

**PLOT K, CHELMSFORD BUSINESS PARK  
SPRINGFIELD, CHELMSFORD  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**JANUARY 2012**



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SPRINGFIELD, CHELMSFORD  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

Client: Churchmanor Estates plc

NGR: TL 73570 082270

Site Code: SPAK 11

Oasis No: 114801

Dates of Fieldwork: 26th September to 21st October 2011

**SUMMARY**

Archaeological excavation was undertaken in advance of the development of Plot K of Chelmsford Business Park, Springfield, Chelmsford. The 0.75ha rectangular development area lies within the grounds of the former Springfield Lyons house and only 20m to the north of a Bronze Age circular enclosure, an Early Saxon cemetery and a Late Saxon settlement site excavated between 1981 and 1991. Also recorded during these excavations, and in additional trenching to north and south, was the western side of a probable Neolithic causewayed enclosure. The edge of this enclosure was defined by a series of large pits that were demonstrated to extend across the eastern part of Plot K.

The western side of Plot K had been previously stripped of topsoil for use as a construction compound during a previous phase of Business Park development and consequently was found to be rutted and truncated. Archaeological investigations concentrated on the less-disturbed eastern half of the site targeting the line of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a number of linear features of possible Saxon and later date that continued into the site from the south.

Three newly-discovered pits were excavated on the projected line of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure, along with the northern end of a pit that had been part-excavated during previous trenching in 1991. A small shallow pit of Neolithic date was located within the enclosure itself. A pronounced gap between the causeway pits towards the north-east corner of Plot K may indicate the position of an entranceway into the enclosure.

Located within the arc of the Neolithic enclosure was the eastern half of a small roundhouse of Late Bronze Age date. The roundhouse consisted of a group of nine post-holes and three stake-holes and had a porch on its southern side. The western side of the structure was truncated by a later ditch. Located c.70m north-east of the enclosed Late Bronze Age settlement, this is the only contemporary structure so far found outside of it.

Four north-south aligned field boundary ditches were also recorded. Two ditches were of Late Saxon date, one on the basis of the recovery of previous finds, and the other on its stratigraphic relationships with other features. The latter is possibly the southward continuation of a ditch found prior the development of Plots G and H, approximately 110m to the north. This ditch had previously been tentatively identified as being of Late Bronze Age origin, but is now judged more likely to be of Late Saxon or later date. The remaining two ditches dated to the post-medieval period. One contained artefacts of 18th/19th century date and had two large oak trees growing upon or along it and may have been an earlier ditch backfilled during the creation of the gardens and parkland of Springfield Lyons House.

The investigation of Plot K has revealed the presence and survival of important prehistoric remains at this location and demonstrates the further archaeological potential of the as yet undeveloped parts of the Chelmsford Business Park to its south and southwest, and generally around the unexcavated peripheries of the Springfield Lyons enclosure excavation site.

The archaeological investigation and this reporting of its results represent the completion of the required archaeological works as specified by the ECC HEM brief and the fulfilment of the archaeological condition attached to planning consent for the development of Plot K.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Plot K, Chelmsford Business Park, Springfield, Chelmsford, in advance of construction works. The archaeological excavation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Churchmanor Estates plc.

Outline planning consent for the development of various plots, including Plot K, was granted by Chelmsford Borough Council (CBC) some years ago. As various plots have been brought forward for development, the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), as advisor to Chelmsford Borough Council, has required varying degrees of archaeological investigation to be carried out in advance.

As the site is judged to lie in an area of archaeological potential a full archaeological condition was placed on planning consent by CBC, following a recommendation given by ECC HEM, in accordance with PPG15: Planning for the Historic Environment (since replaced by PPS5). The recommendation states that:

*No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.*

Plot K was previously intended to have been subject to archaeological investigation by trial trenching back in 2006, as part of the evaluation of Plots C, K, M and N. While the other plots were duly evaluated (though Plots M and N only partially), the presence of spoil tips and a construction compound / car park covering much of the area of Plot K prevented its investigation.

Given the previously established high archaeological potential of the site and surrounding vicinity it was determined, in consultation with the ECC HEM officer (Teresa O'Connor), that the investigation of Plot K would proceed straight to the excavation of its entire extent without the need for a preliminary stage of trial-trench evaluation (indeed limited trenching had already taken place in 1991). This investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by the ECC FAU (2011) and agreed by ECC HEM.

Copies of this report will be supplied to Churchmanor Estates plc, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a

project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) available via the ADS website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit>). The site archive, including collected artefacts and copies of the report, will be deposited at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology**

The Chelmsford Business Park is a complex of office and industrial units located along the south side of the B1137, some 3km north-east of Chelmsford town centre (Fig. 1). Plot K is located toward the southeast corner of the designated business park complex (TL 73570 082270), accessed off Springfield Lyons Approach. It forms part of a larger area of rough ground, comprising grass and scrub, bounded by the current extent of the business park to the north, by industrial units to east and west, and by the Chelmer Village residential development to the south. Included in this, and of pertinence to the investigation of Plot K, is the remains of the 1981-91 Springfield Lyons archaeological excavation site. The remains of the excavated site, with its causewayed enclosure surrounded by spoil heaps, lies just to the south of Plot K.

The site occupies an area on the northwestern side of the Chelmer Valley with the River Chelmer lying down slope some 600m to the south-east. Plot K is a rectangular area of 0.75ha. As a whole, its surface is fairly flat and even, sloping gently down to the south-east (previously recorded levels ranging from c.36m to c.32m AOD). Two mature oak trees stand in its eastern half - relics of the site formerly being within the historic gardens/parkland of Springfield Lyons house. By the time of its investigation, spoil previously stored on site from earthmoving carried out elsewhere within the business park development had largely been cleared, though it is apparent that much of the site had been stripped of its topsoil in the process and has suffered significant disturbance. A thin cover of topsoil had been re-spread over the majority of the site and a low elongated mound of stockpiled earth remained toward its east side until its excavation. Prior to this investigation the surface of the site was undulating and held standing water in places and the north-west quadrant of the site was significantly rutted. The original topsoil/land surface appears only to survive under the canopies of the two substantial oak trees and northeast corner of the site, again partially buried under re-deposited / stockpiled soils.

The British Geological Survey (Sheet 241) indicates that the site occupies an area of Bagshot Beds over Claygate Beds which, in turn, lie over London Clay (British Geological



Survey 1985). The surface geology of this site is therefore an orange clay containing gravel.

## **2.2 Archaeology and History**

The following archaeological background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall and the content of various reports on the results of work previously undertaken in the vicinity. Locations of previously investigated sites are shown on Fig. 1 unless otherwise stated.

The site lies immediately north of the nationally important site at Springfield Lyons, where excavations and targeted trenching carried out between 1981 and 1991 recorded a multi-period site ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Late Saxon periods. In the years following these excavations the land around Springfield Lyons house has been developed into Chelmsford Business Park. Various archaeological investigations have been carried out throughout the area of the park on a plot by plot basis prior to development. Investigations have also been carried out prior to similar development at adjacent Springfield Park, to the east.

### *Prehistoric*

The 1981-91 Springfield Lyons excavations revealed the remains of a Late Bronze Age settlement within a circular defended enclosure (Buckley and Hedges 1987). The western side of a probable Neolithic causewayed enclosure was also recorded in the excavation, and in further trenching to the north and south carried out in 1991 (Gilman (ed) 1991; 1992). As part of the 1991 trenching, the northward course of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure ditch was traced across the Plot K site, within Trenches HC, HD and HQ (see Tyler and Major 2005, Fig. 2).

Archaeological investigation, including fieldwalking, geophysical survey, trial trenching, open area excavation and monitoring, was carried out over the period 1995-2001 at the Springfield Park industrial development immediately east of the Chelmsford Business park. Trial trenching to the north-east of Plot K recorded Neolithic flint artefacts and evidence of dispersed Late Bronze Age settlement activity (Bennett (ed) 1998, 203). Further work revealed a Late Bronze Age rectangular post-built structure to its east and a group of Late Bronze Age animal pens situated further to the north (Manning and Moore 2003, 19).

To the north of Plot K, within Chelmsford Business Park, a ditch found in Trench 4 of Plot G/H, and subsequently investigated in a larger excavation area, was judged to be Late Bronze Age and speculated to be part of a field system to the east of the enclosed settlement

(Pocock 2006) In addition, two ditches of probable prehistoric date were recorded in Plot N, to the southeast of Plot K (Robertson 2006).

Consideration of these and other prehistoric monuments in the Chelmer Valley landscape can be found in Brown 2001, whilst definitive accounts of the Late Bronze Age and Neolithic enclosures are shortly to be published (Brown and Medlycott in press).

#### *Late Iron Age/Roman*

The site lies c.150m south-east of the line of the Roman London-Colchester road (B1137) and 3km from the Roman town. A shallow ditch and a number of pits of Roman date were excavated as part of the 1981-91 Springfield Lyons excavations and there is the possibility of a Roman settlement in the vicinity (Tyler and Major 2005, 2). Romano-British field boundary ditches dated to the 1st–2nd century were identified to the north-east of the development site during trenching at Springfield Park (Bennett (ed) 1998, 203).

#### *Saxon*

The Springfield Lyons excavations recorded an extensive Early Saxon cremation and inhumation cemetery and a Late Saxon manorial site (Tyler and Major 2005) centred upon the former Bronze Age enclosure and extending out to its south and west. The excavated Late Saxon manorial centre is identified as the original site of Cuton Hall, a manor recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). Changes in manorial holdings after the Norman Conquest resulted in the hall being moved to a new site to the south.

The 1991 trenching across Plot K revealed a number of north-south aligned ditches. The northwards continuation of Late Saxon ditch 6696 was tentatively identified in Trench HL and other north-south aligned ditches were also recorded in Trenches HC and HN, and in HD, HP, HQ and HR. Although, these ditches did not contain any datable material, a Late Saxon date was subsequently suggested based on their similar alignment (Buckley & Hedges 1987).

#### *Medieval/post-medieval/modern*

Springfield Lyons was not mentioned at all in Domesday, and the earliest record of it dates to 1339 (Tyler and Major 2005, 200). Documentary sources and cartographic evidence suggests that the vicinity was in agricultural use during the medieval and post-Medieval periods. Trenching within the north-east of the Springfield Park site revealed medieval field boundary ditches and pits of 11th to 14th century date (Manning and Moore 2003, 19).

Further discussion of the later history of the Springfield Lyons site can be found in Tyler and Major (2005, 200-2).

A second World War tank trap runs through the Late Bronze Age enclosure (Tyler and Major 2005, 2) and was also recorded in one of the Plot N evaluation trenches (Robertson 2006). The trial-trench evaluation of Plots G and H (Pocock 2006), and of Plots C, M and N (Robertson 2006), to the north and west of Plot K, revealed a generally low incidence of archaeological remains and a moderate incidence of post-medieval and modern disturbance. No archaeological remains were found in Plots C or M, but significant disturbance and truncation from modern activities was noted.

Subsequent to the 1991 trenching, a large sewer trench was cut across the across Plot K. Its south-west to north-east route across the site was recorded during the current works, truncating parts of some of the ditches present and passing through the locations of former trenches HL, HM, HN, HO, HP and HQ. The sewer passed close to the Neolithic causewayed enclosure remains without encroaching upon them, its route perhaps being deliberately sited in relation to the trenching results. There is no record of archaeological monitoring being carried out when the sewer trench was cut.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

The general aim of the investigation was to determine the presence of archaeological remains of all dates and periods within Plot K, and to preserve them by record prior to their destruction by construction works.

The specific aims of the investigation were to:

- Identify and record further parts of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure and any other contemporary remains
- Identify and record any Bronze Age settlement remains outside the Springfield Lyons enclosure and to investigate any ditch/field systems potentially associated with it
- Identify and record the northward continuation of Late Saxon ditch 6696 and any other remains contemporary with the Early Saxon cemetery or later settlement

#### **3.2 Objectives**

Research objectives for the project were undertaken with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and*

*strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook (eds) 2000) and the revised framework (Medlycott (ed) 2011). In particular, the development of farming and the attendant development and integration of monuments, fields and settlements are key areas of research for the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Brown and Murphy 2000, 10). The specific relationship of Bronze Age settlements and field systems is also highlighted (Medlycott (ed) 2011, 20).

#### **4.0 METHOD**

The overburden was removed under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. The majority of the site was stripped, other than two c.31m diameter root protection zones around the two preserved oak trees (Fig. 1, Plates 1 and 2) and a 2-3m gap along the wooded eastern boundary of the site necessitated by overhanging trees, whilst more minor variations in line along the southern edge of the site were due to the presence of one or two smaller trees and an encroaching former spoil tip. The removed overburden varied in depth from 0.15m (west) to 0.70m (east) and consisted of dark greyish brown topsoil, modern deposits (brick rubble hardcore, textile matting, etc) and brown silt subsoil in previously unstripped areas.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned, planned and hand excavated. A feature sampling strategy was agreed with ECC HEM at a monitoring visit. Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

A small number of bulk soil samples were collected from feature fills for environmental analysis. However, the potential survival of organic remains within the sandy gravelly fills was judged to be poor and after subsequent visual inspection the samples have been discounted for processing and analysis.

#### **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

Archaeological remains were evident across the centre and eastern half of the site. No remains were visible in the western half which was truncated and deeply rutted, having previously been stripped of topsoil and used variously as a contractors' compound and spoil tip during earlier phases of construction within the business park. In addition to truncation

caused by modern development activity, other recent disturbances included a large sewer trench, several builders test pits, boreholes and a drain.

The incidence of features and component finds was generally low. The paucity of unstratified material is also noteworthy. Investigated remains comprised ditches, large pits and post-holes ranging in date from the Neolithic to Post-medieval periods. The complexity of these remains was minimal, being cut directly into the natural gravely silts. Other than a single thin localised layer, no stratification of deposits was identified and minimal inter-cutting of features recorded. The exposed natural deposit consisted of brown sandy clay silt in the west of the site turning to brownish grey gravel to the east of the oak trees. Feature legibility in both soils was generally poor, with visibility hampered by consistently bright sunshine and dry dusty ground conditions. However, it is unlikely that any significant remains were not detected.

The bases of the 1991 evaluation trenches within the excavation area were partially visible. These and their contents were generally not re-excavated except for the unexcavated northern end of one Neolithic pit (8950). Consequently, only newly investigated features are described here with the previously excavated features alluded to where pertinent. Figure 2 includes the earlier features as recorded at the time.

The investigated remains are described below, in broad period order. Detailed context information is presented in Appendix 1.

## **5.1 Neolithic**

Neolithic enclosure pits previously excavated during the 1991 trenching were relocated. All had been fully excavated apart from one pit (8950) at the southern edge of the area. The northern half of pit 8950 was further investigated as part of the Plot K excavation along with another three newly-discovered enclosure pits on the same arcing alignment as those previously identified. The excavated causewayed enclosure features are described below from south to north.

### *Causewayed Enclosure Pit 69*

Pit 69 was the northern half of elongated pit 8950 that intruded into the southern edge of Plot K and that had previously been part-excavated in earlier Trench HC. As a complete feature, it was established to be broadly oval in plan, measuring 7m long by a maximum of 3.8m wide.

Excavated segment 69 was 3m long by 0.64m deep and had 40°-50° sloping sides and a base that was generally flat, apart for a concave depression close to the section (Fig. 3, Section 1 and Plate 3). Four main fills (70, 71, 72 and 73) were identified; all were of a

similar dark greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent gravel inclusions were noted in the basal fill (70), moderate amounts in fills 71 and 73 and very few in fill 72. Early Neolithic pottery and worked flint was recovered from three fills (70, 72 and 73). At the southern end of the excavated section was a slightly lighter greyish brown deposit (79) with a sloping northern edge overlying a more gravelly basal deposit (80) similar to fill 70. It is possible that the sloping edge of fill 79 indicates the position of a re-cut in the north-east part of the pit containing deposits 70 and 71.

The excavated fill sequence (Fig. 3, Section 1) broadly compares with that recorded for pit 8950. The depth of the old south-facing section was about 0.50m once topsoil and subsoil had been discounted which correlates reasonably well with the south end of pit 69 which was 0.45m deep. There was a general similarity in fills with the main variant in the two sequences being the frequency of gravel inclusions. In both cases the most inclusions were found in deposits at the base of the pit. Re-cuts were present in both segments, though appear localised.

#### *Causewayed Enclosure Pit 57/78*


To the north-east of the southern tree protection zone, and beyond previously excavated pit 8952, was large gravel-filled pit, 5.8m long by 4.5m wide (Fig. 3, Section 2), which was excavated as two opposing quarter segments 57 and 78. The pit was of irregular oval plan, with sides that varied in slope from 30° to 70°, and an undulating base. The north-east quadrant (78) was up to 0.50m deep (Plate 4) and contained four fills (74, 75, 76 and 77). The top of the pit was filled by two similar gravelly mid greyish brown sandy silt fills (74 and 75) separated by a browner and slightly more silty deposit (77). Underlying fill 75 in the south of the excavated segment was a deposit of brown to greyish brown silty sand (76). The only finds recovered were two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery from fill 74.

Fills 75 and 76 continued into the corner of the south-west quadrant (57) with the remainder containing an extensive upper fill of mid brownish grey sandy silt (58) with frequent gravel inclusions. In the west of the excavated segment this overlay a more compacted gravelly fill (81) infilling a bowl-shaped hollow to a depth of 0.70m (Plate 5) and in the east it overlay an undulating brown sandy silt deposit (82), similar to fill 77 in the opposing segment. It is clear from the deeper depressions within the base of pit 57/78 and the positions of the fills in section that the shape of the pit is the result of several episodes of pit digging.

#### *Causewayed Enclosure Pit 52*

Located 1.5m to the north of pit 57/78 was a smaller pear-shaped pit (52), truncated on its eastern side by later ditch 5/11/21. This pit was 3.2m long and in excess of 1.8m wide. However, it was very shallow at only 0.16m deep. It contained two fills, the upper comprising silty gravel and the lower of silty sand with fewer coarse gravel inclusions. One sherd of Early Neolithic pottery was recovered. After recording, a sondage was dug through the compact sand at the base of the pit which confirmed that the feature had not been under-dug.

#### *Causewayed Enclosure Pit 65*

To the north-east of pit 52 was larger more irregularly-shaped pit 65, poorly defined in plan, with a shallow (0.05m deep) protrusion to the north. The pit was 4.6m long by 3.5m wide and up to 0.75m deep and was mainly filled with greyish brown sandy gravelly silt (66). The sides and base sloped down towards the deepest part of the pit, a central bowl-shaped depression (Fig. 3, Section 3 and Plate 6) filled with lighter grey silty sand (66).  finds were recovered.

As with pit 57/78, it is its probable that pit 65 resulted from more than one episode of pit digging and in-filling - the bowl-shaped depression, backfilled before the remainder of the pit, being the obvious indicator. Fill 66 was noticeably more gravelly along the northern side of the pit, particularly towards the north-east corner and it is possible this indicated the position of an additional re-cut in this area.

#### *Other Neolithic features*

Pit 56 was located just within the interior of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure. The pit was 1.7m long and 0.28m deep, but heavily truncated on its western side by later ditch 5/11/21. It had a gently sloping concave profile and an orange brown fill (55) that contained small sherds of Early Neolithic pottery.

## **5.2 Bronze Age**

Located east of the Neolithic enclosure pits was a group of nine post-holes and three stake-holes that is construed to form part of a small roundhouse of Late Bronze Age date (Plate 7). The structure (59) was of slightly squashed appearance with a north-south radius of c.5m and a longer east-west radius in the region of 6m. Part of its western side had possibly been removed by later ditch 5/11/21 or else was obscured by the tree protection zone. Post-holes 14 and 27 may constitute a projecting porch on the south side of the structure.

Six of the post-holes (14, 16, 27, 29, 31 and 48), forming the southern side of the structure, were well-dated and of broadly similar shape and dimensions. Diameters ranged from 0.55m to 0.86m and depths from 0.26m to 0.45m (Fig. 3, Section 4). Post-hole 16, which was a re-cut of underlying post-hole 48, had vague traces of an angled central post-pipe (Fig. 3, Section 5; Plate 8). Most of the post-holes were filled with dark brownish grey sandy silt and contained occasional charcoal flecks and pieces of burnt flint. All contained sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and additional sherds were recovered from a surrounding subsoil layer (64). Residual Neolithic pottery was also recovered from post-hole 29.

The three northern post-holes (33, 35 and 38) were larger, all having diameters of 1.10m and depths ranging from 0.36m to 0.53m (Fig. 3, Sections 6 and 7). All were filled with dark brownish grey sandy silt. In addition, post-holes 35 and 38 each contained a darker grey lower fill containing charcoal and ash. Pottery of probable Late Bronze Age date was recovered from post-hole 33 along with an intrusive sherd of Roman pottery. The prehistoric pottery recovered from post-holes 35 and 38 was poorly dated and could not be positively assigned to either the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods, although there was a clearly residual Early Neolithic element present.

Three circular stake-holes (41, 60 and 62) were recorded within the roundhouse interior. All were 0.10m deep and ranged in diameter from 0.08m to 0.18m. A small amount of abraded Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from stake-hole 41 and all are presumed to be contemporary with the building.

No other Bronze Age features were identified within Plot K, other than two post-holes 8984 and 8985 previously excavated in Trench HO.

### **5.3 Iron Age/Roman**

No features of Iron Age or Roman date were identified, though two sherds of residual/intrusive Roman pottery were recovered.

### **5.4 Late Saxon**

No features of Early Saxon date were identified. Two features of possible Late Saxon date were recorded and are discussed below.

#### *Ditch 22*

To the west of the southern tree protection zone was a well-defined north-south aligned ditch (22) which was visible on the surface for some 30m before becoming truncated and obscured to the north. The ditch had been previously investigated in Trench HL and



extensively excavated further south as ditch 6996 during the Springfield Lyons enclosure investigations where it was found to contain a small amount of Late Saxon pottery (Tyler and Major 2005, 143). Ditch segment 22 was 1.8m wide and 0.57 deep and had a fairly V-shaped profile (Fig. 3, Section 8; Plate 9). No finds were recovered from its single gravelly sandy silt fill 23.

#### *Ditch 5/11/21*

North-south aligned ditch (5/11/21) ran parallel to ditch 22, c.34m to its east. In excess of 72m long, this ditch was up to 2.25m wide and 0.76m deep with a V-shaped profile in the south (segments 5 and 21; Plate 10) and a more concave profile in the north (segment 11). All three excavated segments contained two distinct mid greyish brown sandy clay silt fills with the lower fill in each case extending up the sides of the ditch and containing noticeably more flint inclusions (Fig. 3, Section 9). Given this uniformity it is possible that upper fills in fact indicate the position of a later recut in the top of the infilled ditch. Finds comprised a few fragments of fired clay and burnt flint, but no pottery. This ditch had been previously excavated in trenches HD and HP and recorded passing through trenches HQ and HR. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this ditch, a Late Saxon date has been previously suggested based on its shared alignment with ditch 22 (Buckley & Hedges 1987).

#### **Post-medieval**

Ditch 8 was 1.74m wide and 0.74m deep and contained two dark greyish-brown sandy silt fills (9 and 10). It was aligned roughly north/south and could be traced for over 48m across the site, running directly beneath, or else between, both of the preserved oak trees. Finds recovered from the upper fill (10) of the ditch included glass, pottery and tile of 18th to 19th century date. This ditch had been previously identified within Plot K in trial trenches HC and HN, and to the south in trenches HF, HG and HS, amounting to a total recorded length in excess of 170m.

Approximately 13m to the west of ditch 8, was a second shorter linear feature (26), on a parallel alignment. This ditch was 0.38m deep and mainly filled with mid greyish-brown sandy silt (24), with a lower more gravellier fill (25) to the south. No dating evidence was recovered from these fills. However, two small fragments of animal bone in good condition were noted which, although not intrinsically dateable serve to suggest a relatively recent date for the backfill (given that bone survival is generally poor due to the acidic nature of the surrounding natural gravel). Disturbance from thick semi-decayed roots was noted along the eastern edge of the ditch and is the probable cause of the slight bulge visible in plan. The ditch was visible in plan for some 22m. It was truncated by former compound groundworks a

few metres north of the excavated segment and to the south had been previously investigated in trial trenches HM and HL, though its continuance beyond this was not established.

## **5.5 Undated**

At the eastern edge of the excavation area was an oval pit (47), 1.6m long by 0.40m deep, containing a single gravelly silt fill. Other than a few flecks of charcoal and baked clay noted by the excavator, no finds were present.

In the south of the site, possible Late Saxon ditch 5/11/21 appeared to cut an undated east/west aligned ditch (7/43). This earlier ditch had a U-shaped profile and was up to 1.11m wide by 0.45m deep. It was visible on the surface for over 21m before becoming indistinct to the east where the surrounding natural deposit changed from gravel to silt. At its west end it curved northward and continued into the tree protection zone. The ditch was filled with mid greyish brown gravelly silt and only contained a few fragments of burnt flint.

## **6.0 FINDS by Alan J Jacobs**

### **6.1 Introduction**

A total of 423 fragments of pottery, flint, stone, tile, fired clay and iron weighing a total of 4836g were recovered from twenty seven contexts. All of the material has been sorted into context and recorded by count and weight. The finds are described below, with further detail and quantification in Appendix 2.

No finds of Iron Age, Saxon or medieval date were recovered from the excavation and finds of Roman date were minimal.

### **6.2 Prehistoric pottery**

All fabrics are identified with reference to the Essex County Council Prehistoric pottery type series (Brown 1988 & 1995), unless otherwise stated. A total of 363 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 2814g were recovered from 20 contexts. Where possible, the sherds are identified to period and subdivided between the Early Neolithic and the Late Bronze Age. Later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age forms and fabrics have not been identified within the assemblage, although there is some material that cannot be readily identified to period.

#### **6.2.1 Early Neolithic**

Early Neolithic pottery consists of 39 sherds weighing 229g and is identified in eleven context assemblages, eight of which can be securely dated (40, 50, 55, 68, 70, 72, 73 and 74). These define three pit features relating to the causewayed enclosure (contexts 52, 56, 69), a post-hole (38) where the material may be residual and a layer (68) close to the post-hole group (59). The range of fabrics consists of A, B, C, I, M and P, dominated by B and C, which compares well with the previous excavations (Brown in press).

Feature 69, in particular, yielded a series of well-dated context groups (70, 72 and 73), although they comprise only small amounts of pottery. A single example of a small open bowl with an everted rim from context 72 has a parallel from previous excavation (Brown in press, p.31 drawing 6), though this example is burnished. The other contexts contain body sherds of similar small vessels, none clearly definable for comparison.

#### **6.2.2 Late Bronze Age**

Late Bronze Age pottery consists of 260 sherds weighing 2304g and is identified in ten contexts, eight of which can be securely dated (15, 17, 18, 28, 30, 32, 42 and 49). These come from a series of six post-holes (contexts 14, 16, 27, 29, 31 and 48) and a stakehole (context 41) forming part of the roundhouse (59). All of these contexts are concentrated in one area of the site, where comparatively large amounts of material have been deposited. In contrast, three large post-holes (33, 35 and 36) on the north side of the roundhouse contain small amounts of material and lack clear dating; they could be of either Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age date.

Post-hole 14 is of particular interest, with several definable forms of Late Bronze Age date including examples of small carinated bowls with fingernail decoration on rim (context 15). A single example of a rim sherd of a larger vessel was recovered from the layer (64) overlying the post-holes. This example has a distinct rope effect rim and is burnt. Most of the body sherds recovered from this group of contexts come from large coarsely-made vessels.

### **6.3 Roman pottery**

All fabrics are defined by the Essex County Council type series (Going 1987) with additions from the Stansted excavations (Wallace 2004, 285-312), unless otherwise stated. Roman pottery consists of just two sherds weighing 22g. Both are much abraded fragments of Black Surfaced Ware (BSW, Fabric 34/45). These occur in just two contexts (34 and 64), one possibly intrusive in pit 35 and the other nearby within the layer overlying the Late Bronze Age post holes. Both are undiagnostic and of little significance beyond the fact of their presence in this part of the site.

#### **6.4 Modern Pottery**

A single sherd of modern pottery was recovered from fill 10 in ditch 8. This is a yellow earthenware sherd of kitchen ware that could date from the late 18th to 20th century.

#### **6.5 Worked Flint**

A total of just 30 pieces of worked flint weighing 305g were recovered from nine contexts (U/S, 18, 30, 37, 40, 64, 70, 72 and 73). The assemblage consists of 23 flakes, two scrapers, an end scraper, discoidal knife and two blades and a block. The only closely dateable tools come from an unstratified context. These comprise the discoidal knife, rectangular in form, and an end scraper both of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age date and a worked flint blade of Neolithic date. The largest group of worked flint derives from Neolithic pit 69 (contexts 70, 72 and 73). This group comprises eight flakes, a tertiary flake, two scrapers, a block and a blade; this is a distinct Early Neolithic group. The remaining worked flint consists of flakes from the area of building 59 (contexts 18, 30, 37 and 64), of Late Bronze Age date.

#### **6.6 Burnt Flint**

Forty-four fragments of burnt flint weighing 664g were recovered from nine contexts (12, 15, 17, 18, 30, 36, 37, 39 and 45), almost all of which are in association with Late Bronze Age features. The majority of this material relates to post-holes (14, 16, 29, 35 and 38) forming building 59, the remainder deriving from two potentially Saxon ditches (11 and 43). It is significant that this material has not been recovered from Early Neolithic features, indicating its deposition through domestic activity exclusively in the Late Bronze Age.

#### **6.7 Other Finds**

A total of six fragments of post-medieval roof tile were recovered weighing 330g, along with a single fragment of modern white glazed floor tile, from a single ditch context (10). This context also produced four fragments of glass, a modern beer or wine bottle weighing 170g that dates from the late 18th to 19th century. Iron objects were recovered from only the unstratified context, and comprise three nails and a catch fitting. These are of general 19th to 20th century date. Three fragments of fired clay weighing 6g were recovered from just two contexts (3 and 30). These are small abraded fragments that cannot be more closely identified. A single fragment of stone was recovered from Late Bronze Age post-hole fill 17. This consists of a shaped fragment of sandstone and is most likely a fragment of a quernstone rubber.

## **6.6 Conclusion**

This is a small but significant finds assemblage containing examples of Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age pottery and worked flint that have similarities with material recovered from the previous Springfield Lyons investigations. The assemblage would best be considered more fully in synthesis with further work in the area.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

A range of archaeological remains were encountered within Plot K that is comparable to those previously found in the surrounding vicinity. The absence of features across the western half of the site is perhaps surprising but, despite modern disturbance and difficulties with legibility, is probably real - trial trenching to the north and west would appear to confirm that remains are sparse here. It is perhaps possible that there was a blank zone around the late Bronze Age settlement enclosure. Surface geology variations may play a part in explaining this, with gravely ground as found in the east of the site being preferred to clayey silt. Further discussion of the results of the Plot K investigation is presented below by broad period and considered in relation to the previous discoveries in the vicinity. A phased site plan is presented as Fig.4.

### **Neolithic**

Excavation and targeted trenching during the period 1981-91 had revealed the presence of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure (Brown and Medlycott in press). The boundary of this enclosure was formed from a series of large elongated pits, rather than longer lengths of interrupted ditch, of which seven were identified and wholly or part-excavated. During the excavation of Plot K a further three enclosure pits were investigated along with a smaller fourth pit that may be an internal feature. In addition, one of the enclosure pits exposed and part excavated during the previous trial trenching was further investigated.

Many of the previously excavated enclosure pits were comparatively deep (1m+) and appeared to be the product of re-cutting on numerous occasions. However, northernmost pits 8952 and 8994 were shallower and lacked the repeated re-cuts and complex fill sequences, and it was generally observed that the enclosure pits became less substantial northwards (Brown pers com). The three newly-investigated causewayed enclosure pits (57/8, 52 and 65) within Plot K, all located between 8952 and 8994, confirm this trend and also demonstrate that the deposition of cultural material within the enclosure pits seems to decrease northwards.

Two other Neolithic features, pit 56 and poorly-defined and over-cut pit 8956 previously excavated in Trench HD, were located a metre or two east of the line of the enclosure pits. As these were located in the area potentially occupied by an accompanying bank it may be the case that they pre-dated the main construction phase. Alternatively, the pits may have been located within gaps in the bank or the bank be set back several metres from the edge of the ditch as has been postulated to be the case elsewhere (Oswald *et al* 2001, 43).

While the newly-revealed Neolithic causewayed enclosure pits do not extend the known line or give any new and significant insights, they do confirm the course of the enclosure and fill in some of the gaps, showing that the distribution of perimeter pits is frequent and closely-spaced though not necessarily particularly uniform. The frequency of spacing suggests that another three or four such pits are likely to be preserved beneath the southern oak tree and that the 9m gap between pits 65 and 8994 is significant and might indicate the position of an entranceway into the Neolithic causewayed enclosure.

Fieldwork undertaken by Wessex Archaeology prior to the development of Springfield Park (Manning and Moore 2003) seems to have failed to locate the eastwards continuation of the enclosure or to appreciate that the greater part of the projected enclosure lay within the southern half of that development area. Within Plot K it was admittedly difficult to distinguish the Neolithic features from the surrounding gravel in the sunny, dry and dusty conditions and its probable that this poor legibility was a factor. Piecemeal investigation of the development area and implementation of monitoring, rather than open area excavation, over much of its extents may not have helped. However, it would seem that the opportunity to investigate the remainder of the causewayed enclosure and its interior was effectively missed.

## **Bronze Age**

Few remains of Bronze Age date have been found outside of the Springfield Lyons defended enclosure during the previous investigations. Remains within Plot K were similarly sparse but the presence of the remains of roughly circular post-hole building 59 is significant. The building was located c.70m north-east of the site of the Late Bronze Age settlement located within its circular enclosure and c.75m south-west of a rectangular post-built structure investigated within Springfield Park and interpreted as the focus of an area of Late Bronze Age domestic and agricultural activity (Manning and Moore 2003). A domestic function for the Plot K structure may perhaps be inferred from the presence of over 2kg Bronze Age pottery, burnt flint and the quernstone rubber in association. It is not certain whether either of these two external structures is contemporary with the settlement enclosure or with one another, though the rectangular structure is described as short-lived (Manning and Moore

2003, 19). It might be significant that both of these structures were located within the area of the earlier Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which may perhaps have survived as an earthwork at this time. No other Bronze Age structures are known from the immediate area.

No ditches of Bronze Age date were positively identified that could indicate the existence of a field system occupying the valley slope around the enclosure but these, certainly in the eastern half of Plot K, could have been prohibited by an upstanding earlier earthwork.

A distinctive sherd of pottery recovered along with casting mould debris from two of the enclosure ditch terminals of the Springfield Lyons enclosure was previously noted to link with a sherd recovered from post-hole 8984 in Trench HO, within Plot K. This led to speculation that the functions of the two vicinities could in some way have been associated during the late Bronze Age, perhaps with the Plot K vicinity being the location of metal working. However, no metal working structures or debris were found in anywhere within Plot K and this possibility can be dismissed.

### **Saxon**

No remains of Early Saxon date were identified within Plot K and it is clear that continuation mixed-rite cemetery does not extend northeast beyond the former Late Bronze Age enclosure. Indeed, Saxon artefacts of any date were completely absent. Although no finds were recovered from north-south ditch 22, this aligns with Late Saxon ditch 6696 previously excavated to the south and is almost certainly a northwards continuation of this boundary feature, perhaps serving to mark the eastern limit of the contemporary manorial settlement.

North-south aligned ditch 5/11/21 had previously been assigned a Late Saxon date based on its common alignment with ditch 22 and undated ditch 26 (Buckley & Hedges 1987). Given that ditch 26 is likely to be of post-medieval date along with positively dated ditch 8 then ditch 5/11/21 could just as easily be of medieval or post-medieval date. It definitely truncates two Neolithic pits and would appear to have removed the western side of Bronze Age building 59, implying that it is most probably at least of post-prehistoric date.

Ditch 5/11/21 also aligns with the north/south ditch excavated in Plot G/H to the north (Pocock 2006), giving a potential combined ditch length in excess of 220m. The Plot G/H ditch contained a tiny amount (18g) of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery and was assigned a Late Bronze Age date mainly on the presence of other poorly dated prehistoric features in its vicinity and, more particularly, on its alignment with two converging linear cropmarks plotted to the east of the Bronze Age enclosure (Buckley and Hedges 1987, Figure 1) and assumed

to be of contemporary date. The Plot K excavations have confirmed that whilst one of the converging cropmark ditches is indeed ditch 5/11/21, the other can be positively identified as post-medieval ditch 8, thus casting doubt on the this assumption and in turn the assigned date of the Plot G/H ditch. The prehistoric material recovered from the Plot G/H ditch may well be entirely residual and the functioning ditch significantly later.

If ditch 22 and ditch 5/11/21 are contemporary it is possible to speculate that they could define either side of a north/south corridor or trackway leading northwards from, or running past, the Late Saxon settlement. As substantial parts of both ditches are likely to survive in the south-east corner of the Business Park there is scope to refine dating and test this theory if further development occurs in this area.

### **Medieval/Post-medieval**

The lack of medieval features and finds is commensurate with the results of the 1981-91 investigations and can be attributed to the shift of Cuton Hall to its present site after the Norman Conquest. Although the area is likely to have reverted to agricultural use at this time no ditches of medieval date were identified. Ditch 8, the only firmly dated post-medieval field boundary, was in-filled in the 18th or 19th century. The ditch is not depicted on early Ordnance Survey mapping and is therefore likely to have passed out of use prior to the second half of the 19th century. It may have been deliberately backfilled to create a more open parkland landscape within the grounds to the east of Springfield Lyons house. As the boundary ditch runs directly beneath the two mature oak trees it is likely that these are remnants of a former hedgeline respecting this boundary. The size of the trees suggests that the boundary has been in existence for some considerable time, perhaps originating much earlier in the post-medieval period. Unfortunately, due to the requirement to preserve a protective ring under their canopy, the relationship between the oak trees and ditch could not be investigated.

Root disturbed ditch 26 to the west is of probable post-medieval date and may have been in-filled at the same time as ditch 8. Ditch 26 was only traceable for a comparatively short length and may have delineated an agricultural sub-division within a larger field of which ditch 8 formed the eastern edge.

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

The archaeological excavation has successfully demonstrated the presence of multi-period remains within Plot K and has preserved them by record in advance of their destruction by construction works. The specific aims of the investigation have also been met in that further



significant remains of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been identified and recorded along with further northwards continuation of the previously identified Late Saxon boundary ditch. The results of the excavation also demonstrate clear potential for the survival of further remains, especially of prehistoric date, across the remaining undeveloped parts of the business park and around the peripheries of the Bronze Age enclosure.

Three new pits of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure have been located and further pits can be expected to the south of Plot K in between the ones previously excavated. These will likely be deeper and more complex than those in Plot K and may well contain a greater array of cultural artefacts. Development to the east of Plot K has removed most of the projected extent of the causewayed enclosure and the only surviving unexcavated part remains in the southeast corner of the Chelmsford Business Park. Given the frequency of pits it is probable that ten or more enclosure perimeter pits await excavation to the south of Plot K, as well as an expanse of the interior which may provide insights into its use.

The Springfield Lyons Late Bronze Age enclosure appears to sit in relative isolation, with the circular building within Plot K being the only significant feature within 100m or more of the site. The lack of field systems in the near vicinity of the enclosure is perhaps puzzling but could be due to an empty zone being maintained around the defended site. Alternatively, this may be related to the survival of the causewayed enclosure as an earthwork. Brown and Medlycott (in press) comment on the causewayed form of the Bronze Age circular enclosure mimicking the form of the earlier Neolithic causewayed enclosure and, if so, the latter may still have been a significant feature of the landscape. Results to date would suggest only a low level of Bronze Age remains are to be found in the remaining undeveloped parts of the Business Park, although the location of the metal working area still has yet to be found.

No remains of Iron Age or Roman date have been identified which is not surprising given the relatively low level of remains of this date previously encountered. No evidence for the northwards continuation of the Early Saxon cemetery was found and this would appear confined to the interior of the former Late Bronze Age enclosure and to its south and west. Land to the west of the Bronze Age enclosure was not fully excavated and there is scope for further cemetery remains to be revealed in future Business Park development in this area. In the later Saxon period ditch 22/6696 could represent the eastern limit of settlement activity, or in combination with ditch 5/11/21, form two sides of a trackway leading from the settlement northwards to the course of the old Roman road. Again, further Business Park development south of Plot K would give the opportunity to investigate these possibilities.

The excavation results suggest there is little medieval potential in the surrounding area. Post-medieval remains are also likely to be sparse and to denote relatively late land division and subsequent 18th/early 19th century garden creation. Other than recent truncation and disturbances, no modern features are anticipated in the southeast corner of the development area other than the continuation of the previously identified WW2 anti-glider trench.

Overall, the Plot K investigation has made a significant contribution to the improved understanding of the evolution of the prehistoric and later landscape of this part of the Chelmer valley. It is suggested that the results would benefit assimilation and publication with those from other work done in the area since the end of the Springfield Lyons excavations, once the development of the Chelmsford Business Park is completed.

The archaeological investigation and this reporting of its results represent the completion of the required archaeological works as specified by the ECC HEM brief and the fulfilment of the archaeological condition attached to planning consent for the development of Plot K.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Filled by	Description	Period
1	Layer	-	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown sandy silt	-
2	Layer	-	Subsoil – Brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions	-
5	Ditch	3, 4	N/S aligned, 10m+ x 2.10m x 0.55m deep (same ditch as 11 & 21)	Saxon+
7	Ditch	7	E/W aligned, 10m+ x 1m x 0.36m deep (same ditch as 43)	Saxon+?
8	Ditch	9, 10	N/S aligned, 14m+ x 1.74m x 0.74m	Post-med
11	Ditch	12, 13	N/S aligned, 10m+ x 2.15m x 0.52m deep (same ditch as 5 & 21)	Saxon+
14	Post-hole	15	Oval, 0.55m x 0.48m x 0.33m deep	Bronze Age
16	Post-hole	17, 18	Sub-circular, 0.64m x 0.60m x 0.41m deep	Bronze Age
21	Ditch	19, 20	N/S aligned, 10m+ x 2.25m x 0.76m deep (same ditch as 5 & 11)	Saxon+
22	Ditch	23	N/S aligned, 30m+ x 1.8m x 0.57m deep Continuation of Late Saxon ditch from previous exc.	Late Saxon
26	Ditch	24, 25	N/S aligned, 5m+ x 1.9m x 0.38m deep	Post-med
27	Post-hole	28	Sub-circular, 0.68m x 0.60m x 0.26m deep	Bronze Age
29	Post-hole	30	Sub-circular, 0.86m x 0.74m x 0.27m deep	Bronze Age
31	Post-hole	32	Sub-circular, 0.56m x 0.52m x 0.30m deep	Bronze Age
33	Post-hole	34	Sub-circular, 1.10m x 1.0m x 0.48m deep	Bronze Age
35	Post-hole	36, 37	Sub-circular, 1.10m x 0.98m x 0.36m deep	Bronze Age
38	Post-hole	39, 40	Circular, 1.10m diameter x 0.53m deep	Bronze Age
41	Stake-hole	42	Circular, 0.18m diameter x 0.10m deep	Bronze Age
43	Ditch	44, 45	E/W aligned, 6m+ x 1.11m x 0.45m deep (same ditch as 7)	Saxon+?
47	Pit	46	Oval, 1.6m x 1m x 0.40m deep	Undated
48	Post-hole	49	Sub-circular, c. 0.70m diameter x 0.45m deep	Bronze Age
52	Pit?	50, 51	Pear-shaped, 3m x 1.8m+ x 0.16m deep	Neolithic
54	Post-hole	53	Re-excavation of post-hole 8984	Bronze Age
56	Pit	55	1.7m x 0.60m+ x 0.28m deep	Neolithic
57 / 78	Pit	58, 74-77, 81, 82	Broadly oval, 5.80m x 4.50m x 0.70m deep	Neolithic
59	Building group	-	Consisting of - 14, 16, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 38, 48 41, 60, 62	Bronze Age
60	Stake-hole	61	Circular, 0.12m x 0.10m x 0.10m deep	Bronze Age
62	Stake-hole	63	Circular, 0.08m x 0.08m x 0.10m deep	Bronze Age
64	Layer	-	Dark brownish grey sandy silt, 0.04m+ deep	Neolithic+
65	Pit	66, 67	Irregular, 4.60m x 3.50m x 0.75m deep	Neolithic
68	Layer	-	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick.	-
69	Pit	70-73, 79, 80	Segment 3m long x 0.64m deep. NE quadrant of previous exc. pit 8950	Neolithic

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
U/S		4	98	Iron, nails and catch fitting, 19th to 20th century	Modern
		1	2	Worked flint, end scraper	Late Neo -EBA
		1	6	Worked flint blade, retouch on right dorsal edge.	Neolithic
		1	58	Worked flint, discoidal knife, rectangular in form.	Late Neo – EBA
3	Fill of 5	2	2	Fired Clay? Small fragments	Prehistoric?
10	Upper fill of 8	6	330	Roof tile, post medieval, sandy oxidised fabric some large inclusions, unabraded.	16th - 18th cent
		4	170	Glass, post medieval beer or wine bottle base, heavily tarnished fairly coarsely cast, plastic looking in section most likely late 18th to early 19th century in date.	18th - 19th cent
		1	12	Glazed tile, fragment of a white glazed floor or wall tile, of modern date.	19th - 20th cent
		1	6	Modern pottery, earthenware, fragment of kitchen ware, yellow colour, bowl.	Late 18th - 20th cent
12	Fill of 11	6	32	Burnt Flint, fragments of very highly fired flint	Prehistoric
15	Fill of 14	72	852	Late Bronze Age pottery abraded fragments, fabric C, part of large vessel.	Late Bronze Age
		9	46	Late Bronze Age pottery, extremely abraded fragments, fabric B.	Late Bronze Age
		3	36	Neolithic pottery, open bowl, burnished with flared rim, unabraded fabric B.	Late Bronze Age
		1	8	Neolithic pottery, carination of bowl, fabric Q.	Late Bronze Age
		3	36	Neolithic pottery, carinated open bowl, fingernail decoration on rim and carination.	Late Bronze Age
		16	46	Burnt flint	
17	Fill of 16	5	60	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made, burnt on interior.	Late Bronze Age
		1	320	Stone fragment, sandstone, shaped fragment of quernstone rubber? 115mm by 65mm by 27mm.	
		3	30	Burnt flint	
18	Fill of 16	5	236	Burnt flint	
		1	6	Worked flint, secondary flake	
		25	266	Late Bronze Age pottery, abraded fragments of large vessel some burnt, fabric C.	Late Bronze Age
		2	34	Late Bronze Age pottery? pottery, extremely abraded fragments, fabric C.	Late Bronze Age
		11	38	Late Bronze Age pottery pottery, extremely abraded fragments including an abraded everted rim form, fabric D.	Late Bronze Age
		4	28	Late Bronze Age pottery, straight slightly everted rim of jar plus carinated fragment, fabric C.	Late Bronze Age
28	Fill of 27	29	296	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made, many sherds burnt on interior.	Late Bronze Age
		2	6	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric B, hand made.	Late Bronze Age
30	Fill of 29	3	28	Burnt flint	
		3	13	Worked flint, flakes	
		31	206	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made, burnt on interior.	Late Bronze Age
		1	4	Fired Clay, abraded fragment	
		2	16	Neolithic pottery, well finished burnished body	Early Neolithic

				sherds of small bowl or vessel, fabric B.	
32	Fill of 31	2	22	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C with flint and occasional grog, hand made, burnt on interior and unabraded.	Late Bronze Age
34	Fill of 33	12	74	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric D, hand made, burnt on interior and abraded.	Late Bronze Age
		2	4	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric B burnished and unabraded.	Late Bronze Age
		1	10	Roman pottery very abraded base of small Black Surface Ware (BSW) jar.	Roman
36	Fill of 35	5	108	Burnt flint	
		1	16	Neolithic pottery, well finished body sherds of small bowl or vessel, fabric B.	Early Neolithic
		2	18	Neolithic pottery, well finished body sherds of small bowl or vessel, fabric A.	Early Neolithic
37	Fill of 35	9	44	Prehistoric pottery, abraded fragments, one straight rim flat topped not clearly dateable, fabric C.	Early Neo/LBA
		5	28	Neolithic pottery, well finished carinated body sherds of small bowl or vessel, fabric I.	Early Neolithic
		3	30	Prehistoric pottery, Sandy fabric D, hand made, burnt on interior and abraded.	Early Neo/LBA
		1	14	Worked flint, primary flake	
		1	2	Worked flint, secondary flake, scraper	
		2	2	Worked flint tertiary flake	
		1	10	Worked flint, obliquely blunted scraper, retouch on right of distal end, light grey fabric.	
		3	120	Burnt flint	
39	Fill of 38	6	60	Prehistoric, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made.	Early Neo/LBA
		6	70	Prehistoric, pottery, Sandy fabric B, hand made.	Early Neo/LBA
		2	34	Prehistoric, pottery, Straight flat topped rim, not definable to period, Sandy fabric D, hand made.	Early Neo/LBA
		1	20	Burnt flint	
40	Fill of 38	3	12	Worked flint, flakes	
		4	28	Neolithic pottery, body sherds of small thick walled vessel, fabric C.	Early Neolithic
		4	20	Neolithic pottery, body sherds of small open bowl, fabric P.	Early Neolithic
42	Fill of 41	4	4	Late Bronze Age pottery? pottery, extremely abraded fragments, fabric C.	Late Bronze Age?
45	Fill of 43	2	62	Burnt Flint, fragments of very highly fired flint	Prehistoric
49	Fill of 48	29	296	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made.	Late Bronze Age
		1	28	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric B, hand made.	Late Bronze Age
50	Fill of 52	1	4	Prehistoric pottery, Sandy fabric C with flint and occasional larger fragments, hand made, abraded.	Early Neolithic
55	Fill of 56	9	32	Prehistoric pottery, Grog tempered fabric M with some sand and flint, small bowl?, vesicular.	Early Neolithic
64	Layer	1	12	Roman pottery, BSW, fragment of the base of a dish, extremely abraded.	1st to 4th cent
		11	46	Late Bronze Age, pottery, Sandy fabric C, hand made, abraded.	Late Bronze Age
		1	4	Prehistoric pottery, possibly Iron Age, fabric B	Prehistoric
		2	18	Late Bronze Age pottery, flat topped flared rim with fingernail decoration around exterior of rim	Late Bronze Age?

				top, fabric C.	
		1	14	Worked flint, primary flake.	
		1	2	Worked flint, secondary flake, blade.	
		1	2	Worked flint, tertiary flake.	
68	Layer	1	1	Prehistoric pottery, Sandy fabric G, hand made, abraded.	Early Neolithic
70	Fill of 69	3	20	Neolithic pottery, small abraded body sherd, coarse vesicular outer surface, fabric B.	Early Neolithic
		8	82	Worked flint flakes	
		1	2	Worked flint , blade	
		1	4	Worked flint, flake/scrapper	
72	Fill of 69	1	20	Neolithic pottery, small abraded body sherd, coarse vesicular outer surface, fabric B.	Early Neolithic
		3	14	Neolithic pottery, rim sherd of small open bowl, burnished type 2, fabric C.	Early Neolithic
		1	60	Worked flint, tertiary flake	
		1	16	Worked flint block	
73	Fill of 69	1	4	Neolithic pottery, small abraded body sherd, coarse vesicular outer surface, fabric B.	Early Neolithic
		1	8	Worked flint scraper, edge damaged	
74	Top fill of 78	1	4	Neolithic pottery, small abraded body sherd, coarse vesicular outer surface, fabric B.	Early Neolithic
		1	4	Neolithic pottery, small abraded body sherd, coarse vesicular outer surface, fabric M, stab and drag decoration.	Early Neolithic
	Totals:	423	4836		



## **APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

**Site Name:** Plot K, Chelmsford Business Park, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex

**Site Code:** SPAK 11

### **Index to Archive:**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

#### **2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports
- 2.3 CD Rom (inc. reports, digital photos, drawing files, etc)

#### **3. Site Archive**

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 82 )
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 Environmental Sample Register
- 3.6 Environmental Sample Sheets
- 3.7 Photographic Register
- 3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of B/W and colour prints)
- 3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

### **Not in File**

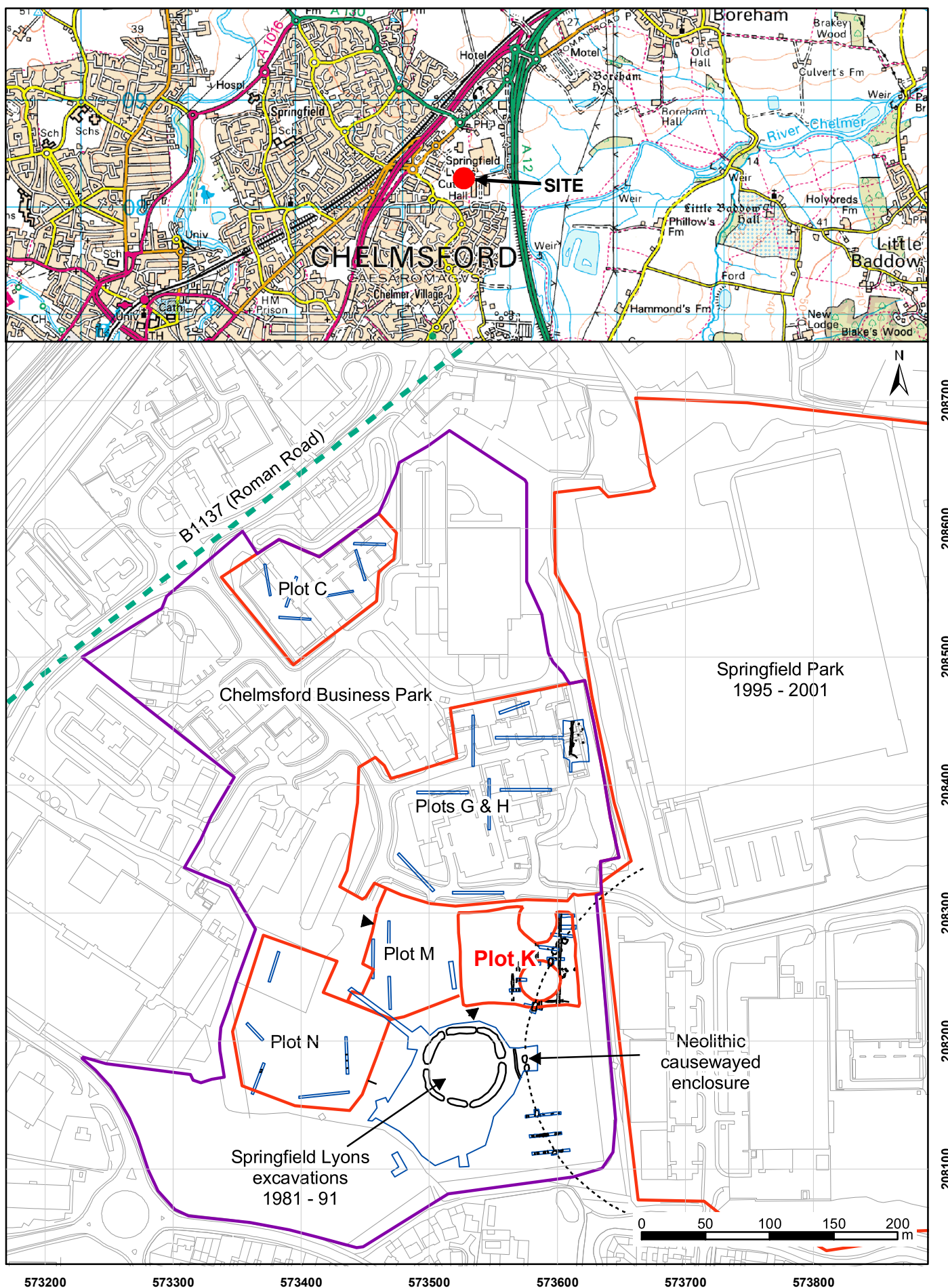
8 large plan/section sheets + 1 A4 plan/section sheet

### **Finds**

The retained finds occupy 1 box.

#### APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Plot K, Chelmsford Business Park, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex	
<b>Parishes:</b> Springfield	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 73570 082270	<b>Site Code:</b> SPAK 11
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Excavation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 26th September to 21st October 2011	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c.0.75 ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Chelmsford & Essex Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH summary	<b>Oasis No.:</b> 114801
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Neolithic, Bronze Age, Late Saxon, Post-Medieval	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Archaeological excavation was undertaken in advance of the development of Plot K of Chelmsford Business Park. The c.0.75ha rectangular development area lies 20m to the north of the site of the Bronze Age enclosure, Early Saxon cemetery and Late Saxon settlement site excavated at Springfield Lyons 1981-91 (Tyler and Major 2005; Brown and Medlycott in press). Also recorded during these excavations, and in additional trenching to north and south, was the western side of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which extended into the eastern side of Plot K. The western side of Plot K was heavily rutted and had been previously stripped of topsoil for use as a construction compound during a previous phase of Business Park development. Excavations concentrated on the less disturbed eastern half of the site.</p> <p><u>Neolithic</u> Two large pits and a smaller shallow pit were excavated on the projected line of the causewayed enclosure along with the northern end of a pit that had been part-excavated during the 1991 trenching. A small amount of early Neolithic pottery was recovered from these features and from a small pit located within the enclosure. A gap between pits towards the north-east corner of Plot K may indicate the position of an entranceway into the causewayed enclosure.</p> <p><u>Late Bronze Age</u> Located east of the enclosure pits were a group of nine post-holes and three stake-holes forming a small, slightly squat, roundhouse of probable Late Bronze Age date. The structure had a porch on its south side and a north-south radius of 5m; the western side of the structure had been removed by a later ditch. The roundhouse was located c.70m north-east of the enclosed Late Bronze Age settlement.</p> <p><u>Late Saxon</u> The Early Saxon cemetery did not extend into Plot K. No Late Saxon settlement features were recorded, but two parallel north-south aligned ditches crossed the site. One had been previously excavated within the Springfield Lyons enclosure site and the other may have extended northward as the ditch found in Plots G and H c.110m to the north (previously thought to be LBA).</p> <p><u>Post-medieval</u> Two further ditches on a slightly differing north-south alignment were also found. One contained finds of 18th/19th century date and may have been backfilled as part of the creation of the gardens/park of Springfield Lyons House. The other was more truncated and fragmentary but probably also of post-medieval date.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> none	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> January 2012



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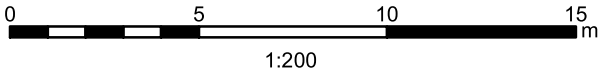
Fig.1. Location of archaeological excavation

Fig.2. Plot K - all excavated features

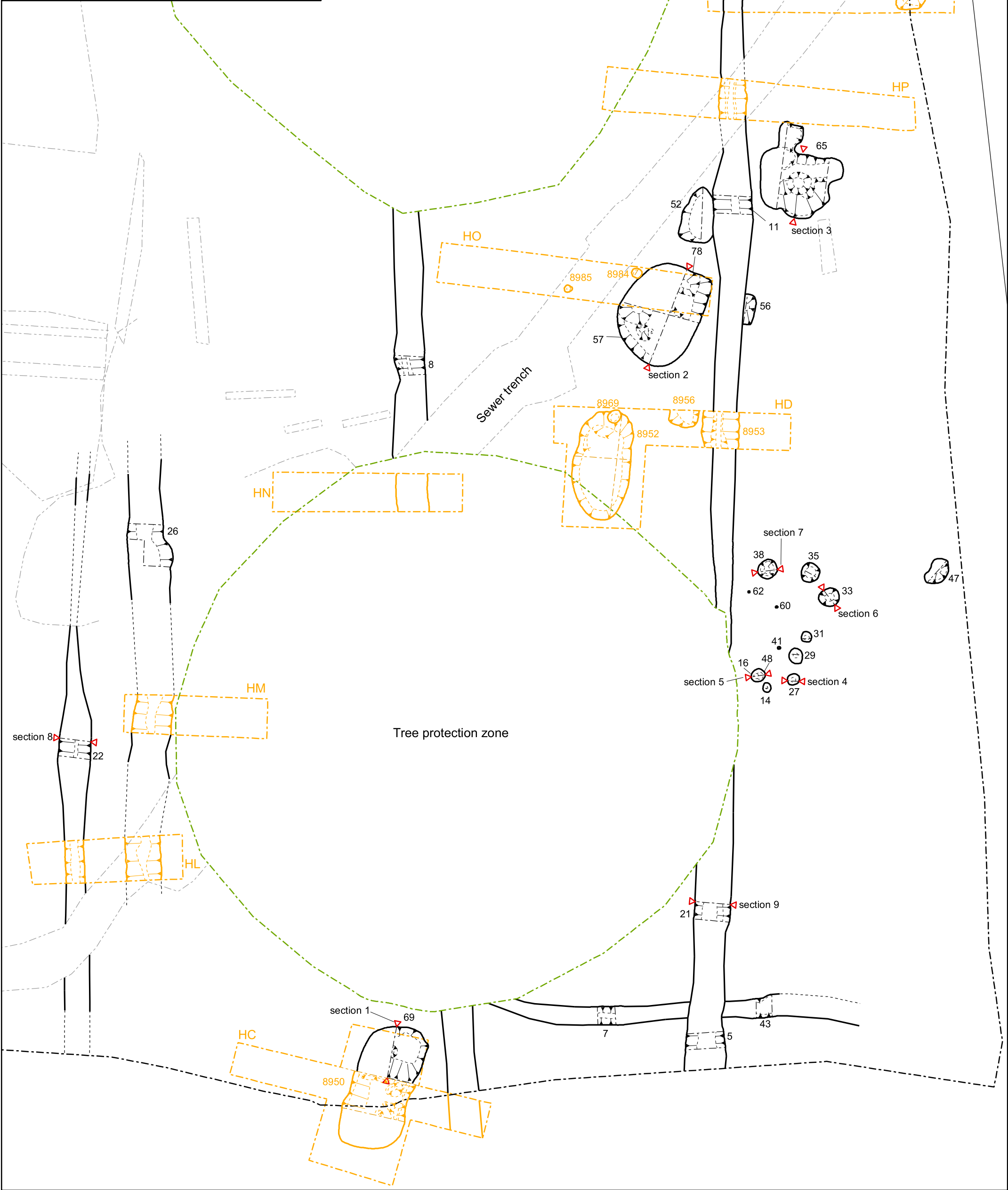
Key

— modern disturbance / truncation

— previously excavated feature



Tree protection zone



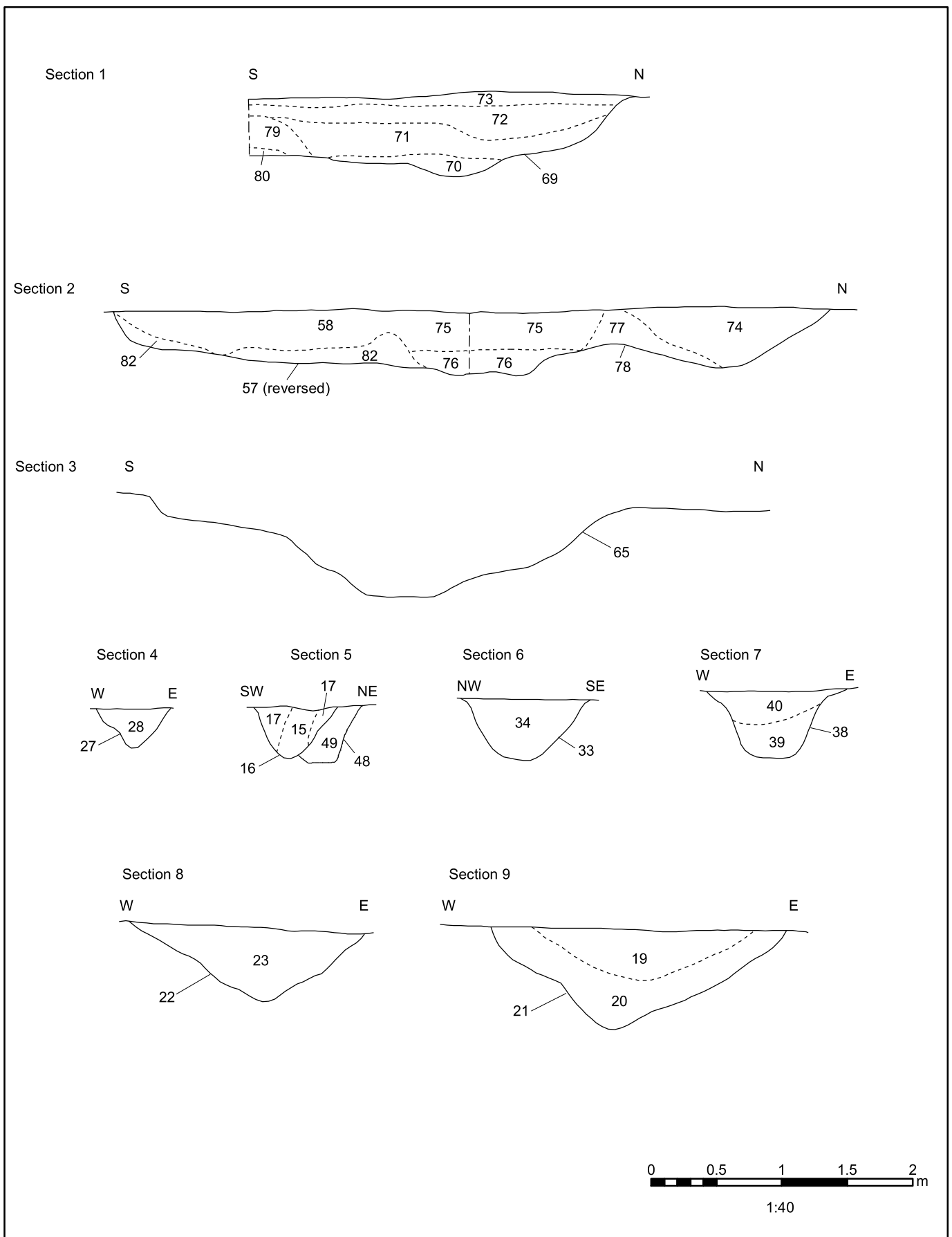
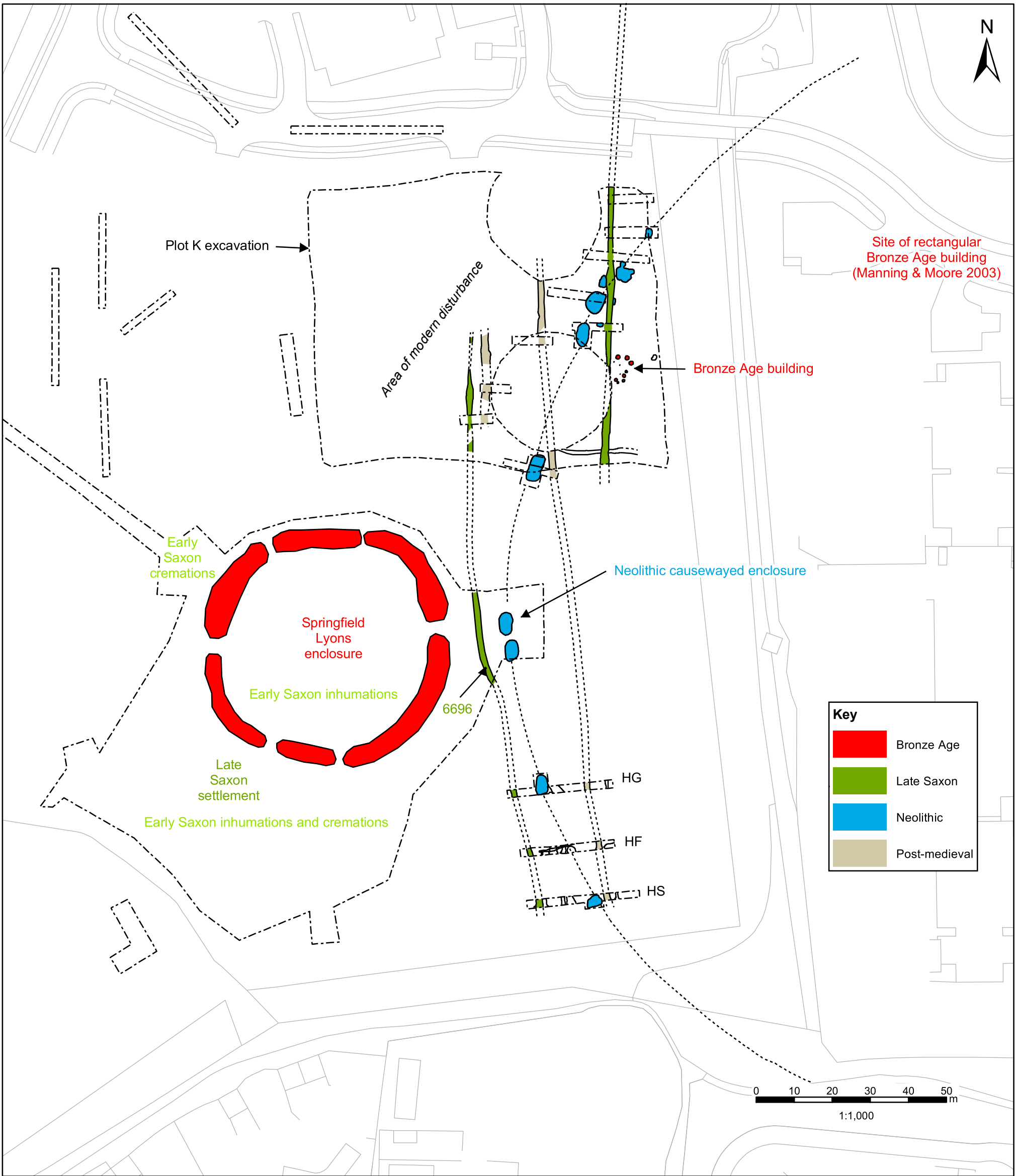


Fig.3. Sections 1 - 9



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Fig.4. Phased plan of archaeological features





Plate 1. West side of site, looking northwest



Plate 2. East side of site, looking north





Plate 3: Pit 69 looking west (2m scale)



Plate 4: Pit 78 looking west (1m scale)





Plate 5: Pit 57 looking north (2m scale)



Plate 6: Pit 65 looking west (2m scale)





Plate 7: Post-hole building 59 looking east (2m scale)



Plate 8: Post-hole 16 detail (0.5m scale)





Plate 9: Ditch 22 looking north (1m scale)



Plate 10: Ditch 21 looking north (1m scale)