

**SAYERS FARM  
HADLEIGH FARM AND COUNTRY PARK  
OLYMPIC LEGACY PROJECT  
CHAPEL LANE, HADLEIGH, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**PROJECT 2669  
FEBRUARY 2013**

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

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**SAYERS FARM  
HADLEIGH FARM AND COUNTRY PARK  
OLYMPIC LEGACY PROJECT  
CHAPEL LANE, HADLEIGH, ESSEX**

**Client: Essex County Council London 2012 Olympic Legacy Team**

**NGR: TQ 8002 8687**

**Site Code: CPSF13**

**Oasis No: 142757**

**Dates of Fieldwork: 29-30<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

## **SUMMARY**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Sayers Farm, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, adjacent to the existing Hadleigh Country Park visitor car park. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new visitor centre. The site comprises a mixture of former farm buildings and business premises with limited areas of open grassland and areas of scrubby woodland.

The site lies approximately 300m to the north of the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, which is a Designated Heritage Asset, while the remains of a Designated Roman fort lie approximately 400m to the east. The site is located within an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation. The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works that took place on site in May 2012 revealed a large quarry pit presumably associated with clay extraction for the brickworks. An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise during the construction of the London 2012 Olympic mountain bike course to the south of the proposed development revealed a number of features associated with the WWII/Cold war military infrastructure.

Three trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Trenches 1 and 2 were located north-east of the farm complex in an area of scrubby woodland and trench 3 was located to the west of the farm house in an area most recently used for car parking during the London 2012 Olympics.

The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features, namely a pit and two gullies, in Trench 1 that collectively suggest the presence of a medieval precursor to the present Sayers Farm. Beyond their practical use for drainage, the exact function of the ditches is difficult to determine; however, pit 1 is likely to be the shallow remains of a refuse pit. All the pottery recovered during the archaeological work could have been current during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, although the abraded surfaces may suggest a degree of residuality.

Trenches 2 and 3 (Fig. 3) did not reveal any features of significant archaeological interest; with trench 2 containing only a modern service. Trench 3 also contained modern services, and the remnants of a linear feature indicated by patchy remains of modern rubble. It ran parallel to the extant ditch east of the trench and may represent a demolished boundary wall associated with Sayers Farm.

Further archaeological investigation may be required in any areas of proposed development on the north side of the Sayers Farm complex, more specifically in the area towards the northeast end of trench 1, where the noteworthy archaeology was revealed. The evaluation suggests that development elsewhere, and particularly in the area of Trench 3, will not have any significant impact on the archaeological record.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on land at Sayers Farm, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, undertaken in connection with proposals for the construction of a new permanent visitor centre and replacement business units as part of the proposed Hadleigh Farm and Country Park Olympic Legacy Project. The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of the Essex County Council London 2012 Olympic Legacy Team, in accordance with a Design Brief issued by ECC Place Services (2013) and a responding Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2013).
- 1.2 Copies of this report will be supplied to the client and ECC Place Services for planning purposes and inclusion in the Essex Historic Environment Record. A summary of the project and a copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS online archaeological record and will be accessible via the Archaeological Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Southend Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Planning background**

2.1.1 Planning application CPT/0310/12/EFU to construct permanent recreational trail facilities at Hadleigh Farm was submitted to Castle Point District Council in 2012. As the site is situated in an area of some archaeological potential, in which important archaeological remains may survive, ECC Place Services recommended that a full archaeological condition be placed on any grant of planning consent, based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework.

2.1.2 The recommendation states that:

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

2.1.3 As a result of this, ECC Place Services prepared a design brief (ECC Place Services 2013) for a trench-based evaluation, which this WSI responds to. Further details concerning the aims and objectives and methodology for the investigation follow below.

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

2.2.1 The proposed development site is located at Sayers Farm, Hadleigh immediately to the southeast of the existing Hadleigh Country Park visitor centre (TQ 8002 8687). The land is currently occupied by former farm buildings, some of which are being used as business premises, areas of grassland and woodland, and a small car park.

2.2.2 The local geology comprises patchy Bagshot Sands and London Clay Formation clays, silts and sands.

### **2.3 Archaeology and History**

2.3.1 The following archaeological background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) and the brief for the site.

2.3.2 The site lies adjacent to the existing Country Park visitor centre, approximately 300m to the north of the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, which is a Designated Asset (Scheduled Monument 23429), while the remains of a

Designated Roman fort lie approximately 400m to the east (Scheduled Monument EX108).

- 2.3.3 The site is located within an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation.
- 2.3.4 The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works that took place on site in May 2012 identified the presence of a large quarry pit, presumably associated with clay extraction for brick-making at the nearby Salvation Army brickworks (ECC FAU 2012a).
- 2.3.5 The area of the Country Park located to the south of the proposed development was the subject of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise during the construction of the London 2012 Olympic mountain bike course (ECC FAU 2011a & b, ECC FAU 2012b), which revealed a number of features associated with the WWII/Cold war military infrastructure/ history of the site.



### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains. This information will be used to inform the necessity for any further work to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological remains that may be present, based upon recommendations from the ECC Place Services historic environment consultant.

3.1.2 Particular attention was paid to:

- Any remains associated with the development of Sayers Farm

3.1.3 In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered this report would have aimed to place the results in context with appropriate research objectives as per those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). While the small scale of the trenches has limited the scope for significant contribution to the regional research agendas/ objectives, it is nonetheless noteworthy that the trenching has suggested an earlier origin for Sayers Farm than previously indicated. In addition, any larger-scale works that follow this evaluation will potentially have greater scope to contribute meaningfully to research agendas/ objectives for the medieval period including:

- What forms do farms take, what range of building types are present and how far can functions be attributed to them?
- The origins and development of the different rural settlement types.

## **4.0 METHOD**

- 4.1 Three evaluation trenches, covering an area of approximately 130 sqm, were excavated in the first instance using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision (Fig 1). Two of the trenches aligned northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast, measured 25m and 35m respectively and were dug in a rough T- shape situated in the northern part of the site. The third trench, aligned northeast-southwest and measuring 35m, was located on grassland in the western part of the site. Further information on the trench co-ordinates, depths, lengths and alignments can be found in appendix 1.
- 4.2 Potential archaeological features were cleaned and at least 50% of each was hand excavated. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with the IfA Code of Conduct and appropriate Standard and Guidance (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

## 5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 5.1 Trench 1 was oriented NE-SW and measured 23m x 1.5m x c.0.5m deep. The overburden comprised a 0.2-0.3m deep layer of dark greyish brown, soft clay silt topsoil. This overlay 0.2-0.3m of mid orangey grey firm silty clay subsoil, from which a single sherd of abraded Mill Green ware (12g) was recovered. This subsoil layer in turn sealed undisturbed natural deposits in the form of a light greyish yellow clay.
- 5.2 Trench 1 contained a number of archaeological features of significance (Fig. 2). Pit 1 and gully 3 were located approximately 6m from the NE end of the trench (Plate 1). Pit 1 was circular in plan and measured 0.96 x 0.92 x 0.16m deep. It had quite shallow sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill of mid brownish grey soft silty clay with occasional small stones. The fill contained 4 sherds of pottery (92g) including a fragment of a medieval coarseware cooking-pot with an upright neck and horizontal flanged rim.
- 5.3 Immediately adjacent to this was gully 3, which was linear in plan and oriented north-west to south-east. It was 0.66m wide and 0.18m deep; 1.5m of its length was exposed. It had moderately steep sides with a concave base and contained a single fill of light yellowish grey soft silty clay with occasional small stones. It contained 3 sherds of pottery (12g), in shell-tempered ware, all possibly belonging to the same vessel.
- 5.4 Approximately 3m SW of gully 3 was ditch 5 (Plate 2). It was slightly curvilinear in plan, oriented roughly E-W and measured 0.84m wide and 0.21m deep, extending 2.4m across the trench. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base and contained a single fill of light yellowish grey soft silty clay with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 5.5 Trench 2 was oriented NW-SE and measured 19.8 x 1.5m with a depth of 0.4m at its SE end and 0.5m at its NW end; the sequence of deposits was the same as in trench 1, with the topsoil measuring 0.2m and the subsoil varying between 0.2 and 0.3m (Fig. 3). The subsoil contained a substantial fragment of pottery (66g), a base sherd from a medieval coarseware cooking pot.
- 5.6 Trench 3 was oriented NE-SW and measured 28.5 x 1.5 x 0.5m (Fig. 3). The overburden in trench 3 differed to that of trenches 1 and 2, at the NE end the ground surface consisted of a dark greyish-brown soft clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions

measuring between 0.35 and 0.4m thick. At the SW end this was overlain by 0.1m of recently deposited stone hard standing. The made ground overlay 0.1-0.15m of mid yellowish grey firm silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay the natural clay deposit, comparable to that exposed in trenches 1 and 2.

- 5.7 Trenches 2 and 3 did not reveal any features of significant archaeological interest; with trench 2 containing only a modern service. Trench 3 also contained modern services, and the remnants of a linear feature indicated by patchy remains of modern rubble. It ran parallel to the extant ditch east of the trench and may represent a demolished boundary wall associated with Sayers Farm.

## **6.0 FINDS & ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL**

### **6.1 Medieval pottery by Helen Walker**

- 6.1.1 A small amount of medieval pottery, nine sherds, weighing 180g, was excavated from four contexts and has been listed and described by context in Appendix 3, following Cunningham's typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985). This total includes one unidentified piece of ceramic material that may not be medieval.
- 6.1.2 One fineware sherd is present, a single abraded example of Mill Green ware from the subsoil in Trench 1. It shows no glaze or decoration and so cannot be assigned a close date; it is most likely to belong to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century but could be as late as the 15<sup>th</sup>. Pit 1 produced sherds of medieval coarseware including a fragment of cooking-pot with an upright neck and horizontal flanged rim (sub-form H1), a type current throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A body sherd decorated with horizontal grooves is also present and one sherd can be identified as an example of Mill Green coarseware. Gully 3 produced three sherds of shell-tempered ware, perhaps all belonging to the same vessel, this type of pottery spans the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, but as the matrix is rather Mill Green-like, it may be a product of that industry and date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.3 The subsoil in Trench 2 produced a further sherd of medieval coarseware, a base sherd showing an internal carbonised deposit. This is probably a cooking residue and the sherd is from a cooking-pot.
- 6.1.4 All the pottery could have been current during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, although the abraded surfaces suggest it could be residual. The presence of Mill Green fine and coarsewares is not unexpected as this ware is common throughout south and central Essex and there was a production site at nearby Rayleigh (Walker 1990).

## **7.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

- 7.1 The evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features in Trench 1 that collectively suggest the presence of a medieval precursor to the present Sayers Farm. Beyond their practical use for drainage, the exact function of the ditches is difficult to determine; however, pit 1 is likely to be the shallow remains of a refuse pit.
- 7.2 All the pottery recovered during the archaeological work could have been current during the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, although the abraded surfaces may suggest a degree of residuality. However, on balance, the relatively large sherd size and the number of pieces recovered from such a comparatively small area may argue against this?
- 7.3 Further archaeological investigation may be required in any areas of proposed development on the north side of the Sayers Farm complex, more specifically in the area towards the northeast end of trench 1, where the noteworthy archaeology was revealed. The evaluation suggests that development elsewhere, and particularly in the area of Trench 3, will not have any significant impact on the archaeological record.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ECC FAU would like to thank Essex County Council London 2012 Olympic Legacy Team for commissioning the work. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Adam Dyson (site supervisor) and Lukasz Miciak. The report was prepared by Adam Dyson and Adrian Scruby with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Helen Saunders and Adrian Gascoyne of ECC Place Services.

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- ECC FAU 2011b *London 2012 Olympic Games Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Country Park, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring of Trenching for OpenReach Cable Ducts*, ECC FAU rep. 2428
- ECC FAU 2012a *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at the Proposed Hadleigh London 2012 Olympic Legacy Visitor Centre*, ECC FAU rep. 2575
- ECC FAU 2012b *London 2012 Olympic Games Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Country Park, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording including Scheduled Monument Consent Compliance Monitoring*, ECC FAU rep. 2556
- ECC FAU 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at Hadleigh Farm, Hadleigh, Essex*
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14*
- IfA 2008 *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*



IfA	2010	<i>Code of Conduct</i>
Medlycott, M.	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24
Walker, H.	1990	'Pottery from a possible late medieval kiln dump at 77 High Road, Rayleigh', <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> <b>21</b> , 92 - 102

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

All dimensions given in metres

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Measurements</b>	<b>Co-ordinates (end, centre)</b>
1	23m x 1.5m x c.0.5m, oriented NE-SW	X = 580168 Y = 186927 X = 580159 Y = 186906
2	19.8 x 1.5m x 0.4m, orientated NW-SE	X = 580151 Y = 186903 X = 580167 Y = 186891
3	28.5 x 1.5 x 0.5m, oriented NE-SW	X = 580088 Y = 186868 X = 580075 Y = 186843

## Appendix 2

### Medieval pottery data

<i>Context</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
TT1	subsoil	1	13	Mill Green fineware: abraded and unglazed	Mid 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> C
TT1 (2)	Pit 1	2	66	Medieval coarseware: oxidised fabric; H1 rim with internal thickening and body sherd showing horizontal grooves; both abraded	13 <sup>th</sup> C
		1	15	Mill Green coarseware: abraded body sherd	Mid 13 <sup>th</sup> to mid 14 <sup>th</sup> C
		1	9	Unidentified ceramic, abraded no surfaces	-
TT1 (4)	Gully 3	3	14	Shell-tempered ware: body sherds perhaps all from the same vessel, some abrasion	12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> C
TT2	Subsoil	1	63	Medieval coarseware: sherd from sagging base of ?cooking pot showing internal carbonised residual	Most likely 13 <sup>th</sup> C
		<b>9</b>	<b>180</b>		

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

**Site Name: SAYERS FARM, HADLEIGH FARM AND COUNTRY PARK, OLYMPIC  
LEGACY PROJECT, CHAPEL LANE, HADLEIGH, ESSEX**

**Site Code: CPSF13**

### **Index to Archive:**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

**2. Research Archive**

2.1 Client Report

**3. Site Archive**

3.1 Trench recording sheet (x3)

3.2 Photographic Register

3.3 Site Photographic Record (prints of digital images)

3.4 Miscellaneous notes/plans

**Not in File**

1 large plan/section sheets

**4. Finds**

4.1 Nine sherds of medieval pottery (N.B the finds occupy less than 1 box)

## APPENDIX 4

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Sayers Farm, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Hadleigh	<b>District:</b> Castle Point
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 8002 8687	<b>Site Code:</b> CPSF13
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Adam Dyson Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 29-30/01/2013	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c. 107 sq. m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Southend Museum	<b>Client:</b> London 2012 Olympic Legacy Team at Essex County Council
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> TBC	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> HER 46850
<b>Final Report:</b> HER summary	<b>Oasis No.:</b> essexcou1- 142757
<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Sayers Farm, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, adjacent to the existing Hadleigh Country Park visitor car park. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new visitor centre. The site comprises a mixture of former farm buildings and business premises with limited areas of open grassland and areas of scrubby woodland.</p> <p>The site lies approximately 300m to the north of the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, which is a Designated Heritage Asset, while the remains of a Designated Roman fort lie approximately 400m to the east. The site is located within an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation. The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works that took place on site in May 2012 revealed a large quarry pit presumably associated with clay extraction for the brickworks. An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise during the construction of the London 2012 Olympic mountain bike course to the south of the proposed development revealed a number of features associated with the WWII/Cold war military infrastructure.</p>	

Three trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Trenches 1 and 2 were located north-east of the farm complex in an area of scrubby woodland and trench 3 was located to the west of the farm house in an area most recently used for car parking during the London 2012 Olympics.

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Trenches 2 and 3 (Fig. 3) did not reveal any features of significant archaeological interest; with trench 2 containing only a modern service. Trench 3 also contained modern services, and the remnants of a linear feature indicated by patchy remains of modern rubble. It ran parallel to the extant ditch east of the trench and may represent a demolished boundary wall associated with Sayers Farm.

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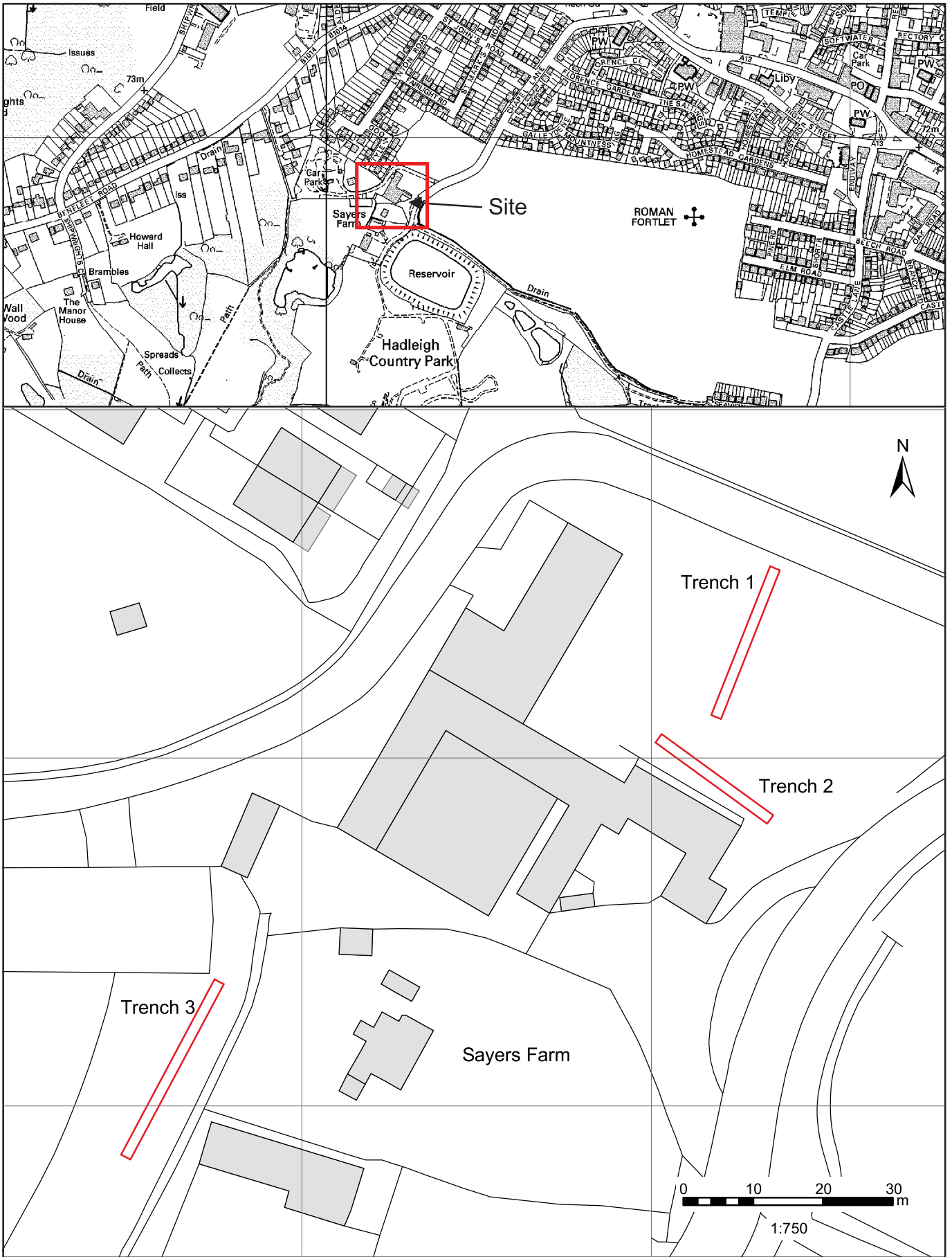
***Previous Summaries/Reports:***

Miciak, L. 2012: *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at the Proposed Hadleigh London 2012 Olympic Legacy Visitor Centre*, ECC FAU rep. 2575 (Oasis No: essexcou1-124718)

***Author of Summary:*** Adam Dyson

***Date of Summary:*** February 2013





580100

580150

186950

186900

186850

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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches



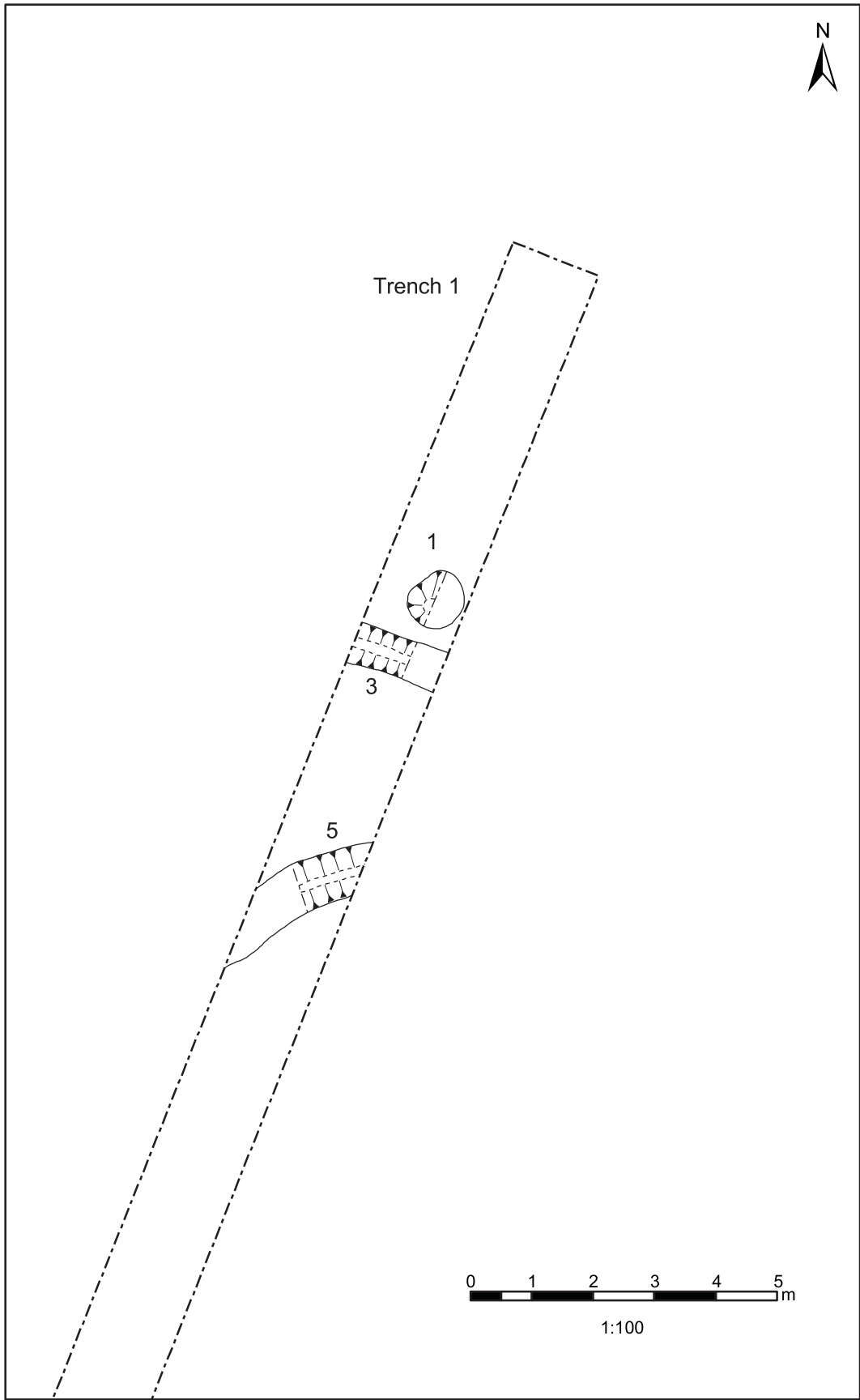


Fig.2. Trench 1

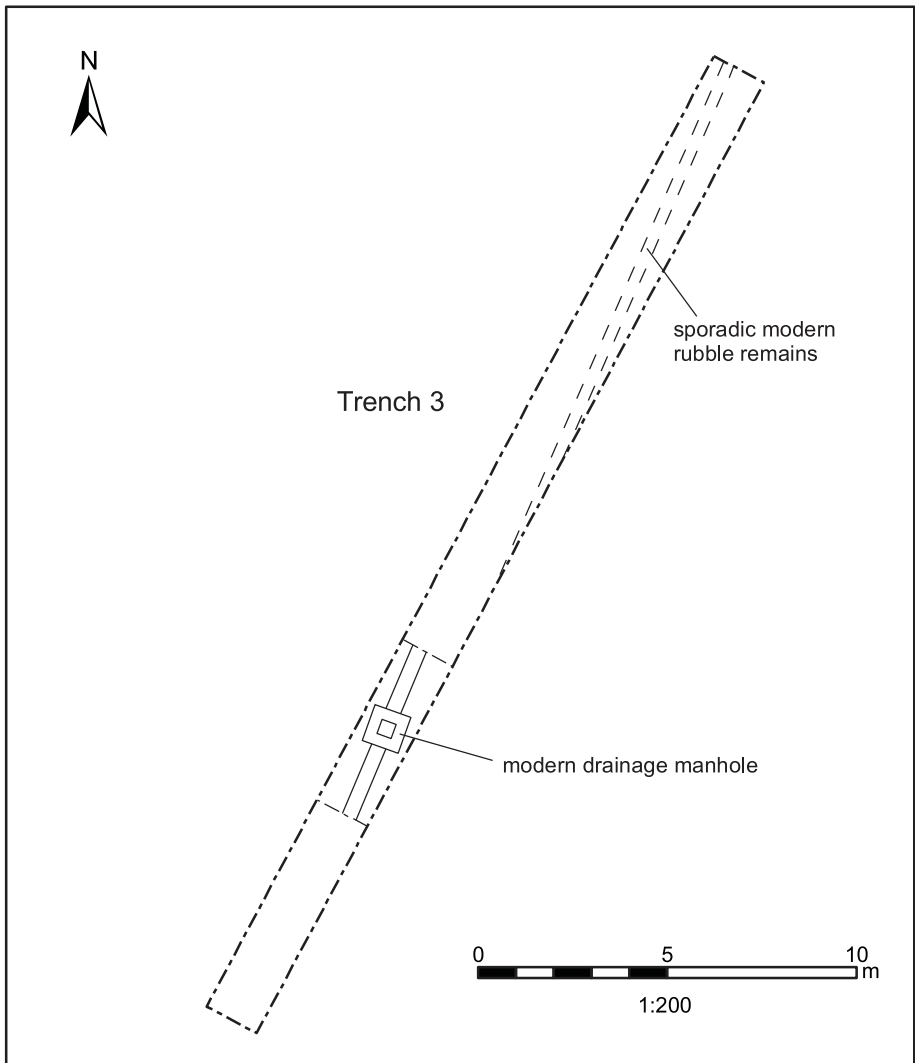
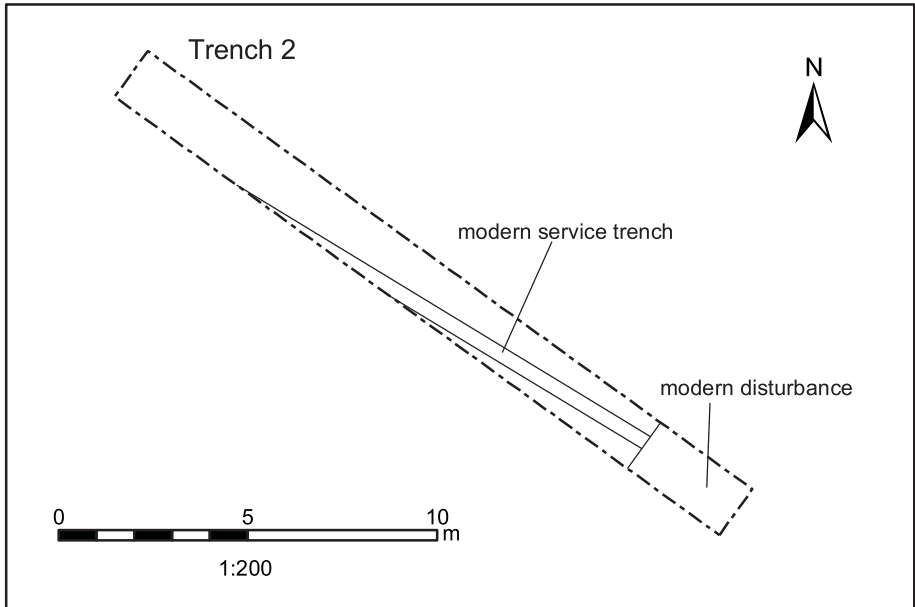


Fig.3. Trenches 2 & 3



Plate 1: Pit 1 and Gully 3, looking SE (1m scale)



Plate 2: Ditch 5, looking W (1m scale)