

**FORMER SUN PUBLIC HOUSE  
GOLD STREET  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
ESSEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**DECEMBER 2012**

**FORMER SUN PUBLIC HOUSE**  
**GOLD STREET, SAFFRON WALDEN**  
**ESSEX**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**FORMER SUN PUBLIC HOUSE SITE  
57 TO 59 GOLD STREET, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Client:** Big Brown Dog Ltd

**NGR:** TL 53797 38236

**Site code:** SW60

**Project number:** 2616

**Planning Ref:** UTT/0681/12/FUL

**Date of trial trenching/fieldwork:** 14/11/12 to 20/11/12

**Oasis reference no:** 138405

**SUMMARY**

*Archaeological trial trenching was carried out at the site of the former Sun Public House, 57 to 59 Gold Street, Saffron Walden, prior to its redevelopment. The principal aim of the evaluation was to locate the south side of the 'Magnum Fossatum' or 'Repell Ditch', a bank-and-ditch enclosure constructed to the south of the medieval castle, probably during the 1230s, along with any additional and/or associated archaeological features. Previous archaeological investigations either side of the public house site have located the medieval down ditch, and it can therefore be projected to extend approximately E-W across the development site. Two evaluation trenches were excavated; across the projected line of the ditch and within the footprint of a proposed new building at its south.*

*The southern edge of the Magnum Fossatum was exposed within Trench 1, along with a number of additional features in both Trenches 1 and 2, all likely to be post-medieval to modern in date. The post-medieval/modern remains included a linear feature, post-hole and pit contained within Trench 1, and a pit, two modern foundation trenches, and a probable natural feature within Trench 2.*

*While the post-medieval remains present are of low significance, the survival of the medieval town enclosure ditch is of greater interest. It is likely that further archaeological investigation of this feature will be required in advance of, or during, the redevelopment of the site.*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching at the site of the former Sun Public House, 57-59 Gold Street, Saffron Walden (Figure 1). The evaluation took place in advance of the refurbishment of the former public house for use as a dwelling, and the construction of two new dwellings and associated hard-standing and landscaping within its garden (planning ref: UTT/0681/12/FUL). The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Big Brown Dog Ltd.

Due to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was placed upon the development consent by the District Council, based upon the recommendation of the Essex County Council Historic Environment team (ECC HE), in line with guidance contained within Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, to the ECC HE team and to the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will become part of the OASIS online archaeological Record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>), and will be accessible via the ADS website. The site archive will be stored at Saffron Walden Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and Geology**

The site is located within the historic core of Saffron Walden town (TL 53813822), on Gold Street, a short distance east of the south end of the High Street (Figure 1). The c.700 sq m plot is bounded to the north by Gold Street, Oasthouse Court to the east and properties to the west and south. The Saffron Walden Baptist Church also lies immediately to the south-west.

Much of the Gold Street and Oasthouse Court frontages of the site are occupied by the former public house, The Sun. Timber outbuildings are located along the southern perimeter. The remainder of the site is covered by areas of grass and tarmac hard-standing and form a yard/garden area behind the public house. The site exhibits an overall downward slope to the north and Gold Street. The grassed garden area is higher than elsewhere on the site and the tarmac car park adjacent to the pub appears to have been terraced into the slope.

The geology of Saffron Walden consists of glacial drift deposits above chalk. The drift deposits vary substantially, and are not present within all areas of the town.

## **2.2 Archaeological Background**

The following information is largely taken from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), Bassett 1982, and the Saffron Walden Historic Towns Project Assessment Report (Medlycott 1999). Most notably, the development site lies between three significant past archaeological excavations - the Walden Cinema-Maltings, Gold Street Maltings and Elm Grove sites.

Little in the way of pre-medieval remains has been recorded in the general vicinity of the site. Seven sherds of Roman pottery and a single sherd of early/mid Saxon pottery, probably all residual, were found on the cinema site (EHER 444-5). The focus of occupation and cemetery activity of this date is in the Gibson Way area of the modern town, to the west.

The medieval town developed around the castle, which is situated in the north-eastern part of Saffron Walden and was founded in the 12th century (c.1141). The castle consisted of a keep and inner and outer baileys. The outer bailey incorporated St Mary's church and the town's earliest market place (Medlycott 1999). A substantial ditch-and-bank enclosure, known as the 'Magnum Fossatum' or the 'Repell Ditch' was later constructed to the south of the castle, probably in the 1230s, and a rectilinear grid of streets laid-out within it. The south-western corner of the town enclosure survives as an earthwork (EHER 0443) and was trial-trenched in 1959 (Ravetz and Spencer 1961; Bassett 1982). The course of the rest of the enclosure is less certain, but has been provisionally reconstructed from existing property boundaries and the results of archaeological investigations at a number of locations. In the wider vicinity of the current development site, these investigations include those at the Cinema-Maltings (Bassett 1982), Elm Grove (Ennis 2002), Abbey Lane (Bassett 1982), Park Lane (Garwood 1994) and Swan Meadows (Gilman 1993). Work at Fairycroft House, looking for the southern side, proved inconclusive (Brooks 1991). Although the ditch was found on the Cinema-Maltings site (EHER 446), immediately west of the current development, no other significant medieval remains were recorded. It is unclear whether this part of the enclosure was developed or was gardens/fields during this period. The town ditch was also found at the Gold Street Maltings site adjacent to the west of the development site, and the Elm Grove site to the east (Figure 4). Its course is also understood to have been observed during the redevelopment of the Gold Street Maltings site.

In the vicinity of the development site, the town ditch persisted as a feature in the landscape, probably as a property boundary, into the post-medieval period. 17th century pottery was retrieved from its upper fills during the Cinema-Maltings excavations (EHER 447). Post-medieval pits were also present. E.J. Eyre's 1758 map of Saffron Walden records that by this time buildings occupied the development site, though it is not possible to determine their form and function. Further buildings are shown to occupy the plots to its east. The vicinity formerly included a two-storey maltings complex (EHER 14906) that seemingly post-dated 1758. The adjacent Baptist Church was established with a meeting house in 1774 with the addition of the church itself in 1879 (EHER 19771). The first four editions of the Ordnance Survey (1861 to 1947) all depict the extant buildings of The Sun public house and chart the general development of this vicinity (e.g. Baptist church 1879, Walden Cinema 1912).

The property of the former public house straddles the projected course of the medieval town enclosure boundary; the pub being inside and the footprint of the proposed new dwellings just outside of the ditch. The proposed southward extension of the terracing for the car park area would likely encroach upon the postulated line of the medieval ditch (Figure 4).

### **3.0 TRIAL-TRENCHING**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

The aim of the archaeological trial trenching was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, finds and features within the development area and to establish their character, location, extent, date, condition and significance, with a view to aiding the understanding of the historical development of Saffron Walden.

The specific requirements of the archaeological work were to:

- Identify surviving remains relating to the medieval town enclosure ditch and the nature of medieval occupation/land-use alongside it
- Identify remains relating to the early post-medieval occupation / land-use, including evidence for the demise of the town enclosure ditch and bank

In the event that significant discoveries were made the report would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and its revision (Medlycott 2011). As concerns urban Anglo-



Saxon, medieval and post-medieval research, the regional framework document aims to lay out a framework to aid “a greater understanding of the social and economic pressures which ensured the success of the urban idea” during the post-Roman period. To this end, a number of research areas have been suggested, including:

- Intensive study of settlement patterns through time
- Spatial analysis of such settlement within a chronological framework
- Assessment of populations and population structure through time
- Comparison of population structures within towns and between towns

The discovery and subsequent recording of the *Magnum Fossatum* within the development site, together with data collected from previously excavated and recorded portions of the ditch, could serve to inform the research questions described above.

### **3.2 Method**

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), and Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all uncovered archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2006). The minimum sample sizes are 50% for self-contained features (e.g. pits and post-holes), and 10% for linear features (e.g. ditches and gullies). Plans are drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Digital colour photographs are taken of significant features and of work in progress. Each context is individually numbered and is recorded on individual pro-forma recording sheets. Modern (i.e. 19th/20th century) deposits and features are not generally investigated, unless it is specifically stipulated in the archaeological brief and the written scheme of investigation.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with a back-acting machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The majority of the archaeological features in both trenches were hand-excavated, planned and recorded. One modern foundation trench and a number of seemingly natural features in Trench 2 were left unexcavated, as was the section of the *Magnum Fossatum* located in Trench 1.

Any finds that were recovered following the trial trenching were collected for the purposes of report compilation; these will not however be retained for future study. Environmental/bulk soil sampling was not undertaken in this instance, as appropriate deposits were not uncovered.

#### **4.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

Excavation of the two trenches exposed a sequence of layers overlying a number of well-defined features, cut into both re-deposited natural and the degraded upper layers of the natural chalk. As well as a section of the medieval town enclosure ditch uncovered in Trench 1, the trial trenches contained a number of post-medieval and modern features, specifically a pit, a narrow drainage channel and a post-hole in Trench 1, all of which are thought to be post-medieval, and a post-medieval pit, probable natural feature and two modern foundation cuts in Trench 2.

In general the exposed features exhibited good definition on the surface and in section; the drainage channel within Trench 1, however, whilst exhibiting a good degree of legibility on the surface, lost some definition of its edges in section. All of the features in both trenches appeared in good condition, exhibiting a high degree of survival. A moderately high degree of disturbance caused by relatively recent construction work was observable in Trench 2. An assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments was recovered from Trench 1, and a small quantity of animal bone was contained within the pit in Trench 2. The animal bone was not retrieved for study.

Further information on each recorded context and the recovered finds is presented in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

##### **4.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 measured 11.06m in length by 1.3m wide, with a maximum depth of 1.25m, and was placed on a NW-SE alignment across the projected line of the southern arm of the *Magnum Fossatum*, close to the western boundary of the development site, currently a raised, grassed area. A mechanical excavator removed up to 1.25m of overburden to expose natural chalk, in places apparently weathered and degraded, and re-deposited natural, within which a number of archaeological features were noted (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 1). The patches of degraded natural chalk, (009) and (010) were partially removed, and a

box section was dug through the redeposit adjacent to the exposed portion of *Magnum Fossatum*, (012) in order to securely establish the south edge of the ditch.

A layer of very dark brown sandy clay topsoil was removed (001), followed by a layer of subsoil very similar in character (002). Within the south half of the trench, (002) lay directly over degraded natural chalk (009) and (010), and over shallow pit (008) which had been cut through (010) and the natural. The small amount of artefactual evidence recovered came from (002), and consisted of several sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery and glass, and a number of clay pipe stem fragments.

Towards the exposed section of the *Magnum Fossatum* (012), a number of additional layers were visible in section, underlying (002) (Plate 2). They consisted of (003), a dark orangey brown sandy clay containing around 20% chalk inclusions. Underneath (003) was (004), a dark greyish brown sandy clay containing around 1% chalk. (004) overlay the fill of the medieval enclosure ditch (012).

The southern edge of the *Magnum Fossatum* ran across the north end of Trench 1; its northern part extending beyond the limit of excavation, but also being truncated significantly by modern terracing for the adjacent pub car park. Approximately 1.10m of the ditch width was exposed, which displayed a well-defined southern edge following clearance by hand of a localised patch of re-deposited natural sediment (013). Due to slight overcutting of the top of the ditch by the machine, c.0.10m of its upper fill (011) was visible in section (Figure 3, Plate 3). (011) consisted of a dark orangey brown sandy clay exhibiting sparse charcoal flecking and a low (1%) chalk content (Plate 4). No finds were recovered from this fill, and no further excavation of the ditch took place.

To the south of the ditch, a linear feature was observed to extend east-west across the width of Trench 1. The feature, (029), measured approximately 0.10m in width, and appeared to have been cut into (013). Although this channel or gully was not well-defined in section, the surviving feature was c.0.08m deep, up to 0.20m wide, and filled with a mid to dark orangey brown sandy clay with around 5% chalk (028). No finds were recovered from the fill.

Further south of (029) was post-hole (015); the NE half of which extended beyond the limit of the trench. It survived to a depth of 0.22m, was flat-based, and was filled with a dark reddish brown sandy clay with around 20% chalk (14) (Figure 3; Plate 5).

Towards the south end of Trench 1 part of a circular pit, (008) was uncovered, extending beyond the western trench limit (Figure 3, Plate 6). (008) had steeply sloping sides and a relatively level base, measuring 0.45m in depth with a diameter of 0.62m (Figure 3). It contained three separate fills. Uppermost fill (005) consisted of a dark reddish brown sandy clay containing red brick fragments, around 5% chalk, and sparse charcoal flecking. (005) overlay (006), a mid to light orangey brown sandy clay, again with an approximately 5% chalk content and occasional charcoal flecking, which otherwise appeared similar to the chalk and sand re-deposits it had been cut through, i.e. (010). Basal fill (007) consisted of a dark orangey brown sandy clay with a lower chalk content than the two upper fills, at around 1%. No finds were recovered from (008).

#### **4.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 measured 14.69m in length by 1.3m wide, and extended NE-SW across the footprint of the proposed new-build within the southern part of the development site. Due to variations in the existing ground level, the depth of Trench 2 varied from 0.2m to 1.2m. Up to 1.2m of overburden was removed mechanically from Trench 2 to expose undisturbed, natural chalk, two possibly archaeological features, and irregular patches of a bright orange sand (Figure 2; Plate 7). Initially a number of these sandy features were thought to be archaeological; they were later proven natural.

A layer of very dark brown sandy clay topsoil, (016), was removed followed by a layer of dark greyish brown sandy clay, (017), very similar in consistency to (016). (016) and (017) are respectively the equivalent of (001) and (002) in trench 1. Underlying (017) at the west end of the trench was (018), a dark reddish brown sandy clay, and (019), a bright orangey brown sandy clay. (018) and (019) overlay natural chalk. At the centre of Trench 2, the topsoil (016) directly overlay the natural chalk. At the east end of the trench, where the surface of the natural chalk sloped downwards, (016) overlay (024) and (023). (024) consisted of a shallow layer of dark orangey brown sandy clay, and (023) was a dark greyish brown sandy clay. (023) appeared very similar to the subsoil (017), and contained within it a lens of bright orangey brown, chalky sandy clay, very similar to the re-deposited natural layer (013). The topsoil (016) and subsoil layers (017), (023) and (024) all contained varying quantities of red brick, and appeared to have been much disturbed by construction activity (Figure 3; Plate 8).

Trench 2 contained only one feature of a definite archaeological nature, pit (022), which underlay the subsoil layer (017) (Figure 2; Plate 9). Pit (022) had steeply sloping sides and a level base, and contained two fills (Figure 3). Basal fill (021) appeared to consist of re-deposited natural, a light to mid orangey brown sandy clay, with some occasional charcoal

flecking, and a chalk content of around 20%. Above, (021) upper fill (020) was a dark reddish brown sandy clay, containing a substantial amount of 20th century red brick, and a number of animal bones.

As previously mentioned, Trench 2 contained a number of patches of bright orange sand, one of which was approximately rectangular in plan and appeared to be a possible cut, (027). It had a maximum depth of 0.12m, and was filled with the bright orange sand, (026), visible in patches along the floor of the trench. The base was uneven, and although (027) appeared to adjoin pit (022), it is likely to be a natural. Two of the remaining sand-filled features were investigated; both displayed irregular and uneven bases, and no distinct shape in plan and are unlikely to have been archaeological in nature.

The east end of Trench 2 contained two rectangular foundation cuts, (031) and (033), which appeared modern. (031) was filled with a very dark brown sandy clay (032), very similar to the topsoil layer, and containing a substantial amount of modern red brick, confirming its recent date. No further investigation of the foundation cuts took place.

## **5.0 FINDS**

A total of five sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery, one piece of glass, and ten fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from one context in Trench 1, the subsoil layer (002). (020), the upper fill of Pit (022) was observed to contain a small quantity of animal bone; this was not however retained for study.

### **5.1 Pottery**

Five sherds of pottery were recovered from subsoil layer (002) in Trench 1. All of the material is late 19th to early 20th century date. This small assemblage includes fragments of stoneware jars, glazed red earthenware, and both plain white and blue-and-white-patterned china.

### **5.2 Glass**

A single sherd of green glass was recovered from Trench 1, context (002). The thick-walled fragment appears to have come from a cylindrical bottle, probably for wine or beer, and is likely to be Victorian in date.

### 5.3 Clay Pipe

A total of ten fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from Trench 1, context (002), none of which can be closely dated. All are plain, the longest fragment being 113mm.

### 5.4 Comments on the assemblage

The finds assemblage recovered from the trenches consists of what is almost certainly 19th to 20th century waste from the public house. None of this material is particularly significant or informative and will be discarded following study.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological site evaluation was undertaken with the specific aim of identifying any surviving remains relating to the medieval town enclosure ditch, to the nature of medieval land occupation and land use alongside it, and to the early post-medieval occupation of the site, including the demise of the town enclosure ditch and bank. The trenching located the *Magnum Fossatum*, which had been projected to extend approximately E-W across the development site, and has identified a number of additional post-medieval and modern features as well. This portion of the medieval ditch therefore represents the only unequivocal evidence of medieval activity within the development site, as the remaining features uncovered have not produced any dateable material, but are likely to belong to the post-medieval period, as are the overlying layers.

The trial-trenching has demonstrated that the southern edge of the enclosure ditch survives within the raised area of garden alongside the pub, though the remainder of its width has been truncated and largely removed to the north by modern terracing into the natural slope to create the car park area. The previous excavations to either side of the development site have established the full width of the ditch to be c.4m and depth to be c.2.0m. Although significantly truncated, it is possible that a further part of the medieval ditch will survive below the tarmac surface of the current car park area; albeit limited only to its base and lowest fills.

The upper fill (011) appears to extend southwards beyond the edge of the ditch, partially overlying the layer of re-deposited natural (013). This is likely to have occurred during the 17th century, when the ditch is thought to have been back-filled, most likely with the material forming the associated bank. Overlying layers (003) and (004) may also relate to the in-filling of the remnants of the ditch, and to subsequent landscaping/raising of the ground level around the same time.

While no other medieval remains have been identified, the various other discrete features recorded within the two trial trenches would appear to evidence activity immediately outside the town enclosure during the post-medieval period. These lack reliable dating evidence, though stratigraphic relationships, the presence of brick fragments and flecks, and the general nature of their dark soil fills, suggests that most, if not all are relatively late.

In overview, the archaeological features uncovered within the development site illustrate mainly post-medieval to modern activity immediately south (outside) of the *Magnum Fossatum*. The assemblage of finds recovered from Trench 1 almost certainly represents 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century waste from the former public house, whilst the modern foundation cuts within Trench 2 are likely to be associated with relatively recent construction and/or landscaping works within the gardens of the public house. No medieval activity, other than the creation of the *Magnum Fossatum* itself was observable following the trial trenching, which may suggest that the majority of activity during the medieval period would have taken place within the area bounded by the *Magnum Fossatum*.

As the projected course of the medieval town ditch has been confirmed (Figure 4), it is likely that further investigative works will be required at least in this area of the site prior to, or during, commencement of the proposed development.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Description	Period
001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark blackish brown, moderately loose and damp, sandy clay. Same as (016). 0.55m max. depth	Modern
002	Layer	Dark greyish brown, moderately loose and damp sandy clay. Same as (017). 0.70m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
003	Layer	Dark orangey brown, moderately loose, coarse and dry sandy clay. 0.27m max. depth	Post-medieval
004	Layer	Dark greyish brown, moderately compact, coarse and damp sandy clay. 0.29m max. depth	Post-medieval
005	Fill	Dark orange/reddish brown, moderately compact, friable and damp sandy clay. Fill of (008). 0.28m max. depth	Post-medieval
006	Fill	Mid to light orangey brown, moderately loose, dry, friable sandy clay. Fill of (008). 0.15m max. depth	Post-medieval
007	Fill	Dark orangey brown, moderately loose, dry, friable sandy clay. Fill of (008). 0.12m max. depth	Post-medieval
008	Pit	Approximately circular pit projecting from W face of Trench 1, sharp break of slope at top, relatively steep sides, gradual break of slope at base, good definition of edges. Filled by (005), (006) and (007). 1.02m N-S by 0.26m E-W by 0.45m max depth	Post-medieval
009	Layer	Dark orangey brown, moderately compact, damp, sandy clay. Same as (010). 0.23m max. depth	Post-medieval
010	Layer	Dark orangey brown, moderately compact, damp, sandy clay. Same as (009). 0.25m max. depth	Post-medieval
011	Fill	Dark orangey brown, moderately compact, damp sandy clay. Uppermost fill of (012). Uncertain depth.	Post-medieval
012	Ditch	<i>Magnum Fossatum</i> . Small rectangular portion exposed, not excavated. Filled by (011)	Medieval
013	Layer	Light orangey brown, compact, friable, dry sandy clay mottled with chalk (approximately 70%). Re-deposited natural. 0.11m max. depth	Post-medieval
014	Fill	Dark reddish brown, moderately loose, friable, damp sandy clay. Fill of (015). 0.23m max. depth	Post-medieval
015	Post-hole	Approximately circular post-hole projecting from E face of Trench 1. Gradual break of slope at top N, sharp break of slope at top S, very steep, almost vertical sides, gradual break of slope at base, level base. Filled by (014). 0.23m max. depth	Post-medieval
016	Layer	Topsoil. Dark blackish brown, moderately loose, damp, sandy clay. Same as (001). 0.42m max. depth	Modern
017	Layer	Dark greyish brown, moderately loose and damp sandy clay. Same as (002). 0.54m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
018	Layer	Dark reddish brown, moderately compact, friable, damp, sandy clay. 0.45m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
019	Layer	Bright orangey brown, moderately compact, friable, damp, sandy clay. 0.16m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
020	Fill	Dark reddish brown, moderately compact, damp sandy clay. Fill of (022). 0.49m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
021	Fill	Mid to light orangey brown, moderately compact, friable, dry sandy clay. Very similar to natural. Fill of (022). 0.45m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
022	Pit	Approximately circular pit projecting from N wall of Trench 2. 25% excavated. Gradual break of slope at top E, steeply sloping E side, gradual break of slope at base E, level base. Good definition of edges. Filled by (020) and (021). 0.91m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
023	Layer	Dark greyish brown, moderately compact, damp sandy clay. 0.40m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
024	Layer	Dark orangey brown, moderately compact, friable, damp sandy clay. 0.05m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern
025	Lens	Bright orangey brown, moderately compact, friable sandy clay. High chalk content, approximately 50%. 0.10m max. depth	Post-medieval to modern

Context	Type	Description	Period
026	Fill	Bright orange, loose, damp sand. Appears natural as similar to other natural pockets of sand within Trench 2. Fill of (027). 0.12m max. depth	Natural
027	Probable natural feature	Irregular in plan, probably natural pocket of sand. Uneven base. 0.12m max. depth	Natural
028	Fill	Mid to dark orangey brown, moderately compact, damp sandy clay. Fill of (029). 0.08m max. depth	Post-medieval
029	Drain	Linear feature, probable drain extending NE-SE across Trench 1. Uncertain edge in section. Gradual break of slope at base, steeply sloping sides, moderately level base. 0.10m in width at top, appears 0.13m in width at base. 0.08m max depth	Post-medieval

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
(002)	-	5	66	Pottery: body sherds	19-20th cent
(002)	-	1	46	Glass: green cylindrical bottle sherd	Post-medieval
(002)	-	10	34	Clay pipe stem	Post-medieval

## APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

**Site Name:** *Former Sun Public House Site, Gold St, Saffron Walden*

**Site Code:** SW60

### Index to Archive:

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

#### 2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 CD-Rom (containing digital client report, photos, scheme plans, etc)

#### 3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 24)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 1 x blue Section Sheet
- 3.6 2 Trench Record Sheets
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 set of colour prints, colour contact prints + digital images on CD)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

#### Not in File

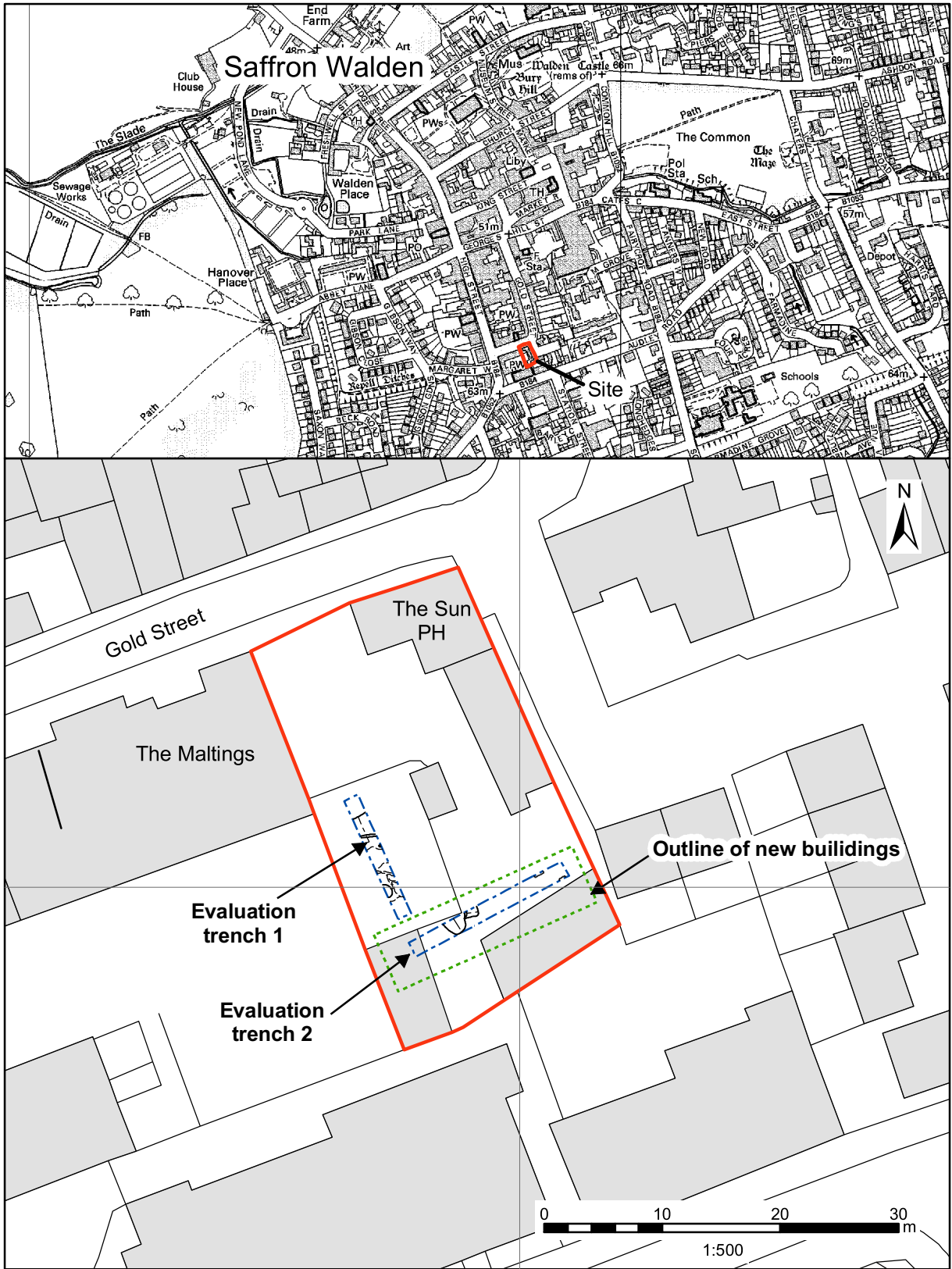
2 large plan sheets

#### Finds

All finds have been discarded.

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

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Former Sun Public House, Gold St, Saffron Walden	
<b>Parishes:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 53797 38236	<b>Site Code:</b> SW60
<b>Type of Work:</b> Trial Trenching Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> F. Moore, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 14th to 20th November 2012	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 33.48sq m of 700 sq m site area
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> Yes	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> 446, 447
<b>Final Report:</b> Essex Archaeology & History (Summary)	<b>Oasis No.:</b> 138405
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Trial trenching was undertaken at the site of the former Sun public house, Gold Street, Saffron Walden, in advance of development. One of the principal aims of the trial trenching was to locate a portion of the southern arm of the medieval town ditch, or <i>Magnum Fossatum</i>, postulated to extend east-west through the development site. An additional aim was to investigate any medieval or early post-medieval activity within the immediate environs of the <i>Magnum Fossatum</i>.</p> <p>The investigation located the south edge of the <i>Magnum Fossatum</i>, together with a number of later post-medieval/modern features to the south (outside) of the medieval ditch. No medieval features additional to the ditch were uncovered. The north side of the ditch was truncated by modern car park terracing for the pub, though its lower portion may survive below the tarmac surface.</p> <p>The post-medieval remains included two pits, a linear drainage feature, and a post-hole. Modern foundation cuts were also recorded.</p> <p>It is concluded therefore that limited activity took place immediately south of the <i>Magnum Fossatum</i> during the medieval period.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> none	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Fiona Moore	<b>Date of Summary:</b> December 2012



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Fig.1. Site location

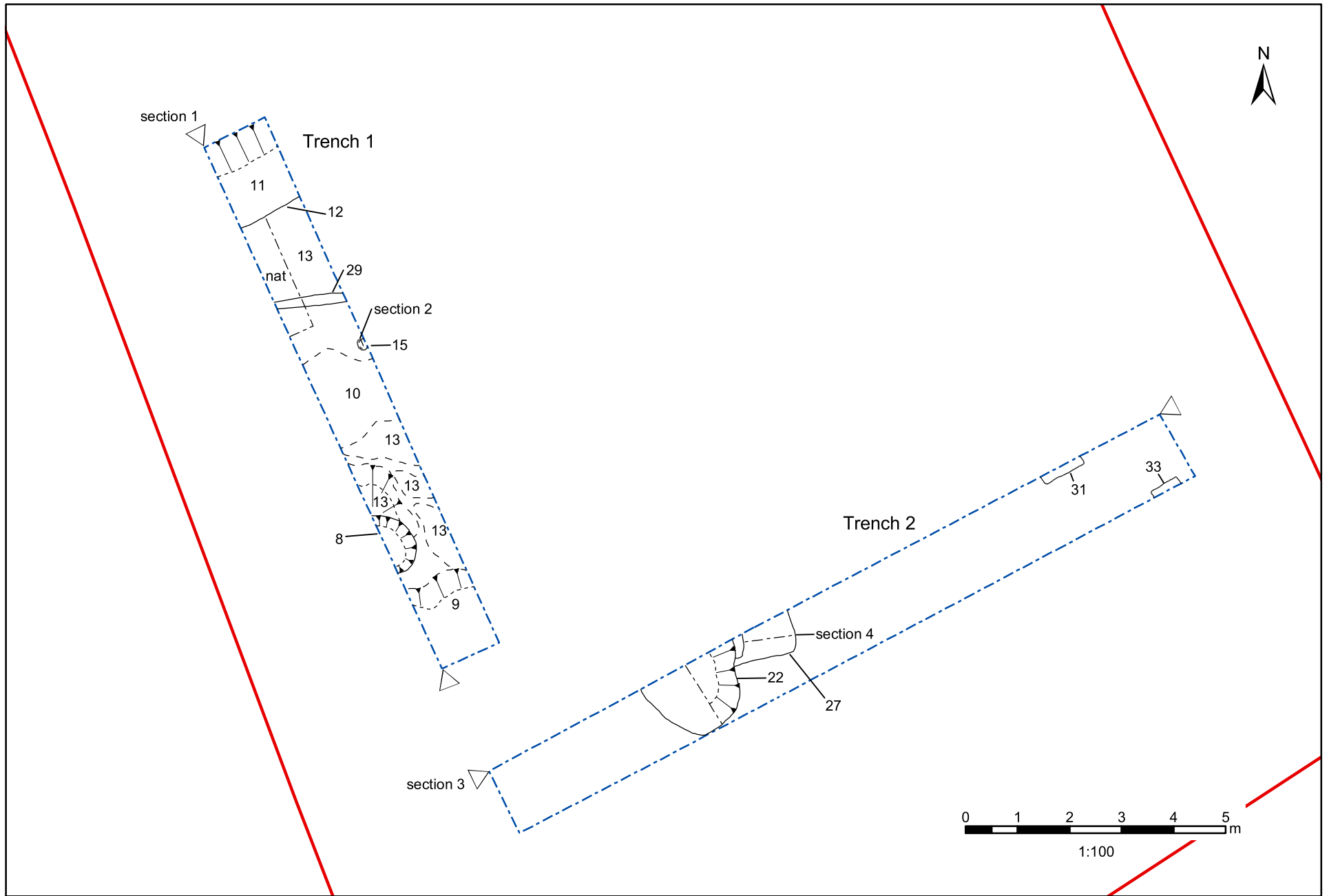


Fig.2. Trenches 1 & 2

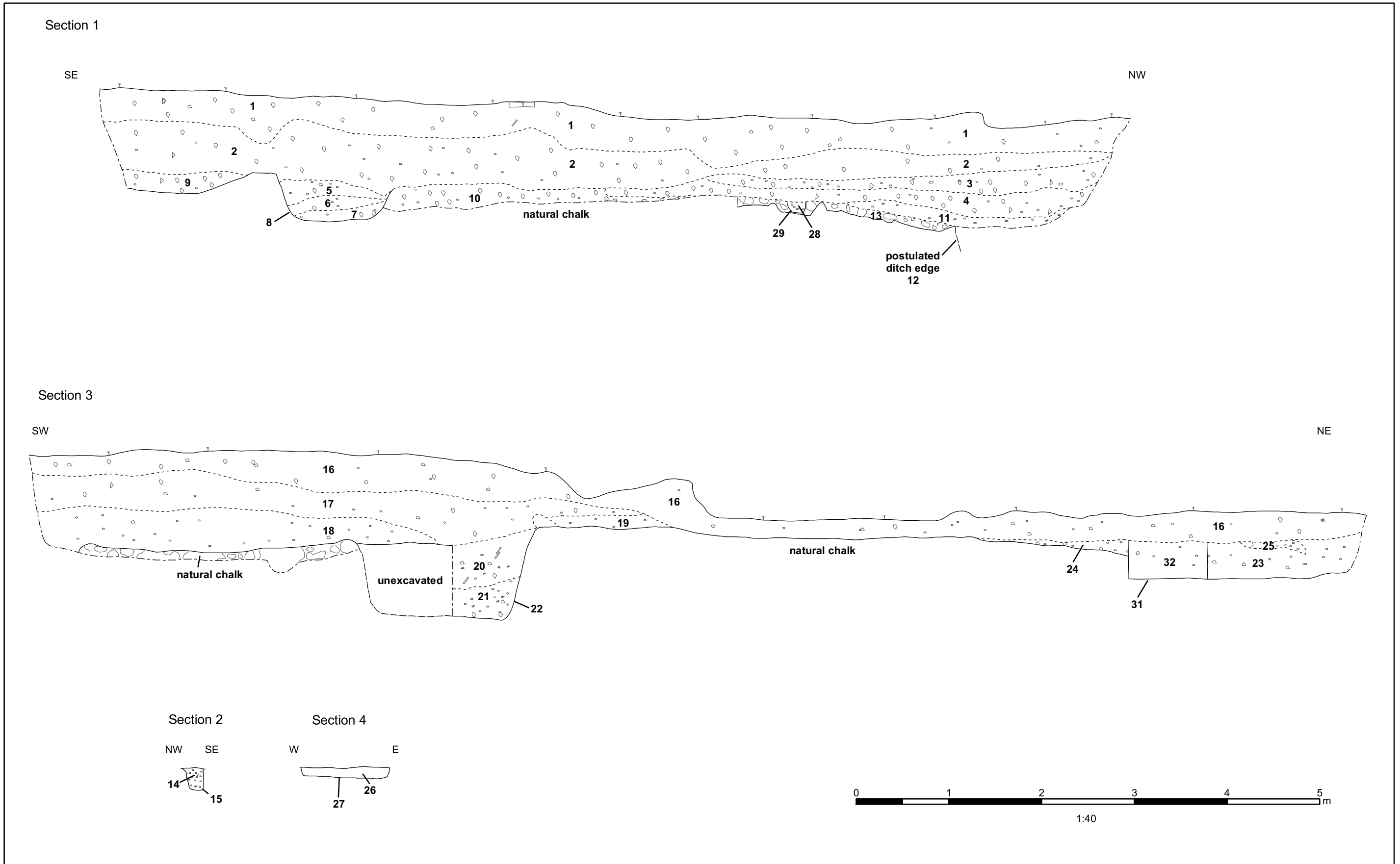


Fig.3. Sections 1 - 4

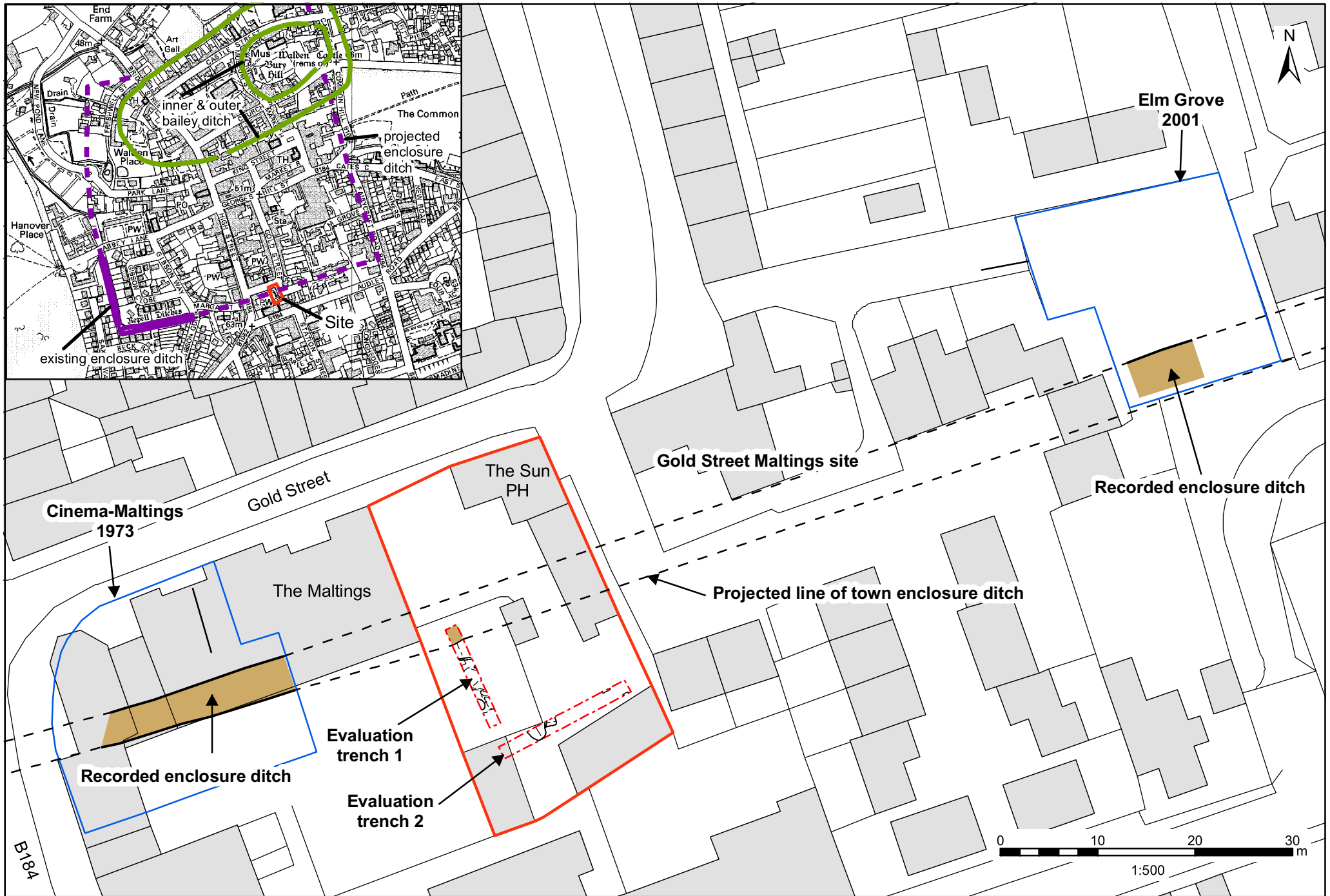


Fig.4. The town enclosure ditch





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking northwest (2m and 1m scale)



Plate 2. Northeast-facing section of Trench 1 (NW end) (2m scale)



Plate 3. Northeast-facing section of Trench 1 (detail of NW end) (2m and 1m scale)



Plate 4. *Magnum Fossatum* (012), looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 5. Post-hole (015), looking northeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Northeast-facing section of Trench 1, showing stratigraphy within and above pit (08) (2m scale)



Plate 7. Trench 2, looking northeast (2m and 1m scale)



Plate 8. Southeast-facing section of Trench 2 (2m and 1m scale)



Plate 9. Pit (022) and possible natural feature (027), looking northeast (1m scale)