

**LAND ADJACENT TO WATER TREATMENT WORKS  
LAYER-DE-LA-HAYE  
COLCHESTER  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY  
TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council**  
Field Archaeology Unit

November 2005

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**Frontispiece** Cremation Vessel (65), including reconstructed profile

**LAND ADJACENT TO  
LAYER-DE-LA-HAYE WATER TREATMENT WORKS  
COLCHESTER  
ESSEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING**

**SUMMARY**

Client: Essex and Suffolk Water  
FAU Project No.: 1545  
NGR: TL 96269 19787  
Site Code: COLEM:2005.116  
Date of Fieldwork: 12th October until 26th October 2005

*An archaeological evaluation, covering c.6 hectares, was carried out on the site of the proposed extension to the water treatment works at Layer-de-la-Haye, Colchester, in an area of known cropmarks. Thirty two trenches were opened, covering 2560 sq m (c.4% sample). The majority of the archaeological remains were concentrated towards the north western corner of the site on a slight plateau, although a smaller concentration was also recorded in the south western corner.*

*Evidence was uncovered for activity from the earlier prehistoric through to post-medieval periods, although no Roman or Saxon features were identified. The earliest remains uncovered were sherds of late Neolithic pottery from a single pit. Although other sherds of early prehistoric date were recovered they were residual in later features. While these remains do not present a coherent picture of early prehistoric activity they do at least indicate a human presence in the landscape during these periods.*

*Concentrated around the cropmark complex were a number of Late Iron Age features. Three Late Iron Age urned cremation burials were identified immediately to their west. In reasonable proximity to the burials were two pits containing burnt material, which may have been associated with the cremation process, and parts of possibly four ring ditches. Two of the ring ditches had been previously identified in the cropmark plots. None of the ring ditches contained any dateable finds, so their association with the cremation burials is tentative.*

*Two other foci of activity were also identified, both comprising remains dating to the 13th century. The most northerly, which was situated along Birch Road, comprised a series of medieval ditches in a seemingly perpendicular arrangement. These were possibly parts of small agricultural enclosures along the medieval road. In the south-west corner of the site was the final concentration. While not as coherent as the northern features a series of shallow ditches again seem to indicate the presence of small enclosures. Collectively these, remains while far from conclusive, possibly indicate that the area of the site was part of a managed agricultural landscape during the 13th century. The post-medieval remains present were primarily dispirit sections of field ditches. Although the remains of a trackway running east-west along the break of slope below the slight plateau may also date to this period.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for an extension to the treatment works. The evaluation consisted of trial trenching across the proposed development area and was designed to determine the presence, nature, date and survival of any archaeological remains.

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out the evaluation on behalf of Essex and Suffolk Water. The project was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Museums, who also monitored the work. The site archive will be deposited at Colchester Museum. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and a summary will appear in the county journal *Essex Archaeology and History* (EAH).

The standards and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and the Association of County Archaeological Officers (ACAO 1993) were maintained and adhered to throughout the project.

The report is structured to describe the background to the project, followed by a description of the features and finds from each trench. Summaries of the individual material assemblages are presented separately. An overall discussion of the significance and potential of the remains followed by an assessment of the results are located at the end of the report. Appendices include trench, context and finds data, in addition to the details of the archive contents and the EHER summary. All illustrations are placed together towards the back of the report.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. Planning**

At the request of Essex and Suffolk Water the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council Museum service produced a pre-determination brief of works (Winter 2005) for archaeological trenching on an extension to the water treatment works at Layer-de-la-Haye, Essex. Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) were subsequently appointed by Essex and Suffolk Water to undertake the archaeological evaluation in accordance with the brief and the Written Scheme of Investigation (ECC FAU 2005).

### **2.2 Location and Topography (Fig. 1)**

The proposed development area lies immediately to the west of Layer-de-la-Haye water treatment works (TL 9627 1979) (Fig.1). It is bounded to the north by Birch Road, while open fields lie to the south and east. Approximately 70m to the east of the site is an area of woodland, The Moors.

The site is currently under arable cultivation. Its northern end lies on a relatively flat plateau, which falls away southwards towards a series of springs. At the northern end of the site the ground is at 41.23m above OD and this falls to 39.93m at the southern end of the site.

### **2.3 Geology**

The depth of the topsoil averaged c.0.40m, and no subsoil was identified overlying natural deposits in any of the trenches.

The drift geology of the site is glacial sand and gravel. The solid geology of the area is London Clay. It is interesting to note that in the area surrounding the cropmarks the geology was gravelly as opposed to the remainder of the site which was sandy. This indicates that the gravelled geology more conducive to cropmarks being identified on aerial photographs. The southern part of the site, further down the slope, had a more sandy geology.

### **2.4 History and Archaeology**

Very little in the way of systematic archaeological investigation seems to have been done in the immediate area of the site but scatters of flint tools, Neolithic, Roman and Medieval pottery are all recorded from field walking during the 1970's (EHER 11562, 11566–11570, 11573–11576). A complete Neolithic bowl also was uncovered at Fields Farm some 1.5km to the east of the current site (Priddy 1981). The only recorded excavation in the area was of an Iron Age ditch found during the renovation of a barn in 1984 (EHER 11563-11564).

In the north east corner of the site a series of cropmarks have been identified (EHER 11571). These primarily consist of a number of linear ditch-like anomalies which seem to form a rectilinear enclosure (Fig. 1). Inside this presumptive enclosure are two circular cropmarks which are possibly roundhouses.

The Iron Age earthworks at Lexden lie approximately 5 km to the north of the site, which indicates that this area was almost certainly within the hinterland of the settlement at *Camulodunum*. The area in the immediate vicinity of the site seems to have been under agriculture since at least the early medieval period. In the woods to the west a number of large banks and ditches are visible, these suggest woodland management which may date to the medieval period. It is also eminently possible that Birch Road is of medieval, or earlier, origin as it is observably below the level of the surrounding fields; a classic sign of an early road system.

The proposed development area is located to the southwest of the medieval village core of Layer-de-la-Haye. The origins of Layer-de-la-Haye can be traced back to before 1086 as it is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being worth £4. Until the 16th century and the dissolution of the monasteries much of the village was controlled by either Benedictine monks from Rye or the Augustinians of St Botolph's Colchester (Hopkirk 1934).

The main offices of the Water Treatment plant to the immediate east of the site are in the Art-Deco style of the 1930's and may be considered of historical and architectural interest themselves. No archaeological discoveries appear to have been made or recorded during its construction and subsequent development.



### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The evaluation work was undertaken to locate, identify and record any surviving remains within the proposed development area. In particular, the evaluation sought to clarify the location, nature and date of the cropmarks previously identified on the site.

### **4 METHOD**

The brief required a 4% sample of the proposed development area to be evaluated, and that the area of known cropmarks be specifically targeted. To this effect 32 trenches each measuring 40 x 2m were excavated across the area. A mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket was used to open all trenches under archaeological supervision.

The machine-excavated surface of the trenches was sufficiently cleaned to ensure that any features present were visible. Archaeological features and deposits, other than obviously modern features, were excavated using hand tools.

Standard ECC FAU methodologies were employed with regard to excavation and recording. All features exposed within the trenches were recorded using the FAU's context recording system. All linear features were sampled by at least one slot and discrete features were 50% excavated. All the artefacts from the excavated features were collected to aid dating and characterisation. Surveying and planning was tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using GPS. A photographic record consisting of colour slide, black and white print and digital images was maintained throughout the course of the investigation.

All methodologies used conform to the codes of practice and guidance issued by the IFA and to the guidelines set out in Guidelines on standards and practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester Museums Service 1999).

## **5. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS (Fig 1)**

Thirty-two trenches each measuring 40 x 2m, were excavated across the proposed development area. Trenches 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 contained no archaeological features and are not further described here, unless pertinent. Those trenches which contained significant archaeological remains are described below.

Further information on each trench is presented in Appendix 1 and individual features, including dimensions, are listed in Appendix 2. More detailed finds information is listed in Appendix 3. All pertinent trench plans (Figs 1 - 4) are situated at the rear of the report.

The majority of the features uncovered were shallow ditches with a few pits and post-holes scattered around the site. The fills of most of the features were grey brown silty sand with few inclusions other than stones. Three distinct concentrations of remains were identified; the Late Iron Age features were concentrated around the cropmarks, on the plateau towards the north of the site, with those of medieval date being concentrated in the northwest and southwest corners. A number of the features identified showed evidence of plough truncation. There was a relatively low incidence of finds in any of the excavated features and very little stratigraphy; with few intercutting features identified. A few finds were recovered seemingly pressed into the undisturbed natural geology.

The geological deposits were seen to mainly be orange brown silty sands, with large gravelled areas scattered across the site. A number of natural features were investigated but these proved to be either root disturbance or geological banding. The average depth of the topsoil across the site was 0.35m and no subsoil deposits were identified in any of the trenches. A regular pattern of field drains was identified running northeast-southwest across the site, but these were excavated deeper than the archaeological horizon and were only plotted where they impinged upon features or deposits.

### **5.1 Trench 1 (Fig.2)**

Trench 1 ran east-west, parallel to Birch Road, in the northwest corner of the site. It was excavated to a depth of 0.43m onto the undisturbed natural geological deposit, which was predominantly gravel. Five ditches, a pit and a post-hole were identified in this trench. At the eastern end of the trench medieval ditch [127] ran northeast – southwest, cutting post-hole [125]. It is possible that the ditch was further identified as [139] in Trench 3.

Towards the western end of the trench shallow ditches [119], [145] and [152] all ran north-south parallel with each other. Medieval Ditch [115/147] ran east-west along the southern baulk of the trench, apparently cutting the north-south ditches, although the intersection of ditches [145] and [147] was obscured by shallow pit [149]. This arrangement of ditches may be the remains of small agricultural enclosures alongside the road.

All the pottery collected from the ditches comprised body sherds of medieval coarse ware dating to the 13th century, with a single sherd of early medieval ware. The only diagnostic sherd is a neck fragment from a probable Colchester-type ware jug from the fill of ditch [147].

## **5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 2 ran perpendicular to Birch Road and was orientated north-south. The natural geology was encountered at 0.42m and contained one east-west ditch. Shallow ditch [93] lay at the north end of the trench and was 0.16m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill.

## **5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)**

Trench 3 was aligned north-south, along the western edge of the site, and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m onto the natural gravel geology. Four ditches, two pits and three post-holes were exposed in the trench. At its northern large pit [67] contained a quantity of baked clay along with medieval pottery. The fill of the pit showed signs of originally containing some organic material but due to the highly acidic nature of the surrounding geology this was poorly preserved. It is likely that this feature functioned as a rubbish pit. Immediately to the south of the pit lay minor medieval ditches [143] and [139], their intersection cut by medieval pit [77/141]. Ditch [143] ran northwest – southeast and was very shallow. Ditch [139] ran northeast – southwest and was likely to have been the same as ditch [127] in Trench 1.

Ditch [129] ran northeast – southwest across the approximate centre of the trench but no finds were recovered from its fill and the feature remains undated. Towards the southern end of the trench medieval ditch [131] ran east-west. Neither of these ditches seem to appear in any of the other trenches. The remaining features identified in the trench were three small post-holes, [133, 135, 137], which do not obviously relate to each other or to any other feature.

The majority of the pottery recovered in this trench was retrieved from the fill of pit [77] and were large fragments from a medieval coarse ware bowl, of possible a Mile End type, datable to the late 12th to mid-13th century. Also found was an early medieval ware beaded cooking pot rim and a more developed B4 cooking pot rim dating to c.1200 in what appears to be Colchester-type ware.

Sherds from a sandy orange ware jug rim showing traces of slip are also present. All the pottery from this feature could have been current in the early 13th century.

#### **5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 4 lay immediately to the south of Trench 2 and ran east-west it was 0.3m deep. A single narrow north-south orientated ditch [91] was identified at the eastern end of the trench but no finds were recovered from it. This feature therefore remains undated and no further parts of it were identified in any of the other trenches.

#### **5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 5 was situated to the east of Trenches 2 and 4 and ran north-south. This trench was 0.32m deep and contained a single ditch [95]. The wide ditch was orientated east-west across the approximate centre of the trench. It was 0.28m deep and contained no finds.

#### **5.6 Trench 9 (Fig. 3)**

Orientated north-south Trench 9 was situated over the northern part of the plotted cropmarks. It was excavated to a depth of 0.45m and contained ditches [59], [63], [72], [83] and [89] and pit [81]. In the centre of the trench shallow ditch [83] seems to match one of the cropmarks but ditches [89] and [72] may have been geological in origin. At the southern end of the trench curvilinear ditch [59] was identified, this approximately correlated with the plotted circular cropmark. If this feature is the same as the cropmark then the return of it probably lies to the south of the trench. It is possible that adjacent curvilinear ditch [63] represents another ring ditch, but no northern return was identified in the trench and only one circular cropmark was plotted. Pit [81] was situated in the south east corner of the trench where only a small section of it was seen and it may prove to be geological in nature. No datable finds were recovered from any of the features in this trench. Indeed, the only artefact collected was a single unmodified flint flake from the fill of ditch [59].

#### **5.7 Trench 10 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 10 was situated to the east of Trench 9 and ran east-west, it was excavated to a depth of 0.32m. While the three of the cropmarks were projected to run through this trench no archaeological features or deposits were identified.

#### **5.8 Trench 12 (Fig. 3)**

Situated along the eastern edge of the proposed development area, to the southwest of Trench 9, Trench 12 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.37m. The features

present in this trench include three ditches, two pits, two post-holes and an apparent layer into which was cut three cremation vessels.

At the very northern end of the trench, cremation vessels (29) and (65), as well as a further unexcavated vessel (154), were cut into layer (151). The layer was approximately 0.3m thick and extended beyond the trench. The single slot excavated into it did not clarify whether it was of geological or human origin. It is entirely possible that this layer was originally a fill in a shallow cut which did not show in the excavated slot. The cremation vessels were all of Late Iron Age date. Vessel (29) was badly plough-damaged but the base remained, along with some of the contents (30), and these were separated in the field to ensure complete removal. Vessel (65) was recovered largely intact with the cremation deposit still *in situ* for separation in a more controlled environment. The third vessel (154) was left *in situ* pending further mitigation proposals. It is likely that further urned cremations are located in the immediate vicinity, perhaps deliberately located within layer (151).

The remaining features in the trench lay across its southern half. Northeast-southwest ditch [106] cut pit [103] and was in turn cut by post-hole [113], which lay immediately to the west of post-hole [110]. None of these features contained any datable material and with the exception of the lower fill in ditch [106], which contained a reasonable amount of charcoal, had sterile silty fills. To the south of these features lay two further unexcavated ditches which were further parts of ditches [36] and [40] in Trench 13.

The southern-most feature in the trench was pit [99], the fill of which contained a burnt grog-tempered ware base as well as a quantity of charcoal and burnt soil. It is possible that this pit and pit [87] in Trench 15 were associated with the cremation burials in some way.

### **5.9 Trench 13 (Fig. 3)**

Trench 13 was aligned northwest-southeast and was positioned to lie over some of the plotted cropmark locations, it lay to the east of Trench 12 and the south of Trench 9. It was excavated to a depth of 0.45m onto undisturbed natural gravel. Two possible ring gullies, two large ditches and a single post-hole were present in this trench. The two putative ring gullies lay in the approximate centre of the trench with gully [31/43] probably equating to the plotted circular cropmark. This ring gully would have been approximately 15m in diameter with an entrance way facing the south east, excavated segment [43] being located at the western terminal. The depth of this ring gully would probably originally have been in excess of 0.9m and therefore most likely a structural rather than an eaves drip gully. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, although a sample of

charcoal (sample <3>) was collected from the top fill (46) for possible Carbon 14 dating. The second ring gully identified in the trench was smaller in diameter, at 10m, and was cut by [31/43]. The later gully seems to be laid directly on top of the earlier one, which was not excavated. Inside both of these ring gullies was post-hole [57] and it is unclear to which, if either, of them it is related. These ring gullies may have been broadly contemporary with the Late Iron Age cremations in Trench 12.

Intercutting ditches [36] and [40] ran approximately east-west at the southern end of the trench. The earlier of the two ditches [36] was approximately 0.65m deep and contained two joining base sherds in a sandy fabric which is probably Middle Iron Age in date. Ditch [40] was approximately 0.5m deep but no finds were recovered from it. Further parts of both ditches may have been identified in Trench 12, and it seems likely that they both were identified on the cropmark plot.

#### **5.10 Trench 14** (Fig. 4)

Trench 14 lay perpendicular to the eastern edge of the site, and to the east of Trench 13. It ran east-west and was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.3m. Only one feature was identified in the trench, wide shallow ditch [85]. No finds were recovered from this feature. It is unclear if this feature is truly a ditch or if it is silting within a natural depression. Although the feature seems to be running in a northwest – southeast direction it did not appear in any other trench, suggesting that it was indeed a localised depression.

#### **5.11 Trench 15** (Fig. 4)

Excavated onto the undisturbed natural geology at a depth of 0.45m, this trench ran east-west immediately to the south of Trench 12. Only one feature was identified in this trench, shallow pit [87]. Its fill contained a large quantity of charcoal, burnt flint and several large pieces of baked clay. Two of the latter are probably fragments of loom weight of Late Iron Age date. Given the date of the pit and its general proximity to the Late Iron Age cremations in Trench 12 it is likely that they are in some way associated with one another.

#### **5.12 Trench 16** (Fig. 4)

Trench 16 was orientated east-west, to the southeast of Trench 13, it was excavated to a depth of 0.33m. At the western end ditch [75] ran northwest-southeast. The fill of the ditch was probably topsoil and contained two post-medieval roof tile fragments, a large piece of Roman brick and a single unworked flint flake. This feature did not appear in any other trench and is likely to be post-medieval in origin.

Three post-holes were also present in the trench in a seemingly east-west alignment along the southern baulk. Only one [70] was excavated as none of them were wholly in the trench. The fill of post-hole [70] contained two body sherds of flint-tempered pottery which are probably Bronze Age in date. It is possible that these post-holes represent part of a larger grouping, most of which lies outside the limits of the trench.

#### **5.13 Trench 17** (Fig. 5)

Approximately halfway down the eastern edge of the site Trench 17 ran north-south. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m onto the undisturbed natural geology. Two features were identified in the trench, pit [79] and shallow gully [97]. Although no finds were recovered from either of the features pit [79] did contain a small amount of charcoal. Gully [97] was orientated approximately east-west and was 0.10m deep. Its fill was very similar to topsoil which suggest that this feature was perhaps only a deep plough scar, or another relatively modern intrusion.

#### **5.14 Trench 18** (Fig. 1)

Trench 20 lay approximately at the centre of the eastern edge of the development area and was aligned north-south. It was excavated to a depth of 0.38m. Only one feature [153], a large possibly linear spread of grey silt, was identified in this trench but was not excavated as a further part of it was investigated in Trench 20.

#### **5.15 Trench 19** (Fig. 1)

Lying in the approximate centre of the proposed development area Trench 19 ran east-west. It was excavated to a depth of 0.41m and contained a single ditch [55]. The ditch was orientated northwest-southeast and was 0.37m deep. No finds were recovered but the fill was very similar to topsoil, which suggests a modern origin for the feature.

#### **5.16 Trench 20** (Fig. 5)

Immediately to the east of Trench 19, Trench 20 was aligned north-south. The depth of the trench was 0.36m and it contained two features, pit [47] and spread [62]. Spread [62] was only 0.06m deep and contained a post-medieval roof tile fragment. The spread was also identified in Trench 18 as [153], where it was planned only. The projected line of this deposit, running approximately east-west, seems to follow a slight dip in the landscape, which suggests that it may be the remains of a track. The fill of pit [47] contained a small amount of charcoal but no datable finds.

### **5.17 Trench 22** (Fig. 1)

Trench 20 lay to the south of Trench 19. It was orientated north-south and was excavated onto the undisturbed natural geology to a depth of 0.37m. Two post-medieval features were present in the centre of the trench, ditch [49] and gully [51]. Both ran east-west and gully [51] contained pottery indicative of a 17th century, or later, date as well as post-medieval roof tile fragments. A fragment of Iron Age loom weight was pressed into the top of the natural geology, unassociated with any feature.

### **5.18 Trench 29** (Fig. 4)

Located towards the south of the site, this trench lay along the eastern boundary. It was 0.4m deep, ran east-west and contained a single pit [24]. The fill of the pit contained a small quantity of charcoal, a single burnt flint and a single sherd of early medieval pottery, dating from the 10th to 13th centuries. Although medieval in date, this pit is somewhat isolated from the other features of a similar date which were identified primarily in Trenches 1, 3 and 30.

### **5.19 Trench 30** (Fig. 5)

The most south-westerly of the trenches, Trench 30 ran north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.37m onto natural gravel. Four ditches and two pits were identified. Medieval gully [12] ran northeast-southwest towards the southern end of the trench. It terminated prior to intersecting with east-west ditch [14] along the eastern baulk. The fill of ditch [14] contained a quantity of 13th century coarseware, as well as fragments of baked clay, one of which may derive from a cylindrical loom weight of Bronze Age date. Narrow ditches [34] and [18] both ran east-west with only ditch [18] containing datable pottery, as well as small fragments of lava quern. All of the ditches are likely to have originated in the 13th century. It is noteworthy that ditches [14, 18, 34] were parallel and that ditch [12] was perpendicular to them, this suggests that they may be part of a regular layout of small enclosures of strip fields, similar to that seen in Trench 1.

Pit [20] contained no dateable material but the fill contained a quantity of charcoal. However, small pit [53] contained two sherds of prehistoric pottery. One sherd is a handle fragment decorated with groups of incised lines arranged in a chevron pattern. The date is uncertain, but the fabric and decoration both indicate that this is likely to be early in the prehistoric period, possibly later Neolithic.

### **5.20 Trench 31** (Fig. 1)

To the south of Trench 29, Trench 31 ran north-south along the eastern boundary of the site. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and contained two modern features, [22] and [27]. Although



both of these features were ditch-like in plan, excavation revealed that they were more likely to be root disturbance from the tree screen immediately to the east of the trench. No finds were recovered from their fills.

#### **5.21 Trench 32 (Fig. 4)**

The most southern of the trenches ran east-west and contained a significant amount of modern disturbance. The depth of the trench was 0.38m. Two areas of disturbance were excavated and recorded, [6] and [10], and were seen to be similar in nature to those investigated in Trench 31. Only one possible archaeological feature was identified at the western end of the trench. Small ditch [4] seems to have ran north-south but was not identified in any of the other trenches to the north, suggesting that it was perhaps geological in nature. No finds were recovered from its fill.

## 6. FINDS by Joyce Compton

A wide range and variety of finds types were recovered from a total of twenty-eight contexts, across eleven of the excavated trenches. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context; full details can be found in Appendix 3. Individual finds groups are small and dispersed across the investigated area. They are thus described briefly with the trench descriptions above. Full details by trench can also be found in the archive. Individual finds categories are discussed in more detail below. The medieval and later pottery was examined by Helen Walker and is also discussed below.

All of the finds should be retained, although the post-medieval material could be discarded at the archiving stage. Fragments of charcoal which are incidental in their contexts have already been discarded, along with the small pieces of post-medieval roof tile from the fill of ditch 49.

### 6.1 Prehistoric Pottery

Six sherds, weighing 160g, were recorded. The sherds were found in three discrete features, each in a different trench. The earliest sherd was found in the fill of pit 53, in Trench 20, comprising a fragment of decorated handle. The fine fabric is tempered with grog, and has occasional voids (Brown 1988, Fabric M). The decoration consists of groups of five incised lines arranged in opposing chevrons along the handle. The fabric and scheme of decoration indicate a date perhaps in the later Neolithic period.

Two flint-tempered body sherds were retrieved from the fill of pit 70, in Trench 16. These are likely to be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Two joining base sherds from a sand-tempered vessel with a thick base were found in the fill of ditch 36. The fabric and finish both indicate a Middle Iron Age date for the sherds.

### 6.2 Late Iron Age Pottery

The two cremation burials (29 and 65, Trench 12), each contained a grog-tempered ware vessel which held the cremated remains. Both vessels are Late Iron Age. Unfortunately, neither vessel was complete; but enough survives to allow characterisation. Burial 29 contained the lower part of a pedestal jar of *Cam 204* type (Hawkes and Hull 1947, plate 75). A shallow, carinated bowl, similar to *Cam 241* (Hawkes and Hull 1947, plate 80) but with an everted rim, was recovered from burial 65. Most of the vessel above the shoulder had been removed in antiquity, but a full profile can be reconstructed. A body sherd, probably from this vessel, was found in underlying layer 151. The vessels from both burials are well-finished and have highly-burnished surfaces. The carinated bowl is an uncommon vessel class and has similarities to Late Iron Age spouted strainer-bowls. It

is also unusual for a bowl to be used for holding the cremated remains (*pers. comm.* P.Sealey). There is a possibility that these burials were deposited early in the Late Iron Age, perhaps as early as 25BC.

Only one further context contained Late Iron Age pottery. A grog-tempered ware base sherd, burnt grey, was recovered from pit 99 in the vicinity of the cremation burials. Pit 99 also produced a quantity of other burnt material, comprising a mixture of charcoal and burnt soil, perhaps deriving from the cremation process.

### **6.3 Medieval pottery**

A total of forty-nine sherds weighing 514g was excavated from twelve features over three trenches. Recovered from the fill of ditch 147 in Trench 1 was a fragment from the neck of a jug in a coarse, reduced, sandy fabric, probably Colchester-type ware, showing a band of slip-painting under a pitted greenish splash glaze, and most likely dating to the earlier 13th century (Cotter 2000). Large fragments from a medieval coarse ware bowl were found in fill 78 of pit 77 in Trench 3. The bowl is decorated with thumbled applied strips could be a Mile End type, datable to the late 12th to mid 13th century (Drury and Petchey 1975). Also recovered was an early medieval ware beaded cooking pot rim and a more developed B4 cooking pot rim dating to c.1200 in what appears to be Colchester-type ware, although this is somewhat early for Colchester-type ware cooking pots. Sherds from a sandy orange ware jug rim showing traces of slip are also present in the same pit. Fill 15 of ditch 14, in Trench 30, contained an H2 cooking pot rim datable to the early to mid 13th centuries. Otherwise the pottery assemblage comprises body sherds of medieval coarse wares with a few sherds of early medieval ware, which could belong to the earlier 13th century.

### **6.4 Baked clay**

Fragments of baked clay, amounting to a total of 1856g, were found in five contexts. Two contexts, the fills of pit 67 (Trench 1) and ditch 145 (Trench 3) were associated with medieval pottery. Large pieces were recovered from ditch 145, representing more than half of the total assemblage by weight. There are no diagnostic features or wattle impressions on any of the pieces, but it seems likely that these are the remains of structural daub.

Baked clay objects were found in three contexts. A piece from the fill of ditch 14 has a curved outer surface and a contiguous flat surface. Little of the piece survives, but it is possible that it derives from a cylindrical loom weight of Bronze Age date, although residual in the feature. Fragments from triangular loom weights came from the fill of pit 87, in Trench 15. Two are corner fragments with the remains of large pre-firing piercings, indicating that these are likely to be of Late

Iron Age, or possibly Middle Iron Age, date. A single piece of baked clay, possibly a loom weight corner, was found unstratified in Trench 22.

### **6.5 Brick and tile**

Post-medieval roof tile fragments were recovered from four contexts, mainly as single pieces. Fifteen pieces, with a total weight of 302g, came from the fill of ditch 49 (Trench 22). These were associated with post-medieval pottery. A battered and abraded fragment of post-medieval brick was found in the fill of pit 67, in Trench 3, close to Birch Road. Ditch 75 (Trench 16) produced a fragment of Roman brick, along with post-medieval roof tile, and this is probably residual.

### **6.6 Worked and unworked stone**

Small and abraded fragments of stone were recovered from the fills of two features, ditch 16/18 (Trench 30) and gully 139 (Trench 3). All of the fragments probably derive from medieval lava querns or millstones, although there are no diagnostic features to aid identification. Lava querns were much used in the Roman, medieval and early post-medieval periods for the grinding of flour. Since the fragments from Layer-de-la-Haye are associated with medieval pottery, it is reasonable to assign a medieval date.

Single flint flakes were recorded in four contexts, the fill of gully 59, spread 62, and the fills of ditches 75 and 115. The flints appear to be unmodified. Two contexts produced burnt flints, the fills of pits 24 and 87. The single piece in pit 24 is incidental, but those in pit 87, in Trench 15, are associated with triangular loom weight fragments.

### **6.7 Cremated Human remains**

Both of the vessels contained cremated human bone, and this was extracted from the soil matrix by wet-sieving. Vessel 29 still held 72g of bone despite the truncation, and 190g was recorded from within vessel 65. There are large and recognisable pieces, in particular long bone and skull fragments, in both contexts. The bone is uniformly creamy-white, which indicates a high combustion temperature. Very small fragments are present in the unsorted fine fractions. No accompanying objects were found.

### **6.8 Environmental Material**

Three environmental samples were collected from the site. Sample 1 represented cremation burial fill 30, sample 2 cremation burial fill 66 and sample 3 burnt material from fill 46 of gully 43. The latter has been retained and kept damp in cold storage following excavation, although a small portion was allowed to dry out to enable close examination.

Both cremation burial fills were processed by wet sieving with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh and collecting the flotation fraction (flot) on a 0.5mm sieve. The residue was then dried and separated using 2mm and 4mm sieves. All the material larger than 4mm (the coarse fraction) was sorted by eye and both artefacts and macro-fossils extracted. The material smaller than 4mm (the fine fraction) was saved but not sorted.

The dried flots from the fills of the cremation burials contain small amounts of charcoal. Small seeds can be seen in the flot from burial 29. A rounded piece of burnt wood appeared in the flot from burial 65. This may be the remains of a stem or branch junction (knot), since a pattern of whorls is visible on the surface. The burnt material from pit 99 appears to be an accretion of charcoal and burnt soil.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

The trial trenching evaluation has clearly demonstrated that archaeological remains are present and are concentrated on a plateau occupying the northern half of the site with a lesser concentration at the far southern end. This apparent concentrating of activity may also have to do with the underlying geology affecting the visibility of the features, as well as the topography. It is somewhat striking that in the areas where archaeological features were encountered the natural geology was heavily gravelled, possibly suggesting that survival is significantly poorer in the sandier soils. The apparent lack of features along the eastern edge of the site may be, in part, due to the construction of the water treatment works in the 1930's. As well as the disturbance along the eastern boundary many of the trenches revealed plough marks, which suggest that a reasonable amount of truncation has occurred. This was especially visible in the trenches situated over the sandier geology.

A significant proportion of the features investigated contained no datable material and could not be assigned to a phase based upon their morphology or association to other features. Added to this were the features shown to be of natural origin. Although the evidence is tentative, some of these may be evidence of landscape clearance of uncertain date.

### **Earlier Prehistoric** (Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early and Middle Iron Age)

The discovery of features and artefacts dating to the earlier prehistoric periods is not unexpected given that finds collected in the general area include a significant proportion of flint tools and pottery, including a complete vessel, of this date. However, only one feature, later Neolithic pit [53], can be assigned this date with any certainty. The scattered nature of the artefacts dating to these periods does not present a coherent picture of activity. It does however indicate the, and exploitation perhaps occupation, of this landscape from the late Neolithic period.

### **Late Iron Age** (Fig. 6)

The Late Iron Age remains were seemingly concentrated on the plateau at the northern end of the site, in close proximity to the previously identified cropmarks. Indeed most of the cropmarks were confirmed to be present as below-ground features. While the location of the cropmarks is broadly accurate there is some discrepancy between the rectified cropmark plot and the actual feature locations. Despite this, two of the cropmarks were not identified in any of the trenches. The most northerly of the plotted linears, which ran northwest-southeast, and was projected to lie in Trenches 6 and 10, and the most easterly which ran north south through Trenches 10 and 13, are more likely to be geological rather than archaeological in nature.

The cropmark plot indicates the presence of two ring ditches. These have indeed been identified in Trenches 9 and 13. In addition to these a further two possible ring ditches have been identified, also in Trenches 9 and 13. However, all four possible ring ditches are somewhat problematic as no inherently dateable material was collected from any of them; although retained charcoal sample <3> may be suitable for Carbon 14 dating. Whither they are associated with the Late Iron Age cremation burials is debatable and they may represent a separate period of activity. However, if they are associated, and it is not unusual for Late Iron Age occupation sites to exhibit a lack of material culture, then it does suggest that the complex dates to relatively early in the Late Iron Age. It is further unclear whether they represent hut circles or ring ditches, or indeed a combination of the two. None of the ring ditches seem to contain any internal features, but it must be borne in mind that only a small proportion of the interior was seen.

The other Late Iron Age remains identified are all possibly related to mortuary practices. The three cremation burials were situated in an area of silt of which not enough lay in the trench to determine whether it was of natural origin or man made. If it was indeed of human origin then it may be the remains of a mortuary monument. Late Iron Age pits [99] and [87] both contained significant quantities of burnt material and may conceivably have been associated with the cremation process, although it must be admitted that the evidence for this is a little speculative at this stage. The recovery of charcoal/burnt material may also be significant, and it may be beneficial if any future work targets the recovery of similar deposits for absolute dating purposes. The Late Iron Age burials, themselves, are interesting as the vessels could be among the first in the grog-tempered ware series, representing the transition from Middle to Late Iron Age. It may be significant that sand-tempered sherds of probable Middle Iron Age date were found in the vicinity. Study of the cremated bone, especially if further burials are uncovered, is feasible, since large, recognisable fragments are present.

It may be of significance that away from the plateau and the cropmarks no Iron Age remains were positively identified. The reason for this is not entirely clear, it may be that the remains were in a clearing in a wooded area and therefore limited in its area or simply that the underlying sandy geology was not conducive to features surviving and the remains only survived in the gravel patches.

## **Medieval**

It is perhaps unsurprising that the medieval activity is concentrated toward the road. Birch Road, and indeed several others in the vicinity, seems to be a classic example of a fossilised sunken medieval thoroughfare. While the medieval remains do not suggest occupation on the site per se,

it is likely that this lay close by. The features are possibly the remains of small-scale agricultural enclosure, particularly the seemingly perpendicular arrangement of ditches in Trench 1. These may further be associated with the large banks and ditches observed in the woods to the west of the site and part of a wider managed landscape. In addition to this a smaller concentration of medieval activity was uncovered in the southwest corner of the site, in Trench 30. While this was similar in date to features closer to the road the remains were not as coherent, primarily consisting of east-west ditches and one approximately northeast-southwest ditch.

### **Post-medieval**

While a number of post-medieval features and artefacts were uncovered, the remains of this period of land-use primarily consisted of ditches. Potentially the most interesting of the post-medieval features was the shallow grey layer (62, 153) seen in Trenches 18 and 20. This seems to run around a break of slope to the plateau and may represent the remains of an unenclosed trackway. However, although the few finds from this feature were post-medieval these may very well be intrusive. It is a distinct possibility that this feature relates to the Late Iron Age remains on the plateau itself. With the exception of this feature the remaining Post-medieval remains had no obvious association with any of the earlier phases and were probably the remnants of field boundaries.



## 8. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The evaluation has demonstrated that prehistoric, Late Iron Age and medieval remains are present within the proposed development area. While these are concentrated at the northern and southern ends of the site, there is a scatter of remains in the area in between which relate to one, or both, of the apparent foci.

The Late Iron Age remains, primarily focused on the known cropmark site, and the medieval remains at the northern and southern extremes are of particular significance especially with regard to the potential that they offer for further research are the following areas:

- Potential for research on Late Iron Age occupation/ landuse in the hinterland of *Camulodunum*.
- Further research of the development of Late Iron Age burial practice especially with regard to potential pyre sites and further burials. (Identified as a research priority in Haselgrove et al 2001 and Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- Potential for Carbon 14 dating of the Iron Age remains with a view to clarifying and refining the chronology of this period.
- Potential for examining medieval landuse and trade links with regard to the roadside activity/ occupation and with the development of Layer-de-la-Haye as a whole.

Development will have an adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the proposed area. The relative shallowness at which the remains survive means that intrusive groundworks deeper than 0.3m, and indeed the movement of heavy plant across the site, will disturb any remains present. In addition, any groundwork deeper than 0.6m will completely remove the majority of the archaeological remains. It is therefore very likely that development of this site will necessitate further archaeological investigation prior to works commencing to facilitate the preservation by record of the archaeological resource.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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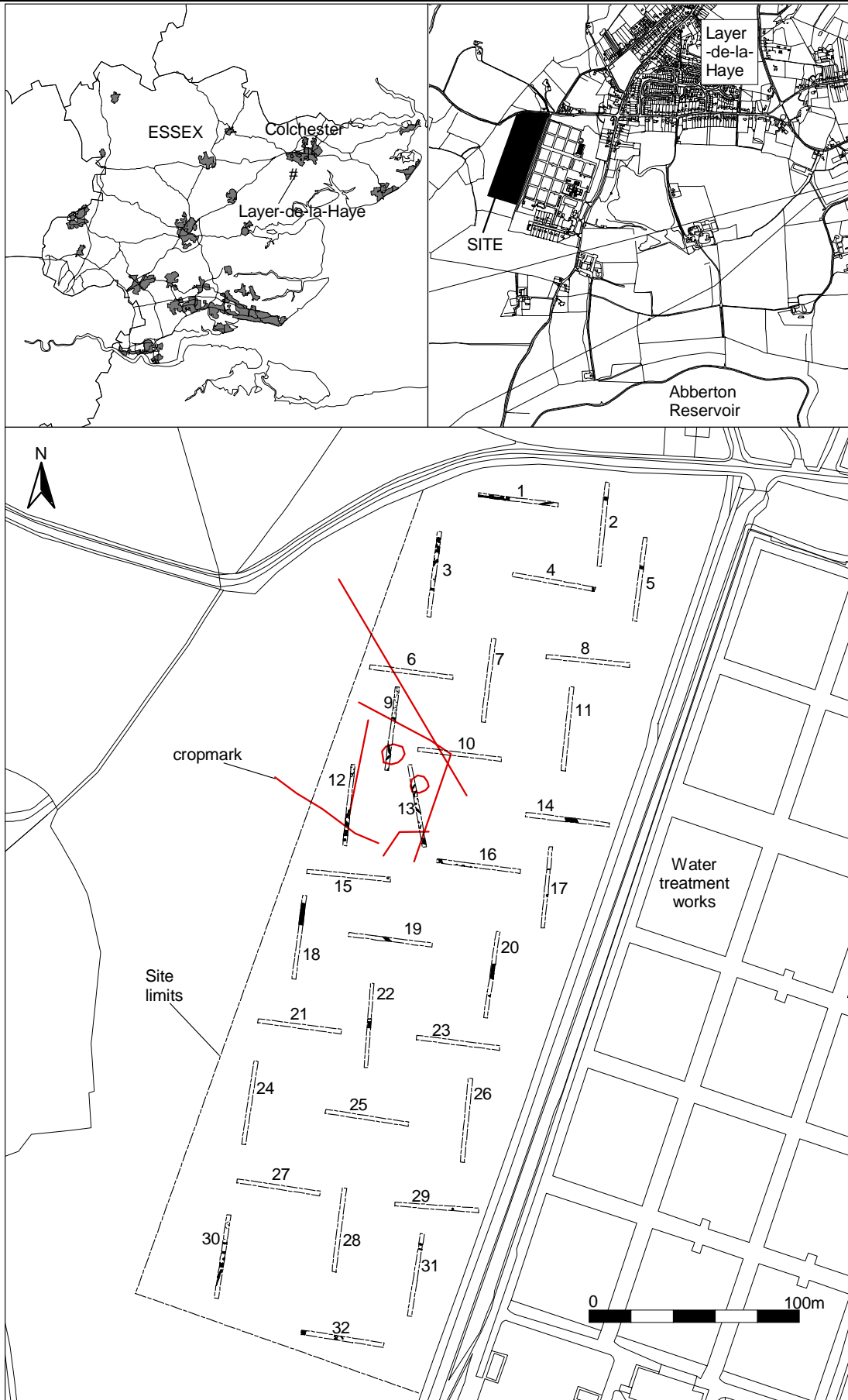


Fig.1. Trench locations

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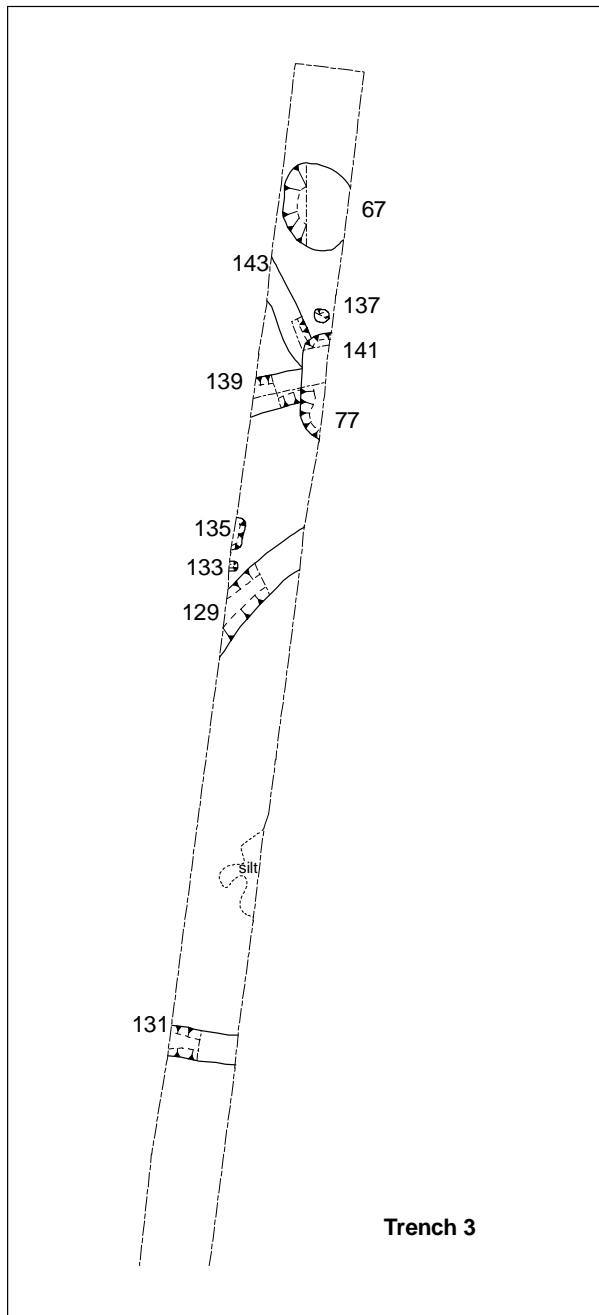
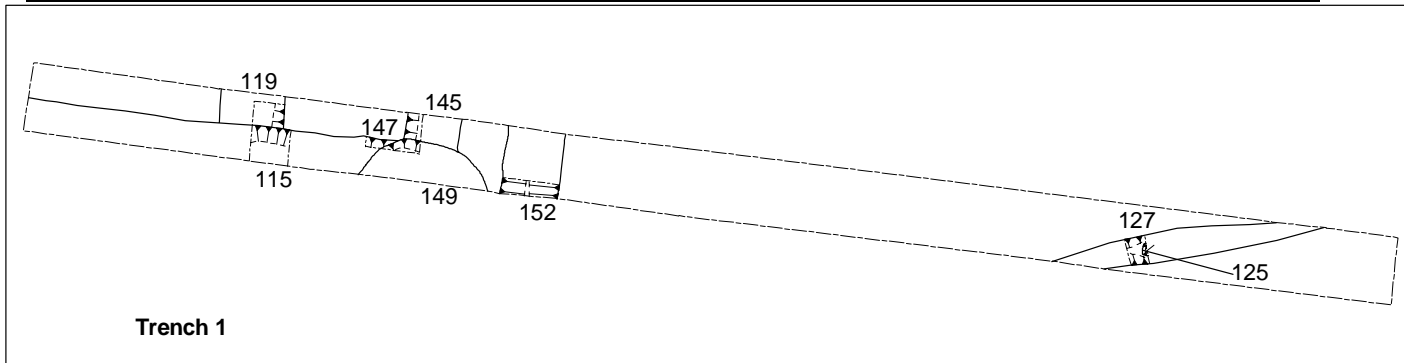
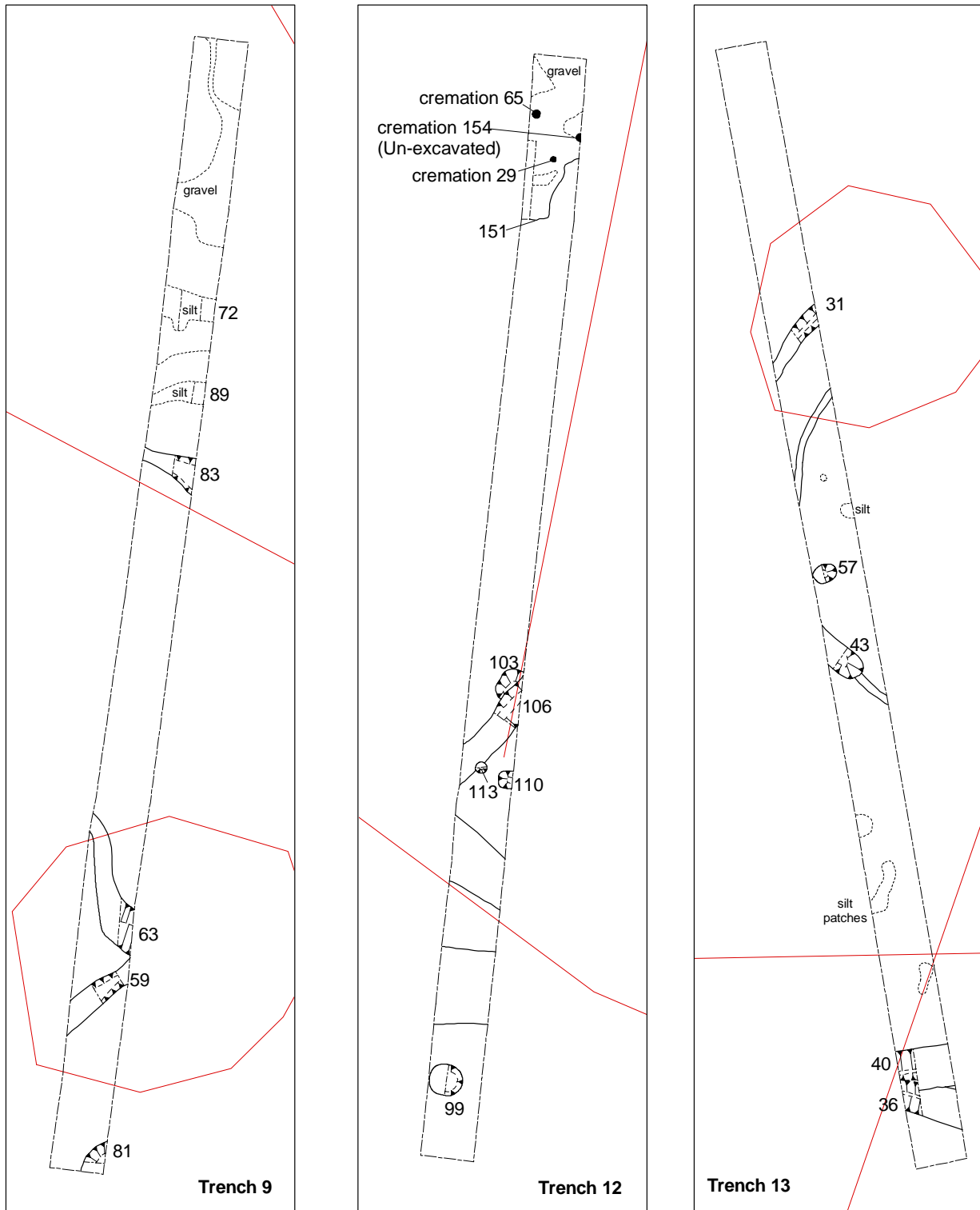


Fig.2. Trenches 1 & 3





Key

— cropmark as originally plotted



Fig.3. Trenches 9, 12 & 13 (see also Fig.6)

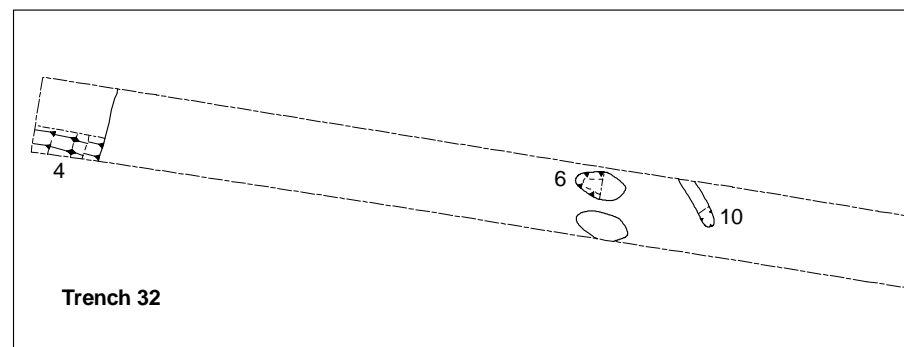
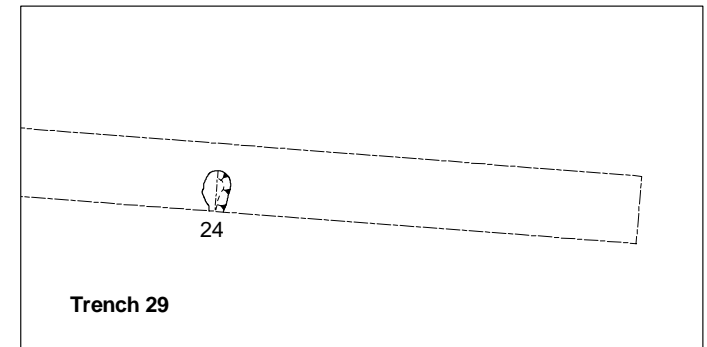
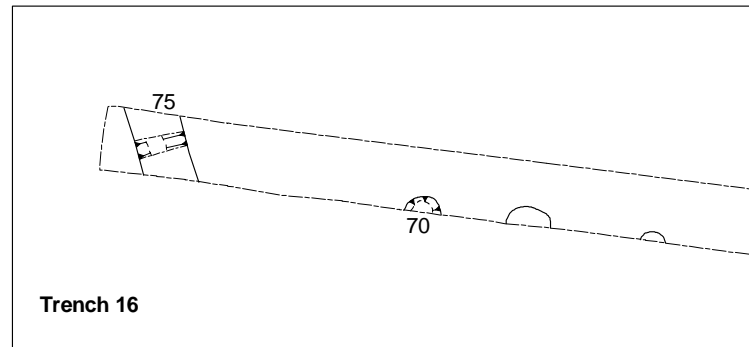
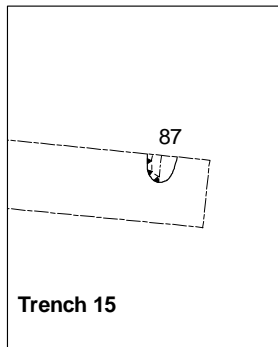
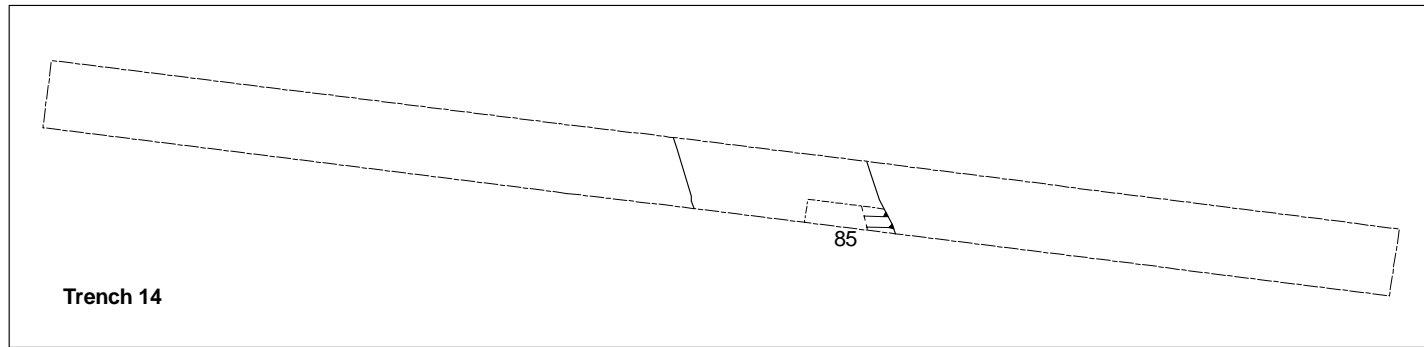


Fig.4. Trenches 14, 15, 16, 29 & 32

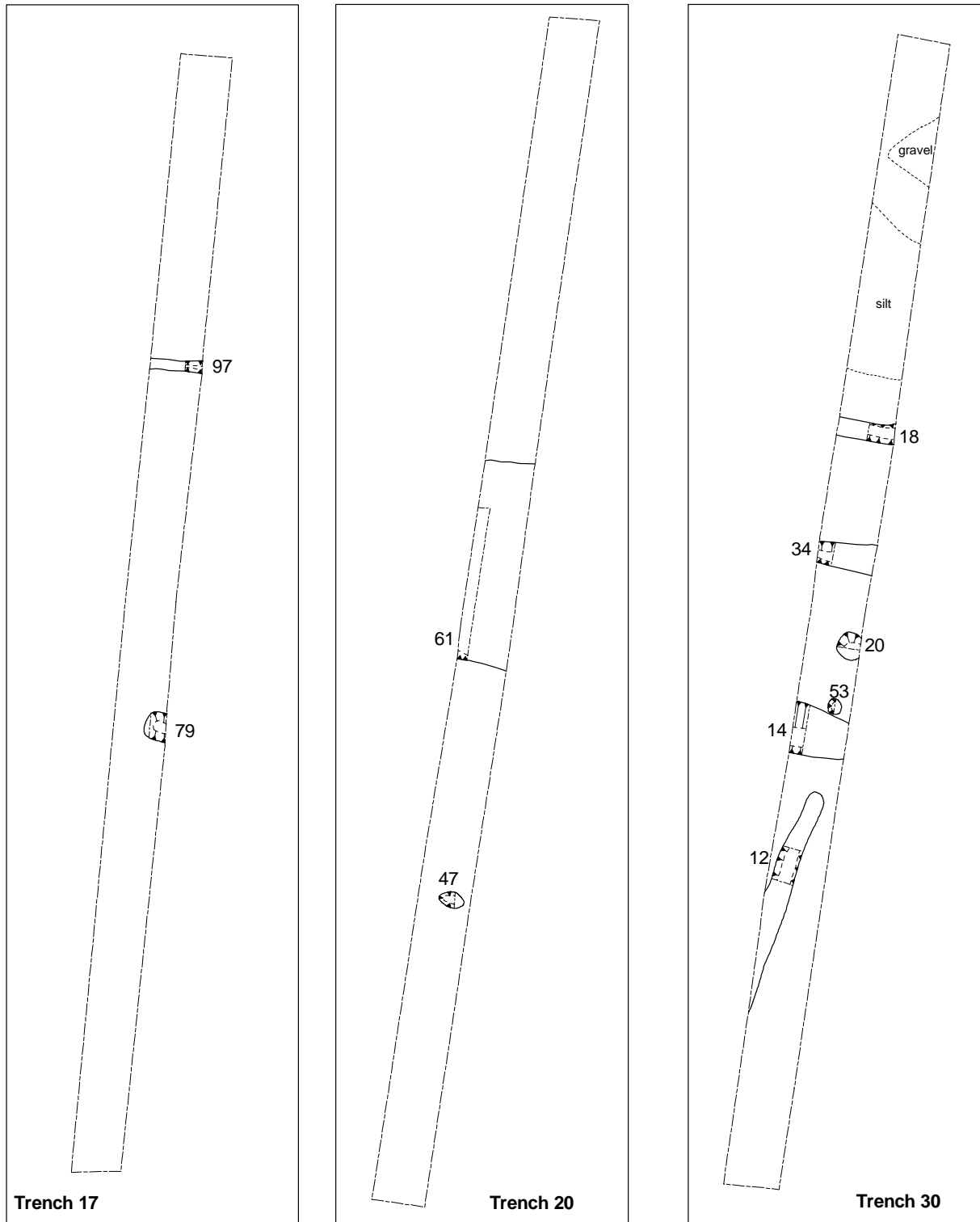


Fig.5. Trenches 17, 20 & 30





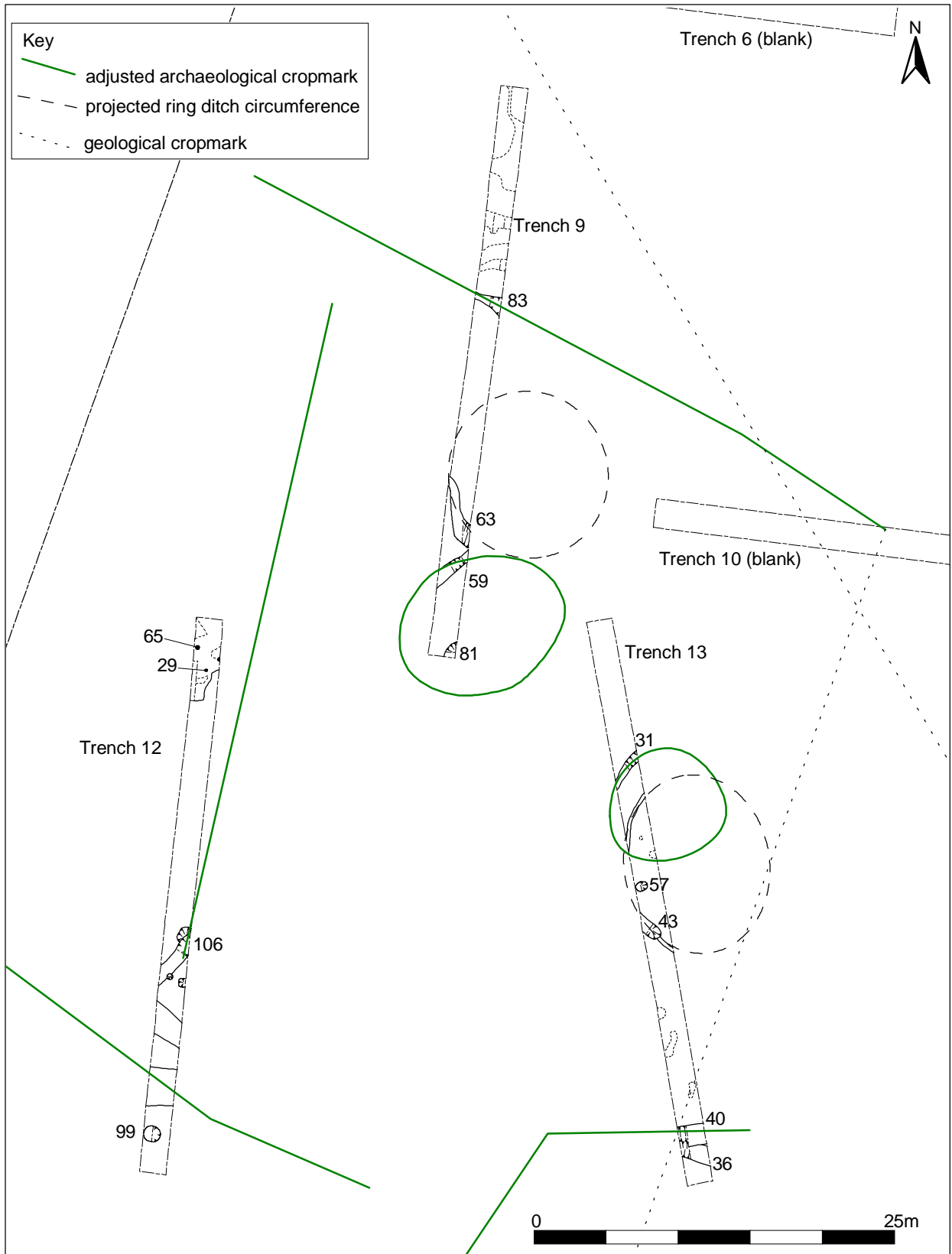


Fig.6. Interpretation of cropmarks and features in trenches 9, 12 and 13

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

All dimensions are given in metres

Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Orientation	Grid Ref (NW and SE corners)	Features
1	40	1.8	0.43	East - West	TL9630 2003 / TL9634 2002	Yes
2	41.5	2	0.42	North - South	TL9637 2003 / TL9636 1999	Yes
3	40	1.9	0.3	North - South	TL9629 2000 / TL9628 1997	Yes
4	40	2	0.3	East - West	TL9632 1999 / TL9636 1998	Yes
5	40	2	0.32	North - South	TL9638 2001 / TL9636 1997	Yes
6	40	1.9	0.35	East - West	TL9625 1994 / TL9629 1994	No
7	40	1.85	0.36	North - South	TL9631 1996 / TL9631 1992	No
8	40	1.9	0.38	East - West	TL9634 1995 / TL9638 1994	No
9	39.5	2	0.45	North - South	TL9627 1993 / TL9626 1989	Yes
10	40	2	0.32	East - West	TL9628 1991 / TL9632 1990	No
11	40	1.9	0.33	North - South	TL9635 1993 / TL9635 1990	No
12	40	1.9	0.36	North - South	TL9624 1990 / TL9624 1986	Yes
13	40	2	0.24	North - South	TL9627 1990 / TL9628 1986	Yes
14	40	2	0.3	East - West	TL9633 1987 / TL9638 1987	Yes
15	40	1.9	0.45	East - West	TL9622 1985 / TL9626 1984	Yes
16	40	1.9	0.33	East - West	TL9629 1985 / TL9632 1985	Yes
17	41	1.8	0.4	North - South	TL9634 1986 / TL9634 1982	Yes
18	40	1.9	0.38	North - South	TL9622 1984 / TL9622 1980	No
19	40	1.9	0.41	East - West	TL9624 1981 / TL9628 1981	Yes
20	41.5	1.8	0.36	North - South	TL9631 1982 / TL9631 1978	Yes
21	40	2	0.3	East - West	TL9620 1978 / TL9624 1977	No
22	40	1.8	0.37	North - South	TL9625 1979 / TL9625 1975	Yes
23	40	2	0.36	East - West	TL9628 1977 / TL9632 1976	No
24	40	2	0.33	North - South	TL9620 1976 / TL9619 1972	No
25	40	2	0.34	East - West	TL9623 1973 / TL9627 1978	No
26	40	2	0.33	North - South	TL9630 1975 / TL9630 1971	No
27	40	2	0.36	East - West	TL9619 1970 / TL9623 1969	No
28	40	2	0.34	North - South	TL9624 1970 / TL9624 1966	No
29	40	1.8	0.4	East - West	TL9627 1969 / TL9630 1968	Yes
30	39.5	1.9	0.37	North - South	TL9619 1968 / TL9618 1964	Yes
31	40	2	0.3	North - South	TL9628 1967 / TL9627 1964	Yes
32	40	2	0.36	East - West	TL9622 1963 / TL9626 1962	Yes

## APPENDIX 2: FEATURE LIST

All dimensions are given in metres.

Number	Type	Filled by	Equals	Length	Breadth	Depth	Trench	Date
1	Topsoil	-	-	-	-	-	All	-
2	Subsoil	-	-	-	-	-	All	-
3	Natural	-	-	-	-	-	All	-
4	Ditch	5	-	2	1.5	0.36	32	-
6	Pit	7	-	0.7	0.7	0.13	32	-
8	Gully	9	-	2	1	0.24	32	-
10	Gully	10	8	2	0.42	0.06	32	-
12	Gully	13	-	1.1	0.66	0.28	30	Medieval
14	Ditch	15	-	2	1.4	0.4	30	Medieval
16	Ditch	17	18	-	-	-	30	Medieval
18	Ditch	19	16	0.89	0.53	0.29	30	-
20	Pit	21	-	0.97	0.76	0.35	30	-
22	Ditch	23	-	2	1	0.29	31	-
24	Pit	25; 26	-	1.1	0.8	0.13	29	Medieval
27	Ditch	28	-	0.58	0.46	0.16	31	-
29	Crem vessel	30	-	-	-	-	12	LIA
30	Cremation	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
31	Ditch	32; 33	-	2	0.68	0.27	13	-
34	Ditch	35	-	0.5	0.9	0.4	30	-
36	Ditch	37; 38; 39	-	2	-	0.65	13	Prehistoric
40	Ditch	41; 42	-	2	2	0.5	13	-
43	Ditch	44; 45; 46	-	1.4	0.96	0.43	13	-
47	Pit	48	-	0.56	0.63	0.18	20	-
49	Ditch	50	-	0.8	2.4	0.66	22	Post-medieval
51	Gully	52	-	0.73	0.22	0.11	22	-
53	Pit	54	-	0.5	0.7	0.19	30	Prehistoric
55	Ditch	56	-	2.8	1.5	0.37	19	-
57	Post-hole	58	-	0.8	0.66	0.28	13	-
59	Gully	60	-	1	0.6	0.35	9	-
62	Spread	-	153	2	5.8	0.06	20	Post-medieval
63	Ditch	64	-	0.5	1.6	0.8	9	-
65	Crem vessel	66	-	-	-	-	12	LIA
66	Cremation	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
67	Pit	68; 69	-	2.48	1.7	0.34	3	Medieval
70	Pit	71	-	1.06	0.49	0.21	16	Prehistoric
72	Ditch	73	-	2	1	0.2	9	-
75	Ditch	76	-	2	1.4	0.43	16	Post-medieval
77	Pit	78	141	2.88	0.68	0.47	3	Medieval
79	Pit	80	-	0.61	0.98	0.35	17	-
81	Pit	82	-	0.75	1.12	0.15	9	-
83	Ditch	84	-	1	1	0.16	9	-
85	Gully	86	-	2	5.9	0.27	14	-
87	Pit	88	-	0.8	0.75	0.12	15	LIA
89	Ditch	90	-	0.5	0.9	0.12	9	-

91	Ditch	92	-	2	0.87	0.27	4	-
93	Ditch	94	-	2	1.3	0.16	2	-
95	Ditch	96	-	2	1.38	0.28	5	-
98	Ditch	98	-	1.07	0.53	0.5	17	-
99	Pit	100; 101; 102	-	1.15	1.09	0.28	12	LIA
103	Pit	104; 105	-	0.5	0.81	0.48	12	-
106	Ditch	107; 108; 109	-	2	0.9	0.31	12	-
110	Post-hole	111; 112	-	-	-	0.41	12	-
113	Post-hole	114	-	0.4	0.4	0.13	12	-
115	Ditch	116	117; 121;147		0.49	0.41	1	Medieval
117	Ditch	118	115; 121;147		0.82	0.13	1	-
119	Ditch	120	123		0.39	0.21	1	-
121	Ditch	122	115; 117;147		0.32	0.04	1	-
123	Ditch	124	119		0.47	0.26	1	-
125	Post-hole	126	-	0.3	0.3	0.15	1	-
127	Ditch	128	-		0.67	0.1	1	Medieval
129	Ditch	130	-	1.43	0.92	0.3	3	-
131	Ditch	132	-	0.86	0.8	0.15	3	Medieval
133	Post-hole	134	-	0.33	0.33	0.21	3	-
135	Pit	136	-	0.9	0.47	0.2	3	-
137	Post-hole	138	-	0.38	0.38	0.16	3	-
139	Gully	140	-	1.4	0.5	0.11	3	-
141	Pit	142	77	-	-	-	3	-
143	Gully	144	-	2.4	0.5	0.12	3	Medieval
145	Ditch	146	-	1	1.15	0.38	1	Medieval
147	Ditch	148	115; 117;121	0.5	0.9	0.27	1	Medieval
149	Pit	150	-	1	0.2	0.55	1	-
151	Layer	-	-	-	-	0.3	12	LIA
152	Ditch	153	-	0.5	1.65	0.6	1	-
153	Layer		62				18	
154	Crem vessel						12	LIA (un Ex)

## APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights are given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
13	12	2	12	Pottery; base and body sherd	Medieval
15	14	- 2 14	1 148 144	Charcoal (discarded) Baked clay, one is possible loom weight Pottery; rim and body sherds	- - Medieval
17	16=18	1 2	16 24	Stone fragment, possible lava quern Pottery; body sherds	- Medieval
25	24	1 1	24 4	Burnt flint Pottery; body sherd	- Medieval
29	Vessel	67	426	Pottery; joining pedestal base and lower wall sherds (and crumbs), Cam 204 jar in grog-tempered ware, inc 21/16g from sample 1	LIA
30	29	-	72	Cremated bone fragments, plus residue (84g)	-
37	36	2	100	Pottery; joining base sherds (thick)	Prehistoric
46	43	-	-	Sample of burnt wood, kept damp	Undated
50	49	15 2	302 8	Roof tile fragments (5/52g discarded) Pottery; body sherds, one creamware, one with black glaze	Post med. Post med.
54	53	2	20	Pottery; decorated handle and body sherd	Prehistoric
60	59	1	4	Flint flake	-
62	Spread	1 1	4 4	Flint flake Roof tile fragment	- Post med.
65	Vessel	111	802	Pottery; joining base and body sherds, bowl in grog-tempered ware, inc 46/26g (one rim) from sample 2	LIA
66	65	- -	2 190	Charcoal/burnt material Cremated bone fragments, plus residue (404g)	-
68	67	58 1 1	980 254 6	Baked clay fragments, some reduced Brick fragment, battered and abraded Pottery; body sherd	- Post med. Medieval
71	70	2	40	Pottery; body sherds, flint-tempered	Prehistoric
74	Finds (T22)	1	76	Baked clay; possible loom weight corner	-
76	75	1 2 1	10 44 545	Flint flake Roof tile fragments Brick fragment	- Post med. Roman
78	77	14	248	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval
88	87	4 11	194 590	Burnt flints Baked clay fragments, inc loom weight corners, two with prefiring apex holes	- LIA
101	99	- 1	12 12	Burnt material, mixture of charcoal and soil Pottery; base sherd, grog-tempered ware, burnt	- LIA
116	115	1 1	2 6	Flint flake Roof tile fragment, overfired	- Post med.

		1 1	6 6	Pottery; body sherd Pottery; body sherd (surface find)	Medieval Medieval
128	127	2	14	Pottery; joining body sherds, encrusted	Medieval
132	131	1 1	6 6	Unidentified ceramic, possibly tile Pottery; body sherds	?Post-med Medieval
140	139	12	50	Stone fragments, possible lava quern	-
144	143	3	14	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
146	145	- 7 2	2 62 4	Charcoal fragments (discarded) Baked clay fragments Pottery; joining body sherds	- - Medieval
148	147	3	18	Pottery; body sherds, one glazed	Medieval
151	Layer	1	4	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered ware	LIA

## **APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX**

**SITE NAME: COLEM: 2005.116**

### **Index to the Archive**

File containing:

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Brief for Evaluation
- 1.2 Specification for Evaluation

**2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Evaluation Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

**3. Site Archive**

- 3.1 5 x Context Record Register
- 3.2 Original Context Records 1 to 153
- 3.3 32 x Trench sheets
- 3.4 8 x Plans Register
- 3.5 5 x Sections Register
- 3.6 1 x Sample Registers
- 3.7 8 x Levels Register
- 3.8 6 x Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record

**Not in Files:**

- Site Drawings – 5 A1-size Permatrace section sheets
  - 4 A1-size Permatrace plan sheets
  - 9 A5-size Permatrace plan sheets
- 1 box of finds

## APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> .Layer-de-la-Haye Treatment Works, Colchester,Essex.	
<b>Parish:</b> Layer-de-la-Haye	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 96269 19787	<b>Site Code:</b> COLEM:2005.116
<b>Type of Work:</b> Evaluation by Trial Trenching	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> A Robertson ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 12th October until 26th October 2005	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> Development area c.64500 <sup>2</sup> m Trenching: 32 trenches = 2560 <sup>2</sup> m (4%)
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding Source:</b> Essex and Suffolk water
<b>Further Work Anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHER Nos:</b> 11571
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH Summary	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Prehistoric LIA Medieval Post-medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>An archaeological evaluation, covering c.6 hectares, was carried out on the site of proposed extension to the water treatment works at Layer-de-la-Haye, Colchester, in an area of known cropmarks. Thirty two trenches were opened, covering 2560 sq m (c.4% sample). The majority of the archaeological remains were concentrated towards the north western corner of the site on a slight plateau, although a smaller concentration was also recorded in the south western corner.</p>	
<p><b>Earlier Prehistoric</b></p> <p>Evidence was uncovered for activity from the earlier prehistoric periods through to Post-medieval, although no Roman or Saxon features were identified. The earliest remains uncovered were some late Neolithic pottery from a single pit. Although other sherds of early prehistoric were recovered they were residual in later features. While these remains do not present a coherent picture of early prehistoric activity they do further indicate a human presence in the landscape during these periods.</p>	
<p><b>Late Iron Age</b></p> <p>Many of the cropmarks identified by aerial photography plots were shown to be below-ground features. While the majority of the ditches were confirmed at least two of them were shown to be of natural origin.</p> <p>Concentrated around the cropmarks were a number of Late Iron Age features. Three Late Iron Age urned cremation burials were identified at the eastern edge of the cropmarks. In reasonable proximity to the burials were two burnt pits, which may have been associated with the cremation process. Also in proximity to the burials were parts of possibly four ring ditches. Two of the ring ditches were previously identified in the cropmark plots. None of the ring ditches contained any dateable finds, so</p>	



their association with the cremation burials is tentative.

**Medieval**

Two other foci for activity were also identified, both containing remains dating to the 13th century. The most northerly which was situated along Birch Road, comprised a series of medieval ditches in a seemingly perpendicular arrangement. These were possibly small agricultural enclosures along the medieval road. In the south-west corner of the site was the final concentration. While not as coherent as the northern features a series of shallow ditches again seem to indicate the presence of small enclosures. These remains while far from conclusive possibly indicate that the area of the site was part of a managed agricultural landscape during the 13th century.

**Post-medieval**

The post-medieval remains present were primarily dispirit sections of field ditches. Although the remains of a trackway running east-west along the break of slope below the slight plateau may also date to this period.

**Previous Summaries/Reports:** N.A.

**Author of Summary:**

A. Robertson (ECC FAU)

**Date of Summary:**

November 2005