1586

PROCESSING PLANT

FAULKBOURNE FARM

CRESSING ROAD

WITHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION

Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

July 2006

PROCESSING PLANT

FAULKBOURNE FARM

CRESSING ROAD, WITHAM

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION

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CONTENTS

APPENDICES

FIGURES

PLATES

PROCESSING PLANT
FAULKBOURNE FARM
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WITHAM, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION

Client: D.K. Symes Associates
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SUMMARY

Archaeological trial trenching and subsequent excavation were undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a sand and gravel processing plant at Faulkbourne Farm, Witham. The archaeological fieldwork found prehistoric worked flint, Middle Iron Age features and finds, a small amount of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, and two post-medieval/modern field ditches. The Middle Iron Age features and finds lay dispersed in two separate areas; the features comprised pits and post-holes, and the finds worked and burnt flint, pottery and animal bone. It is conjectured that the remains of a Middle Iron Age settlement lie either within or in the vicinity of the proposed area for development. The Late Iron Age/Roman pottery was small in quantity and was found in a ditch, which must have been Late Iron Age/Roman or later. The post-medieval/modern field ditches are recorded on modern mapping, and are not archaeologically significant. The results of the archaeological fieldwork suggest that for much of its history, the proposed site for the processing plant was used as woodland/scrub or for pasture or for the growing of crops. It is unlikely that the proposed development area contains extensive or significant archaeological remains.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

D.K. Symes Associates, on behalf of Sewells Reservoir Construction Limited, commissioned Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) to undertake archaeological fieldwork in advance of the proposed construction of a sand and gravel processing plant at Faulkbourne Farm, Witham. The fieldwork comprised a trial trenching evaluation and a subsequent small excavation. The archaeological work was requested and monitored by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM). All works were carried out in accordance with an archaeological brief and a written scheme of investigation (ECC HEM 2006; ECC FAU 2006).

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, to ECC HEM, and to the Essex Environment Record. A copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS online archaeological record (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis). The site archive will be held at Braintree Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and description

The site lies in a rural setting between Cressing Temple and Witham (Fig. 1). It covers 6.5ha and occupies the northern two thirds of a large arable field. The ongoing construction site for an agricultural reservoir is in the field to immediate west. To the west of that are the River Brain and the B1018 from Braintree to Witham. The site falls at a gentle rate towards the road and the river and is part of the Brain Valley.

2.2 Geology

The geology comprises Boulder Clay on top of sand and gravel. The topsoil is 0.3m to 0.4m thick.

2.3 Archaeological background

The field to the immediate west, which is now the construction site for an agricultural reservoir, was archaeologically fieldwalked and trial trenched in 2000 and 2002 respectively (Gibson 2001; Barker 2002). The fieldwalking found very little, apart from a thin spread of burnt flint. The trial trenching investigated the spread of burnt flint and found a small quantity of sub-surface prehistoric and medieval features and

finds. The prehistoric features were poorly preserved and not closely datable. The medieval features lay apart from the prehistoric remains and comprised a well and 13th-century pottery. Alongside the well were an undatable hearth and ditches.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the trial trenching was to record the location, extent, date and character of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

The objectives of the trial trenching were:

- to establish how the site has been used in the past and to determine the extent and the duration of that previous activity
- to carry out an assessment of the ecofactual and environmental evidence from the archaeological deposits and features
- to use the information obtained by the trial trenching to inform future excavation strategy, if required
- to disseminate the results of the work to interested parties (subject to any confidentiality restrictions)

The excavation took place following the discovery of Middle Iron Age features and finds. The objectives of the excavation were therefore:

- to ascertain the context of the Middle Iron Age features and finds

4.0 METHOD

The trial-trenching consisted of thirty-five trenches (Fig. 2, trenches 1 to 35). Trenches 33 to 35 were supplementary and were dug at the request of ECC HEM following the discovery of archaeological finds and features in trenches 6, 7 and 26.

The excavation comprised a 20m by 20m open area (Fig. 3, trench 36) at the east end of trench 26. This was also requested by ECC HEM and was undertaken as an immediate follow-on of the trial trenching, hence the production of a single report for both phases of fieldwork.

Topsoil was stripped by using a tracked excavator with a broad toothless bucket. The trial trenches and the excavation area sampled 4% of the development area.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all uncovered archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2003). 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. Black and white prints and colour transparencies are taken of significant features and of work in progress. Each context is recorded on individual pro-forma sheets. The work is undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1999), and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officer's *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 trenches were located by using a differential GPS with onboard map-based software. The error margin of the GPS varies, but is always less than 0.5m.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 Summary

The trial-trenching revealed archaeological features and finds in trenches 6, 7, 26, 33 and 36, and post-medieval/modern field ditches in trenches 15, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 36. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found in trenches 1 to 5, 8 to 14, 16 to 19, 21 to 24, 27, 30 to 32, and 34 to 35. The archaeological features lay directly below topsoil and cut the underlying Boulder Clay. They were easy to identify and comprised pits, post-holes, gullies and ditches. The fieldwork found no archaeological layers and modern ploughing had ensured that all of the archaeological features had been truncated by roughly 0.3m. The field ditches (70 and 71) are recorded by the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions of the Ordnance Survey, and were not further investigated. The pre-modern features were present in two separate areas, one centred on trenches 6, 7, 33 and 34, and one on trenches 26, 35 and 36 (Figs 2 and 3). Appendices 1 and 2 at the back of this report list the locations and the dimensions of the trenches, and the archaeological deposits and features.

5.2 Trench 6

Trench 6 partly exposed a large rounded pit (10) (Fig. 2), measuring 1.54m wide and 0.38m deep. The pit contained three deposits and Middle Iron Age pottery. It also contained sheep/goat and cattle bones and infrequent pieces of baked clay and worked and burnt flint. The majority of the finds were in the topmost deposit.

5.3 Trench 7

An elongated pit (14) extended into trench 7 (Fig. 2). It measured 0.77m wide, 0.25m deep and over 0.85m long. The pit contained two deposits and worked and burnt flint and Middle Iron Age pottery. There were no finds in the primary fill.

5.4 Trench 26

At the east end of trench 26 were a sub-rectangular, steep-sided, pit (12) and part of a gully (74) (Fig. 3).

The pit was 0.9m long, 0.8m wide and 0.48m deep. It contained two deposits, cattle bone, baked clay, worked and burnt flint, and a large quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery. The topmost deposit filled most of the pit and contained most of the finds.

The gully was investigated in its entirety when it was fully exposed in trench 36 (see 5.6 below).

5.5 Trench 33

Trench 33 was an extension to trench 6 and revealed part of an elongated, slightly curved pit (18) (Fig. 2). The pit measured 0.44m wide, 0.21m deep and at least 0.87m long. In the topmost of its two deposits were burnt flint and a small amount of Middle Iron Age pottery. No finds were found in the primary fill.

5.6 Trench 36 (area excavation)

The area excavation exposed one ditch (73), two gullies (48 and 74), two pits (40 and 50), five post-holes (27, 31, 37, 63 and 65), one modern field ditch (71) and one area of disturbed ground (72) (Fig. 3). Many of the features were similarly aligned (12, 71, 73, 74 and a conjectured line between 31 and 37). The disturbed ground comprised loose/un-compacted Boulder Clay.

Ditch 73 was excavated in five locations (34, 42, 52, 57 and 67). It was between 0.50m and 0.56m deep and had moderate-sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 4).

Each of the segments contained three or four fills. In three of the segments (34, 52 and 57), most of the fills lay slumped against the south-west side of the cut. Between them, the segments produced a small amount of residual Middle Iron Age pottery and ten pieces of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. All the sherds were small and abraded.

Gullies 48 and 74 occurred in the south-west and north-west parts of the trench respectively. Gully 48 was not on the same alignment as the other linear features. It cut pit 50 and was cut by modern field ditch 71. It contained one deposit, twenty-four pieces of Middle Iron Age pottery and a small amount of worked and burnt flint. Gully 74 became narrower and shallower towards its two ends, probably due to uneven truncation. In the single fill of the feature were an Early Neolithic flint blade, and one small sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery. Both features contained one fill apiece and were approximately 0.14m deep.

Pits 40 and 50 lay at the north and south ends of the site respectively. Pit 40 was cut by ditch 73 and pit 50 by gully 48. Both pits had single fills and concave profiles. Pit 50 contained four small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and was 0.45m deep. Pit 40 was 0.15m deep, and contained two small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Post-holes 31 and 37 lay alongside ditch 73 and appeared to be paired. Both were just over 0.4m deep and had steep-sided profiles. One fill occurred in post-hole 37 and two in post-hole 31. On the surface of post-hole 31 lay a small iron object and three fragments of baked clay. Post-hole 37 contained forty small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Post-holes 27, 63 and 65, in the middle of the trench, held one fill apiece and were less than 0.1m deep. Post-holes 63 and 65 contained frequent flecks of charcoal, but no finds. In post-hole 27 were a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint blade and frequent medium-sized stones.

6.0 **FINDS**, by Joyce Compton

6.1 Summary

Small groups of finds were recovered from a total of twenty-three contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details

can be found in appendix 3. The assemblage mainly comprises pottery, amounting to 536 sherds, weighing 2245g, recovered from twenty contexts. Most of the pottery is prehistoric and this is highly fragmented, although most appears to be in its original place of deposition. Later pottery, flints, baked clay and animal bone were also recorded. Fragments of natural stone were collected from four contexts and part of an iron object, in good condition, was recovered from the surface of post-hole 31. This is likely to be of recent date. The finds are described by category below.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery, by Nick Lavender

The excavation and the evaluation, which preceded it, produced a total of 526 sherds (2191g) of prehistoric pottery from eighteen contexts. The pottery was recorded according to a system devised for prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988, details in archive). The pottery was recorded by fabric, class (after Barratt 1980), form, decoration, surface treatment and condition. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight. Eight fabrics were recorded, full details can be found in the archive.

The range of fabrics can be broadly separated into flint-tempered (58% by sherd count) and sand-tempered (37%). The pottery is fragmentary (average sherd weight 4g) and much of it is abraded. Diagnostic sherds are not common, although there are a number of rim sherds. Generally, these are too small to estimate the rim diameter and are not accompanied by sherds from the necks and shoulders of the vessel. Most are flat-topped and everted; rounded, slightly everted rims were recovered from fill 13 of pit 12. Internally bevelled rims were recovered from context 11 of pit 10 (two different vessels) and possibly from fill 21 of the same pit, though this last is too small to be sure. Bases are uncommon and generally flat. Two non-joining sherds from fill 15 of pit 14 have signs of pinching where the base was formed. There is a fragment of a pedestal base sherd from fill 13.

The diagnostic traits (everted rims, footring and pedestal bases), and the mixture of flint- and sand-tempered fabrics indicate a date in the Middle Iron Age, and the pottery is probably derived from a series of bowls and jars comparable with those recovered from larger, less fragmentary, assemblages in Essex (*e.g*. Drury 1978, Brown 1992, Lavender in prep). Most of the pottery was recovered from small, apparently isolated, pits (though this apparent isolation may be a product of the evaluation technique) and one of the post-holes adjacent to ditch 73. Residual Middle Iron Age pottery also came from segments across ditch 73.

In conclusion, the assemblage suggests domestic occupation during the Middle Iron Age. This may have been relatively small scale, but it seems likely that the focus of activity lies outside, probably to the south of, the development area.

6.3 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Six contexts, all of which are associated with ditch 73, produced Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. Ten body sherds, weighing 52g, were recorded, most of which are in Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware. Three sherds of pottery in Roman fabrics indicate a tentative date in the mid 1st century AD for the assemblage. Four of the same contexts also contained small amounts of Middle Iron Age pottery.

6.4 Baked clay

Small fragments of baked clay, weighing 87g in total, were recovered from four contexts. All were associated with Middle Iron Age pottery, except for that in the fill of post-hole 31. The assemblage comprises featureless fragments, for which no further comment can be made.

6.5 **Worked and burnt flints**, by Hazel Martingell

A total of forty-five pieces of flint were studied. A full catalogue and summary table can be found in appendix 3. Nineteen flints are natural pieces, of which fourteen are burnt. In addition, there are seven burnt flake fragments. The remaining nineteen flints are humanly worked and comprise twelve flakes and fragments, three blades, one core, one retouched fragment (pseudo micro-burin) and two notched flakes.

About 80% of the burnt flints came from three pits in the northerly sector of the investigation area, along with a core and five flakes that are typologically Iron Age in date. The remaining burnt flints, flakes, blades and notched pieces came from the southern sector. These all tend to have an earlier date. A patinated blade was recovered from pit 27 and this is probably Mesolithic in date. A further blade, from a segment of gully 74, could be Early Neolithic. The contrasting dates for the flints from each area of excavation are unusual and interesting features of this collection.

6.6 Animal bone

Five contexts, three of which are fills of pit 10, contained animal bone, amounting to 112 pieces, weighing 539g. The assemblage is mostly in poor condition and fragmentary, although several bones were sufficiently complete for identification. A large proportion (86%) of the assemblage was retrieved from fill 13 of Middle Iron Age

pit 12, where cattle jaw and leg bones were identified. Cattle, and also sheep/goat, were identified in the fills of Middle Iron Age pit 10.

6.7 Shell

A number of snail shells were hand-collected from ditch segment 42, and further snail shells, some very small, were recovered from three of the bulk soil samples taken from the fills of ditch 73 (see below). The snail types have not been identified.

6.8 Environmental material

Bulk soil samples were taken from nine contexts for the purposes of environmental analysis. Full details can be found in appendix 3. All samples 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 into coarse and fine fractions using 2mm and 4mm sieves. The material in the coarse fraction (>4mm) was sorted by eye and artefacts and environmental material extracted and bagged separately. The fine fractions were saved but not sorted. The flots were also dried and bagged by context. Retrieved artefacts and charcoal were recorded by count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the table in appendix 3.

Very little artefactual or ecofactual material was recovered from the residues. Dried flots from four samples contained small amounts of charcoal and the presence of carbonised seeds in small numbers was also noted. Very small molluscs (snails) were noted, especially in the flots from samples 6 (fill 45), 7 (fill 43) and 9 (fill 39), all from segments 34 and 42 of ditch 73.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation and the excavation have uncovered features and/or finds from four separate phases: Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age/Roman and post-medieval/modern. The pre-post-medieval/modern features occur in two areas, approximately 150m apart. One area is centred on trenches 6, 7 and 33, and the other on trenches 26, 35 and 36. Most of the archaeological remains are undatable or Middle Iron Age. The Middle Iron Age features are pits 10, 14 and 18 in trenches 6, 7 and 33, and pits 12 and 50, gully 48 and post-holes 31 and 37 in trench 36. The flint blades from undatable features 27 and 29 in trench 36 attest to the exploitation of the Brain Valley during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.

A greater number of features in the area centred on trenches 6, 7, 33 and 36 contain Middle Iron Age finds and imply that one or more Middle Iron Age settlement sites lie either within or in the vicinity of the proposed development. Post-holes 31 and 37 in trench 36 appear to be paired and are postulated to represent one half of a four-post structure. It is possible that the west half of the structure is no longer present because it has been destroyed by ditch 73. Four-post structures are common on Iron Age settlement sites, and are often conjectured to be the remains of granaries. The Middle Iron Age animal bones are further indications of domestic and agricultural activity, and reveal that the inhabitants of the associated settlement or settlements were keeping and/or eating cattle and sheep. The burnt flints suggest the immersing of heated stones to heat water or milk.

Ditch 73 in trench 36 contains a small amount of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery and is Late Iron Age/Roman or later. The presence of the sherds suggests that a Late Iron Age/Roman settlement site lies in the vicinity of the development area. It is postulated that an earth bank formerly ran along the top of the south-western side of the ditch, as many of the fills in it appear to have slumped in from its south-western side.

Post-medieval/modern field ditches 70 and 71 and modern disturbance 72 represent recent activity. It is apparent from the Ordnance Survey maps that both ditches were backfilled at some point during or after the Second World War. The modern disturbance, which lies alongside ditch 71, is conjectured to be the result of the uprooting of a ditch-side tree.

Five features, all in trench 36, are not closely datable as they contain few or no datable finds (27, 40, 63, 65 and 74). Pit 40 contains a small amount of Middle Iron Age pottery and is therefore Middle Iron Age or later.

The results of the fieldwork suggest that for much of its history the area of the proposed processing plant has been unoccupied, and has been used as woodland/scrub or for pasture or the growing of crops. No Middle Iron Age features or finds were found outside five of the thirty-six trenches and although it is possible that the development area was occupied during that period, the settlement that was associated with it must have been small in extent (e.g. a farmstead).

The trial-trenching and excavation have discovered no datable medieval features or finds, by contrast to the archaeological investigation that was carried out in the field to the immediate west in 2002 (Barker 2002), which found a small amount of medieval pottery and a medieval well. The total amount of medieval material from the two sites combined is small and probably indicates that the area in general was only lightly exploited and settled during the medieval period.

8.0 ASSESSMENT

It is unlikely that the proposed site for the processing plant contains extensive or particularly significant archaeological remains.

Nothing in the finds assemblage requires further work. Finds quantities are generally too small for further work to be meaningful. Ditch 73 is poorly-dated and this may preclude examination of the environmental material. All of the finds should be retained, although selection of the undatable material for discard could be made at the archiving stage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The trial trenching was carried out with the help and co-operation of D.K. Symes Associates, funded by Sewells Reservoir Construction, and Strutt and Parker Farms. It was monitored by Vanessa Clarke of ECC HEM.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Germany, Chris Down and Adrian Turner. The trenches were surveyed by Andrew Lewsey. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael and were analysed by Joyce Compton. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Coordinates
1	40	2	0.3	TL 581175.87 217507.47 TL 581175.87 217467.47
2	40	2	0.34	TL 581076.25 217448.56 TL 581116.15 217448.56
3	40	2	0.38	TL 581142.65 217468.56 TL 581142.65 217428.56
4	40	2	0.36	TL 581169.15 217448.56 TL 581209.15 217448.56
5	40	2	0.38	TL 581029.65 217402.06 TL 581069.65 217402.06
6	44	2	0.32	TL 581096.15 217422.06 TL 581097.22 217380.37
7	40	2	0.3	TL 581122.65 217402.06 TL 581162.65 217402.06
8	40	2	0.32	TL 581181.80 217422.06 TL 581181.80 217382.06
9	40	2	0.34	TL 581188.91 217402.06 TL 581228.91 217402.06
10	40	2	0.3	TL 581049.65 217375.56 TL 581049.65 217335.56
11	40	2	0.36	TL 581076.15 217355.56 TL 581116.15 217355.56
12	40	2	0.4	TL 581142.65 217375.56 TL 581142.65 217335.56
13	40	2	0.38	TL 581169.15 217355.56 TL 581209.15 217355.56
14	40	2	0.38	TL 581235.65 217375.56 TL 581235.65 217335.56
15	40	2	0.34	TL 581242.54 217347.00 TL 581282.54 217347.00
16	40	2	0.4	TL 581050.04 217309.06 TL 581090.04 217309.06
17	40	2	0.35	TL 581096.15 217329.06 TL 581096.15 217289.06
18	40	2	0.37	TL 581122.65 217309.06 TL 581162.65 217309.06
19	40	2	0.37	TL 581189.15 217289.06 TL 581189.15 217289.06
20	40	2	0.28	TL 581215.65 217309.06 TL 581255.65 217309.06
21	40	2	0.33	TL 581272.96 217316.22 TL 581272.96 217276.22
22	40	2	0.3	TL 581284.06 217304.17 TL 581324.06 217304.17
23	40	2	0.46	TL 581060.05 217301.11 TL 581060.05 217261.11
24	40	2	0.35	TL 581076.15 217262.56 TL 581116.15 217262.56
25	40	2	0.35	TL 581142.65 217282.56 TL 581142.65 217242.56
26	40	2	0.37	TL 581169.15 217262.56 TL 581209.92 217263.40
27	40	2	0.32	TL 581235.65 217282.56 TL 581235.65 217242.56
28	40	2	0.3	TL 581096.15 217236.06 TL 581096.15 217196.06
29	40	2	0.33	TL 581115.91 217225.24 TL 581155.91 217225.24
30	40	2	0.3	TL 581189.15 217250.61 TL 581189.15 217210.61

No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Coordinates
31	40	2	0.3	TL 581137.75 217217.91 TL 581137.75 217177.91
32	40	2	0.4	TL 581076.15 217169.56 TL 581116.15 217169.56
33	18	2	0.38	TL 581097.13 217395.40 TL 581115.36 217395.84
34	10	2	0.3	TL 581097.12 217403.18 TL 581107.34 217403.23
35	6	2	0.35	TL 581209.15 217263.56 TL 581209.15 217255.56
36	20	20	0.36	TL 581199.92 217269.22 TL 581220.23 217249.59

APPENDIX 2: FIELDWORK DATA

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
1	29	Ditch	Same as 70	Modern
2	29	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
3	28	Ditch	Same as 70	Modern
4	28	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
5	28	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
6	25	Ditch	Same as 70	Modern
7	25	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
8	20	Ditch	Same as 70	Modern
9	20	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
10	6	Pit	Filled by 11, 21 and 23	MIA
11	6	Fill	Top fill of pit 10	MIA
12	26	Pit	Filled by 13 and 22	MIA
13	26	Fill	Top fill of pit 12	MIA
14	7	Pit	Filled by 15 and 24	MIA
15	7	Fill	Top fill of pit 14	MIA
16	15	Ditch	Same as 70	Modern
17	15	Fill	Same as 75	Modern
18	33	Pit	Filled by 19 and 20	MIA
19	33	Fill	Top fill of pit 18	MIA
20	33	Fill	Primary fill of pit 18	MIA
21	6	Fill	Secondary fill of pit 10	MIA
22	26	Fill	Primary fill of pit 12	MIA
23	6	Fill	Primary fill of pit 10	MIA
24	7	Fill	Primary fill of pit 14	MIA
25	36	Segment	Segment across gully 74. Filled by 26	Undated
26	36	Fill	Single fill of segment 25 across gully 74	Undated
27	36	Post-hole	Filled by 28	Undated
28	36	Fill	Single fill of post-hole 27	Undated

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
29	36	Segment	Segment across gully 74. Filled by 30	Undated
30	36	Fill	Single fill of segment 29 across gully 74	Undated
31	36	Post-hole	Filled by 32 and 33	MIA
32	36	Fill	Primary fill of post-hole 31	MIA
33	36	Fill	Top fill of post-hole 31	MIA
34	36	Segment	Segment across ditch 73. Filled by 35, 36 and 39	Roman+
35	36	Fill	Top fill of segment 34 across ditch 73	Roman+
36	36	Fill	Secondary fill of segment 34 across ditch 73	Roman+
37	36	Post-hole	Filled by 38	MIA
38	36	Fill	Single fill of post-hole 37	MIA
39	36	Fill	Primary fill of segment 34 across ditch 73	Roman+
40	36	Pit	Filled by 41	MIA+
41	36	Fill	Single fill of pit 40	MIA+
42	36	Segment	Segment across ditch 73. Filled by 43, 44 and 45	Roman+
43	36	Fill	Primary fill of segment 42 across ditch 73	Roman+
44	36	Fill	Secondary fill of segment 42 across ditch 73	Roman+
45	36	Fill	Top fill of segment 42 across ditch 73	Roman+
46	36	Artefacts	Finds from deposits 43, 44 and 45 in segment 42 across ditch 73	-
47	36	Artefacts	Surface finds from south-west quarter of trench 36	-
48	36	Ditch	Filled by 49	MIA
49	36	Fill	Single fill of ditch 48	MIA
50	36	Pit	Filled by 51	MIA
51	36	Fill	Single fill of pit 50	MIA
52	36	Segment	Segment across ditch 73. Filled by 53, 54 and 55	Roman+
53	36	Fill	Top fill of segment 52 across ditch 73	Roman+
54	36	Fill	Secondary fill of segment 52 across ditch 73	Roman+
55	36	Fill	Primary fill of segment 52 across ditch 73	Roman+
56	36	Artefacts	Finds from surface of ditch 73	Roman+
57	36	Segment	Segment across ditch 73. Filled by 58 to 61	Roman+
58	36	Fill	Primary fill of segment 57 across ditch 73	Roman+
59	36	Fill	Secondary fill of segment 57 across ditch 73	Roman+
60	36	Fill	Third fill of segment 57 across ditch 73	Roman+
61	36	Fill	Top fill of segment 57 across ditch 73	Roman+
62	36	Artefacts	Finds from deposits 58 to 61 in segment 57 across ditch 73	Roman+
63	36	Post-hole	Filled by 64	Undated
64	36	Fill	Single fill of post-hole 63	Undated
65	36	Post-hole	Filled by 66	Undated
66	36	Fill	Single fill of post-hole 63	Undated
67	36	Segment	Segment across ditch 73. Filled by 68 and 69	Roman+
68	36	Fill	Top fill of segment 67 across ditch 73	Roman+
69	36	Fill	Primary fill of segment 67 across ditch 73	Roman+

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
70	26	Ditch	Not excavated. Filled by 75	Modern
71	36	Ditch	Not excavated. Filled by 76	Modern
72	36	Disturbed	Tree root disturbance	Modern
73	36	Ditch	Sampled by segments 34, 42, 52, 57 and 67	Roman+
74	36	Gully	Sampled by segments 25 and 29	Undated
75	26	Fill	Fill of ditch 70. Not excavated	Modern
76	36	Fill	Fill of ditch 71. Not excavated	Modern

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
11	10	33	10	Animal bone fragments, inc 22/2g from soil sample 1	-
		3	935	Natural stone samples	-
		3	58	Flints	-
		2	8	Burnt flints	-
		7	18	Baked clay fragments, inc 2/6g from sample 1	-
		66	426	Pottery; rim and body sherds, some decorated, inc 10/14g body sherds from sample 1	Prehistoric
13	12	76	464	Animal bone; mandible fragments and ten loose molars, cattle; calcaneus fragment and humerus, distal end, ?cattle; fragments – all poor condition	-
		1	114	Natural stone sample	-
		7	102	Flints	-
		2	4	Burnt flints	-
		1	2	Charcoal (Discarded)	-
		6	38	Baked clay fragments	-
		126	524	Pottery; rim and body sherds, inc 10/6g crumbs from soil sample 3	Prehistoric
15	14	4	44	Flints	-
		2	32	Burnt flints, inc 1/10g from sample 4	-
		164	694	Pottery; body sherds, inc 48/56g body sherds and crumbs from soil sample 4	Prehistoric
19	18	2	114	Natural stone samples	-
		13	54	Burnt flints	-
		37	50	Pottery; body sherds, inc 28/22g rim, body sherds and crumbs from sample 2	Prehistoric
21	10	1	4	Animal bone; tibia, distal end, sheep/goat	-
		29	210	Pottery; base and body sherds	Prehistoric
22	12	1	10	Flint	-
		3	54	Pottery; base and body sherds	Prehistoric
23	10	1	60	Animal bone; metatarsus, proximal end, cattle	-
		1	32	Natural stone sample	-
		8	42	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
26	25	1	4	Worked flint	-
28	27	1	2	Flint flake	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
30	29	2	66	Flints, one worked	-
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Prehistoric
32	31	1	2	Iron object, ?drop handle, ?fastener, ?hook	-
		3	30	Baked clay fragments	-
35	34	1	2	Flint flake	-
		1	6	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered ware	Late Iron Age
		1	6	Pottery; body sherd	Prehistoric
36	34	3	8	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
38	37	1	2	Flint flake	-
		40	66	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
39	34	3	1	Pottery; crumbs from soil sample 9	Prehistoric
41	40	2	6	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
46	Finds	12	10	Snail shells	-
		1	6	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered ware	Late Iron Age
		5	12	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
47	Finds	1	2	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
		3	18	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
49	48	4	6	Flints	-
		1	18	Burnt flint	-
		24	54	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
51	50	4	4	Pottery; crumbs	Prehistoric
56	Finds	1	24	Pottery; body sherd, grog-tempered ware	Late Iron Age
62	Finds	1	1	Animal bone fragment, poor condition	-
		1	1	Baked clay fragment	-
		2	2	Pottery; small body sherds, grog-tempered ware and black-surfaced ware	Early Roman
		7	12	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
68	67	4	12	Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered ware and storage jar fabric	Early Roman

Worked flint catalogue

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
11	10	3	58	Natural flint	
				Core, deep-bulbed flake removals, sharp	Iron Age/
				Flake, deep bulb, sharp, tertiary	Recent
		2	8	Flaked fragments, burnt	
13	12	6	100	Three natural flints	
				Flake, primary	
				Pseudo micro-burin	
				Notched flake, secondary, ‘salami’ type, platform widest part and retouched	Iron Age
		3	6	Burnt natural	
15	14	4	44	Flake, primary, sharp, good flint	Iron Age
				Three flakes, secondary, sharp, good flint	/Recent
		2	32	Burnt natural	

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
19	18	13	54	Burnt natural and three burnt flake fragments	
22	12	1	10	Flake, converging, off blade core, tertiary, good flint	
26	25	1	4	Blade, tertiary, edge damaged, light grey flint, 39mm	
28	27	1	2	Blade, tertiary, patinated light grey flint, punch struck, 34mm	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
30	29	2	66	Natural block Blade, tertiary, patinated, curved profile, 55mm	 Early Neolithic
35	34	1	2	Notched flake, butt part, tertiary, slight patination, grey flint	
38	37	1	2	Flake, tertiary, light grey flint	
49	48	4 1	6 18	Trimming flake, small, tertiary, curved profile Flake, tertiary Flake, secondary Flake, butt, punch struck, tertiary Burnt block	

Bulk soil sample data (presence/absence of environmental material)

Sample	Context	Feature	Bulk weight	Bone	Charcoal	Seeds/ Grain	Molluscs
1	11	Pit 10	12kg	X	X	X	
2	19	Pit 18	11kg		X	X	X
3	13	Pit 12	10kg		X	X	
4	15	Pit 14	9kg		X	X	
5	33	Post-hole 31	10kg				
6	45	Ditch segment 42	12kg				X
7	43	Ditch segment 42	12kg				X
8	35	Ditch segment 34	11kg				
9	39	Ditch segment 34	12kg				X

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Contained in one A4 file:

1 copy of this report
1 copy of the archaeological brief
1 copy of the written scheme of investigation
3 Context register sheets
76 Context sheets
1 Plan register sheet
1 Section register sheet
1 Soil sample register sheets
9 Soil sample sheets
32 Trench recording sheets
36 Colour transparencies
30 Black and white prints and negatives

Separate from A4 file:

One roll of plans and section of drawings
One box of finds

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site Name & Address: Processing plant, Cressing Road, Witham	
Parish: Witham	***District:*** Braintree
NGR: TL 8080 1750	***Site Code:*** WHFF 06
Type of Work: Trial trenching	***Site Director/Group:*** Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 4/4/06 to 13/4/06	***Size of Area Investigated:*** Trenching: 36 trenches = 3036m^2 (4%)
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	***Funding Source:*** Developer
Further Work Anticipated? No	***Related HCR Nos:***
Final Report: *Essex Archaeology and History* (summary)	
Periods Represented: Prehistoric Roman Modern	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeological trial trenching and excavation were undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a sand and gravel processing plant at Faulkbourne Farm, Witham.

The archaeological work found prehistoric worked and burnt flint, Middle Iron Age features and finds, a small amount of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, and two modern field ditches. The results of the archaeological work suggest that for much of its history, the proposed site for the processing plant has been used as woodland/scrub or for pasture or the growing of crops.

Prehistoric

The prehistoric worked flint comprised twelve flakes and fragments, three blades, one core, one pseudo micro-burin, and two notched flakes. One of the blades is probably Mesolithic, and one Early Neolithic. Most of the burnt and worked flint was probably Middle Iron Age and came from Middle Iron Age features.

Middle Iron Age

The Middle Iron Age features and finds lay in two separate areas; the features comprised pits and post-holes, and the finds worked and burnt flint, pottery and animal bone. The remains of a Middle Iron Age settlement are conjectured to lie either within or in the vicinity of the proposed site for the processing plant.

Late Iron Age/Roman

The Late Iron Age/Roman pottery was small in quantity and was found in a ditch. The ditch is not closely datable.

Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	***Date of Summary:*** July 2006

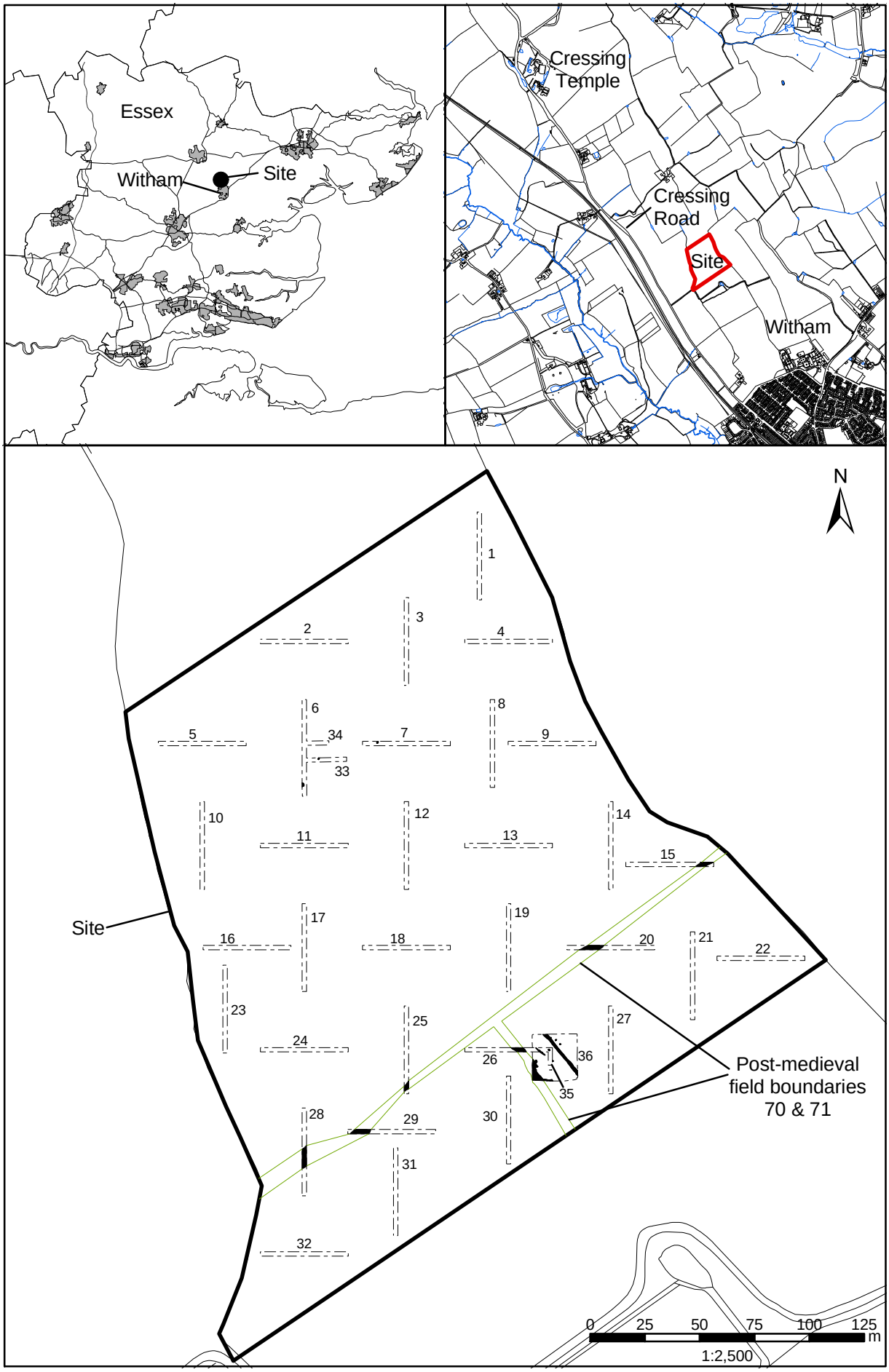

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Fig.1. Location plan

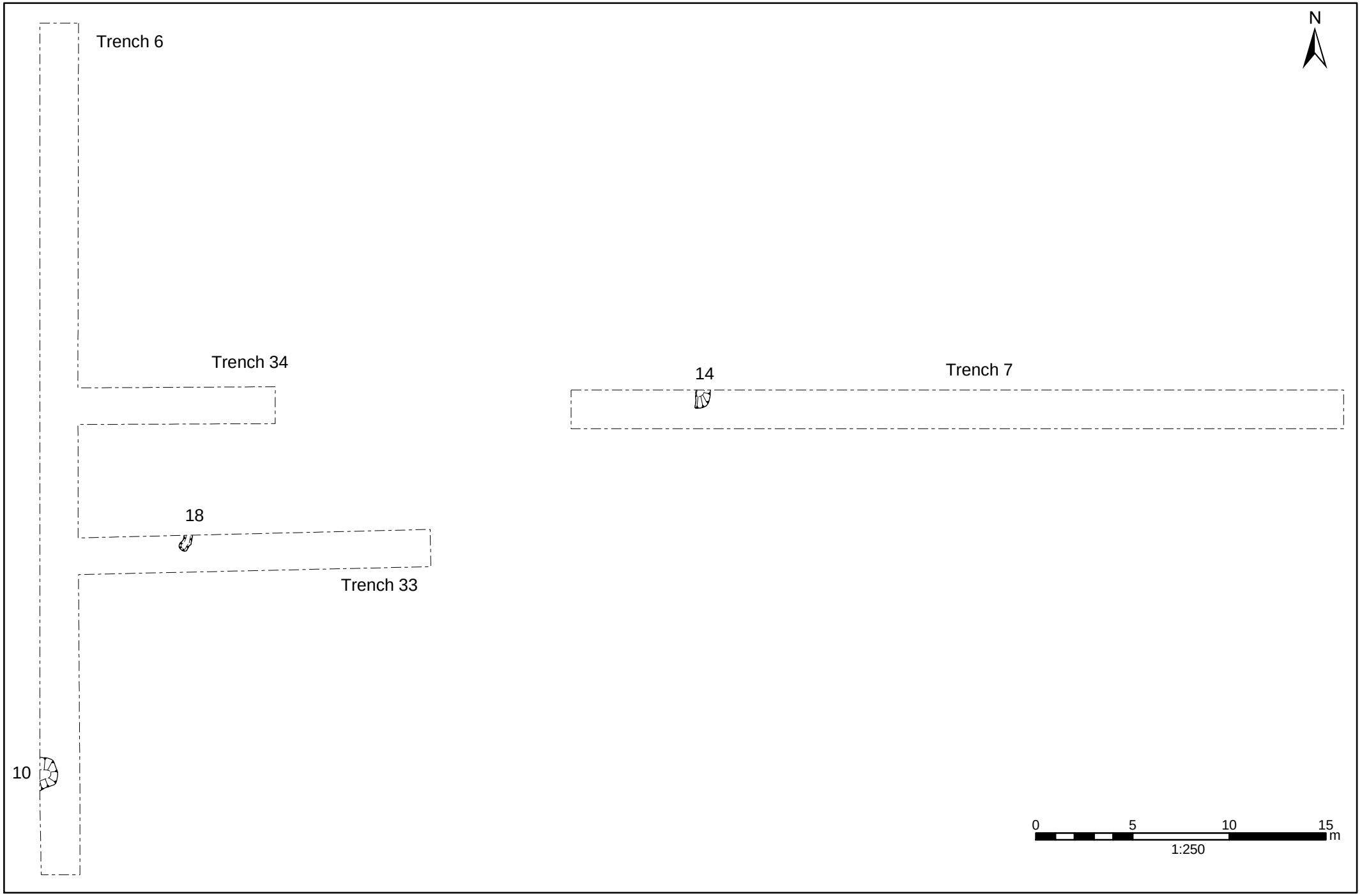

Fig.2. Trenches 6, 7, 33 and 34.

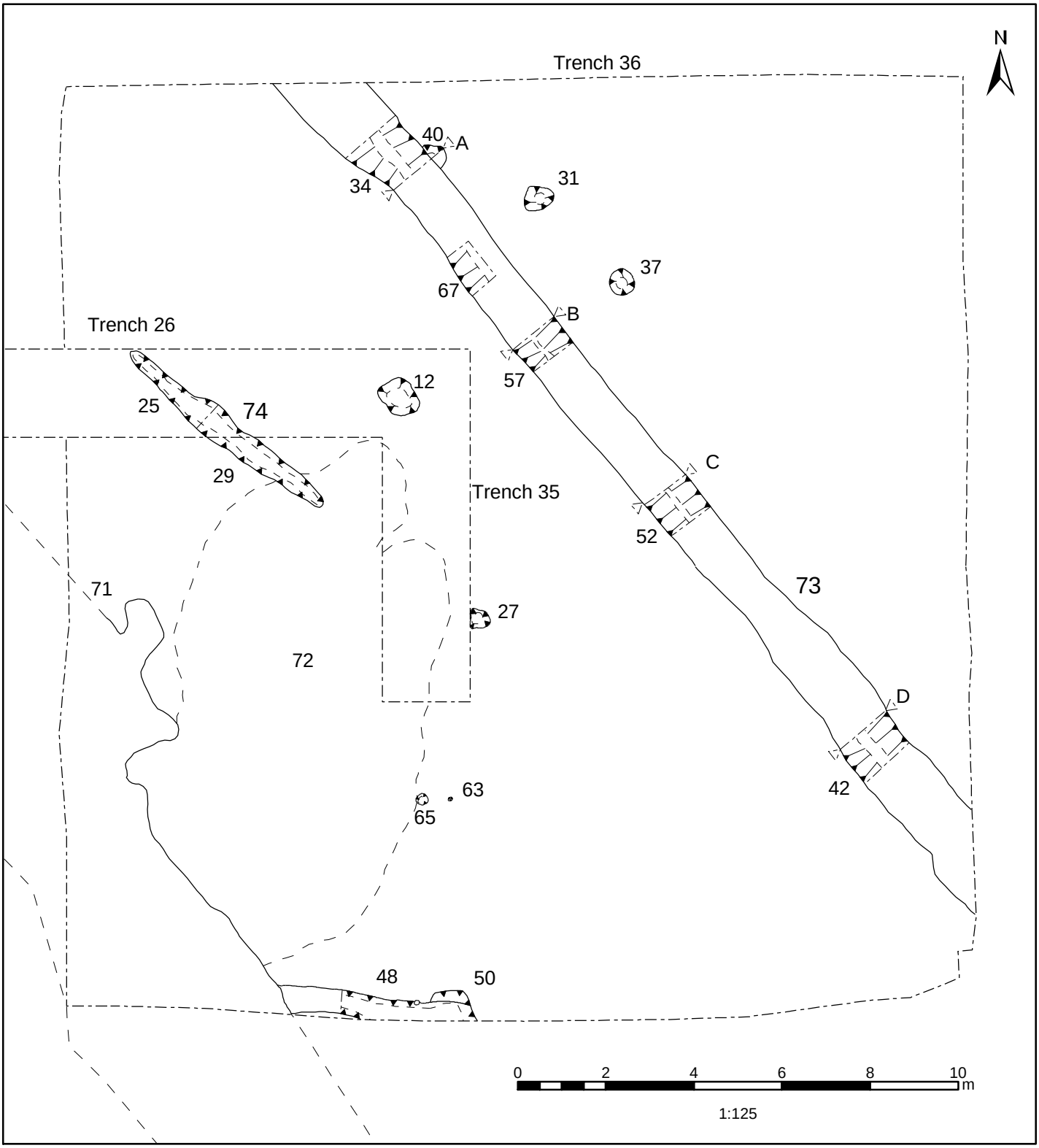

Fig.3. Trenches 26, 35 and 36.

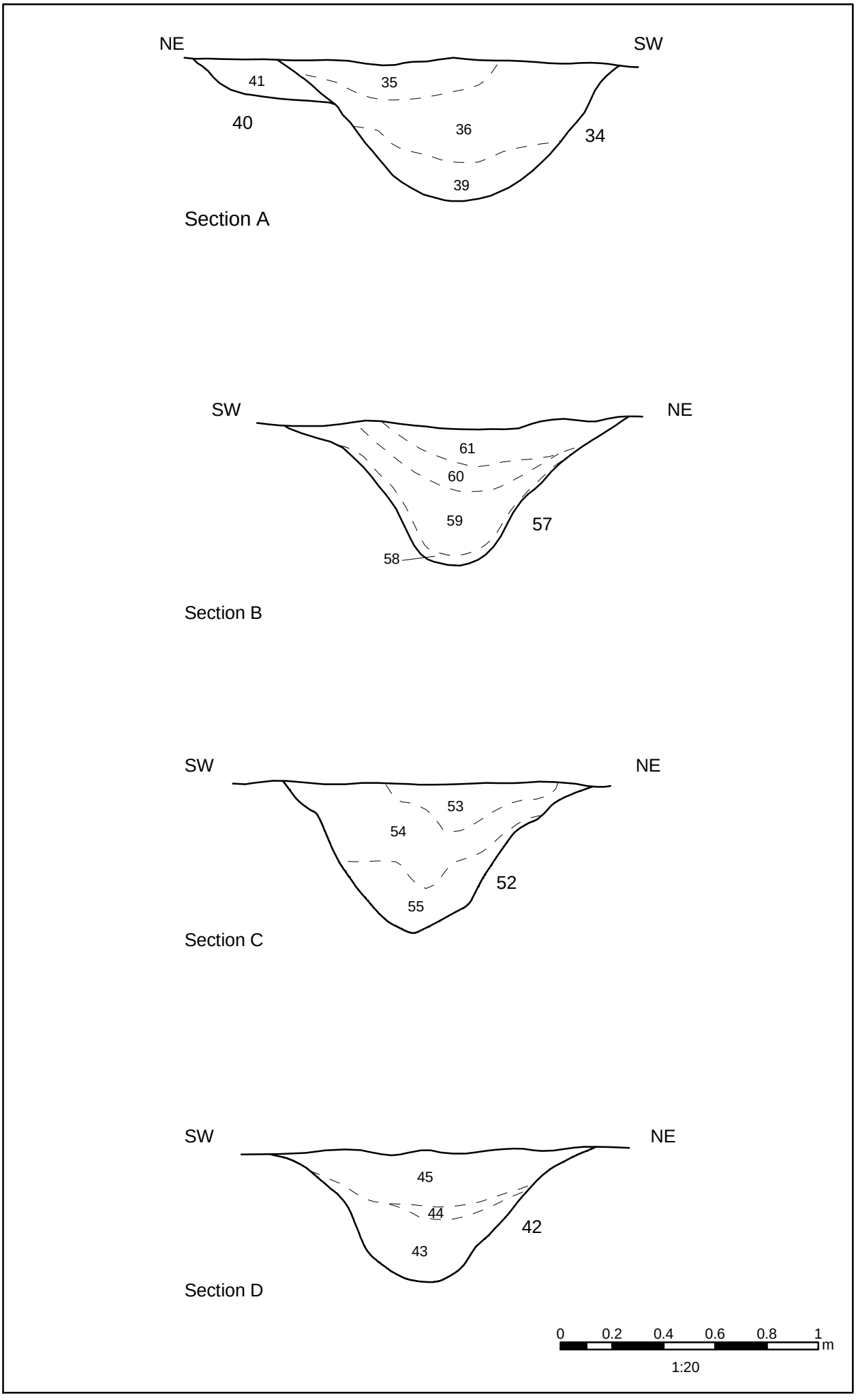

Fig.4. Sections A,B,C and D