASIS form is considered to be an adequate level of publication.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 65901. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with Southend Central Museum.
- 8.1.2 Information on the Site will be placed on the online information resource OASIS.

## 9 REFERENCES

CgMs Consulting. 2007. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at the Ezzo Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex*. Unpublished report.

Wessex Archaeology. 2007. *Land at the Ezzo Sports Field, North Road, Purfleet, Essex: Report on Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished report.

## Appendix 1: Test Pit Summaries

bgl= below ground level

<b>Area 31</b>			Type:	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 26.70x25.00m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 5.00m	<b>Ground Level:</b> 14.60m aOD	
<b>Context</b>	<b>description</b>		<b>depth</b>	
3101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown silty sand. 1% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Loose and friable. Slightly truncated. Fairly Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Overlies (3112).	0.00-0.52m bgl	
3102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty sand. 1% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Deep but poorly developed. Occasional chalk flecks. Loose and friable. Fairly homogenous. Overlies (3103).	0.42-0.83m bgl	
3103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand. Mid yellow to mid yellow-orange. 30% gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Gravel concentrated in bands. Overlies (3104).	0.70-2.75m bgl	
3104	<i>Natural</i>	Natural chalk. Upper portion soliflucted. Hard, blocky chalk with seams of flint.	2.75m+ bgl	
<b>3105</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of quarry pit. Filled with (3106-3109). Sub-circular feature with steep, slightly concave sides. 4.79m long, 4.56m wide. Disturbed by operation of a swallow hole beneath.</b>	-	
3106	<i>Deposit</i>	Not true fill of (3105). Represents collapse of quarry infilling into natural swallow hole. Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Rare chalk flecks. Occasional lenses/mottles of mid orange sand and dark orange sandy clay. Fairly loose and friable.	-	
3107	<i>Deposit</i>	Mostly topsoil derived material, possible deliberate backfilling of quarry pit (3105). Mid brown to dark brown silty sand. 2% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-6cm. 2% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Very rare charcoal flecks. Moderately compact but fairly friable. Some bioturbation. Fairly homogenous. Lowest fill encountered in sondage.	0.20m+	
3108	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill, infilling of quarry pit (3105). Mid brown silty sand. <1% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. <1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Occasional compact pale grey-brown sandy mottles. Overlies (3107).	0.34m	
3109	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill, infilling of quarry pit (3105). Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. 5% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Overlies (3108).	0.52m	
<b>3110</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Geological feature, swallow hole. Sub-circular shaft. Steep, almost vertical sides which widen in the lower portions. One of several observed. Filled with (3111)</b>	-	
3111	<i>Deposit</i>	Topsoil derived material drawn into upper portion of swallow hole (3110). Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Rare chalk flecks. Lower down the profile the more typical banding of sand and gravel could be seen.	-	
3112	<i>Subsoil</i>	Variation in subsoil seen in western portion of the area possible due to disturbance. Mid grey-brown silty sand. 2% flint/gravel, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Rare chalk flecks. Frequent pale grey compact sand mottles. Bioturbated. Moderately compact.	0.42-0.80m bgl	

<b>Area 32</b>			Type:	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 21.45x25.52m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.40m	<b>Ground Level:</b> 15.40m aOD	
<b>Context</b>	<b>description</b>		<b>depth (bgl)</b>	
3201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown silty sand. 1% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Loose and friable. Slightly truncated. Fairly Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Overlies (3202).	0.00-0.22m bgl	
3202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Fairly compact. Some mid to pale yellow mottles towards base of the horizon. Some bioturbation. Diffuse interface with (3203).	0.20-0.75m bgl	

3203	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand. Mid yellow-orange. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Gravel concentrated in bands.	0.54m+ bgl
<b>3204</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Feature seen in section only. Probable tree throw. Filled with (3205) and (3206). Moderate to steep, concave sides, flat base. 1.43m wide. Diffuse edges.</b>	<b>0.45m</b>
3205	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of tree throw (3204). Pale grey-brown silty sand. <1% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Slightly mixed, mottled deposit. Moderately compact. Bioturbated.	0.45m
3206	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of tree throw (3204). Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, 1-6cm. Rare chalk flecks. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly friable. Bioturbated. Diffuse interface with (3205).	0.35m

<b>Area 33</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 24.30x28.22m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 5.00m	<b>Ground Level:</b> 14.60m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>depth</b>
3301	<i>Layer</i>	Modern hardcore. Topsoil already removed. Crushed brick and concrete. Overlies (3302).	0.00-0.33m bgl
3302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Pale grey-brown silty sand. 2% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Rare chalk flecks. Poorly developed. Occasional chalk flecks. Loose and friable. Fairly homogenous. Overlies (3303).	0.30-0.63m bgl
3303	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand. Mid yellow to mid yellow-orange. 15% gravel, sub-rounded, 2-10cm. Gravel concentrated in bands. Moderately compact. Overlies (3304).	0.60-3.00m bgl
3304	<i>Natural</i>	Natural chalk. Upper portion soliflucted. Hard, blocky chalk with seams of flint.	3.00-4.00m+ bgl
<b>3305</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Though to be the western portion of the smaller boundary ditch. Eastern edge truncated by Area 33. Seen in section only. Filled with (3306), (3307) and (3308). Moderate concave sides, flat base. Slightly diffuse in section.</b>	<b>0.31m</b>
3306	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of (3305). Mid red-brown sandy clay. <1% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. Slightly mixed, diffuse deposit.	0.15m
3307	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3305). Pale grey silty sand. <1% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. Very mixed, frequent pale yellow-brown mottles. Diffuse interface with (3306).	0.21m
3308	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3305). Mid to pale yellow-brown silty sand. 2% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. Fairly friable. Slightly mixed. Diffuse interface with (3307).	0.25m
<b>3309</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Larger boundary ditch. North-south aligned. Filled with (3310) and (3311). Mostly seen in section, only very shallow depth left in plan. Moderate slightly concave sides. Concave base. Seen at an oblique angle therefore width is exaggerated but thought to be over 2m wide.</b>	<b>0.82m</b>
3310	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3309). Mid brown sandy clay. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-4cm. Moderately firm, fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Overlies (3311).	0.62m
3311	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3309). Pale grey-brown silty sand. <1% flint/gravel, sub-rounded – sub-angular, <1-4cm. Compact. Slightly mixed deposit. Occasional diffuse pale grey mottles. Some bioturbation.	0.20m

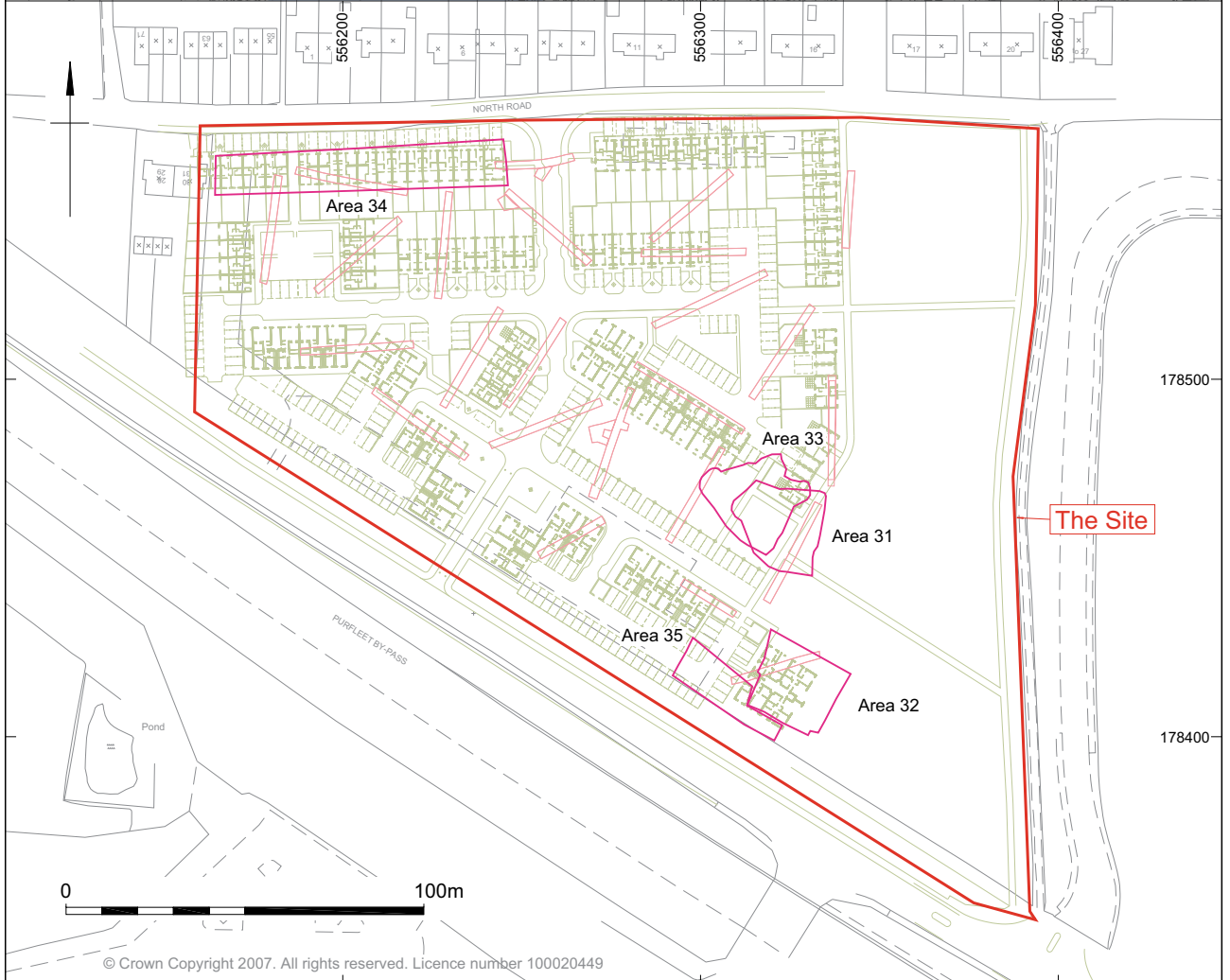
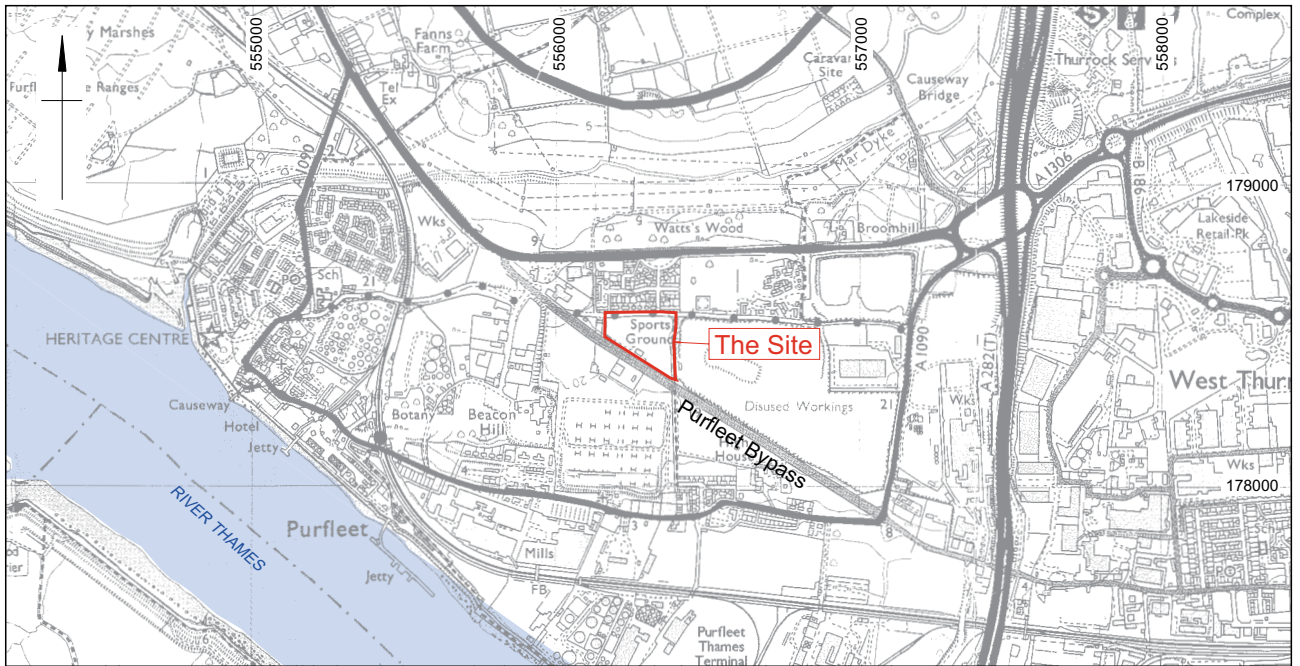
<b>Area 34</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 80.52x12.94m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.50m	<b>Ground Level:</b> 14.20m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>depth (bgl)</b>
3401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Loose and friable. Slightly truncated. Fairly Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Overlies (3402).	0.00-0.40m bgl
3402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange silty sand. 15% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly loose and friable. Fairly homogeneous.	0.40-0.82m bgl

		Some bioturbation. Overlies (3303).	
3403	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand. Mid yellow-orange. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Gravel concentrated in bands.	0.82-1.50m+ bgl
<b>3404</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Probable tree throw filled with (3405) and (3406). Only seen in section. Moderate, concave sides. 1.80m wide.</b>	<b>0.84m</b>
3405	<i>Deposit</i>	Redeposited natural sand and gravel. Fill of tree throw (3404).	0.06m
3406	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of tree throw (3404). Mid orange-brown silty sand. 2% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Fairly homogeneous. Friable.	0.80m
<b>3407</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Modern feature. Filled with (3408). Cuts (3411) and (3202).</b>	<b>1.00m+</b>
3408	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of (3407). Dark grey silty sand. Contained a large quantity of dumped iron objects.	1.00m+
<b>3409</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Feature seen in the south and north-facing sections of the northernmost foundation trench. Filled with (3410) and (3411). Only seen in section. Deeper and wider in north-facing section. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. 1.70m wide. Cuts (3413).</b>	<b>0.58m</b>
3410	<i>Deposit</i>	Lower fill of (3409). Tumbled subsoil and redeposited natural material. Pale brown silty sand. 40% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Fairly loose and friable. Some bioturbation.	0.06m
3411	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3409). Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Overlies (3410).	0.44m
<b>3412</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of possible pit. Filled with (3413). Only seen in section. Irregular shape, flat base. 1.72m wide.</b>	<b>0.44m</b>
3413	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (3412). Mid grey-brown silty sand. 8% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Frequent bands/lenses of dark grey-black topsoil material. Fairly loose and friable. Some bioturbation. Cut by (3409).	0.44m
<b>3414</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>East – west aligned boundary ditch. 2.76m wide but relatively shallow. Moderate concave sides, concave base. Filled with (3415), (3416) and (3417).</b>	<b>0.68m</b>
3415	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of (3414). Mid orange-brown sand. 40% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Slightly mixed deposit. Some bioturbation. Fairly loose and friable. Initial deposition into cut as feature sides stabilize.	0.04m
3416	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3414). Mid grey brown silty sand. 25% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Material derived from the south, possible bank erosion. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Overlies (3415).	0.14m
3417	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (3414), gradual deposition. Mid brown silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-10cm. Fairly homogenous. Moderately compact. Bioturbated.	0.57m
<b>3418</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of probable tree throw. Filled with (3419). Moderate, concave sides, concave base. 1.25m wide. Seen only in section.</b>	<b>0.35m</b>
3419	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of tree throw (3418). Mid brown silty sand. 10% flint/gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Loose and friable. Bioturbated.	0.35m
<b>3420</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of far northern edge of quarry pit. Only seen in section. Filled with (3421). Steep, concave sides.</b>	<b>0.70m+</b>
3421	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of (3420). Mid orange-brown silty sand. 10% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Loose and friable. Bioturbated.	0.70m+

<b>Area 35</b>		<b>Type:</b> Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 28.38x11.75m	<b>Max. depth:</b> 2.20m	<b>Ground Level:</b> 15.60m aOD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>depth (bgl)</b>
3501	<i>Layer</i> Tarmac and sand bedding. Overlies (3502).	0.00-0.15m bgl
3502	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Dark grey-black silty sand. 5% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Loose and friable. Truncated. Fairly Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Overlies (3503).	0.00-0.22m bgl
3503	<i>Subsoil</i> Modern subsoil. Mid brown silty sand. 2% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, 2-	0.22-0.90m

		8cm. Poorly developed. Loose and friable. Fairly homogenous. Overlies (3504).	bgl
3504	<i>Natural</i>	Natural sand. Mid yellow. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, 2-6cm. Gravel concentrated in bands. Moderately compact.	0.90m+



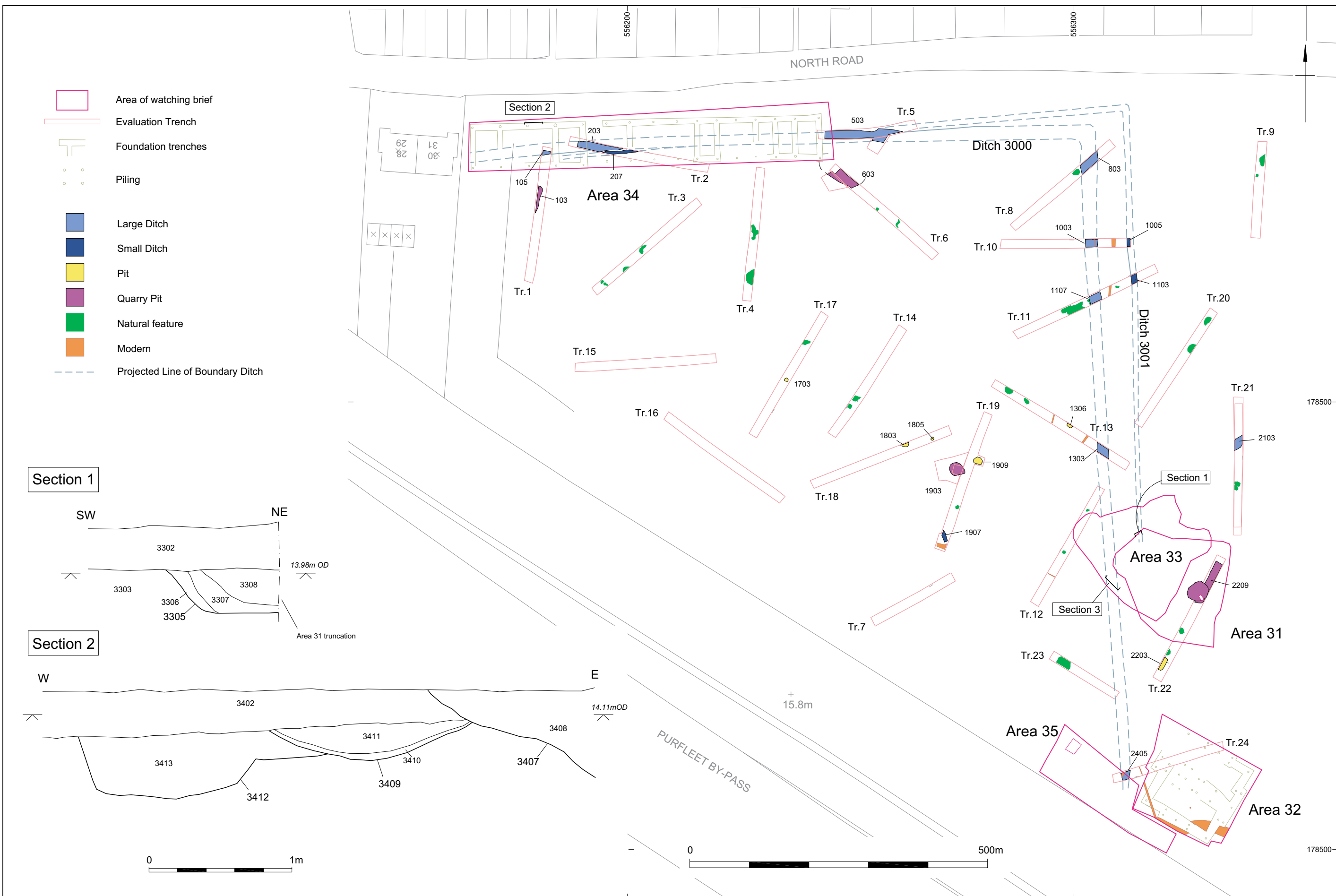


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Site location plan

Figure 1



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Plate 1: Swallow hole beneath quarry pit 3105 viewed from the west



Plate 2: Section 3, boundary ditch 3309. (Scale positioned along the ditch alignment)

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